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# Rhode Island Jewish HERALD

## Getaway

PAGES 10, 11, 12

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

VOLUME LXVII, NUMBER 10

SHEVAT 15, THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 1997

35¢ PER COPY

## Tu B'Shevat — The New Year of Trees

by Dvora Waysman

First published by WZPS

Just prior to the Hebrew month of Shevat, the landscape begins to change in Israel. It has been winter — the fruit trees bare, their leafless, light-grey branches silhouetted against dark clouds. Then, as Shevat is ushered in, they begin to bud, and reddish leaflets burst forth. The fields that have been covered with pale crocuses, white narcissus and cyclamens give way to red anemones, tulips and broom bushes starred with flowers. And the almond trees burst into blossom — the first harbinger of spring. It is at this time that we celebrate Tu B'Shevat — the New Year of Trees.

The New Year of Trees is mentioned in the Mishnah as one of the four "natural" new years.

The first of Nisan is designated as the new year "for Jewish kings and seasonal feasts"...

that is, for calculating the reigns of Israelite kings and determining the cycle of calendar festivals.

"Till this day (the trees) live off the water of the past year; from this day on, they live off the water of this year."

(Jerusalem Talmud, Rosh Hashanah 1,2)

The first of Elul is the new year "for tithing cattle."

The first of Tishri is the new year for calculating septennial cycles and 50-year jubilees.

The new year for trees was moved from the first of Shevat to the 15th, according to the opinion of Rabbi Hillel (30

B.C.E.-10 C.E.), for it is when the sap is said to begin to rise, with the full moon, in Israel's fruit trees. The Babylonian and Jerusalem Talmuds also designate Tu B'Shevat as the date to calculate tithes (taxes) on fruit:

"You shall tithe all the yield of your seed, which comes forth from the field year by year." (Deuteronomy 14:22)

From December to mid-February, Israel's fruit trees are dormant. It is wet and cold and because of the low temperatures, the trees cannot absorb the nutrients from the soil. But from 15th Shevat:

"Till this day (the trees) live off the water of the past year; from this day on, they live off the water of this year." (Jerusalem Talmud, Rosh Hashanah 1,2)

Establishing the date was important, because it marked the start of the fruit's formation.

Tu B'Shevat is one of Judaism's popular celebrations that does not involve special synagogue services. It is an enjoyable day when it is customary to eat the fruits of Israel... apples, almonds, carobs, figs, nuts and pomegranates. Many scholars stay up late the previous evening, reciting Biblical passages dealing with fruits or the earth's fertility. They read from Genesis how trees were created along with all the plants of the earth; from Leviticus the divine promise of abundance as a reward for keeping the commandments; and from Ezekiel 17, the parable of the spreading vine — symbolizing the people of Israel.

Kabbalists hold a special seder and they celebrate, not so much the New Year of Trees, but the New Year of the Tree... meaning the Tree of Life, which is rich with mystical connotations. They drink four cups of wine, beginning with white wine and ending with red, with the second and third cup mixtures tending towards red. It is rather like how the landscape changes from white (the pale narcissus and crocus) to red (anemones and tulips) as Tu B'Shevat approaches.

Tu B'Shevat is also a day to go into the fields and plant saplings. Israeli schoolchildren in the past few decades have helped Keren Kayemet — the Jewish National Fund to plant 120 million trees, many of them on Tu B'Shevat, and these evergreens have become the backbone of the reforestation program.

Tu B'Shevat affirms the fact that the soil of Israel is holy. The people and the land have a mystic affinity in Judaism, and the New Year of Trees reminds us annually of the wonder of G-d's creation.



MAKING IT OFFICIAL — Abraham Landau recently gave a collection of his personal documents to the UMass Dartmouth Library. Pictured are Landau and Judy Farrar, archivist and reference librarian of the UMass Dartmouth Library.

Photo courtesy of UMass Dartmouth

## Holocaust Survivor Abraham Landau Donates Collection to UMass Dartmouth

Abraham Landau, a longtime resident of New Bedford who survived 14 Nazi concentration camps, has given a collection of his personal papers and other documents to the UMass Dartmouth Library's Archives and Special Collections.

Over the years, Landau has given numerous talks to local schoolchildren and other groups about the Holocaust and his experiences in the camps. In making the gift to the library, Landau said that he hopes to be able to preserve the record of his experiences for undergraduates and other researchers studying the period.

"The survivors of the Holocaust aren't getting any younger," Landau said. "In 10, or 20, or 30 years, there will be no survivors left who will be able to speak for themselves, to tell their own stories, about the atrocities of the camps, slave labor and the ghettos. We are anxious and eager to leave this legacy for future generations, for students, professors and scientists."

The collection includes a rare

German publication of photographs taken in the Buchenwald and Dachau camps immediately after their liberation as well as other post-war photos and documents.

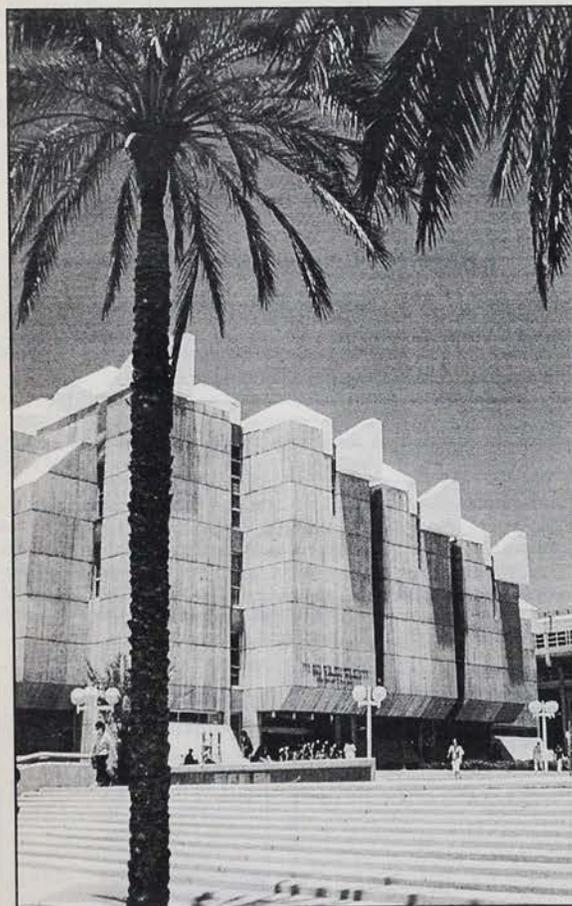
Landau has also collected his memoirs and correspondence including touching letters from the hundreds of schoolchildren who have heard him speak.

One of the most poignant documents is a photograph of Landau as a youngster with his Polish schoolmates — the only memento of his youth.

Landau has been interviewed for the Steven Spielberg project, "Survivors of the Shoah," and has given a video copy of the interview to the collection, along with videotapes of six of his talks at local schools.

Landau's gift complements and extends the library's growing Archives of the Center for Jewish Culture, which preserves the records of many local Jewish families.

For more information, contact the UMass Dartmouth Library's Archives and Special Collections, (508) 999-9282.



### Ben Gurion and Beersheba

Ben Gurion University of the Negev in Beersheba, founded in 1969 and one of Israel's most prestigious centers for higher education, is surrounded by the flowers, manicured gardens and palm trees of a magnificent campus. Read more about Beersheba in our Getaway section, pages 10, 11, 12.

### Study Judaism by Phone

The National Council of Synagogue Youth, the youth movement of the Orthodox Union, has announced a new way to study Judaism — by phone.

An adviser from the New England Region will call each week to learn about Judaism over the phone. The participating child chooses the topic: shabbat, prayer, a Jewish view on love and dating, etc.

The best part is NCSY picks up the cost of the phone calls, regardless of how long they last.

To sign up, call Rena Loew at (212) 532-8363.

# INSIDE THE OCEAN STATE

## Nature Conservancy Protects Land in Little Compton

Another piece of Rhode Island's special natural landscape was saved for the future recently when The Nature Conservancy purchased 29 acres of the Livingston Farm in Little Compton. The purchase of this property, which abuts the 400-acre Simmons Mill Pond Management Area and is just north of Quicksand Pond, one of the state's most pristine salt ponds, was supported by a \$72,500 grant from The Champlin Foundations.

The Conservancy is seeking funds to cover the balance of the purchase price.

The protection of this forest habitat is especially important to the preservation of Quicksand Pond as its dense woodland surrounds Cole Brook, the main feeder stream into the pond. The pond is a nursery for finfish and shellfish and a vital feeding and nesting area, as well as a migratory stopover, for wading birds such as the endangered Piping Plover.

The Nature Conservancy is the largest conservation organization in the United States. Nationally more than 9 million acres of land have been protected. To date, the organization and its partners have helped protect more than 10,000 acres, home to 40 rare or endangered species, in Rhode Island.

For more information about the conservancy, call 331-7110.

## Narragansett Bay Chorus Needs You

The Narragansett Bay Chorus is seeking men of all voice parts, who like to sing four-part harmony. Open rehearsals on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. at Cranston East High School. Stop by or call 785-0665.

## Free Legal Services Available at Roger Williams Louis Feinstein Legal Clinic

Roger Williams University School of Law has opened the Louis Feinstein Legal Clinic to provide free legal services in the area of family law to those individuals who meet federal guidelines for these free services, and to organizations which might not have access to legal representation.

Students will provide these free services as a part of their participation in the Feinstein Enriching America Program.

The clinic, established through a \$1 million grant from Alan Shawn Feinstein, is named in memory of his late father, a prominent Boston attorney for 50 years.

For information about these services, contact the clinic at 276-4880. Its address is 150 Washington Street in Providence.

## Come to Women's Winter Sampler

The YWCA of Greater Rhode Island, at 1035 Branch Ave. in Providence, is sponsoring an afternoon for women featuring: health and wellness workshops, crafters and artisans, cash and carry sales, beauty product demonstrations, and employment opportunities for women. The program will be held on Jan. 26, from noon to 3 p.m. The Rhode Island feminist chorus will perform at 1:30 p.m.

There will be displays and demonstrations by: Party Lites, The Pampered Chef, AVON, Natural Herbal Products, Ellie's Baskets, Jafra Cosmetics, Creations by Cathy, Tupperware, Second Thoughts Boutique, and the YWCA ENCORE, plus breast cancer program.

Tickets are \$3. Kids are free. The proceeds will benefit YWCA women's programs.

## Children's Eating Problems Workshop Planned

The Nutrition Council of Rhode Island is offering a workshop, Self Esteem & Body Image: Eating Problems in Children & Adolescents, on Jan. 28 at the Rhode Island Department of Health from 2:45 to 5 p.m. The speaker will be Jennifer Weiner Aspel, Ph.D., from Rhode Island Hospital.

The workshop is designed for teachers, coaches, school nurses, and health educators. However, all are welcome. The fee is \$25, \$20 for Nutrition Council members. For details, call Bethany DiNapoli at 277-1185, ext. 178.

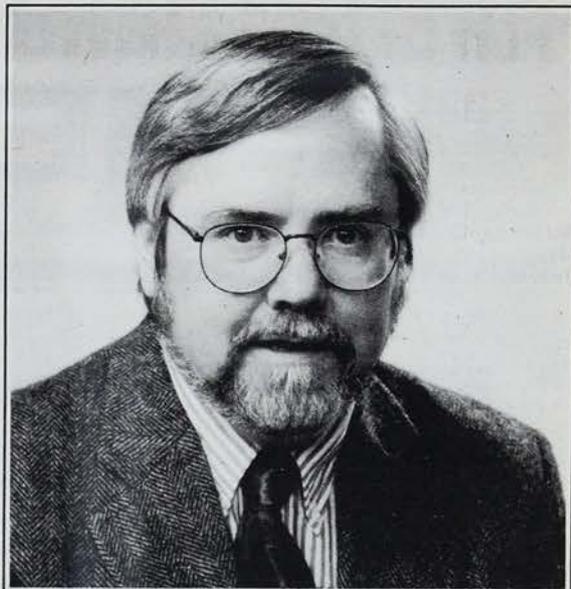
## They'll Dance for Heart Research

More than 200 dancers will participate in the 10-year anniversary Dance for Heart Talent Showcase on Feb. 2 at 1 p.m. at the Cranston West High School auditorium. Proceeds from the showcase will benefit the research and education programs of the American Heart Association, Rhode Island Affiliate. Admission is \$5 per person, children under 3 are free.

The event involves dance students aged 4 through teens from seven dance studios throughout Rhode Island.

The Dance for Heart Talent Showcase is a non-competitive gala of dance routines in ballet, tap, jazz, modern/lyrical, novelty and song and dance done in solo, duet, trio or group form.

For information, call 728-5300.



## New Pathology Chief at RIH and TMH

Rogers C. Griffith, M.D., has been appointed the new pathologist-in-chief for Rhode Island Hospital and The Miriam Hospital. He will oversee the consolidation of two departments into one unit. He has been acting pathologist-in-chief at The Miriam Hospital since 1993.

## SBANE Seeks Nominations

The Smaller Business Association of New England is seeking nominations for the 11th annual New Englander Awards program.

To be considered, a company must show how their innovative qualities and performance have led to their success. Innovation in product or service design, marketing strategies, and financing vehicles, will all be considered.

Companies headquartered in New England, with fewer than 500 employees, and in business for three years or more, are eligible to apply.

SBANE established this award to further New Englanders' un-

derstanding of the many faces of innovation. An appreciation for innovation is a critical element for a business climate that wants to encourage, as well as support, new ventures.

The awards program has recognized 71 breakthrough companies throughout New England. The ceremony, a traditional highlight of the New England Business Conference, will be held on June 12, at the Burlington Marriott, Burlington, Mass.

Deadline for nominations is March 28. For additional information and nomination applications, call SBANE at (617) 890-9070, ext. 236.

## Learning Connection Presents: Enter the Zone

Dr. Barry Sears, author and medical pioneer, will present insights from his breakthrough book *Enter the Zone* on Jan. 30 at 6:30 p.m. at the Lincoln School auditorium.

A question and answer session and book signing will follow the lecture.

Sears will discuss his eating plan, techniques for achieving permanent fat loss, ways to reduce the likelihood of diseases and enhance peak performance mentally and emotionally.

Sears is a pioneer in lipid biotechnology and an authority on the hormonal effects of diet. He holds 12 U.S. patents. *The Zone* has been on *The New York Times* best seller list for more than 40 weeks.

Tickets for *Enter the Zone* can be purchased in advance for \$35 by calling Learning Connection at 274-9330 or (800) 432-5520. Tickets may also be purchased at the door for \$40, on a space available basis. General admission seating.

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Barney's, Oaklawn Ave.  
Borders Book Shop, Garden City Ctr.  
Brooks, Reservoir Ave.  
Rainbow Bakery, Reservoir Ave.

### Providence and Vicinity

Barney's, East Avenue, Pawtucket  
Books on the Square, Wayland Square (on Angell)  
Hope Street Bagel, Hope St.  
East Side Prescription Center, Hope St.  
Swan Liquors, Hope St.  
Rhoda Judaica, Burlington St.

# THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

## Former Protestant Minister Finds and Follows Jewish Heritage

by Emily Torgan  
Jewish Community Reporter

How could Protestant minister Tonica Marlow, a preacher's daughter who was ordained herself at 20, give up all she had ever known for a new name, a new country and a seemingly new faith?

On Jan. 15 at the Chai Center in Warwick, the Lubavitcher woman who is now Tova Mordechai told a huge audience she had undergone this remarkable metamorphosis because G-d had given her a Jewish mother and a Jewish soul.

Then, she told the story recounted in her autobiography *Playing with Fire*, which has sold thousands of copies.

"My grandparents were Sephardic Jews from Greece," she began, explaining the roots she would later search for.

Both were raised in orphanages in Alexandria, Egypt. They married and remained Jews until her grandmother suffered a number of miscarriages.

"My mother was the eldest of 10 children," Mordechai said. "For reasons best known to G-d, each of (the next eight) children died very young."

Only her mother and the 10th child, Chaim Samuel, lived to adulthood.

Her English-speaking grandmother worked at a mission school.

"They wanted nothing more than to convert her," Mordechai said. "During her years of stress, the principal kept telling her she would find peace in Christianity."

Both Mordechai's grandmother and mother converted when they were respectively 40 and 20.

"My grandfather was a devoted Jew, and he was very sad," she said.

Soon, World War II brought British troops into Northern Africa, where her Protestant father met her mother.

"He fell in love with her, and promised he'd send her a ticket to England after the war," she said.

Three years later, the ticket arrived.

"She was 25 when she crossed the ocean. When she got to England it was like she took the first 25 years of her life and locked them away," Mordechai remembered.

On English shores, her mother was baptized and her parents had a church wedding. Her father, who had lost many friends in the war, decided to become a Pentecostal minister.

Mordechai was the last of their five children. She was baptized Tonica.

"My mother had wanted to give me the Jewish name of 'Tova,' but my father said she had to Anglicize it," she said.

As Tonica, she grew up in an extremely religious Christian home.

"Our lives were totally secluded in the church," Mordechai remembered. "We went to church every night of the week, twice on Saturdays, and three times on Sundays. We

went to Christian schools. We were not allowed television or any other sort of media. We were not allowed any secular reading."

Mordechai does not remember when she learned her mother was born Jewish. In a community with no Jews or synagogues, she did not understand what being Jewish meant.

Mordechai enjoyed her Christian childhood.



Tonica Marlow

"My father was known as a preacher, and I respected him very much," she said. "My big dream was to serve G-d."

As a very sheltered 16-year-old, she was the youngest student to be accepted at a noted Christian theological college.

"The principal there believed that unless a person's spirit was broken, he or she would be of no use to G-d," Mordechai said. "This was not the norm of Christianity."

Students had to eat all the food that was given to them, even if it was burned or spoiled, to help rid themselves of lust for food. They had to fast at least one day every week, and sometimes for eight days at a time, without fluids. Despite much hard physical work, students were allowed very little sleep, which was seen as a physical comfort.

