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Rhode Island Jewish HERALD

Travel

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Jewish Social History Program at Touro Synagogue on Dec. 29

"Jewish Social History: A Sense of Place in Newport, Rhode Island, Savannah, Georgia and Kingston, British West Indies," will be presented by Holly Snyder at the historic Touro Synagogue in Newport, on Dec. 29 at 2 p.m.

The program is being sponsored by the Touro Heritage Trust.

Snyder, the Touro Heritage Trust Fellow at the John Carter Brown Library, is a doctoral candidate at Brandeis University in the History of American Civilization program. She has worked as an archivist for the American Jewish Historical Society, Waltham, Mass. and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. She also served as acting director of Oral History at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and is a contributor to the *Encyclopedia of Jewish Women in America*.

The program will also include a memorial tribute to Touro historian, Bernard Kusnitz, who passed away on Oct. 31. Kusnitz was instrumental in establishing the Touro Synagogue Archives, which contain documents chronicling the history of the Jewish community in the Newport area from the colonial era to the present.



Holly Snyder

A reception will follow the program. Admission is free. Reservations are requested, 847-0810, or fax: 847-8121.

Gilman Criticizes Swiss

WASHINGTON — Congressman Benjamin A. Gilman (20th-NY), chairman of the House International Relations Committee, said on Dec. 11 that Swiss cooperation in the search for Jewish assets plundered by the Nazis during the Holocaust has not been forthcoming, and that his committee would hold a hearing on this issue in January.

In a statement to the House Banking Committee's hearing on the disposition of assets deposited in Swiss banks by Nazi victims, Gilman said that despite creation of an independent commission to examine estimates that Swiss banks may hold as much as \$7 billion in Jewish assets, "full cooperation of the Swiss government and all its financial institutions, still remains to be achieved."

"The cooperation level of the

Swiss government remains incomplete. To date, not one individual has been remunerated. Holocaust survivors are dying at the rate of 10,000 per year. Accordingly, our International Relations Committee, early next year, will review the subject of restitution in all of its forms," Gilman stated.

"Efforts to reclaim heirless Jewish property in countries such as Poland are being stalled, just as the endeavor to extract Jewish assets from Swiss banks has been slow in bringing about the desired result."

"Many priceless Jewish-owned assets have been lost forever," Gilman stated, including "hundreds of millions of dollars of paintings, jewelry and other precious objects stolen by the Nazis and stored in Swiss vaults."

"The worldwide Jewish community, and the heirs of the over 6 million Jews who perished, have the moral and legal right to reclaim their property. I hope that today's hearing contributes to a full and impartial resolution of the question of Holocaust-era assets held in Swiss banks."

Palestinian Authority Arrests Terrorists

by Israel Line

A senior Palestinian Police official said there has been substantial progress in the investigation into the recent terrorist attack on an Israeli family near the settlement of Beit-El, Israel Radio, *Kol Yisrael*, reported.

The investigation has revealed that the gunmen were carrying out orders received from the Damascus-based headquarters of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

At the same time, the IDF lifted the closure on Ramallah imposed shortly after the attack. An official from the IDF's Central Command noted that the Ramallah region remains closed to Israelis.

Ha'aretz reported that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told the Knesset Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defense that the Palestinian Authority has arrested several suspects in the drive-by shooting attack.

The prime minister confirmed that warnings had been received of a possible attack on the Ramallah bypass road. "The warnings did not cause the Palestinian Authority to act against the Popular Front, and only after the attack they did begin to operate against PFLP members," he said.

In the last month, Israel has received reports that the Palestinians are building a "violent option" and are arming themselves through various means,

Netanyahu noted. The prime minister denied that the Palestinians possess missiles.

Netanyahu explained that the government has reacted to the recent terrorist attack in two ways: a stern message to Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat and the closure on Ramallah, as well as the bolstering of settlements through their designation as national priority areas.

The prime minister reiterated that the government would not expand Beit-El.

"All of the surrounding land is private land belonging to Arabs. There is a decision not to expropriate private land for the purposes of settlement. The correct time to announce new settlements will be in discussions on a final settlement. Until then, we will not establish any new settlements," he said.

At the same time, the prime minister stressed that the government would not freeze construction which is required to accommodate natural population growth in existing settlements.

Netanyahu expressed hope that talks on the Hebron redeployment would be renewed and noted that four issues have yet to be resolved: the IDF's right to hot pursuit after a terrorist attack; the opening of A-Shouada Road and Hebron's casba; and the arming of Palestinian Police.



Nervous? You're Kidding!

Totally at ease, these young ladies at ASDS are ready for the signal to enter the auditorium at the Zimriyah on Dec. 15. See Jewish Community page for more pictures. *Herald photo by Alison Smith*

The Rhode Island Jewish Herald will be published a day late next week because the offices will be closed on Dec. 24 and 25.

INSIDE THE OCEAN STATE

'Caring' Program Seeks Nominations

The Ann and Gil Anderson Memorial Youth Caring for Others Awards Program has programs established in the state of Rhode Island and in New York City. It provides educational and training opportunities, encouragement and recognition to youth, who, on a voluntary basis, provide one of the highest valued human qualities to their fellow human beings — the quality of caring.

The Youth Caring for Others Program is available to youth of all ethnic, religious, cultural and racial backgrounds. The awards component of the program is designed for high school juniors and seniors, with an established C average or above, as well as youth served by a facility that assists them with their individual physical challenges or other personal needs, and who are 17 or 18 years of age.

Persons nominated for an award must be tobacco, alcohol, illegal drug/other illegal substances free.

The person nominated must have an established "track record" of caring for others, on a

voluntary basis, for a minimum of one full year. One or multiple caring activities during the year are acceptable.

The individual young person must be nominated by an adult. Youth who receive payment/benefit for their caring activities are not eligible for this award. School credit is acceptable. Recognition is provided to individuals, not to groups or organizations.

Youth groups, organizations that serve youth, high schools and others with a youth group component are encouraged to obtain information nomination forms. Only one person may be nominated by a high school, separate groups within a high school, human services agency, facility serving youth with disabilities and others.

Many young people are offering very meaningful and needed caring activities for others. It is important for the community to provide educational programs, training opportunities, encouragement and recognition for such voluntary efforts on the part of our youth.

For nomination forms, write to John Anderson, 1038 Main Ave., Warwick, 02886-1960. Enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope when requesting a nomination form. Completed nomination forms must be post-marked no later than March 1. Youth selected to receive 1997 awards will be recognized at a Youth Caring for Others Conference in April. Awards include certificates, plaques and/or cash scholarships. <http://www.GlenCo-Associates.com/caring.htm>

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Feinstein Adds \$2 Million to Foundation Endowment

Already the largest living donor to The Rhode Island Foundation, philanthropist Alan Shawn Feinstein and the Feinstein Foundation have added \$2 million to the endowment the Feinstein family maintains.

"The Rhode Island Foundation has proven to be a good partner in the areas that most concern us," said Feinstein. "They manage our investment in philanthropy well, and are responsive to both our issues and our grantees."

"It's a mutual admiration society," responded foundation president, Ronald V. Gallo. "Alan Shawn Feinstein and the Feinstein Foundation have led us with their vision of community service in the schools and

their concern for the hungry."

Gallo pointed out that The Rhode Island Foundation and the Feinstein Foundation have teamed up on several projects, including a monthly humanitarian award, annual recognition of the state's best food pantries, and expansion of Feinstein's several-year-old community service programs, now in most of the state's public and private schools. "And this is in addition to the many other grants the fund makes every year."

The Feinstein Family Fund is defined as a "supporting organization" to the foundation, which enables family members to remain actively involved in the fund's administration and grantmaking.

Feinstein Program Announces Community Service Award

To recognize individuals who through their community service efforts make a positive difference in the lives of others, The Feinstein Foundation has established three Feinstein Enriching America Awards at the University of Rhode Island.

URI's Center for Service Learning and University Year for Action seeks nominations of current undergraduate students, faculty, staff or alumni for the awards.

Awards of \$500 will be made in the faculty-staff and alumni categories. A \$500 voucher good at the University Bookstore will be awarded to the student winner. A university committee will review nominations and make selections.

Nominees must meet the following conditions:

- Perform significant volunteer work with an organization devoted to community service or otherwise make a significant contribution to his or her community.

- Demonstrate a commitment to the organization's goals to enhance the quality of the community.

- Make an unusual contribution of time, expertise or leadership.

Award winners will be selected from the finalists in each category.

Finalists will be announced in the spring of 1997.

For further information or to nominate a deserving individual, contact Michelle A. Eaker, URI coordinator of the Feinstein Enriching American Program at 874-5527.

Ancient Games Appear at Library

A display of ancient games from various locations and cultures around the world will be featured at the Barrington Public Library during the month of January. The games are carefully fashioned in wood and their origins have been meticulously researched by artist/craftsmen Steve Reiningger and John Riedel.

In talking about the games, Reiningger emphasizes that most of the research into the meaning of them was done at the Barrington Public Library, so he is pleased to see them exhibited there. The games will be hung on the wall for easy viewing, and will be accompanied by brief texts explaining their rules and background.

McBride Exhibits at East Greenwich Photo

East Greenwich Photo presents a "Best of..." photography exhibit by Laurie McBride from now to Jan. 4.

Holiday gallery hours are: Monday and Tuesday 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., Wednesday through Friday 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday noon to 5 p.m.

The gallery is located upstairs at 631 Main St., East Greenwich. Call 884-0220 or 398-2087 for more information.

Dream and Create

On Jan. 1 from 1 to 3 p.m. the Children's Museum of Rhode Island invites children 3 and up to invent new animals, create crazy ties and imagine new worlds as they engage in creative drawing. Using multi-hued markers and evocative scenarios, children can let their imaginations run wild. No registration is required. There is no additional fee beyond the price of admission.

The museum is located at 58 Walcott St., in Pawtucket (726-2591).

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THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

Dissent Between Local Scholars Reveals Complexities of Chanukah

by Emily Torgan
Jewish Community Reporter

Many people think they know the story of Chanukah, but does anyone truly understand it?

Gloves came off when religious scholars Rabbi Yosef Lipson of New England Rabbinical College and Professor Shaye Cohen of Brown University compared interpretations of the seemingly familiar Talmudic tale at Congregation Beth Shalom on Dec. 12.

Besides new perspectives, the debate gave attendees an unusual opportunity to witness an example of the intellectual rifts now springing up between yeshiva and university-based scholars.

Because modern Jewish learning is centered in these academies, the fissures between the study centers are creating different arenas for Jewish scholarship that could eventually exert a polarizing influence on ideas and observances.

Both rabbis showed that the tale itself, the inspiration for approximately 22 centuries of observance plus gifts, menorahs, blazing candles and countless scores of latkes, appears as a brief passage in the Talmud.

Upon first reading, the passage seems simple.

According to the text, the eight days of Chanukah commence on the 25th of Kislev. Lamentation and fasting are prohibited during those days.

Before those eight days, the Greeks had entered the Temple and had ruined the oils intended to kindle the Temple lights. When the Hasmonians (or Maccabees) defeated them, re-entered the Temple, and attempted to make light, their search yielded only a sole cruse of oil still bearing the seal of the high priest, but a miracle took place when the oil, only enough for a day, lasted for eight instead.

While millions celebrate, some may wonder why this seemingly minor miracle was selected from the Talmud's many to obtain holiday status.

According to Lipson, the tale was snatched up because it represented a Jewish victory not solely over Greek soldiers, but over assimilation and its divisive effects. The miracle of the oil that followed the military victory showed G-d had accepted the Israelites' Oral Law, a unique bond between Him and his people.

Compiled in the Mishnah and later in the expanded Talmud, Oral Law is a term for the body of works generated to interpret

and complement the Written Law, or Torah.

"The Talmud is based on miracles, but we do not believe based on miracles," Lipson explained. "All of existence is a miracle."

According to Lipson, the ancient war's most dangerous fighting took place not between Israelites and Greeks, but amongst the Jews themselves, for some favored Hellenization and abandonment of Oral Law, while others wanted to retain a Jewish identity grounded in Oral Law.

Taking up the Megillat Taanit, a document which identified special days and was eventually preserved in the Talmud, Lipson read a passage that said G-d had performed his miracle of light on a Hasmonian menorah made not of gold, as demanded by the Torah (Written Law) but of iron, as permitted by Oral Law.

"The Torah says a menorah must be fashioned from a single piece of gold," Lipson explained.

But when G-d performed the miracle of lights on an iron menorah as recorded in the Megillat Taanit, said Lipson, He showed His approval of both the Oral Law and its adherents.

"When the miracle occurred it was a [divine] validation of Oral Law," Lipson said. "That's why the miracle of Chanukah is so important."

But according to Cohen, the events recounted in the same passage probably never took place and their symbolic importance stems from altogether different factors.

"Is it true? is the wrong question," Cohen said. "I think the answer is 'No.' I'm fairly sure this did not happen."

For Cohen, the story's meaning is far more important than its validity.

"Because it's not true, we want to know what it means," Cohen said.

According to Cohen, portions of the story were put in place to shift readers' attention away from the Maccabees towards G-d.

Revered in the First Book of Maccabees, the Hasmonians could easily be admired.

"It was time to de-romanticize the Maccabees," Cohen said. "The rabbis of antiquity were ambivalent about them, and they were a sordid bunch by the time they were overthrown."

To dampen the story's political and military overtones, the ancient rabbis pushed the tale into G-d's realm.

But when they told the Chanukah story, the rabbis innocently revealed a great deal about their own Hellenization, Cohen said.

"They established these days as a holiday, but who are 'they' and who gave them the authority?" Cohen asked. "Miracle or not, we do not make holidays, G-d does," Cohen said.

The manner in which the Maccabees and their followers created a holiday and celebrated demonstrated behaviors learned from the Greeks, said Cohen.

"I disagree with Rabbi Lipson," Cohen said. "It's not good guys and bad guys with good guys who save Judaism from Hellenization. Their victory innocently expresses a Greek way of doing things."

Cohen called his interpretation an historically nuanced reading of "false texts."

Lipson responded by saying the Talmud has an inner integrity and that its authors were not naive individuals who made up stories.

"You'd have to view the Talmud as presenting fabricated stories," Lipson said. "That is an untenable position."

Cohen answered that this approach, which he did not invent, did respect the Talmud.

"To assume Talmud is reportage is to confuse Talmud," Cohen said.

Lipson then called Cohen's view "new."

"The point of view that what is not found in the text is saying something is asking us to speculate," Lipson said. "That compromises the entire integrity of the text."

After the rabbis exchanged a number of charged remarks about the other's perceptions, both admitted a love of the text.

"I believe the Torah presents the true picture of the world," Lipson said. "I believe it's true."

"I study Talmud because I love it," Cohen said. "I teach bright kids whose ignorance is unbelievable. It's not because they're stupid, but they are abysmally ignorant. We raised a generation that is not only ignorant, but who know next to nothing. I can't separate my rabbi self from my professor self. This is Shaye Cohen the Jew trying to understand the text."

Halting of Israel's Peace Process Slows Progress on Its Feminist Front, Says Shalvi

by Emily Torgan
Jewish Community Reporter

After women give birth in Israel, their first thoughts are unlike those of women anywhere else in the world.

"They find out whether the child is a boy or a girl," said Alice Shalvi, chairwoman of the Israel Women's Network to an audience at Brown University on Dec. 9. "If they hear the word 'son,' they think about how their child will have to serve in the army, and how he may get killed. Where else in the world is that a mother's first thought, and how does that affect a society?"

As the peace process has halted and the Israeli economy has slowed, Shalvi believes issues critical to her country's women will again be marginalized.

During the 47 years Shalvi has lived in Israel, she said she and other women's rights advocates have been told domestic issues such as health, education and housing will be prioritized when there is peace.

"The longer peace is delayed, the longer the Israeli Defense Forces will remain the dominant factor in society," Shalvi said. "In the IDF, there is absolutely no equality between men and women."

Once in the army, Shalvi said, men and women find themselves in vastly different situations.

