

Rhode Island Jewish HERALD

**Jewish
Community**

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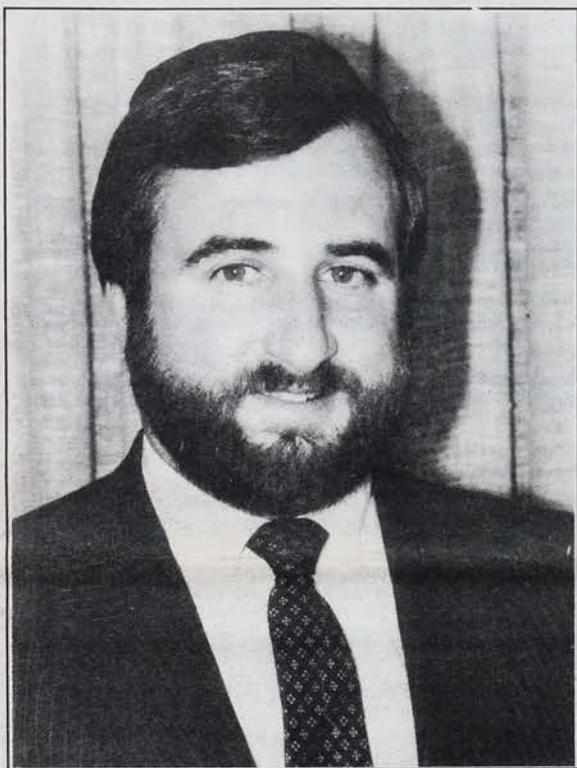
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R.I. Board of Rabbis Elects Jagolinzer



Rabbi Marc S. Jagolinzer
Photo courtesy of Temple Shalom

The Rhode Island Board of Rabbis announced the election of Rabbi Marc S. Jagolinzer of Temple Shalom, Middletown, as president for the coming year.

A native of Providence, Rabbi Jagolinzer has been the spiritual leader of Temple Shalom for the past 22 years. Active in local and statewide interfaith and community activities, he has been recognized for his numerous contributions to fostering understanding and bringing about knowledge in many areas of community life. In addition to leading his congregation, Rabbi Jagolinzer also teaches at

the University of Rhode Island and Salve Regina University and serves as a pastoral care coordinator for Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island.

Also elected to serve on the board are Rabbi Alvan Kaunfer, of Temple Emanu-El, Providence, vice president; and Rabbi Michael Cahana, Temple Beth-El, Providence, secretary-treasurer.

The Rhode Island Board of Rabbis is composed of rabbinical representatives from the Conservative, Orthodox, Reconstructionist and Reform movements.

U.S. Jewish Leaders in Israel to Forestall Bill on Conversion

by Naomi Segal
JERUSALEM (JTA)—Efforts to negotiate a compromise on controversial conversion legislation have moved into high gear.

Recently, a delegation of Reform and Conservative Jewish leaders from the United States and Israel held a second day of consultations with government and religious leaders to find a compromise on an issue that threatens to drive a wedge between Israel and U.S. Jewry.

The pending conversion bill would cement into law exclusive Orthodox authority over conversions performed in Israel.

The religious parties have threatened to bring down the Netanyahu government by leaving the coalition if the bill does not become law and have been pressing for final Knesset action by the end of the month.

Members of the non-Orthodox streams in Israel and in the Diaspora have protested that the legislation would not only delegitimize Reform and Conservative conversions performed in Israel, but would also negate their practice of Judaism.

American Jews, most of whom are non-Orthodox, have been cautiously eyeing the progress of the conversion bill, with some saying they would withhold their donations to Israel if the measure passed the Knesset.

In Israel, some Orthodox Jews have vowed to fight the non-Orthodox movements' efforts to seek greater recognition within the Jewish state.

Simmering resentments against the non-Orthodox streams boiled to the surface recently, when hundreds of fervently Orthodox Jews attacked a group of Conservative Jews who were holding a mixed prayer service at the Western Wall during Shavuot.

Attempts by a female member of the Conservative congregation to read from a Torah scroll reportedly prompted angry shouts of "Nazi," "murderers," "reformers" and "whores" from a crowd of fervently Orthodox Jews pressing in around the worshippers.

When the Conservative Jews were escorted from the Western Wall Plaza by security units, students at a nearby yeshiva pelted them with rocks and bags of excrement.

The acting mayor of Jerusalem later reserved his criticism for the Conservative congregation.

"The very fact that the Conservative Jews, who symbolize the destruction of the Jewish people, came to the place that is holiest to the Jewish people is a provocation," Haim Miller of the fervently Orthodox Agudat Yisrael party told the Israeli daily *Haretz*.

"They have no reason to be in this place," Miller added.

Deputy Religious Affairs Minister Yigal Bibi of the National Religious Party also termed the Conservative congregation's mixed prayer service a "provocation."

But he added, "There's no need to take the law into one's own hands."

This week, the leaders from the two non-Orthodox streams of Judaism emerged from meetings with the prime minister and other government officials encouraged that the political leaders appeared to be interested in finding a compromise aimed at preventing the conversion bill from reaching the Knesset floor.

But they said a recent meeting with former Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Avraham Shapira seemed to reinforce the sentiment that the Orthodox establishment "is not interested in reaching a compromise."

Efforts to seek a compromise began after the Knesset passed the conversion bill April 1, in the first of three Knesset votes, known as readings.

The Reform and Conservative movements in Israel have both brought cases over the past several years to Israel's High Court of Justice to secure recognition for their conversions.

The coalition leadership announced that it was willing to

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America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places 1997

The National Trust for Historic Preservation recently released the new list of the most endangered U.S. historical sites of the year.

- Cranston Street Armory (see story on page 11)
- Ellis Island National Monument, New York Harbor
- Congressional Cemetery, Washington, D.C.
- Flathead Indian Reservation, Mont.
- Bridge of Lions, St. Augustine, Fla.
- Montezuma Castle, N.M.
- Stillwater Bridge, Minn.
- Vicksburg Campaign Trail
- Historic Buildings Infested with Formosan Termites, Gulf Coast states.
- The Cathedral of St. Vibiana, Los Angeles, Calif.
- Wa'ahila Ridge, Hawaii



Who Needs a Tamagotchi?

Boris Nosovskiy and Eli Rodrigues keep watch over eight quail eggs in an incubator. The Alperin Schechter Day School kindergarten class monitored the eggs and watched the baby quails poke out of their shells as part of a science project.

Photo courtesy of ASDS

HAPPENINGS

PVCC Presents Spring Concert

The Pawtuxet Valley Community Chorus will present its spring concert, "Music... Made in the USA," on June 20, 21, and 22 at 7:30 p.m. at the Coventry High School.

Tickets, which are \$6 for adults and \$3 for children 12 and under, are available from any chorus member or by calling 821-0261. Tickets will also be available at the door.

This concert, under the direction of the PVCC's music director, Brian Hopkins, will include music by American composers and feature a broad range of musical types — from country to rock 'n' roll, from Broadway tunes to patriotic standards. The highlight of the evening will be the premiere of the choral arrangement of the recently adopted Rhode Island state song.

The Pawtuxet Valley Community Chorus is a non-profit organization which presents scholarships to local, graduating high school seniors who are pursuing careers in music.

Chai's Jewish Singles Presents July Dance Party

A Fourth of July Blast, a dance party, will be held at the NYC Jukebox on July 3, located at 275 Tremont St., Boston. Doors open at 8 p.m. and the dance will continue until 2 a.m. The cost is \$15 for members, \$18 for non-members or \$10 before 10 p.m. with this notice.

Plenty of garage parking is directly across the street. Last event brought more than 400 Jewish singles ages 21 to 40s, don't miss this one. For more information, call Barton, (508) 443-7834 or e-mail ChaiProd1@aol.com

Business Seminar for Women Entrepreneurs

SCORE, Bank RI and Phoenix Home Mutual Life Insurance Co. announce the first in a series of seminars devoted especially to women in business. "Foundations for Success — Skills and Understandings for Women in Business" will be held at the Providence Marriott at One Orms St., Providence, on June 25 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Speakers will include Toby Nadler of Ashton St. John Associates, who will deliver the keynote address. Ethel Cook of Corporate Improvement Group will speak on time management for business and personal needs, Christie Hanaway of G. Frank Hanaway Insurance Co. will outline the insurance needs for every business, and Pam Pond of the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce will discuss networking to build business.

Sign-in will begin at 8:30 a.m. A continental breakfast will be served, and attendees are encouraged to bring their business cards and brochures for the Resource Table.

A fee of \$15 will be collected at the door. Seating is available on a first come, first served basis; pre-registration is suggested. Call Mima Sousa at 823-3330 to register or receive information.

Auditions for "South Pacific"

The Players, "America's Oldest Little Theatre," will be holding tryouts for the musical, "South Pacific" on June 24 at 7:30 p.m. at Barker Playhouse, 400 Benefit St., Providence.

Needed are principals, singers and trained dancers. For information, call 467-4392.

Calendar of Events For June 19-28

- 19 **Preschool Recognition Day** at Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island. Call 861-8800.
- 20 **Wines of local vintner**, John Nunes of Newport, features wine-tasting evening at Swanhurst, Bellevue Ave., Newport. Wines will be served with hors d'oeuvres and music. \$25 per person. Call 841-9375.
- 13th **Annual Secret Garden Tours** June 20-22. A walking tour of private gardens. Benefits arts education in Aquidneck Island's public school system. Call 847-0514.
- Wickford Art Association's** annual member water-based media show and sale, June 20-July at Wickford Art Gallery. Free and open to public. Call 294-6840.
- 21 **17th Annual Summer Pops 1997**. Chorus of Westerly opens summer season in Wilcox Park featuring the 200-voice chorus and Boston Festival Orchestra. Fireworks finale. Call 596-8663.
- Herb Garden Day** at South County Museum, 1 p.m. Taste, smell and touch herbs used in the kitchen, medicines and cosmetics. Call 783-5400.
- Crafts Market Place**, June 21-22, Noon to 9 p.m. Finely made crafts from around the world at Market Square, Providence. Call 785-9450.
- Grand opening** of the Actor's Studio of Rhode Island, 1 p.m., 1572 Lonsdale Ave., Lincoln, R.I. The Actor's Studio will offer workshops on getting work in television and film. Call 723-5850.
- Dance Recital** by Dance Studio in Uxbridge, Mass. Performance is dedicated in memory of Ray Eichenbaum. 6 p.m. at Rhode Island College Roberts Auditorium.
- 22 **Light jazz** with Mitchell Kaplan and Willie Migette, poetry readings, too, 1 p.m. at Books on the Square, Providence. Free and open to public. Call 331-9094.
- Millville Lock Walking Tour**, Millville, Mass., at 3 p.m. Join a National Parks Service Ranger on a guided tour along the Old New York and New England Rail Trail. Call 762-0440.
- 23 **The Beach Boys** perform outdoor concert at 7 p.m. at URI, Kingston, as part of the opening ceremonies for 1997 World Scholar-Athlete Games. Tickets are \$20. Call (617) 423-NEXT.
- Jewish Inter Action After Dark**. Get to know Jewish Inter Action at this special newcomer event, 6:30 p.m. at Ayers Rock Australian Road House, Boston, Mass. Call (617) 457-8666.
- Day Camp** begins at JCCRI. Call 861-8800.
- 24 **6th Annual Kids Fest and Family Nights**, June 24 to 26, 3 to 9 p.m. Amusement rides, hands-on exhibits and activities, music, storytelling and more at Newport Yachting Center. Call 846-1600.
- 25 **Jewish Vocational Service Career Series: What's Hot, What's Not in the Field of Sales** at Temple Ohabei Shalom, 6:45 p.m., Brookline, Mass. Call (617) 951-8147.
- Touro Fraternal Association's** annual steak fry, 6:30 p.m., Friendship Lodge at Touro Hall. Harmony Lodge welcome. \$5 or 5 bagel bucks, \$10 at the door. Reservations suggested. Bring a canned good for charity. Call 785-0066.
- 26 **Celebrate Senior Independence Day** at Whytebrook Terrace in Johnston, 10 a.m. to noon. Enjoy a Dixieland band, dance, and exercise demonstrations, and refreshments. Free for seniors, reservations required. Call 233-2880.
- The Arts Council of Pawtucket** presents His Panic Band at Hudson St. Market, Providence, at 5:30 p.m. Call 725-1151.
- Evening program**, "Damned by Dollars: The Writing of Moby Dick" at the New Bedford Whaling Museum, 8 p.m. Call (508) 997-0046.
- American Guild of Handbell Ringers' Festival**, June 26 to 29 at Roger Williams University. Final concert is free and open to public. Call 528-2187.
- 28 **The Bel Canto Opera** presents Mozart's "Così fan Tutte" at 8 p.m. at Veterans Memorial Auditorium, Providence. For tickets and information, call 942-6440.
- Zoobilee '97 — Feast with the Beasts**, 7 p.m. at Roger Williams Park Zoo. Annual fund-raiser for R.I. Zoological Society. Features area restaurants, caterers, entertainment and dancing. Call 941-3910.
- Perspectives Young Adult Group** meets at the Gallery Café on Hope St. for music with Stone Soup band. Call 863-9357.

