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AIDS Seder Brings Hope

by Emily Torgan
Jewish Community Reporter

Passover takes its name from the Exodus tale — when G-d inflicted Pharaoh with the tenth and final plague, it "passed over" the homes of the Israelites yet struck down all Egyptian firstborn.

But participants at the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island's Community Relations Council's third annual "Seder of Hope" noted that the modern AIDS plague spares no one.

On April 4, more than 200 guests gathered at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island for an interfaith seder. Sharing song, prayer, and the traditional meal, they battled the incurable disease that has marked their lives.

"Feel the empty place in front of the chair, feel the empty places at the table," said seder leader Marc Paige, using the vacant chair traditionally reserved for Elijah to remember the deceased.

Paige, who grew up in Rhode Island's Jewish community, learned he had contracted the virus from a former boyfriend about eight years ago.

"Remember their faces, remember their laughter," continued Paige.

As "Seder of Hope" creators Rabbi Gail Diamond, Roberta Lisker-Goldsmith and Dr. Edwin Mehلمان had infused the traditional service with AIDS references, other familiar elements also conveyed fresh pain.

"Why is AIDS different from all other diseases?" asked Paige, reading one of the four questions.

"In America, AIDS has hit hardest gay men, I.V. drug users, and people of color," participants read responsively. "Because AIDS has devastated these already oppressed groups, the haters of the world have used AIDS to advance their own intolerant beliefs."

The salt water symbolized tears both fresh and ancient. The maror's bitterness spoke of both slavery and AIDS-induced illness and fear. The four sons were mentioned along with a fifth child who succumbed to the disease before it learned to ask questions.

However, the egg, a token of new life and renewal, graced every table.

"Let us... be grateful for promising new treatments, and those who open their hearts to comfort the afflicted," the participants read.

Paige said he has been feeling better since he began new medications about 18 months ago.

Although AIDS has meant the end of his career in government administration, he works as a volunteer AIDS educator who warns young people against shared needles and unprotected intercourse.

"We all have to take this seriously," Paige said. "No group of people is immune. Jews get AIDS in proportion to their numbers in the population — about half of the HIV-positive Rhode Island Jews I know are women."

Pamphlets about AIDS and the Jewish community and Hebrew-lettered squares of the AIDS memorial quilt reinforced



A MEMORIAL QUILT at the "Seder of Hope" remembers Jewish AIDS victims.

Herald photo by Emily Torgan

the message that no community has been left unscathed.

"Since I've been sick, I've come to understand this holiday better," Paige said. "It's very sweet to have everyone here. There's so much love, and there's so much sadness. Passover is all about both — redemption and remembrance of bitter times and death."

Towards the end of the service, participants removed 11 drops of wine from their glasses rather than the usual 10.

The first 10 drops recalled the plagues visited upon the Egyptians, while the 11th showed how the AIDS plague has diminished holiday happiness.

Then the room fell silent as

participants were asked to say the name of one loved AIDS victim.

Paige uttered the first name, and other voices followed.

The steady murmuring sounded like sob-wracked prayers.

Then friends and families sat down together to share their Passover meal.

Bill Aimed at Limiting Conversions Passes First Parliamentary Ballot

by David Landau and Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — A controversial conversion bill that some warn could drive a wedge between Israel and diaspora Jewry has passed its first Knesset hurdle.

As the Knesset adjourned for its Passover break, the bill that would make all conversions conducted in Israel subject to confirmation by the Orthodox chief rabbinate drew sharp criticism from the Reform and Conservative movements.

The bill passed April 1 in a vote of 51 to 32, with seven abstentions, in the first of three Knesset votes known as readings.

It would normally go next to the committee stage, but a compromise under discussion may alter the usual legislative practice.

Secular coalition parties had threatened to torpedo the bill by opposing the vote or abstaining, leading Michael Eitan, coalition chairman of the Likud Party, to propose a compromise to ensure its passage.

All the coalition parties then backed the measure after Eitan signed a letter pledging a suspension of further steps in the legislative process, pending efforts to reach an accord with representatives of non-Orthodox denominations.

Orthodox legislators, some of whom had threatened to leave the coalition if the bill was not passed on its first reading, maintain that it will not change the status quo.

"There is nothing new here," said Transportation Minister Yitzhak Levy of the National Religious Party. "It is only setting into law an existing situation."

Before the April 1 vote, President Ezer Weizman met at his residence with representatives of the various parties and tacitly endorsed the Eitan compromise as a way of defusing the controversy for now.

Rabbi Eric Yoffie, president of the Reform movement's Union of American Hebrew Congregations, said recently that the Knesset action "upset us greatly."

At the same time, he said, it was too early to render judgment on the compromise effort.

"We're trying to determine how serious the compromise is," he said.

Indications exist that the compromise offers "some hope," he said, but there is not yet enough information to know whether it is a genuine effort to resolve the dilemma or merely a delay.

Rabbi Einat Ramon, spokeswoman for the Conservative/Masorti movement in Israel, said, "We are very suspicious."

"If a serious negotiation goes on and something worthwhile is offered, we will consider it."

Opponents of the bill have expressed concern that once the legislation went into committee, changes would be made broadening its applications.

If the legislation does go forward, the Orthodox parties intend to attempt during the committee stage to strengthen it by also applying it to conversions of Israeli nationals and residents, carried out abroad.

Now, Israeli officials are re-

(Continued on Page 19)



"SEDER OF HOPE" leader Marc Paige with his mother Eileen Gray.
Herald photo by Emily Torgan

HAPPENINGS

Storyteller Spins Yarns of Jewish Culture

Roslyn Bresnick-Perry, a Yiddish storyteller, will present "Stories from the Treasure of Yiddish Literature" at 2 p.m. at UMass Dartmouth on April 13. "Stories are magical," said Bresnick-Perry. "They cross generations, dissolve time and space; overcome differences and barriers. You can't hate anyone whose story you know."

Bresnick-Perry will transcend the past to the present, from the eastern European shtetl

— to a "Bintel Brief" (letter to the editor) to the songs of the Holocaust and to stories on "Being Jewish and on the Road." Don't miss this authentic and historically accurate afternoon full of remembrance and anecdotes.

The program will be in the Residence Hall/Conference Dining Room at UMass Dartmouth. Call the Jewish Federation of Greater New Bedford for reservations at (508) 997-7471.

Do You Know a Family of the Year?

Jewish Family Service invites you to nominate a Family of the Year. What does today's family look like? What strengths and values do we admire in family

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Calendar of Events For April

- 10 **Israel Aliyah Center** presents Moshe Tal, director of the Aliyah division, from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., 126 High St., Boston. Call (617) 457-8750.
- "**Our Country's Good**," recounting of the first settlers in Australia's Sydney penal colony, will be presented by Brown University Theatre, April 10 to 13 and April 17 to 20. Call 863-2838.
- 11 "**The Future of Reform Judaism**" presented by Rabbi Yoffie at Temple Israel in Boston at 8 p.m. Call (617) 373-3288.
- Production of the French farce "A Flea in Her Ear"** at Wheaton College in the Watson Auditorium, April 12, 18, and 19. Call (508) 285-8235.
- William Blatt**, author of *Joys of Genealogy*, will speak following 8 p.m. service. Congregation Agudath Achim, Taunton, Mass. Call (508) 822-3230.
- 12 **Statewide Conference** to address future growth of Rhode Island at 9 a.m., at University of Rhode Island, Kingston. Call 277-2678.
- Spring Tea**, Vaillancourt Folk Art and Friends in Sutton, Mass., 1 to 5 p.m. Admission is free. Call (508) 865-0434.
- Spring Fling**, a day of family fun, at Looff Carousel, Slater Memorial Park, Pawtucket. Call 728-0500, ext. 251.
- 13 "**From Amsterdam to Bergen Belsen, Anne Frank Remembered**" at Hebrew College in Brookline, Mass., 7:30 to 9 p.m. Hannah Pick-Goslar will speak. Admission \$10. Call (617) 278-4939.
- Rosalind Bresnick-Perry**, a Yiddish storyteller, at UMass Dartmouth in Conference Dining Room in Residence Dining Hall at 2 p.m. Call (508) 999-8951.
- Annual Sandra Gamm Arts Festival** presents Jewish choral group "Pizmon," 7:30 p.m., Temple Israel, Sharon, Mass. Call (617) 784-3986.
- Model Matzah Bakery**, learn to make matzah at Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island, 10:30 a.m. Call 884-4071.
- "**War of the Worlds**" at New England Science Center in Worcester, Mass., at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$3.50. Call (508) 791-9211.
- "**Israeli and Palestinian Identities**" conference April 13 to 15 at Brown. "Identity and Diplomacy" at 1 p.m. in Alumnae Hall. Call for conference schedule, 863-1035.
- 14 "**Fusions: A concert of Jewish and Arab Music**" 8 p.m., Sayles Hall, Brown University. **Memory Cathedral: A Secret History of Leonardo da Vinci** by Jack Dann will be discussed at Books on the Square at 7:30 p.m. Call 331-9097.
- Four-course brewery dinner** of savory cuisine at Union Station Brewery in Providence at 6:30 p.m. \$35 per person. Call 274-2739.
- Audubon Society of Rhode Island** invites public on a trip to the Bronx Zoo. Registration required. Call 949-5454.
- Meeting of the Compassionate Friends** at Hasbro Children's Hospital in Providence. Call 885-2900 for time.
- 15 "**Everything You Wanted to Know About Appliances in Israel**," a discussion with Aryeh Herzog at Hebrew College at 7 p.m. Call (617) 457-8750.
- Lesley College School of Education** hosts information meeting at White's of Westport at 4 p.m. Call (617) 349-8300.
- Caregivers Support Group** to assist families in caring for an older relative. meets Tuesdays at 6 p.m. until May 27 at Adult Day Care Center, 99 Hillside Ave. Call 351-2440.
- 16 "**Chocolate Seder**" at URI Hillel in Kingston at 7 p.m. Call 874-2740.
- "**Feminist G-d Language**" a talk with Rabbi Elyse Winick, College Outreach Department for United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, 12 p.m. Brown-RISD Hillel, 863-2805.
- "**A Taste of Italia**" Weight Watchers Center in Swansea, Mass., 7 to 8:30 p.m. Call (800) 651-6000.
- Largest Clothing and More Sale** April 16 to 19 at Wheeler School gymnasium, 407 Brook St., Providence. Admission is free. Call 421-810 for time.
- 17 **Lesley College Graduate School of Arts and Social Sciences** and the School of Management will host information meetings at White's of Westport, 4 to 7:30 p.m. Call (617) 349-8300.
- "**Servant of Two Masters**" April 17 to 15 at Mercy Hall Dance Studio in Newport. Call 847-6650.
- The Friends of the Rochambeau Branch** of the Providence Public Library will hold its eighth annual book sale April 17 to 19. Reusable books may be donated at 708 Hope St. Call 455-8110.
- Diana Balmori**, award-winning landscape architecture designer, will speak at URI, Kingston at 7:30 p.m. in White Hall Auditorium. Call 874-2142.
- 19 **The New England Holistic Counselors Assoc.** seventh annual conference at Salve Regina University. Registration in McAuley Hall starts at 7:45 a.m. \$50 for members.
- High School Juniors** and their families are invited to URI, Kingston for "Meet the University" at 9 a.m. Reservations needed. Call 874-7100.
- 20 **Haffenreffer Museum** will present African art historian Robert Farris Thompson at 4 p.m. in Bristol. Call 253-8388.

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THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

Jewish Beliefs Help Feuerstein Be Both Mensch and Maven

by Emily Torgan

Jewish Community Reporter

Most overnight, Malden Mills CEO Aaron Feuerstein turned into a celebrity.

On Dec. 11, 1995, Feuerstein watched as one of the largest industrial fires in New England's history ripped through his Lawrence, Mass., textile plant.

Three days later, he showed some fire of his own by vowing to keep his 1,000 workers on at full pay.

Newspapers, magazines, television news programs and even President Clinton hailed the 70-year-old Feuerstein as a hero.

But the accolades mingled with questions about corporate consciousness and the price of nice, for many wondered what had driven this businessman to morality rather than layoff slips and insurance proceeds.

And perhaps more importantly, how had his saintly actions led to a new plant, a rehired workforce, and a profit sure to sway even the most hard-nosed board of directors?

On April 4, the Orthodox Feuerstein said he had simply adhered to a traditional value system that considers decency an asset-generating essential that yields rewards on many levels.

In this instance, fame was amongst the rewards.

"It's amazing to be cast into the public arena," said the flamboyant Feuerstein, a man who quotes Milton and sounds raspberries with the same intensity and who wears suits with sneakers. "I accept it, and I want to see how much good I can do."

Although he admitted the fire was terrible, Feuerstein burst into a characteristic Shakespeare quotation and said he had shed no tears at the site.

"I thought about what my family stood for," Feuerstein declared, explaining how he had learned the notions of personal responsibility he is almost credited with reinventing.

As a boy of 5, Feuerstein had watched his émigré grandfather struggle to apply Talmudic principles to his fledgling American business.

"My grandfather, Henry, used to insist that all workers be paid in cash by the end of the day," Feuerstein said. "The Talmud says that the working man must not be oppressed, and that the sun should not set before his wages were paid. My parents were also very religious, but whoa, those were lively talks."