Women have been able to move from their former roles as coffee makers and clerks to occupy positions as technologists and combat unit trainers, but they are still barred from serving in many of the elite units they may train men for.

Shalvi is also concerned that in six or seven years, the IDF may only conscript women who have finished all 12 years of schooling.

"Women who do not finish will not be drafted, and they will not serve in the army," Shalvi said. "For an Israeli, that implies mental or physical unfitnes."

According to Shalvi, the scant numbers of women in the IDF's higher ranks make it a difficult organization for women to lobby.

"Women are not there to make critical decisions about Israel's future," Shalvi said. "The profound differences in their military service have profound effects on the social psychology of Israelis."

Because success in the IDF is a key to prestige within the family and all of Israeli society, those

in elite units develop a degree of self-esteem Shalvi termed "exclusive to those groups."

"The path is paved," Shalvi said. "A good position in the army means a good in the future."

Because of the IDF's importance in Israeli society, many women now want to serve in combat units.

Last year, the IWN won a landmark victory when Alice Miller, an Israeli woman who was denied the right to volunteer for pilot training on the basis of gender, was granted the right to volunteer by the High Court.

Although Miller failed due to "excessive motivation," pilot training is now open to women.

But the slowing of the peace process is only one issue Israeli women face today.

The economy is in crisis and many Israeli women work, for it is almost impossible to maintain a family on one salary.

"Because many have families, they work part-time," Shalvi said. "They will be the first ones laid off, because in Israel, the perception is that 'your husband still works.'"

The new power of Israel's religious parties also poses problems for its women.

"More fundamental Jewish practice makes a very clear distinction between male and female roles and status," Shalvi said. "The women's area of activity is the home and the family, and the man is perceived as having as his area that public arena from which women are excluded."

According to Shalvi, this greatly affects the quality of their respective educations.

As Shalvi talked about life in Orthodox Jerusalem, she mentioned the oft-repeated episode in which female workers at an Israeli government building were attacked by a tiny minority of ultra-Orthodox who found their dress "immodest."

"When the ministry told them to park closer to the building, I was frightened," Shalvi said. "That was giving in to a very small group."

Shalvi ended her talk with remarks about how Israeli women who have managed to obtain political positions are able to overcome their differences in order to work together, and how she hopes that larger numbers of women candidates will enter the upcoming 1998 local government elections.

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EDITORIAL

Choosing Judaism

by Rabbi David J. Wolpe
The following article was reprinted from Congregation Agudath Achim's newsletter.

Judaism has always enunciated a message to the world. To appreciate that message, however, one did not have to become Jewish.

At times, Judaism was more vigorous in seeking converts, at other times less so. When in the early centuries of the common era, the Christian government of Rome made it punishable by death to convert to Judaism, the practice of soliciting conversions

died out, and the Jewish attitude toward converts became at times prickly and suspicious.

Traditionally, however, Judaism was pleased and proud to accept converts. The Talmud states, "A convert is dearer to G-d even than the Israelites who stand at the mountain of Sinai."

That deep tradition of welcoming those who choose Judaism has been renewed in our own day. Judaism has once again begun to benefit from the infusion of many people who are in search of a meaningful path of life.

Of course, there are many different motivations for converting. Among converts are those who are moved by Judaism's beliefs and ideals. Others convert to marry a Jew.

Conversion for marriage is sometimes frowned upon. Yet it is in many ways an ideal reason to convert, for it is a statement of eagerness to join the Jewish people.

Intellectual conviction alone is a fragile thing; another argument, a new book, and one may be dissuaded.

But belonging to a family is powerful, and many people were they on account of him. (Genesis 45:3)

Families Struggle

by Cheri Ellowitz Silver
 Vayigash presents us with one of the most dramatic moments in the Torah.

Nature and cosmic events bring Joseph and his brothers face to face. Given the opportunity of anonymity, the powerful Joseph inspects and tests his siblings' behavior until he can no longer contain himself.

Clearing the room of any observers, Joseph reveals himself to the brothers who once conspired to kill him.

"I am Joseph. Is my father still well?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dumfounded were they on account of him. (Genesis 45:3)

injury on each other, intentionally or not. Yet this story teaches us that family bonds can overcome very deep hurts.

How did Joseph come to forgive his brothers so completely? He tells us when he says, "Do not be distressed or reproach yourselves because you sold me hither; it was to save life that G-d sent me ahead of you."

Joseph believed strongly that G-d was driving his destiny. At this point in the story, he also had the luxury of hindsight, recognizing that enduring each trial in his life honed him into the leader that he became.

In the same way, Joseph's father, Jacob, had to run away from his home in order to "grow up." Only after his tribulations was he deserving of the name Israel.

Shore Concerned for General Community and Jewish Community

To the Editor:

While I thought your article on my new role on the Community Relations Council was well-balanced and fair, I do feel that given the shortness of space some of my sentiments may not have been fully covered.

First of all, let me explicitly express my support for the mission of the CRC and respect for its membership.

Nothing I said should be misconstrued as a lack of a concern for the general community. We do need to have a constructive dialogue with the non-Jewish community and we do need to fight the kind of racism and bigotry that burns down churches and defaces synagogues.

This is an important role for the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, the CRC and the Anti-Defamation League. I have spent a good number of my adult years in public service and take the

state of the general community to be every citizen's concern.

My concern in the Jewish community is with the sense of priorities.

While Jewish affiliation either in federation or in synagogues is at an historic low and we are actually experiencing a real decline both in numbers of Jews and commitment of Jews due to intermarriage, assimilation and lack of basic Jewish cultural and religious literacy, I feel our own house is on fire!

Trumpeting fashionable liberal causes will not save Jewry in Rhode Island. I do maintain that federations throughout the country have allowed an extreme liberal social agenda to divert them from their real mission — which is the perpetuation of a thriving, mutually supportive and strong Jewish community.

Sincerely,
 Scott Shore

Indeed the prototypical convert in the Bible, in the Book of Ruth, is motivated by family ties, not by ideology. Ruth converts after the deaths of her husband and father-in-law, when her mother-in-law, Naomi, decides to return to Israel.

Ruth has grown very attached to Naomi and does not wish to abandon her. So she declares in a beautiful passage: "Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your G-d my g-d" (Ruth 1:16).

Notice that for Ruth, "your people shall be my people" comes first. Often, theology follows love for another person and the joining of a new family.

For make no mistake: In becoming Jewish, one joins not just a religion but a people. Even Jews who do not have strong religious convictions or any religious convictions can feel strongly about their identity as Jews, because Judaism is broader than any statement of faith.

It is a civilization, a culture — ultimately, a sort of national family. Without a center of spirit, that national family will not survive, but it remains true that whatever one's spiritual com-

(Continued on Page 19)

Joseph is overcome with emotion. His brothers are completely dumbstruck. Joseph has to repeat himself:

"Come forward to me." And when they came forward, he said, "I am your brother Joseph, he whom you sold into Egypt. Now, do not be distressed or reproach yourselves because you sold me hither; it was to save life that G-d sent me ahead of you." (Genesis 45:4-5)

Throughout Joseph's revelation of himself, the brothers are silent. What could have been going through their minds at that moment?

Surely, he will take revenge on us now.

Can it be that his dreams really came true?

We have suffered all these years thinking him dead. Why didn't he let us know he was alive?

Ultimately they fall upon each other's necks, kissing and weeping. In this climactic moment, an incredible thing happens. Years of jealousy, betrayal, anger, lies, and secrets are forgiven.

Together the "boys" agree upon a plan to bring their father to Egypt, and they will be a family again.

Families struggle. Siblings and parents can inflict severe

injury on each other, intentionally or not. Yet this story teaches us that family bonds can overcome very deep hurts.

How did Joseph come to forgive his brothers so completely? He tells us when he says, "Do not be distressed or reproach yourselves because you sold me hither; it was to save life that G-d sent me ahead of you."

Joseph believed strongly that G-d was driving his destiny. At this point in the story, he also had the luxury of hindsight, recognizing that enduring each trial in his life honed him into the leader that he became.

In the same way, Joseph's father, Jacob, had to run away from his home in order to "grow up." Only after his tribulations was he deserving of the name Israel.

Eventual positive outcome is not necessarily a good excuse for evil, however. Genesis Rabbah tells us that Joseph would not have revealed himself to his brothers if he had not seen growth and repentance in them. Then they could forgive each other and move ahead together.

This Shabbat, as we bless one another and the day, we might reflect upon how the members of our families forgive one another. Thoughts to discuss could be:

What struggles has your family endured? How does your family handle struggle? (Remember that struggle can result from positive, intentional actions, such as a child growing up and going away to college.)

Can you think of an unanticipated good outcome that came from a time of struggle?

How do you forgive one another? (Continued on Page 19)

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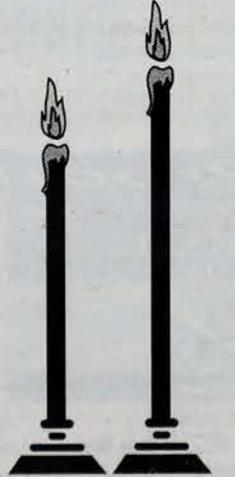
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Candlelighting
 December 20, 1996
 4:00 p.m.



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

Continued from Page 19

This week's Torah portion, Vayigash, begins with the words "Yehuda came near."

Yehuda approached Yosef and asked that his younger brother, Binyamin, be released so that he could bring him to their father, Yaakov.

Our sages tell us that Yehuda was prepared for all possibilities when he approached Yosef, even the possibility of war. Yehuda was willing to do all that was necessary to free Binyamin and return him to his father.

Why did Yehuda adopt such a strong stance? The answer is that Yehuda was personally responsible for Binyamin's welfare, as he explained, "For your servant became surety for the lad."

Yehuda had promised his father that he would take care of Binyamin and bring him home, thus he was willing to do anything, even wage battle, to fulfill his promise.

'Yehuda Came Near'

But how could Yehuda have even imagined that he could win a confrontation with Yosef? Yehuda and his brothers were few in number. Yosef, by contrast, was the second highest ruler in all of Egypt, with the entire populace of the country under his command.

In truth, Yehuda could never have been victorious in a war

conducted against Yosef. Nonetheless, Yehuda was ready to take even this drastic step should it become necessary. He knew he was responsible for Binyamin, and accepted his role as guardian without question.

True, Yaakov had other remaining sons, all of whom were healthy and sound. But Yehuda realized that self-sacrifice is required when the life of even one Jewish child is at stake.

To save Binyamin, Yehuda

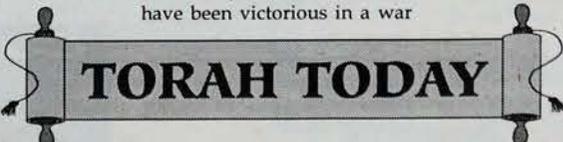
was willing to give up his own life.

This contains an important lesson for every Jewish father and mother. When G-d grants them the blessing of a child, it carries with it a great responsibility.

Sometimes it is even necessary for parents to demonstrate self-sacrifice, to make sure that nothing untoward ever happens to even one of their offspring, G-d forbid.

One area in which the greatest efforts must be expended is that of education. Providing a Torah-true education for Jewish children is so important that parents must be willing to demonstrate even the highest levels of self-sacrifice in order to make it possible.

Adapted for Maayan Chai from Likutei Sichot, vol. 7. Submitted by Rabbi Yehoshua Laufer of Chabad House.



FEATURE



Under the Chuppah

by Mike Fink
Herald Contributing Report

Both rabbis, the cantor, a past president of the congregation, and a dozen Emanu-El friends flew from Providence to Baltimore to witness the nuptials of Rivkah and Elan, new daughter-in-law and rabbi-son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward O. Adler. As ritual director and teacher at the temple, Edward Adler is widely renowned as the keeper of the flame of Yiddishkeit. The Maryland marriage ceremony testified to the intensity of that torch of memory and hope.

Susan Adler, sister of the groom, designed a brochure to welcome guests and explain the order of events—especially useful for those who may not recall how stately is the procession that leads to the canopy and the breaking of the glass.

First to be honored are those who have passed and left their blessed memory among the living, including the father of the bride. Bride and groom fast, to

ing, is escorted royally among the corridors of the large and crowded temple, toward the unveiling of the bride, from whom until now he has been separated. (This writer-guest was sitting on a couch with Dick Kumins of Providence, a high-school chum: the sight of the happy parade was a noble surprise!)

We sat in a front row on the men's side of the mechita, the separation between men and women, and watched the principals climb the stairs to the bimah, an intimate space squared off by the family and the rabbis.

Musicians, an old-time group of klezmerim, piped their happy accompaniment.

The bride, of course, is the center of attention. She circles the groom seven times, and the sight is ancient and modern, striking, because the train is regal. The rabbi compares the ex-

drawing protective walls around Elan. She links their two destinies."

"Yichud" refers to the retreat to a quiet room before bride and groom enter the reception hall. Once they have joined the celebrating throng, the music surges, and the groom is lifted among the ever-widening radius of men dancing. In another ring the bride is raised high on her throne by her "subjects" and the look is quite majestic. The groom is carried across the division to rejoin his bride. They are not miniature people, like the British royals. With their happy faces and their formal attire, they look as substantial and yet spiritual as the tradition they re-enact.

Oddly, like an American ritual gathering of the prohibition era following World War I, no drop of wine is served. The wine-glasses hold only the water used to wash your hands before blessing the challah. You had to sip from your own hipflask. Here the blessings take precedence over the gaiety of the good things over which the words are said or sung. All is symbol, and Susan's brochure closes with the words of the Spanish Abarbanel. "Mishn-ayim echad" means "From two, one."

Our familiar friend of Providence Judaism and East Side life, Edward Adler, stands alone at the entrance to the Orthodox palace, not far from the nation's capital, to shake hands with guests departing for the airport and their flight home.

"I'll see you before Shabbat," he says with a contented smile.

We have met his cousins. "Her father helped me survive the war. He got me false papers," Edward Adler claimed with gratitude and pride. But here he can live free, openly, as a Jewish prince handing down his legacy among other Jews. Jews of all kinds, black and white, young and old, from here and there, come together to toast new happiness.

Most weddings hold anxieties and regrets as well as cheers and toasts. But everybody has always loved Elan Adler. Friends from Stamford, Conn., attest to that by their presence. Jews live not only at their address, but among their ties elsewhere and in other times.

Elan Adler, and his new wife, embody that same Adler handshake of warmth and welcome I felt as I left the scene. With one minor regret of my own. I wish I had turned around and given Edward Adler a big Adler-hug. I do so in print instead.

Mendes Society Meets

by Mike Fink
Herald Contributing Reporter

President Warren Teixeira held the December meeting of the Sousa Mendes Society at his home in Pawtucket. Among his still lifes of lemons and apples, guests from the Jewish and Portuguese communities laid plans

neighbor for profit, prowls the wilderness in far more dangerous and perilous journeys.

The portions of Portugal that figure in the Jewish story are by now too poor to support modern life. Emigrés populate the world. Indeed, future plans for the Sousa Mendes group include



"I just knew the explorers were Jewish." Herald photo by Mike Fink

for the next issue of their annual publication, "Reunir," and listened to a lecture by a visiting Portuguese scholar, Dr. Rita Gomes.

The forthcoming periodical will be dedicated to the memory of Bernard Kusnitz, Touro historian. A contribution to the archive of the synagogue was made in his honor.

Gomes spoke of the Jewish history of the region in Northern Portugal which is the area of her medieval research. She told the legend of the traveling merchant upon a burro who meets a wolf, which, nevertheless, takes a separate and harmless path. Meanwhile, a Grand Inquisitor, seeking those who would betray a

efforts to trace the similar voyages of Sephardic Jews escaping Purge, later, Ashkenazic Jews in flight from Germany, and Portuguese colonies establishing themselves among the islands, from Brazil, through the Caribbean to our own shores.

At the reception following the program, a young woman from Madeira declared, "I always knew I was Jewish, and that the great explorers were Jewish, and that the spark of intelligence among my people was a Jewish spark, but I had no proof, only a feeling."