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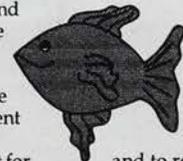
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Swing Into Summer With Save the Bay

Swing into summer at a block party barbecue that will kick off the season — Save The Bay's River Swing! On June 20, from 6 to 9 p.m., celebrate the summer solstice in the heart of Providence at Point Street Bridge, along one of Narragansett Bay's major tributaries, the Providence River.

Dance the night away to the sounds of Rhode Island's own swing/blues band Eight to the Bar, dine on a wood-grilled barbecue and quench your summertime thirst — all under a tent and the summer sky.

Show your support for



Upper Narragansett Bay and the Providence waterfront! Event proceeds benefit Save The Bay's Upper Bay Campaign. It's a great time for a great cause. Tickets are \$35 per person. For information and to register, call 272-3540.

Directory to this week's Herald

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In Cranston

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

Providence and Vicinity

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

THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

Antique Book Dealer Talks Trade in Jamestown

by Emily Torgan

Jewish Community Reporter

For book dealer Kenneth Gloss, every book says much more than the text it contains.

At the Jamestown Library on June 12, Gloss told an audience of about 100 that each work also speaks volumes about history, printing, materials, climate, people, and much, much more.

The proprietor of the nationally known Brattle Book Shop in Boston, Gloss loves books and sharing his fondness for them with others.

A tiny man with a theatrical flair, Gloss began by telling his listeners what makes some books valuable.

"The first printed book was the Gutenberg Bible," he said. "Single pages of it are worth up to \$25,000. Any book printed in the 1400s has value, but dull books from the 1500s are still seen as dull today."

According to Gloss, a member and past president of the New England Booksellers Association, some volumes may have great historical value to certain types of collectors.

"In England, a Psalm book from the 1600s is not seen as a terribly old book," he explained. "But if it was the first one used in the Colonies, it is worth a lot. An 1870s book about religion is not considered old, but an 1870s book about the telephone is."

Gloss continued, saying that books were categorized as "old" in relation to their content.

"I get lots of calls from people who tell me they know their books are old because they are

brown and crumbling," Gloss said. "I tell them that's because of lousy paper."

Reaching into a gigantic portfolio, Gloss pulled out a large, beautifully composed page.

"That was printed in the 1490s," Gloss said to an awed crowd. "Go ahead and feel it. It's not terribly fragile."

He went on to say that then, only nobility had the luxury of owning books.

"Now, books are available to millions," he said. "As their real value is the knowledge inside them, that's a good tradeoff."

Today, he said, even ordinary books can be valuable if they are signed by authors who sign their works infrequently.

"It's almost impossible to get J.D. Salinger's signature," Gloss explained. "His signature adds thousands of dollars of value. F. Scott Fitzgerald wrote an inscription to T.S. Eliot in a copy of *The Great Gatsby*, and Eliot made notes in it. That went for about \$50,000."

Some members of the audience who had brought books for a complimentary appraisal looked up hopefully, and others laughed.

But sales figures notwithstanding, Gloss loves working with books. He frequents auctions, estate sales, meetings and private homes to obtain more and more material.

"The hunt, the search, the treasure is an awful lot of fun," he explained privately. "You get to see fabulous places, and you get to see dumps. You see absolute junk, and you see fabulous, beautiful, unusual things. We

always wonder what we're going to see next."

Gloss, who resides in Newton, Mass., with his wife, Joyce, and their two daughters, acquired his fondness for the book trade from his late father, George.

One of 14 children of Polish Jewish immigrants, George had to drop out of college to help support his family.

In 1949, he married and bought the bookstore.

George became a well-known antiquarian, and Gloss began to work in the shop, which has existed in several Boston locations, while he was in high school.

Eventually, Gloss elected to stay in the family's business rather than pursuing a doctorate in chemistry.

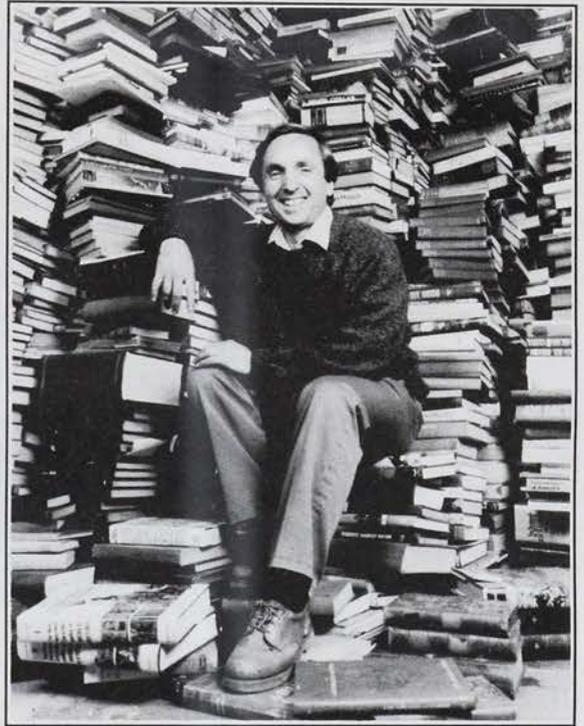
"I found that books were in my blood, and that I would never really be happy if I abandoned the business," he said.

Although Gloss' West 9 Street emporium now has 4 stories, 45,000 square feet, and countless numbers of books, it has remained a family business.

"We have ten employees," he said. "My mother keeps the books and my wife handles a lot of the advertising and internet services."

As he remembered his father, Gloss mused about how his Judaism had figured into his choice of a business.

"It's cultural as well as religious," he said. "Judaism takes a lot of discipline and hard work. The religion says that you have to be educated and literate to read the Torah. That does play a part."



Kenneth Gloss, proprietor of the Brattle Book Shop in Boston.
Photo courtesy of Re:Sources, Newton, Mass.

Feinstein Speaks of Jewish Ties at JFRI Breakfast

by Emily Torgan

Jewish Community Reporter

His image is plastered across hundreds of billboards, his charitable acts have been recorded by countless media organizations, and many schools and universities have buildings and programs bearing his name.

A mysterious figure, he often tells the public about his enormous contributions, but seldom speaks of the reasons behind his urge to give.

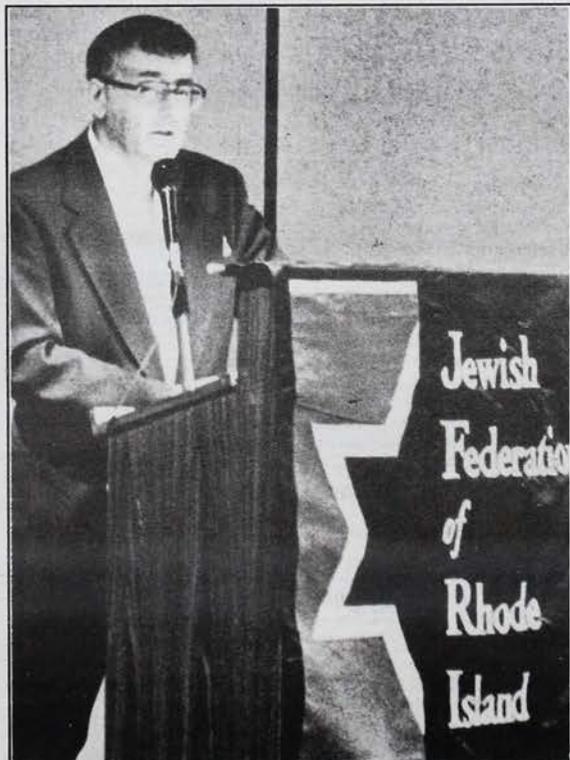
But at the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island Breakfast Club's June 10 meeting, philanthropist Alan Shawn Feinstein practiced a different sort of sharing.

Characteristically quiet about his own cultural identity, Feinstein told more than 100 young adults gathered at the Marriott Hotel that his Jewish heritage had shaped his desire for *tikkun olam*.

"Something colored me when I was young," Feinstein said. "I was 10 or 11 years old, and I was riding my bike in Franklin Park, Mass. I remember being grabbed by two boys. They really roughed me up."

One of the boys approached him as he lay on the ground crying.

"I guess he felt some sympathy."
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Alan Shawn Feinstein
Herald photo by Emily Torgan

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OPINION

Hunting for Treasures

by Tara V. Lisciandro
Herald Editor

When we were young, my brother and I were always curious as cats. We looked in every part of our big house to discover a new treasure. I recall one day that we found some old photos; for us, at that time, they were really old, like the 1970s! They were black and white and had a funny shape. They weren't like the photos mom got developed that were the standard 3x5 colored glossies. The ancient photos were of my father and he looked young! Real young! He was slim and wore his hair a bit slicked back to his head. In some photos he was smoking under a hot sun and standing on a funny patch of dirt and sand. While other shots of my father portrayed him in an odd outfit, near some funny-looking building, it didn't look very nice. My brother and I wondered why he was there and why they took such pictures of him in these kinds of places. My brother and I thought you were supposed to take pictures of your family in pretty places.

We were, as you say, little kids. Kids like to imagine, they're naive and just beginning to learn about the curious world that surrounds them.

Our newly discovered treasures were presented to my mother and with a little giggle she explained that our father had served in the Vietnam war. He wrote long letters to her and was always sure to include a few photos. As time went on we learned about Vietnam and my father's experiences there. I have always been grateful for learning about that part of my father's

life, and his part in history.

By now, Father's Day is just behind us. And this isn't a story about my father. Instead it's a story about remembering and holding on to memories. I'm just as grateful for the stories that come from my great-uncle Milan who served in World War II. He returned to share his experiences with everyone and those are memories that I'll always treasure. I'm also extremely grateful to have known

I don't think these heroes know just how much their stories mean to me.

my great-grandmother Kadak, who came from Czechoslovakia, until I was a teen-ager. She was amusing. We would take her for rides in her wheelchair and in return she would make us laugh by taking out her fake teeth and showing us her pretty pink gums! Together with my grandmother they would tell us stories about coming over "on the boat" to America. They would also tell us about my great-grandmother's twin brothers, one of whom was a priest, shot by the Nazis.

I don't think these heroes know just how much their stories mean to me, but they mean the world to me.

I recently realized that I've taken for granted the fact that I that have these unique memories have been handed down to me. I realized that just the other day while speaking with a special friend. We speak to each

other every other week and we go out together every so often. She tells me stories that make me laugh and cry, although I doubt she knows that. She's sharp, witty, spunky and bright. She teaches me the most interesting things. I have a great admiration for her. My friend is also a survivor of the Holocaust, and doesn't like to tell her story.

She refuses to read books about the Holocaust, see films about the Holocaust, or go to museums like the one in Washington, D.C., or the Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles. She was asked to give testimony for Steven Spielberg's Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation, but refused to have cameras and lights all about her, saying she would freeze up.

I suppose my biggest concern is the fact that her own children and grandchildren don't know her entire story. "They never ask questions," she says, "why bother." But please do bother, bother them a lot. They need to know, so that their kids will know what a courageous woman their mother and grandmother was. "I guess instead of sitting in front of the TV we could all sit around and talk instead, that would be nice, maybe," she says. It would be nice. It would be something special for them to keep and learn from.

Understand and respect her choices. I was never there and I can't say what it would be like to retell such a story of horror.

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Judaism and Energy

by Velvel 'Wally' Spiegler

There are certain things in this mysterious world of ours which can't be expressed in words. Among them are those that refer to transcendence, perfection, consciousness, G-d and energy. Jewish tradition provides a means by which we can make sense of these concepts. The Kabbalah is the body of Jewish learning with its practice of meditation that enables one to experience that which is indescribable. The only way we can make sense of it is through symbols and metaphors. This is what Jewish tradition and practice is all about, speaking about the transcendent in symbolic language.

Judaism is intimately linked with energy. When we study Torah and perform mitzvot, especially those that revolve around symbolic objects like t'fillin, tsitsit or mezzuzot, we must not forget that they connote the energy which cannot be described in any other terms.

The point is through living a spiritual Jewish life and performing the duties which are incumbent upon a Jew, one is actually immersed in the energy that directly effects transformation, emotional growth and healing. In order to apply the energy for those purposes, we need to understand that the energy is accessible through contemplative practice.

One of the most widely misunderstood words in our language today is energy. When I was a college freshman taking a

course on Western civilization, the instructor was teaching that the ancient Greeks believed the universe consisted of four elements, namely earth, water, fire and air. "What a naive concept!" I thought, realizing today we know of over a hundred elements. Years afterwards, I concluded that they weren't talking about chemical elements, but energy — the basic constituent of all matter. It took more than 2,000 years for Einstein to rediscover that notion.

The ancients in the city of Ur in the Chaldees were known to be stargazers, as was our forefather Abraham. They saw the meanings of life in the heavens above. They saw patterns in the arrangement of the stars they called constellations, or mazal in Hebrew. They detected that constellations had meanings and profound influences upon us who live here on earth. Mazal tov means you should have good constellations. Perhaps they didn't have a word to describe the influence the heavens have upon us, but the word we use today to describe it is energy.