Feuerstein received his training in the holy texts from Rabbi Landau, his other grandfather.

"To this day I still know a good part of the ethics of the fathers by heart," he said.

And Feuerstein applies that knowledge wherever he goes, working quotations from the scripture into his everyday conversation and frowning deeply on those who jettison their values before heading to the office.

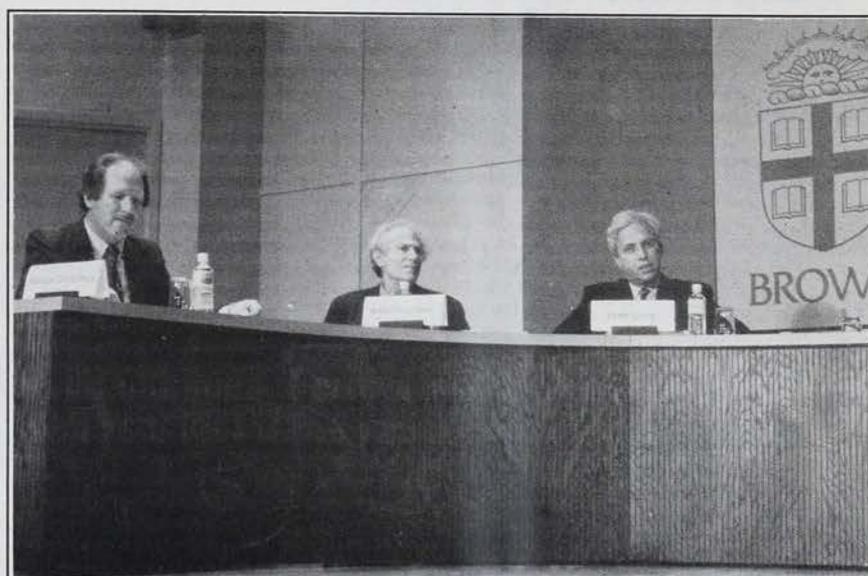
"Twice a day, we say the Sh'ma," he said. "What does it mean? It means that there is one G-d. One G-d in the office, one G-d in the school, one G-d in the family. In monotheism, ethical standards are the same, but a lot of Jews and non-Jews alike do not operate that way."

Although Feuerstein has achieved national fame for doing one mitzvah, he has observed many more mitzvot.

"The word 'mitzvah' means commandment," Feuerstein said. "In the real sense, we are commanded to follow the Jewish vision of a high ethical standard. We have to observe not only those commandments we can observe ethically, but those that are difficult to understand because without them, we lose our religion and our people."

Since the fire, Feuerstein has been inundated with articles about himself.

"There are two main opinions," Feuerstein said. "Some say that I'm old, kind and rich, and that charity has nothing to do with business. But in *Fortune*



AARON FEUERSTEIN SHINES at a recent panel discussion on corporate responsibility at Brown University.

Herald photo by Emily Torgan

magazine, a reporter said I was no fool and no saint. He believes — and I'm sure he's right — that when you operate by an ethical standard, it all comes back over time to favor the shareholder well beyond the

next quarter's profits."

Finally, Feuerstein pondered the makings of a mensch.

"Hillel said it very clearly," Feuerstein said. "Not everyone who is successful in business is wise. To put that in modern parlance,

not every CEO who makes a fortune in stock by sending people into the street is wise in G-d's eyes. And in situations where there is no mensch, do everything within your power to be one."

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OPINION

May We See Your I.D.?

An odd event occurred recently, one that was a litmus test for everyone's feelings about Jewish identity.

It was revealed that the new U.S. secretary of state was born into a Jewish family which had become Catholic to avoid the wrath of the Holocaust. It was unclear when, if ever, she knew about her background. In fact the secretary of state seems not to have been sure until confronted with the evidence by a reporter.

But the story was not treated entirely with sympathy, as one might expect of such a life-altering decision. There was a hint of... something wrong.

Was it that people thought her parents should have stood up to the Nazis, proudly admitting their faith? No, that would be too harsh a judgment. Should they have told the children of their heritage once the family was safe in America? Or perhaps there is a suspicion that the secret did come out many years ago, but everyone was ashamed or unwilling to admit it.

Maybe it's as simple as this: why bother talking about the past if the present is working well for you? But then, why is there any aroma of scandal about this decision?

We don't presume to guess

what the truth is, nor why many people looked at this affair with wary eyes. It is clear, though, that the question of Jewish "identity" is still a raw nerve in both the Jewish and gentile communities.

This is because, among Jews, there is legitimate fear of a sanitizing assimilation. And because, among gentiles, there is the lingering spectre of yellow Star-of-David armbands and other forced recognition and less-than-subtle exclusion: "restricted" neighborhoods, companies and country clubs. Some Jews enjoy pointing out celebrities with Jewish lineage... many of whom no longer identify themselves as such.

In this new month of Nissan, when we approach Passover, we think again about the lamb's blood on the doorpost: the sign to the Angel of Death to pass over this home. Then, a shield. Later, a mezuzah on the doorpost became a danger. Today... what? How do we wear our Jewishness, and with what kind of emotion behind it?

In a time when we are the greatest danger to ourselves, how would you react to a front-page story identifying you as Jewish?

Submitted by Chabad of West Bay CHAI Center.

A Case for Jewish Healing

by Velvel "Wally" Spiegler

Out of a post-Holocaust Judaism, there arose in the '80s an infusion of energy that included a renewed interest in Jewish meditation, mysticism and healing. No society ever existed without a protocol for healing; it dates back longer than written language. Perhaps it is a growing dissatisfaction with an impersonal medical/pharmaceutical complex which led to a renewal in Jewish healing. The medical system has us hypnotized into believing that it's the only form of valid health care. In fact, the term "health care" is an example of how we've become hypnotized; it would be more honest to call it "illness care." This sort of indisputable belief has in its roots a form of avodah zarah (forbidden worship) — worshipping another kind of g-d.

Medical science has us believing in scientific proof. What gets overlooked is that studies often contradict one another, that studies are based on statistical evidence that has at its foundation mathematical tests that are often inaccurate, and there is no evidence of the long range toxicity of drugs. Traditional healing methods, on the other hand, stand the test of time. Its validity, over the course of centuries, is its own proof. As Jews we don't require a proof of G-d. Why should we demand proof for healing? Are we that frightened and mistrustful? There is a good deal of dispute going on today between the American Medical Association

and alternative health care professionals, but the fact is that billions are being spent annually on a diversity of other healing methods.

The roots of Jewish healing lie in Tikkun Olam, the repair of the universe. We are each a microcosmic replica of the cosmos, and as such, what we repair in the universe we repair in ourselves. Relying on your physician as the unquestionable authority of your

The medical system has us hypnotized into believing that it's the only form of valid health care. ...it would be more honest to call it "illness care."

state of health relieves you of one of the most important Jewish values: self-responsibility. As the Talmud reminds us, "If not I for myself, who then? And being for myself, what am I? And if not now, when? (Pirke Avot, chap. 1). This means that we must take an active role in determining the proper course of our treatment; to enter into a partnership with our doctor, our therapist or any other health care professional that we decide to hire, to learn from them what you can, to be in charge and make the decisions ourselves.

Healing depends on the perfectly natural function of homeostasis, a state of physical and

mental equilibrium. The human body/mind constantly seeks a state of balance. In fact we could actually describe any illness as a state of imbalance and we could accurately describe any symptom as a course the body takes in order to achieve that balance. The human body is a miraculous fountain of wisdom that knows exactly what to heal, once balance has been achieved. The Kabbalah explains that the Tree of Life, the prototype for all experience, depends on a state of balance in order for G-d's healing blessings to abundantly flow. Healing is different than curing. A cure simply alleviates the symptoms while the imbalance remains only to rear its ugly head again, perhaps in some other way; healing permanently releases the imbalance.

The Jewish path to healing is through wellness, as opposed to the pathology approach. Wellness assumes that a person is basically perfect; how else can a perfect G-d produce anything but a perfect human being. The wellness objective is to restore a person to his original state, not too different than being brought out of Egypt. The medical approach is just the opposite; it says people get sick and they need to be fixed. The Jewish way empowers people to get well and stay well.

Velvel "Wally" Spiegler is a Certified Polarity Therapist, a student and teacher of Jewish mysticism whose primary interest is in Jewish approaches to the healing of mind, body, and spirit.

HAVE AN OPINION?

If you have an opinion about something in the Jewish community, why not express your opinion in the Herald?

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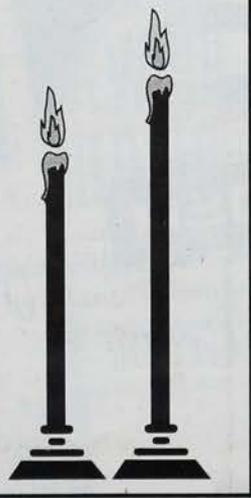
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Candlelighting

April 11, 1997
7:04 p.m.



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

Annual Passover Appeal

This letter was received from the Annual Passover Appeal

Dear Reader:

Passover begins with the First Seder on April 21. In all our years, we have never turned anyone away. Please help!

Those we help include the elderly, the infirm, the poor, the lonely, the forgotten, former residents of state institutions who are now in group homes, those who attend Community

Seders as well as the Russian Jews who have resettled in our area. In all, last year, we helped 309 individuals who would not otherwise have been able to celebrate Passover.

As Jews, our is a rich tradition of support by the community. Fulfill the mitzvah of Moes Chitim* by opening your heart and sending a donation.

Your generous response will help fellow Jews in need and

make your holiday more meaningful.

We wish you and your family a Happy Pesach.

Irving Zaidman
President, Annual Passover Appeal

*Moes Chitim — literally "money for wheat" — has come to mean money for matzah and other special foods we identify with Passover. Make checks payable to United Moes Chitim Fund and mail to Jewish Family Service, 225 Waterman St., Providence, RI 02906.

Tazria Shows Us Our Ancient Roots

by Deborah Niederman

There is probably no other parashah that really makes us aware of how ancient our tradition is. Parshat Tazria is concerned with ailments of the skin that, at the time of revelation and compilation and even to this day, can appear somewhat mysteriously. When such a skin ailment appeared on someone in our ancient community, the priest was called in. The priest served not as diagnostician and provider of medicine but as religious leader, prescribing ritual action. The skin diseases described in the text may be as simple as eczema or psoriasis, but they were unexplainable to the premodern individual and thus appeared through mystery.

Also tzara'at (the affliction addressed in our parashah) was

considered negah, smiting or being struck with, indicating extreme divine displeasure. So, what are we to do with this seemingly primitive text? Can we merely dismiss it as folklore and hocus-pocus? We cannot. Rather, we must go beyond the actual text in order to garner

patient] shall be unclean as long as the disease is on him. Being unclean, he shall dwell apart; his dwelling shall be outside the camp." (Lev. 13:46) It is assumed that a problem with one individual affects the whole community. What we must question here is when we send someone out



meaning for our day.

For me, the striking particularity of this text is not the issue of diagnosis but that of impurity. What does it mean to be impure, and how does it affect us and our community? When the priest is called to examine someone with a skin affliction, it is the duty of the priest to pronounce the person clean or unclean/pure or impure. The text tells us, "He [the

side of the community, are we doing it to protect ourselves or to protect the individual?

There are two important ethical teachings in Judaism that relate to the above question:

- Do not separate yourself from the community. (Pirke Avot 2:4)
- All Israel is responsible for the other. (Babylonian Talmud, Shevuot 39a)

Deborah Niederman, R.J.E., religious school director, Temple Beth Am, Miami, Fla.

FEATURE

Yeah For Yinglish

by Mike Fink

Herald Contributing Reporter

"How come?" That was the question we asked our parents. Not "Why?" Leo Rosten claimed the First Generation learned to speak not English, but Yinglish. And common expressions like "How come?" are translations from the tongues of our forebears. "Who knows?" grew out of "Ver veyst?" and, with the proper shrug, twisted the Yankee words into new tones.

I picked up *The Joys of Yinglish* from a library shelf, and got so deeply involved I forgot to check it out 'til next day. My favorite parts were the pages that explicated such simple utterances as "Nu?" or "Oy," or "Mnyeh"—a whole lexicon or book of commentaries that rivals the quirky dictionary of Dr. Samuel Johnson.

The Jewish world lost a great personality in the passing of Leo Rosten a season ago. He summed up an era in American Jewish life. Certainly he influenced my life: H*Y*M*A*N*K*A*P*L*A*N filled my first teen-age summer with peals of laughter. I remember sitting in the open parlor/dining room of our Hampden Meadows summer place on the cove, in the crimson plastic Barcalounger contraption that came to join the mission oak pieces that came with the house. Tilted back, resting to recuperate from poison ivy or heat rash

or sunburn or boredom, I read that account of the meeting of an English teacher with a class of Jewish greenhorn immigrants. As they proudly learned broken English, Teach picked up the flavor and tenor of their souls and spirits. The star pupil was Kaplan, who always typed his name in caps with asterisks.

I had never 'til Rosten's bright book found its way to this Barrington suburb dead end realized what a rich heritage I had been born into. Nobody loved the treasures of Yiddish like Leo Rosten. He tasted every word, every void. No, I don't mean "void," the Yiddish pronunciation of "word," I mean the vacuum created by omitting a comma or a preposition. Leave out the "of" from "type" and you have turned English into Yinglish. "What type person do you take me for?"