Truly, no meeting of this friendship group of Portuguese and Jewish neighbors is without its poignancy, its poetry, its surprises.



DEC. 11 — Elan Adler celebrating his wedding and his parents' anniversary. Herald photo by Mike Fink

imitate Yom Kippur: but during Chanukah and Rosh Chodesh, or New Moon, an exception is made to the custom. To keep the sense of Yom Kippur, the groom wears a white kittel, a formal robe.

The bride sits in state like a queen, elaborately garbed in white drapery, receiving mazel tovs, but it is her privilege to bring mazel, or luck, to her guests, because her wishes have special power today. Her prayers are potent.

A most moving moment follows. The groom, smiling, beam-

ing, is escorted royally among the corridors of the large and crowded temple, toward the unveiling of the bride, from whom until now he has been separated. (This writer-guest was sitting on a couch with Dick Kumins of Providence, a high-school chum: the sight of the happy parade was a noble surprise!)

Susan and Trudy Adler, sister and mother of the groom, wore royal blue dresses: the color of serenity and the Israeli sky. The bride's daughters, Ariella and Shoshana, moved among the group, often in somebody's arms, adding liveliness and a sense of history. The seven circles of the bride, according to Susan's notes, "symbolize Rivkah's role in

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THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

'If You Will It...'

by Alison Smith
Herald Editor

The Alperin Schechter Day School held its 16th Zimriyah on Dec. 15.

Half an hour before the program was due to start, parking on neighborhood streets was getting tight. The school was buzzing with high-pitched young voices and the lower, somewhat harried voices of parents and teachers as they gave directions or asked questions. Musicians were warming up and chatting near the stage, and every seat in the front section of the auditorium was filled.

To avoid monotony in programming, the school tries to put a slightly different slant on the event each year. This one featured a skit starring a Theodor Herzl look-alike and

six other 8th-graders playing the roles of leaders instrumental in the creation of Israel. Among them were the founder of Haddassah and Ben-Gurion.

During the skit, the audience was reminded of Herzl's prophecy that the world would see the creation of a Jewish state in 50 years. Actually, it took 51, but even 51 is amazing.

Herzl's philosophy, "If you will it, it is no dream," was the theme for Sunday's program.

During a raffle drawing, first prize—a mountain bike—went to Rabbi Kaunfer who very graciously immediately asked that another winner be drawn for the bike.

Noah Jablow, a 6th-grader, sold 28 books of raffle tickets, which entitles him to rule as head of ASDS for one day, soon.

The musical part of the program was structured so that each section began with a narration or description of some special event or feature of Israel, followed by a piece of music appropriate to that narration. There are 237 students at ASDS, and every one of them who wasn't sick or out of town was up on stage, singing, clapping, waving and smiling.

The music could be heard clearly out on Morris Avenue.

Musicians for the event were Mark Bram, Howard Bromberg, Dawn Costa, Jesse Goldberg, Eitan Hersh, Carol Kapstein, Ezra Lipp, Wendy Spellun, Sam Stein and Ben Tilchin. Shelley Katsh was accompanist, and Laura Berkson was the musical director.

There were 237 stars.



NOW HEAR THIS! An ASDS teacher raises her arm for silence as her students wait to file in.

Herald photo by Alison Smith

Breakfast With Reed and Bakst

U.S. Senator-elect Jack Reed, often a visitor at Temple Torat Yisrael's Men's Club breakfasts, will share his insights on the upcoming Congressional session on Dec. 22 at the temple, 220 Park Ave., Cranston.

Providence Journal political columnist Charles M. Bakst will be present, also.

Services begin at 9 a.m., followed by the breakfast and program at 9:45 a.m.

Forty-Fives Plus to Dance Night Away

Chai's Jewish Singles presents their second annual ages 45-plus "Chai's Eve" on Dec. 24. The dance-party will be held at Circuits in the Westin Hotel, Waltham, Mass. Doors will open at 8 p.m. The cost is \$15 in advance, or \$19 at the door. Advance tickets can be purchased at all Strawberries locations or the B&D Deli in Brookline. There will be free garage parking, membership and food.

Last year this event sold out. Partial proceeds will be donated to the American Cancer Society. This is the only 45-plus dance in December. For more information, call Barton Roth at (508) 443-7834.

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Applications for Youth Fellowships in Israel

Applications are now available for the 1997 Bronfman Youth Fellowships in Israel.

The fellowships, now in their 11th year, offer an opportunity for 26 students entering the 12th grade to spend five weeks in Israel this summer.

Fellows will be chosen on the basis of character, intellectual interests, special talents and leadership qualities. In the competitive selection process, merit, not financial need, is the standard for selection.

While living in Jerusalem, the Bronfman Fellows participate in seminars and dialogues with a diverse rabbinic faculty, representing a wide range of Jewish perspectives. They explore Jewish text against the background of Israel's land, culture and customs.

In addition, Fellows will meet with some of Israel's prominent political and literary figures to examine contemporary issues in light of Jewish history and tradition.

The Bronfman Youth Fellowships in Israel is a program of The Samuel Bronfman Foundation, Inc., of which Edgar M. Bronfman is chairman.

In explaining the purpose of the fellowships, Bronfman said, "Our hope is to open lines of communication among a group

of outstanding young people on the major issues confronting the Jewish people in all its diversity. In that process, we believe they will discover that there is a common Jewish agenda that transcends the differences among them."

The Bronfman Youth Fellowships program begins on June 30, 1997, with a two-day seminar in New York City. The students return from Israel on Aug. 5.

All meals will be kosher and Sabbath activities will be in the spirit of the day. All expenses are covered by the program, including round-trip international transportation, room and board, travel in Israel and incidentals.

High school students in the United States and Canada, who will be in 12th grade in the fall of 1997, may obtain application forms and detailed information by mail: The Bronfman Youth Fellowships in Israel, 17 Wilbur St., Albany, N.Y., 12202, by telephone: (518) 465-6575, by fax: (518) 432-8984; by e-mail: YFI@MCIMAIL.COM.

Completed applications must be postmarked no later than Jan. 31, 1997. Finalists will be notified March 2 and finalist interviews will be held during the week of March 16. Names of the 1997 Fellowship recipients will be announced March 31.

A Mitzvah You'll Never Forget

On Dec. 25, Jewish volunteers from across Massachusetts will participate in Project Ezra, the volunteer program sponsored by the Synagogue Council of Massachusetts to staff local feeding programs, shelters, hospitals and nursing homes so that Christian volunteers can spend their holiday with family.

This year, Project Ezra volunteers will again work in a variety of capacities, wherever

needed to relieve regular staff. Some volunteers will prepare and serve holiday meals and set tables, perhaps spending some additional social time with guests to brighten the holiday for them.

Other volunteers will make home visits, delivering holiday dinners and gifts to people who are confined to their homes by old age or poor health.

To be part of Project Ezra on Dec. 25, call (617) 244-6506.



Symbolizing Religious Freedom

On Dec. 12, Rabbi Yehoshua Laufer of Chabad House marked the eighth night of Chanukah with a menorah lighting at the Rhode Island State House. "Representatives" from eight different countries lit the menorah, which was placed in front of the original charter from King Charles II granting Rhode Island religious freedom.

Herald photo by Neil Nachbar

THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

JCCRI Cares for the Environment

The Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island has always felt a responsibility to its neighborhood community and the environment. This was evident as the JCCRI initiated its energy improvement project last summer.

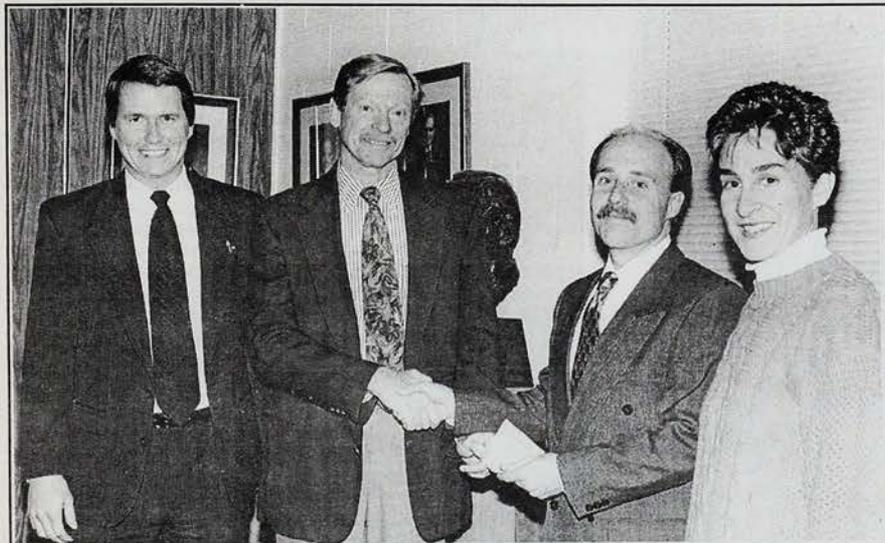
This project consisted of two parts. First, the efficiency of the existing lighting system

was upgraded. Secondly, an automated system was installed to reduce the amount of energy used for air-conditioning and heating.

This furthers the center's efforts to become more environmentally aware by reducing the emissions into the atmosphere, and at the same time, reducing fuel consumption and cost.

This project moved forward from concept to finished product within six months with the assistance of Landis & Gyr Inc. of Warwick.

The JCCRI took advantage of Narragansett Electric's energy initiative program, which provided \$29,400 toward the cost, thereby saving money for the center.



THESE PEOPLE were instrumental in achieving the energy-efficient project at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island. From left, David Lamb of Landis & Gyr Inc.; David Prairie of Narragansett Electric; Alan Litwin, president of the JCCRI; and Barbara Feibelman, chairperson of the JCCRI's building and operations committee.

Photo by Roberta Kaufman

Jacobson to Speak About Torah on NPR

Rabbi Simon Jacobson, chief oral scribe of the Grand Lubavitcher Rebbe, Menachem Mendel Schneerson and author of *Toward a Meaningful Life*, will discuss the relevance and global importance of the Jewish Bible on Dec. 24 from 2:50-3 p.m. EST as part of National Public Radio's national five-part series entitled "Ancient Religious Texts."

Each week for five weeks, NPR will explore the essential texts of

the world's five major religions: Judaism's Five Books of Moses, Hindu's Bhagavad Gita, Buddhism's saying of the Buddha, Christianity's "Four Gospels," and the Moslem Koran.

Jacobson will present the Torah as a blueprint for life: 90 generations of thought and commentary, its 5,845 verses pored over and analyzed by more than 3,000 years of scholarship, a life-skills manual and guide for deal-

ing with contemporary life.

As reflected in the media's interest in the Bible, with Bill Moyer's widely acclaimed book and PBS series on "Genesis," Jacobson's interview will demonstrate how the Five Books of Moses have contributed to world literature, and how he believes that every chapter and verse contributes to the fabric and issues that affect our everyday lives.



Jews in Africa

Professor Richard Lobban lectured at the Rhode Island Black Heritage Society on Dec. 14 on Jews in Africa from antiquity (Greco-Roman) through colonial and post-colonial periods. The main focus of the lecture was Jewish cartographers who rediscovered that Africa was circumnavigable.

Herald photo by Neil Nachbar

Kabbalah Course Offered in Warwick

Kabbalah, the mystical branch of Judaism, will be the subject of a course offered by Chabad of West Bay CHAI Center entitled, "The Mystical Dimension."

The course will lead members on an in-depth exploration through the annals of Jewish mysticism as they are enlightened by the torch of Chasidus. Class members will study the works of such great masters as

Rabbi Isaac Luria, Rabbi Schneur Zalman of Liadi and the Lubavitcher Rebbe.

No prior knowledge of mysticism is necessary.

The course will take place on Monday evenings at 7:30 p.m. at the CHAI Center, 15 Centerville Road, Warwick.

Advance reservations are requested. Call the CHAI Center at 884-4071.

Jewish 49ers Host Brunch

On Dec. 25 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Jewish 49ers will host a potluck holiday brunch at Temple Beth Am, 300 Pleasant St., Framingham, Mass.

The cost is \$5 for members, \$8 for non-members, and everyone must bring food for six people. Food assignments are designated by last name: A-G appetizers, H-R main courses, S-Z desserts. No pork or shellfish, please. All beverages will be provided.

Directions: From route 9 west, turn right on Temple Street (across from Stop and Shop), at the end of the street turn right on Pleasant Street. The temple will be on your right about 1/4 mile down the way.

For further information call Roz at (508) 872-1715, Susan at (617) 969-5903, or Flo at (508) 877-0636.

Singles Dance Scheduled

Chai's Jewish Singles presents their second annual "Chai's Eve" dance party on Dec. 24 for ages 21 to 44. The location is Boston's new nightclub, Karma Club, at 9 Lansdowne St., Boston.

Doors open to all at 8 p.m. and the dance-party continues till 2 a.m. The cost will be \$15 at the door, \$12 in advance, or a special price of \$10 before 10 p.m.

Advance tickets can be purchased at all Strawberries locations or the B&D Deli in Brookline. There will be free membership and food catered by Bruegger's Bagel.

Last year this event was sold out. There is garage parking and valet service. Partial proceeds will be donated to American Cancer Society. For more information, call Barton Roth at (508) 443-7834.

'Rockin' With the MWJCC'

Looking for some excitement on Dec. 25 for you and your family? Here's a great solution!

Join other MetroWest Jewish families for an exciting afternoon of "Rockin' with the MWJCC" on Dec. 25, 2 to 4 p.m. at Temple Beth Am, Framingham, Mass.

Disc jockey Jeff Glassman will provide music from the '50s to the '90s. Enjoy dancing to children's music, rock n' roll, Israeli and pop music. Try your skills at the limbo or musical chairs.

If it's games you like, compete in the hula hoop contest, the basketball shootout and many children's games. Prizes galore!

Could families get together without eating? Of course not! Snacks and drinks will be available. Prices for MWJCC members are \$15 per family in advance or \$18 per family at the door. Non-members are \$20 per family. Guests are \$5 each for JCC families and \$6 each for non-members.

For directions and reservations, call (508) 879-3300.

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GETAWAY

Israel and Jordan Host Music Festival

The Red Sea International Music Festival, featuring the world-renowned St. Petersburg Kirov Opera Orchestra, will take place jointly in Israel and Jordan for the first time ever this coming Jan. 9 to 12.

The festival will be held in the resort of Eilat, Israel's southernmost city, and in neighboring Aqaba, a few miles distant in Jordan. A significant result of the progress of the on-going peace process in the Middle East, the newly revived Red Sea International Music Festival will be a celebration both of world music, and of growing world peace.

Maestro Valery Gergiev, conductor of the orchestra, along with Eilat's mayor, Gabi Kadosh, conceived the idea of holding the festival in both Eilat and Aqaba, in order to nurture the peace and friendship uniting Israel and Jordan.

In addition to the orchestra, the choir of the St. Petersburg Kirov Opera, and renowned international soloists, will take part in the four-day event.

The festival opens in Eilat on Jan. 9 with "Verdi's Requiem."

The festival moves to Aqaba the next day and will feature the world premiere of "Charbon Shalayev" and "Oded Zehavi," both works commissioned to honor the peace process.

On Jan. 11, the festival returns to Eilat with an a capella concert at 11 a.m. by the Kirov Opera Choir, and "Romeo and Juliet in Music" at 9 p.m. The Saturday night program will also include Mussorgsky's "Night on a Bald Mountain," Rimsky-Korsakov's "Scheherazade" and Ippolitov-Ivanov's "Caucasian Sketches."

The festival concludes in Eilat with a family concert showcasing Borodin's "Polovestian Dances" from the opera "Prince Igor" and Prokofiev's "Peter and

the Wolf."

Eilat, bordered by the biblical Edom Mountains on the north and the Red Sea on the south, offers a sunny escape from bleak European and American winters.