It wasn't until thousands of years later that Albert Einstein, working with the energy of light, came to the startling rediscovery that everything in this universe is energy, as explained by his famous equation, $E=MC^2$. The remainder of Einstein's life was devoted to the exploration of this energy and to define it in the form of four forces. His dis-

(Continued on Page 15)

Living With Freedom, Then and Now

by Rabbi Ron Kronish

The Book of Numbers, Bemidbar, literally "in the desert," relates the wanderings of our people from Egypt to the Promised Land. It is a difficult journey, and despite the miracles that accompany the Exodus from Egypt and the Revelation at Sinai, the dor hamidbar, the "generation of the desert," has great difficulty adjusting to the new situation of freedom in which they find themselves.

In our portion of the week, Beha'alotcha, particularly in Numbers 11, we find a famous and classic episode of the murmurings of our people in the desert. Led by the riffraff among them, the asafsuf, they suddenly come weeping to Moses and express a gluttonous craving: "If only we had meat to eat! We remember the fish that we used to eat free in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic." (Num. 11:4-5) In a remarkable scene, Moses turns to G-d for help. Not only does he get some good advice on dealing with the people by gathering 70 elders (the first board of trustees!) to help him handle the rebels, but he is also guided in what to tell the people who ask why they ever left Egypt.

In his commentary on this passage, Rabbi Gunther W.

Plaut (*The Torah: A Modern Commentary*) says that "ultimately it was the G-d of freedom whom the murmurers rejected when they cried, 'Oh, why did we ever leave Egypt!' It would not be long before that whole generation would be pronounced unfit to enter the Promised Land." And in her commentary on Bemidbar, Nehama Leibowitz (the wonderful teacher of Torah who died recently at the age of 92 after teaching generations of students in Israel — including

tion of freedom. In the diaspora, Jews often imagine that the "good of days" were somehow better for the Jewish people, quickly forgetting how difficult life really was in "the old country." And in Israel, where we as a Jewish people live in freedom in our own state, we often yearn for the "meat" of the old country (and have now brought McDonald's and Burger King to Israel in a big way!). Modern Hebrew literature is replete with reminders of how much the

galut, "exile," and the galut mentality stay with us, even under sovereignty in our own land. Learning to live with freedom is an extraordinarily complicated affair. There are no simple solutions, no panaceas for our problems, in both the diaspora and Israel. We often are tempted to give up in the face of too much adversity. We are sometimes, like those in the generation of the desert, unable to cope with the journey to the Promised Land. But the message of the Torah is clear. The generation of the desert is not able to live in the land of freedom. We, too, need to overcome our murmurings and our kvetching and accept the responsibility of living in freedom, wherever we live as Jews.

Rabbi Ron Kronish is the director of the Interreligious Coordinating Council in Israel, based in Jerusalem.

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TARA V. LISCIANDRO
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CONTRIBUTING REPORTER
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JEWISH COMMUNITY REPORTER
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ADVERTISING ACCOUNT REP
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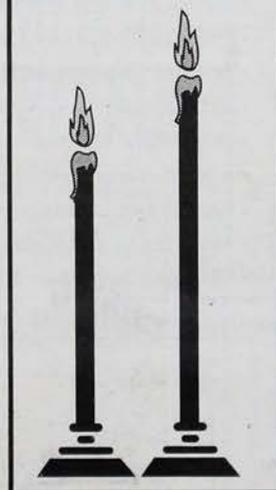
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Candlelighting

June 20, 1997

8:06 p.m.



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

TORAH TODAY

A Very Special Face and Space

by Mike Fink
Herald Contributing Reporter

It's the closest thing we have to a town square. They carved it out from street macadam and replaced tar with brick. All three short bridges bring you to the little place between Market

House and the auditorium of Rhode Island School of Design.

On graduation weekend, the last one in the college sequence, a special event took place in the plaza that serves film majors, seniors and their parents, and returning alumni. It was the celebration of Very Special Arts, the party held in the fancy tent with its Palladian windows that open to the flowing river.

You stepped in and decorated your name tag with feathers, sequins and colored ink. A team of police on horseback trot-

ted up the stairs of the new embankment and called out your name—such keen eyesight! A display of art done by people of challenge was arranged about the white canvas coop while clowns, jugglers and klezmerim whooped it up.

rustler, hustler, digger for gold. He powders his beard grey, lines his face, and then twirls a rope and moves among the guests and mingles whimsically. He looks great! It's a witty act.

David Ciciline put me on the honorary board of Very Special

Arts. I don't know what that I'm wearing, trustee, reporter, resident R.I.S.D. professor, or East Side wanderer. The river is aflame with torches of triumph. The gondola goes by, an elegant black silhouette, absurd and endearing. June is busting out all over. In Providence, it takes place on a tiny block of brick and stone where dreams come true at the equinox of promise. Whether the hope for a renewed downtown will grow from this en-



Fishel

Herald photo by Mike Fink

I popped in to have a look and ran into Mike (or Fishel) Bresler, who was making himself up in the costume of the old cowboy,

chanting campment is another story. Bresler ropes it all in anyway with a twirl of humor and high spirits.

Flights of Angels

by Mike Fink
Herald Contributing Report

Change your place, change your luck. Wasn't there a chochma in Yiddish that urged you to go out and search for your fortune? Maybe things are better somewhere else. And then the Ohio humorist wrote, "Who flies afar from the sphere of our sorrow is here today and here tomorrow."

My friend Steve tried every skyscraper city and paradise island upon the planet to seek happiness and prosperity. Like Gatsby he beat his boat against the current. And he almost found the perfect place, in Mauritius, about as far-off an escape as the world holds forth.

The phone rang the other evening. I warn my kids, don't stay on the line too long. There may be an important message on the wire. Let the machine rest and breathe. It was a call from Cambridge, England. "Sit down. I have sad news. Steve died suddenly. He was sent from Mauritius back to Britain. But the World Bank liked him. They were getting ready to send him once again to the post he liked so well. He had enjoyed a pub supper. He was laughing at his

favorite show on the telly. He took three aspirin because he had a headache. He always took too many aspirin. He felt sick, hemorrhaged and passed away. He shouldn't have died! There was nothing seriously wrong."

His wife asked if I would sum up his life at their daughter's July wedding in Connecticut. Steve was going to give the bride away. She also asked me to do one more thing. Would I fax a few words to the hotel in Cambridge, England, with a kind expression of sympathy to Steve's longtime companion, Linda? Wife and girlfriend had met for the first time, and, along with daughter, were punting on the river Cam, making melancholy arrangements, and sitting at desks to go over will and insurance policy.

"He looked like a rangy, overgrown kid, unwrinkled, not balding, youthful and awkward," Steve's wife declared, mixing humor, grief, and a dazed sense of drama. Maxine is indeed an actress. Steve went to Yale, the Sorbonne, and Brown graduate school, with me all the way. When he moved from town to town and country to country, he and household welcomed me wholeheartedly.

The world without Steve is a little more sealed off for me.

But Steve had his shortcomings. His daughter thinks he loved the stars—the promise beyond our realms of better things away from home. She wants to set up a fund to encourage the study of astronomy. He believed in luck and gambled away cash that might have been spent on a house he never owned, anywhere in the world. He belonged nowhere, not in his native Connecticut, not in his borrowed Britain. He smoked too much. He quaffed too many cups in his pubs.

Sometimes I feel that I know my friends better than anyone else on earth, even a child, or a parent or a spouse. A friend will tell you things that can't be said to anyone else but a total stranger on a plane.

I know that Steve was a kind man, a gentle soul, literary and intelligent. He owed me a letter. I never visited him in Mauritius. I may have let him down once or twice. As an only child, he needed you to focus on him with a special sunbeam of good will. I share these thoughts in the hope that his soul may know that I will miss him and keep him in my mind and heart.



Jews Go West

by Mike Fink
Herald Contributing Reporter

An early report on the international conference at the John Carter Brown Library on the Brown campus. "Jews and the Expansion of Europe to the West" pulled in scholars from many lands speaking in several tongues. Providence offered a perfectly lovely Sunday afternoon on the green for its opening session and reception.

Jews designed astrolabes and drew maps that helped to guide the explorers. They also sailed with Columbus and reported to rabbis their own discoveries of natives deep in the forest who seemed to them lost tribes of Israel proclaiming their Shema—perhaps like the ancient Jews of Ethiopia. Other Jews in Europe still ignored or downplayed the value for Jews of the new world of the west.

Was "Angleterre" or England the angle or corner of the world? Or did it really reach beyond the seas? The large audience in the elegant interior of the John Carter Brown Library chuckled and clapped at the naive notions of Hebrew influence in the hemisphere.

David Katz of Tel Aviv University closed the first group of talks with a witty warning, an apt address to the question of Indian-Jewish identity. Claims of being a chosen people are dangerous. Even philo-Jewish movements end up taking the status of divine favor away from Jews, creating myths that raise to that rank the Brits (from Brit milah, briss?) or the blond northern Aryan nations who twisted the concept into the Nazi movement or the racist militia of the here and now.

I ran into Alvin Rubin at the wine bar set up on the green. Looking well-groomed and comfortable against the twilight background of the June trees, he wove wondrous tales of local Portuguese-speaking people with Jewish forebears in Cape Verde, the Azores, or mainland Portugal—as well as among the Central Americas. "Virtually everyone from the Cape Verde islands has a Jewish ancestor:

the president makes this claim," Alvin Rubin enthusiastically reports.

I shook hands also with Mordechai Arbell of the Ben Zvi Institute in Israel. "Jewish slavetraders? They were usually forbidden by law from that trade. For a few, an exception was made. But it was rare. Even the number of slaves they could own was limited."

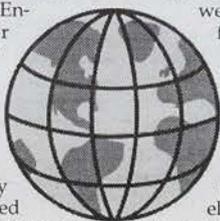
It is an exquisite spot on earth, this corner of the old campus. I met Mme. Eva Uchmany, of the National University of Mexico. Born in Czechoslovakia, she moved to Mexico after the slaughter of her family in the Holocaust. Dressed elegantly in a suit and scarf of richly colored silks, she spoke movingly of the hidden Jews of the Inquisition in her adopted land. "Some were slave laborers who found refuge and safe

treatment among Jews. They converted and keep the Jewish rituals with pride." Everybody seemed to look their best in the jewelled light of a late June afternoon. It was a pleasure to share a glass of wine with such a group of researchers into tales of suffering and triumph.

The brochure sums it up in advance. "The study of Jewish history marks the boundaries of identity at the threshold of conversion, excluding conversos and cryptos, who nevertheless remained distinct in the eyes of Christian neighbors and often of the converts themselves."

You will hear much more of this remarkable Pan-American gathering. Speeches are published as individual manuscripts, and will soon be edited together into a book. To hear and see the professors in this lovely location and season only adds flavor and fervor.

"In science the information tells it all. In poetry, style says it. The discoveries combined the two ways of knowing." Patricia Seed of Rice University made this point. It was the "seed" of the forthcoming, ongoing conference.





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THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

JFS Thanks Donors With Gala Event

A gala reception to thank donors to the Jewish Family Service Endowment Campaign was held high atop the Citizens Bank building on June 4. Those attending enjoyed a panoramic view of downtown Providence as they heard about the many programs of the agency that the endowment will support.

The following centers, representing gifts of \$100,000 or more were announced: The Hasenfeld Center for Children and Parents, The Dorothy M. Nelson Center for Jewish Family Life,

The Rossman/Berkelhammer/Krause Center for Independent Living and The Wolf Family Center for Elderly Services.

The many programs for Jewish Family Service included within the centers represent a minimum gift of \$50,000 to the agency. They are Donald and Bonnie Dwares Home Care Service Program for Independent Living, The Norman and Rosalie Fain Program for Crisis Intervention, Hannah L. Myers Lifeline R.I. Program, The Marcia S. Riesman Program for

Staff Development, and The Charles and Donald Salmanson Foundation Kosher Meals site and Kosher Meals on Wheels Program.

Programs yet to be named (minimum \$50,000 gift) are Outreach Program for the Elderly, Program for Jewish Ethnicity, Program for Prevention and Education, Program for Refugee Resettlement, Program for Substance Abuse, Program for Adoption Services.

The event was chaired by past president Carl Feldman.

Holocaust Survivor Supports Prize for Czech Schoolchildren

by Randi Druzin

PRAGUE (JTA) — Fifty-five years after being interned at Terezin, Holocaust survivor Hana Greenfield returned recently to present awards to Czech schoolchildren.

The 70-year-old Israeli handed out cash prizes last month to a dozen students ranging in age from 6 to 16 for their paintings and essays on intolerance and anti-Semitism.

The children were among 250 students from schools across the country who participated in a competition in which they visited Terezin and then recorded their impressions in words or pictures.

Greenfield, who was deported to Terezin from her hometown of Kolin in 1942, established the annual competition five years ago. It is financed by proceeds from sales of *Frag-*

ment of Memory, a book she wrote about her wartime experience.

Through this competition, "young Czechs learn about Jewish history," said Greenfield, who immigrated to Israel after the war.

"It is a subject most of them know little about, yet it's an important part of this country's history."

"Impress upon the students that it's not enough to learn about democracy," she said. "You must fight to preserve it. You must take a stand against its enemies."

The annual competition is held under the auspices of the Terezin museum. Terezin, also known as Theresienstadt, is an 18th-century garrison town that was designated by the Nazis as a ghetto for Jews on their way to concentration camps farther east.