"I threw myself in with childish zeal," she said. "I even liked it."

But when her older sister told her there was a synagogue in town where the Jews had observed a holiday called Yom Kippur, she experienced a strange attack of anxiety and despair.

"I felt a deep feeling of sadness, a heaviness that was almost tangible," she said. "I thought 'so what if the Jews were in synagogue and I was not — I'm not a Jew.'"

Still, Mordechai felt panic for days.

Weeks later, she decided to go see the synagogue for herself.

"I looked like a nun in long layers of clothes with a head scarf, because it was immodest

to show the body," she said.

After a 10-minute visit that included an attempt to sit in the men's section, Mordechai left for school chuckling.

"I was thinking it was no wonder my mother left," she said. "It was a dead religion of ancient traditions and bondage."

Mordechai forgot about Judaism, and took vows to stay in the church for life when she was ordained several months later.

Then the barely observant Uncle Chaim Samuel told the family he was coming to England on holiday.

The principal warned Mordechai to refuse any offers he might make of a trip to Israel.

"When he saw me behind those high walls he made many offers, but I told him I had given my life to G-d," she said.

Once in Israel, he said he was going to put a mezuzah on a relative's new home.

Mordechai asked him what it was, and asked him for one at the end of his visit.

When the 'strange, pretty box' arrived 10 days later, she asked the principal if she could put it up and was surprised when he said 'no' angrily.

She put the mezuzah in her drawer, where it would remain for five years.

"It was by my head, and I was in a black place," Mordechai said. "I was surrounded by idolatry."

Weeks later, she strolled by the synagogue when the rabbi was taking the Torah out, and she heard him say there was one G-d.

The desire to be with Jews and hear that phrase again be-

(Continued on Page 19)

## Local Shuls Get Net

by Emily Torgan

Jewish Community Reporter

It used to be that when the rabbi laughed, everybody laughed.

Today, when the rabbi heads to his or her computer and enters cyberspace, everybody logs on.

Well, perhaps not every rabbi, and not every congregant.

But at least two local Orthodox houses of worship, Congregation Ahavath Achim in New Bedford and Congregation Beth Sholom in Providence, now have pages on the worldwide web.

"The feedback has been just great," Rabbi Barry Hartman said of Ahavath Achim's website. "We put all our synagogue activities on it, and anyone who presses a button can get updated information. We list service times, the places where our weekly Talmud classes meet, and lots more."

Hartman's wife, Shoshana, set the web page up about a year ago.

According to Hartman, the internet has made Ahavath Achim's services accessible to people well outside the region.

"Congregants can see the page no matter where they travel," Hartman said. "We get e-mail from all over the world. A young Jewish lawyer in Australia contacted me because he wanted to learn about Judaism, and now I'm helping him."

More recently, members of Congregation Beth Sholom created a web page for their congregation.

"We already feel a lot less isolated," said Josh Ravitz, who is working on the project.

According to Ravitz, graduate student Sigal Moise created the page with the help of IDS, a local internet company that offers free web pages to non-profit

organizations.

At present, the page offers candlelighting and davening times, information about the status of the Providence eruv, recent newsletters, records of synagogue speeches and events, listings of youth activities, information about religious practices and more.

Ravitz and others hope to make additions that will include information about local Jewish resources services and a map of the eruv.

"Synagogue members really need to know about candlelighting and the eruv, and the phone can get very busy before Shabbat begins. But communicating with our members is just one part of the project," Ravitz said.

"People who are shopping for Jewish communities and synagogues will now be able to check the web for information about Beth Sholom as well."

A quick spin through the Orthodox Union's website shows the need to modernize to attract new members, for the internet is revolutionizing methods of communication and study within the Jewish world.

Today, internet surfers searching for new communities and congregations may see profiles of hundreds across the nation in states ranging from New York to Iowa and Indiana.

Through the internet, users may also obtain pictures and information about congregations in foreign countries from Australia to Venezuela. These entries may include additional local Jewish information, such as the addresses of mohels and locations of kosher butchers.

One service even provides up-to-the-minute pictures of the Kotel and allows users to e-mail prayers that will be deposited

(Continued on Page 19)



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All of us in the Jewish community are keenly aware of the special needs and challenges in meeting our obligations and goals for our children, our schools, our community, our elderly parents and ourselves.

Have we saved for weddings and major simchas?

Have we prepared to support a young couple who wish to build a family while continuing either religious or secular education?

Have we an investment plan to finance our children's Jewish education, or are we hoping for the availability of scholarship funds?

Have we or our children considered a financial plan to help make living in Israel a realistic option?

*Let me work with you to make these decisions a little easier.*

# EDITORIAL

## Conservative Rabbis Say Jewish Law Mandates Organ Donation

by Linda Tishler Levinson  
Connecticut Jewish Ledger  
WEST HARTFORD, Conn. (JTA) — When it can save a life, organ donation is required by Jewish law, according to Rabbi Joseph Prouser of Congregation B'nai Sholom in Newington, Conn. He did a study on the subject for the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards of the Rabbinical Assembly.

"Organ donation is not simply permissible but mandatory" if it can save a life, Prouser said, stressing that this is the sole case for organ donation after death.

**"Organ donation is not simply permissible but mandatory" if it can save a life.**

*Rabbi Joseph Prouser*

As a result of Prouser's research, the Rabbinical Assembly, which represents 1,500 Conservative rabbis internationally, is asking its 1.5 million members to sign donor cards agreeing to give their organs and tissues when necessary to help save a life.

With its congregational arm, the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, the assembly has mailed donor cards to its 850 congregations in the United States and Canada, asking them to sign up their members for this donor program.

Prouser said there is a widespread misperception that organ donation is prohibited under Jewish law, due to restrictions against physical disfigurement of a body. Saving a life is, in fact, "a religious mandate of a higher order."

Much of the rabbi's research was done at the New Britain General Hospital library, where he learned about the process and techniques of organ donation.

Through sophisticated computer techniques, a donor can be matched with a recipient across the country, he said. "One donor can often save up to five or six or seven individuals."

Prouser said the success rate of these operations range from 70 percent for liver and lung transplants to 90 percent for kidneys.

"A great deal of rabbinic attention has been paid to medical ethics," Prouser said, and there is precedent for approval for organ donation in passages from both the Torah and the Talmud.

He noted that in Leviticus it states, "You shall not stand idly by the blood of your neighbor" and that in Maimonides, it is written, "All Israel are commanded to take life-saving action."

While medical ethics have been studied for a long time, Prouser said, the Rabbinical Assembly's position marked the first time a religious body has made such a strong statement, "that refusing to save lives is contrary to our Jewish tradi-

tion."

Prouser said the reaction to his study has been overwhelmingly positive. He said people with whom he has spoken are pleased at the prospect of saving lives and "pleased that traditional Jewish law is so relevant in the closing years of the 20th century."

"I have not had any negative responses at this point," he said. "I believe that those who react negatively will do so with the emotions," not with a dispassionate reading of Jewish law.

Rabbi Yitzchok Adler of Beth David Synagogue in West Hartford agreed.

"Orthodox Judaism has always supported organ transplantation" if it is done from a deceased person, and if the life-saving benefit is immediate, Adler said.

But he stressed that a life should never be prematurely ended, no matter how close to death, to allow for transplantation.

**"One donor can often save up to five or six or seven individuals."**

*Rabbi Joseph Prouser*

Medical research has developed to a point where Jewish law has been satisfied, Adler said.

Adler stressed that the improvements in medical technology make the difference.

"Law doesn't change. Law simply responds to the circumstance," he said.

## Ebonics, Hebonics

A great flap was raised in the United States recently over the decision of a school board in California to recognize what is known as "Ebonics" — something variously described as a dialect or a language used by African Americans. The idea of the school board was to legitimize Ebonics so that teachers would not consider its speakers "wrong" but merely speaking another tongue, like Spanish.

We are not of a mind to enter

**Although we are not in servitude, we are at great risk.**

into this controversy. Certainly the school board has taken enough lumps from all sides, including African American leaders, about their decision.

What we want to address is the larger issue of how effectively the African American population has made its needs known within the general population, to the extent that even extreme measures like this are considered by government agencies.

This week's portion, Bo, describes Moses and Aaron going before Pharaoh to declare, "So says G-d, the G-d of the Hebrews, 'How long will you refuse to humble yourself before me? Let my people go so that they may serve me.'"

Imagine the chutzpah required to go before the absolute ruler of a land (this was not merely a president, but a personage seen as divine) and make such a demand.

But that was the attitude of Moses. He had no reason to be humble or supplicating. He was pointing out what he considered an absolute right, and un-

ambiguously telling Pharaoh that it had to be recognized.

It would serve us well to put ourselves in this frame of mind. Although we are not in servitude, we are at great risk. The old assimilationist attitude of "Be a Jew at home but a person outside" expresses itself even more insidiously today, as we experience the emergence of people who call themselves "cultural Jews," and the actual practice of our religion becomes less and less common.

Like Moses, it serves our souls better to draw a sharp outline and define ourselves as what we are.

This is not exclusionary, nor does it prevent us from operating normally among others. But it does make us as real and deserving of notice as, say, the African American community.

**If you are defined as a Jew, by yourself and others, part of that definition should be informed by your actions.**

You may respond that others are acutely aware of who is a Jew, but identifying people by their last name is not the same as identifying them by the beliefs they represent.

If you are defined as a Jew, by yourself and others, part of that definition should be informed by your actions. Knowing Torah. Following the mitzvot. Being unafraid, in a public forum, to say who you are.

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

## Redemption Is An Imminent Reality

In this week's portion Beshalach, we read the song of the children of Israel led by Moshe after the splitting of the Red Sea, and the special song of the women led by Miriam the prophetess.

In the Egyptian exile, it was Miriam who relayed the prophecy that a redeemer would emerge. Even when the leaders of that generation could not foresee an end to servitude and oppression, she spread hope and trust among her people.

When her mother was forced to place Moshe, the future redeemer of the Jews, in the Nile, her father Amram approached Miriam and asked her, "What will be the result of your prophecy? How will it be fulfilled?"

Miriam remained at the banks of the Nile and "stood at a distance to know what would happen to him." Our sages explain that, in addition to her concern for her brother's future, she was concerned about the fate of her prophecy. How indeed would the redemption come about?

In a metaphorical sense, this narrative is relevant to all Jewish women, those living at present and those whose souls are in the spiritual realms. Concerned over the fate of the Jewish people, they anxiously await the redemption.

The anxious anticipation of the redemption felt by Miriam — and by all of the Jewish women in Egypt — was paralleled in its intensity by their

they took tambourines with them so they could rejoice when the time came.

In the very near future, we will celebrate the ultimate redemption. We can now experience a foretaste of this impending celebration. Although we are still in exile, the confidence that the redemption is an imminent reality should inspire us with happiness. For the Jewish people

have completed all the divine service necessary to bring the redemption. To borrow an analogy of our sages, the table has already been set for the feast celebrating the redemption, everything has been served, and we are sitting together with Moshiach. All that is necessary is that we open our eyes.

The experience of such happiness demonstrates the strength of our trust in the promise of the redemption, and the expression of this faith will, in turn, hasten its realization. Adapted from a talk of the Rebbe, Shabbat Beshalach 5752-1992. Submitted by Rabbi Yehoshua Laufer of Chabad House.

### RHODE ISLAND JEWISH HERALD

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

EDITOR  
**ALISON SMITH**  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR  
**NEIL NACHBAR**  
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER  
**MICHAEL FINK**  
JEWISH COMMUNITY REPORTER  
**EMILY TORGAN**  
ADVERTISING ACCOUNT REP  
**DIANA FLORIO**  
MAILING ADDRESS:  
Box 6063, Providence, R.I. 02940  
TELEPHONE: (401) 724-0200  
PLANT:  
Herald Way, off Webster Street  
Pawtucket, R.I. 02861  
OFFICE:  
1175 Warren Avenue  
East Providence, R.I. 02914

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

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

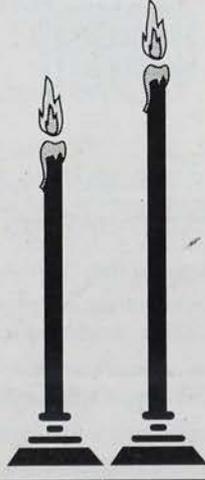
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**Candlelighting**  
**January 24, 1997**  
**4:33 p.m.**



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



**TORAH TODAY**

exuberant celebration when, after the miracles of the Red Sea, that redemption was consummated. After the men joined Moshe in song, the women broke out in song and dance, giving thanks to G-d with a spiritual rejoicing which surpassed that of the men.

The Torah's description of this celebration also testifies to the deep faith inherent in Jewish women. The commentaries relate that as the women prepared to leave Egypt, they were so confident that G-d would perform miracles on behalf of their people in the desert that



## Make Friends with The Friends

by Mike Fink  
Herald Contributing Reporter

"This library has a lot of old friends, but many don't know about The Friends," says the President of the Friends of Rochambeau Branch, Caryl Ann Miller.

Once a month, on a Tuesday evening, we meet in the basement chamber of the little Palladian palace of learning on Hope Street. We plan the big book sale, the annual meeting with its principal speaker, and listen to the wish list of the staff.

Carole Olshansky calls to remind me to attend. She kept a scrapbook of branch history. I serve as official archivist. Thank-you notes from fans or from volunteers for our token gifts gather in my files.

Stanley Blitz, a past president, often keeps me a few moments afterward to regale me with the latest round of jokes and jests.

plan to put in a pair of trees to shade the benches and frame the entrance. I suggested we ask youthful readers to memorize and recite poems about trees, and to write their own verses, and make a great occasion of the launching, the planting. It offers a nostalgic note. The board agreed.

But at the most recent meeting, I goofed a bit. The charm of our underground rendezvous, like a chapter out of Barbara Pym's novels, got me going on a rampage of reaction. I fought for printed books against books on tape, and for old, or classic, videos, against the latest hit. The job of a board is to support, not to shape decisions. I backed down.

It's just that I recall the bygone era of card catalogues, of signing your name and stepping into the world of yester-



President Caryl Ann Miller

Herald photo by Mike Fink

After a number of years on the board, since the term of Joan Reeves, who began The Friends, the Tuesday ritual has woven itself into the fabric of my year, the dates marked in my engagement calendar.

Caryl Ann Miller follows the agenda with verve and style, looking at each trustee, speaking with forceful confidence of the value of this thriving community center and temple of culture.

We make up a colorful crew. Joe Pace, longtime member of the Providence Art Club, sketches the exterior of the building. I urge him to add interior intimate detail, like the gentle carved owls that perch above the mantels and the portals. His drawings are printed on the note paper sponsored by The Friends and sold as fundraisers.

We spent some time at one of our seances trying to figure out how best to package 10 or a dozen cards, in cellophane, ribbon, box or envelope. They turned out lovely in a simple tie, and we sold them to each other, handing five dollar bills round to Sally Marks, our treasurer.

My favorite topic is the front yard, around the stairs and columns under restoration. We

day, out of the hubbub of today. Libraries march to a more vigorous drummer nowadays, and President Caryl Ann Miller strikes up the band with admirable zeal.

Computer access to other branches can work minor miracles. After watching a video of "The Great Caruso," I wondered if the author of the book, Dorothy Caruso, was Jewish. Jackie Cooper, head librarian, checked out the branch system and came up with all her published pieces. Nobody had read her forgotten memoirs in decades. They were all mine to peruse upon my pillow.

I still don't know if Mme. Caruso had been Jewish before she was Episcopalian and then Catholic, but I suspect so. Anyway, computers aren't all bad.

We finished our first session of '97 with a birthday cake and tea for the head librarian. It had a mocha frosting. Rochambeau Branch, its Friends and faithful followers, keep the torch of study burning sweetly and cheerfully.

For children, for youths, for adults, for new Americans and veteran Americans, for one and all, in the best tradition of public libraries, fight on, Caryl Ann and crew!

## Read All About It!

by Mike Fink

Herald Contributing Reporter

Karen Dennis teaches the boys and girls of the religious school at Temple Emanu-El, the year just before their bar/bat mitzvah. She had this idea, to turn the Torah into the daily newspaper and have the class write interviews and features, with headlines, based on Bible events.

She asked me to stop by and drop off some ideas from my experience here at the *Herald* and also at the *Journal* and elsewhere.

My boy, Reuben, met me at the door. He made me change sneakers with him, so we each wore one of the other's pair. I don't know why. At first he said, if I showed up, he would take off. He seemed to change his mind with a smile. He escorted me in, to a round of polite clapping.

Karen calls on each pupil to read the news account of Jacob, Esau, Isaac and Rebecca. Principal Jane Myers took some pictures, and so did I. Then we designed headlines. We tried alliteration, humor, shock, and forceful verbs. "Brothers Battle!" "Siblings Steal!" Nobody failed to come up with something pretty sharp and smart.

Then we chatted about interview techniques. "Charles Bakst told us to use a tape machine when possible," a voice piped up. "Well, it's better to train your memory and your instinct for storytelling... and anyway, how can you record the patriarchs of history, except through your

imagination? Write it like a play."

I summed up what reporting is all about. I reminded the class that Clark Kent was a Jewish invention, the shy boy with glasses who tries to save the world by covering the news and waking people up to its troubles, the writer with a mission, the hero of the '30s. Jacob spends his life making up for his crime, and rabbis struggle to bring his wrestling to our doors, like the daily chronicle.

I asked them to twist the tale of the twins into every shape

story, and give of yourself, the deeper you dig the foundation of your article.

I don't know how much will stick, if anything. I put my scarf and gloves back on, and my hat, saluted goodbye, and then waited in the library for the session to end. I had to drive Reuben and a couple of his cronies home. It was my carpool that Tuesday.

Meanwhile, I left the camera with the class, to play at photojournalism. I dedicate this account to Karen Dennis, to the boys and girls of her class-



EMANU-EL CLASS in Torah and Superman.