The Red Sea is home to some of the world's most colorful and most accessible marine life, and Eilat offers every sort of pastime and water sport imaginable; by night, it offers a plethora of choices for the fun-loving, from nightclubs and discos to restaurants and piano bars.

Tickets for the Red Sea International Music Festival range from \$34 to \$62 and can be ordered from ARTIS in Tel Aviv, Tel. 011-972-3-517-9025 or Fax 011-972-3-516-0045.

Tourism Market in Tel Aviv

The third annual International Mediterranean Peace Tourism Market will be held at the Tel Aviv Trade Fairs and Convention Center from Feb. 3 to 5.

Designed to highlight Israel and its neighboring countries as desirable tourism destinations, IMPTM will showcase exhibitors from Israel, Egypt, Jordan, the Palestinian National Authority, Turkey, Greece, Cyprus, Morocco and Tunisia.

IMPTM is being organized

under the auspices of the Israel Ministry of Tourism, El Al Israel Airlines and the Israel Hotel Association. Discounted tickets on El Al flights for IMPTM are available to all agents, operators and exhibitors, with confirmed registration for the event.

For more information about IMPTM, contact ORTRA Ltd, 2 Kaufman St., Tel Aviv 61500, Fax: 011-972-3-517-4433 or Israel Travel News Ltd., 38 Shalom Aleichem St., Tel Aviv 63344, Fax: 011-972-3-525-1605.

Simcha Tours Designs Trips for Jewish Travelers

When Ellen Nevins announced the first travel program-of-its-kind offering domestic group tours within the United States specifically designed for Jewish travelers and with Jewish themes, she received a wholehearted welcome from Jewish travel agents in south Florida.

She recalled, "One agent told me that he had recently sent a group of Jewish seniors on a vacation with a tour company not altogether sensitive to their needs. When the seniors came back from their trip, one woman kvetched to the travel agent, 'They sat us down for dinner and put a plate of pork in front of us!'"

With Nevins's new tour program, called Simcha Tours™ (a division of Destination Southwest Florida), Jewish seniors finally have it their way.

Simcha Tours journeys to some of the top vacation destinations in the country, including New Orleans, California, Washington, D.C., Savannah, Charleston, Myrtle Beach and Orlando.

Vacationers see exciting shows, enjoy wonderful dinner cruises, and hit many of the nation's most popular attractions — from Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco to Busch Gardens in Tampa to the French Quarter in New Orleans.

However, differing from the run-of-the-mill tour company, Simcha Tours adds a dash of Jewish flavor to spice up their tours.

"For our New Orleans tour," Nevins said, "we got the Jewish owner of one trendy restaurant to prepare a terrific cajun-Jewish dinner. He's cooking all the favorites, from gumbo to jambalaya — only he's leaving out the shellfish and the pork. Plus, he's making his special cajun brisket as well as kugel for dessert. It'll be a great dinner, and it's followed that night by a fantastic jazz cabaret show."

In Savannah, Simcha Tours has arranged to have the prominent rabbi of one of the oldest synagogues in America lead their guests on a walking tour of historic Savannah's colonial Jewish heritage.

And for their tour to Fort Myers/Naples, Fla. — called the "Gefilte Gulf Getaway" — vacationers will croon along with a Jewish folk singer while enjoying a sunset dinner cruise along Vanderbilt Bay.

For a complete tour itinerary package, send a self-addressed envelope with 78¢ postage to: Simcha Tours/Itineraries, 5257 Wisteria Court, Cape Coral, FL 33904. Space is limited; to ensure a seat be certain to make your reservations early.

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by Judy Gershman

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Judy Gershman is the owner of Judy's Studio, Ltd., 650 Oaklawn Ave., Cranston.

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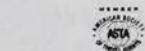
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MILESTONES

Michelle Blasbalg Weds Scott Hammer

Michelle L. Blasbalg and Scott L. Hammer were married Nov. 9 at the Westin Hotel, Providence, R.I. The bride is the daughter of Arnold and Ruth Blasbalg of Coventry, R.I. The bridegroom is the son of Howard and Shelly Hammer of Manopac, N.Y.

Rabbi Nechama D. Goldberg officiated at the 6:30 p.m. ceremony, which was followed by a reception at the Westin Hotel.

Given in marriage by her parents, the bride was attended by maid of honor, Dana L. Blasbalg, sister of the bride, and bridesmaids Julie H. Blasbalg and Stacey K. Blasbalg, sisters of the bride, and Tosca Eckardt and Bonnie Kusiak.

Best men for the bridegroom

were Steven M. Gorelick and Leonard Tesler. Ushers were Gerard McCreight, Steven Wechsler, Stephen Timon and Richard Belkin.

The bride received a bachelor's in psychology from Brandeis University, and has a master's degree in elementary education from Rhode Island College. She is employed as a substitute teacher. The bridegroom received a bachelor's in economics and politics from Brandeis University and has a law degree from Touro Law School. He is employed as a partner at Blasbalg and Hammer law offices in Providence.

Their wedding trip was taken to St. Lucia and they have made their home in Warwick.



Mr. and Mrs. Scott Hammer



Jason Nathaniel Glantz

Mr. and Mrs. Jamie Glantz of 2215 Bear Valley Terrace, Silver Spring, Md., announce the birth of their second child, a son, Jason Nathaniel, on Nov. 18. He was welcomed home

by his sister, Hayley.

Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Michael Daum of Staten Island, N.Y.

Paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Glantz of Cape Cod, Mass. He is the eighth grandchild.

Great-grandmother is Mary Zoller.

Laura Kushner to Marry Ronald Cohen

Lenore and Richard Cohen, of Cranston, R.I., announce the engagement of their son, Ronald Adam Cohen, of Boston, Mass., to Laura Michelle Kushner, of Newton, Mass., daughter of Cindy and Gene Kushner. He is the grandson of Bella Dubinsky and the late Milton Dubinsky and the late Sylvia and Herbert Cohen.

The bride-to-be graduated from the University of Maryland and is employed as a human resources consultant at Strategic Outsourcing in Boston.

Her fiancé is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. He is a 401K consultant at Scudder, Stevens and Clark in Boston.

The wedding date is Nov. 15, 1997.

Chazan Joins Prominent Law Firm

The law firm of Adler Pollock & Sheehan has announced that Michael J. Chazan, Esq., John M. O'Brien, Esq., and Craig J. Coffey, Esq., are now practicing at the firm. Eleven new attorneys were hired by the firm in 1996.

Chazan concentrates his practice in the areas of tax planning for individuals; succession planning for business owners; and fringe benefit planning for employers and employees. He often counsels closely held businesses and their owners on the strategic role of insurance in estate and succession planning; minimizing estate taxes through business structuring; and other issues relative to the preserva-

tion of wealth including recapitalization, nonqualified deferred compensation, split-dollar arrangements and buy-sell agreements.

Prior to joining Adler Pollock & Sheehan, Chazan spent 10 years in the insurance industry providing legal and tax planning advice for several major insurance companies. He currently works with an array of financial professionals — including accountants, securities brokers, insurance agents and pension planners — to meet their clients' tax and planning needs.

He received his bachelor of arts degree in philosophy in 1982 from Trinity College in Con-

necticut, his law degree in 1985 from Vermont Law School and his LL.M degree in taxation in 1989 from Boston University School of Law. He has earned the Chartered Life Underwriter and Chartered Financial Consultant designations.

A frequent lecturer and writer on tax and estate planning issues, Chazan is admitted to practice in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. He is also a member of the American Bar Association. A resident of Providence's East Side, he is a member of the Rhode Island Cabinet for Israel Bonds, a group of professionals who administer and promote Israeli bonds for investment purposes.

Baum to Receive Quittman Award

Rabbi Reuben M. Katz, national president of B'nai Zion, has announced that the recipient of the third annual Quittman Award will be Phil Baum, executive director of The American Jewish Congress.

This award was established by B'nai Zion in honor of its nonagenarian executive vice president, Herman Z. Quittman, to be presented annually to an organizational professional who best exemplifies the dedication and devotion to Jewish causes evidenced by Quittman during his long and distinguished career.

Quittman set new standards of professionalism through his vision, creativity and selfless endeavors on behalf of B'nai Zion and its work in the United States and Israel. Through his special efforts B'nai Zion grew and prospered and achieved its present status in Jewish life in America.

The two previous recipients have been Malcolm Hoenlein, the executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, and Dr. Samuel I. Cohen, the executive vice president of The Jewish National Fund of America.

Baum has for the past decades devoted himself to the American Jewish Congress and, in addition to his present duties as executive director, acts a director of its commission on international affairs. He is recognized and respected as a professional leader in Jewish life and has spent a lifetime on behalf of his fellow Jews.

The presentation will be made at a luncheon on Jan. 21 at the B'nai Zion House, 136 East 39th St., New York City. Call (212) 725-1211 for additional information.

Million-Dollar Grant for AIDS Research Comes to The Miriam

Charles C.J. Carpenter, M.D., of The Miriam Hospital has received a million-dollar grant from the Centers for Disease Control for a landmark study involving women and AIDS.

The Miriam is one of only four sites in the country involved in the study known as the HERS Project. HERS is an acronym for HIV Epidemiology Research Study.

The \$1,277,009 grant covers the first year of a three-year renewal. Three hundred forty-five Rhode Island women, some HIV positive and some not, are enrolled in the study. Researchers are currently studying the course of HIV infection in women and how it is influ-

enced by antiviral therapy.

Carpenter is physician-in-chief at The Miriam Hospital and professor of medicine at Brown University School of Medicine. He recently was named to the National Institutes for Health Panel to Define the Principles of Therapy of HIV Infection. The panel will set a national standard to be used by those who allocate funds for the treatment of HIV infection.

Carpenter established the first treatment center for women with HIV/AIDS in New England nine years ago. The center remains one of the few in the country dedicated to the comprehensive care of women with HIV infection.

Researcher at Miriam Heads for National Institute

Herman Vandenburg, Ph.D., research associate at The Miriam Hospital, has been named to the National Institutes of Health respiratory and applied physiology study section, division of research grants.

Vandenburg accepted the invitation for a four-year term.

Members are selected based on demonstrated competence and achievement in their field, including publications in scientific journals and quality of research accomplishments.

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Nina Michelle Weiss

Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Weiss of Providence, R.I., announce the birth of their daughter, Nina Michelle, on Dec. 6, 1996. Nina was welcomed home by her big sister, Marni René.

Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Frank Weiss of North Providence. Paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Howard Weiss of Providence. Paternal great-grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Saul Spitz of Providence.

Nina is named in memory of her paternal great-grandparents Nathan and Anne Weiss.



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SCHOOLBEAT

ASDS Celebrates Unity

First-grade students at the Ruth and Max Alperin Schechter Day School, and their parents, enjoyed a Chanukah celebration together, thanks to the efforts of Liz Goldberg and Victoria Lambroza, coordinators of the ASDS Gateway Project, an endowment grant from the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.

Families brought menorahs and everyone lit candles together. Then the students presented a medley of Chanukah songs. The concert was followed by food and food projects — edible dreidles, edible menorahs, and lots and lots of latkes! The Gateway Project is an initiative to support projects and

activities that promote multicultural ties within the Schechter community. It seeks to bring together members of the many communities at ASDS, among them families from the former Soviet Union, for social and educational programs to foster better understanding and mutual respect.



CLAP AND SHOUT! A medley of Chanukah songs by the children set the tone for the Alperin Schechter Day School Gateway Project family Chanukah party, recently. Photo courtesy of ASDS



EYES ON THE LIGHT — Daniel Shana and Ethan Gnepp join their mothers in lighting of the Chanukah candles at the opening of Alperin Schechter's Gateway Project family Chanukah party. Photo courtesy of Alperin Schechter Day School

Camp JORI Opens Registration

Camp JORI, which will be celebrating its 60th anniversary next year, has now opened registration for the 1997 camping season. The only overnight Jewish camp

in Rhode Island, JORI, which follows Jewish dietary laws, recently announced its camping schedule for next summer. There will be two four-week

camping sessions with the following schedule:

- Trip I — June 30 to July 27
- Trip II — July 28 to Aug. 24

The fee for each four-week overnight camping session is \$1,180.

For first-time campers only, Camp JORI also offers four two-week overnight camps:

- Trip I-A — June 30 to July 13
- Trip I-B — July 13 to 27
- Trip II-A — July 28 to Aug. 10
- Trip II-B — Aug. 10 to 24

The fee for each two-week overnight camp is \$730 and may be applied to the cost of a full, four-week trip if the child's stay is extended. All trips are for boys and girls ages 7 through 13.

For the second year in a row, Camp JORI will also make available for 14- and 15-year-olds the JORI Leadership In Training program. A select program designed to develop leadership skills, LIT provides a well-balanced teen program of fun, leadership development opportunities and trips away from camp.

Participants in the program have their own daily schedule of sports, swim instruction and other camp activities; in addition, they assist the JORI staff and take other leadership roles in camp. Trips from camp have included mountain climbing overnights, canoeing, kayaking and excursions to Boston and Block Island. LITs pay regular camp fees.

Camp JORI, which is located in Narragansett, offers a complete sports program, arts and crafts, and Jewish cultural programming. In recent years, JORI has enhanced its commitment to Jewish culture.

Camper-led Shabbat services provide an opportunity for creative expression with the JORI family setting and qualified staff lead weekly havdalah services, daily prayers at meals and Israeli dancing and singing.

For more information, call Camp JORI at 521-2655.

The Magic of Chemistry

Start the New Year (a little early) with a bang! See unadulterated science in action! No special effects! Hands on!

The "Chemistry Magic Show" promises all this and more. Produced by UMass Dartmouth Professors William "Toby" Dills Jr. and J. A. Golen, classroom masters of chemistry and biochemistry, the show uses the magic of chemistry to entertain and education.

An audience of all ages is invited, but the show does include some loud noises and may

not be suitable for the youngest of children.

The show includes demonstration of chemical luminescence (light generated by absorbing energy), the properties of energy, and the making of rainbows.

The free performances are from 7 to 9 p.m. on Dec. 28 and from 2 to 4 p.m. on Dec. 29 at the Main Auditorium in the Campus Center at the UMass Dartmouth campus.

Parking is available in Lots 5 and 6. For further information, call (508) 999-8245.

Scholarships Available in Labor Studies at RIC

The Institute for Labor Studies and Research is offering two new scholarships for labor studies students at Rhode Island College for the spring semester.

In addition to offering scholarships that cover one-half of a labor studies course fee, the institute now has available for union members a limited number of scholarships that cover the full course fee.

The institute is also offering a \$100 scholarship stipend for students who enroll in the labor studies program and complete

a course during the spring semester. These scholarships are being made available through the Institute for Labor Studies' Edward J. McElroy and Max Gursky Scholarship Funds.

The labor studies program at Rhode Island College provides the opportunity for people to earn a college degree while working a full-time job. To find out more about the Rhode Island College labor studies program or receive a scholarship application and guidelines, call 463-9900.

BBC Opens Registration

Registration for Bristol Community College's spring semester is now open, said Dr. Ruth Sherman, dean of continuing education and community services.

During registration, BBC offers the services of academic advisors to help students choose their courses and even help them choose their program of studies.

Hours for registration are Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. For more information, call (508) 678-2811, ext. 2590.

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SCHOOLBEAT

PHDS Singers and Actors Score Again

Providence Hebrew Day School celebrated Chanukah on Dec. 10 with an evening program of music and one skit. The skit, put on by fifth-graders, relied heavily on wordplay,

and went over very well with the audience. The music was so vigorously played and sung that it was an effort to remain seated while it invited you to dance. It was clear

that under Rabbi Fried's direction, the PHDS choir enjoyed its own performance as much as its audience did. Every seat in the auditorium was filled.