So, if you have a headache or a fever, don't take aspirin or antibiotic, take Rosten. Or eat fruit. Rosten proposes that "Eat Fruit" is a Jewish commandment. He says they add it to "Fasten Your Seat Belts" on El Al flights.

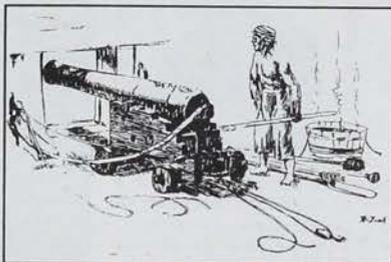
The Jewish community has changed in recent years. Gut Yontif has been pushed aside by Chag Sameach. Jews from here and there have mixed in with every culture and accent, and the sense of a shared legacy has widened to take in a cornucopia of phrases. But the

(Continued on Page 19)



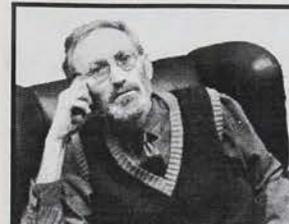
way from Madagascar to Martini-que and Miquelon, and I'd kind of like to follow their route. If I don't get there in person, I can read about it like that dozing lad on the chipping plaster basement well.

Those pictures in the id of my nest let me know in chrome yellows and eggplant purples that beyond legend there are buried marvels. My mom's homemade jelly from the apples in the yard stood on shelves behind a painted door marked "Ye Olde



Ahoy There

by Mike Fink
Herald Contributing Reporter



Pirates kidnapped me when I was 3! It's a recovered memory. They stole me in my sleep. It's true. Newspapers from here to Manhattan covered the story.

They were painted abductors, cellar murals created by my gifted teen-age uncle. On the stairwell, a boy asleep in a field drops his copy of *Treasure Island*. The greedy villains on their violent vessel come alive in his nap-dream throughout the basement of the new, depression-era house. They point a pistol at you. They count the coins from their treasure chests. They burn enemy craft on the stormy

and of citizenship rights in the new nation whose ships he spared. He wasn't a good guy, but he loved his mother!

Gloria Mound, the research maven on hidden Jews, puts in a good word for pirate captains, who might help out refugees, either because they were outsiders, too, or because some among them hid Marrano roots behind their sabres

and eye-patches.

I spent a vacation week away from my school desk and let my mind wander and my thoughts dig for metaphoric, euphoric doubloons, and I came up with something gleaming. Maybe the bootleggers smuggling rum, or supplying kosher Passover wines during prohibition, right while my house was being taken over by pirates hiding beside the furnace, were modern pirates. That was my idle insight. Those bad 'uns made their wild

Den" and guarded by fancy locks and hinges scrawled and brushed on in ebony gouache. Those jars held my own glowing treasure-trove.

The depression sent mixed signals to small-fry. You knew there was trouble. You heard it on the radio, saw it on the screen, read it on headlines. You observed it within your family. You felt the fears on the streets. I wasn't a particularly happy or secure child, but I did have a sense of privilege and an eye for beauty, poetry, and grandeur. Though they have faded and lost their intensity, the gang of cutthroats whisper secrets to me. I'm still trying to tune in and hear their message. They whisked me away from the here and now and ransomed me for the rest of my career. X marks the spot, and it's right below my bed.



Herald photo by Mike Fink

main. They wear gaudy pantaloons and bandannas and sport the same earrings young people affect today.

Ah, I was too young to fully appreciate the wonders of my childhood. So much was happening in my world, in the wide world beyond. Bambi came out. The Warsaw Ghetto burned down. The world stamped and imprinted my soul.

Of late, as my son and his friends plug in their Nintendo games below stairs, surrounded by the faded and chipped masterpiece of household history, my legacy comes back to its full gory glory. I came across the sketches Herb had done of his buccaners. I met a bartender who digs holes in the sands of New England beaches from Maine to the Cape and around Rhode Island beaches and islands—in search of the fabulous loot of the privateers of yore. He loaned me a book that tells about the famous fellows and even women who robbed the rich to give to the quahaugs. They have left behind so much gold and so many gems that a whole nation could prosper from the store they stashed before they were hanged.

Why is this a Jewish story? The English *Forward* ran a piece on the religion of Jean Lafitte, a wandering Jew in search both of revenge on the Inquisitors

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THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

Wiesel Praises 'The Mystique of Hebrew'

At a reception in honor of Dr. Alvin I. Schiff on the publication of his book, *The Mystique of Hebrew* (Shengold Press, N.Y.), Nobel Prize laureate Elie Wiesel praised Schiff's insights into the indelible ties between the Hebrew language and the Jewish people.

"I read your book with great joy and passion," Wiesel told Schiff before an audience of nearly 100 guests, who gathered at Hadassah House in New York City for the reception, held by the Jewish National Fund department of education.

"Anyone who wants to study Hebrew and smile should read your book," Wiesel asserted.

"No one can explain the fact that a language survived for over 4,000 years," he said. "If Isaiah would come to Jerusalem today we would understand him." He pointed out that of all the world's languages, Hebrew is the only one which has lasted that long (except perhaps for a form of Sanskrit). He added that Isaiah "would not understand us" because of the evolution of the language.

Moshe Rivlin, JNF world chairman, visiting from Jerusalem, also spoke, referring to the extraordinary revival of Hebrew as the language both of daily life and of sacred texts. In reference to the rapid development of Hebrew in Israel, Rivlin earlier noted the fact that in the 1948 War of Independence, the fledgling Israeli Air Force used English to communicate, because there were military terms that did not yet exist in Hebrew.



Nobel Prize laureate Elie Wiesel praised Dr. Alvin Schiff at a Jewish National Fund department of education reception in honor of the publication of Schiff's *The Mystique of Hebrew*.

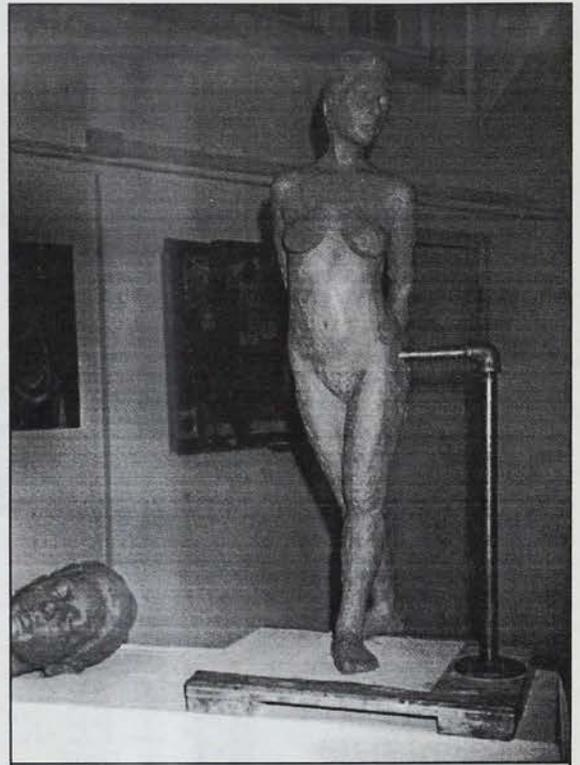
Schiff referred to Hebrew as a "unifying force" in the history of Jewish survival and continuity. In *The Mystique of Hebrew*, he cites a Midrashic observation that the Israelites survived the exile in Egypt "and were redeemed because, among other things, they did not change their language." Schiff also depicts Hebrew's development over the centuries, its emergence as an "old-new" language, and its role among American Jews.

Schiff has written eight books and more than 180 articles and monographs on Jewish education. He has served as executive vice president of the Board of Jewish Education of Greater New York and director of graduate education at Yeshiva University, where he is cur-

rently the Irving I. Stone distinguished professor of Jewish education.

Schiff has also served as president of the Council for Jewish Education; chairman of the professional advisory committee of the Hornstein Program, Brandeis University, and visiting professor and lecturer at Harvard University, Brandeis University, Hebrew University, Tel Aviv University, New York University, Queens College and City University of New York.

"Alvin Schiff is a giant among Jewish educators and a cherished friend and supporter of JNF," noted Simon Schwartz, chairman, JNF department of education. "We were honored to pay tribute to his great achievements."



For Art's Sake

The Brown-RISD Hillel Art Exhibit Showcases students works now thru April 16 at 80 Brown St. Sculpture by Seth Weiner.

Herald photo by Sara Wise

'A Bridge and a Link' Assists the Jewish Community

On April 13 Temple Emanu-El will host one of a series of shared community events planned by the institutions participating in the Gesher v'Keshet family education project. Gesher v'Keshet, whose name means "A Bridge and a Link" is a cooperative program among the Alperin Schechter Day School, Temple Shalom, Temple Emanu-El and Temple Torat Yisrael.

One of the goals of Gesher v'Keshet is to encourage members of the community to come together to learn, socialize and celebrate. In working towards this objective, families from the different institutions are invited to participate in one another's events. In this spirit of cooperation, Temple Emanu-El in Providence will be hosting "Let's Get the Seder in Order." Families with children in grades kindergarten

to four from Temple Emanu-El will be participating along with families from Temple Torat Yisrael, and Temple Shalom.

At "Let's Get the Seder in Order" families will learn about the order of the seder and the ceremony of bedikat hametz (searching for leaven) through separate study sessions and activities for adults and children. Each family will also receive everything necessary to conduct the bedikat hametz (search for leaven) ceremony. Cassettes of seder melodies by Cantor Brian Mayer will be available at no charge. In addition, haggadot will be available for purchase in the temple gift shop. Gesher v'Keshet hopes to see families from all over Rhode Island for a day full of fun and learning.

On April 15 Gesher v'Keshet will bring author Rabbi Sandy Eisenberg Sasso to work with students and families from the Alperin Schechter Day School and Temple Emanu-El. Families from the different institutions are invited to participate in one another's events. Jewish Author Day is an extension of ASDS' "reading week." During part of the day, ASDS students and families will be joined by students from Temple Emanu-El religious school for a special program with Sasso.

During the afternoon, Sasso will visit the ASDS students. Students in grade five at ASDS and students in grades five and six at Temple Emanu-El religious school will have the opportunity to work closely with Sasso at a special program and to do a creative project. Sasso will also conduct a session for parents.

Sasso is the author of several

(Continued on Page 19)

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HEALTHWISE

Walk Away From Heart Disease

Make plans to join more than 4,000 Rhode Islanders on May 10 at Colt State Park in Bristol for the annual Harvard Pilgrim American Heart Walk to benefit research and education programs of the American Heart Association, Rhode Island Affiliate.

Walk chairperson and vice president of human resources for Textron Carol Grant, and walk vice chairperson and executive vice president for Lifespan Steve Baron, both of Providence, are leading the Heart Walk Committee which is directly responsible for recruiting teams and walkers. Grant noted, "We're more hopeful than ever before that we have a great event that everyone will want to be part of. Our goal of \$170,000 is one we can reach and one which is vital to the support of the American Heart Association in Rhode Island. It's

a team effort — corporate sponsors, companies and groups, and individuals of all ages." The first 4,000 walkers will receive a free ticket to a PawSox game in May.

According to Taricani, honorary walk chairman, walkers who are survivors of a heart attack, stroke, congenital heart disease, or invasive procedures will be presented red caps on Walk Day to mark their participation as survivors. Walkers will also be able to walk in tribute to someone who has been affected by heart disease by writing in the name on a tribute card and wearing it that day.

New this year is the Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Team Challenge, which invites companies, universities, families, and friends to take part in the Heart Walk with a team of 10 or more walkers. Teams are formed under one of six categories: corporate, health care organizations,

financial institutions, emergency medical services, family/friends or school/college/university. The top fund-raising team for each category will receive a prize. Prizes are also awarded to walkers based on the amount of pledges collected.

The walk is a five-mile, non-competitive walk through scenic Colt State Park, beginning with registration at 8:30 a.m. There is also an alternative, two-mile Heart Stroll, for cardiac patients, or others who may not wish to walk the complete five-mile course. The event includes a group warm-up before the walk, post walk snacks, entertainment, and a free Health Fair, including body fat analysis, blood pressure screening, foot exams. Ask the Nutritionist and more.

For more information, call the American Heart Association at 728-5300 or (800) AHA-USA1.

Want Natural Refreshment? Try a Fresh Pear Slushy

by Maggie André

Fitness and a naturally nutritious diet aren't fads anymore. For many, they're part of a commitment to a healthier lifestyle for themselves and their families.

Making conscious choices toward healthier food means consuming less fat and sodium and getting the daily requirements of vitamins and minerals. Pears can be a part of the program. Since the natural fruit is one of the most efficient nutrition packages available, it goes hand-in-hand with exercise.

Think of pears as an anytime fruit, from a mid-morning snack to a bedtime reward. They're easy to digest, and a medium-sized pear contains only 100 calories.

Pears also are a good source of vitamin C, fiber and potas-

sium. Add to this that they have the benefits of no sodium or fat, and it's as though nature designed pears with human health in mind.

Here's a recipe for a fast, refreshing breakfast when you're on-the-run. It can be ready in a flash with the use of your blender.