From left, vice president and co-chairman of the Endowment Campaign, Jerrold Dorfman; Jewish Family Service executive director, Paul Segal; president, Richard Kaplan; past president and co-chairperson of the Endowment Campaign, Marcia Riesman; co-chairperson of the Endowment Campaign, Ronald Markoff.

Photo courtesy of Roberta Segal & Associates

ASDS Celebrates 100th Anniversary of Zionism

Teachers at the Ruth and Max Alperin Schechter Day School had a great idea to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Zionism and the first Zionist Congress: a time line that winds through the building, to which different classes would contribute essays, drawings and projects based on specific events and/or issues.

As the project unfolded, Assistant Director Marcia Kauner, put a new spin on it: Why not involve grandparents and visitors when they came to the school for Grandparents and Special Visitors Day? So the project expanded, and visitors to the school were asked to write about a special date which they would like to add to the time line — a date which was especially meaningful to them, either because of its connection to Israel, or because of other, more personal reasons.

The results were deeply moving. Walking up the stairs and through the building, one is struck by the vivid memories of shared experiences of personal and world history. Many chose to remember births: children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Others marked the dates of marriages or meeting a

loved one. Some opted for community events: the opening of the Alperin Schechter Day School, for example, and the year that Davis' Dairy Store opened in Providence.

Perhaps the most moving of all are the notes that attest to our experiences as Jews: being liberated from a concentration camp, attending a Simchat Torah service in Cherbourg, France and experiencing the dedication of the first Sefer Torah returned to liberated Europe, the year that one person's mother was a delegate to the Zionist Congress, being invited to Israel by Ben Gurion to help develop businesses, attending the United Nations session when Abba Eban gave his memorable speech and Israel was declared a state, celebrating in the streets of Jerusalem when Begin and Sadat signed the peace accords and visiting Bubbe in a Kibbutz.

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JORI Enrollment Peaks

Camp JORI, Rhode Island's only Jewish overnight camp, received an unexpected, yet greatly appreciated present for its 60th birthday; the camp's enrollment is higher than it has been for the past 10 years. A limited number of spaces remain for boys and girls ages 7 to 13. The camp's Leadership-in-Training program for 14- and 15-year-olds is already full and names are being accepted on a waiting list only.

For those interested in obtaining one of the last openings for a summer of new experiences at Camp JORI, contact the camp office at 521-2655.

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THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

B'nai Mitzvah Class Shares Spiritual Exploration

Twelve adult members of Temple Beth-El celebrated a new dimension of their spiritual growth and commitment to Judaism as they became b'nai mitzvah at the temple's Shabbat Service on June 6. The b'nai mitzvah service culminated a yearlong study taught by the temple's Cantor Ida Rae Cahana. Members of the adult b'nai mitzvah class wrote personal reflections about this experience, excerpts of which are included below. The group included: Barbara Feibelman, Gloria Feibish, Gloria Jarcho, Deborah Johnson, Ileen Katersky, Holly Kilborn, Rochelle Rosen, Ruby Shalansky, Annamaura Silverblatt, Fred Silverblatt, Richard Wagner, and Ada Winsten.

What meaning does this Torah portion hold for me? Well, as some of you know, I was a bat mitzvah when I was 12, when I read my Haftarah but didn't have the Hebrew skills to learn to read from the Torah portion itself, which is why I've always wanted to study Torah trope and do that part of it again. When I signed up for this class, I didn't realize until the second or third meeting that the portion we've been assigned is the same one assigned to me when I was 12. So I figure there must be some message in Bamidbar that applies to me.

I think it's this: that choosing to study Torah as an adult is a serious commitment, and requires a kind of coming out of the wilderness. It's more difficult to study and learn the trope and words as adults, and our lives present challenges to finding the time and commitment to do it...

— Rochelle Rosen

Why have a bat mitzvah at 52? That is a question I have been asked numerous times. Why now? Why at this age? After a great deal of reflection, I have arrived at several answers. The obvious reason is that girls did not have a bat mitzvah when I was growing up. The not so obvious answer is much deeper.

Growing up, I was raised to put husband and children first; then came my own needs. The women in our portion are not even mentioned in the Torah, but one knows they were there. Silently, they kept the families together, carried the children across the desert, and were the backbone of the community.

Unlike these women, I have had the opportunity to stand up and become a vocal part of the Jewish community. No longer willing to stay in the background, I accepted the challenge to become a bat mitzvah. It doesn't matter whether we are 13 or 52. To have a bat mitzvah is an accomplishment worth doing. Hopefully, it shows my daughter and other young women that no matter what your age, there is no limit to your dreams.

Yes, I am a bat mitzvah at 52 and proud of it! As my son said, "Now my mother is finally a woman." I would say I'm a complete woman.

— Ileen Katersky

I will wear a tallit worn by my son at his bat mitzvah and by his father before him. I will do what hundreds of generations have done before me, I will become bat mitzvah — a responsible

member of the Jewish community. When I was 13 that was not possible for girls to do. I have lived long enough for women to be counted and I wanted to be counted amongst them.

This is a culmination of a long journey. A journey that took my family from Poland, to Lithuania, to Japan and finally to Shanghai, China, where my parents, sister and I spent the war years. I was fortunate to have had parents who had the courage and foresight to flee so that we could live... My grandmother, aunts, uncles and cousins were killed in the Holocaust because they were Jews. Survival of the Jewish people is of utmost importance to me. My bat mitzvah is my commitment that this be so.

Being Jewish is who I am, my very core. While never religious, I am proud to be counted as part of a people with strong values, ethics and traditions. Jews are proud, courageous survivors and they will continue to be so. My bat mitzvah is my way of expressing my gratitude to be alive, to have children and grandchildren who will continue the wonderful heritage...

— Ada Winsten

A certain amount of electricity — and tears — passed through our classroom the evening we struggled with who we were. For me, as a convert, this is a familiar struggle around balancing who I was with who I am. In my heart and in my daily life, I am Devorah bat Avraham v'Sarah, a proud designation by which I feel honored. In my personal history, I am Deborah,

daughter of Marie and Pasquale, my parents, who I, as a good Jew, strive to honor. The challenge in this is not how to embrace a certain set of beliefs and practices, but how to do so without rejecting loved ones who are not part of this set. That evening, as it came to be my turn not only to "count myself," but to "name myself," I pondered the challenge once again, and as of this writing, it has not yet been resolved...

— Deborah Johnson

When a small child, I used to look at family photographs and they frightened me. Looking back, I can see what frightened me. The blank stares in everyone's eyes, as if they were looking at horrible things. My grandfather used to tell a story — a true story — of the time when the Germans had occupied my city, Bologna, and how at random times a German pla-

toon would march down the streets and call all the people into the streets, line them up and shoot every 10th. I never forgot the horror captured in those frozen stares.

On a very nice sunny day, when I was 20 years of age, living in New York, I stood in front of three elderly rabbis from the Rabbinical Council and was asked many questions for my conversion. But the one I remember the most was "Anna, will you stand to be counted as a Jewish person in the event of another Holocaust?" All of those frozen stares came back into my memory. My eyes swelled with warm tears, as if wanting to defrost them all. My answer was "Yes, with all my heart!" And now, 32 years later, I stand here, yet again to reconfirm my commitment, and yes, if asked the same question, I would say, "with all my heart."

— Anna Silverblatt

Association of Jewish Libraries Holds Annual Convention

The 32nd Annual Convention of the Association of Jewish Libraries will take place in Cleveland, Ohio, on June 22 to 25 at the Wyndham Hotel. The convention program reflects the theme "Shared Spaces — Real and Virtual: The Jewish Library and the World." The convention will include presentations addressing the concerns of those who promote Jewish materials in various settings (e.g. academic, public, synagogue, etc.).

This year's keynote address will be by author Dr. David Ariel, president of the Cleve-

land College of Jewish Studies. The annual CARLJS Lecture in Judaica Bibliography will be presented by Dr. Menachem Schmeltzer, provost, Jewish Theological Seminary of America. Exciting seminars and workshops will be presented in the areas of Jewish library history, the Internet, and grant writing, etc. The convention will also feature exhibitors representing Judaica publications, software, art and crafts.

For information about the convention, contact Susan Pankowsky at (216) 464-4050, ext. 131 or fax (216) 464-5827.

Israel Celebrates Centennial of Zionist Movement

A limited edition of only 6,000 serially numbered sets of coins produced in honor of the founding of the Zionist Movement by Theodore Herzl has been announced by the Israel Government Coins & Medals Corporation in Jerusalem. Included in the set is one coin which can be found nowhere else — not in circulation and not even as a special coin for collectors. It is a unique, 12-sided, bronze half-shekel coin. The face of the coin is the same design as the gold and silver commemorative coins for the 100th anniversary of the First Zionist Congress: It is based on a famous photo and shows Theodore Herzl looking over the Rhine River from his hotel balcony in Basel, Switzerland. The 12 sides of the coin are an allusion to the 12 ancient tribes of Israel.

The set is called a Prestige Set because its quality and method of manufacture set it apart from the annual mint sets issued by most other countries. In the first place, the coins are all "pieforts." This time-honored numismatic term refers to the size of the blanks, which are twice as thick as may be found on normal circulating coins. Furthermore, each coin has been delicately custom struck to a glimmering



ONE HUNDRED YEARS of Zionism in coins.
Photo courtesy Coins of Israel

finish, with frosted designs on a polished background.

Besides the commemorative half-shekel, there are seven other coins in the set, including the one agora, which is no longer in circulation.

Only 6,000 sets have been authorized by the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation, which is offering them, while supplies last, at an official issue price of \$45. Each set is

housed in an elaborately illustrated, multi-page, color presentation album that highlights the story of Herzl and the Zionist movement.

To order, or for information, contact the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation, P.O. Box 7900, Jerusalem 91078, Israel (Fax orders: 011-972-2-561-2298). A toll-free number is available in North America, (888) 421-1866.

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THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

Jewish Educator Makes Wearing Kippah a Fun Fashion Statement

by Sara Wise
Herald Editor

"My son wouldn't wear his kippah, and it was very embarrassing as a Jewish educator, so I asked him one day, 'If I drew a picture on it, would you take care of it?'"

From that request 10 years ago for a Super Mario brothers kippah from her son Ezra, Wendy Garf-Lipp has created a busy side business in her home that allows her an enjoyable creative outlet and provides a personal tzedakah project to give back to her temple.

The 18-year veteran Alperin Schechter Judaic studies teacher has made hundreds of hand-painted suede kippot for children and adults which she sells at Temple Emanu-El in Providence and in select gift stores in New York and New Jersey.

"I felt I wanted to pay back the synagogue for everything they've done for our family, so I started selling them here." The kippot, which are on display in the lobby of Temple Emanu-El cost \$18 apiece, a portion of which goes to the synagogue. "It's my little tzedakah project."

The fancy kippot come in various sizes, including a tiny infant size that comes with an elastic chin strap. The smaller ones have kid's themes: cartoon characters, crayons, Noah's Ark, Hebrew letters, or toy cars. Many of the adult kippot are playful too, with sports teams, Groucho Marx, Laurel and Hardy, piano keys and rock bands. There are also more traditional decorative kippot with Jewish themes, including a beautiful glittered scene of Jerusalem, one with festive holiday adornments, and an "I found the afikomen" kippah with matzoh for Passover. The colorful Grateful Dead dancing bears, however, are the best sellers.

The first kippot she bought when she started 10 years ago were from a distributor who sold leftovers from weddings that never happened, "They'd say on the inside 'The wedding of so and so,' who never walked down the aisle," said Garf-Lipp. But after a year or two, enough requests came in that she began to order blank kippot and put

her own "Kreative Kippot" stamp on them, along with other cute sayings like, "To boldly wear what no one has worn before" on a Star Trek kippot, or rock 'n' roll song lyrics from the band painted on the kippot.

Garf-Lipp draws onto the soft white suede kippot with alcohol-based ink that won't seep through the material. Special treatment of the suede keeps the vibrant colors from fading.

While there are other artists who make ornamental kippot, what makes these special, Garf-Lipp says, is the way she uses the entire surface, instead of putting separate designs in the four sewn panels, although some of hers do have separate designs



Wendy Garf-Lipp
Herald photo by Sara Wise

as well. "Nobody else uses the medium I use either, most of them use puffy paints which peel off very easily."

All of the work is done in her living room where she has a special table set up, "I blast my music and have a great time." She also occasionally paints them for people at craft fairs as they wait, depending on the design they request.

Garf-Lipp has done all sorts of personalized family trees, Hebrew names, and even a set of New England Patriots kippot that were given to owner Bob Kraft by the Jewish National Fund. The oddest request she's had, however, was for a wedding party of 13 Harley-Davidson kippot for a motorcycle-lover. "The inventory is constantly changing, I try to keep up on current trends, the Chicago Bulls kippot are always very popular."

Her attempt to be au courant has caused some confusion though. When she tried to phonetically spell out the name of the rock group Phish (pronounced "fish") in Hebrew to put inside their logo, the letters came out sounding like "pish," to which her son's grandmother mother replied, "Why should you want to put pish on your head?" So the letters were changed to sound more like "fish."

Although some people have walked by and said they don't think they're appropriate, overall, the response has been positive. Garf-Lipp cites a *Wall Street Journal* article a few years ago in which the late Lubavitcher Rebbe, when asked about the trend of decorated kippot, replied, "The most important thing is that they wear them."