COUNTING DOWN — THREE, TWO, ONE! From the left Elisheva Stark, Atara Kaufman, Shifra Andelman and Yehuda Weiner wait for the music to start at PHDS. *Herald photo by Alison Smith*



RABBI JAKUBOWICZ AND ELAN NOORPARVOOR light the menorah as the Chanukah program at PHDS begins. *Herald photo by Alison Smith*

It's Enough to Break Your Heart

by Alison Smith
Herald Editor

I went to a program — a skit and a concert — by the children of Providence Hebrew Day School, on Dec. 10. Suddenly in the midst of the singing, without any reference having been

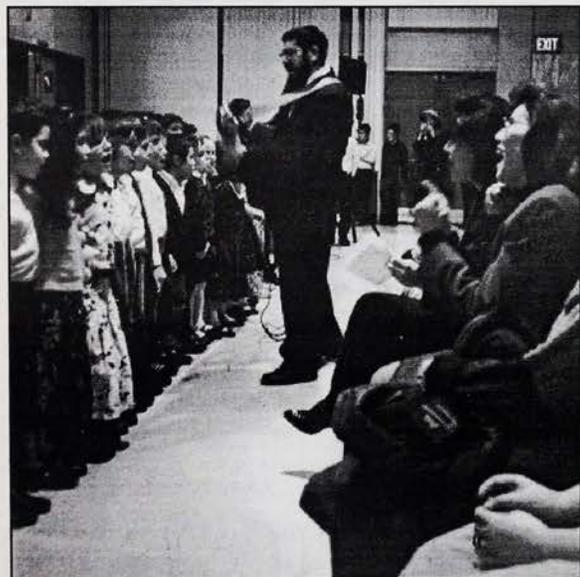
made to the Holocaust, the thought came to me that millions of children just like these small singers, hand-clappers, foot-stompers and gigglers were slaughtered in particularly barbaric ways by the Third Reich. It was as if someone had tip-

toed up behind me, as I sat there exchanging smiles with the kids in the front row, and emptied a bucket of ice water over my head.

It brought home to me, more than talks by survivors, or pictures of piles of old glasses and shoes, or images of the ovens at Auschwitz, how unspeakable and unimaginable the cruelty and inhumanity of the Nazis was.

And then I remembered a picture of a ship full of doomed Jews, seeking refuge in one harbor after another, before finally sailing back to Europe. Smiling bravely from the portholes and over the railings were the faces of Jewish children. How could the governments of the rest of the world, including the American government, have helped to make the murder of these children by the Nazis possible?

It's enough to break your heart, again and again.



SING! On the right, teachers Jani Rosen, foreground, and Ilana Vogel, behind her, clap, sing and m-o-o-o-v-e with the music as they encourage their students to belt it out. (The kids did.) Rabbi Fried and his guitar lead the PHDS chorus. *Herald photo by Alison Smith*



MOSHE FRIED, drummer extraordinaire, and Klezmer musician Fischel Bressler in the background, provided the beat for student singing. *Herald photo by Alison Smith*

UMass Dartmouth Comes Through With Cranberry Counter

Student engineers at UMass Dartmouth have created a Cranberry Counter for Ocean Spray Company. The machine, a mechanical engineering design project, counts cranberries which come in all different sizes and so were, hitherto, difficult to measure except by weight.

Ocean Spray liked the prototype so much, the students built the company a second one which was presented to two Ocean Spray executives at a press conference/reception on Dec. 18. A patent application is pending.



Career Day Chat

URI College of Business Administration students had a chance to get advice on job search strategies during career day in November. Seated from left are: Tracy Kessler, a member of the Business Student Advisory Council; Francine Cinque, president of the student advisory council; and Barbara Lydon, of Price Waterhouse. Standing from left are: Stephen Hopkins of J.P. Morgan; Benjamin Kezmarsky, business student advisory council secretary; and William J. Hunt, Shove Insurance Co. *Photo courtesy of URI*



ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

'Pines in Snow' on View at RISD

Many works of art are being showcased during the "Pines In

Snow: Images of Winter in Japanese Woodblock Prints" exhibition, which is on view at the Museum of Art, Rhode Island School of Design through March 2.

The theme of endurance dominates this particular show and it is effectively conveyed in this particular work through the images of snow-covered foliage withstanding the harshness of winter.

"Pines in Snow" is included in the regular museum admission of \$2 for adults; \$1 for senior citizens; and \$.50 for children ages 5 to 18 and college students. Members of the museum are admitted free upon presentation of their membership card. Admission is always free on Saturdays.

The Museum of Art, RISD, located at 224 Benefit St. in Providence, houses a world-renowned collection of more than 1,000 works of art from every period, culture, and genre.

Parking is available in the Metropark lots at Canal Street and Park Row. To receive special half-price parking, visitors may validate their tickets at the museum's front desks.



'Pines In Snow'
Photo courtesy of
Museum of Art, RISD



What's Cooking At The Bookstore

This beautiful spread of food, presented at Borders Book Shop in Cranston recently, was made from recipes in *The Jewish Home Cookbook*. The 285-page book serves as a fund-raiser for The Worcester Jewish Healthcare Center. More than 500 recipes were tested for the cookbook. The book can be ordered by writing: The Worcester Jewish Healthcare Center, 629 Salisbury St., Worcester, MA 01609. The book costs \$22.95.

Herald photo by Neil Nachbar

UMass Artisanry Program to Participate in Festival

The Artisanry Program in the College of Visual and Performing Arts at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth has been invited to participate in the Festival of Crafts Education at the Smithsonian Institution next spring.

The festival is part of the 15th annual Spring Craft Weekend sponsored by the James Renwick Alliance. The alliance is a non-profit independent support organization for the Renwick Gallery of the National Museum of American Art in the Smithsonian Institution.

UMass Dartmouth is one of some 25 educational institutions from around the United States chosen to participate, based on their outstanding craft programs. The festival will give recruitment officials the opportunity to detail the university's programs and opportunities to students of all ages and levels of experience.

For further information on UMass Dartmouth's artisanry program, or the Festival of Crafts Education, call Professor Chris Gustin at (508) 999-8906.

Craft Show Data Sought for Guild

Any local or civic group planning an arts and crafts show in 1997, may wish to let the Connecticut Guild of Craftsmen know about it now. Many craftspeople plan their show calendar in January for the entire year.

The guild publishes *The Craft Digest* every month for its 3,500 members. The *Digest* contains advance information about upcoming arts and crafts activities on the upper East Coast.

Organizations planning an arts and crafts event in 1997 are asked to notify the guild for inclusion in *The Craft Digest*. There is no charge for listing craft events with the guild.

Show information should be sent to: Craft Shows, P.O. Box 1245, Torrington, CT 06790.

A Night of Rockin' Klezmer

Lupo's Heartbreak Hotel, in downtown Providence, will rock to the sounds of Bresler's Klezmer Hotshots on Dec. 24 from 8 to 11:30 p.m.

The "nosh pit" will be dispensing bagels and cream cheese, while Bresler's klezmer trio dispenses the wailing, laughing, moaning, and jumping sounds of eastern Europe.

Tickets are \$5 at the door. Lupo's is at 239 Westminster St. Call 272-5876 for directions.

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'After Eden'

From now to Dec. 29, After Eden an exhibit drawn from the museum's collection of American Art, a selection of paintings, sculptures, and decorative arts from the Jacksonian era to the eve of World War I will be at the RISD Museum, 224 Benefit St., Providence. For more information call 454-6500.

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Black

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT



The Gallery is Jumping!

by Alison Smith
Herald Editor

The work of painter Katherine Veneman, a resident of Providence, is currently on display in Gallery 401 at the Jewish Com-

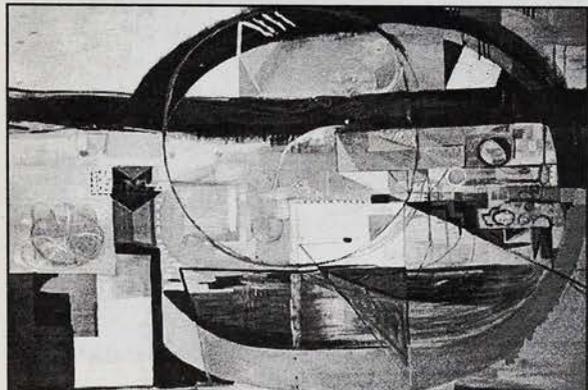
munity Center of Rhode Island. In her artist's statement, Veneman said, "I use painting to explore the subjectivity of experience. Paintings can represent multiple events, conveyed si-

multaneously on the surface." (the italics are mine.)

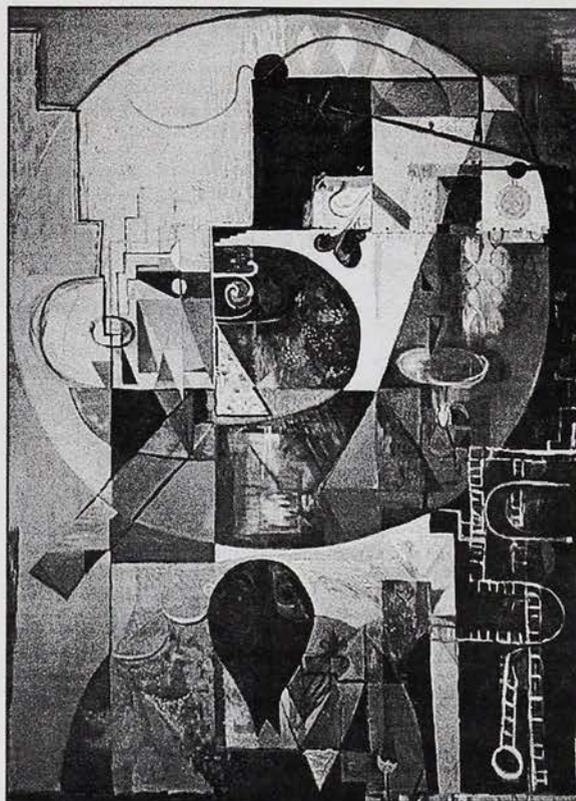
Veneman's works are usually big and bold. They are full, in some cases, crammed with abstract details. Sometimes a shape will suggest a heart... an eye... a fish... a pure geometric form... a familiar Providence landmark (or is that what it appears to be?)... a seashell that becomes a trumpet.

These canvases are so commanding that they would overpower many living rooms. However, as the center of attention in a corporate lobby or lounge, they would work beautifully. In a hallway, subject only to a cursory glance, they would be stripped of a whole level of significance — the smallest details or faint scraps of print that require time and attention to make themselves seen and felt.

The exhibit will close on Jan. 8.



"UNTITLED," by Katherine Veneman. 60" by 42" oil on canvas.
Herald photo by Alison Smith



"INSIDE ITS WALLS The Forgotten City Speaks," by Katherine Veneman. 36" x 48" oil and graphite on canvas.
Herald photo by Alison Smith

Russian Ballet Stars Dazzle In 'Sleeping Beauty On Ice'

Direct from Russia, skaters from the St. Petersburg State Ice Ballet will perform "Sleeping Beauty On Ice," Dec. 27 at 3 p.m. at the Providence Performing Arts Center.

Tickets for this special presentation are available by calling 421-ARTS and through Ticketmaster locations.

Set to the Tchaikovsky score

recorded by the orchestra of the Kirov Ballet, "Sleeping Beauty On Ice" features some of Russia's most celebrated skaters. Most of the 25 performers in the company are winners of medals and awards from Russian and international competitions.

Konstantin Rassadin, a leading soloist for 23 years of the former Kirov Ballet, brings new choreography to this production. Rassadin, through years of training and performing, shares associations with the elite of Russian

ballet including Rudolf Nuriyev, Natalia Makarova, Mikhail Baryshnikov and Natalia Dudinskaya.

"Sleeping Beauty On Ice" also features more than 100 costumes, scenery and lighting to create a world of enchantment. The effect of ice reflecting skaters as they blend feats of athleticism with grace in movement is one of the many high lights of this presentation.

An ice rink will be set on the PPAC stage for the first time in the history of the theatre.

Acting Classes Scheduled

Winter classes at Perishable Theatre begin Jan. 27 with the popular introduction to Acting class taught by Trinity Rep Company member Fred Sullivan.

For the more advanced actor, the Short Attention Span Theater Master Performance class, taught by Pat Hegnauer and developed by him and Trinity's Ed Shea, will be offered again.

New for this season are classes by Yale drama grad Barry M. Press on getting started in writing (Improvwriting) and on staging literature, (Living Literature: Taking Stories from Page to Stage).

Another new class for actors is Anne Brady's workshop on finding and performing The Perfect Monologue.

Classes returning by popular demand include Scene Study with Anne Brady, On-Camera Acting with Brenda Corwin, and Improv and Scene Study for teens with Kevin Oakes.

Classes are held at Perishable Theatre, 95 Empire St. in downtown Providence. Call for a brochure, 331-2695.

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JEWISH COMMUNITY

'...Such A Sense of Family'

by Alison Smith
Herald Editor

Do you remember the weather we got, to our surprise, on Friday, Dec. 6?

It was supposed to be a rainy day, but some front or storm system took an unexpected turn and we got snow... lots of snow... heavy, slippery, wet snow.

At Providence Hebrew Day School, at 11 a.m., Rabbi Jakubowicz and his staff decided to call the bus company responsible for transporting the more than 40 Sharon students to PHDS every day, and ask that the bus come immediately to take them home. Shabbos was to start at 4:02, so everyone at the school would be heading home by 2 p.m. anyway.

The bus company could not locate the driver involved.

Not a word was said to the Sharon children at this point, because "early dismissal" has an extraordinary effect on kids, one might even say an intoxicating effect.

Every few minutes, PHDS personnel called Sharon. No one could locate the driver. Finally, she was found, and at 12:30 or 12:45 she headed for Providence.

By now, everyone was in a count-down situation. The bus did not arrive. Still had not come. Hadn't made it, yet. The company tried to get in touch with the driver using a cell phone on the bus, but wasn't successful. No one knew exactly where the driver and bus were, or when to expect them. So, with that 4:02 deadline in mind, a decision was made to start calling parents, those in Sharon, and those in Providence.

The Providence parents were asked to take one or more chil-

dren as guests over Shabbos.

Maureen Sheehan said, "I've been here 18 years, and there's never been anything like this." Every parent immediately agreed to take a child, or several children, without hesitation. "How many do you need?" they asked. "I'll take as many as you need..."

Sheehan said, "I just had such a sense of family and community, and I still get teary thinking about it, now." (She did.)

A fifth-grader, instead of choosing to go to a Providence home with her friends, accompanied a very young first-grader to her guest home so she would feel less anxious.

Jakubowicz said that every effort was made to keep families together, and, failing that, to place friends with friends, to ease, as much as possible, any feelings of loneliness or apprehension.

Then, while some at PHDS were calling the Sharon parents, Providence parents were calling each other. In less than an hour, they had all come to the school to pick up their guest children, and had located and collected appropriate clothing in the right sizes for the celebration of Shabbos.

When Jakubowicz appeared to conduct the Shabbos service, he expected to see his students wearing their school clothes. Instead, he said, "Every child was decked out — in less than an hour!"

He shook his head in amazement. "It turned out to be a really wonderful, wonderful Shabbos."

It took the bus driver 2 1/2 hours to get to Providence that day. No doubt she will remember Dec. 6 for a long time, too.

'Smart' Card Makes its Debut in Israel

Unicard, a computerized "smart card" capable of numerous applications is now being used by students at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

It is the first student card of its kind in Israel, the largest smart card project ever implemented in the country, and the first to combine the technology of a reloadable microprocessor card with aspects of identification, data storage and an electronic purse.

The goal of the card is to improve student services, shorten waiting times and improve access to information while preserving privacy.

The plastic card displays the holder's picture, name and ID number. Implanted in the card is a smart chip containing a microprocessor, memory and so-

phisticated means of data storage and encryption.

It will have numerous functions, including: identification, access to various university services and databases, and a "money card."

The card will be credited with "campus money" to be used in purchasing goods and services at campus sites. It will also serve as a portable individual data file storing grades, academic status, tuition fee payments and personal student data.

The prime technological supplier and coordinator for the card is Caspit Ltd. of Israel; Gemplus S.A. of France is the card designer and manufacturer, and VeriFone Inc. of Redwood City, Calif., is the supplier of the card accepting devices.