Fresh Pear Slushy



(Makes 16 ounces)

1 cup cored, pared and coarsely chopped pears (about 1 medium or 2 small pears)

Lemon juice
1/4 cup orange juice
2 T. lime juice
1 T. honey
1 cup crushed ice

Place all ingredients in blender container; blend 46 to 60 seconds or until smooth. Pour into two 8-ounce glasses.

Run With the Champs

Ready, set, train! Lace up those sneakers and get ready for an April 26 five-mile road race to benefit the Visiting Nurses Association of Rhode Island's hospice program and Senior Outreach. Runners and walkers are invited to take part in the fourth annual Les Pawson Rhode Race at Lincoln Woods State Park. Registration begins at 8 a.m. and the race begins at 9:30 a.m.

Everyone who collects \$50 or more in pledges will receive a prize. The race honors Pawson, the three-time winner of the Boston Marathon and U.S. Olympian. The course traces the same loop the running champion often used as a training run. Several past Boston Mara-

thon winners are planning to participate, including Les Pawson's friend and rival, two-time Boston Marathon winner, 90-year-old Johnny Kelley.

A native Rhode Islander and lifelong resident of Pawtucket, Pawson's dedication and love for running made him a hero and an inspiration for many people throughout the community. Before his death from cancer in October 1992, he and his family were cared for by VNA hospice program. The Pawson family asked that proceeds of the memorial run benefit the VNA.

More information on the run and registration forms are available from the VNA development office at 444-6500.

How to Prevent Ear Infections

Q: My son is only one year old and already has had two ear infections. What causes these infections? Can I prevent them?

A: Ear infections are among the most frequent ailments affecting children today, accounting for roughly 25 million visits to pediatric offices each year.

The most common types of ear infections are fluid and inflammation with symptoms such as fever, respiratory infection and pain (acute otitis media); or fluid alone without symptoms (otitis media with effusion). Such conditions occur when the small eustachian tube connecting the inside of the ear to the back of the throat either malfunctions or becomes clogged, allowing fluid that would ordinarily drain through the tube and down the throat to accumulate in the middle ear. The trapped fluid then provides a breeding ground for bacteria (Young children are most susceptible to infections because of the small diameter of their tubes). Such blockages often follow a cold or other sinus congestion, and are most common in the winter months.

Diagnoses of ear infections have nearly tripled since 1980. Theories for the increase range from an enlarged population of children to a growth in day care center attendance.

"Young children in day care are more likely to get respiratory infections than those not in day care," said Howard Bauchner, M.D., director of the division of general pediatrics at

Boston Medical Center. "And since otitis media is often preceded by a respiratory infection, that probably contributes to the problem."

While there is no sure-fire prevention for childhood ear infections, there are things parents can do to reduce their children's risk. First, don't smoke. Secondhand cigarette smoke can inflame the lining of the eustachian tube and prompt increased secretions that can cause blockages. Other risk factors include bottle feeding in a prone position, which is believed to hinder proper eustachian tube function. Boys and children with siblings who have had ear infections are also at higher risk. Bath water in the ears is not a known contributor.

Treatment for otitis media depends on the severity of the problem. A child with an acute infection will probably be put on a full course of antibiotics lasting 10 to 14 days. Chronic ear infections, those that either return repeatedly or fail to sufficiently clear up, are treated with an additional course of an antibiotic and sometimes medication administered in low doses (called prophylactic treatment) to ward off bacteria or, in cases where hearing may be impaired, the surgical placement of tubes.

Ear tubes are placed by a surgeon through a tiny incision in each eardrum and ultimately act as adjunct eustachian tubes, providing secondary drainage from the middle ear. While the surgery itself has a low risk factor

(because of the use of anesthesia), the benefits can be enormous.

"A young child who is just beginning to acquire language could be impacted by infection-related hearing loss," said Bauchner. A child in that category, he said, may be best served with tubes.

While most infections in this country are still treated with antibiotics, the overuse of such drugs, and the resultant threat of so-called drug-resistant "super-bugs," has led some physicians to wonder whether antibiotics should be so routinely prescribed.

"If you took 100 children with otitis media, 80 to 85 would clear on their own," said Bauchner, noting that many European countries have adopted this wait-and-see approach. "The problem is that it's very hard for us to judge initially which child would clear on his own and which would not."

Bauchner said researchers are currently developing patient profiles, including age, medical history and infection severity, that might help doctors characterize those patients whose infections are likely to clear on their own.

Complications from otitis media are decidedly rare. A common misconception is that a "ruptured eardrum" is a complication. A so-called "rupture," said Bauchner, is simply a hole caused by the infection. "It's not serious. It allows fluid to drain and relieves pain," he said. Some European countries actually treat otitis media this way.

Written in cooperation with Howard Bauchner, M.D., director of the division of general pediatrics at Boston Medical Center.



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HEALTHWISE

Exercise More Than Your Intentions

Although the physical and psychological benefits of regular physical activity are indisputable, becoming a faithful exerciser doesn't typically happen overnight. Here are some suggestions to help make exercise a habit.

Identify what motivates you to exercise. If the camaraderie of a group helps get you on your feet, join an aerobics class or find a running partner. If you prefer the pleasure of being alone with your thoughts, try walking on a treadmill or swimming laps in a local pool.

Set definite, attainable fitness goals. Saying "I want to cycle 10 miles this week" is more likely to motivate you than thinking "I really should get more exercise this week." Keep in mind, however, that unrealistic goals for exercise or weight loss may leave you so discouraged that you give up trying altogether.

Always have a back-up plan. If you intended to take a walk outside and the weather doesn't cooperate, use an exercise bike or jump rope in your living room instead. Of if your schedule changes at the last minute, adjust your exercise plans accordingly.

Look at exercise as a reprieve from your daily responsibilities, rather than an obligation. If you think of working out as drudgery, you may grow to hate it—only to revert to your former sedentary lifestyle. Getting your day off to a healthy start by working out in the morning may help you avoid the excuses that mount during the day.

Keep yourself entertained. While riding a stationary bike, watch funny videos or read a juicy novel. If the swimming pool you frequent is equipped with underwater speakers, request a few favorite tunes.

Add variety. Try swimming

laps one day and riding a bike the next. When walking outdoors, change your course often. Performing the same routine every day may become boring very quickly.

Expect setbacks. Despite your best efforts, there will be times when you're too tired or too busy to fit in a workout. Don't feel guilty—just resume your routine as soon as you can.

Don't overexert yourself. Maintain a healthy level of activity, but don't push so hard that you sideline yourself with an injury. It's much better to start out slowly and then gradually step up the pace.

Look to exercising peers for advice. Ask your friends how they find the time and energy to exercise. Their methods may work well for you, too.

Start out on the right foot. In some instances it truly is the thought that counts, but not so with physical fitness. Exercise must become a long-term habit if you want to enjoy the maximum benefits. Always consult your physician before beginning a fitness regime.

(Information comes from Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island in Pawtucket)

Garlic Appeal

There is no substitute for fresh garlic. Garlic cloves are a wonderful ingredient to add to any pasta sauce. According to Susan Kosoff, author of *'I Could Eat Pasta Every Night' Cookbook*, a "head" of garlic is usually made up of 10 to 12 individual cloves. It is best to select firm heads with plump outside cloves that are free of dark spots. If stored in a cool, dark, well-ventilated spot, whole heads of garlic will keep for up to eight weeks. Individual cloves will last for up to 10 days.

Tips Get Kids in Habit of Proper Dental Hygiene

To help your children avoid a lifetime of dental problems, teach them early on about proper dental care habits.

"The most important tip for maintaining good oral health is to schedule regular dental visits for checkups and professional cleanings," said Dr. Marv Zatz, vice president for Prudential HealthCare Dental Relations. "Parents should always stress the importance of these visits so that when their children are grown-ups, they will continue to practice good oral health."

Preventing Cavities

Cavities are common during the teen years, which is why parents need to educate their kids about proper dental care. Teens snack on sugary and starchy foods and don't brush as often as they should. Braces or teeth that are crooked can also make cleaning teeth difficult, increasing the risk of tooth decay.

However, practicing these simple tips may help prevent cavities and dental problems:

- Brush thoroughly with a fluoride toothpaste at least twice daily. For better results, brush after every meal.
- Floss teeth daily, or use an interdental cleaner to remove plaque from the gumline area and the sides of the teeth.
- Limit the number of between-meal snacks.
- Visit the dentist regularly.

Signs of Gum Disease

Gum disease is usually caused by plaque that produces toxins which irritate gum tissue. During puberty, gums can become more sensitive to these toxins because of hormonal changes. If your kids notice any of the following signs of gum disease, take them to the dentist:

- Chronic bad breath
- A bad taste
- Pus that appears at the gumline
- Red, swollen or bleeding gums
- Detachment of gums from the teeth
- Teeth that have loosened or changed position

Watch What Your Kids Eat

Teens are known for eating sweet snacks, fast foods and meals on the run—all eating habits that cause tooth decay.

Make sure your kids choose their foods wisely. When possible, sugary snacks and sweet, sticky foods should be eaten at mealtimes when other foods help neutralize their damaging effects.

When your kids do snack, encourage them to eat foods that are good for their teeth, like nuts, popcorn, cheese, raw vegetables, plain yogurt, and sugarless gum or candy. Also, remind them to brush, or at least rinse, after every meal.

'Slim Down for Spring' at Memorial Hospital

Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island will sponsor a six-week weight loss and fitness program beginning April 14 and concluding May 19. The program, entitled "Slim Down For Spring," will be held Mondays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the hospital's Sayles Conference Room 1.

The program is specifically designed for those who have failed at past dieting attempts, and will teach participants a safer, more effective way to permanent weight loss. It will help participants reduce their body fat, increase their energy level, and follow an overall healthy lifestyle plan. Led by a registered dietitian, the program will feature guest lecturers and a healthy

cooking demonstration, low-fat recipe revisions, assessments of individual eating habits including stress-related eating, tips for dining out, a workshop on label reading, a guide for making healthy choices in the supermarket, and fitness walks. Body fat analyses will be performed on each participant at the start and finish of the program.

The fee for this class, which includes all written materials, food samples and body fat analyses, is \$60. Registration deadline is April 11. The class will be limited to 25 participants.

For more information or to register, call Memorial's Nutrition Education Center at 729-2574.

Celebrate Wellness Month at UMass Dartmouth

The University of Massachusetts Dartmouth celebrates University Wellness Month in April with a series of events, from an aerobics class to the annual Woman's Health Fair. All events are free and open to the public.

The Nutrition Awareness Contest will test your knowledge of good eating. Prizes will be given at the contest to be held from 9:30 a.m. to noon April 14 in the auditorium hallway. At noon on April 15, the athletics department will offer an outdoor aerobics class on the campus center patio. Advice on nutrition for that workout will be given by Ann Marie Hedquist, professor of community nursing.

The joy of eating is just one of the "Healthy Pleasures," psychologist Christine Frizzell, director of the Counseling Center, will talk about at noon on April 16 in room 005 in the Auditorium Building.

On April 22, the perils of bad eating habits will be the focus of "Facts and Figures: Eating Disor-

ders in Women," a talk by Sheila Dorgan, health educator and nurse practitioner at University Health Services, at 7 p.m. in the Women's Resource Center. The annual Woman's Health Fair the next day will feature displays and information on health issues from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the auditorium hallway. The Counseling Center will screen for eating disorders during the fair.

"Alternative Approaches to Headache Management" will be the topic of a talk at 5 p.m. by three practitioners of alternative medicine: Dr. John Colletti, Dartmouth chiropractor, and his colleagues, Marie McKinnon, Chinese herbalist and licensed acupuncturist, and Cindy Drogo, massage therapist and licensed acupuncturist. They will speak in room 104 in the Liberal Arts and Business Building.

Wellness Month events are being coordinated by the University Wellness Council, which began last year. For information, call (508) 999-8720.

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Bright floral spring patterns dress up any mom.
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Herald photo by Tara V. Liscianadro

The Stork Delivers Spring Style

This spring moms and babies can lighten up and brighten up with a great new collection of light, fun and comfortable styles. Bright cheerful hues whites and pastels are in for mothers and their newborns.

Maternity clothing has a beautiful line of feminine floral prints in long dresses, oversized t-shirts, patterned bike shorts, and denim baby-doll dresses. All of these new fashions have kept style, and most importantly, comfort, in mind for all expecting moms. Almost all maternity clothes and baby clothes are 100 percent cotton. This means easy care, healthy, breathable clothing and comfort all around.

The swing dress is always a favorite with long fluid lines and a flattering drape. The dress can be used for day or night because of the variety of fabrics it comes in. A slinky fabric in many colors and designs will be a hit at any evening event. Or you can choose a lovely, combed cotton for a day out, shopping with your friends or just relaxing around home.

Expecting women like to have the same choice of fashion clothing as everyone else. They also want to wear the same quality of clothing. Year after year designers help create new styles

and collections to suit their needs and expectations. This spring brings out new, fresh collections of designs created with quality, comfort and great style (as well as affordable prices).

Infant and toddler clothing also has a fresh new look in its collection. Bright bold colors are

girls and truck t-shirts for boys are also featured in the spring collection.