Photo by Reuben Fink

they could think of. Look at it from the point of view of every one of the family members. The more you steep yourself in the

room, to Esau and Jacob, Rebecca and Isaac, and to the playful energy and zest of Jane's curriculum.

## Who Can Make A Tree?

by Mike Fink

Herald Contributing Reporter

Tu B'Shevat may bless the start of spring there, in our ancestral holy land, but here in Rhode Island, it stays midwinter. I think of trees as they, the trees, step indoors. I wake to take my shirt from my highboy, a mahogany haut-bois, tall woodland timber, high wood, in French.

Downstairs in my kitchen I squeeze Israeli, Florida or California oranges, or drink cider pressed from the produce of local orchards, and slice bananas for my bowl of cereal.

The snow has settled on my rooftops of lumber. The funnies I read are printed on pulp. If I grab a book from my shelves, both the boards and the pages and leaves of poetry bring gifts from rainforests. Should I take the time to gather logs or kindling, the hearthflames, too, are fruit of sun, earth, and vegetable magic.

Americans used to write, read, and learn by heart, verses about trees. Our oldest Jewish symbol, the menorah, comes from even more ancient forms of worship. As I pour the syrup from maples, spread the jelly from crabapples, or watch the Sabbath candles in their branchlike sticks of brass, silver, or even, yes, wood, I let my mind wander over the landscapes of history, local and exotic, near and far, now and then.

Perhaps we climbed down from limbs to start our human lives, joining the other mammals and leaving our angelic

bird-neighbors above and behind us.

When my daughter was born, we followed the tradition of planting a root in her honor. When the birch succumbed to a blight, I had the trunk transformed into model, moved to the back garden, and used to mount a sculpture and a birdfeeder and serve as centerpiece to the flowerbeds.

Wood outlasts tree, as our souls survive our bodies. We derive our mysteries out of the gifts of the arbor. In spirit as well as flesh, we owe them a debt.

Bulldozers treat our trees as obstacles. Folklore restores their wonderful wizardry, their individuality. Lenka Rose, who survived Auschwitz, recalls the time among the Carpathians when each elegant giant plant bore such fabulous treasures, that a family would rent the right

to harvest one at a time. She told the fable to a U.R.I. class which I attended during a recent summer.

On Tu B'Shevat I offer a pagan-like—I say this with whimsy—prayer to the Maker of Trees. We might use the date and the day to think of the sunshine and the rain, the soil and the miracles of growth and even decay, and to put our blessing upon xylem and phloem, the flow of life, now, in January, even before the first stirrings of springtime.

Loren Eiseley, the naturalist-poet, wrote a paragraph about the force that shapes the lovely snowflake. "Huge flakes float in like white leaves blown from some great tree in open space." We can never solve the enigma of the oak and the elm. We owe our planet to the jungle, and our faith to its wild pastiche.



Trees give us fruits and symbols.

Herald photo by Mike Fink

# THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

## Gesher V'Keshet Brings Families Together in 'Family Room'

Starting Feb. 2, a group of families with young children in the Alperin Schechter Day School and the Temple Emanu-El Religious School will begin an exciting new program.

The program, known as Family Room, is being offered by the Gesher v'Keshet family education project. Gesher v'Keshet is a cooperative program between the school, Temple Emanu-El, Temple Shalom and Temple Torat Yisrael, made possible by a grant from the Continuity Commission of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.

Gesher v'Keshet was created in order to increase and enhance Jewish family education programming being offered to members of the participating institutions, and to bring families

from the communities together to learn, socialize and celebrate. "Family Room is an ideal program because it accom-

"Family Room is an ideal program because it accomplishes all of our goals."

Miriam Hyman

plishes all of our goals," said Miriam Hyman, Gesher v'Keshet's family educator. "In our plans for Family Room this year a group of families with children in the Temple Emanu-El Religious School

and at the Alperin Schechter Day School will meet at each other's houses once a month from January through May. At the meetings families will share a meal and participate in discussions and activities suitable for all ages, around this year's theme of "Blessings."

Family Room hopes to provide a positive, stimulating environment in which families will get to know one another and have the opportunity to delve deeply into the topics being studied.

Hyman learned about the program while attending the Whizin Institute this past June. "Family Room is a great program, and I am excited about getting to know the families," she said.

## Benjamin Blackman Wins Scholarship

The Rhode Island Voice of Democracy Scholarship Program has announced a winner, Benjamin K. Blackman, of 175 Birkshire Drive, Warwick, a 12th-grader at Tollgate High School.

His parents are Richard Blackman and Michele Keir. He is head of his youth group at Temple Sinai.

On a statewide level, Blackman won a \$500 scholarship to a college of his choice.

This program is an essay scholarship contest for 10th-, 11th- and 12th-graders. It is sponsored by national headquarters of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

and its Ladies Auxiliary which is located in Kansas City, Mo. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the essay contest, and the 1997 theme was "Democracy — Above and Beyond."

Each state winner is awarded a five-day, all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., plus the opportunity to compete for national scholarships totaling more than \$118,000. First-place national winner receives a \$20,000 scholarship. The state winner will attend the American Academy of Achievement Salute to Excellence Weekend and Banquet of Golden Plate which is held each June.

## Major Jerusalem Exhibit of Photographs and Literature Currently on Display at Boston College

"Jerusalem Pictorial and Descriptive: The Holy City in 19th Century Literature" — an extensive exhibition of books and photographs by visitors to the Holy City — is currently on display at the John J. Burns Library of Rare Books and Special Collections at Boston College.

The library is located on the Chestnut Hill campus at 122 College Road.

The exhibit includes two sets of David Roberts' "The Holy Land," prints made from the photographs of Mendel John Diness (the first resident of

Jerusalem to study and practice photography there), and the works of numerous scholars, researchers, missionaries, explorers, adventurers, novelists, artists and clergy who have visited the Holy Land.

Volumes from the library's collection were complemented by books and photographs lent by Dan Kyram, consul general of Israel to New England and co-sponsor of the exhibit.

Kyram has long collected 19th-century photographs and stereographs of Palestine and Jerusalem.

He wrote the introduction to the accompanying exhibit catalogue, in which he traces and explains the explosive growth of 19th-century travel literature dealing with the Holy Land. The catalogue and an exhibit poster are available at the Boston College Bookstore.

The exhibit — on display through March 31 — is open to the public, free of charge. The library's hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call (617) 552-3282.



BENJAMIN BLACKMAN receives VFW scholarship.

### ANNOUNCING THE RHODE ISLAND JEWISH HERALD

## 1997 Bridal Issue

FEBRUARY 13, 1997

We are currently preparing for our annual *Bridal Issue*, to be published on February 13, 1997. This year, as in the past, we are encouraging our advertisers to submit display ads, photos and editorial copy for this special issue.

You may not know that our 1994 *Bridal Issue* was awarded *First Place for an Advertising Supplement* in the New England Press Association's "Better Newspaper" contest, and that our 1995 *Bridal Issue* received *Second Place* honors in the same contest. These contests have included entries from 200 small newspapers from New England and the Canadian Maritimes. With your participation, perhaps we can make this year's another *First Place* contender.

Let us know if you are interested in advertising in the *Rhode Island Jewish Herald 1997 Bridal Issue*. We'd be happy to design your ad for you — *free of charge*. All you pay for is the ad space. And remember, we welcome any copy or photos you'd like to submit for inclusion in the editorial portion of this issue. The deadline for both advertising and editorial is Friday, January 31, 1997.

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## Levine to Speak at JCCRI

On Jan. 28 at noon, the speaker at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island's Brown Bag Club will be Gershon Levine, director of the Community Relations Council at the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.

Levine's topic will be "The Community Leaders Mission to Israel: Why We Should Send Non-Jews to Israel." Levine will answer any questions.

The Brown Bag Club meets the second and fourth Tuesday of every month and is a friendly adult forum open to all.

Participants are welcome to bring a lunch. The cost is \$1 per person; beverage and dessert are provided.

For further information, contact Sue Robbio at 861-8800, ext. 107.



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# JEWISH COMMUNITY

## Rosovsky to Lecture at the Library

"A Walk Through the Jerusalem Landscape" is the title of lecture/slide presentation to be given by author Nitzza Rosovsky at the Providence Public Library on Jan. 27 at noon.

Rosovsky is the vice president for Archives for Historical Documentation in Boston, and formerly the curator for Exhibits at the Semitic Museum at Harvard University.

Rosovsky's latest publication is *City of Great Kings: Jerusalem from David to the Present* (published, Harvard University Press, 1996) and has also authored *Capturing the Holy Land: M.J. Diness and the Beginnings of Photography in Jerusalem*

(Catalogue, Harvard University Press, 1994) and *Jerusalemwalks* (Second Edition, 1992).

An eighth-generation sabra born and raised in Jerusalem, Rosovsky writes on archaeology, literature, photography, and travel and has been published in the *Biblical Archaeology Review*, *Cathedra*, *History of Photography*, *The New Republic* and *The New York Times*.

Rosovsky is also the honorary chairman of the Jerusalem 3000 Committee of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston.

The lecture is free and open to the public and is in collaboration with an exhibition en-

titled "Jerusalem in Old Maps and Views" currently on display in the Barnard Room at the Central Library, 225 Washington St.

The exhibition presents the cartographic history of the city which King David established as his capital 3,000 years ago.

Produced by the public affairs division of the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs and sponsored locally by the Consulate General of Israel to New England, the exhibition is on display until Feb. 7.

For more information, contact the library's public relations office at 455-8090.

## NCJW Launches Children's Campaign

The National Council of Jewish Women recently launched a nationwide advocacy and education program, Speak Out for Children.

Building on the organization's more than 100 years involvement in children's issues, the campaign targets the state legislatures and agencies as they develop and implement the new welfare law.

Nan Rich, NCJW's national president, explained the organization's interest and goals for the Speak Out for Children campaign.

"As the president was signing the welfare bill into law, NCJW joined other advocates for children outside the White House gates protesting the destruction of the safety net so critical to low-income children

and their families.

"Now, we are focusing our energy and attention at the state level to ensure that state welfare plans provide the maximum assistance and protection for children in need. We intend to mobilize our 90,000 volunteers across the country to Speak Out for Children — educating their communities about the new law, building and joining relevant coalitions, advocating, and monitoring the impact of welfare reform on the low-income children and families served by our community service projects."

The first phase of this year-long campaign is advocacy aimed at educating state legislators who are currently working on welfare plans which go into effect July 19, 1997.

## Tu B'Shevat — A New Year for Trees

Submitted by Rabbi Yehoshua Laufer of Chabad

The 15th day of the Hebrew month of Shevat is also a New Year's Day for it is the Rosh Hashanah for trees. The day marks the beginning of the season in the land of Israel when the trees begin to sprout and are judged as to their future. It is a time of rejuvenation and blossoming.

It is also a time for man to glean an important moral lesson.

"For man is a tree of the field," the Torah tells us (Deuteronomy 20:19) and so, like a tree, man too must produce fruit. The fruits of mankind are Torah and good deeds. Just as a tree must bear fruit to stay healthy, so too, must man engage in giving to

others and in furthering goodness in the world.

On Tu B'Shevat it is customary to eat a lot of fruit. Some even have the custom of serving 15 kinds of fruit, corresponding to the date of the month, and to the 15 "Songs of Elevation" (Psalms 120-134).

The most desirable fruits are specifically those fruits for which the land of Israel is praised, namely: olives, dates, grapes, figs, pomegranates. A new seasonal fruit should also be eaten on this day for the first time in the year and the blessing shehecheyonu ("Who has kept us alive and brought us to this season") pronounced over it, in addition to the usual blessing for fruit. Bokser (carob) is a fruit traditionally associated with this day.

## Ten Free Trees for Tu B'Shevat

Ten free flowering trees will be given each person who joins The National Arbor Day Foundation during January 1997.

The ten trees are two white flowering dogwoods, two flowering crabapples, two golden rain trees, two Washington hawthorns, and two American redbuds.

The trees will be shipped postpaid at the right time for planting between Feb. 1 and May 31 with enclosed planting instructions. The 6- to 12-inch trees are guaranteed to grow, or they will be replaced free of charge.

Members also receive a subscription to the Foundation's bi-monthly publication, *Arbor Day*, and *The Tree Book* with information about tree planting and care.

To become a member of the foundation and to receive the free trees, send a \$10 contribution to Ten Free Flowering Trees, National Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Ave., Nebraska City, NE 68410, by Jan. 31, 1997.

## Pawtucket Hadassah Meets

On Jan. 27, Pawtucket Hadassah will hold a regular meeting at the Jewish Community Center, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence, at 7:30 p.m.

The speaker for the evening will be Eleanor Horvitz, the librarian and archivist of the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association. Her topic will be "1924 — Pawtucket-Central Falls Hadassah is Organized in an Active Jewish Population."

There will be a drawing of the raffle to benefit Youth Aliyah.

## Service for Florida Seniors Available

Family Extensions, Inc., Boca Raton, Fla., reminds all adult children far away from their parents, to listen for signs of post-holiday blues in their loved ones now that the holiday season is over.

"After the busy holiday season, the quiet month of January can be especially lonely for senior citizens alone in South Florida," said Maxine J. Wallach, Family Extensions, Inc., president and founder.

Family Extensions, Inc., is a national service organization

providing comfort and reassurance to senior citizens in Broward, Dade, or Palm Beach County, Fla., whose own children live too far away to visit on a regular basis. Through a line of extended family services, the company acts as the local eyes, ears, and helping hands, offering far away offspring the peace of mind of current meaningful information regarding the senior's physical and household status. Family Extensions, Inc.'s daily contact and 24-hour non-medical emergency service provide both senior citizens and their adult children with reassurance that assistance and support are always nearby.

For further information, call (800) 711-4910.



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# ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

## Your Life Really Becomes About the Theater URI Shows Goldin's Photos

by Alison Smith  
Herald Editor

Stephen Berenson will be playing "Jack" as in "Jack and the Beanstalk" when "Into the Woods" opens at Trinity on Jan. 24.

When he first got the script, he wasn't sure how the character would emerge, but "we're finding out all kinds of new things about his character," as Berenson gets deeper and deeper into the role. "This is his journey from innocence to manhood."

It sounds sort of solemn and profound, put that way, but when Berenson talks about Jack, you begin to see a protected boy, a boy whose best friend is a cow, a boy who lives with his mother, suddenly thrown into a situation full of the unknown and the subtly dangerous.

Jack becomes someone you care about, listening to Berenson talk over the phone. By Jan. 24, he will be someone the audience cares about very much.

Berenson's family was Conservative... he was raised in a kosher home. But it's very hard to be strictly observant and on the stage. He says, "I pray every day. I pray every night. But holidays... it's difficult. And it's not just the Jewish religious element. I'm sure there are plenty of people in my company who'd like to go to church Sunday mornings, but there may be rehearsals called for 10 a.m. on Sunday."

He adds, "Your life really becomes about the theater."

In addition to acting, Berenson teaches and directs. His teaching load varies, depending on how much time he has to devote to rehearsal or performance. One month it may average out to four or four and a half hours a week. Sometimes it may reach 15 hours a week.

I asked him which of the three activities was most satisfying to him. He couldn't say. "Each of the

various disciplines — they all work together. It's wonderful to watch the students grow, and you learn from them. Everything in teaching is about the student.

"Then as an actor, you are completely Narcissistic... everything is about you. You learn



Stephen Berenson

more about yourself.

"And as a director, you deal with actors and you teach and you learn. I enjoy whatever I'm doing at the moment."

Speaking of performing, he said, "If you're not completely crazy, you can work out what's happening in your life on the stage. You are really having an emotional experience, and that's what makes a great actor. You're living it — not pretending. It can be very therapeutic." He mentioned experiencing some of that catharsis in a recent production when a death in his immediate family was still fresh in his mind. Playing that part was good for him, and his recent loss became a significant part of his performance, and added to his character's impact on the audience.

When Berenson was 7, his mother took him to see "Sound of Music." That was a pivotal experience for him. From then on, he knew he was headed for

the theater.

He recalls the experience vividly. "On the way into the theater, my mother had to explain to me what a nun was. On the way out, she had to explain what a Nazi was."

When the time came to decide on higher education, he made a deal with his parents. His father said, "You should apply to every great acting school in the country. If you get in, we'll pay for your education. If not, you should try something else."

He was accepted everywhere he applied, except Juilliard, which asked him to come back in another year. He was the youngest freshman in his class of 62 at Carnegie Mellon.

His aunt, on his mother's side, was an opera singer, and on his father's side, there were several vaudeville performers, so the genetic material was certainly there for Berenson.

He loves working with Trinity. "In New York, there is an enormous pressure on each individual. You must make the critics and the audience notice YOU! But at Trinity, you can work toward the good of the play." Performances are a group or team presentation.

Acting requires a certain amount of self-discipline. "You have to make sure that your voice is in good shape at 8 p.m. (when the curtain goes up.)" And for many actors, not only the voice, but the energy must be safeguarded during the day. They must pace themselves so they can give of their best in the evening.

When the curtain goes up on "Into the Woods," Berenson will be ready to give of his best. (Particularly during a really great song he has in the first act. Watch for it.)

### Free Wednesdays at the Museum

Admission to the New Bedford Whaling Museum is free on Wednesday afternoon from 1 to 5 p.m. for the rest of this month, February and March thanks to the generosity of Bancroft Oil, Cardoza's, Polaroid Corporation, Titleist/Foot-Joy Worldwide, Reynolds-Dewalt Printing, Inc., WNBH/WCTK and the Old Dartmouth Historical Society.

All children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult.

The museum is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. It's located at 18 Johnny Cake Hill, New Bedford.

The Photography Gallery of the University of Rhode Island inaugurates its winter calendar with works by highly regarded contemporary photographer Nan Goldin.

Goldin's mid-career retrospective, tellingly entitled, "I'll Be Your Mirror" after the Nico and Velvet Underground song of the 1960s, recently closed at the prestigious Whitney Museum of American Art in New York.

