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# Rhode Island Jewish HERALD

Thanksgiving  
Feature

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## Queen of Jewish Cuisine Comes Home

Joan Nathan talks about her new book, *The Jewish Holiday Baker*  
by Emily Torgan-Shalansky  
Jewish Community Reporter

Author Joan Nathan knows more about Jewish history than your Sunday school teacher and more about Jewish cooking than your bubbe.

Perhaps because she refuses to make a distinction that other food writers have long adhered to, her cookbooks have made her one of the world's leading authorities on Jewish cuisine.

"You can't separate culture from food," explained Nathan, a Providence native who now resides in Washington, D.C.

In town to promote her newest book, *The Jewish Holiday Baker* (Schocken Books), Nathan curled up in her late father's favorite chair in her mother's East Side home.

Merging memories with ideas, she told the story of her career in the same way that she created 13 incredibly moving portraits of bakers and their families for the book — by talking about her work with food, she shared her heritage and her feelings along with her recipes.

"Every day at 5 p.m., my father used to sit in this chair and have cocktails," remembered Nathan. "My mother always

used to bring in hors d'oeuvres. That was parent time."

But for Nathan, food was more often associated with family time.

"Every Friday, my Aunt Lisl used to have lunch," Nathan said of the late Lisl Regensteiner of Cranston, whose flight from Hitler is recorded in *The Jewish Holiday Baker* along with her zwetschgenuchen, or Alsatian Italian plum tart. "We'd have brains with capers, salami, and lots of dark black bread."

Despite the rich culinary heritage available at home, it took some time in Israel in the early 1960s to make Nathan decide to focus on food.

A graduate of Classical High School with a relatively recent B.A. from the University of Michigan, Nathan served as former Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek's foreign press attaché.

"He loved to eat, and everywhere I went people would bring out food," Nathan said. "It was a great equalizer and a great way to break down tensions."

Nathan had a very busy job. "I ate everything," she said. "I had a lot of pitas and Israeli salads, and Palestinian chicken."

Realizing that cooking was a way to access Jewish culture and history, Nathan began the career that has taken her from Providence to Jerusalem to Jew-

ish kitchens all over the world.

She has co-authored one cookbook and written four more, including *Jewish Cooking in America*, a comprehensive history which won the 1995 IACP Julia Child Award for best cookbook of the year and the James Beard award for best American cookbook.

At present, she is filming a series about Jewish cooking for PBS.

According to Nathan, it took about a year to write *The Jewish Holiday Baker*, but many more to visit the nations and meet the people who have perfected the recipes within it.

Sometimes seeking out Jewish bakers and sometimes happening upon them, Nathan applied one standard to all Sephardic and Ashkenazi kitchens alike.

"Many bakers today make challah and bagels, but that doesn't make them Jewish," she writes. "To me, a Jewish baker is someone who grew up with a sense of Jewish identity that is transmitted through the breads and other baked goods."

(Continued on Page 3)



JOAN NATHAN promoted her new book, *The Jewish Holiday Baker*, at Hands Around the Table, a benefit for The Gordon School and Share Our Strength, a hunger relief organization, on Nov. 13.

Photo by Thomas W. Radcliffe

## JFRI Makes Jewish Connections

"How can I get more involved in the Rhode Island Jewish community? How can I get connected to the Jewish people throughout the world?" If you have been asking yourself these questions, you may want to get involved in these exciting programs that will provide you with an opportunity to meet other young Jews who live in Rhode Island, as well as throughout the United States.

One opportunity is a bi-annual conference sponsored by the United Jewish Appeal that is held in Washington, D.C. The program is called Washington 11 and provides participants with the opportunity to hear fabulous speakers, learn more about many of the issues facing American Jews today, advocate on Capitol Hill, and meet other young Jewish people between the ages of 25 and 45 who live throughout the United States. In the past, many United States presidents have addressed the conference. Rhode Island has always sent a large contingent of participants, and we are hoping to do the same this year. Approximately 15 Rhode Is-

landers have already signed up to go. If you have any questions about this conference, call Elissa Mirkin at 421-4111, ext. 171, or Gershon Levine, ext. 173. The conference promises to be exciting, informative and fun.