Polly Wants a Walnut

A big, beautiful, blue parrot, on the hand of the Parrot Lady, accepts a walnut from a guest at Chabad House's Great Chanukah Zest, Dec. 8.

Herald photo by Alison Smith

B'nai B'rith to Reopen its Fund to Help Rwandan Refugees

B'nai B'rith has announced that it will reopen its fund to provide additional medical care for the huge influx of Rwandan refugees now in Tanzania who have fled from renewed fighting in the region.

Two years ago B'nai B'rith donated funds to provide medical supplies and aid to Rwandan refugees after hundreds of thousands of people were massacred in the brutal 1994 civil war.

Thirty-nine international Jewish groups are part of the

coalition helping the Joint Distribution Committee in these humanitarian efforts.

"The situation in Rwanda is one of the most tragic situations in the world today. These refugees were driven out of their country by ethnic hatreds and we must do our part to help them," said Tommy P. Baer, international president of B'nai B'rith.

Several months ago B'nai B'rith recognized the heroic efforts of the Israel Defense Forces

Medical Team which provided needed medical aid and services, and hosted Manzi Bakuramutsa, Rwandan ambassador to the United Nations at a U.N. event also honoring the late Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

At the program, Bakuramutsa thanked B'nai B'rith "for the assistance extended to the people of Rwanda during the traumatism suffered by the Rwandan people during the genocide of last year (1995)."

Alperin Schechter Names Thirty-Three Students to Honor Roll

Thirty-three middle school students at the Alperin Schechter Day School have been named to the honor roll.

Grade 6: David Braverman, Tanya Doria, Rachel Furman, Jonah Gabry, Noah Jablow, Elina Kaplan, Elana Kieffer, Rebecca

Levine, Aaron Matusow, Benjamin Matusow, Ilan Mitchell, Limor Nevel, Noga Nevel, Daniel Newman, David Radparvar, Sandy Schneider.

Grade 7: Victoria Bronshayn, Sanda Budinsky, Anna Cable, Mychal Feingold, Margarita

Golubykh, Paige LaMarche, Brooke Odessa, Ari Savitzky, Elana Snow.

Grade 8: Daniel Abrams, Jessica Fain, Taya Feldman, David Greenberg, Eitan Hersh, Peter Shapiro, Sam Stein, Arielle Wachtenheim.



Tuning Up

They're warming up and they're cool. Some of the musicians at Alperin Schechter Day School relax before performing.

Herald photo by Alison Smith

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Keeping the 'Kosher' in Kosher Meat

by Harold Bloom

As I remember it from my youth, the process of providing kosher meat started even before the animal was slaughtered. The shochet (ritual slaughterer) was responsible for ascertaining that the animal was free of injury or signs of disease, which would make it unfit for kosher food.

The shochet was required by "halacha," ritual law, to carry out slaughter of the animals with a single, uninterrupted cut. (I still remember the shochet's case of razor-sharp knives he carried as part of his duties.)

All kosher-slaughtered meat was officially stamped (with grape juice "ink") by the shochet. This certified that the animal had been slaughtered in the ritual manner. It also meant that the shochet had inspected all the animal's vital parts, and that he had found them to be free of any defects or diseases that would have made the animal "traif."

After the meat was delivered from the slaughterhouse, it became the responsibility of the "mishgeach" to oversee the butcher in his handling of it.

The word "mishgeach" is the Yiddish-ized version of the Hebrew word "mashgeach,"

which means "overseer." To the public concerned with kosher meat, he was the Vaad Hakasheres representative responsible for assuring that the butcher maintained the kosher status of his shop and his products.

In the '30s, I remember the "mishgeach" of my time, Mr. Pressman, with his neatly trimmed goatee, in his black Homburg and black coat.

He was, every inch, what I would expect of the overseer of kosher conditions, the perfect representative of the Vaad Hakasheres. His businesslike demeanor, however, did leave time for friendliness and gregariousness for this young boy.

In addition to inspecting the sides of meat for the shochet's certification stamps, he checked to see that meat was being "kashered" (soaked and salted) correctly before grinding, and that kashered meat was kept separately from non-kashered.

One of his most important tasks was "oopgeesen" (pouring water over) the meat that had been in the shop for close to three days. The reason for this, I understood, was that the kashres law decreed that meat held without cooking for more

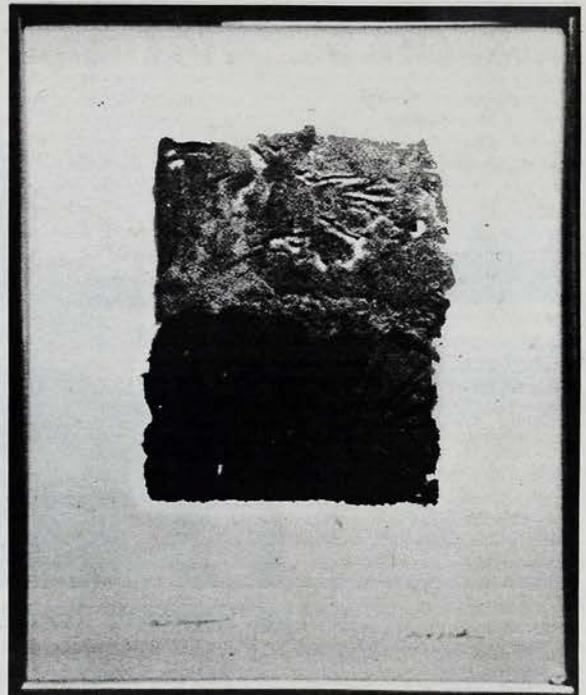
than three days was no longer kosher — unless it was subjected to "oopgeesen."

Whether there was a particular prayer that accompanied this ritual, I cannot say.

As part of meeting the Vaad Hakasheres requirements, my Zaidee Bloom maintained two complete meat grinding systems, one for kashered meat, one for non-kashered meat.

Not only were these on separate benches, but when I washed them, I had to use two separate wash buckets. This enabled Zaidee to sell ground meat to both the Jewish trade and the non-Jewish trade (many non-Jewish customers purchased kosher-slaughtered meat in the perception that such meat was fresher, higher quality, better tasting, etc.)

Incidentally, many of our older, observant Jewish customers preferred to take their meat unground and unkashered despite the fact that we did not charge for kashering. This was simply because they felt more satisfied with the kashering process when they performed it themselves. (My mother and grandmothers did this, even though it was their own "mishpochah" who did the in-store kashering!)



A Painting With Added Dimension

"New Horizons" by Riva Leviten, now on display at the gallery at Highland Court.

Herald photo by Alison Smith

Poor Workshop Attendance Points to Denial

by Deborah Seldner

The Jewish Review

PORTLAND, Ore. (JTA) — While 52 percent of the Jews who took part in a recent survey acknowledged that they knew someone who was the victim of domestic violence, only one-third of the respondents considered domestic violence a serious problem in the Jewish community.

In the survey conducted by the Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation of Portland, respondents were equally divided between considering domestic violence a serious problem, not considering it a serious problem, and not knowing if it was a problem.

In an effort to "burst the bubble" of the one-third who thought that domestic violence was not a serious problem, the CRC's Task Force on Domestic Violence recently ran a workshop on the subject.

It was heavily promoted and organizers expected at least 120 people to attend.

But only 20 people, other than organizers, showed up at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center.

The turnout "speaks to the problem," said Janice Frey-Angel, executive director of Jewish Family and Child Service.

However, CRC chairman Michael Simon said he was not discouraged by the lower-than-expected attendance.

"I think it's a very, very good start. We just have to keep building," Simon said. "I think this program needs to be brought to a national level."

The program's format clearly stirred emotions among those who did attend.

The panel consisted of a rehabilitated abuser, an abuse victim; Glenn Rose of the Men's

Resource Center, which teaches abusers the skills they need to break their abusive patterns; and Sheryl Chomak, a psychologist in private practice in Beaverton, Ore. Frey-Angel moderated.

The pursuit of shalom bayit — Hebrew for "peace in the home" — and the lack of battered women's shelters prepared to deal with Jewish women, appear to have made rabbis reluctant to send women to shelters.

Both the rehabilitated abuser and the abuse victim on the panel testified to the generational aspect of domestic violence. Abused children tend to become abusive parents.

The former abuser said his

"Most people can't hear it once," Frey-Angel said, adding that often 10 to 15 interventions are needed before a victim will seek help.

father was abused as a child, and abused him, and now his adult son is struggling to avoid repeating the pattern. The victim said her father was abused and both her brothers have become abusers.

The woman said, "I want to break down the myth it doesn't happen in Jewish families."

She described her family as prominent members of a Jewish community in another state and said one of her earliest memories was of her father screaming at her mother to stop talking during dinner. When her mother continued to talk, her father

broke a plate and threatened to cut everyone's throat.

"I don't think my family's unique," she said. "I think all the horrific things that happened to Jews exist within those families today and that rage and that hurt goes somewhere," she said. "It's very well hidden due to the emphasis on ethics in our traditions."

The former abuser said his arrest for pushing his third wife was "the most wonderful thing that ever happened to me. I wish my mother had the courage to take action and save her children," he added.

Despite years of therapy, the abuser said he was not able to truly change until he went to the local Men's Resource Center to learn the tools to deal with his anger and desire to control others.

"If you are a mother, protect your children," he urged. "Your children will be angry with you for not taking action."

"Whether you are an abuser or a victim, there are avenues to get help. If you do abuse, you need tools. If I start to get angry, I have confidence knowing I can take a time out," he said.

What actions can be taken if a person suspects that someone is being abused?

Panelists suggested telling either the suspected abuser or victim what has been observed and what is suspected, so they know it is not a secret.

"Any and every intervention is helpful," said Rose of the Men's Resource Center.

Frey-Angel, of Jewish Family and Child Service, agreed.

"Most people can't hear it once," Frey-Angel said, adding that often 10 to 15 interventions are needed before a victim will seek help.

Jewish Film Producer Bats Over 500

by Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES (JTA) — During a 35-year career, Swiss producer Arthur Cohn has made only nine films and documentaries. Five of his works have won Academy Awards.

Cohn, the scion of an old Zionist family, thrives on the off-beat, intimate film, which he often nurses along for 10 or more years. When finally completed, his product is likely to be turned down by every distributor in sight — until it wins an Oscar.

His first documentary, "Sky Above, Mud Below," dealing with the tribal life of New Guinea natives, received an Academy Award in 1961.

His second Oscar, for best foreign film, came a decade later for "The Garden of the Finzi-Continis."

His "Black and White in Color," an anti-war satire centering on French and Germans in Africa during World War I, was turned down by 15 distributors, and "Dangerous Moves," about a tense, politically tinged chess match, by 22.

Both films went on to win Oscars for best foreign films.

"I am a perfectionist," he says. "I do not release a film until I can live with it. Otherwise I would rather not do anything. I do not make any concessions."

Cohn credits his outlook and success to his parents, "who passed on to me the roots of their beliefs and religion, and wings so I could fly out on my own and pursue my dreams."

His father, Marcus, was a respected lawyer and a leader of the Swiss religious Zionist movement. He settled in Israel in 1949, helped to write many of the basic laws of the new state, and served as Israel's assistant attorney-general until his death in 1953.

The producer's grandfather,

Rabbi Arthur Cohn, served as the chief rabbi of Basel. He was a friend of Theodor Herzl and one of the few leaders in the Orthodox rabbinate to support the founder of modern Zionism.

It was because of his grandfather's support, says Cohn, that Herzl chose Basel as the site of the first Zionist Congress in 1897.

Cohn is involved in every step of the production and retains ultimate creative control over the editing process. "I absolutely insist on having the final cut on any of my films," he says.

Vittorio De Sica directed "The Garden," one of his last great films. The haunting, lyrical movie introduces the viewer to the pleasant, even languid, life of the Finzi-Continis, an aristocratic Jewish family long settled in a northern Italian provincial town.

Their enormous estate and tennis courts are surrounded by walls, which seem to seal the family off from the ugliness and slowly intensifying anti-Semitism of Mussolini's fascists.

But ever so gradually, the noose tightens around the genteel lifestyle and romantic entanglements of the family. The daughter is barred from her university, the son from the public library, and anonymous phone calls disrupt the Passover seder. The story ends in 1943 with the arrest and deportation of the entire clan, together with the town's other Jews.

The restored film, currently showing in Los Angeles and New York, is set to be screened in 25 other U.S. cities by the end of the year.

Cohn's artistic integrity has won him respect and the ritualistic accolade of a star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame. He is the only foreign producer so honored.

WORLD AND NATIONAL NEWS



The 'Ghoulis' Traveler

Well-known novelist Anne Rice, who wrote such chilling best-sellers as *Interview with the Vampire*, *The Witching Hour* and *Exit to Eden*, recently flew first class to Israel on El Al Israeli Airlines. During her six-day trip, Rice visited Israel's most popular tourist sites and attractions. Here she is at JFK prior to her departure. Look for mention of Israel in her next book.

Photo courtesy of El Al

Israeli Coin Set Dedicated to Russian Immigration

The old tradition of Chanukah gelt has taken on new meaning in Israel. Every year, the government marks the observance of the festival with the release of its annual set of official and distinctive Chanukah

coins. Since the holiday is a celebration of a victorious struggle against persecution and for religious freedom, this year's coin set is particularly appropriate. It is dedicated to Russian Jewry. It is meant as a celebration of the

amazing achievements, in a short time, of this part of Israel's population.

It contains a special, 12-sided half-sheqel coin featuring a Chanukah lamp from Russia, with a pair of traditional lions supporting a crowned menorah. It is reminiscent of the 18th-century Holy Arks from Poland and Ukraine.

Each of the other six coins in the set is mintmarked with a miniature lamp and the word "Hanukka." All coins are mint-fresh. The color album holding them is printed in English, Hebrew and Russian. There were only 7,500 sets produced, and each set is serially numbered. Price is \$35.

To order, contact the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation, P.O. Box 7900, Jerusalem 91078, Israel (Fax orders: 011-972-2-561-2298, Internet address — <http://www.coins.co.il>). Add \$5 for shipping and handling.



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'The Biggest Murder Case'

by Michael Miller
Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli scientists have a new theory on why the dinosaurs became extinct: cosmic radiation that bombarded the earth following the collision of two neutron stars.

Physicists from the Space Research Institute at the Technion University in Haifa theorize that the mass extinction 65 million years ago was caused by the merging of twin stars near the earth inside the Milky Way galaxy.

This collision created a deadly wave of cosmic radiation that destroyed the protective layers of the earth's atmosphere, frying vegetation and obliterating most animal life, the researchers say.

"The study is actually an attempt to solve the biggest murder case in the history of life on earth," said Arnon Dar, a physics professor at the Technion, who with colleagues Nir Shaviv and Ari Lior has submitted the theory for publication in the journal *Science*.

There have been several theories that astral radiation caused mass extinctions.

David N. Schramm, an astrophysicist at the University of Chicago, suggested last year that exploding stars called supernovas could have caused another mass extinction — the most severe in earth's history — that killed 95 percent of all life 225 million years ago.

But Dar said supernovas could not have caused all six mass extinctions that swept over the earth in the last 650 million years — one about every 100 million years.

"The rate of supernova explosion is not great enough to explain the 100 million year extinctions," Dar said recently. "But the merging of neutron stars could be responsible."

Twin stars merge every day somewhere in the universe, producing radiation in the form of gamma and cosmic rays that strike the earth's atmosphere. Usually, the stars are too far away to do any damage and the radiation is harmlessly absorbed by the ozone layer.

But occasionally — about every 100 million years by Dar's

estimate — twin or binary stars collide close to earth, producing devastating effects.

Dar's theory is "a credible idea," Schramm said. "We do know there is at least one known pair of neutron stars (near earth) that are spiraling closer together and will indeed collide."

But that collision, he said, is at least 100,000 years away.