Goldin's photographs are striking statements in their color (they are bright cibachrome) which acts as a vehicle to emphasize even further their intensely personally charged subject matter.

In a recent interview with Boston-based curator Timothy McElreavy for *Art New England*, Goldin asserted, "For me [the work] has to come from real obsession, real passion and desire."

People permanently close to the artist are Goldin's subjects

of obsession, passion and desire. With this approach her camera is a tool of astonishing intimacy — never mediating, never posing, always defeating any sense of documentary distance.

Of her oeuvre, a well-known portion of which is entitled, "The Ballad of Sexual Dependence," Goldin has been said to "chronicle her generation." But this characterization does not account for the unique honesty with which she manages to do so.

Goldin does not transmute, interpret, or judge her subjects (or herself), as they are portrayed in staggeringly difficult relationships or situations. Instead, she is the compassionate mirror, reflecting the humanity of her subjects' lives, of which she is a seamlessly involved part.

The Goldin exhibition continues through March 1. The exhibition at URI may not be suitable for some audiences.

All programs of the Fine Arts Center Galleries are open to the public without charge.

### 'The Iron and the Star' on View

Yeshiva University Museum will present "The Iron and the Star: The Jewish Presence in Brescia During the Renaissance" through Jan. 31.

The Jewish community of Brescia, a town located in the Alps in eastern Lombardy, dates back to the Roman Empire. During the Renaissance, it underwent considerable development, as did other Italian communities. This exhibition explores the Jewish presence in Brescia and its economic influence on Brescia society, focusing on artistry, printing, and metallurgy.

"The Iron and the Star" is a

traveling exhibition that has been presented in Jerusalem and venues throughout Italy since 1993. This is its only scheduled showing in the United States.

The exhibition was curated by Father Franco Bontempi, Bontempi, a journalist, lives in Ono San Pietro and is the founder and president of the St. Alexander Circle of Brescia, where he gives courses in Jewish culture and the economic history of Italian cities.

Yeshiva University Museum is located at 2520 Amsterdam Ave., New York City. For more information, call the museum at (212) 960-5390.

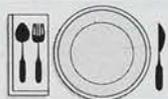
### Oliver Sacks to Read From His Work on Feb. 5

Oliver Sacks will read from his newest book, *The Island of the Colorblind*, 8 p.m., Feb. 5, in room 101 of the Salomon Center for Teaching at Brown University. A book signing will follow.

Neurologist, anthropologist and best-selling author (*Awakenings* and *The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat*), Sacks travels to Micronesia in his latest exploration of the landscape of the mind. On the island of Pingelap, Sacks studies the total congenital

colorblindness (achromatopsia) that afflicts a sizable community. Setting up a clinic, Sacks listens to these afflicted islanders describe their colorless world in rich terms of pattern and tone, luminescence and shadow.

Interwoven into these stories is Sacks' own narrative about island life, a lifelong passion for botany, and his vision of the complexities of being human. This event is free and open to the public.



## DINING GUIDE

### Valentine's Day Special

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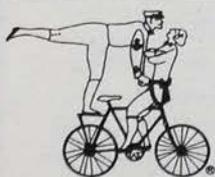
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# ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT



## 'Every Night It's Different'

by Allyn Smith  
Herald Editor

When "Into The Woods" opens at Trinity on Jan. 24, Barbara Orson will be there, as she has for more than 100 productions. She is a founding member of the repertory company — was there during all the meetings about starting a new company, and helped launch the first shows in 1964.

But, she says, "Every time you

toured. I did that, and other roles, for five years. But by then I had met my husband, who was in medical school, and when he interned in Philadelphia, I went there, and we had three children... including twins."

The family moved to Providence in 1959/1960.

She said she didn't usually mention the Gilbert and Sullivan experience because many people in the theater "have an attitude about Gilbert and Sullivan. They think people who do that can't do anything else."

I suggested that at this point in her long and successful career, she wouldn't worry too much about someone else's attitude toward Gilbert and Sullivan, but she wasn't buying that at all. "I worry about it still. An actor is a very vulnerable individual."

Orson is a member of Temple Beth-El in Providence. Being an actress who works steadily makes it difficult to be completely observant, but she tries to go to High

Holy Days.

She refused to pick one scene or moment of "Into The Woods" that was special for her, but she said, "I love Sondheim! And I love working with Oskar Eustis." I got the impression she was still "getting into" the play and her role, and preferred not to single out any special moment, just yet. Maybe later.

Her two daughters have grown up to be professional musicians, and her son is a lawyer. Her voice rang with pride when she talked about her children. And the subject of children brought to mind Project Discovery, in the schools, which she says, "the most important thing Trinity does."

I asked what she might say to an aspiring actor. She came right back at me with, "Work with good people." Classes and training are fine, but nothing beats getting up there and perfecting the performance of a play with a fine company of actors. "The important thing is to keep at it, and to keep studying."

She spoke of bringing to her performances what she had learned and experienced outside the theater. "You bring that life experience to what you're doing," she said. "You translate."

Also, in Orson's case certainly, you bring dedication, energy, talent and a deep and abiding love of the theater.



Barbara Orson

start something new, it's as if you've never done anything before. And that's the most important thing, to an actor. That basic insecurity, still — that's a gift."

Orson continued, "Every night it's different. Every night, there's a new audience." She was only 3 or 4, a daughter of immigrants on the lower East Side of New York City, when her sister took her to the University Settlement House, where theatre was part of the program. "I grew up attracted to the theater. I went to the All City Radio Workshop in Brooklyn, got a scholarship after that to attend the New School, and went from there into soubrette roles with a Gilbert and Sullivan company."

"I just happened to be able to sing. So I had the experience of working with a company. We

## Seeking New Directors

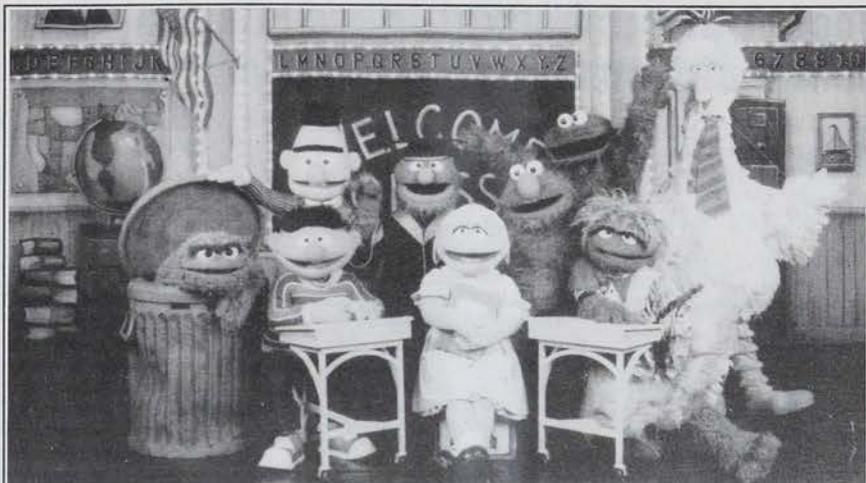
The Community Players are currently accepting resumes and submission ideas for one act plays from anyone interested in directing who has not previously directed for The Community Players.

Three submissions will be chosen to be included in a One Act Play Night affording an opportunity for interested directors to be considered for direction of full-length plays and/or musicals in the future.

The Community Players present four full-length productions a year, from November through June, at Jenks Junior High School, across from McCoy Stadium in Pawtucket.

All submissions, including a resume and play ideas, should be sent to: Lee Hakeem, c/o The Community Players, 31 Felsmere Avenue, Pawtucket, RI 02861.

For further information, call 724-7735.



## School Was Never Like This

Sesame Street Live presents "Let's Play School" featuring Oscar the Grouch, Bert & Ernie, Grover, Prairie Dawn, Elmo, Cookie Monster, Grundgetta and Big Bird, at the Providence Civic Center on Feb. 20 to 23. Tickets are available now. Call 331-0700.

## Architectural Portraits at Library

Lois Wright, Cranston resident, is exhibiting her architectural portraits and pen and ink drawings at the Cranston Public Library, 140 Sockanosset Cross Road, through Jan. 31 in the Rear Gallery.

She has previously exhibited at the Wickford Art Gallery and the Designs for Living Gallery in Cranston.

Wright has included a number of lighthouse studies and historical landmark drawings. She has studied at the Community College of Rhode Island and is currently a freelance artist.

The exhibit is free.

## See Six Plays and the Superbowl, Too!

"Blink," Perishable Theatre's annual festival of 10-minute plays by local playwrights, has changed its performance time for Jan. 26 (Superbowl Sunday) to 2 p.m. (the game starts at 6 p.m.). The dates and times for all shows are now as follows: Jan. 23 to 25 at 8 p.m. and Jan. 26 at 2 p.m. And remember, "Blink" presents full productions of six short plays for only \$5!

Six plays for \$5! Perishable asks, "Is there a better theater bargain anywhere on the planet?"

## Ballet Company Hosts Auditions

Rhode Island's Ballet Theatre will hold juried auditions at 1 p.m. on Jan. 26. Auditions for the company will be held at 7610 Post Road in North Kingstown. There is a \$10 audition fee.

Ballet dancers, ages 9 through adult, are invited to audition for both West Bay and East Bay locations. The company hosts both a junior and senior division and has company classes and rehearsals on both sides of the bay (North Kingstown and Tiverton) for the convenience of its members.

The company is under the artistic direction of Nancy McAuliffe, who is also the Rhode Island rehearsal mistress for the Moscow State Ballet.

Further information regarding the audition can be obtained by calling 294-9279.

## Auditions for 'Baby'

The Community Players will hold auditions for the high-spirited, life-affirming musical "Baby" on Jan. 27 and 28 at 7 p.m. at Jenks Junior High School, Division Street, Pawtucket.

Director Brian Mulvey is looking for three principal couples — ages early 20s, 25 to 35 and over 40- and a chorus of 10 adults. All roles are open. If possible, auditioners should bring a prepared musical selection and be ready to move. For further information call 781-6637.

## On Your Toes

On Jan. 26 at 12:30 p.m., the State Ballet of Rhode Island holds its annual auditions at the Brae Crest School of Ballet, in Lincoln at 52 Sherman Ave. Call 334-2560.

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## GETAWAY

### Once A Camel Market, Negev Capital Now Center of Commerce, Learning and Tourism

When tourism to Israel began in earnest in the early 1960s, the town of Beersheba (in Hebrew, "Be'er Sheva"), was not much more than a pit-stop en route to Eilat or the Dead Sea, notable mostly for its colorful and frenetic Thursday morning Bedouin camel market.

Arguably more than four millennia old, Beersheba is mentioned early in the Old Testament as the site in the Promised Land where Abraham and Isaac settled — and just four miles to the northeast of today's city, the excavations at the Tel Beersheba (the Beersheba "archeological mound") reveal civilization here stretching back to the dawn of time.

Considered the capital of Israel's southern Negev Desert, Beersheba first reached a level of modern-day importance in the 1880s when it became the Ottoman Turks' center of administration for the region's Bedouin tribes.

In 1917, it was the first city in the land of Israel conquered by the British (to this day visitors came to the tranquil and beautifully manicured British War Cemetery — last resting place of the hundreds of British, Australian and New Zealand soldiers who died during the battle for Beersheba).

In 1948, Beersheba became part of the fledgling State of Israel, and very quickly, the old town built by the Turks began to expand as Israel absorbed more than a million immigrants in less than four years.

Beersheba's population is now approaching 200,000, making it Israel's fourth-largest metropolis (after Tel Aviv and its environs, Jerusalem and Haifa)... a city of light and heavy industry, commerce and higher learning.

There is still an aura of quaintness and frontier charm about the old town — laid out by the Turks' German engineers at the turn of the century — for Beersheba is, in some ways, the last outpost before Israel's vast desert region begins.

The Beersheba Museum is in the old town: once a mosque, it

has an excellent archeological collection and desert-related exhibits. Abraham's Well is here too — traditional site of the pact sworn by Abraham and Abimelech, a local noble, although archeologists now believe that Abraham's settlement was most likely at Tel Beersheba.

The new city is dynamic and bustling, with a central shopping mall and pedestrianized precinct. There are excellent restaurants in Beersheba, recalling the gastronomic richness brought by immigrants from more than 70 countries.

Every Thursday morning, on the city's southern outskirts, the Bedouin Market is still a huge and colorful attraction for visitors — complete with camels, sheep and goats — where local Bedouin trade all manner of produce, livestock, tools — as well as attractive arts and crafts.

Undoubtedly one of the most important contributions to Beersheba's growing prominence is the city's much and justly vaunted Ben Gurion University of the Negev, an institution which has literally placed this desert city on the world's intellectual map. Founded in 1969 and named in honor of David Ben Gurion, Israel's first prime minister, who fervently believed Israel's destiny was to "make the desert bloom," it has a large and magnificently landscaped campus quite close to downtown. It is the only Israeli institution to offer courses in the humanities, sciences, engineering and medicine.

#### Key to the Desert

Beersheba is the jumping-off point for touring Israel's Negev Desert. Not far south is Sde Boqer, the desert kibbutz to which David Gurion moved and where he is buried, with its fascinating field school, and the nearby Nabatean city of Avdat, as well as the icy Avdat Canyon.

A half-hour further south is Mitzpe Ramon, a bustling desert town from which travelers can take a wide variety of desert excursions, and the vast, meteorite-fashioned Ramon Crater, whose red-hued crags and mighty cliffs form what is surely

one of Israel's most magnificent natural wonders.

To the west of Beersheba, Hazerim Air Base is home to Israel's Air Force Museum, a must for traveling families, where children can clamber in and around jet fighters. And to Beersheba's east is Arad, a city which, because of its height above sea-level and ultra-dry air, has become a center for respiratory cures, and the scenic, winding descent to the Dead Sea, the lowest point on earth.

Perhaps nothing is more emblematic of Beersheba's newfound prominence than the brand new Be'er Sheva Hilton Hotel. The symbolism of the hotel chain noted for creating a standard of American-style luxury in far off places is surely not lost on travelers — nor on Israelis.

When you go: Beersheba is easily reached from both Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, approximately one hour and 40 minutes drive from each. There is talk of Israel's third international airport being constructed near Beersheba, but for now, Israel's Ben Gurion International Airport is just a 90-minute drive distant. For further information on visiting Beersheba, and Israel in general, call the Israel Tourism Info Center toll free at (800) 7-ISRAEL.



THE COLORS, SOUNDS and aromas of every Thursday's Bedouin Market attract residents and visitors to the city of Beersheba, capital of Israel's Negev Desert.

### Celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut in Israel

Premier Jewish Singles is offering a tour of Israel from May 6 to 15, for Israel Independence Day. A full Israeli buffet breakfast (dairy) is included daily, plus a picnic lunch and three dinners. Extensions to Jordan (Petra and Amman) and/or to Eilat on the Red Sea coast may be arranged.

#### Itinerary

May 6 — Depart from New York, with overnight in the air.

May 7 — Arrive at Ben Gurion International Airport, transfer to the Blueweiss Hotel in Netanya for dinner and overnight. Balance of the day at leisure. The town square is close

by.

May 8 — A morning tour of Tel Aviv-Jaffa includes the Artists' Quarter, old port area, Dizengoff Street and the House of the Diaspora on the Tel Aviv University Campus. Afternoon at leisure in Netanya — the beach, maybe?

May 9 — Leave Netanya and tour along the coast to Caesarea to see the Roman and Crusader

base somewhere in the north of Israel before visiting Megiddo (Biblical Armageddon) with its tel and water-tunnel. Enjoy a picnic for lunch and then drive to the Jordan Valley and spend a short time in Jericho before climbing the hills through the Judean Desert to reach Jerusalem. Renaissance Hotel.

May 13 — Tour the Old City of Jerusalem with the Jewish Quarter, Western Wall, Herodian Quarter, burned house, Roman Road (Cardo) and the Temple Mount.

May 14 — Tour the new city of Jerusalem with Hadassah Hospital (perhaps plant a tree here?), Yad Vashem — the memorial to the Holocaust, the Israel Museum with the Shrine of the Book housing the Dead Sea Scrolls, and the Holyland Hotel's model of Jerusalem as it stood some 2,000 years ago. See the Knesset (Parliament) and the other major government buildings.

May 15 — Drive to the lowest point on the surface of the earth — the Dead Sea. Ascend Masada by cable car and see Herod's palaces, bath-houses, water-cisterns before descending and visiting the spa at Ein Gedi. Here there is time to float in the Dead Sea. Return to Jerusalem via Qumran — where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found in caves. Enjoy a farewell dinner before transferring to the airport.

May 16 — Arrive in New York early in the morning.

For more information about any of Premier's trips, call (314) 994-9600.

Enjoy fireworks and dancing at night to celebrate the eve of Independence Day.

ruins, then to Haifa for a panorama from the top of Mt. Carmel, around the bay to Acre with its underground Crusader Museum, before ending the day in Tiberias on the Sea of Galilee. Shabbat dinner and overnight at Jordan River Hotel.

May 10 — A day at leisure in Tiberias.

May 11 — Visit the ancient synagogue at Capernaum before ascending to the Golan Heights to see the pre-1967 Syrian bunkers. Cross the foothills of Mt. Hermon before reaching the Lebanese border and visit the "Good Fence" crossing. Enjoy a jeep ride in the Galilee. Drive to Safed in the hills and visit the ancient town with its small synagogues and artists' quarter. Return to Tiberias for dinner and overnight. Enjoy fireworks and dancing at night to celebrate the eve of Independence Day (Yom Ha'atzmaut).

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# GETAWAY

## Why Not Get Away to South County?

*There's a Lot Going  
On Down South*

**Through February** — A "Teddy Bears Picnic," an annual display of antique and contemporary teddy bears gathered for a holiday party, will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesdays through Sundays at the Fantastic Umbrella Factory, 4820 Old Post Road, Charlestown (364-6616).

**Through February** — Yawgoo Valley ski programs for all ages and levels will go on for five weeks at Yawgoo Valley Ski Area and Water Park, off Route 2, Exeter (294-3802).