According to Garf-Lipp, there is nothing intrinsically holy about the kippot itself (if it falls on the floor you don't kiss it the way you would a siddur or a tallit), so she doesn't feel that Judaism is trivialized by the pop culture decorations, in fact, she said, "I see lots of kids wearing them all the time, so if it gets them to wear a kippah and they feel comfortable wearing it, then that's great. Lots of people have bought more than one for different occasions or to go with different outfits." Garf-Lipp said that a lot of the kids at Schechter will buy a fun one for school, and then have a more serious one with Jerusalem or a peace motif on it for Shabbat or the holidays. "I get a lot of pleasure out of doing them and seeing people wearing them. A lot of the kids that wear them take really good care of them, they're special to them. It's a nice connection."

In addition to raising money for Temple Emanu-El, Garf-Lipp has used her artwork to raise money for other causes, including a Jewish school in Boston. "I'm always willing to work as a fund-raiser for any Jewish organization, especially any organization that deals with kids."

A selection of Garf-Lipp's work is on permanent display in the Temple Emanu-El lobby and can be purchased from the synagogue, or you can contact Garf-Lipp directly for special orders at (508) 996-5599 or by e-mail at garflipp@aol.com.

She and her husband are also currently putting together a brochure that they hope to distribute by mail and on the Internet. "It doesn't support me in life, but it helps my artistic soul."

ASDS Celebrates Nationality Day

Sixth-grade students at the Ruth and Max Alperin Schechter Day School had a wonderful time presenting an exposition based on their Social Studies curriculum, "Countries of Europe."

According to social studies teacher, Cindy Kaplan, "Nationality Day is an opportunity for students to do extensive research and then to share the fruits of their labor with each other and the rest of the school."

Students were required to produce a guidebook including the following information: history, government, economy, food, language, religion and culture, and

Jewish community. They also had to make a poster including a map with major geographical features, regions, cities, places of interest to visit, the country's flag, and newspaper articles featuring events in that country.

Then, on Nationality Day itself, each student set up a booth, displaying the country with their report and items including flags, coins, posters, crafts and ornaments, and, of course, food.

As students from other grades came to visit the exhibit, they were excited and impressed. They found this year's Nationality Day "delicious!" and well worth the visit.



EVY STIEGLITZ treats visitors to English chocolate at her Nationality Day booth at Alperin Schechter Day School.

Photo courtesy of ASDS

Women's ORT Installs Officers

The Women's American ORT Elmgrove Chapter held its installation dinner on June 11 at Ledgemont Country Club.

Cantor Ida Rae Cahana from Temple Beth El in Providence delivered a beautiful and inspiring keynote address. Sherry Cohen, past president, announced the new officers.

The 1997-1998 officers and their respective positions are as follows:

President, Karen Bergel; donor, Stacy Emanuel; membership, Susan Eides and Mindy Halperin; treasurer, Amy Rotondi; programming, Karen Rasnick and Carol Sikov; corresponding secretary, Karen Weintraub; financial secretary, Cathy Oresman; recording sec-

retary, Amy Blustein; scholarship, Sherri Klein; fundraising, Robin Kauffman; publicity, Ellen Golden; and hospitality, Randy Rubinstein.

Memorial Dance Recital

A dance recital will be held in memory of Ray Eichenbaum on June 21 at 6 p.m. in the Roberts Auditorium of Rhode Island College. The performance will be by a dance studio from Uxbridge, Mass.

Eichenbaum was a member of the Rhode Island Holocaust survivor community and wrote for the *Herald* for many years.

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THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

Local Chef Explores Italian-Jewish Cooking

by Sara Wise
Herald Editor

If you thought Italian food was all pizza and pasta, think again. The cuisine of this Catholic country was significantly affected by Jewish migration to Italy centuries ago and continues to exert its influence today, says a local Rhode Island chef who is leading the movement to rediscover Italian-Jewish cooking.

Walter Potenza, owner and chef of Walter's LaLocanda del Coccio on Atwell's Avenue, began researching Italian-Jewish cuisine 10 years ago. He examines old cookbooks from the Johnson & Wales archives, orders cookbooks from an Italian book club and has visited chefs at the Center for Jewish Study in Rome. By experimenting with different ingredients, he has managed to replicate many of the traditional foods that are still popular in Italy today. He hopes that by introducing people to the wonderful history behind Italian-Jewish cooking, he can revive some of the old style dishes and start a new culinary trend.

Potenza said that many people, especially Jews in the United States, are unaware of the tremendous role that Jews have played in shaping Italian cuisine. "A lot of Jewish people come in and say they don't find Jewish food interesting, but I do. I want the Jewish people to understand that the food they have is a very fine and elaborate cuisine and it's not as tasteless as they think. People think of just Jewish delis, but it has a much wider array."

Potenza, who grew up in the central Italian region of Abruzzo, said that there has always been a lot of integration between Italians and Jews. "When you put families together, unquestionably culture mixes. When you mix a culture things start to change; food, holidays, traditions."

One of the greatest culinary contributions Jews made was

the importation of various spices into the region. Sephardic Jews who arrived in Italy after being expelled from Spain brought with them spices like cumin, cardamom, turmeric and nutmeg. As merchants in the thriving port cities like Venice, they were also largely responsible for introducing other spices from the East and Africa into Italy. "Venice was always the biggest of the competing ports and therefore some of the most important spices in the world came through there."

According to Potenza, the Italians believe that the first coffee came to Italy from Turkey thanks to business deals made by Jewish merchants. "The Jews were in business to supply these things to the Italians, they were the merchants, they were there to anticipate the business and had the vision to know what was going to sell. They were wise in business even then," said Potenza.

"I want the Jewish people to understand that the food they have is a very fine and elaborate cuisine."

Walter Potenza

Many Italians think that the first spinach dough, essential for popular spinach pastas, was made in Jewish households. Fried Jerusalem artichokes, or artichokes "Jewish-style" are sold on pushcarts in Italy today as snacks.

Other Jewish contributions to Italian cooking include fennel, which the Italians had previously thought was poisonous, and eggplant, which has had a major influence on Italian cuisine. Potenza described a very old and delicious sounding Jewish dessert that features thin slices of eggplant fried in sugar

and egg that are dried with paper and then layered with yellow and chocolate creme sauce like a lasagna and sprinkled with powdered sugar.

Master Preservers

Traditionally, the Jews in Italy were not very involved in farming and didn't do much in terms of raising animals. Their talents lay more in preserving food once it was slaughtered.

Many of the long, hard salamis dangling in markets all over Italy today are similar to those that Italian Jews hung in their dry basements to give them a nice hard outer texture. The Jews also introduced the process of gelling fish (i.e., gefille fish) which the Italians expanded to create gelled salmon, snapper and other white fish.

Potenza said that the mixing of sweet and sour was another Jewish strong point. "We don't have that in Italy as part of our culinary repertoire, it came from them." Sour sardines, a popular Venetian dish of Jewish origin, combines fresh sardines that are cleaned, fried and then marinated with a sauce of sautéed onions, pine nuts, raisins and vinegar.

The Jews also brought the first almond trees to Sicily. The almonds were so popular in Sicily that the Sicilians planted them and eventually developed marzipan, the art of manipulating the paste made of butter and ground almonds. Sicilians eventually shaped them into different fruits and painted them. In some of the markets in Palermo, big beautiful baskets made out of sugar are filled with marzipan fruit that look like real fruit.

Other popular Italian desserts of Jewish origin include apples fried in batter, fried ricotta balls sprinkled with powdered sugar, fresh fruit drenched

in liqueur, pears cooked in wine, and peaches dipped in wine. "The food is plain, but there is a sense of simplicity in this food that is very hard to do," said Potenza. "To make things simple is very hard."

A History of Peaceful Coexistence

Jews have been part of the Italian lifestyle for centuries. According to a 1870 census, there were 300,000 registered Jews living in Italy at that time. Italy had 82 synagogues then and today still has two major centers of Jewish study in Venice and Rome. There is even a small town outside Siena known as "Little Jerusalem" because the hills and terrain resemble that of Israel. The first underground ovens, built by Jews to be used during Passover, were discovered there. "They coexist happily and the Italians don't view them as they view other outsiders, nobody ever saw them as a strange nation invading Italy. We seem to think of them as Italians who believe in another religion," said Potenza.

Despite the Italian government's alliance with Germany in World War II, many individual Italians helped shelter Jews from persecution. "I know my mother and my grandmother always helped protect the Jews in the basement of their home," said Potenza. "My grandfather built a passageway from an animal stall out to the middle of his grape farm 30 to 40 yards away where Jewish

families could hide." The passageway on his family's land has since been turned into an aqueduct to water crops.

Potenza feels that Jews and Italians share much in common. He cited their similar physical features and expressive mannerisms as examples. "We've shared a life together and the food is just another manifestation. When you move to another country you bring with you your habits, cultures, ingredients and begin cooking."

Walter's is currently the only restaurant in New England that features Italian-Jewish cuisine (there are two restaurants in New York City run by Italian Jews), and has expanded its menu to offer a special prix fixe menu of six sample dishes served with Israeli wine.

Other restaurants, especially in New York City, have, however, finally caught on to serving Passover meals, realizing that after the first seder at home, many people like to be able to eat out and still keep Passover. Potenza has prepared special Passover menus for patrons in the past and hopes to create a full-scale Jewish menu for Passover next year.

"People find this fascinating, they ask a lot of questions. I try to find things out for them if I don't know. It's important for us to be able to give some sort of explanation."

"The more I read about it, the more I learn. It's been interesting and fun, so I'm trying to learn even more about it because I want to wake other chefs up to this trend."



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FEATURE

Rescue and Resistance

Part I

by Tara V. Lisciandro
Herald Editor

"If we succeed in getting out of the Nazi hell alive, reward me then. If not, what use is money?" stated Alexander Roslan, a Righteous Gentile currently living in Clearwater, Fla. He was responsible for helping save the lives of three young Jewish boys. He attempted to save their aunt, Hana, as well. Unfortunately she was taken to Auschwitz and never heard from again. Roslan was able to save two of the young boys' lives, the third died from scarlet fever.

"I want the Jewish community to know that there was resistance and spirit among the Jews in the ghetto," stated Irena Sendler, who worked for *Zegota*, a unit within the Polish Underground. She was responsible for taking hundreds of Jewish children out of the ghetto and finding safe places for them to hide.

"Holland was like a family and a part of that family was in danger — in this case, the Jewish part. The Germans were threatening our family. We weren't thinking, 'What shall we do?' We just did," reflected Aart Vos, who, with the support of his wife, hid 36 Jews in their home during the Holocaust.

The above three cases are not unusual ones. In a collective book of remembrance, their names, photos and true stories, along with those of other rescuers such as Oscar Schindler and Raoul Wallenberg, are listed. Although these famous rescuers are deceased, their memories are still alive. Meanwhile, thousands of other rescuers are still with us today. Yad Veshem has recognized 14,706 Righteous Gentiles and it is likely, according to Jewish Foundation for the Righteous, that about half have past away. The Righteous Gentiles have lived with a great honor all of their lives, they were responsible for saving the lives of other human beings. From the eyes of those who were rescued, the Righteous Gentiles are considered true heroes. "In such terrible times these people sur-

rounded us with kindness and care. We lived like one family, their nobleness, kindness and humanity cannot be described," stated Sonya Berstein, who was a child rescued by the Melnik family during the liquidation of the village of Vydoshnya.

"Whoever saves a single life is as if one saves the entire world," says the Talmud. This statement can also be seen printed on various materials from the JFR. This small, New York-based organization is nestled in the heart of Manhattan and was established in 1986 by Rabbi Harold Schulweis. "In 1986, Rabbi Harold M. Schulweis created the foundation to fulfill the traditional Jewish commitment to *hakarat hotov*,



Aristides de Sousa Mendes
Photo courtesy of The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous

the searching out and recognition of goodness," states JFR. Currently Rabbi Schulweis's cousin, Harvey acts as chairman of the organization.

The JFR cares for 1,342 surviving Righteous Gentiles in 26 countries today. Every month a special check is written out for people like Roslan and Sendler. Financial assistance is available to the Righteous Gentiles who are in need. "Some people don't ask for money until they need it," said Stanlee J. Stahl, executive director of JFR. An estimated \$600,000 a year is distributed and each check depends

on local and economical conditions. In Poland alone there are 950 recipients, others reside in the former Soviet Union, Serbia, Albania, Denmark and elsewhere. In the United States there are 28 Righteous Gentiles that receive financial help from JFR. All of the Righteous Gentiles are above the age of 70. The JFR funds are assisted by the Conference on Jewish Claims Against Germany and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

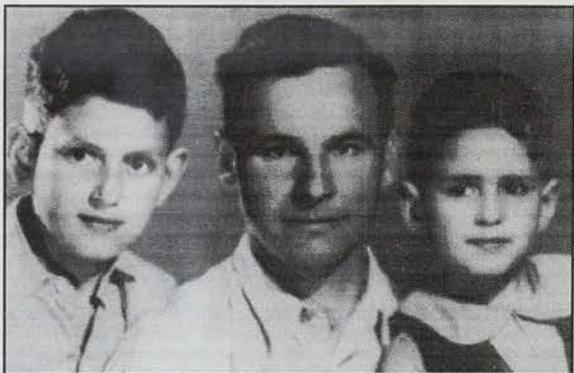
Each year several rescuers are flown into New York for the annual black-tie dinner. "You see all of these people wanting to touch them, like they were saints," said Schulweis, "of course, that's what they are, living saints."