The dinosaurs' demise has been the subject of hot debate in scientific circles. Dar discounts the prevailing theory — supported by Schramm — that an asteroid strike in Chicxulub in Mexico's Yucatan was to blame.

Chicxulub is home to a crater more than 100 miles wide that could have been formed by a blast with the explosive power of 100 to 300 megatons of TNT. The theory holds that the asteroid crash created a huge explosion that cast enough dust and rock into the atmosphere to block out the sun, turning the earth cold and inhospitable to all but the hardiest organisms.

Dar said this theory does not explain the great leap in biodiversity following the mass extinctions. He contends the vast amount of radiation produced by a neutron star collision explains why the number of animal and plant species increased so quickly after mass extinctions.

Those animals that survived — because of their hardness or lack of radioactive exposure — would have produced a greater number of genetic mutations, Dar said.

Dar is now trying to determine which twin stars in the earth's vicinity are likely to collide and potentially bring on the next mass extinction.

"In principle, we could predict almost precisely how long it will take before they merge in this lethal way," he said.

Meanwhile, both Schramm and the Israeli scientists are continuing to look for evidence of irradiated minerals in the earth's geologic layers, signs of either a supernova or neutron star collision.

"I think the real test will be if we can find those isotopic anomalies," Schramm said. "Unless we find those, we're missing the smoking gun."

Levy Reportedly Sees Territorial Compromise as Necessary

Israel Line

Foreign Minister David Levy said in closed meetings recently that reaching a peace treaty with Syria will be impossible without an Israeli readiness to consider territorial concessions on the Golan Heights, *Yediot Aharanot* reported.

The statements were a reiteration of the foreign minister's position during his contacts with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on the eve of the Geshar party's decision to join the Likud Knesset campaign. In those discussions, Levy reportedly mentioned that he first expressed this stance several years ago.

A senior Israeli official told journalists during a briefing in Jerusalem on Dec. 10 that it is wishful thinking to believe that

it is possible to make peace with Syria without territorial compromise.

The official explained that Syrian talks had already bogged down during the term of the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. The efforts of former Prime Minister Shimon Peres earlier this year also became deadlocked, said the official.

The present government has not found any of the alleged written commitments by the previous administration to Syrian President Hafez el-Assad concerning a general withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

The source noted that the government is not obliged to honor the "trial understandings" of the previous administration because they were not written down or finalized.

WORLD AND NATIONAL NEWS

Modern Orthodox Navigate Moderation Amid the Tensions

by Debra Nussbaum Cohen
 RYE, N.Y. (JTA) — Yeshiva University President Rabbi Norman Lamm has often said that modern Orthodoxy's central problem today is that its adherents tend to be moderate about their passions, rather than passionate about their moderation.

Built on a philosophy of simultaneous observance of G-d's commandments and integration with the world, the movement is now seeking to reinvigorate the ideology of moderation.

This quest was clear at the 98th annual convention of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, held in New York recently, where speakers and some of the 800 participants interviewed sounded similar themes.

At the same time, it became

Adherents tend to be moderate about their passions, rather than passionate about their moderation.

Rabbi Norman Lamm

apparent that the O.U., as an organization of about 750 synagogues plus about 25,000 individual members, seems to have succeeded in recharging itself as an institution with a clear sense of its own mandate.

The modern Orthodox quest

comes at a time when, it is widely acknowledged, there are no truly great modern Orthodox rabbis leading the movement. The vacuum has been acutely felt by modern Orthodox Jews since the 1993 death of their principal theologian, Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik.

It also comes as the modern Orthodox are grappling with tensions between the forces of assimilation and the influences of the right wing.

The religious and social behavior of modern Orthodox Jews has in recent years, been pulled rightward by the more stringent, isolationist practices of the fervently Orthodox community.

Meanwhile, assimilation and intermarriage are making inroads to the modern Orthodox community, though to a lesser extent than among religiously liberal and unaffiliated Jews.

Sociologist William Helmreich, who has studied and written about the Orthodox world, pointed out ways in which the right wing has influenced what used to be called modern Orthodoxy, but these days is often called centrist Orthodoxy.

Men and women used to sit together everywhere, as they did at the O.U. convention, except in synagogue. Now it is common for the sexes to be separated at wedding receptions and other social functions, and for musical concerts to be open to men or women only, he said in an address to the convention.

In one case, Helmreich said, the principal of a Yeshiva Uni-

versity-affiliated high school announced that he does not approve of "Torah U'Maddah," meaning literally Torah and science, but referring to the world-view endorsing observance with integration with secular society.

"Shakespeare, Freud, Marx and secular art" are now viewed as forbidden, he said. "We've thrown out the good with the bad, and as modern Orthodox Jews, we should want both."

"We can follow Agudah if we want," said Helmreich, referring to Agudath Israel of America, the organization representing fervently Orthodox, or haredi, interests.

"But we will always be a paler shade of black and so not attractive to young people."

At the same time, several speakers at the convention urged modern Orthodox Jews to stop "looking over their right shoulders" and to focus more on their own mission.

Most of what Helmreich said "is almost irrelevant outside of New York," said Rabbi Ilan Feldman, spiritual leader of Atlanta's Congregation Beth Jacob.

He decried as a "preoccupation and obsession" his movement's concern about the right wing.

"Let's grow from each other and not spend our time talking about why some other Orthodox Jew is a negative influence on us," he said.

Rabbi Bernard Lander, president of Touro College, clearly articulated the movement's struggle in his remarks.

Touro is a New York City college attended by many haredi Jews who go to learn computer or accounting skills they need to earn a living.

Citing assimilation and intermarriage statistics, Lander labeled secular colleges "the crematorium of our people" be-

"We've thrown out the good with the bad, and as modern Orthodox Jews, we should want both."

Sociologist William Helmreich

cause they are where young Jews from traditional homes encounter secular values and date non-Jews for the first time.

"What chance do our young people have in co-ed dorms with co-ed bathrooms?" he asked. "Torah does not preach a segregated ghetto, but participation in civic affairs. But we must not forget the importance of boundaries, of separation."

Amid this quest for a renewed ideology, however, is a growing organization with an increasingly clear sense of purpose.

The Orthodox Union is expanding to Israel its network of teen social clubs, the National Conference of Synagogue Youth, which has some 40,000 members in the United States.

The O.U. is also establishing a National Jewish Sports League in several cities with the goal of using basketball to reach Jewish public school students who otherwise might be at risk of assimilating.

Last year, the O.U. initiated an in-home discussion-group project called Pardes, which has so far involved an estimated 12,000 people in eight countries and some 50 college campuses, according to an O.U. report.

The organization has created a strong presence on-line, where its home page on the World Wide Web gets about 8,000 hits a day, 2,000 from people who have never visited there before, said Rabbi Raphael Butler, O.U.'s executive vice president.

The site (www.ou.org) includes an "on-line halachah hotline" and "Vebbe Rebbe," to answer questions about kashrut and other aspects of Jewish law.

Financially, the O.U. has eliminated the \$750,000 deficit it had two years ago and has grown — in terms of its membership and its budget — by 50 percent in the last two years, Ganchrow said.

The O.U. currently spends about \$8 million a year on programs, he said.

Government Targets Stores Open on Sabbath in Tel Aviv

by Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The battle over whether so-called "blue laws" should be enforced, keeping businesses closed during the Sabbath, has taken a new turn.

Recently, inspectors from the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry raided snack bars and newsstands in the Tel Aviv area that were open on the Sabbath.

In an effort to prevent the ministry itself from violating the Sabbath, the inspectors carrying out the checks were Druse Arabs, not Jews.

Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eliyahu Yishai said the inspections were part of an effort to ensure fair competition.

"There are many business owners in Tel Aviv who do not want to work on the Sabbath, and they complain that because their competitors are open on the Sabbath, they have no other choice," he told the Israeli daily *Ma'ariv*.

"The auditors are doing their work throughout the country, and will continue enforcing the law," said Yishai, who is a member of the fervently Orthodox Sephardi Shas Party.

After an Orthodox-sponsored rally was held Dec. 6 in Tel Aviv to prevent local businesses from desecrating the Sab-

bath, there were reports that the ministry was tripling the number of its inspectors.

The head of the labor law branch at the ministry, Ephraim Kechalon, denied that the inspections were related to the rally.

During their rounds, inspectors slapped citations on the baffled owners of two snack bars in Ramat Gan, a municipality adjacent to Tel Aviv.

"We have been open [on the Sabbath] for the past eight years, and we were surprised to suddenly have auditors asking us for information," said Meir Ofer, an employee at one of the businesses.

"Our kiosk serves all of Ramat Gan. If they close our business on the Sabbath, I don't know if we can stay afloat."

Ramat Gan Mayor Zvi Bar said businesses that were open

on the Sabbath did so with the consent of the municipal council, as part of the religious status quo.

"In any event, the [auditors] cannot close the kiosks, only write up reports," he said.

The auditors also warned shopowners in northern Tel Aviv that the area would be a central target in coming weeks.

Netanyahu Affirms Support for Expanding Settlements

by Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Responding to worldwide criticism of Israeli settlement policy, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu denied recently that his government had decided to build new settlements in the territories.

At the same time, Netanyahu affirmed his government's support for expanding existing settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, adding that the rate of building under his administration did not even approach that of the previous government.

"Under the Labor government, the settlements expanded by 50 percent, the greatest expansion of the settlements in Israel's history," Netanyahu told a news conference recently in Lisbon, where he was attending a meeting of the Organization for Cooperation and Se-

curity in Europe.

"We are nowhere near that rate, and I don't say that happily," he said. "I think we would like to change that as well. I'm talking about existing settlements, not new ones."

The Netanyahu government has approved the construction of thousands of apartments in existing settlements, sparking anger from the Palestinian Authority and Arab states. The United States has voiced disapproval of the expansion plans.

However, construction has not yet begun, a fact that has generated further protests by Jewish settlers.

Netanyahu attributed the delay in expanding settlements to budgetary constraints.

The government is trying to slash more than \$2 billion from the 1997 budget, in an effort to bring the deficit under control.

Jordanian Minister in Israel

by Israel Line

Jordanian Information Minister Marwin Muasher arrived in Israel recently and met with Foreign Minister David Levy and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, *Ha'aretz* reported.

Israel views Muasher's visit, the first of a Jordanian minister since July, as particularly important. Muasher served as the first Jordanian ambassador to Israel and is an expert on Israeli-Jordanian relations.

During his meeting with Levy, Muasher raised the subject of the Palestinian negotiations. Levy updated his guest on the details of the accord being formulated and explained Israel's security concerns, particularly the need to maintain Israel's right to hot pursuit of terrorists.

Muasher and Levy also discussed bilateral issues such as water.

Israel Line was prepared by Joshua Mitnick.

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OBITUARIES

RUTH R. BLEAU

WARWICK — Ruth R. Bleau, 75, of 777 Cowesett Road, owner of the former Ruth's Restaurant of Cranston before retiring in 1970, died on Dec. 11. She was the wife of the late Leo Bleau.

Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Louis and Mollie (Shafer) Silverman, she had lived in Warwick for many years.

She was a graduate of the Rhode Island School of Beauty Culture. She was a member of Congregation Shaare Zedek and the Sparrow's Point 2 Tenants Association.

Besides her husband, she leaves two sons, Louis Bleau of North Kingstown and Raymond Bleau of Thousand Oaks, Calif.; two daughters, Claire Bleau of Providence and Marlene Snow of Guthrie, Okla.; a sister, Florence Landes of Warwick; and three grandchildren. She was the sister of the late Anna Silverman.

A graveside service was held Dec. 13 at Lincoln Park Cemetery, Post Road, Warwick. Arrangements were by Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

HILDA EPSTEIN

FALL RIVER — Hilda Epstein, 97, a resident of the Jewish Home for the Aged died Dec. 6.

Born in Fall River, she was the daughter of the late Jacob and Fannie (Cutler) Epstein. She was a lifelong resident of Fall River.

She was a member of Temple

Beth El of Fall River and was a member of Hadassah.

She had worked as a sales lady at the former J.J. Newberry Store, as well as the former AnLee Millinery Store that had been in Fall River for many years.

She is survived by two sisters, Aida Semansky of New Bedford and Irene Feinberg of West Hartford, Conn. She was also sister of the late Rose Felder, Dora Wyse and the late Joseph, Milton and Harry Epstein.

A graveside funeral service took place Dec. 8 at Temple Beth El Cemetery in Fall River. Services were coordinated by Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence.

BEVERLY JEAN FABER

TEXAS — Beverly Jean (Salasky) Faber died Dec. 5. She was the wife of Stanley Faber.

Besides her husband, she is survived by two sons, S. Andrew and Marc D. Faber; sister of Dr. Phil R. and Aviva Salasky of Williamsburg, Va.; Lynn and Sam Stepak of Providence; Sam and Sandi Faber of Sharon, Mass.; three grandchildren, Forrest Faber of Denison, Tex., and Michael Faber and Emily Faber of Friendswood, Tex.

Funeral services were held Dec. 8 at Temple B'Nai Israel, with Rabbi James Kessler officiating. Interment followed at Galveston Memorial Park. Arrangements were by J. Levy & Bro., funeral directors, Galveston, Texas, assisted by Max Sugarman Memorial

Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

LILLIAN FINE

EAST PROVIDENCE — Lillian Fine, 81, of Rumford Towers, 105 Newman Ave., a saleswoman for the Dorothy Williams store in Wayland Square for many years before retiring six years ago, died Dec. 8 at home. She was the wife of Abraham Fine.

Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Sullivan, she lived in Cranston for many years before moving to East Providence 15 years ago.

Besides her husband, she leaves a daughter, Barbara Jamieson of Cranston; a son, David Fine of East Greenwich; and three grandchildren.

The funeral service was held Dec. 10 at Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Post Road, Warwick.

SIDNEY GOLDSTEIN

PROVIDENCE — Sidney Goldstein, 90, of 176 Tenth St., a newspaper distributor for Max Silverstein Co. before retiring in 1979, died Dec. 10 in Miriam Hospital. He was the husband of Diana (Feital) Goldstein.

A lifelong resident of Providence, he was a son of the late Charles and Dora (Silverstein) Goldstein.

He was a member of Temple Emanu-El, the former Jewish Home for the Aged, the Jewish Family Service, and a life mem-

ber of the Hebrew Free Loan Association.

Besides his wife, he leaves a daughter, Hannah Kessien of Nashua, N.H., and three grandchildren. He was a brother of the late J. William Goldstein, Rose Goldstein, May Hirsch and Gladys Goyné.

The funeral service was held Dec. 12 in the Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

CELIA GREENE

PROVIDENCE — Celia Greene, 78, of 262 Warrington St., a retired nurse, died Dec. 10 in Rhode Island. She was the widow of Leo Greene.

Born in Central Falls, a daughter of the late Thomas and Rose (Levine) Lucksniansky, she lived in Providence for most of her life.

She was a member of Temple Torat Yisrael and its Sisterhood, and a member of the former Temple Beth Israel. She was a member of the Cranston Senior Guild, Pawtucket Memorial Hospital and the R.I. Nursing Association.

She leaves a son, James P. Greene of Cranston; two daughters, Nadine M. Greene of Cranston and Bernice M. Greene of Jamestown; three sisters, Myrtle Feldman of Providence, Esther Feldman of Pompano Beach, Fla., and Rena Mills of Warwick. She was the sister of the late Ann Coulter and Jennie Falcofsky.

The funeral service was held Dec. 12 at Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. Arrangements were by Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

ESTHER THORMAN HALPERT

BETHESDA, Md. — Esther Thorman Halpert, 86, of Bethesda, Md., formerly of Riverside, died Dec. 14 in the Spring House Westwood, Bethesda. She was the widow of Edwin O. Halpert.

She was born in Cleveland, Ohio, and lived in Rhode Island for 60 years.

She was president of the Council of Jewish Women and a member of the Wellesly College Club and Temple Beth-El.

She leaves a daughter, Joan

Halpert of Riverside; a son, Stuart Halpert of Bethesda; a brother, Lincoln R. Thorman of Beachwood, Ohio; and two grandchildren.