**Through Feb. 17** — URI Fine Arts exhibit: daily 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., new paintings by Robert Dilworth, Corridor Gallery, URI Fine Arts Center, Kingston (874-2775).

**Through Feb. 21** — South County Center for the Arts exhibit: Wed. to Fri. 10 to 2, Sat. 1 to 5. Alicia Atkinson Waterston, a retrospective exhibit of her paint-

ing island census at Samuel Peckham's, on Block Island. For information, call 466-2982.

**Feb. 5** — Westerly Arts Night: 5 to 8 p.m., the first Wednesday of every month, when many of the art studios and galleries are open to the public including the Hoxie Gallery at the Westerly Public Library, Woody's Cafe, Artist Co-op, Classic Framers & Lowell Rieland. At the Hoxie, students of Russel Neagle, (Feb. 5 to 28); at Artists' Coop: Winter Themes (Feb. 1 to 22). Westerly, (596-2877).

**Feb. 8 to March 8** — Hera Gallery exhibit: Tues. to Fri. noon to 3 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Children's and Young Adults' exhibition. Storytelling and party for children Feb. 8 at 10 a.m., 327 Main St., Wakefield (789-1488).

**Feb. 9** — 4th Annual Firefighters Race: Rhode Island firefighters compete against each other in a fun race, complete with fire-gear and hoses!

All-Media Show and Sale, Part 1 (A-H). One entry per member, judged, ribbons awarded. Registration on Feb. 12 and 13, 36 Beach St., Wickford (294-6840).

**Feb. 15** — Mid-winter Eastern Surfing Association championships: 9:30 a.m. (on call), Narragansett Town Beach, Ocean Road, Narragansett (789-1954).

**Feb. 16** — URI Artist Series — "A Box of Suites," 3 p.m., performance by Donald Rankin, pianist, with Ronald Lee directing. Fine Arts Center Recital Hall, URI, Route 138, Kingston (874-2431).

**Feb. 17** — Animal Tracks: 11 a.m. WPWA naturalist Denise Burgess will show children and adults how to look for signs of wildlife at the Ben Utter Trail on Presidents day. Meet in the Arcadia Management Parking Area on the north side of Route 165, Exeter. Call Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association to register (539-9017).

**Feb. 18 to 20** — Children's Vacation Series at the Museum of Primitive Art and Culture: American Power Conversion's Vacation Program Series for Children includes activities to entice your child into learning about the past. Call the museum for details (783-5711), 1058 Kingston Road, Peace Dale.

**Feb. 21 to March 24** — URI Fine Arts exhibit: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Computer Prints by Sheri Wills, Corridor Gallery, URI Fine Arts Center, Kingston (874-2775).

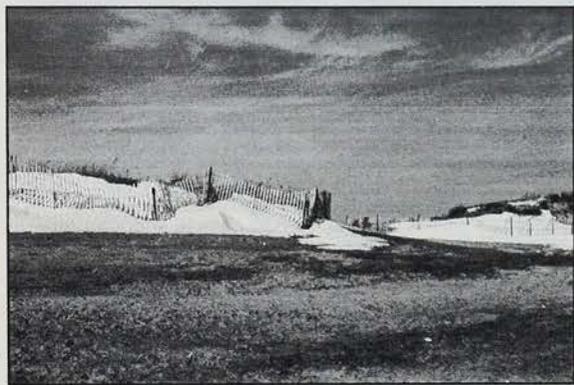
**Feb. 22** — Special Winter Olympic Games at Yawgoo Valley: The winter games of the Special Olympics will be held at Yawgoo Valley Ski Area, off Route 2, Exeter (294-3802).

**Feb. 23** — URI Concert Series: 3 p.m. Performance by the URI Wind Ensemble and Percussion Ensemble, with Gene Pollart and Ronald Stabile directing. Fine Arts Center Recital Hall, URI, Route 138, Kingston (874-2431).

**Feb. 27 to 28 and March 1** — URI Theatre, "Lizzie Borden in the Late Afternoon," Feb. 27 and 28, 8 p.m.; March 1, 2 p.m. Written by Cather MacCullum, based on a short story by Robert Henson. Call for tickets and info (874-5843), Fine Arts Center, URI, Route 138, Kingston.

**Feb. 28 to March 13** — Wickford Art Association Gallery exhibit: Tues. to Sat. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Sun. noon to 3 p.m. Member All-Media Show and Sale, Part 2 (I-Z). One entry per member, judged, ribbons awarded. Registration on Feb. 26 and 27, 36 Beach St., Wickford (294-6840).

(Ed. note: And after that — spring!)



**SURE, THE BEACHES are beautiful, but there's more to South County than sun, sand and surf.** Photo by Alison Smith

ings. 3501 Kingstown Road, Route 138, Kingston (782-1018).

**Through March 8** — URI Fine Arts Gallery exhibit: Tues. to Fri. 12 to 4 and 7:30 to 9:30, Sat. 1 to 4. "Al Loving in the Nineties: the collaged works." A special exhibition featuring the exciting new wallworks of this seasoned, Detroit-born, African-American abstract artist. A public conversation with Loving is planned for Jan. 28, 4:30 p.m., Fine Arts Center, Room A207. URI, Kingston (874-2775).

**Jan. 23 to March 1** — URI Fine Arts exhibit: Tues. to Friday, 12 to 4, Sat. 1 to 4. "Nan Goldin." Examples of the arresting documentary photography by a leading American photographer. Goldin's work dominated the 1996 Whitney Museum of American Art's biennial exhibition, and that museum will present a retrospective of her work this coming year. URI Photography Gallery, Fine Arts Center, Kingston (874-2775).

**Jan. 31 to Feb. 12** — Wickford Art Association gallery exhibit: Tues. to Sat. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Sun. noon to 3 p.m. Member photography show and sale. One entry per member, judged, ribbons awarded, 36 Beach St., Wickford (294-6840).

**Feb. 2** — Ground Hog Day party: winter party and

Yawgoo Valley Ski Area, off Route 2, Exeter (294-3802).

**Feb. 11** — URI Concerto Concert: 7:30 p.m., featuring the URI Symphony Orchestra and Soloists, Ann Danis directing. Fine Arts Center Recital Hall, Route 138, Kingston (874-2343).

**Feb. 13 to 15 and 19 to 22** — URI Theatre — "The Mousetrap," 8 p.m., written by Agatha Christie, performed by the URI theater department. Call for tickets and info (874-5843), Fine Arts Center, URI Route 138, Kingston.

**Feb. 13 to March 1** — South County Art Association exhibit: Wed. to Sun. 1 to 4 p.m., Art From the Workshops, South County Art Association Helme House Gallery, 2587 Kingstown Road, (Route 138), Kingston (783-2195).

**Feb. 14 to 26** — Wickford Art Association Gallery exhibit: Tues. to Sat. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Sun. noon to 3 p.m. Member

## Dig-Study-Tour Programs Available

Adventure-minded travelers will have the opportunity to unearth ancient antiquities and journey to historic sites across the Middle East as participants in the 1997 programs offered through the Israel Archaeological Society.

Destinations for this year's programs, which range in length from one to six weeks, include archaeological digs in Jerusalem and Amman, and explorations throughout Israel, Syria, Jordan and Egypt, as well as a three-day luxury cruise down the Nile River.

Flexible program schedules between June 20 and Aug. 1, offer travelers their choice of departure dates and itineraries. No prior archaeological experience is necessary.

"We have assembled an itinerary for 1997 that combines archaeological excavations at sites of great historical significance in Jerusalem and Amman with journeys that immerse us in the many wonders of the Bronze, Roman, Semitic and Christian eras," said Arthur D. Greenberg, executive director of the Israel Archaeological Society.

"This is a trip of great contrasts. In Israel, for example, we'll walk in the steps of King David... and in Egypt we will see the

Pharaoh's sphinx and pyramids."

The society will take part in archaeological excavations under the auspices of the Israel Antiquities Authority and the Jordanian department of antiquities.

Professional staff archaeologists and scholars from Israel and the United States will be available to provide instruction and extrapolate relevant finds.

Academic credits are available through Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

Society participants in the excavations will dig early in the day, leaving afternoons and evenings available for relaxation, sightseeing and cultural pursuits in Jerusalem and Amman.

The society carefully instructs the participants on how to travel lightly and easily through the Middle East, in good health.

Prices for the 1997 summer program range from \$1,095 to \$4,875, plus round-trip air fare for the one- to six-week programs. Accommodations are in comfortable hotel rooms, with private bath, ground transportation and most meals included.

Full itineraries and information can be obtained by contacting the Israel Archaeological Society at (800) 477-2358 or by faxing requests to (310) 476-6259.

## Beersheba is Phenomenal

by Dorothy Ann Wiener  
Wiener Travel

Beersheba, the Negev's capital, is a growing industrial city. The Negev accounts for half of Israel's territory.

When I was there in 1965, it was mostly barren but beautiful. They had very little rain, and water was piped in. In the northwest were cattle ranches and wheat fields, and they extracted valuable minerals and chemicals from the Dead Sea. Eilat is not far from a Red Sea port.

The growth of Beersheba is

phenomenal. The new town flourished and today Beersheba has a great population and great industries. Beersheba does not brag about its industries. They like to keep their secrets.

I believe that many Russians who settled in Israel, moved to Beersheba. They have a great university and education is thriving.

What I like very much, an idea we can use in the U.S.A. is how they dealt with heat. They built shades on many streets so that one is comfortable walking around and shopping.

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## GETAWAY

### 'For Auld Lang Syne — See Scotland'

by Alison Smith  
Herald Editor

One nice thing about traveling to Scotland — they speak the language. It may take a little verbal sashaying to get some ideas across, and in some parts of Scotland the road signs are in Gaelic, but on the whole, when I asked, "Where is the ladies' room?" someone knew which way to point.

Unfortunately, the Scots have never mastered driving on the right side of the road. Or driving slowly. Or taking weather into account when driving. But they have mastered covering miles and miles of territory on single lane roads without giving each other the finger, or swearing and shouting, or running head-on into each other. It is all accomplished by the creation of "lay-bys" — small aprons on the roadside where a driver who sees another car approaching miles away can turn in and wait for the oncoming vehicle to pass. Lay-bys are also nice places to stop and catch your breath for a moment, or admire a view — but you must not stay in one very long... it will be needed by the next driver.

I don't think this business of driving on the left side of the road should prevent an American from renting a car and having a go at it him/herself. All you need is a series of good maps, and an intrepid companion who will whisper, urgently but gently, "Left... left..." as you approach a rotary traffic circle, or an intersection.

The Scots are a hospitable group, and understand that they must cut Americans some slack on the road. The last time I was in Scotland, I drove for three weeks in cities and across moors and mountains, through villages and along the shores of lochs, and never once had anyone swear at me (at least so I could hear) or shake a fist at me, or blow their horn at me. I returned the rental car to Avis intact. I did perfect the classic Italian gesture of slapping the side of my head with one hand to indicate

had a modern bathroom, a washing machine, three bedrooms, a living room, a dining room, a nicely fitted kitchen, and a fireplace.

Many prefer the cozy intimacy of B and B travel, and we have included a package deal, below, worked out for us by Michele of Liberty Travel. To rent a cottage contact the Scottish Tourist Board.

Drying clothes on the lines in back proved to be a bit of a gamble. You can have 35 different kinds of weather in one day, in Scotland. Some items, like my jeans, were hung out, brought in, hung out and brought in again probably half a dozen times before they were truly dry.

I heartily recommend this type of housing for those who like to go to bed late or very early, or for those who wish to munch on something or go for a walk late in the evening. The place is all yours. And eating costs less, a lot less, and may be more fun if you have your own kitchen and do your food shopping at the local market.

It was the first time I'd run into milk in waxed containers, piled up on the store floor with no refrigeration. The milk had been processed so it did not require cold to stay fresh. I became acquainted with peppered mackerel and native smoked salmon and lots of different canned and boxed goods, such as cereals and soups.

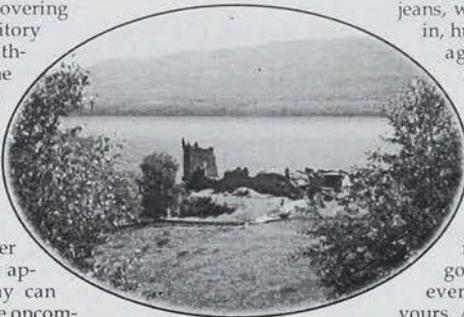
I discovered that the commonly sold teas in Scotland are more mellow and flavorful and less tannic, than the teas — even the best of them — in this country, so now our friends in Scotland always include boxes of supermarket tea whenever they send us a package.

Vegetables and fruits were not plentiful, or particularly fine, in small highland shops, but that was to be expected in a location where everything that isn't grown locally has to be trucked in once a week.

Why did we pick Scotland? Well, our roots go back to Scotland, only two or three generations ago.

And one of our daughters went back to Scotland for her university education.

And one by one, two by two, branches of the family heard the call to return. Not to stay. We are all Americans now, and strangers in what was once our own land. But even if no one in your ancestry came from Scot-



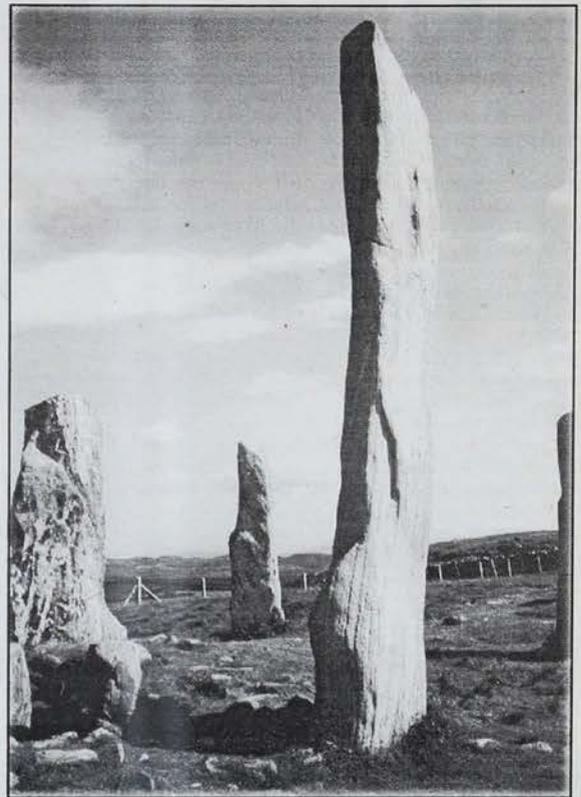
Urquhart Castle on Loch Ness, where the "monster" makes most of his appearances in the loch's blue velvet water.

Photo by Alison Smith

that I knew I'd made an awful fool of myself... it would not be necessary for the driver behind me to point that out.

When we were planning the trip, we decided to rent a house in Plockton, a very special village in the Highlands, not too far from the harbor at Kyle of Lochalsh where the ferry to Skye and the outer islands comes in.

The house was called Craiganderach. It was located on a brae — a hillside, from which we could see the rounded tops of old, old mountains miles away, from the front, and dark woods and reddish grasses from the back. Deer — tiny horned deer — browsed through the grass early and late, and a pony wandered up the front lawn now and then, and accepted Cheerios through the front window, when they were offered. The house



The weathered stones of Callanish on the Isle of Lewis are as mysterious and imposing as those at Stonehenge.

Photo by Alison Smith

land, it makes a fine destination.

The lowlands are gentle, and pastoral, and serene. Rolling hills and moors are set with lakes and rivers. Cities are quite safe,

able. At one point most of the land was cleared for the convenience of the sheep and the rich landowners to whom they belonged, so in many areas the mountains are sweeping giants clothed only in heather, broom, ferns and grass.

Tree planting, when it is done by the government, tends to create a regimented look which, we hope will pass, with time.

You can see for miles in the clear air, unless it's raining, which won't last, and only the presence of a little square white dot (actually a two-story farm house) at the foot of a far-off hillside, gives you an idea of how high that hill really is.

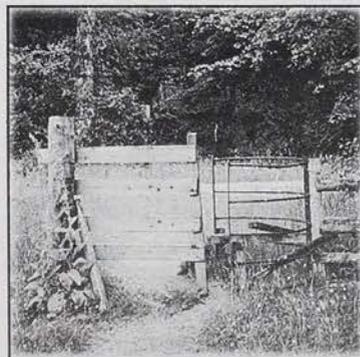
Waterfalls flash like strands of silver rain down the braes, and sheep — like flocks of tiny Q-tips, wander where they will, including across the road. Sheep have the right of way — and when you meet a flock in the road, you must stop and let them sort themselves out in the next field.

When the nights are cool, the smell of peat smoke lingers along the low roads. When the days are warm and bright, you'll see Scots cutting dark brown bricks of peat from peat moss bogs, and stacking them into neat piles to dry for the following winter.

A bright red telephone booth will probably be situated near the center of the village, under a tree perhaps. Most of the small houses will be whitewashed, and many will have African violets blooming riotously in the windows, or roses billowing all over the front yard.

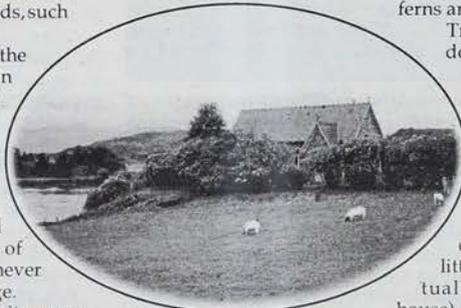
The ferries are all big, tough, and seaworthy. Anything dainty wouldn't make it through its first Scottish winter. The general rule is to arrive early for your ferry, and pull right into line.

(Continued on Page 20)



A real, working "stile," beside a country road in Plockton keeps cattle in but lets people through, one at a time.

Photo by Alison Smith



Hidden by banks of roses and rhododendrons, a cottage nestles beside the sea, on the Isle of Skye. Sheep are everywhere in the Highlands.