The organization is also dedicated to education. Currently, with the help of Deborah Dwork, a professor at Clark University, in Mass., the JFR is putting together *Resource for Teachers*, which will be published next year. "Rescuers serve as role models for us and for future generations. Without their example, we have only the lessons of brutality, hatred and unspeakable suffering to teach our children," states JFR. The educational program will be diffused in the United States. "We want to teach teachers about the Holocaust with a focus on Rescuers and their legacy," stated Stahl. "The Holocaust isn't just a Jewish thing, it happened to humanity."

An Exemplary Case

JFR recognizes such rescuers as Aristides de Sousa Mendes, a familiar name in the Rhode Island and southern Massachusetts area. Because of the growing interests of the Portuguese community that has been established in the area, a Sousa Mendes organization formed several years ago.

In 1940, Sousa Mendes was consul general for Portugal in Bordeaux, France. He came from a wealthy, aristocratic family and became a lawyer. He also held various diplomatic posts in Brazil, Zanzibar, and the United States. When the Nazis marched into Paris the Portuguese government was quick to



Alexander Roslan with Jacob & David Gutgeld
Photo courtesy of The Jewish Foundation For The Righteous

tell Sousa Mendes not to issue visas to refugees. Although Portugal was neutral it was clear they did not want any Jews in their country. But Sousa Mendes decided not to listen to his orders from Portugal. Along with the help of his older sons, the Portuguese consul general hand wrote 30,000 visas, 10,000 of which were Jews. "I have to save these people, as many as I can. If I am disobeying orders I'd rather be with G-d against men, than with men against G-d," stated Sousa Mendes.

When Sousa Mendes arrived home in Lisbon he was prohibited from practicing law, dismissed from the foreign service

"Whoever saves a single life is as if one saves the entire world."

Talmud.

and denied his retirement and severance benefits. He died penniless and in disgrace in 1954, leaving his wife and 13 children. As his children grew older they, too, found problems and were forced to emigrate to other countries.

After years of struggling to restore their father's good name, one of his daughters was finally successful in 1967. Letters from witnesses and survivors were sent to Yad Vashem and Sousa Mendes was then recognized as a Righteous Gentile. Since then his name has been honored by the US Congress and the government of Israel and only a few

years ago, Sousa Mendes was finally recognized with respect by the president of Portugal.

A Bright Future

The stories of the Righteous Gentiles are being kept alive by JFR. Their two-part mission is one of remembrance and assistance as well as one of education. Aside from the resource manual and teaching aides that the organization is developing, JFR also has developed a twin-ing program. "This unique program gives the Bar/Bat Mitzvah the opportunity to identify with a very special person and to have a better understanding of what that person did 50 years ago to save Jewish children, like himself or herself, and Jewish adults, like their parents," stated JFR. A rescuer is adopted for every child and matched with them. A special learning experience is added to each bar/bat mitzvah because each child can relate to the great deed of their adopted rescuer when they were the same age.

JFR has also recently organized The Mission to Honor Righteous Gentiles in Denmark. A small group will be visiting Denmark during August to meet with surviving members of the Danish resistance. They will tour the Rescue Route, the Bispebjerg Hospital, the Resistance museum and The Great Copenhagen Synagogue. Some will be meeting with those who brought them to safety in Sweden in 1943.

The unique little organization celebrated its 10th anniversary just last year and it continues to grow. By means of education and caring for surviving Righteous Gentiles that have gone unrecognized for almost a half a century, JFR has taken on a big project. For the thousands that refused to be silent, JFR helps keep their voices and actions alive.

JFR is located at 165 East St., New York, NY 10022. (212) 421-1221.

[This is part one of a two-part article on Rescue and Resistance. Part two will appear next week.]

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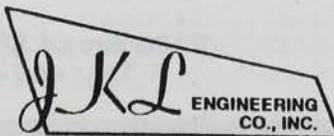
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FEATURE

The Castles of the People Come to Life

by Tara V. Lisciandro
Herald Editor

The big, heavy doors of the Cranston Street Armory swung open this past weekend. The 90-year-old National Register Building played a part in the international festival of the arts, Convergence X.

Throughout the enormous brick, Medieval Gothic structure stood proud paintings, sculptures and other pieces of art completed by local artists. An auction was held in one of the giant circular wings of the armory to assist in fund-raising for the historic building.

Just recently, the National Trust for Historic Preservation named the Cranston Street Armory to its 11 Most Endangered Historic Places list. The National Trust for Historic Preservation is a non-profit organization chartered by Congress in 1949. It provides leadership and education to save America's diverse historic places. "Once the vibrant center of its Providence neighborhood, the Cranston Street Armory is now a vacant shell. To save both the historic building and the neighborhood, the armory must be brought back to life," stated Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The History Channel recently explored "America's Most Endangered" in a one-hour documentary special, providing a look at the intriguing past of the armory and other endangered historical places. "The list is a wake-up

call to all Americans," said Moe, "we cannot take our past for granted. Once these links are gone, they cannot be replaced. It is up to us as individuals and as nations to identify the places that make our communities special and preserve and protect them for future generation."

The rare look into the armory wasn't the only special opening this past weekend. On a smaller scale, the Festival of Historical Houses proved also to be a unique look at some of Providence's local history. For three days, with the help of the Providence Preservation Society, a selection of historical homes throughout the city of Providence were open to the public. A candlelight tour led guests through the beautifully restored homes on Blackstone Boulevard, Oriole Avenue and Orchard Avenue. This tour also included a glimpse of Temple Beth-El. Its unique architecture and various works of art, such as the stained glass in the lobby and the "Pillar of Light" sculpture, were highlighted throughout the tour.

The splendor of private homes and gardens on Prospect, Cushing, Congdon and Bowen streets were also open to the public. A variety of trees and shrubs combined with brilliant flowers such as lilacs, forsythias and azaleas bloomed in perfectly landscaped beds of green grass and dark earth on their historic grounds.

The Armory Tour showed

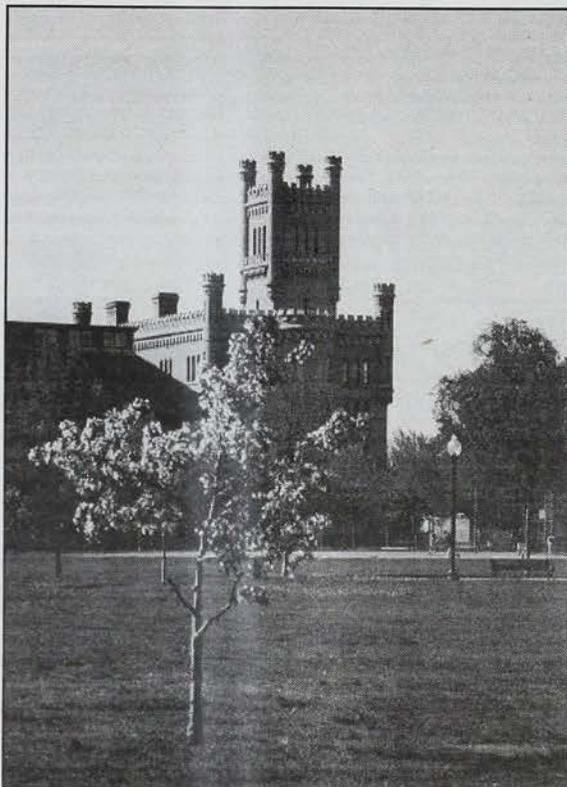
off the newly restored homes surrounding the Cranston Street Armory. Most of the homes were built between the 1860s and the 1890s and are done in a variety of styles including Greek revival, Italianate, and Modern Gothic. With the weathering of time and natural, unfortunate, disasters, these homes called for special attention. Within the past few years creative buyers have been taking these homes under their wing and caring for them, restoring them with new life. A number of homes still await crafty and talented buyers for restoration.

An old carriage house on Willow Street, for example, became a cottage in the 1870s. Ancient paint that chipped off the side of the tiny dwelling has now been taken over by fresh new coats of a dark and brilliant orange. Although it has been restored, the inside of the home still contains the original charm and character of the 1800s. Other homes in the area have seen similar dramatic changes. Old servants' quarters have become large, open lofts with light filtered in through a unique arrangement of skylights. Tiny bedrooms have been re-sized and spacious airy studies and master bedrooms have been created. Grand fireplaces have been restructured so that they can still provide heat for the great old homes. The exterior of each house has been given special attention as well. Brightly col-

ored paints, gingerbread and columns decorate each home, contributing to their particular style.

What for years were abandoned and uncared-for homes

are, today, the original and beautiful palaces of the 1800s, thanks to a group of talented and dedicated home buyers. Beauty and charm is slowly returning to the streets of Providence.



THE CRANSTON STREET ARMORY is on America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places list. Herald photo by Tara V. Lisciandro

Ukraine Orphanages Offer Refuge for Jewish Children

by Lev Krichevsky

MOSCOW (JTA) — Two Jewish homes for children have opened in an attempt to confront a dire social situation in the former Soviet Union.

A new facility, which opened recently in Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine, is providing a home for 35 Jewish girls, aged 10 to 16, from Ukraine and Russia.

The orphanage, known as the Esther and William Benenson Home for Girls, was organized by Tzivos Hashem, an affiliate of the Lubavitch movement that works with children.

A corresponding home for boys, housed in a temporary facility since last fall, will move to a new location in Dnepropetrovsk after renovation work at the site is completed.

Each facility will house 50 children, who will stay until they are old enough to look after themselves.

Dnepropetrovsk, located in southeastern Ukraine, has a total population of 1.2 million and close to 100,000 Jews.

Rabbi Benjamin Brackman, director of Tzivos Hashem in the former Soviet Union, said the two homes are sorely needed.

"The need for a Jewish facility for these children has never been greater," he said. "Every day the situation gets worse. We must get them off the streets and out of the state-run homes."

He adds that the need for Jewish children's shelters is far greater than what the two or-

phanages can provide.

"Unfortunately, we could fill up two, three orphanages in Russia because of the type of circumstances that we're in."

Since the fall of communism six years ago, children in the former Soviet Union have suffered greatly as the region undergoes convulsive economic changes, experts say.

These changes have affected children because the standard of living has fallen significantly, said Tatyna Vorozhtsova of Russia's Federal Committee for Youth Affairs.

"Parents are now forced to pay more attention to earning a living and less to raising children," she said.

According to one expert with the Russian Parliament, there are now more than 4 million homeless children in Russia — more than after the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution and ensuing civil war devastated much of the country.

According to UNICEF estimates, more than 60 percent of Russian families with children under the age of 7 are living in poverty.

Food, particularly meat, is scarce, and poor nutrition has left both children and adults susceptible to disease.

Moreover, alcoholism and domestic abuse are on the rise, tearing apart many families.

Not all of the children in state orphanages have lost their parents. As a result of the region's dire economic and social climate, many children were aban-

doned to state care.

There are now some 81,000 children living in orphanages across the former Soviet Union.

Rabbi Shmuel Kaminetzky, chief rabbi of Dnepropetrovsk, said that Jewish families are generally faring better than non-Jewish families in the former Soviet Union.

"But there are many serious cases we have to take care of," he adds.

"Unfortunately, we could fill up two, three orphanages in Russia because of the type of circumstances that we're in."

Rabbi Benjamin Brackman

The Jewish girls' home in Dnepropetrovsk is located in a converted mansion. The mansion's owner decided that his palatial home would attract anti-Semitic attention to himself and that it could be put to better use as a children's home.

The Jewish boys' home will be housed in the former synagogue of Rabbi Levi Yitzchok Schneerson, father of the late Lubavitcher rebbe, Menachem Mendel Schneerson.

Before World War II, Levi Yitzchok Schneerson served as Dnepropetrovsk's chief rabbi until he was removed from the

post by the Communist authorities and sent into exile.

The Communist government subsequently confiscated the synagogue and converted it into a clothing factory.

The Ukrainian government recently returned the synagogue to the local community, and the building is now being renovated.

"The situation of these Jewish children in our orphanage reflects the increasingly tragic condition of children across the former Soviet Union," said Kaminetzky.

One mother brought her son to the orphanage to keep him out of his alcoholic father's reach.

Kaminetzky tells of a 12-year-old girl recently taken to the orphanage because her mother is a drug addict and could not care for her.

Jewish children currently in state-run homes are facing a threat to their very heritage.

Because the understaffed and underfunded state orphanages welcome any foreign visitors or

potential donors, American and European missionaries are allowed to visit the orphanages, shower the children with toys and candy, and encourage them — especially the Jewish ones — to convert to Christianity.

Some state orphanages are under the patronage of the Russian Orthodox Church.

One Jewish girl was recently taken from a state-run orphanage in Dnepropetrovsk to the new Jewish home on the eve of her planned baptism.

The two Jewish homes in Dnepropetrovsk have a minimum-age requirement.

Said Kaminetzky, "Sadly, in the meantime, we cannot take children under the age of 10 because of the special care the younger children require."