One way that Jewish Federation of Rhode Island is celebrating Israel's 50th anniversary is by bringing dozens of Rhode Islanders to Israel, May 14 to 25, 1998. It promises to be a memorable trip, at incredible prices. If you are between the ages of 18 and 29, the cost for the mission is only \$998, and, for anyone between 30 and 35, the cost is just \$1,598. For others, the price is \$1,998. All prices reflect discounts made possible by a grant from the JFRI Endowment fund. The price includes round-trip airfare, deluxe hotel accommodations, tour guides, programs and most meals. There will be no solicitation of funds. The tour is designed for households of the R.I. Jewish community, their parents, adult children and adult grandchildren. Call Eric Stillman, campaign director, at 421-4111, ext. 159 for more information.

## Doors Now Open for Jews in Foreign Policy

by Matthew Dorf

WASHINGTON (JTA) — "It's a shame you'll never use it," the examiner told Gil Kulik when he passed the Hebrew proficiency test after joining the U.S. foreign service in 1966.

The state department didn't send Jews to the Middle East — especially to Israel.

So Kulik received the requisite pay raise for foreign-language skills and, like scores of other Jewish foreign-service officers, prepared for a career elsewhere.

But the examiner was dead wrong.

Kulik landed on the team that prepared Samuel Lewis for his confirmation hearings to serve as U.S. ambassador to Israel.

Impressed with the young foreign-service officer, Lewis, who served in Tel Aviv from 1977 to 1983, made Kulik the first Jewish political officer in the U.S. Embassy in Israel.

Many current and former Jewish diplomats credit former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger — though not deeply identified as a Jew — for paving the way for Jews in the foreign service.

"Kissinger ended the isolation of Jews in the foreign service," said Arthur Berger, who, like Kulik, was told he would never go to Israel.

In fact, Berger, too, was posted in Israel — as a spokesman at the U.S. Embassy in 1982.

Interviews with more than a dozen current and former Jewish state department officials and diplomats reveal the increased opportunities available to Jews now entering the foreign service.

The state department would not release figures on the religious makeup of its staff, but one official said American Jews — including observant and committed Jews — are flocking to diplomatic careers.

If Kissinger broke the glass ceiling for Jewish diplomats, Kulik's boss cleared away the remaining shards.

By the end of Lewis's tour, three of the four officers assigned to the embassy's political section were Jews.

Today, Kulik, who serves as director of communications at the New Israel Fund, and Berger, director of communications at the American Jewish Commit-

tee, are watching from afar as President Clinton and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright — who discovered her own Jewish roots earlier this year — complete the process of opening all doors to Jews.

History was made recently when Martin Indyk was sworn in as assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern Affairs.

Indyk's appointment comes on the heels of Stuart Eizenstat's swearing in as undersecretary of state for economics.

Indyk, a former official with the American Israel Public Affairs Committee and the first Jew to serve as ambassador to Israel, is also the first Jew to serve in the top Middle East policy post.

Not since Kissinger has an American Jew had such a strong say in overall U.S. Middle East policy.

Taken alone, Indyk's meteoric rise from academia to the state department's seventh floor is quite a feat.

But Indyk now is one of more than a dozen American Jews in top state department positions — positions that were once off-

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# HAPPENINGS

## Celebrate Thanksgiving for the Animals

On Nov. 22, Roger Williams Park Zoo is hosting the first Thanksgiving For The Animals. Children are invited to bring a homemade "animal" food item to feed the wild birds, squirrels, rabbits, and chipmunks that live in and visit the zoo. Whether it's a garland of carrot slices for rabbits or popcorn balls for the birds, children entering the zoo with an animal food item will be admitted at half price. Activities include 'fast food fun' where visitors can make more edible food items with the help of zoo docents and an animal nutrition station showcasing animal diets.