Photo by Alison Smith

even in the evening. The people are ready to believe the best about you, which makes a nice change from some other countries in Europe we could mention.

Scots all seem to know someone, or be related to someone, in America, so Americans are considered second cousins, once removed by the Atlantic Ocean.

The highlands are indescrib-

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# SCHOOLBEAT

## ASDS Girls' Basketball Team Wins Its Season Opener

The middle school girls' basketball team at the Ruth and Max Alperin Schechter Day School won their first game against Moses Brown, 20-14.

This is the first year that a girls' team has been organized at AlperinSchechter and the Lady Monarchs did themselves proud, with Rebekah Goldberg the high scorer of the game (8 points).



Others who got on the scoreboard included: Vicky Bronshhteyn (2), Jessica Fain (2), Limor Nevel (2), Sandy Schneider (2) and Erica Teverow (4).

Other team members participating in this first game victory included: Shirly Bar-On, Sanda Budinsky, Pam Carroll, Arielle Wachtenheim, Amanda Witman and Masha Zayas.

Their next game, third of the season, will be at Lincoln School on Jan. 27 at 3:30 p.m.

## BCC Offers Non-Credit Courses

Bristol Community College's non-credit courses cover a whole range of topics. The college offers arts and crafts courses to develop new hobbies or enhance your interests. Some of the non-credit courses still available include:

- Calligraphy I, a beginner course that will help train your eye and hand to work with any type of lettering. It includes practice with italic writing. This 10-week course begins on Feb. 3.

- Introduction to Acting will cover basic acting skills, including character development, motivation and objectives, scene work, comedy improvisation, and much more. The final presentation will be open to family and friends, and will include both improvised and scripted scenes. This 10-week course begins Feb. 6.

- Printmaking will introduce you to techniques of intaglio and relief printmaking. Materials needed before the beginning of

class include: stylus, cheese-cloth, rags, printmaking paper, 9" x 12" linoleum cut, rubber gloves, pencil, eraser, sketch pad, and tool box. This 10-week course begins Feb. 5.

- Piano for Adults II is a continuation of Piano I. The program will include chord construction, how to make your own arrangement employing four note chords and the interpretation of great piano works. The course begins Feb. 4 and last 10 weeks.

- Photography II continues Beginning Photography. Students will develop a portfolio including photograms, negative printing, selective development and other creative darkroom techniques. This 10-week course begins Feb. 6.

- Let's Make Soap will allow you to make beautiful, safe and gentle handmade herbal soap. Begin with an all-vegetable base, then add the ingredients you like. This one-day seminar will be held Feb. 15.

For a complete listing of non-credit courses, call Community Services at (508) 678-2811, ext. 2269.

## Rhode Island Bar Seeks Scholarship Applicants

Planning to attend law school? The Rhode Island Bar Foundation is seeking applications for its Thomas F. Black, Jr. Memorial Scholarship.

The bar foundation will award a scholarship of \$3,500 to a Rhode Island resident who will enroll as a first-year student in an American Bar Association-accredited law school for the academic year beginning September 1997. The scholarship is for the first year of law school only, and non-renewable.

It is awarded on the basis of scholastic achievement, financial need and good character.

The application deadline is March 14, 1997. For application forms, call the foundation at 421-6541 or write to the office at 115 Cedar St., Providence, RI 02903.

In the past eight years, the bar foundation has awarded \$39,500 to law students.

The Rhode Island Bar Foundation is the charitable arm of the Rhode Island Bar Association.

 **Look for our camp issue next week.**

## URI to Run International Quality Standards Institute

The University of Rhode Island's Graduate Professional Center will conduct an institute starting Jan. 29 for executives and managers on meeting international quality standards.

To be held at URI's Providence Center, 80 Washington St., the 40-hour program will run through April 16.

The Executive Overview, set for Jan. 29 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., is free and open to chief executive officers and other top managers, even if they aren't registered for the entire program.

Entitled "The Quality Institute: ISO (International Standards of Operation) 9000," the course is sponsored by RACE for Quality Management and URI's College of Business Administration.

The program is designed for executives, operations managers, engineering, purchasing human resource, marketing, research and development and quality assurance personnel.

URI's College of Continuing Education in Providence has worked with members of the

Rhode Island business community to offer this practitioner-led program in ISO 9000 standards and procedures.

The fee for the entire program is \$1,800 per company and the schedule is as follows:

- Part I, the Executive Overview, Jan. 29, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. (free).

- Part II, ISO Program Basics, Feb. 5, 7 to 9:45 p.m.

- Part III, 20 Standard ISO 9000 Elements, Feb. 12 to April 9, 7 to 9:45 p.m.

- Part IV, Auditing/GAP Assessment Follow-up Session, April 16, 7 to 9:45 p.m.

The Graduate Professional Center is currently offering other professional development seminars, including customized programs that can be offered at URI's Providence Center or at the work site. For information, call 277-5054.

## Brown to Host Regional Science Bowl

The division of engineering at Brown University will again host the Southern New England Regional Science Bowl to be held on Feb. 1 from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. in the Barus & Holley Building, room 166.

This year's competition will include 30 local area high schools. It is made possible by the Foxboro Company and the U.S. Department of Energy. Admission is free and the public is welcome. For more information, contact Erin Sullivan of the Boston regional office of DOE at (617) 565-9700.

## Art Scholarships Offered

Applications are now being accepted for arts-related scholarships to be awarded by the Community Outreach Committee of the Providence Performing Arts Center. Students residing in Providence and aged 11 to 14 by June 1, are eligible. All applications must be received by Feb. 14 at the offices of the PPAC.

Interested students should make inquiries through the arts department of their school, and educators may call 421-2997 for more information.

The purpose of the scholarships is to provide financial assistance for qualified and talented students to attend local, summer arts education programs.

Several summer programs for the study of performing arts, dance, music, and visual arts have been selected and students are asked to indicate a specific program when applying.

A panel of independent judges will assess all applications and announce scholarship awards this spring for programs during the summer of 1997.

## \$17.50 Student Tickets Available for 'Miss Saigon'

As a special offer to South-eastern New England students, Providence Performing Arts Center is making \$17.50 student tickets available for selected performances of the musical "Miss Saigon."

By presenting valid identification at the PPAC box office, students can purchase up to four tickets for only \$17.50 each, including a \$1.50 per ticket renovation fee. These student tickets are available for all performances, except Friday and Saturday evenings, and are available only for second balcony seating. Call 421-ARTS for more information.

## Nominations Sought for 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 seek 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 America Program at 874-5527.

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# FEATURE

## For the Record — The Women's Record

by Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK (JTA) — Long before there were cameras, a woman known by the single name of Gluckel lived in Hameln, Germany, and gave the world seven volumes filled with clear pictures of life in her time.

She wrote of her and her husband's business dealings, her children and their spouses, of petty fighting among her community's wealthy leaders, and of the wisdom she accumulated in 44 years of a life lived fully.

What she penned of her world was invaluable for the light it shed on the life of a Jewish woman of her time.

That was 300 years ago and few women since have committed to paper the details of their daily lives.

The papers, publications and artifacts that women leave in their wake, the material that gives enduring testimony to the contributions made by their lives is scattered, inaccessible and, in most cases, lost forever.

While feminism and the advent of religious egalitarianism have led to a recent explosion of publications exploring new women's rituals, interpretations of the Bible and Jewish theology, little has been done to preserve information about Jewish women's contributions to social history — both Jewish and American.

Gail Twersky Reimer wants to change that so she has founded the Jewish Women's Archives.

Until now, "not a single Jewish archive has been dedicated to collecting the record of Jewish women's lives," said Reimer, co-author of *Reading Ruth: Contemporary Women Reclaim a Sacred Story* and author of the forthcoming *Beginning Anew: A Woman's Companion to the High Holidays*.

"The stuff remains buried," she said. "As a result, we have very little sense of the history of Jewish women and the impact they've made. Men say all the time, 'Who are the Jewish women?' No one can name anyone but Golda Meir."

The archive now consists of a two-person staff in Boston and a board of directors in formation, which met for the first time in November and is in the process of defining its strategy.

The archive has already raised \$250,000, and the final touches are being put on an agreement that will give it a

seven-figure challenge grant, Reimer said.

While Reimer has scheduled a small invitational conference next June to work out the archive's long-term strategy, the nascent institution has already decided to focus on documents from and about North American Jewish women of the 20th century.

"Men say all the time, 'Who are the Jewish women?' No one can name anyone but Golda Meir."

Gail Reimer

The first step will be to develop what she calls a "virtual archive," providing access to materials about Jewish women. Those materials are now sitting in hundreds of widely dispersed family attics, local historical societies, community and college archives and national institutions.

"We want to make sure that the material is being collected, and that it's accessible," Reimer said. "Our role will be to create a database that enables people to know where all the material on Jewish women is located."

Eventually, she said, actual documents will be scanned into digital form so that someone sitting at a computer anywhere in the world will be able to access them.

The archive also plans to find a physical space, so it can decide whether to begin its own collections, and so that it can be a physical center for scholarship, research and program development.

A building is also important because it "grants a presence to women that nothing else can," said Reimer.

"The Jewish community has built institutions" devoted to collecting this information, she said. "Now it's time for us to build one that will allow us to not forget half of our history, half of the Jews who have perished, because we have no documentation."

Adult bat mitzvah sermons are an example of the type of document Reimer wants to see preserved.

Adult women becoming bat mitzvah is a phenomenon bound to die out in the space of a single generation, because to-

day even Orthodox girls formally celebrate the rite of passage at an early age.

And though the Jewish Women's Archives is not yet encouraging anyone to think of it as a repository for documents, some people — from author Esther Broner to women looking for a place to send their grandmothers' diaries — have already expressed interest in preserving their material at the archive.

The Jewish Women's Archives was invited to be part of the new Center for Jewish History, which is bringing together under one Manhattan roof YIVO, the Institute for Jewish Research, Leo Baeck Institute, the American Jewish Historical Society and Yeshiva University Museum.

But Reimer said the Jewish Women's Archives was wary of being swallowed up by such giants as they work out the internal politics of merging together, Reimer said.

"There's potential for us getting lost at the Center for Jewish History," she said, adding that she is glad that there is an open invitation to join down the road.

JWA has already sponsored one academic conference and is planning more, on the contributions of Jewish women to various endeavors and, with Ma'ayan, New York's Jewish feminist center, is working to

add a Jewish component to women's history month.

National Women's History Month is in March. This year, synagogues, day schools and Jewish community centers will receive three posters, each featuring a Jewish woman who made important contributions to history.

Gluckel of Hameln, Henrietta Szold, who established Hadassah, and Rose "Schneiderman, a labor activist, are the first three women to get posters of their own.

The idea for the archive was born two years ago, after Reimer published *Reading Ruth*, which explores women's perspectives of the biblical story of Judaism's first convert.

She approached Wellesley and Brandeis, and they gave her seed money to research the project's viability. During most of 1995, a committee of faculty and administrators from both colleges — one devoted to women and the other primarily to Jews — explored whether they could jointly own the Jewish Women's Archives.

It soon became clear that friction over turf issues would preclude that, Reimer said.

Then the Dobkin Family Foundation donated \$25,000 to further the project. A few months ago, Reimer left her job

as associate director of the Massachusetts State Humanities Foundation to devote herself full time to creating the Jewish Women's Archives.

Reimer is motivated by a concern about continuity as well as by an ideological and philosophical commitment to preserving history.

She wants her two daughters, who are 12 and 17, to see material about Jewish women on the walls of their day school.

"If we don't make them feel positive, they'll go elsewhere."

Gail Reimer

Their self-perception as Jewish women will be a result, in large measure, "of what's in history books and the school's curriculum."

"If we want to keep Jewish girls involved, we need to make them feel positive about what they have to contribute as Jewish women to Jewish culture."

"If we don't make them feel positive, they'll go elsewhere," Reimer said. "We saw it in previous generations and we'll see it again unless we do something about it."

## Tu B'Shevat Seder Planned to Save Old Redwood Forest

by Lesley Pearl  
Jewish Bulletin of  
Northern California

SAN FRANCISCO (JTA) — The Headwaters forest in northern California is home to old-growth redwood trees — some measuring 26 feet in circumference and 250 feet tall — and a number of endangered species, including the marbled murrelet, the northern spotted owl and the coho salmon.

On Jan. 26, the forest's animal inhabitants will share their home temporarily with 250 Jews celebrating Tu B'Shevat, the new year of the trees. Rabbi Margaret Holub of the Mendocino Coast Jewish Community, Rabbi Lester Scharnberg of Temple Beth El in Eureka and student rabbi Naomi Steinberg of Congregation B'nai Ha-Aretz in Garberville will lead a seder incorporating wine, fruits and nuts in a nearby public grove.

They will be joined by Jewish Renewal leader Rabbi Arthur Waskow of the Shalom Center in Philadelphia.

As an act of political and environmental consciousness, the group will plant saplings on the nearby property of timber-com-

pany owner Charles Hurwitz.

"G-d created the world and we are partners with G-d in keeping creation going and sustaining it," said Ilana Schatz, outreach coordinator for the seder. "It's our responsibility to make sure trees thousands of years old aren't cut down. It's our covenant with G-d."

"Tu B'Shevat is the holiday when you plant trees and help keep them alive."

Ilana Schatz

"Tu B'Shevat is the holiday when you plant trees and help keep them alive."

For nearly 10 years, environmental advocates and forestry officials have been battling Hurwitz, a Houston Jew and the owner of Maxxam Inc. — the parent company of Pacific Lumber — and the owner of the disputed Headwaters forest and other redwood groves in the area.

Since purchasing Pacific Lumber, a company known for its environmentally sound practices, Hurwitz has tripled the tree-harvesting rate and vowed that the land would be clear by the year 2006.

The struggle over the Headwaters forest heated up this fall when the federal government stepped in and engineered a deal through which Hurwitz will receive \$380 million in cash or trade in exchange for two of the six ancient groves of the 60,000-acre Headwaters forest, which is southeast of Eureka.

The deal is contingent upon government approval of a "Habitat Conservation Plan" that is being written by Pacific Lumber and is due to be released in late January.

Activists fear the plan "won't protect the trees or the endangered species," Holub said. But the seder "has you do things which you hope will move G-d to preserve the trees."

Seder participants will drink four cups of wine — first white, then white mixed with some red, then half white and half red and finally pure red. They will eat nuts and fruits with hard coverings, such as oranges; fruits with pits on the inside, such as dates; and fruits that one can bite all the way through.

"The seder is solemn and intense. It's like sympathetic magic," Holub said. "This is a day of prayer in the natural world."

After the seder, participants will move to Hurwitz's land to plant saplings — "redwoods, or something which helps prevent erosion," Holub said.

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## Israeli Programs Help Families Overcome Scourge of Child Abuse

by Michele Chabin

JERUSALEM (JTA) — For years, Maya Cohen was seized with sudden, uncontrollable fits of rage when one of her children, who are hyperactive, spilled a glass of milk or refused to turn in at bedtime.

"I was under pressure, so much pressure, and sometimes I beat them," admitted Cohen, whose name has been changed to ensure privacy.

Sitting in the living room of her modest apartment, she added, "I didn't know what to do, I didn't know what was wrong with my kids. I cried all

"People just couldn't accept the fact that Jewish parents can abuse their children."

the time, I was a nervous wreck. It was a horrible situation."

It was not until Cohen was charged with assaulting an adult that she and her children received the help they so desperately needed.

Sitting before a judge in family court soon after her arrest, Cohen made a decision: "I told the judge that I was a bad mother, an abusive mother, and that he should take the kids away from me. They needed help, my husband and I needed help, and I saw this as the only way."

Although Cohen displayed courage by admitting her abuse, many Israeli parents who beat or neglect their children never come to the attention of Israel's overburdened social welfare system.

"For every case of child abuse that's reported in this country, we estimate that three times as many cases go unreported," said Yitzhak Kadman, executive director of the National Council for the Child.

In 1995, authorities in Israel handled 20,000 new cases of child abuse. Some of those cases involved severe neglect.

Although the figures for 1996 are not yet available, Kadman suspected that the numbers will be comparable.

Long a taboo subject in Israeli society, child abuse "has been slowly let out of the closet," said Hana Katz, director of Children at Risk programs at the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee in Israel.

"Israelis have always attached a great stigma to child abuse. Until just a few years ago, the society was in denial. People just couldn't accept the fact that Jewish parents can abuse their children."

The turning point, experts agree, came in 1989, the year Israel introduced a mandatory reporting law requiring social workers, teachers and others suspecting abuse to report such cases to their local municipalities.

The legislation was instituted after the Israeli media devoted an uncharacteristically large

amount of attention in the late 1980s to the case of an abused child.

A series of graphic news reports at the time encouraged a nationwide debate and ultimately shocked Israelis into action.

Not all reports of suspected abuse lead to remedial action, however.

Although follow-up investigations reveal no wrongdoing in about half of all reported cases, "It's always, always better to be safe than sorry," said Frada Feigelson, director of the Schusterman Center for Children at Risk and their Families in Jerusalem.

"We once had a case where the parents divorced and the mother remarried. When the children visited a family member, they related how their stepfather had abused them.

"This turned out not to be true, but the social workers saw children under severe stress, feeling torn between the two parents. One of the children was almost on the verge of a breakdown. The intervention came just in time."

Although there are several risk factors that can contribute to the probability that a parent will become abusive, "it is a mistake to think that abusers belong to a specific strata of society," said Kadman. "We find abuse in all kinds of settings: in town, kibbutzim, in religious and secular homes, rich and poor, Sephardi, Ashkenazi."

Instead of targeting a specific segment of the population as potential abusers, Kadman said, "we determine whether the family is under considerable stress. Has there been a divorce or separation, are there financial problems?"

The fact that poor and new immigrant families have a higher-than-average rate of abuse may be due to increased stress, Kadman said. In addition, however, these families are often connected to the social welfare network, and are therefore more likely to be observed by professionals, he said.