Two brand new items coming out this year for babies are flame-retardant pajamas and bathing suits with built in diapers.

And don't forget that babies and toddlers like to accessorize



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Spring Fashion 1997

Spring Colors Are For You

by Tara V. Lisciandro
Herald Editor

For those who love to get up and go this season's new make-up and hair styles will certainly put a smile on your face. "Short is in. Make-up is soft, fresh, natural and clean this year," said Maria Josephine Marshall of Bellissimo's in Pawtucket.

The key is natural and neutral. Since the fashion rules this season are relaxed and free, neutral colors fit in perfectly. Light pastels, such as pale pinks, icy blues, and creamy peaches are the basics for this spring's color collection.

Brown, however, is everyone's favorite neutral by far this year. Chocolate brown dominates. We eat it, we love it, why not wear it! A variety of shades, from sand to coffee, are available and they're filling up closets and cluttering make-up bags. Brown is a color with a shade made to suit any skin color and allows you to look like you!

Neutral colors are for every face and can be worn morning, noon and night. They will enhance any skin color and tone as well as highlight your natural features. Here are a few helpful hints and application techniques for your spring beauty color collection.

Simply adding a dab of sheer and shimmery lip gloss over your favorite lip color can give a new look to your lips instantly. For a more dramatic look use a bolder shade of lipstick such as espresso brown, sunburnt orange or deep plum. Don't forget to apply lip liner first in a shade lighter than your lipstick.

As for eyes, try applying two

neutral shades for any daytime look. Remember to always use a light color, like sand or creamy vanilla, as a base color and apply it to the entire lid. Then apply a richer, darker shade on the crease and along the lash line. With an applicator, blend these colors outward to create a great natural look while enhancing your eyes. For a more dramatic look simply add a third color, which should always be darker. This color is placed at the corner

of the eye and blended to add more contour and depth. Use soft strokes of chocolate brown eyeliner above the lash line and below the eye to subtly show off your eyes. Finish with a coat of black-brown mascara on upper and lower lashes. For a nighttime, or more dramatic look, use a black-onyx eyeliner and deep shades of brown on your lids.

Cheek color is also basic and to be kept to a minimum this year. Apply your favorite neu-

tral shades with a brush moving downward, along the cheekbone. Never extend the color past your pupil or below your nose. Follow with a loose or pressed powder. Remember to select a foundation and powder that are close to your skin color and tone, never use darker shades.

With the warm spring sun nails will begin to grow quicker. Take the time to treat yourself to a manicure every two to four weeks. You can try a professional manicure like Bellissimo's or do it yourself.

Begin with a square or oval nail shape. An active length is usually best for maintaining strong and healthy nails. Push cuticles down with an orange stick, never cut them. Then apply a base coat, or fortifier, and follow with two coats of color. Finish with a clear protecting coat to make your manicure last. This year is sheer for nail

color. And if you want to add color and match your make-up try colors like toffee, berry, walnut or chocolate.

"Hair has soft highlights and layers this year. No heavy perms, just soft, smooth looks for hair this year," stated Marshall. "We're not over-emphasizing color this year. Only soft gold and red tones are in now." You can keep hair soft, short and simple with a professional cut and professional styl-

ing products. Leave-in conditioners, alcohol-free gels, sprays and spritzes are perfect for spring hair. Try not to over-style or blow-dry frequently, this can cause dryness and frizziness.

Most importantly, keep in mind the word maintenance. Keep eyebrows trimmed in an arch shape. Keep make-up fresh and clean. Throw out any products that you haven't used in 6 months or more. Hair should be cut regularly, every four to eight weeks. Don't forget to deep condition your hair every two to four weeks, depending on your hair type.

This spring go out and enjoy the warm weather days and nights, without the hassle of having to prepare for them. Have fun, be creative and be you!



Don't forget to get your hair trimmed regularly during the warmer months, to keep your life as carefree as possible.

Herald photo by Tara V. Lisciandro



Josephine Marshall at Bellissimo makes everyone's nails look great.

Herald photo by Tara V. Lisciandro

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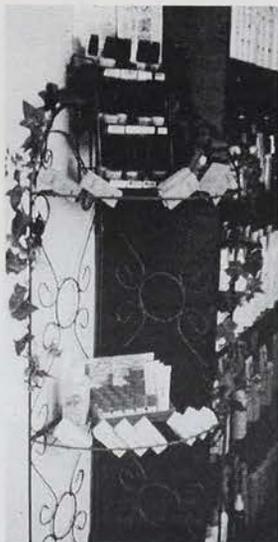
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Herald photo by Tara V. Liscandro

by Mike Fink
Herald Contributing Reporter

I wish Lauren Bacall had won an Oscar, she always looks so smashing. Unlike our local reviewer, I thought Barbra Streisand's pearl-grey beaded frock had class. But in general I'm a cranky spy on the women's world of fashion. Let me rant and vent. Don't read this, dear (meaning, my wife or girls, who just cluck and tsk at me). Here follow some views on current fashion.

I hate short skirts! Especially with double-breasted jackets. They just look skimpy. And crude. The shoulders never fit on those cluttered coats. You look incomplete, half-dressed. This diatribe has nothing to do with squeamish or puritanical opinions. I'm talking grace, style, poetry. Let's go back in time. The '20s offered glitter, but with bold tailoring and deco

detailing. The '30s softened a woman's silhouette, and the matron in movies always looked romantic and rhapsodic, like Margaret Dumont flirting with Groucho.

Then the war came and Veronica Lake put up her hair, and the WAC look gave women

the forest of the night.

Now, let's get back to the here and the now. The latest erogenous zone seems to settle somewhere above the bodice and below the neck. All the gowns on Oscar night featured that spot of flesh, shown without jewelry. I ask my boy students some-

skirt with a meadow of magic horses in blue and gold like Chagall windows, and purchased some silk and some ivory lace in Paris. They turned into her wedding dress at the Chateau de Cande, I mean our little East Side homestead. That was in the '70s. Costly thy garment as thy purse will bear, but not expressed in fancy: rich, not gaudy. The apparel oft proclaims the person.

I'm a regular Polonius, stealing his soliloquy from "Hamlet." He offered his counsel to his son en route to college. I twist it into advice to the female.

My daughters dislike my own closetful of denim. I hoard the stonewashed jeans of yesteryear while my girls threaten to toss them into the trash. I never seem to wear anything out, and at the first sign of a threadbare zone I go off to the nearest tailor for repairs.

I'm just a conservative and a fetishist at heart, but with a flair and a taste for first-rate sewing, stitching and fitting. The '60s dreamed up the Op-Art look and the native costume. The '70s carried you home to your commune in Vermont. The '80s urged you to get out and look mean and clean like Nancy Reagan. But the '90s! They're dreadful and ugly. I pore through the catalogs that show up through our mails slot and find not one item that merits my elderly approval. There, I've said it yet again. Crumple this page and meander to the nearest mall and prove me wrong. Build thee more stately mansions.

Your sex appeal is in your eyes, your smile, your space, the mood you create, the tilt of your head and the language of your stance, your very spine. Dress to bring out your personality and reach for your star. Anxiety makes you frown: look up and toast your time. See you at the seder, or graduation. Bring back the old-lady bathingsuits, they're much better than the harsh vulgar things you see these days. Don't hammer on the keys. A little pianissimo is always sure to please.

I look back upon the charming and lovely ladies of my lifetime and remember them in their signature wardrobe...

the dash and flash of the uniform with its urgency and its energy. Dietrich looked great at the front, and Stanwyck stalked the screen in bulky furs like Crawford and Davis and all the ladies of the Hollywood Canteen.

Moving right along. Remember the postwar return to the A look, the rediscovery of the feminine shape and the drape of formerly forbidden, rationed fabric? My first dates wore long skirts, with crinoline, and at dances they looked like Scarlett! You watched her dance, or just move across a crowded room and the velvet or the silk, the shirtwaist cotton or the soft flannel would suggest her form and flatter her face. Women had arms in those days, round and soft. They had hair and it smelled like vanilla. They clicked lightly on their high heels, like typing or tapping something snappy just by stepping toward you. The oriental influence brought the sack dress to our shores, a loose low-waisted beige frock that flattered both the girl and the boy who looked in wonder at his companion's glamorous entrance into the room. She slithered like an enchanted Rima in

times what they admire in a "woman's" appearance. Their responses shock me a little. I still worship at the shrine of the Ava Gardners, the Gene Tierneys, the Hedy Lamarrs, who did not look like your buddies. They feasted, they didn't starve. But men and women now sculpt their bodies on machines in gyms, working out biceps and strong backs, as though any living tissue but muscle were the foe to be vanquished.

I look back upon the charming and lovely ladies of my lifetime and remember them in their signature wardrobe. My mother's little black dresses. My aunts' Canadian gear worn at Montreal weddings, whose whole purpose was to feature their Paris imports. The things that came out of valises and grips on college weekends, pouring out pastel outfits like the marvelous things seen in King Tut's tomb. Your invited guest would change for each occasion like a duchess, and your hand would go round her waist at each ball while her skirt would linger and drag delicately on the shining parquet floor.

My fiancée wore a long black

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Simplify Life With a Style That Stands Out

Today's modern woman leads a busy life. Always on the go, she can move from board meeting to lunch date and business trip to family outing in virtually no time at all. So, when it comes to her wardrobe she doesn't have time to fuss. She needs sophisticated, feminine fashions that are simple.

learn to mix and match elements of your wardrobe.

- **Keep it simple.** Simplicity is the key to elegance and sophistication when dressing.

- **Build a foundation by selecting total outfits in base colors.** The pant, jacket, skirt, vest and layering piece can be worn together or mixed with other pieces.

- **Invest in key items, like**

with basic white or black for a bold, new look.

- **Look for versatility.** When adding to your wardrobe, think about how an item will work in more than one situation. "Try a sleeveless dress that can easily segue from desk (with a jacket) to dinner (sans jacket)," suggests Harman, "or a reversible tank that provides two looks."

"The most important thing to remember is comfort — women have to feel good to look good. We designed the Dana Buchman Collection to allow women to move easily with simple, classic styles that have an attention to detail and promise to wear well," said Buchman.

"This season's collection offers colors to highlight every wardrobe, from rich coffee to spring brights and safari shades," Harman adds. "With reversible pieces, matching colors and classic separates, the clothes are easy to coordinate and stylish."

"The most important thing to remember is comfort — women have to feel good to look good."

Dana Buchman and Karen Harman, designers of the Dana Buchman Collection, understand that today's woman has to juggle family, work and personal time. They do it themselves.

To help women dress successfully and simplify their lives without sacrificing style, the designers offer tips for building a wardrobe that works:

- **Purge your closet.** If you haven't worn something for two years, chances are you never will.

- **Find clothes that fit.** The most important quality to look for when building a wardrobe is fit. "If your clothes fit well, you can move around easily at work or play and feel more confident," said Buchman.

- **Separate your closet by category and color.** Put all black tops together, all gray skirts together, etc. This will help you

jackets, skirts and slacks, in classic colors that will be chic year after year. Black, charcoal gray, navy, camel and red are basic colors that work well. Pay attention to fabrics and construction. "It's better to add one expensive item that will last for years to your wardrobe than several inexpensive items that will tire after a season of wearing," said Harman.

- **Diversify with knits and new Lycra® blends.** Any fabric with a little give equals comfort when wearing and is great for travel.

- **Don't get trapped by hemline trends.** Choose a hemline that is comfortable and flattering for you.

- **Add color to your wardrobe.** This spring, color is vibrant. You can add pizzazz to any wardrobe by adding a splash of color. Bright lemon, lime and tangerine can be paired



Carefree and Casual for Spring...

Casual styles come together with Annie Barrie sweaters over CP Shades (left) and Flax (right) two-piece outfits and accessories. Available at Gabrielle in Wayland Square and Garden City.

Herald photo by Sara Wise

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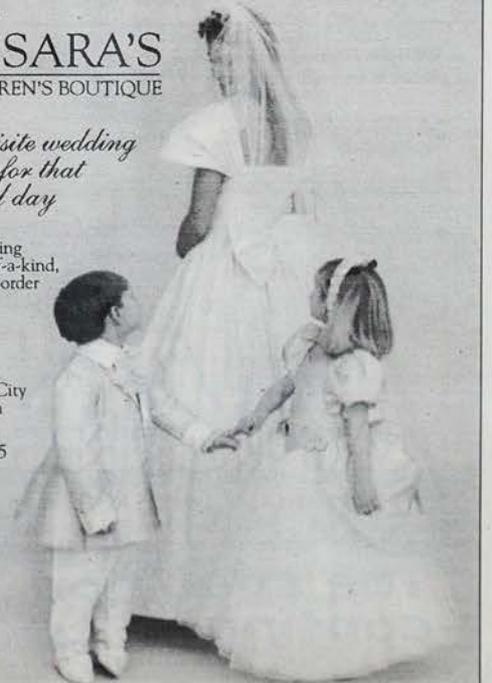
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JEWISH COMMUNITY

Little-Known Orthodox Group Inflames Jews Across Spectrum

by Debra Nussbaum Cohen
NEW YORK (JTA)—When a little-known organization of Orthodox rabbis disseminated a statement declaring Reform and Conservative Judaism "not Judaism at all," angry reaction emanated from both Orthodox and liberal Jewish quarters.