Children from the two orphanages attend a nearby Jewish day school run by the Lubavitch movement.

"We want to give the children not only family warmth but also a good Jewish education," Kaminetzky said.

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ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Community Players Close Season With Absurd Farce

by Sara Wise
Herald Editor

Hold on to your seats! The Community Players production of "Noises Off," a zany farce by Michael Frayn, accelerates to a breakneck speed that may leave your head spinning. At the very least, it will leave you amused and entertained.

Using the device of a play within a play, the show takes the audience for a whirlwind ride with a troupe of bumbling actors as they rehearse and perform an absurd farce despite personal problems, romantic rivalries and their own general ineptness. Each of the three acts is an attempt to perform the same act of the play within the play.

The first act is an often-interrupted late-night dress rehearsal in which an exasperated director, played by Richard Blue, tries to coax the cast through its final rehearsal. Blue is clearly blessed with the best lines in the show, which he pulls off with great timing and acute sarcasm.

The other characters are funny, even if somewhat predictable. There's the blonde bimbo Brooke, played by Rachel Torregrossa, who is constantly losing her contact lens while playing the part of, guess what? A blonde bimbo. There's the obligatory drunk, played by Brian Mulvey, who everyone tries to keep track of to keep on the wagon, and a few other stock characters that test the real casts' ability to play second-rate amateur actors.

In the second act, the entire set is reversed, exhibiting an impressively constructed set and allowing the audience to now watch the same show unfold from backstage. The petty jealousies and conflicts that first surfaced in Act One blow up in the second and third acts to a point where the show builds a momentum of its own regardless of the plot. The events themselves are subsumed by the speed at which they're happening, leaving you nearly

exhausted from just watching the on-stage antics. Despite the frantic speed of the farce, the play does seem a bit long at times, and might have benefited from some tighter editing in the last two acts.

The clever details in both the set and costumes, like the fire extinguisher backstage and the director's green felt jacket and rolled up pants, add to the gritty theater backdrop and there are some surprisingly good performances from newcomer Shirley Guptill as the jilted stage manager and Carol Varden who

plays a daffy British actress playing a bumbling housekeeper.

The behind-the-scenes look at the chaotic world of live theater is a delight for anyone who has ever acted, and possibly a deterrent for those who have not. With the frenetic pace of "Noises Off" tearing the characters apart, it's much easier to sit back and watch.

Final performances of "Noises Off" at Jenks Junior High School Auditorium are June 20, 21, 22 at 8 p.m., with a Sunday matinee at 2 p.m. Call 726-6860 for ticket information.



Carol Varden and Shirley Guptill, both of Pawtucket, star in The Community Players' production of the frantic farce "Noises Off" at Jenks Junior High School in Pawtucket, thru June 22.

Photo by Bill Donnelly, Donnelly Photography

Audition for 'Unexpected Broadway'

Portsmouth Community Theatre announces auditions for "Unexpected Broadway." Three evenings of entertainment including cocktails, buffet dinner and cabaret performances featuring selected showstoppers from Broadway's best.

Musical director is Betty Ward and producer and choreographer is Barbara Katzman Smernoff.

Auditions are June 23, 6:30 to 9 p.m. and June 24, 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the Pennfield School, 321 East Main Road, Portsmouth. Auditions are open to those 16 years and older. Bring your best 16 bars of upbeat music. Come prepared to dance.

Performances are in September. For information, call 682-2541.

Fifth Annual City of Presidents Blues Festival

Concert producer Joe Hajjar of the Yard Rock Blues Club in Quincy, Mass., has announced the talented line-up for the Fifth Annual City of Presidents Blues Festival, the largest family-oriented, alcohol-free music and arts event in New England. The City of Presidents Blues Festival will take place on June 29 at Quincy's Memorial Stadium. The festival also includes a juried photography and art show presented by the Quincy Art Association and Presidential Camera. Doors open at 11 a.m. Performances are from noon to 8 p.m.

The Fifth Annual City of Presidents Blues Festival, whose proceeds are designated for the

city of Quincy to promote tourism and future special events, features the best blues acts in New England, each of whom has played at the award-winning Yard Rock Blues Club.

Tickets for the Fifth Annual City of Presidents Blues Festival are \$10 in advance, \$12 at the gate, \$2 for children under 16. Advance tickets are available at the Yard Rock Blues Club, 132 East Howard St., Quincy. To charge tickets by Mastercard or Visa, call (617) 376-3676. Tickets are also available at all Strawberries Record Stores and South Shore Stop & Shops.

For info, call the Yard Rock after 2 p.m. at (617) 472-9383.

World Scholar-Athlete Games Reaches Goal

With the addition of the Isle of Man, a small sovereign country off the coast of England, the 1997 World Scholar-Athlete Games has attained its goal of having 125 nations and all 50 U.S. states represented at the event, which will be taking place from June 22 to July 2 at the University of Rhode Island and in Newport, R.I.

More than 2,000 young people, ages 16 to 19, will be taking part in the second World Scholar-Athlete Games, which combines scholarship with athletics and the fine arts. The inaugural Games in 1993, which were held at the same venues, attracted 1,600 young scholars from 108 nations and all 50 states.

World Scholar-Athlete Games participants will be coming from every corner of the globe, from large superpower nations, and from third- and fourth-world countries for this 11-day event, which seeks to promote cultural acceptance and understanding among the future leaders of the world through sport and the fine arts. One of the more unique concepts of the Games, which is

administered by the Institute for International Sport at the University of Rhode Island, is that there are no national teams — for example, a basketball player from Brazil may have teammates from France, Burundi, China and the United States.

"We are extremely thrilled to have reached, and perhaps even surpassed, our goal of having delegations from 125 nations represented at the 1997 Games," said Games chairman, Alan Hassenfeld, who is also chairman and CEO of Hasbro, Inc. "These students will have the experience of their lives at the Games, and I can think of no better way to help bring about world peace than to gather these future leaders together to promote cultural understanding."

The opening ceremonies for the World Scholar-Athlete Games, taking place at 7 p.m. on June 23 at the University of Rhode Island football stadium, will feature one of the best-loved bands in the world, The Beach Boys, in a live outdoor concert that is expected to be a sell-out. For information, call (800) 843-9724.

Historic Ships Set Sail for Newport

"An Elegant Evening Celebration of Sail" will benefit the American Sail Training Association on July 3. From 6 to 9 p.m., the gala event will take place at the waterfront facility of the International Yacht Restoration School and feature a dozen historic ASTA vessels.

Sailing to Newport specifically to join the festivities are the 156 inch schooner Ernestina, flagship for the state of Massachusetts; the 74 inch schooner Brilliant from Connecticut's Mystic Seaport Museum; the 125 inch schooner Lettie G. Howard from New York City's South

Street Seaport Museum; the 131 inch "Ocean Classroom" schooner Harvey Gamage from Maine; and the 110 inch sloop Providence, flagship for the state of Rhode Island.

Tickets for the ASTA event are \$50/person, with benefactor and patron levels at \$150 and \$300 respectively. Dress is cocktail attire with appropriate shoes for boarding vessels. Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres will be served with special touches added by various sponsors.

For July 3 ticket reservations or more information on ASTA, contact 846-1775.



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MILESTONES

Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association Honors Dr. Goldowsky

Seebert J. Goldowsky, M.D., was honored by the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association executive committee at its meeting on June 3. The following resolution was adopted by the committee in recognition of Dr. Goldowsky's 90th birthday and his outstanding service to the association and the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Notes.

WHEREAS, Seebert Jay Goldowsky, eminent physician, editor, author, and historian, will celebrate his ninetieth birthday on the sixth day of June, nineteen hundred and ninety-seven; and

WHEREAS, Said Dr. Goldowsky has been a valued member of the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association since 1952 and prominent member of the Executive Committee since 1957; and

WHEREAS, While capably tending to his medical responsibilities, he devoted countless hours to furthering interest in the history of the Jews in Rhode Island and the history of Rhode Island in general through his membership in the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association and his service as our seventh President, participation in the League of Rhode Island Historical Societies as delegate and through a term as President of the Society of Friends of Touro Synagogue National Historical Shrine Inc. and past President, membership in and service on the Governing Boards of the Rhode Island Historical Society and American Jewish Historical Society; and

WHEREAS, He brought great distinction to the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Notes, which he edited for eighteen years, as with *The Rhode Island Medical Journal*, of which he was Editor-in-Chief for twenty-seven years, by maintaining the highest standards of excellence and scholarship; and

WHEREAS, He has generously shared his knowledge and expertise as mentor to succeeding editors of the *Notes* and as Chairman of the publications committee; and

WHEREAS, He has done extensive research and written important articles regarding facets of the history of the Jews in Rhode Island, and has gained recognition for his scholarly volumes *Yankee Surgeon; the Life and Times of Usher Parsons 1788-1868* and *A Century and a Quarter of Spiritual Leadership; The Story of the Congregation of the Sons of Israel and David (Temple Beth-El)*; and

WHEREAS, His excellence as physician, editor, author, and historian is widely recognized and his advice and counsel is always welcomed and appreciated; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Officers, Executive Committee, and the Membership of the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association extend felicitations to Seebert Jay Goldowsky on the occasion of his ninetieth birthday, best wishes for his good health, and gratitude for his dedication and wisdom.

EXECUTED on the third day of June, nineteen hundred and ninety-seven.

Temple Beth-El Elects New Officers

Dr. Joseph A. Chazan was elected president of Temple Beth-El at the annual meeting on May 18. Also elected as officers of the executive board were first vice president, Richard Israel; vice presidents, Marvin W. Lax and Selma Stanzler; treasurer, Lynn D. Flanzbaum; assistant treasurer, Robert Fine and secretary, Samuel Zurier.

Trustees elected for a three-year term were: Douglas Blake, Jaffa Davies, Diane Ducoff, Douglas Emanuel, Fred Franklin, Jonathan Lentz, Scott Libman, Sheri Singer, Paul Streicker, and Bruce Winter. Steven Howitt was elected new trustee for a two-year term and Steven Seeche and Michael Thaler were elected for one-year terms. Past president, David Casten, was named honorary trustee. Also at this meeting, Rabbi Michael Cahana was named associate rabbi of the temple.



Newly elected Associate Rabbi Michael Cahana (center) is flanked by Rabbi Leslie Gutterman, President Joseph Chazan, Cantor Ida Cahana, and outgoing President David Casten.

Photo courtesy of Temple Beth-El

Providence College Awards Interfaith Scholarship

Providence College recently recognized Michael R. James of Hope Valley as the recipient of the Kapstein Family Scholarship Award. The award was established in the names of Sherwin S. Kapstein and his late wife, Gladys C. Kapstein, and recognizes the career of the Rev. Edward Flannery, director of Catholic-Jewish relations for the Catholic diocese of Providence. Financed with an endowment administered by the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, the award is presented to a graduating senior who has provided outstanding volunteer services in interfaith relations.

A modern languages/secondary education major, James graduated from Providence College on May 18 with magna cum laude honors. He founded the college's chapter of the Camp Heartland Project, which raises money for children infected and/or affected by the HIV/AIDS virus. James has been a camp counselor for the Camp Heartland Project, and was an active member of the college's Pastoral Service Organization. He also served as president of his class for three years. James has accepted a full-time position as a Spanish teacher and student council advisor in the Loveland, Colo., area.

A former member of the Providence School Board and of

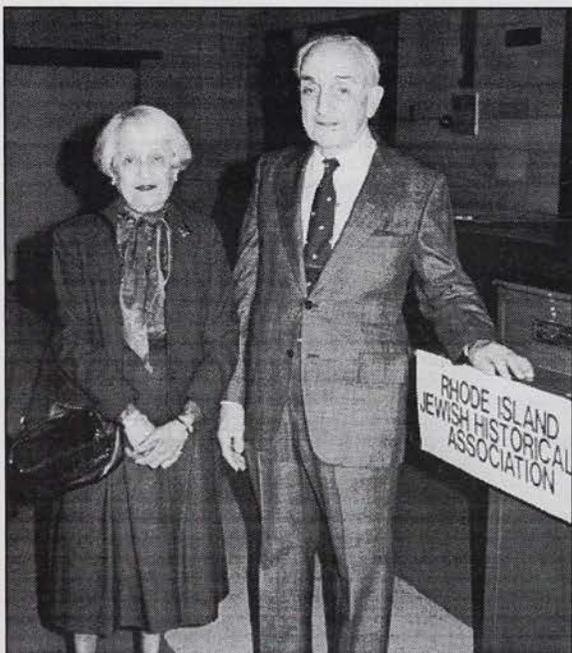
the General Assembly, Kapstein was executive director of the National Education Association of Rhode Island for 16 years. Gladys Kapstein was president of the Hillel Foundation and director of the Rhode Island Jewish Federation. The Kapsteins have had a long association with Providence College.

Kapstein noted, "I thank Father Flannery, a gentle, faithful and brilliant servant of God, for permitting us to honor him with this award. I also congratulate James, whose volunteer student activities have reflected a deep commitment to promoting interfaith relationships."