Contrary to popular Israeli belief, "it's simply not true that olim (immigrants) have a higher abuse rate because they come from Third World countries," he said.

"Immigrant families are in a particularly high state of flux — cultural, economic, they must learn a new language, find jobs — and that is the reason that most of the reported cases [of abuse] come within the first two

to three years of a family's arrival in Israel."

Lest anyone doubt that child abuse afflicts every segment of Israeli society, a visit to one of the country's six children's shelters — including one for Israeli Arabs — proves the point.

At the Schusterman Center in Jerusalem, up to 15 children from every imaginable background spend up to three months as boarders. Hundreds more receive outpatient evaluation and counseling throughout the year.

While the children seem ordinary enough at first glance, the slightest thing can precipitate a violent temper tantrum.

Rather than allow the children to hurt themselves or others, they are placed in one of the center's "soft rooms." Here, amid rubber toys and matted floors, the children can safely vent their anger.

For the center's work to be effective, parents, too, must overcome their anger, Feigelson said.

When Maya Cohen's children were placed at

"We find abuse in all kinds of settings: in town, kibbutzim, in religious and secular homes, rich and poor, Sephardi, Ashkenazi."

Yitzhak Kadman

Schusterman she and her husband were encouraged to seek counseling. The children have since returned home.

The therapy also extended to the carefully supervised visits they had with their children, during which they were taught a wide variety of communication and parenting skills.

After this kind of intervention, more than 50 percent of abused children are eventually returned to their parents.

The remainder are placed in boarding schools, foster homes or, in rare instances, put up for adoption.

The Cohens are one of the system's success stories.

"The counseling I received helped me find the courage to leave a marriage that wasn't working and to move to the city," she said. "The people at the center taught me how to improve my parenting skills, how to communicate with my kids."



### Tracing Deep Roots

Technion-Israel Institute of Technology Professor Dr. Karl Skorecki found that modern-day Jewish men with variations of the surname Cohen are linked through their Y-chromosomes to the first Jewish priest, the Aaron of the Bible. His joint study with researchers from Canada, England and the United States was recently published in the *New York Times* and the journal *Nature*.

## UAHC Publishes Tot Shabbat

*Tot Shabbat*, Camille Kress's bedtime book for toddlers, will be published by the Union of American Hebrew Congregations Press in March. Jewish children's literature emphasizes annual holidays, often neglecting the weekly Sabbath and spirituality. This book will, it is hoped, fill that gap.

This board book contains six watercolors of a family preparing for Shabbat. Each illustration centers on a symbol of Shabbat — candlesticks, challah, and a Kiddush cup — and a symbol of home: a house, a family, and a child's own bed.

The inspiration for this new

book came from a Tot Shabbat service at Temple Emanu-El in Dallas, Texas, where Kress's own little boy became restless and started pulling at the children's *Gates of Prayer*. Kress created the colorful drawings and story on cardboard so her son could learn about the Sabbath and not rip the pages.

Copies of *Tot Shabbat* are available at bookstores, and from the UAHC Press for \$5.95 plus \$1 shipping and handling. Send checks payable to the UAHC Press, 838 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10021 or order by calling toll free (888) 489-UAHC (8242).

### It's Time for the Ox

The Lazy Sunday Series at Books on the Square (331-9097) will continue on Jan. 26, from 2 to 3 p.m. when Sharon Ahern tells stories and demonstrates some crafts associated with the Chinese New Year.

The next year will be the Year of the Ox for the Chinese.



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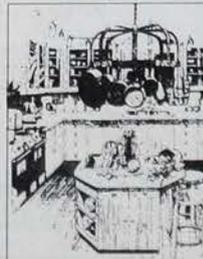
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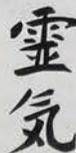
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# WORLD AND NATIONAL NEWS

## Scientific Discovery

by Debra Nussbaum Cohen

This week we also carry the picture of a Technion scientist and the story of that institute's work on the genetics of the Kohanim line. This article focuses on the work, and questions, of another scientist Michael Hammer.

NEW YORK (JTA) — A scientific discovery of what could be called the "Kohen chromosome" might have religious implications that the scientists themselves never anticipated.

After about four years of work, Michael Hammer, a geneticist who works at the University of Arizona at Tucson, and Karl Skorecki, a scientist based at Haifa's Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, found that the Jewish priestly lineage can be genetically traced back to the progenitor of all Kohanim, the biblical Aaron.

The lineage is visible in two markers on the Y chromosome that is transmitted from father to son.

Hammer warned, however, that the research is not complete, and that only 20 percent of the men who might be descendants of Aaron had those particular markers.

Since the findings were published in the London-based scientific journal *Nature* and were picked up in *The Jerusalem Post*, Skorecki has been inundated with phone calls by Orthodox Jews in Israel who want to be tested to prove scientifically that they are descendants of Aaron, Hammer said in a telephone interview.

In the time of Israel's First and Second temples, the priests, or Kohanim, had special religious responsibilities for performing holy rites at the site where G-d was believed to be made manifest.

Since the destruction of the Second Temple, in 70 C.E., the priests' role has become transformed into one that is purely ceremonial, with special blessings recited by those of the priestly class during worship

**A Kohen may not marry a woman who has been divorced, and may not go near a dead body or into a cemetery.**

services.

According to an Orthodox interpretation of Jewish law, a Kohen may not marry a woman who has been divorced, and may not go near a dead body or into a cemetery.

And some rabbis have expressed concern that the genetic testing could be used to define who is and who is not a Kohen.

"That is a far-out possibility," though not inconceivable, said Orthodox Rabbi Irving Greenberg, who is himself a Kohen.

Hammer, an unaffiliated Jew whose most recent religious connection has been with the Indian

guru Sri Chinmoy, said he pursued locating the Kohen chromosome for historical, scientific reasons rather than piety.

"I do worry a little about what the potential use of this is," he said.

"I worry mainly about misinterpretation of our findings at this point, that someone may be thinking that they can apply it for a specific purpose."

As a result of the unanticipated potential religious implications, the pair of scientists is uncertain of how far they may take their research.

"We're in a dilemma," Hammer said.

"We can't prove or disprove very easily if someone is a Kohen from this data. Do we want to? If we don't, will somebody else come along, a genetic testing company, and do it, or would the Orthodox rabbinate hire some company to do it for them? Are we in a situation where someone could patent this as a genetic test?"

Is the ability to obtain the information "good or not good?" Hammer asked, rhetorically.

"This is very troublesome and worrisome. How far do we want to take this project scientifically? What are the implications ethically?"

"It's up to the scientists to say what can and cannot be determined at this point," he said, but "the ethical issues are up to the rabbinate, or whoever's in charge of those rules and laws and things."

## Labor Party Decides to Limit Who Can Select New Chairman

by David Landau

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Ehud Barak, the frontrunner for the Labor Party leadership, has won important support for his proposal on how the party's chairman should be chosen.

His proposal was approved at a meeting of the Labor Party Congress, which voted down another motion submitted by Haim Ramon, another contender for the party leadership.

Ramon told the session that he would likely not run against Barak when the leadership contest is held in June.

Under Barak's proposal, only paid-up party members would be entitled to vote for the leader in the June primaries.

Ramon had wanted open primaries in which any Israeli citizen who was not a registered member of another political party could vote.

The candidates for the Labor Party leadership who have formally thrown their hats into the ring are Barak, a former Israel Defense force chief of staff who served as foreign minister in the 1995 to 1996 government of Prime Minister Shimon Peres; Yossi Beilin, a longtime Peres acolyte who served as minister without portfolio in the previous government; and Ephraim Sneh, a doctor and former brigadier general who was minister of health in the Peres government.

First-time Labor Knesset member Shlomo Ben-Ami, a history professor and former ambassador to Spain, is also considering running.

Peres has said he would not seek the party leadership, but has left open the possibility that he would serve in a leading role if a national unity government were formed this year.

Barak maintains that the result of the primary would be unaffected by the voting system chosen.

Ramon, however, claimed that a "closed primary" reserved for party members only would be heavily influenced by the 30,000 to 40,000 party machine officials.

He said an open primary would test candidates' strength among the broader public — and thereby better approximate the fight against Netanyahu for the premiership in the year 2000.

Ramon was jeered as he strode to the rostrum, where he delivered a withering attack on Barak.

Ramon portrayed Barak as a captive of the machined politicians who, he said, were the most conservative and reactionary element in Labor.

## Bar Ilan Street Still a Thorny Issue

by Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israel's High Court of Justice has asked the nation's transportation minister to consider a compromise on Shabbat travel on Bar Ilan Street, which cuts through religious neighborhoods.

An expanded panel of seven justices has suggested closing Bar Ilan Street during prayer times on the Sabbath. In exchange, the court said, another street would be open to link the main entrance to the city with the northern neighborhoods.

Transportation minister Yitzhak Levy will give his decision in 10 days. Until then, the street will remain open on Shabbat.

Shabbat traffic on Bar Ilan has led to a series of often-violent demonstrations. Fervently Orthodox Jews want the street closed for the Sabbath; secular Israelis view its closure as an infringement on their freedoms.

Petitioner Lior Horev said Levy would close Bar Ilan during Sabbath prayer times, as the committee had recommended.

But, according to Horev, Levy would not fulfill the committee's other stipulation: that public transportation be provided on the Sabbath.

Horev said he and other secular petitioners accepted the justices' recommendation in principle. But they have additional conditions, Horev said.

"We want to know that no other roads [in the capital] will be closed in the future," Horev told Israel Radio.

Horev also said the petitioners wanted assurances that no further violence would result.

Over the weekend, some 150 fervently Orthodox Jews protested Sabbath travel. Two men were detained after being accused of damaging a police van.

Representatives of the fervently Orthodox community said they would not accept the court's compromise. "We will not agree to any Sabbath violations, on any road," Yehuda Meshi Zahav told Israel Radio. "There is no [fervently Orthodox] Jew who will agree to open the road in exchange for closing another one."

## Israeli Firms Dramatically Increase Global Investments

NEW YORK (JTA) — International investments by Israeli firms increased by more than 60 percent during the first nine months of 1996, compared with the same period in 1995, according to the Israel Export Institute.

Israeli firms made \$860 million in foreign investments during that nine-month period in 1996.

The purchase by Israeli firms of companies abroad — specifically in the pharmaceutical and software sectors — was primarily

responsible for the increase.

Industrial firms carried out about two-thirds of the investments.

The largest sectors investing outside the Jewish state were chemicals, trade and service firms, and electronics.

Meanwhile, Israeli companies raised about \$2.1 billion of capital in foreign financial markets in 1996, according to the Israeli daily *Ma'ariv*. The firms raised \$1.9 billion through share offerings in the United States,

\$930 million through bond offerings and \$45 million through share offerings in London.

In other economic news, the Israeli shekel weakened slightly against the dollar, but rose against the basket of key foreign currencies after the rise of the dollar against the mark, dealers said.

Dealers attributed the shekel's recent strength, however, to an upsurge in foreign currency-linked borrowing by the Israeli business sector.

## Annual Inflation Rate for 1996 Was 10.6 Percent

Following the publication of an 0.8 percent price increase in December, Israeli inflation figures for 1996 finished at an annual rate of 10.6, *Ha'aretz* reported.

The figure exceeds the target of 8 to 10 percent set for last year, and the previous year's mark of 8.1 percent.

In the second half of 1996, inflation slowed significantly. Bank of Israel Gov. Professor Jacob Frenkel attributed the decrease to the monetary policy of the central bank.

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# WORLD AND NATIONAL NEWS

## There Were Treasures In The Synagogue Attic

by Daniella Ashkenazy  
Ask the average Jew if he's ever heard of the Dead Sea Scrolls — discovered 50 years ago. Chances are good that the response will be, "Of course." Though specially enshrined in Jerusalem, from an historic perspective, the Dead Sea Scrolls shed light primarily on what is but an esoteric sect and marginal episode in the stream of Jewish existence.

But ask the average Jew if he's ever heard of the Cairo Geniza uncovered 100 years ago, and chances are that he will merely shrug his shoulders.

The Geniza is a treasure house of information far more important, from a Jewish standpoint, than the Dead Sea Scrolls, says Professor Mordechai Akiva Friedman, a world-renowned Jewish scholar and the man in charge of Cairo Geniza studies at Tel Aviv University.

The tens of thousands of documents recovered from the Cairo Geniza 100 years ago shed light on mainstream Jewish life and society during a period that had long remained in the dark due to scanty documentation: the Middle Ages among Jews of the East.

The Cairo Geniza is not an archive, designed to preserve documents. It was a "receptacle" for unwanted writings penned during the Middle Ages in Hebrew or Arabic and other languages written in Hebrew characters — by, for, or in regard to, members of the Jewish community in Cairo, mostly over a period of 250 years between 1000 and 1250 CE.

At the time, it was customary to give all writing written in Hebrew script — religious or secular in content — a Jewish burial, like religious books today. Members of the Ben-Ezra Synagogue in Cairo, however, carefully collected worn-out or unwanted documents and disposed of them by literally dumping them in a special, vaulted room in the attic of the Cairo synagogue, accessible only through a hole near the ceiling.

Scholars believe the practice originated due to attacks on Jewish funeral processions. While it was imperative to bury the dead, there was no logical reason to endanger human lives just to

bury dead documents.

One hundred years ago, the value of the Cairo Geniza came to the attention of Western Jewish scholars. Solomon Schechter, later to become a founder of the Conservative Movement in America, succeeded in transferring the remains — some 130,000 fragments — to Cambridge.

Approximately 120,000 other Geniza fragments, pages and even entire manuscripts had previously found their way to other libraries and private collections around the world, mainly through Middle Eastern antiquities markets.

Papers delivered at a recent three-day "Centennial Conference" at Tel Aviv focused on the contribution of the Geniza to a host of fields — study of cultural life in post-Talmudic times in the land of Israel, Islamic history, Jewish thought, Jewish-Muslim relations, Karaite literature, Jewish inheritance laws, and the structure of the medieval eastern family — to mention but a few.

Most primary documents that survive the passage of time are rare documents connected with outstanding individuals or momentous events, but the Geniza records spoke primarily about the lives of ordinary people, most of them members of the Jewish middle class in the Middle Ages.

The Geniza was a mixed bag — literally and figuratively. The religious and secular papers are of all types and descriptions. There are notes, private correspondence, old contracts and business-related materials that span the lifetimes of individuals in the community, alongside religious manuscripts.

There are letters hand-written by Maimonides and notes taken by an anonymous rabbinical student in one of the Rambam's lessons.

There are unknown liturgical poems by the Medieval poet Yanai, an interpretation of the Bible by a Karaite Yusuf Ibn Nuh and 60 percent of a long-lost Hebrew original of a pre-Mishnaic tract called Seder Olam, responsa to a host of unusual situations.

Some of the legal documents, for instance, indicate that veil-

ing Jewish women in Middle Eastern countries was prevalent as a mark of modesty.

There are letters that add a new perspective on the life of medieval Spanish Jewish poet Yehuda HaLevi, who stopped in Cairo on his way to the Holy Land.

Yet — the Geniza contains a wealth of information about ordinary people, as well: For instance, some 70 documents related to the fortunes and misfortunes of one Abraham Ben Yiju, a Tunisian-born Jewish merchant who spent 18 years of his life in India.

The Geniza also contained what today would be considered "historical trivia" — such as a note written by a young scholar, Natanel Hashishi, who was grounded by his father, a physician. This parental house arrest was backed up with the promise of a reward of 35 dinar on the condition that the young man would stick to his studies and "not even go out to the mikvah to bath..."

The National and University Libraries recently completed compilation of a full set of microfilms of all known pages and fragments — about half in Cambridge, the rest in libraries and private collections elsewhere.

The vast majority of Geniza fragments await publication. To date there has not been funding sufficient to catalogue the fragments with any modern computerized system to facilitate matching up fragmented documents.

## Wide Gender Gap in Salaries

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The gap in salary between men and women in Israel is reportedly the largest in the Western world, according to a report from a Knesset subcommittee studying the status of women in the Jewish state.

The subcommittee is urging the government to enforce two laws previously passed by the Knesset to address the gaps.

One law calls for equal pay for men and women. The other law requires more women to be appointed to civil servant positions.

## Canadian Jews Urge Pursuit of German Veterans

by Bram Eisenthal  
MONTREAL (JTA) — Canadian Jewish leaders have reacted with indignation to reports that some 300 German veterans of World War II who now reside in Canada are receiving pensions from the German government.

"Remember these people wore the uniform of, or collaborated with, the most evil regime in humanity which sponsored mass murder and genocide," said Eric Vernon, a senior Canadian Jewish Congress official in Ottawa. "These people ought not be rewarded for that service, even 50 years later."

Some 1,800 German veterans in Canada have been receiving the equivalent of \$6,000 a year since the war ended.

Hundreds of German veterans in the United States were reported to be receiving the pensions as well, but the German government last month denied a request by the World Jewish Congress to reveal their names.

German Embassy officials in Ottawa declined to comment.

A senior Canadian Justice Department official acknowledged in an interview early in January that he had received a list of German pensioners in Canada, but said he did not have further details about their wartime records.

"The list was a list of people who received pensions, not one of war criminals," said Paul Vickery, senior counsel for the department's war crimes division. "We are not in the business of pursuing German soldiers, but rather war criminals from the World War II era."

Vickery denied a Canadian news report that he would not use information contained in the list of pensioners to pursue alleged war criminals.

"I did not say we would not use the list under any circumstances," Vickery said.

Canadian authorities have come under criticism for what Jewish leaders here say is a lack

of aggressiveness in investigating and prosecuting suspected war criminals.

"They just don't give a damn at the Canadian government level," said Bernie Farber, the CJC's national director of community relations. In government circles, Farber added, there is "a lack of fire in the belly we need from them in tracking these

"The list was a list of people who received pensions, not one of war criminals. ... We are not in the business of pursuing German soldiers."

Paul Vickery

murderers down."