Nearly everyone — from the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, which many mistakenly thought was the source of the statement, to the organization of Reform rabbis — decried the position of the group, the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada.

Read by many as a complete rejection of non-Orthodox Jews,

the statement even drew a response from Agudath Israel of America, a group whose fervently Orthodox constituents are essentially the same as the rabbinical union's.

Agudath officials condemned what it called a misinterpretation of the rabbinical union's position, even as it made clear that it agreed with its central point.

Amid the controversy, the statement's greatest significance is that it underscores deepening divisions between Orthodox and non-Orthodox Judaism, with leaders of each blaming the other for the breach.

Underlying the furor, which received significant attention in

some of America's prominent daily newspapers, was this question: Just what is this group that claims a membership of 582 rabbis?

The group's most recent act was to threaten a boycott of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum over its inclusion of gay victims of the Nazis.

In fact, the Union of Orthodox Rabbis is the oldest, and, for a long time, was the preeminent Orthodox rabbinical organization in the country.

Today, there are strong differences of opinion about the organization's importance and relevance. Its leaders claim the backing and membership of some of Orthodoxy's best-known spiritual leaders, while others in the Orthodox world describe it as an association with little credibility or power.

In its controversial statement, the rabbinical union, known in Hebrew as Agudas Harabonim, wrote: "Reform and Conservative are not Judaism at all. While their adherents are Jews, their religion is not Judaism."

The overwhelming majority of American Jews who identify with one of the religious movements — between 85 percent and 90 percent — identify with the Reform or Conservative movements.

The rabbinical union's statement was prompted by steps the Reform and Conservative movements have taken abrogating Jewish law, Rabbi Hersh Ginsberg, its director, said in an interview in the book-lined study of his home in the Borough Park section of Brooklyn.

Ginsberg, whose face is framed by a white beard and large black yarmulke, cited the Conservative movement's policy of permitting members to drive to synagogue on the Sabbath, both movements' ordination of women and the Reform movement's approval of same-sex civil marriages.

None of these are new policies. When asked why the group decided to issue a position on the liberal movements now, Ginsberg said, "Now they're penetrating Israel."

Ginsberg was referring to the liberal movements' efforts to gain official footing in the Jewish state, where the Orthodox rabbinate controls all matters of personal status, including conversion, marriage and divorce.

The conflict over religious pluralism in Israel — highlighted by recent controversy surrounding conversion legislation — is increasingly affecting relations between Orthodox and non-Orthodox movements in the United States as well.

"We'd like them to leave their temples and return to Judaism," Ginsberg said.

"If their way is Judaism, you might as well burn these books," he added, gesturing toward the volumes of Talmud and other Torah commentary filling floor-to-ceiling shelves.

The history of Ginsberg's organization dates back to its founding in 1902. Based then, as it is now, on Manhattan's Lower East Side, the union's current members span a wide range of Orthodox orientations.

The renowned Rabbi Moshe Feinstein, the decisor of Jewish

law whose interpretations were accepted by Orthodox Jews around the world, was president of the rabbinical union for a quarter of a century, until his death 11 years ago.

While some members are Chasidic rabbis, including Lubavitchers, others also belong to the more moderate Orthodox Rabbinical Council of America, known as the RCA, which was founded in 1936 as an American-oriented alternative to the rabbinical union, which was then made up almost solely of European-born members.

Some of Yeshiva University's best-known deans and faculty members — including Rabbi Zevulun Charlop, dean of its rabbinical school, and Rabbi Moshe Tendler, a professor of Talmud and a dean at the institution — belong to the rabbinical union. Y.U. has historically been rooted in a worldview that embraces both Torah and modernity.

Two rabbis who are members of both organizations declined to speak for the record and indicated that they were embarrassed by the rabbinical union's position.

But Tendler defended the group's new statement as valid, though he said the rabbinical union "has not been very active and certainly has lost touch with much of the American Orthodox community."

"These are beloved people," Tendler said in an interview, referring to Reform and Conservative Jews, but "their leadership has been deceitful. They are the only religion in Western

(Continued on Page 15)

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Web Site Aids Conversion to Judaism

A new Web Site has been established on the subject of conversion to Judaism. The Conversion to Judaism Home Page includes information and advice for people considering conversion to Judaism. The site in-

cludes information about conversion from all movements in Judaism. Subjects covered include: Should I Convert to Judaism?, The Conversion Process, Conversion to Judaism: Some True Stories, and many others.

Links to other sites are included. The URL for the site is <http://members.tripod.com/~epst>.

The site was created by Dr. Lawrence J. Epstein, author of three books on conversion, including *Conversion to Judaism: A Guidebook* (Jason Aronson Inc., 1994).

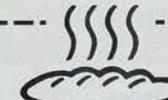
The Conversion to Judaism Home Page has direct e-mail links to more than 60 rabbis.

Epstein said "With these links, people who have questions about becoming Jewish now can directly ask rabbis over the internet. These rabbis can guide those who wish to join the Jewish people through the entire process."

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ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT



Greenwich Odeum Presents Americana & Roots Music Triple Bill

Lagniappe Productions presents an evening of top-notch bluegrass and acoustic folk music on April 12 at the Greenwich Odeum, 59 Main St., East Greenwich, R.I., at 7:30 p.m. The concert will feature a great triple bill



Slaid Cleaves

Photo courtesy of Philo Records

rel." This duo continues to dazzle audiences with their eclectic blend of folk, bluegrass and acoustic country music. Lewis is an award-winning fiddle player and has twice been named the IBMA female vocalist of the year. Rozum is an accomplished multi-instrumentalist who joins with Lewis on superb vocal interplay and harmonies that are at the forefront of their sound.

Cleaves is a relative newcomer on the roots music scene but he has made a dazzling first impression. His debut album on the Rounder label, "No Angel Knows," has shot to the top of the Gavin Americana radio chart and has resided in the No. 2 spot for most of the month of March. Cleaves is an Austin, Texas, singer/songwriter who has been favorably compared to the likes of Steve Earle, Jimmy Dale Gilmore and Lyle Lovett. He has appeared in the area once before at the 1995 Cajun and Bluegrass Festival as part of the band Cool Beans. Opening the show will be the Boston-based band, Western Omelet, who specialize in mixing jazz-influenced Western Swing from the '40s and '50s with fresh originals and rare finds while showcasing rich

southern harmonies. Tickets are \$15 each for general admission. Advance tickets can be obtained by sending a check or money order with a



Laurie Lewis

Photo courtesy of Irene Young

self-addressed, stamped envelope to Lagniappe Productions, 255 Holly Road, Wakefield, R.I. 02879. For further information and/or directions, call 783-3926.

of Americana and roots music with Laurie Lewis & Tom Rozum and Friends and their special guests, Slaid Cleaves and Western Omelet.

Lewis and Rozum were nominated for a Grammy award last year for their tour de force recording, "The Oak And The Lau-

'For Sentimental Reasons' Appears at Luigi's

"For Sentimental Reasons," a nostalgic cabaret, will be presented at Luigi's Restaurant, on April 17. Dinner is served at 6:30 p.m. with show following at 8 p.m. The prior shows sold out in record time.

The show's setting is a "live" radio show being broadcast over the Armed Services Radio, circa 1944. The show will feature The Mills Brothers' "Paper Doll," Cole Porter's "Don't Fence Me In," as well as "As Time Goes By," "When the Lights Go On Again" and other popular songs of the war era.

"For Sentimental Reasons" stars Daniel F. Kirby and Ed-

ward Mastriano of Providence, R.I.; Jenna Wims Hashway of Pawtucket, R.I.; Stacey Geer of Attleboro, Mass.; Lisa Ricci of Quincy, Mass.; and Bob DeVivo of Belmont, Mass. This nostalgic show has been a regular feature in the Rhode Island area for the past two years.

While on tour, "For Sentimental Reasons" has brought the best music of the 1940s to The Homestead resort in Hot Springs, Va., as well as to Orlando and Palm Beach, Fla. Along with their regular appearances at Luigi's and The Great House, the

group has appeared locally at the Stadium Theatre in Woonsocket, Bumblebee's at the Boulevard, The Old Oyster House and Zenga's. They will be featured for the second year as part of Providence's First Night celebration and have played special events such as the Quonset "Wings of History" Air Show, WLKW's Senior Expo, and the Bristol Fourth of July Parade.

Audience members are sure to enjoy dancing and singing along with some of their favorite stars of the 1940s. Tickets are \$24.95 and reservations may be made by calling 861-3850. Luigi's Restaurant is located at 1357 Hartford Ave. in Johnston.

Providence Hosts 'Rage of the Heart'

Odets Productions is proud to announce the world premiere, in Providence, of Dr. Enrico Garzilli's incredible musical drama, "Rage of the Heart" at Veterans Memorial Auditorium in Providence, R.I., April 24 through 27.

This grand musical relates the compelling, timeless, true story of love between two of the 12th century's most intriguing figures, Peter Abelard and Heloise. In this perfect blend of story and music unfolds one of the greatest love stories ever told, and the consequent resolve of true love in the face of overwhelming complications. It captures the mood and spirit of the Renaissance which cast its shadow upon these two lovers, whose relationship actually rocked the very foundations of the medieval world.

This premiere production, featuring spectacular orchestrations by Ian McPherson performed by a 24-piece orchestra under the baton of Ann Danis and the dazzling set and lighting creations of Marcus Abbott, fulfills a 20-year passion for Garzilli. Like the nurturing parent, he has molded a true labor of love into a body of work that captures the emotional turmoil encountered by Abelard and Heloise as they discover their love for one another and then find themselves doomed to unwanted, yet unavoidable, separation.

"Rage of the Heart" will premiere at Veterans Memorial Auditorium in Providence for five performances. Opening night is April 24 at 8 p.m., followed by performances on April 25 at 8 p.m., April 26 at 2 and 8 p.m., and Sunday at 2 p.m.

Concert Combines Jewish and Arab Music

There are many differences between Western Jewish music and Arab music, but there are also striking similarities. As part of Brown University's conference on Israeli-Palestinian identities, "Fusions: A Concert of Jewish and Arab Music" brings together three musicians in a unique collaboration to explore the possibilities of moving from division to fusion.

The concert features oud player Taiseer Elias, cellist Uri Vardi, and pianist Menachem Wiesenberg and will be held in Sayles Hall at Brown University

at 8 p.m. on April 14. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 863-1035.

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FEATURE

Spain, The Jews And The Inquisition Come Alive

by Tara V. Lisciandro
Herald Editor

While I was a student at the University of Rhode Island I couldn't help but let the title of the new letters course intrigue me, "Spain, The Jews and The Inquisition." I was a history major and this seemed to fit into my stream of studies perfectly — and it did.

"Spain, The Jews and The Inquisition" is one of the classes I can still recall quite clearly. We weren't a big class, maybe 15 or 20 students. And almost all of us showed up to class, that means a lot, especially when the class was held early in the morning, three days a week. But Professor David M. Gitlitz always had something new and interesting to help fill up our notebooks. There were maps and

drawings, family histories and religious symbols to accompany our class and tell the story of the secret Jews. Gitlitz made class come alive with photos and music. Our attention was always well held by the amazingly knowledgeable professor. He knew what he was talking about. He was there. He studied for years about Spain, the Jews and the Inquisition and it showed.

But that was just the beginning. Soon after I graduated Gitlitz's class became quite popular. And over the years, Gitlitz also completed his new book, *Secrecy and Deceit: The Religion of the Crypto-Jews* (Jewish Publications Society, 1996). He was given the National Jewish Book Award.

The book deals with the period of the Inquisition and the

practices of the Jews from the late 1480s. Gitlitz has analyzed actual testimony that was recorded during the Inquisition. With these records he was able to find out some of the most intriguing methods in which Jews were able to hide their religious practices.

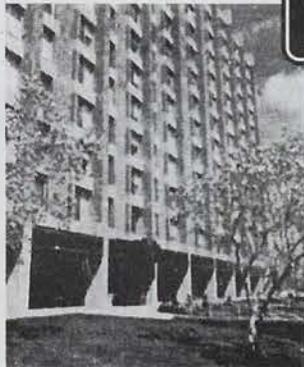
The duration of the Inquisition was almost 300 years and within that time there were many who converted to Catholicism to save themselves.

These "Conversos" were extremely careful about hiding their Jewish faith and practices while pretending to be Catholic.

Examples of these practices are all throughout Gitlitz's book. Such minor things as candles came into questioning. Every home needed candles for sim-



Dr. David M. Gitlitz
Herald photo



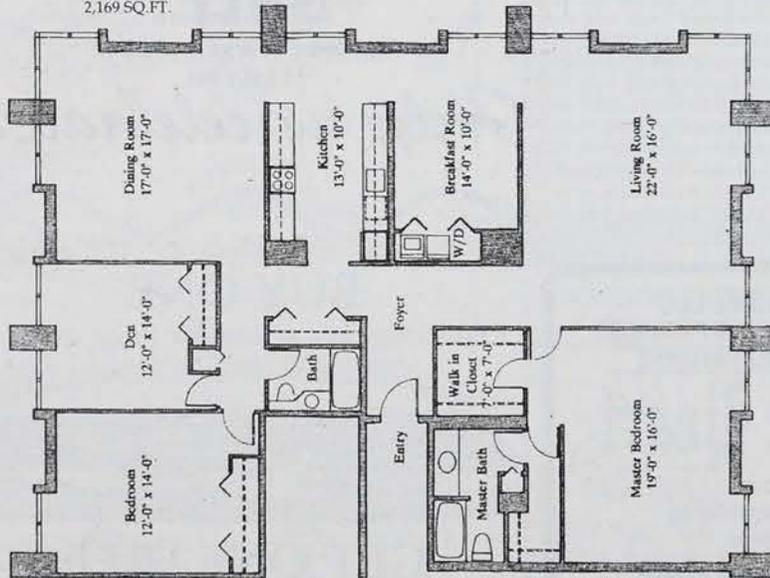
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ply illuminating the house.