The Rev. Joseph Barranger, P.C. chaplain, Michael James, Sherwin Kapstein

Photo courtesy of Providence College



Dr. Seebert J. Goldowsky and his wife Bonnie

Photo courtesy of R.I. Jewish Historical Association

Julia Glenn Getz

Ken and Debra Hassenfeld Getz announce the birth of their third child, Julia Glenn. She arrived on May 7, weighed 8 pounds and measured 20 1/2 inches long.

Julia was welcomed home by her sister, Ellyn Jeri, and her brother, David Ian.



Grandparents are Barbara and Sidney Hassenfeld of Woodcliff Lake, N.J., and Ricki and Irwin Getz of East Greenwich, R.I. Great-grandparents are the late Gertrude and Jack Hassenfeld of Providence, the late Gertrude and Max Treistman of Hollywood, Fla., Lena and the late Herman Getz of Cranston, and the late Julia and Isadore Adelson of West Palm Beach, Fla.

Know someone getting married?

Tell us their name and address and we'll send them a one-year complimentary subscription to the Rhode Island Jewish Herald.



OBITUARIES

AVI BLOOM

PAWTUCKET—Avi Bloom, 63, of 38 Sayles Ave., a retired executive of Carol Cable Co., died June 11 at Health Havens Nursing Center in East Providence. He was the husband of Hannah (Lewis) Bloom.

Born in Israel, he was a son of the late Zion and Naomi Bloom. He was a graduate of the University of Tel Aviv and received a master's degree in business administration from Columbia Business School in 1961.

Besides his wife, he leaves a daughter, Dina Bloom of San Francisco, and a son, David Bloom of Los Angeles.

A graveside service was held June 13 at Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. The family was assisted with the arrangements by Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

SIMON GOLDENBERG

PROVIDENCE — Simon Goldenberg, 83, of 303 Greenwich Ave., Warwick, a salesman for Costello Brothers Tobacco Co., retiring 10 years ago, died May 7 at Miriam Hospital. He was the husband of Marcy (Rosenberg) Goldenberg.

Born in Providence, a son of the late Morris and Molly (Pearl) Goldenberg, he lived in Warwick since 1988, previously living in Providence.

He was a member of Temple Am David, Touro Fraternal Association and the Majestic Club.

Besides his wife, he leaves a son, Malcolm Goldenberg of Pawtucket; a daughter, Eleanor Bornstein of Columbia, S.C.; three sisters, Anne Goldenberg, Jean Hochman and Rae Nulman, all of Providence; five grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

The funeral was held May 8 at the Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Post Road.

DR. MAX BROOMFIELD GROSSMAN

LAGUNA HILLS, Calif. — Dr. Max Broomfield Grossman, 95, died June 3. He was the husband of Anne (Feinselber) Grossman.

"Mac" grew up in Providence, graduated from Harvard University Dental School, practiced dentistry and oral surgery and was president of Congregation Agudas Achim in Bristol, before service as a Lt. Colonel in the U.S. Army during World War II. He and Anne moved to Los Angeles in 1946 and were involved in real estate, civic and religious activities. They retired to Laguna Hills in 1989. He was a member of the Masonic Order and Shriners.

Besides his wife, he is survived by two sons, U.S. Judge Robert J. Grossman, and Dr. Richard C. Grossman of Los Angeles; a brother, Nathan Grossman of Palm Springs; and six grandchildren, Laurie, Stephanie and Michele Grossman, June Raffle, and Richard A. and Michael Grossman and five great-grandchildren, Rebecca, Benjamin and Jacquelyn Raffle, and Mia and Leland Grossman.

Services were held June 5 at Mount Sinai Memorial Park Chapel.

German Insurer Underwrote Policies for SS-Operated Sites

by Deidre Berger
FRANKFURT (JTA) — A leading German insurance company insured factories, barracks and motor pools operated by the SS in or near concentration camps during World War II, according to documents recently uncovered at the German federal archives.

The Munich-based Allianz Group underwrote insurance for fire and property damage, often in cooperation with other German insurance companies, at slave labor production sites at the Auschwitz, Dachau and Buchenwald death camps, the documents indicated.

Allianz representatives made personal visits to the factories to determine the risks associated with the policies, making it likely that at least some employees of the German insurer knew what was taking place in the death camps.

After a January 1942 visit to the barracks at Auschwitz, an Allianz representative in Poland wrote, "Due to constant military surveillance, there is impeccable order and sanitary conditions."

The revelations came as French Nazi hunter Serge Klarsfeld called for a boycott of Allianz until the company took concrete measures to investigate its wartime history and pay compensation to victims.

Nine Holocaust survivors filed suit in a New York court in March against Allianz and six other European companies, claiming that the insurers withheld the proceeds of insurance policies taken out by Jews during the 1920s to 1940s.

The underwriting of slave labor sites by Allianz was reported by the German news magazine *Der Spiegel*, which said that Allianz executives acknowledged these activities.

"We brought guilt upon ourselves during the Third Reich, but we never enriched ourselves from the Holocaust," Allianz board member Herbert Hansmeyer told *Der Spiegel*.

But he added that Allianz could not be blamed for the millions of deaths inside the concentration camps, emphasizing that Allianz had insured production sites, not the camps themselves.

Hansmeyer also claimed that the SS would have continued to keep production running even

if Allianz had refused to insure the sites.

Shortly after Klarsfeld announced the boycott, Allianz officials said they wanted to talk with him and the group he represents, the Sons and Daughters of Jews Deported from France.

An Allianz executive told *Der Spiegel* that the insurance company was contemplating the establishment of a fund to compensate victims of the Nazis.

After the New York suit was filed, Allianz launched a campaign to help relatives of Holocaust victims track down unpaid or missing claims.

Allianz recently opened hot lines in Germany, Israel, and North and South America to answer questions about possible unpaid claims on policies sold to Jewish clients.

The company said some 700 people had called the hot line numbers and that about 300 had possible claims against the company. But it said that most callers could provide little concrete information about the policies.

The company said five files were located so far.

Allianz commissioned the Arthur Anderson auditing firm to go through all files dating back to the prewar era to locate unpaid policies.

Representatives of the Conferences on Jewish Materials Claims Against Germany said they suspect there may be large numbers of unpaid claims because life insurance policies were common among members of Germany's prewar Jewish community.

Since 1993, Allianz has had one historian on a part-time basis sifting through the company's wartime documents.

Allianz is also in the process of appointing a group of non-German historians to research the role of the insurance company during the war, according to Christopher Worthley, a spokesman for Allianz.

He said the information uncovered by *Der Spiegel* was a major contribution to the company's efforts to research its involvement with the Nazis.

"Our goal is to present a full picture, as painful as it might be, of the entire company history," Worthley said, adding that it would include an examination of how much was known within the company about conditions in the concentration camps.

Card of Thanks

We acknowledge with heartfelt thanks and appreciation the many expressions of sympathy and donations we received in memory of a beloved wife and sister, Rose Rosenfield.

Husband, Phil and brothers, Idyman and Seymour Port.

Unveiling Notice

The unveiling for Harris Lury will be held on Sunday, June 29, at 11:30 a.m. at Lincoln Park Cemetery.

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Samuel H. Dresner
Prayer, Humility and Compassion

New Cookbook Brings Exotic Flair to Kosher Kitchens

by Sara Wise
Herald Editor

There's a new kosher cookbook out that brings a new twist to standard Jewish cooking. *Kosher Kettle: International Adventures in Jewish Cooking* (Five Star Publications) combines traditional Jewish cuisine with inventive cross-cultural recipes from around the world in a style that is interesting and easy to follow.

The collection is edited by Sybil Ruth Kaplan, who gathered recipes from kitchens around the world and added folksy anecdotes about where many of them came from.

Following a foreword by local food celebrity Joan Nathan, the introduction offers a basic explanation of kasrut and kosher symbols. Recipes are divided into meat, dairy and pareve. The 350 recipes representing 27 different countries come from 75 different contributors and include delights such as Greek lentil soup, Spanish-style hot sangria, Italian broccoli salad and Indian wheat halvah. There are, of course, plenty of recipes for all the standard "k's" of Jewish cooking as well (knishes,

kugel, kasha, kreplach, knaidlach, etc.).

The simple, unadorned pages



have a homey feel that make the cookbook seem more like an index card collection of recipes a young bride might get than a commercial endeavor. The book is in fact less commercial than most because it is published by a

small press that donates three percent of the profit from each book to MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger, a charitable organization dedicated to ending hunger in the United States.

One of the best things about this cookbook is the "lay-flat binding" that allows you to leave the book open to the page you are working on without having to constantly search through the book with sticky fingers or break the binding. A sample recipe from *Kosher Kettle: International Adventures in Jewish Cooking* is listed below.

Spanish Mushroom Salad Tapas

- 1/4 cup good olive oil
- 2 Tbsp. lemon juice
- 1 garlic clove, crushed
- 1/8 tsp. pepper
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. cumin

- 1 Tbsp. parsley, minced
- 1/2 pound fresh mushrooms, sliced
- 1 red pepper, sliced thin into half rings

1. In a bowl, mix oil, lemon juice, garlic, pepper, salt, cumin, and parsley.
2. Toss mushrooms and pepper rings into mixture. Let stand for a while to blend tastes, then serve. Serves 6 to 8.

Author Seeks Holocaust Letters

An author seeks letters written during the Holocaust for a research project. "Help us to learn from the words of those whose voices were so brutally silenced," says Carla Wittes, who is working on the project. Letters and postcards written prior to the correspondent's deportation are of particular interest. Correspondence in any language will be gratefully accepted. Copies, not original letters, will be used for research purposes.

If you have in your possession letters from one spouse to another, from parent to child or child to parent, letters written to a friend, or to a co-worker, contact: Carla Wittes, c/o Holocaust Education & Memorial Centre of Toronto, 4600 Bathurst St., North York, Ont. M2R 3V2. Tel. (416) 631-5689, fax: (416) 635-0925, e-mail: minute@interlog.com

Children's Crusade Recruits AmeriCorps Volunteers

The Rhode Island Children's Crusade for Higher Education is seeking energetic, caring, reliable, dynamic and responsible people of all ages, racial, cultural, educational and socio-economic backgrounds to join the organization as an AmeriCorps volunteer full-time for a year.

The AmeriCorps national service program, a domestic Peace Corps, gives interested Americans the opportunity to serve worthy causes like the Crusade. The Crusade, a non-profit organization, provides educational enrichment programs and scholarship incentives for R.I. children who, beginning in the third grade, make a pledge to stay in school and pursue a higher education.

Candidates who have experience working with children and enjoy kids are needed to assess the needs of at-risk students and work with them to develop their academic, social and employability skills. Also, corps members will work with parents, teachers, guidance counselors and community representatives to match Crusaders with individualized community services/resources.

In exchange for a year of community service, corps members gain valuable new skills and receive a living allowance, health care coverage as well as financial assistance to further their educational goals or repay student loans.

For information on this opportunity, call 277-6560, ext. 145.

Rejuvenate Your Home With Easy Decorating Tips

Celebrate the change of seasons by beautifying your home. If a total decorating overhaul isn't in your budget, don't despair. By incorporating some simple-yet-elegant touches from today's hottest design trends, you can breathe new life into your decor, without breaking your bank account.

"Bedding is a cost-effective way to spruce up your bedroom," said Barbara Tracy, a design consultant for the Avon home collection. "Create a lavish-looking bed by layering," she suggests. "Start with pillows in a range of sizes, colors and patterns. For a sophisticated look, add matching or coordinating comforters, blankets or throws."

Floral motifs are perennial favorites. Patterns like Porcelain Rose, a tasteful bouquet of blues on a white background, evoke the subdued charm of the English countryside. Spring Garden, a soothing botanical print

accented with subtle plaid, looks feminine and fresh.

Jungle-leaf prints are also popular. Choose zebra-striped pillows, a leopard-spotted comforter and matching curtains. natural accents — bamboo or linen-weave shades, woven baskets or teak picture frames — reinforce the wildlife theme.

Says Tracy: "Even a small change can have a dramatic effect."

- Lean picture frames of different sizes and shapes along a mantle or small shelf as an alternative to hanging.

- Roll up towels and display them in a wicker basket by the tub or shower for a decorative accent that's both inviting and practical.

- Give your old curtains a new look with wrought-iron curtain rods and holdbacks.

- Use a decorative throw as a casual tablecloth, or, for a country touch, drape over a quilt stand or worn piece of furniture.

The Longest Undiscovered Marrano

The Marranos were Spanish Jews who, during the Inquisition, found it necessary to pass themselves off as Christian. During the 15th and 16th centuries many of these Jews emigrated to other lands; many were caught and punished (a euphemism for tortured); still others became Catholics. But not all.

Juan ben Rubinoff Lopez of Saragossa, Spain, was discovered by a UJA canvasser from Fort Wayne, Ind., on May 2, 1951. Lopez instinctively denied the charge, but could not explain away, to the satisfaction of the UJA, why he had been observed:

- mumbling the *Shema* when he entered church each day;
- spitting three times whenever he heard the priest of his local parish tell of the suffering of the Basque peasants;
- lighting eight votive candles in church every December;
- rocking back and forth while at mass;
- hating the taste of liquor;
- placing photos of John Garfield and Tony Curtis all over his bedroom wall;
- inexplicably changing his bedsheets and pillowcases every Friday afternoon, and expressing longings for Chinese food every Saturday night;
- marrying a Jewish girl, which drove his Catholic mother crazy.

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