The funeral service was held Dec. 16 in Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. Burial was in Sons of Israel & David Cemetery, Cranston. Arrangements were under the direction of Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

HYMAN LIPET

WARWICK — Hyman Lipet, 73, of 80 Partition St., owner of the former Kay's package store in Warwick, retiring several years ago, died Dec. 13 at home. He was the husband of the late Pia (Jurmann) Lipet.

Born in Pawtucket, a son of the late Louis and Bessie Lipet, he lived in Warwick since 1955.

He was an Army veteran of World War II. He was a member of Temple Shalom in Middletown, and a past commander of Reback Winston Post of the Jewish War Veterans of America. He was a member and past master of the Nathanael Green Masonic Lodge in Warwick and a member of Oversea Masonic Lodge and the Palestine Shrine.

He was former high priest of Harmony Royal Arch Chapter and a member of Sincerity Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star.

He leaves a son, Jerome Lipet of Nashua, N.H.; two sisters, Sophie Diamond of Pawtucket and Mollie Lipet of Scituate; and a brother, Joseph Lipet of Pawtucket. He was brother of the late James Lipet.

The funeral service was held Dec. 16 in Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

SAMUEL L. LIPMAN

NEW BEDFORD, Mass. — Samuel L. Lipman of 121 Burns St., New Bedford, died Dec. 13. He was the husband of the late Annette (Bagdanowsky) Lipman.

He is survived by two daughters, Harriet Gottesman and Judith Sterns of Dartmouth, Mass., and two sons, Martin Lipman of Dartmouth, Mass., and Kenneth Lipman of Fairhaven, Mass.; four sisters, Gertrude Nevins, Kate Hurwitz, Florence Katz all of New Bedford and Ida Lipman of Jamaica Plain, Mass.; and seven grandchildren. He was also the brother of the late Eva Meyer.

Funeral services were held Dec. 15 at the Tifereth Israel Congregation, 145 Brownell Ave., New Bedford. Burial was at Plainville Cemetery, New Bedford.

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

HARRY OLSON

HOLLYWOOD, Fla. — Harry Olson, 80, of 4001 Hillcrest Drive, Hollywood, and a summer resident of 50 Park Row West, Providence, died Dec. 11 in Rhode Island Hospital. He was the husband of Irene (Lash) Olson, and husband of the late Evelyn Olson.

Born in Philadelphia, Pa., a son of the late Michael and

(Continued on Page 19)

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Rebecca Olson, he lived in Hollywood, Fla., for 13 years and was a summer resident of Providence.

He was an Army veteran of World War II with the rank of 1st lieutenant, and was the recipient of numerous medals.

He was founder of the former Modern Box Co. in Philadelphia. He was a member of Temple Beth-El in Providence, the Ledgemont Country Club in Seekonk, Mass., the Hillcrest Country Club in Hollywood, Fla., and the Jewish Community Center in Providence.

Besides his wife, he leaves a daughter, Harriet Fisher in Philadelphia; a stepdaughter, Andrea Finkel of Providence; a stepson, Richard Licht of Providence; a sister, Sarah Snyder of Philadelphia; a stepsister, Ann Schaffer of Philadelphia; two brothers, Benjamin Olson of Sarasota, Fla., and Isadore Olson of Atlantic City, N.J.; two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He was the father of the late Ronald Olson.

A graveside funeral service was held Dec. 13 in Har Nebo Cemetery, Philadelphia. Local arrangements were coordinated by Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence.

MAE RABINOWITZ
PROVIDENCE — Mae Rabinowitz, 89, of the Regency Plaza, a buyer for T.W. Rounds Co. in Providence, before retiring, died Dec. 13 in Miriam Hospital. She was the widow of David Rabinowitz.

A lifelong Providence resident, she was a daughter of the late Harris and Sarah Kominsky.

—She was a member of Temple Beth-El and a member of the Jewish Home for the Aged.

She leaves two nieces, Norma Ryan of Cranston and Rosalie Busgang in New Jersey; four nephews, Jerome Feinstein of Sarasota, Fla., Benton Feinstein in Virginia and Theodore and Harris Feinstein, both of Warwick.

A graveside funeral service was held Dec. 15 at Lincoln Park Cemetery, Post Road, Warwick. Services were coordinated by Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence.

DARREN A. SCHONGOLD
NORTH KINGSTOWN, R.I. — Darren A. Schongold, 21, of 31 Leatherleaf Trail, died unexpectedly Dec. 13 at home. He was the son of Kenneth and Sheryl (Bender) Schongold and grandson of Evelyn Bender and the late Dr. Adolph Bender of Attleboro, Mass.

He was a graduate of North Kingstown High School and was active in track, basketball and football. He was the Rhode Island State 100- and 200-meter track champion, and the New England 200-meter champion. He was on the 1993 United States team to the Maccabean Games in Israel, and won two gold medals. He was an Eagle Scout from Troop 100, Westboro, Mass., and was also a Big Brother.

The funeral service on Dec. 17 was held at Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence. Burial was at Beth El Cemetery, Fall River, Mass.

Ethiopian Knesset Member Makes a Point in Blood

by Naomi Segal
JERUSALEM (JTA) — Labor Knesset member Adisu Massala refused to participate last week in a blood drive, saying that Magen David Adom continues to discriminate against Ethiopian donors.

Massala, the first Ethiopian elected to the Knesset, said officials conducting the blood drive at the Parliament building had refused to assure him (Massala) that his donation would be used.

His refusal comes nearly a year after a controversy over the issue erupted. In January, an Israeli newspaper disclosed that blood donations from Ethiopian Jews had been routinely discarded because of what health officials thought was a high incidence of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, in the community.

Revelation of the practice sparked angry protests by the

Ethiopian community, which has long felt discriminated against by the rest of Israeli society.

A public commission established in the wake of the protests found serious flaws in the policy regarding blood donations from Ethiopians. The commission's report, issued in July, said that of the 1,400 known cases of AIDS in Israel, 550 of them came from the Ethiopian community.

The report recommended that new criteria be set so that blood donations would be accepted on a case-by-case basis.

But Massala said last week that nothing had yet been done to change the blood donation policy.

Health minister Yehoshua Matza said Massala was welcome to donate his blood and it would be used if it was found fit.

Choosing Judaism

(Continued from Page 4)

mitments, joining Judaism is also automatically joining Jews.

In our day, Jews must and should welcome those who would cast their fate with us. Some of the most talented and dedicated Jews in the world are those who were not born Jewish.

Judaism is not a race but a spiritual inheritance, and the Talmud ascribes a special merit in those who were not themselves born Jewish but who share its ideals and are moved by the rhythms of its law and lore.

Rabbi David J. Wolpe writes on Judaism from the point of view of the Conservative Movement.

Families Struggle

(Continued from Page 4)

other? Would a formal method be helpful or artificial?

How is your family's struggle like that of Joseph and his brothers?

The Chafetz Chaim teaches that when Joseph declared himself to his brothers, the 22 previous years suddenly made sense.

So, too, at the end of time, G-d will be revealed to us, and a veil will be lifted from our eyes, and we will comprehend all history. Until then, our families will continue to struggle as they grow.

Cheri Ellowitz Silver is the religious school principal at Temple Emanuel, Beverly Hills, Calif.

Correction

The Temple Emanu-El member shown carrying a big plastic box of donated clothing in our Super Sunday section on Dec. 12 was Josh Rubin, not Josh Rabin, as indicated. Our mistake. We apologize.

E.U., Palestinians Initial Trade Accord

by Joseph Kopel
BRUSSELS (JTA) — The European Union last week initiated a trade and cooperation accord with the Palestinian Authority.

The move, which came as part of the E.U.'s objective of creating a Euro-Mediterranean free trade zone, "reinforces the message that the European Union sees the Palestinians as equal participants in the emerging Euro-Mediterranean space," said an E.U. spokesman.

The agreement was signed by European Commission director-general Enrico Cioffi and by an official of the Palestine Liberation Organization in the name of the Palestinian Authority, which is not recognized to sign international accords.

The E.U. has already concluded trade accords with Tun-

sia, Israel and Morocco.

The accord confirms trade concessions that the E.U. has offered the Palestinians since 1986 for agricultural and industrial products.

It is expected to be formally signed by the end of the month.

The E.U. is the largest donor of financial aid to the Palestinian Authority.

Since 1993, the E.U. has contributed more than \$327 million for the development of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

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Waxler Leaves Legacy at UMass

Bob Waxler will step aside next month as dean of the Division of Continuing Education, but the changes he wrought in the division in just three years may be felt for many years to come.

Confronted with a changing market of potential students in continuing education, Waxler reinvented how the university marketed its continuing education program, oversaw the new and innovative delivery of classes to off-campus sites, and expanded the university's boundaries in southeastern Massachusetts.

"I feel that we have achieved the goals that Chancellor Cressy and I set three years ago when I took the position (at DCE)," said Waxler, who will return to the English department faculty next semester.

Waxler was chairman of the English department at UMass Dartmouth when he was approached by Chancellor Peter Cressy early in 1994 to take over DCE. Waxler had already earned a reputation with the nationally recognized "Changing Lives Through Literature" program and his work on behalf of the Center for Jewish Studies

at UMass Dartmouth.

He also had taught several DCE classes in the past and believed strongly in the concept of lifelong learning and the university's role in providing those opportunities.

"What surprised me was the discovery that large numbers of people in southeastern Massa-

Under Waxler's leadership, DCE brought in \$2 million dollars for the first time in the history of the program.

chusetts really wanted to be served by the university," said Waxler. "I discovered there was much more interest in the region than I ever imagined. I still believe we have not fully tapped into that market."

Getting the message out about DCE was his first challenge and his solutions were novel.

Instead of mass mailing the DCE catalog to 250,000 households in southeastern Massa-

chusetts, Waxler devised a very different campaign.

The catalog's design was altered, highlighted by the use of bright, bold color photography of the campus. Circulation was shrunk to 25,000, and a major multi-media advertising blitz spread the message throughout southeastern Massachusetts. Waxler and Cressy hit the local talkshow circuits, appearing on countless radio and television programs from Cape Cod to Attleboro. At the same time, a series of television commercials featuring the chancellor and radio advertisements on programs such as "Imus in the Morning" brought the DCE message to a much wider audience than in the past.

Waxler set up a series of off-campus class locations at Cape Cod Community College, Trust Insurance in Taunton, Attleboro High School and the Massachusetts Maritime Academy in Buzzards Bay. Courses were taught through with the technological innovations that became CyberEd and Distance Learning.

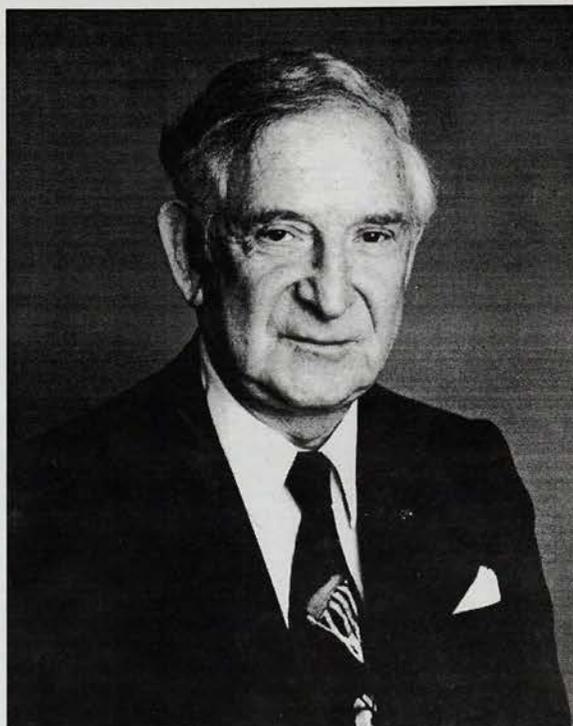
In New Bedford, DCE established the Neighborhood College to bring the services of the university into an underserved urban area. With the appointment of Robert Fortes as assistant dean, Waxler said, the Neighborhood College blossomed into an educational resource, providing everything from English as a second language to citizenship classes and other programs.

The success of his new marketing approach can be seen in both the number of students and revenue generated from DCE class registrations. In three years from 1993 to 1996, the number of DCE students went from 3,598 to 4,567 and the number of classes taken climbed from 5,489 to 6,846.

Under Waxler's leadership, DCE brought in \$2 million dollars for the first time in the history of the program. DCE reached the \$2 million mark in 1995 and one year later, it reached \$2.4 million.

To meet the challenges of changing demographics and student requirements while taking advantage of the latest in technology, Waxler, working with Greg Stone, helped institute new classes over the Internet. CyberEd courses have attracted national recognition with students enrolled from across the United States and the world.

DCE is in the process of establishing distance learning opportunities through satellite technology. A new electronic classroom at Attleboro High School is the first in what Waxler hopes will be several



American Endows Technion

A new management school to be named for William Davidson, chairman of the board of the American donor company, Guardian Industries, will be established at the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology. The \$30 million commitment will launch the world's first comprehensive school for international management of technology.

VMAPA Toasts 1997

"There aren't so many of us left by now," said Mel Kahn, representing the Jewish War Veterans at the annual open house of VMAPA. The Veterans Memorial Auditorium Preservation Association, "dedicated to the realization of the Temple for the Arts," held its holiday party at the law offices of Corrente, Brill and Kusinitz at 86 Weybosset Street.

"We used to meet in that building," Kahn said of the JWV, an organization rooted in the era represented by the structure next door to the State House. Architect Ken Filarski brought his model of the Masonic Temple and of the possibilities that still lie before the board and the public to restore and retain

that classical space as a house for various arts.

President Evelyn Leach acted as hostess for the elegant downtown affair, and Warren Teixeira, who is also president of the Sousa Mendes Society, serves as first vice president of VMAPA.

The bringing together of veterans' organizations and artists' groups, and the particular participation of Jewish service men and women of World War II vintage, makes this society unique. It carries itself with a certain flair and distinction, a hope and a mission. With determination and good will VMAPA will keep the public informed of its plans, its drives, and its immediate future.

such classrooms which will allow for satellite transmission of courses from UMass Dartmouth and other UMass campus location.

"When people see these efforts they don't think of it just as DCE," said Waxler. "They think

of it as just UMass Dartmouth. I really believe that we are positioned for significant growth in lifelong learning through continuing education."

In less than three years, Waxler took some giant steps towards achieving that goal.

Jewish Community on Alert in London

by Bernard Josephs
London Jewish Chronicle

LONDON (JTA) — Scotland Yard warned the London Jewish community recently that it might face retaliation, after two Palestinians were convicted of conspiring to bomb Israeli and Jewish targets in London.

Abu-Wardeh, 25, was acquitted.

Charges against a Palestinian woman in connection with the bombings were dismissed by the judge.

Fourteen people were injured in the July 26, 1994, embassy bombing, five people in the next day's bombing of the Joint Israel Appeal.

Scotland Yard issued a warning to the Jewish community during a series of meetings with officials of the Community Security Trust, which oversees the safety of Jewish communal sites.

Scotland Yard sources said they were still searching for other terrorists.

A spokesman for the trust called for vigilance in the wake of the trial.

"We know without doubt that the defendants and other hostile forces were attempting to infiltrate the Jewish community," he said.

"The picture which we are getting from various well-placed sources is that the situation is getting worse as far as communal security is concerned."

The trust spokesman said high-profile Jewish institutions were being closely guarded by police and by the trust's own security volunteers.

The situation is getting worse as far as communal security is concerned.

Samar Alami, 30, a chemical engineer, and Jawad Botmeh, 28, a businessman, were found guilty of planning the July 1994 bombings of the Israeli Embassy and the Joint Israel Appeal.

They are due to be sentenced next week.

A third defendant, Mahmoud

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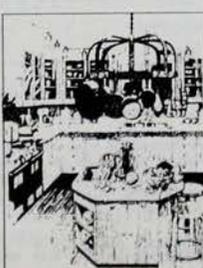
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