Other practices that were heavily studied and brought to trial were methods in which the Conversos ate and what foods they used in their household. They were heavily observed during the Passover season. Often servants gave testimony that the family was using special silverware or dishes. Servants also were aware of the clean clothes they dressed with on Friday and Saturday as well.

Obviously there was a lack of trust in the entire community. Hiding was difficult and making a mistake was a very simple thing to do. Gitlitz presents wonderful examples and excellent testimony throughout his book. The Inquisition comes alive in *Secrecy and Deceit* just like it did in his class.

Gitlitz was always very good

at relaying information to us in such an original way. He was interesting, enlightening and always well-informed. The professor always had a bit of humor to add to his class too. I believe he has carried all of these qualities and more in his book.

And now Gitlitz is continuing to work on four new projects for the future. The first which is almost near completion will be a cookbook, "The tentative title is *The Inquisition Cookbook*" he joked. But the book will include recipes from the time of the Inquisition accompanied by histories and origins. The second project, for which he has also done a great deal of research, will be an art and architectural guide to Santiago in Spain. His other projects are sure to be intriguing surprises as well.

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FEATURE

Dialogue Brings American and Israeli Teens Closer

In five Tel Aviv high schools, Young Judeans in Israel recently visited with 10th- and 11th-grade students to explore issues of Jewish identity, discuss what they have in common and where their opinions and outlooks diverge.

In many ways, the 18-year-olds are similar. Externally, it is hard to tell them apart. "I thought a large percent of American Jews were very religious," one of the Israelis said, "but they're more like us than we think. They dress the same, listen to the same music as we do, watch the same programs on TV and are interested in the same sports."

The differences are evident, however, in attitudes toward religion and individual observance. "Are you Jewish because you live here?" one of the Young Judeans asked his group. The group was taken aback. "I'm Jewish because I have a Jewish mother," one answered; "I believe in G-d my own way," another said. "The important thing about Judaism is the way you behave."

A young woman who had spent time in the States com-

mented sadly that "it's easier to live as a Jew in America than in the Jewish state. None of my friends here observe anything." One of the Americans concurred. "Diaspora Jews are more religious," she said. They have to work harder at being Jewish." Reform and Conservative synagogues are in the minority in Israel. Orthodoxy, by law, dominates the religious scene. The Israeli students criticized the ultra-Orthodox for "interfering in other people's lives." At the same time, they are respectful of holiday observance and Jewish tradition. "Even though I'm not an observant Jew, someone eating in public on Yom Kippur would bother me," one young man said.

Both groups agree being Jewish is a matter of identity as well as religion. All the teens feel that Jewish identity is established in the home. "Being Jewish is more than just practicing religion," one of the Israelis said. "Judaism means understanding your roots. It's important to know where you came from. You can't ignore the fact that you are Jewish, but sometimes I

forget that I am. Although I'm not religious, I will teach my children where they came from."

The questions flew both ways. Some of the Israelis were surprised to learn about programs like the Year Course and asked the Judeans why they chose to spend a year in Israel. Others could not quite fathom the depth of the American's concern and involvement with Israel.

"People from the diaspora are much more Zionist and more active on behalf of Israel than we are," one young woman said. "We could learn from you."

"If teen-agers concentrate on what we share, rather than on where we disagree, we can help bridge the gap between Israel and the diaspora, one Judean said. Overhearing the remark, a young Israeli added: "This is the way stereotypes on both sides are broken. These kinds of meetings bring us closer together."

Reprinted from *Mivzak*, March 1997, a newsletter published by the Hadassah Youth Center, Jerusalem.

Jewish Group Applauds Kennedy's Human Rights Work

The American Jewish Congress recognized Rhode Island Congressman Patrick J. Kennedy for his work in human rights in a ceremony on April 7 in New York City.

Kennedy received the "Three I Award" from supporters of Israel, Ireland and Italy, for his "outstanding efforts and achievements for human rights" at the ceremony at the Consulate General of Ireland.

"I am humbled to receive such a prestigious award," stated Kennedy. "I am proud to be carrying on my family's legacy of standing up and fight-

ing for human rights."

In addition to human rights, Kennedy was recognized for his work in Congress on behalf of immigrants, his outspoken opposition to discrimination, and his steadfast support of the peace process in the Middle East.

As a member of Congress, Kennedy has made official visits to Israel where he met with government and military leaders to learn more about the Middle East peace process. He was also a member of the U.S. delegation attending Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's funeral.



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Synagogues In Russia Struggle For Funding

by Lev Krichevsky

MOSCOW (JTA) — More than a dozen Jewish communities across Russia have reclaimed synagogues since the fall of communism six years ago.

But most of them open their doors only once a week for Shabbat services because of a lack of worshippers.

Only the largest Russian Jewish communities — in Moscow and in St. Petersburg — boast a rich religious life. "In other centers, Jewish religious life is just flickering," Russia's chief rabbi, Adolph Shayeveich, told Jewish activists who gathered here recently to discuss the future role of the synagogue in Russia.

The second conference of the Congress of Jewish Religious Communities and Organizations, an umbrella body for most of Russia's synagogues, attracted leaders of 30 congregations.

Estimates of the Jewish population in Russia run between 600,000 and 2 million.

Shayeveich said little had been done since the group's first conference in 1993 to further Jewish religious revival in Russia. The two main problems facing synagogues have been a lack of funds and the declining population resulting from the mass emigration of Russian Jews, he added.

The financial situation improved somewhat after the creation of the Russian Jewish Congress last year. The congress now pays for public utilities in most of the synagogues and it sponsors projects aimed at fostering religious activity.

A recent survey of Russian Jewry revealed that 75 percent of Jews in Russia never go to synagogue. Younger Jews are particularly apathetic.

"To attract Jewish youth there

should be a knowledgeable leader who could lead young people," said Viktor Shapiro, chairman of the Jewish community in Kaliningrad and the leader of a congregation of 40 young Jews.

Andrey Oshero, a community leader from the central Russian town of Kostroma, said

Shabbat services in his synagogue attract 25 to 50 people out of the town's 1,000 Jews. "If we had a rabbi, we would have attracted more people to the services," Oshero said.

Many synagogues that do not have permanent rab-

(Continued on Page 19)

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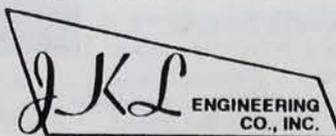


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OBITUARIES

DOROTHY LARGE

NEW BEDFORD, Mass. — Dorothy Large, 77, of 438 Parker St., New Bedford, the owner of the former Henry's Restaurant, died March 31 at home. She was the widow of Max Siegal and Henry Large.

Born in New Bedford, a daughter of the late Samuel and Bessie (Kawalsky) Goldstein, she was a lifelong resident of the city.

She leaves a daughter, Harriet Stich of Sharon, Mass., and two grandchildren. She was the sister of the late Stanley Goldstein, Albert Goldstein and Ida Gerson.

A graveside service was held April 2 in Plainville Cemetery, New Bedford. The family was assisted with the arrangements by Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

SYLVIA KENNER NELSON

LAUDERHILL, Fla. — Sylvia Kenner Nelson, of Lauderhill, died at home March 28. She was formerly of Cranston. She was the wife of Howard L. Nelson.

She was the mother of Nancy and Joel Greenfield, and Beverly and Steven Cohen, and the grandmother of Eric Levine, and Carrie and Jonathan Cohen.

She was a member of Miriam Hospital Women's Association, Hadassah, and City of Hope. Donations may be made to American Cancer Society.

HARRY PLATT

WARWICK — Harry Platt, 79, of 661 Orleans Court, a mem-

ber of the Brown University Hall of Fame who still holds the single-game basketball scoring record at Brown, died April 6 at the Hospice Center of Rhode Island, 50 Maude St., Providence.

He arrived at Brown with a reputation as only a mediocre basketball player, but once he joined the team in his sophomore year, he was a sensation from the start. On Feb. 2, 1938, he scored 48 points against Northeastern, a Brown record that still stands. He also ranks 22nd on the all-time, career scoring list at Brown with 868 points.

He graduated in 1940 and played pro basketball — then an unknown sport — in Philadelphia, Rochester, N.Y., and Pittsfield, Mass.

In World War II, he was a physical education instructor for the Army Air Forces at Marianna AFB, Fla. After the war, he ran a sporting goods store in the Washington Park section of Providence and coached the Bryant College basketball team for a few seasons.

He later closed the store and went to work as a packaging engineer in the "blister" packaging division of C.J. Fox Co. He also broadcast University of Rhode Island basketball games on radio station WEAN.

He was a salesman for C.J. Fox Co. in Providence for 36 years, retiring in 1995. He was a coordinator and instructor for the Brown University community for Learning and Retirement. He was a past president of the University Heights Ten-

ants Association.

Born in New York, a son of the late Morris and Rebecca (Herzlich) Platt, he had lived in Providence and Cranston before moving to Warwick three years ago.

He leaves a son, Peter Platt of Overland Park, Kan.; and two grandchildren. He was the father of the late Kenneth Platt.

The funeral was held April 8 at the Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence. Burial was in New Cedar Park Cemetery in Westwood, N.J.

ALVIN A. WELLS

PROVIDENCE — Alvin A. Wells, 78, of Wampanoag Trail, East Providence, an insurance underwriter, died April 3 at the Philip Hulitar Hospital Inpatient Center, Providence.

Born in Taunton, Mass., he was a son of the late William and Ida (Granovsky) Wells.

He was self-employed as a certified life underwriter of sub-standard life insurance, retiring 17 years ago. He received the Kelly Sheridan Award for outstanding achievement in the life-insurance field.

He was a graduate of Columbia University and a veteran of World War II. He was a former member of the American Contract Bridge League.

He leaves a nephew, William Wells Salomon in New Jersey. He was the brother of the late David and Kenneth Wells.

A graveside service was held April 7 at the Mount Nebo Cemetery in Taunton, Mass.

SYDNEY S. ZURIER

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — Sydney S. Zurier, 90, of 1200 South Flagler Drive, West Palm Beach, Fla., died April 2 at the Good Samaritan Medical Center in West Palm Beach. He was the husband of Irene (Smith) Zurier and the late Leona (Mettler) Zurier.

Born in Providence, a son of the late Abraham and Rebecca (Sincoff) Zurier, he had lived in West Palm Beach for the last 20 years, previously residing in New London, Conn., since 1958.

He had been the proprietor

of the former Woman's Shop in New London. He was a member of Temple Beth-El.

An Army veteran of World War II, he was awarded two bronze Stars while in combat in North Africa, Italy and Romania.

Besides his wife, he leaves nieces and nephews. He was the brother of the late Milton, Harold and Max Zurier.

A graveside service was held April 6 at Temple Beth-El Cemetery, Reservoir Avenue. The service was coordinated by Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence.

Rebecca Shulman, Former Hadassah President, Dies at 100

Rebecca Shulman, a former National President of Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, died on March 30, at her home in Manhattan. In October 1996, Shulman, who had been national president from 1953 to 1956, turned 100 years old.

"We are deeply saddened by the death of Rebecca Shulman. She was with us for an entire century and it is difficult to imagine Hadassah without Rebecca," Marlene E. Post, national president of Hadassah said, fondly recalling her predecessor. "Rebecca's passion for Israel and the Jewish people have inspired generations of Hadassah leaders and members and she will be greatly missed."

At the time of Shulman's milestone birthday last year, Post had noted that "for the first time in Hadassah's history, a former national president has reached the venerable age of 100." Born some 15 years before the founding of Hadassah in 1912, Shulman was a lifelong Zionist, first elected as a delegate to the World Zionist Congress in 1929. In 1932, she became a national board member.

As chairman of the Hadassah National Convention in 1945, she called for the mobilization of the then-150,000 members to become "soldiers" in the war for Jewish liberation and nationhood. According to Abba Eban, former Israel Ambassador to the United Nations, for the next three years, Shulman's home in Stamford was the "core and hub of activity for the Jewish State" during the years just

prior to the establishment of the state. He, David Ben Gurion, Chaim Weizmann, Golda Meir and other activists for a Jewish state were frequently "whisked away to that hideaway" for weekend retreats following United Nations conferences and meetings, Eban said.

A trained nurse an social worker, in 1946 Shulman was sent to pre-state Palestine to study Hadassah's medical services and its ability to absorb thousands of refugees from Europe. During Israel's War of Independence, she was in Jerusalem and was present when the State of Israel was proclaimed.