An American private investigator last month handed over to Canadian authorities taped interviews he secretly made with 58 former Nazis who reside in Canada. Steven Rambam said at the time that seven of those he interviewed fully confessed that they had murdered people during the Holocaust.

Vickery said in an interview that one of the tapes he personally reviewed "contains a series of denials of involvement" in war crimes. "The balance of the tapes are being reviewed. We are not ignoring information brought to us by Mr. Rambam or anyone else."

Rambam has threatened to make public the names of those he interviewed if the Canada's Justice Department does not make use of the information by the end of February.

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# OBITUARIES

## ESTHER COHANE

PROVIDENCE — Esther Cohane, 92, of the Rosewood Manor, 140 Pitman St., died Jan. 17 at the home. She was the widow of Maurice J. Cohane.

Born in Lithuania, a daughter of the late Hyman and Eva Melnick, she had lived in Providence for 64 years.

She leaves a daughter, Rita Hoffmann of Pawtucket, and a granddaughter.

The funeral was held Jan. 17 in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. Arrangements were by the Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

## GLADYS KOSOFSKY

PROVIDENCE — Gladys Kosofsky, 85, of the Charlesgate Nursing Center, 100 Randall St., a saleswoman for the former Peerless department store for 27 years, retiring 15 years ago, died Jan. 11 at the center. She was the widow of David Kosofsky.

Born in Providence, she was a daughter of the late Samuel and Bessie (Movsovit) Levine.

She was a member of Temple Am David in Warwick. She was one of the founders of the Mothers Association of Temple Beth David when it had been on Oakland Avenue.

She leaves a daughter, Elaine Lieberman of North Providence; a son, Howard Kosofsky of Warwick; a brother, Gabriel Levine of Oakland Park, Fla.; and two grandchildren.

A graveside funeral service

was held Jan. 13 at Lincoln Park Cemetery, Post Road, Warwick. Burial followed. Service was coordinated by Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence.

## ROSE MILLER

EAST PROVIDENCE — Rose Miller, 87, of East Shore Apartments, East Shore Circle, a secretary for former Rhode Island Gov. J. Howard McGrath, died Jan. 15 at home. She was the widow of Daniel Miller.

Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Max and Esther (Prebluda) Shore, she lived in East Providence for the last 22 years, previously residing in Providence.

She attended the former Rhode Island College of Education. She also worked for the Rhode Island Department of Probation.

She was a member of Temple Emanu-El and its Sisterhood. She was a member of Hadassah, the Miriam Hospital Women's Association and the Women's Association of the Jewish Home for the Aged. She was a Miriam Hospital historian.

She leaves a son, Donald E. Miller of East Providence; a brother, Harry Shore of Jupiter, Fla.; three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. She was the mother of the late Marilyn Jacobs and sister of the late Hyman and Maurice Shore.

The funeral was held Jan. 17 at Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence. Burial was in Lincoln

Park Cemetery, Post Road, Warwick.

## DR. CLARA LOITMAN SMITH

TUCSON, Ariz. — Dr. Clara Loitman Smith died on Jan. 16, in Tucson after a brief illness. Born in 1900 in Boston, Mass., to Morris and Fannie Loitman, she was 96 years old. She graduated from Tufts Medical School in 1923 when women in medicine were extremely rare. During the next 10 years, her medical career included activities that mirror important chapters in American medical history such as riding ambulances during diphtheria epidemics in New York. The youngest of the four Loitman "girls," the late Esther Loitman Grossman of Quincy, the late Rose Lerner a practicing attorney in Boston, and the late Judge Jennie Loitman Barron, the first woman judge of the Massachusetts Superior Court, Smith was, like her sisters, active in a wide range of charitable and social activities in addition to her medical work. An early champion of women's rights, and proper care for well babies, she volunteered a great deal of her time to various area clinics.

In 1932, she married Dr. Joseph Smith of Providence, R.I., who until his death in 1966 was the Superintendent of Health of Providence. As soon as she was licensed to practice in Rhode Island, she established a limited practice that was devoted primarily to clinical work, per-

mitting her to direct most of her energies to raising her four children born between 1933 and 1940.

With many of the male doctors called into the armed services, including her own husband, Dr. Smith was forced to expand her practice. For five years, the picture of Dr. Smith driving around Providence making house calls with three or four of her young children in the car was a common sight. Between her practice, her children, and managing her household, the question was when did she sleep. The answer was she rarely did.

During the next 20 years she and her husband, known popularly as Dr. Clara and Dr. Joe, became public personalities both admired and loved. These were the years of recurring polio epidemics, and the introduction of polio vaccine that brought an end to these epidemics. In addition to her private practice, hospital and clinic work Dr. Clara was appointed the college physician of Rhode Island College

where she served until her retirement in 1976. With all of this, she also was active in many civic organizations, particularly Hadasah and the Rhode Island Lung Association, and traveled widely to Europe, Israel, Africa, and the Far East. In recognition of her extraordinary talents and achievements, she was named Rhode Island Mother of the Year in 1965.

She spent the first 13 years of her retirement in Sarasota, Fla., and then went to Washington, D.C., where she spent the next six years. In her 80s and 90s she still managed to visit the great wall in China, go on safari in Kenya and climb Mont St. Michel in France.

She is survived by her four children, Ruth Baker-Battist of Chevy Chase, Md., Deborah Weintraub of Tucson, Ariz., Professor Charles William Smith of White Plains, N.Y., and Professor David Lee Smith of Cincinnati, Ohio; 11 grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

Services were held on Jan. 19 in Canton, Mass.

## Ed Ginsberg Dies at 79

by Cleveland Jewish News  
CLEVELAND (JTA) — Edward Ginsberg, a lawyer and co-founder of the *Cleveland Jewish News*, has died. He was 79.

One of the prime movers behind world cooperation in fund-raising in Israel, and the first national chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, he built a home for himself and family in Israel, where he lived part of the year.

When asked about his theory of fund-raising, Ginsberg said, "Fund-raising is really who's the guy who asks. How good is he? What contacts does he have?"

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., and raised in Cleveland, Ginsberg

graduated from the University of Michigan and Harvard Law School.

Ginsberg was a life trustee of the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland and a past president of Anshe Chesed-Fairmount Temple.

He also was vice president of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency and a past director of El Al Israel Airlines and of the First Israel Bank and Trust Co.

An avid sports enthusiast, Ginsberg was a partner in the New York Yankees baseball team, a past director of the Chicago Bulls and a part-owner of Thistledown Race Track.

## 'The End of the War in Europe...'

"The End of the War in Europe and the Occupation of Germany" will be the topic of a Community College of Rhode Island World War II History Roundtable meeting on Feb. 6 at 7 p.m. in Room 2510 at the Knight Campus in Warwick.

Guest speakers will be Col. Robert E. Golosov, constabulary,

commander of Outpost No. 1; Edward J. Liston, CCRI president and a member of the constabulary in the postwar occupation of Germany; and Walter Schroder, author of *Stars and Swastikas: The Boy Who Wore Two Uniforms*.

For more information, contact Jack Sbraga at 455-6065.

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## 'The One-Way Ride'

by Herb Brown

I know that someday we're all bound to take a "one-way ride,"  
And that will be "the sweetest trip of all."  
There'll be no need to take a purse when we're riding in that  
hearse,  
'Cause heaven isn't "zoned" for shopping malls.  
When we arrive we'll know that we're in heaven,  
With earthly chores we'll never have to fuss,  
It would be nice if we could write the folks back home,  
And tell them not to worry over us.

Now we've all had our "ups and downs" and disappointments, too,  
And we have surely had our share of love,  
Ah, but we cannot run away from the things we did today,  
For that is what we must be proudest of.  
You know, we have a space that's been allotted,  
And we should be glad to know it's not "the end,"  
So have your cry then laugh and smile, but don't feel sad,  
'Cause we'll still have our family and friends.

# CLASSIFIED

## Medical Center Announces Conference

Israel's Ambassador to the United States, Eliahu Ben Elissar, will be the featured speaker for the first North American Conference of the American Committee for Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem, which will take place on Feb. 16 to 19, in Newport Beach, Calif., at the Hyatt Newporter Resort.

"We've formulated a perfect blend of enlightenment and enjoyment in a warm atmosphere," declared Charles H. Bendheim, national president of the American Committee, in making the announcement.

"Our participants will be able to mix seminars and discussions on important political and health issues with fun-in-the-sun pursuits and just plain relaxation."

Elissar previously served as Israel's first Ambassador to Egypt, chairman of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, a delegate to the Madrid Peace Conference and director-general of the prime minister's office.

Dr. Daniel Kurtzer of the U.S. State Department's Bureau of

Intelligence and Research and Dennis Prager, noted author, television and radio commentator and Middle East expert will also engage in discussions with conference participants.

In addition, conferees will be able to hear about recent devel-



Ambassador Eliahu Ben Elissar

opments on important health issues from Shaare Zedek physicians, and take part in seminars on heart disease, stroke and aging, and cancer.

The lighter side of the conference lists entertainment, kosher haute cuisine plus activities and facilities such as golf, tennis, volleyball, boating, fishing, beach sitting, visiting a health spa, and shopping at Fashion Island.

The resort is 40 miles south of Los Angeles and 30 minutes from Disneyland.

Only a limited number of rooms have been reserved, available on a first-come, first-serve basis at \$116 per night. Conference fee, which includes all meals, is \$400 per person.

For more information or to reserve a place at this inaugural, contact Marsha Tenenbaum, phone: (212) 354-8801, (800) 346-1592 or fax: (212) 391-2674.

Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem opened its doors in 1902 as the city's first Jewish hospital outside the walls of the Old City, and moved into its 10-story, 500-bed facility in 1979. Blending state-of-the-art medical care with traditional compassion, it treats more than 200,000 patients annually. It is currently building a comprehensive Woman and Infant Center.

## Net

(Continued from page 3)

for this pulling towards Jews. Then she watched the rabbi drive away.

But two weeks later, she looked at her roommates' sleeping faces at 5 a.m. and knew she had to leave. With only 8 pounds to her name, she hid in a warehouse and contacted the rabbi.

He picked her up, gave her a suitcase full of clothes and took her to an English Orthodox family where she would serve as a nanny for months.

Later, she emigrated to Israel, where she presently resides with her husband and three sons.

Although these actions caused her parents great pain, they visited her years later in Israel. One evening after dinner, her mother stepped into the kitchen to tell her daughter about how she had miraculously survived life-threatening surgery for cancer about a decade before.

"I only said one prayer on the operating table," said her devoutly Christian mother. "That was the sh'ma."

into the wall that very night.

According to Ravitz, those not on line at Beth Sholom will not be left out.

"We know that everyone does not have access, and we are careful to use other channels," he said.

Hartman does not think the new and powerful device poses any threat to traditional synagogue Judaism by potentially obliterating the need to gather.

"Judaism is based in the home," Hartman said. "The ability to tap into modern technology will only help the religion."

Congregation Beth Sholom may be reached at <http://users.ids.net/~bethshol/home.html> and Congregation Ahavath Achim may be reached at [http://www.ici.net/cust\\_pages/hartman/hartman.html](http://www.ici.net/cust_pages/hartman/hartman.html).

The Rhode Island Jewish Herald encourages all regional synagogues with web pages to send in their internet addresses for publication.

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## Jewish Heritage

(Continued from Page 3)

gan to obsess her.

For a year, she stole minutes at the synagogue and returned to the church to sob in guilt.

The principal learned of her endeavors and he warned her to stop.

But seven months later, Mordechai realized there was a vacuum inside her when she looked at her ministerial texts. Though she was well schooled in visions of hell fire, she began to question the existence of G-d.

"Deep in the heart of every Jew there is a belief in one G-d that will not die," Mordechaisaid.

For more than a year, Mordechai spent her days praying for the G-d of Israel to lead her to the truth. She thought she had gone mad.

But one day, members of a church group brought Chabad leaflets into the ministry.

Mordechai took one and hid it under her mattress.

Though she knew it was strictly forbidden, she resolved to contact a rabbi. Although mail was censored and private phone calls were out of the question, a rabbi's letter in a plain brown envelope finally arrived for her.

As Mordechai had to give a strict accounting of her time, it was very hard to set up even a 20-minute meeting.

The first appointment fell through, for Mordechai had to tell the principal where she was going.

"He yelled at me all afternoon," Mordechai said. "He said 'You're playing with fire. There's something wrong with your soul.'"

The appointment came a week later, for the rabbi advised her to tell no one of the meeting. He suggested she spend two weeks with an Orthodox family.

She replied that she could not simply leave for two weeks, and said she wasn't ready to throw away the first 25 years of her life

## UMass Dartmouth Achieves Innovation, Recognition

The fall 1996 edition of *U.S. News and World Report* placed UMass Dartmouth in the top 36 engineering schools without a doctorate. UMass Dartmouth's doctorate in electrical engineering, with a marine electronic emphasis, was too new to be included, according to College of Engineering Dean Dr. Thomas J. Curry.

A new curriculum to be developed with a \$180,000 grant from the Davis Educational Forum will combine classes in physics, chemistry, mathematics, engineering and English to create a learning and problem-solving environment which more closely resembles students' future engineering careers.

UMass Dartmouth chancellor Peter Cressy said, "This innovation promises to reduce the engineering drop-out rate and to increase the number of qualified engineers who graduate from the UMass program at a time when our knowledge-based economy needs them."

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## Friends of All Ages Take Their Seats

When you come to the University of Rhode Island College of Engineering's new high-tech auditorium in the spring, you may see an alum from 1995 taking a seat next to one from 1942. Or at least their names, anyway.

The college began offering alumni and friends an opportunity to place their names on the seats in the new auditorium as part of the URI capital campaign. Alumni of all ages have chosen this way to make a difference to the college, and at the same time leave a little bit of themselves behind.

So far, at \$1,000 each, nearly 30 seats have been underwritten in the 150-seat auditorium.

Mark Felag '84, '90, a chief civil engineer of materials for the Rhode Island Department of

Transportation, thought the chair campaign presented the perfect opportunity to give. "I would challenge all of my classmates to buy a chair, or find some other way to help out the university and the college," he said.

Classmates Joseph Bernat and his friend George Helsen, who graduated from the college in 1956, plan to be seen sitting together for eternity. The two have requested their named seats to be next to one another in the auditorium. Over the past 40 years, Helsen, who lives in California, and Bernat, who lives in Ohio, have kept in touch with one another. The chairs are just one more link.

For more information, or to reserve your seat at the new engineering complex, call Debra Medeiros at 874-2645.

## Get Your Vitamin C From Israel

Providence Hadassah is ordering Jaffa oranges from Israel, to be delivered early in March.

The oranges, and some ruby red grapefruit, will be sold for the benefit of new immigrants attending the Hadassah Career Counseling Institute.

Everyone is urged to get an extra dose of Vitamin C, direct from Israel, by ordering at least one case of the fruit (at \$30 each). Call Hannah Rita Millen at 245-8440 now and get your order in.

## Give a Valentine's Gift From the Heart

The American Heart Association, R.I. Affiliate, is now signing up companies, organizations and institutions for its Hearts in Bloom campaign — a Valentine's Day tulip exchange to support the fight against heart disease and stroke.

Orders need to be placed and paid for by Jan. 31. On Valentine's Day, volunteers from the

American Heart Association will deliver group orders to the organizations, before noon. A five-stemmed tulip bouquet costs \$6; a glass vase costs just \$4 more. Gift cards are provided free.

Individuals interested in coordinating a Hearts in Bloom drive at their company should call the American Heart Association before Jan. 31 at 728-5300.



## Building Bridges at URI

Such steady hands: Academy of Torah student Tamar Andelman tests a bridge she helped construct during University of Rhode Island's recent Physics Days. More than 700 high school physics students attended the workshops.

## Scotland

(Continued from Page 12)

Dress in layers, and remember that bare skin is vulnerable skin. There are insects called midges and clegs abroad in Scotland in the summer, and they are persistent. So wear sleeves and long pants, or bring your insect repellent along.

Temperatures change as often as sky conditions, and I found a cotton blend (60/40) shirt, a cotton-sweater, summer weight chinos (they dry more rapidly than jeans) and a windbreaker a great combination for almost any day or evening. Women who will be city-hopping will need a packable, graceful long skirt — skirts are still very approved in the more traditional areas of Scotland. Don't bring an American umbrella. Plan to buy one in Scotland.

Bring your camera and a lot of film, which you will carry in a lead-lined film bag (available at your camera store). I took 13 rolls of film in three weeks, and I ended up with a full album of beautiful pictures I'll treasure all my life. But I didn't ration my film. I saw something I wanted to take a picture of, I fired away a couple of times, and then put the camera away. I was very careful not to let picture taking get in the way of my actual experiencing of the situation. If I got it — fine. If I didn't — fine. At least I didn't dedicate much real time in Scotland to future time in America.

I saved ferry stubs, tickets, salesslips, map pieces, postcards, and bits and pieces of the natural world, and every night — EVERY NIGHT — before I let my-

self go to sleep, I entered the day in my log book — impressions, quotes, mileage, places seen, expenses, new experiences, the color of an unknown beetle or an unfamiliar flower, the construction of an old (Stone Age) fort, or a medieval church or a clan leader's tomb. Haphazardly, without editing, it's all there, in one book. Twenty years from now, if I take out that book, much of the trip will be there for me, preserved within its pages.

In all the days and nights I've spent in Scotland, and during the four years my daughter spent at the University of Glasgow, we never heard an anti-Semitic remark or saw any signs of anti-Semitic vandalism.

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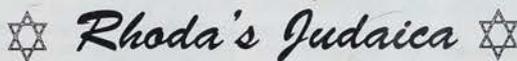
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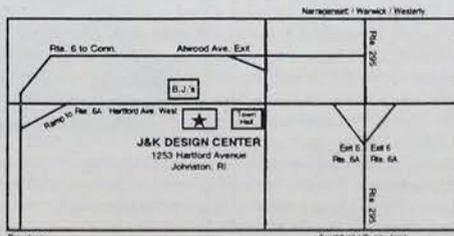
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