Rebecca was able to transmit her firsthand knowledge of the most urgent needs of the fledgling country to her Hadassah colleagues all over America when she became Hadassah's 10th national president in 1953. In 1954, to commemorate her husband, Herman, himself an ardent Zionist who died in 1945, she presented 12 paintings by American artists to the Israel Museum in Jerusalem, establishing an American wing.

After her presidency she continued to devote her talents and skills to the improvement of medical services in Israel and the building of Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center, today the largest medical care and research facility in the Middle East.

The matriarch of a large family Rebecca Shulman was especially proud of her late son, Paul, who was instrumental in building Israel's Navy and became its first admiral.

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Anniversary Notices

In the future the *Jewish Herald* will publish memorial ads 1 col. x 4" for \$10.

Larger ads will be priced at the same rate — \$10 per 4" column. Notices may include a poem, date of death, quotation, or a small picture of the deceased.

Payment and wording must be mailed or brought in to the R.I. Jewish Herald 99 Webster Street Pawtucket, RI 02861

Correction

In the Sophie Horovitz obituary which appeared in the April 3 issue of the *Herald* it should have read as follows: She was a daughter of the late Morris and Sarah (Grossman) Tolchinsky; brother, Martin Tolchinsky of North Smithfield; sister, Frieda Sperling of Silver Spring, Md.

No One Is Closer Than He

G-d appears far, but no one is closer than He. He is high above His universe, but a person can enter the synagogue, stand near the pulpit, and pray in a whisper — and G-d hears his prayer.

Yerushalmi, Berachot 9:1

CLASSIFIED

Little-Known

(Continued from Page 14)

civilization that says that the Bible is not divine."

This is not the first time that the rabbinical union had weighed in on issues of pluralism and the legitimacy of non-Orthodox groups.

In 1956, it had prohibited Orthodox institutions from participating in the Synagogue Council of America, which has brought together Orthodox, Conservative and Reform rabbis to work together on matters of common concern. But not until 1993 did the rabbinical union's view prevail. At that time, the Orthodox Union and RCA withdrew.

Today, though only 10 percent of its members are European-born, according to Ginsberg, most of the business at its several meetings a year is conducted in Yiddish.

Leaders of the rabbinical union proudly identified themselves as "right wing" and "ultra-Orthodox."

In explaining the group's statement, Rabbi David Hollander, who serves as a member

Bill Aimed

(Continued from Page 1)

quired to recognize both Orthodox and non-Orthodox conversions performed abroad.

The Orthodox parties claim that the non-Orthodox denominations have used this as a "loophole" under which Israelis or residents undergo a conversion course within Israel — and then travel abroad briefly, or send their papers abroad, to have a non-Orthodox conversion performed.

Even if the bill becomes law, non-Orthodox conversions of diaspora Jews performed outside Israel would continue to be recognized.

Supporters of religious pluralism in Israel warned that the conversion law would create a rift between Israel and world Jewry.

Closer to home, the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island expressed disappointment with the advancement of a bill that threatens Jewish unity. JFRI President Edward Feldsteinsaid in a statement, "While we recognize the right of the State of Israel to conduct its own government affairs, the JFRI is on record as objecting to any legislation that would change the status quo as to religious status questions in Israel. We believe that this proposed legislation sends a message that the variety

Joys of Yinglish

(Continued from Page 5)

Yinglish chapter in our history like a favorite ballad clings to the heart. The angels must be set aroar with Leo R. tasting the pleasures of the palate in going over the old jokes redolent with gleeful spice. I bet Jack Benny is rolling on the clouds with laughter. There's never been a jester like Leo Rosten, who loves us, mocks us, juggles our contradictions, and turns the very things that embarrass us into syllables of silver and gold.

of the rabbinical union's executive committee as well as of the RCA, said, "Pluralism and Judaism are incompatible.

"One must make a choice," Hollander said in a telephone interview. "Either one believes in the Torah or one believes in pluralism."

Rabbi Jerome Epstein, executive vice president of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, laid part of the blame for the rabbinical union's statement at the feet of Israel's leadership.

"They have left room for fostering this kind of comment, and they encouraged it implicitly by not saying there is a respectable pluralism and diversity in the Jewish community today," Epstein said.

He described the atmosphere as one "almost of sinat chinam," or the causeless hatred of one Jew for another that sages say caused the destruction of the Temples in Jerusalem and led to the dispersion of the Jews.

"Causeless hatred really is bred when people look for ways to delegitimize others," he said.

of Jewish expressions of our people will not be acceptable to the government of Israel. This is a divisive message."

Like many opponents to the bill, JFRI Executive Director Steve Rakitt feels that the bill aims to divide Jews. "We hope that this bill will not become law, and we encourage the government of Israel to find an equitable solution to the issues addressed in the legislation. The unity of the Jewish people is critical and dates back to Biblical times. Westrenuously object to efforts to divide us," said Rakitt in a statement from JFRI.

Jewish leaders in the United States have warned that passage of the conversion legislation could have a negative impact on their fund-raising efforts on behalf of Israel.

Jewish Agency for Israel Chairman Avraham Burg said recently that the legislation also would have a devastating impact within Israel.

He said that only some 400 immigrants each year request conversion through the Orthodox chief rabbinate, compared with the tens of thousands who seek conversions through other streams of Judaism.

"The meaning of these numbers is a vote of no-confidence by the immigrants in the existing system and solutions," he said.

(JFRI staff writer Cynthia Mann contributed to this report.)

Majestic Senior Guild

The next meeting of the Majestic Senior Guild will be April 15 at 1 p.m. at Temple Torat Yisrael, Park Avenue, Cranston.

This will be an important organization meeting, set up for new officers and future programs. Members are asked to attend, so that the summer schedule can be started. Coffee will follow.

Synagogues

(Continued from Page 17)

bis are served by emissaries of the worldwide Lubavitch movement who visit periodically. Most rabbis working in Russia are Lubavitch representatives.

Some conference participants voiced the view that refurbishing synagogues would increase attendance.

"Some feel embarrassed to go to a poor-looking synagogue which they can not be proud of," said Yakov Bril, chairman of the synagogue in Krasnoyarsk, in central Siberia.

Bril's synagogue is financing itself.

Moscow Chief Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt believes that Russian synagogues can support themselves if local leaders learn how to involve unaffiliated Jews.

"The leaders have to go look for the Jews, get people involved and make the synagogue look attractive," he said.

To survive over the long-term, synagogues will have to draw financial support from local Jewish business people and become "real communities with membership," he said.

Bridge and Link

(Continued from Page 6)

highly acclaimed Jewish books for children including the award-winning, *G-d's Paintbrush*.

She is the second woman to be ordained as a rabbi (1974), the first rabbi to become a mother. She and her husband, Dennis, were the first rabbinical couple to jointly lead a congregation — Beth-El Zedeck in Indianapolis. They have two children, David and Debora. Sasso, who holds a doctorate in ministry, is active in the interfaith community, and has written and lectured on the renewal of spirituality, women and religion, and the discovery of the religious imagination in children of all faiths.

Find Help With 'Reason From Rhyme'

Local poet, Carolyn Schwartz, published *Reason From Rhyme* a few years ago. Her collection of poetry deals with the feelings, emotions and thoughts of the mentally ill.

Her collection of poetry has been published again by Mental Health Retardation and Hospitals, a state agency.

The proceeds of the book will benefit "Speakout," a speakers bureau of former mental health consumers.

To find out more about *Reason From Rhyme*, call the Mental Health Association of R.I., 726-2285.

A Gift of Free Membership

In honor of Hadassah's 85th birthday, any Hadassah member in good standing can gift a friend (or friends) and family members with FREE one year memberships until May 31. No charge involved! For details, contact Rhode Island Hadassah at 463-3636.

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Executive Bonus Plan Q & A

This is another article in the series highlighting estate planning concepts.

Q: Why is an executive bonus arrangement useful in estate planning?

A: A bonus provides the cash needed to pay the premium for the life insurance which is a crucial asset in your estate planning portfolio. Insurance in an irrevocable trust will provide estate liquidity to cover estate taxes, probate fees, administrative expenses, and the liquidity needs of your survivors. An insurance-funded personal retirement plan supplies a tax deferred financial vehicle designed to provide cash flow for retirement income and pre-retirement hardships.

Q: How does a bonus plan operate?

A: You and your employer enter into a bonus agreement. Although no written agreement or IRS approval is required for this simple program, it is always recommended to have important business transactions detailed in a signed written document. The agreement clarifies your rights and substantiates that the bonus is not a dividend. Since there are no discrimination requirements, the employer

is free to choose the participants in the plan, the amount of the bonus, and the length of time for the program. The bonus is paid to Union Central as premium. IRC Sec. 162(a)(1) permits businesses to tax deduct "a reasonable allowance for salaries or other compensation for personal services actually rendered." The bonus is taxed to you as ordinary income. You may receive a double bonus, which is a payout large enough for a premium with enough cash left over to cover the tax on the bonus.

Q: Who pays the life insurance premium?

A: If you are very conservative, the trustee of your irrevocable life insurance trust should be the premium payor as well as the applicant, owner, and beneficiary for any insurance which will be used to cover estate taxes or the liquidity needs of your survivors. You would receive the bonus, make a gift to the irrevocable trust and the trustee would pay the premium. If you are a little more liberal in your estate planning, the employer should be listed as the premium payor and you would be treated for tax purposes as receiving income and making a gift.

If the purpose of the insurance is to provide retirement income, then your employer is the premium payor and you would be listed as the owner. To take advantage of the unified credit, your children or a trust on their behalf should be the beneficiary. Otherwise, your spouse would be the beneficiary, in order to take advantage of the marital deduction.

Example: As a 45-year-old male in a 31 percent tax bracket, you and your company enter into a double bonus arrangement for a SELECTEX contract with a \$1,000 monthly premium. Your firm pays \$1,000 on a check-o-matic basis to the insurance company and increases your monthly paycheck by an extra \$449.28, which covers the tax on the \$1,449.28 (\$1,449.28 x .31 + \$449.28). If your employer did not give you a double bonus, you could have taken advantage of the substantial dividends in the SELECTEX policy to pay your taxes. Assuming this bonus program continues for 20 years until retirement, you will be able to take annual tax-free withdrawals (surrenders up to basis and loan thereafter) of \$33,448 for 20 years.

Q: Is an executive bonus plan effective in an S corporation, partnership, or sole proprietorship?

A: Yes, for employees who are not owners. Since these organizations have a flow-through of taxation (no income tax at the business level), a bonus would not help a sole shareholder because the owner would include the value of the bonus as an employee and deduct it as an owner with a zero net effect.

Example: You are 100 percent stockholder of an S corporation and you would like to establish a fringe benefit program for yourself and two key executives. Pursuant to a Sec. 162 bonus plan, your two employees will each receive a double bonus. Since a bonus will have no net effect on your after-tax income, you merely use a portion of your earnings from the business to fund a personal retirement plan with life insurance.

Submitted by Lawrence M. Halperin and Marvin William Lax of Halperin & Lax. In their monthly column they will answer questions about life and disability insurance and investments. Mail questions to: 335 Centerville Road, Warwick, R.I. 02886-9990 or call 738-2350.

Find Unique Fashion at Judy's Studio



Judy Gershman shows off her fine line of spring clothing.

Herald photo by Tara Liscandro

by Tara V. Liscandro
Herald Editor

Just about one year ago, Judy Gershman's lifetime dream came true. She opened her own shop of women's clothing on Oaklawn Ave. in Cranston. Judy's Studio is a contemporary shop decorated nicely with active wear and knits. "We don't have any closet-clothes here," said Gershman. Meaning to say, not one of her unique clothing styles would ever sit in anyone's closet.

Gershman started at James Kaplan's Jewelry & Giftwear as a gift wrapper at age 14. She began retail sales there at age 16. Then she was off to Boston to work at Filene's. In all, Gershman worked in retail for 35 years at various stores. ("It's in my blood," Gershman joked.) Throughout the years Gershman has worked with men, women and children's upscale clothing. And her many years of experience have taught her more than any school could have.

After marrying and having two lovely daughters, Gershman was able to devote her time to her lifetime dream. Judy's Studio carries unique women's clothing which comes from all over the United States and Europe. By way of travel and research she is able to find original dresses, pants, blouses, tops and other fine articles of clothing for her studio. "It all has pizzazz," said Gershman. She

doesn't like to define her collection as trendy, but as original. "I carry ageless clothing," said Gershman. There is something for every woman at any age in Judy's Studio.

Her fantastic clothing is very personalized. Gershman carries styles for all sizes and shapes. Judy's Studio also offers alterations for all of her customers.

Gershman is very selective about her merchandise. "Every time you come in you see something new and different," said Gershman proudly. But Judy's Studio collection has a wide variety of business wear, travel clothing, formal wear, cruise wear and "play wear." Some original pieces are even hand-painted in a variety of designs, colors and textures. In addition, many of Gershman's lines can be worn through more than one season. "I have a lot of non-seasonable materials here, for all ages and sizes," added Gershman.

Judy's Studio has a comfortable and inviting atmosphere. her collection is personal, fun, casual and formal. She and her good friend, Wendy Magnette, are always ready to help. Together they can create a beautiful new look, for any event, just for you.

Gershman's years of retail clothing experience and great knowledge of fabrics, color and style make Judy's Studio one of the most one-of-a-kind women's clothing shops around.



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