Another important part of Thanksgiving For The Animals is a food drive to benefit the Rhode Island Community Food Bank. Adults that bring a canned food item to the zoo will be admitted for half price.

Thanksgiving For The Animals is free with regular zoo admission: Adults, \$5; children 3 to 12 and seniors, \$2.50; children under 3, free. The zoo is open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., event activities run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., rain or shine. For information, call 785-3510.

## Join In The Annual Whist Party

Kent County Hadassah presents the annual Whist Party on Dec. 2. The card games begin at 7 p.m. at the Villa Del Rio Clubhouse in Warwick. Norma Kaufman will lead and instruct the games.

There will be a door prize, game prizes, a raffle and refreshments. Sue Mays will offer a Tupperware Boutique (a portion of her commission being donated to Hadassah). Also, beautiful guest towels of five different Jewish designs will be available for your purchase for just \$4 each. Bring your friends. All are welcome. No prior whist experience is needed to enjoy this festive event in support of Youth Aliyah. A \$5 donation toward Youth Aliyah from guests will be collected. Call Ruth at 946-5225 for further information.

## Calendar: November 20 thru November 29

- 20 "Kovno Ghetto, Buried History," documentary programs, 10 p.m. EST, History Channel.
- 21 Wickford Art Association Exhibit, Nov. 21 to Dec. 3. Call 294-6840.  
Music From the Heart, Rhode Island College Wind Ensemble performs 8:15 p.m., Roberts Auditorium. 456-8244.
- 22 Perspectives, young Jewish adults group anniversary celebration at the Barnsider Restaurant, Providence. Call for reservations, 863-9357.  
Montgolfier Balloon Regatta. Hot air balloons rise over Providence commemorating anniversary of first manned balloon flight in Paris in 1783 by Montgolfier brothers, 6:30 to 7:30 a.m., State House lawn, Providence. Call 253-0111.  
RISD student sale, Providence, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Hundreds of items created by RISD students; free admission. Call 454-6348.  
Lifespan Health Connection free diabetes workshop, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Miriam Hospital. Space is limited, preregistration is required. Call 444-4800 to register.
- 23 "Holocaust Recovery" at Temple Sinai, Cranston. Guest speaker, Sen. Jack Reed, 9 a.m. Community is invited. Call 942-8350 for information.  
22nd annual Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island artisans crafts fair, "A Show of Hands," 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Providence. Call 861-8800.  
Young Judaea group planned by South County Hadassah, 9:30 p.m., White Hall URI, Kingston. Call 783-4018 for more information.
- 24 Pawtucket Hadassah meeting at Highland Court, 7:30 p.m. Program will discuss living wills and health care power of attorney.  
Dr. Arun Gandhi, follows footsteps of his grandfather, speaks about reducing violence in our homes, neighborhoods and world at Community College of Rhode Island in Warwick, 6:30 p.m. Open to public, seating is limited. Call 732-5656 for reservations.  
"Moral Protest and the Israeli Soldier," lecture by Ruth Linn, professor at the School of Education at Haifa University, noon, at Watson Institute for International Studies, 2 Simson Ave., Providence.
- 26 Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at Temple Shalom, Middletown, 7 p.m. Call Rabbi Jagolinzer for more information, 846-9002.
- 27 Happy Thanksgiving!
- 28 Day after Thanksgiving hike with Perspectives, young Jewish adults group and Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association at Arcadia Management Area, estimated three-hour hike. Bring sturdy shoes, snacks and hats. Call Nina to register, 539-9017.  
Ocean State Artisans' 7th annual Fall Festival, Nov. 28 to 29. Crafts from local artisans at Holiday Inn at the Crossings, Warwick. Call 785-0899.
- 29 The Concord Literacy Colony lecture, 10 a.m. by Jayne Gordon from the Concord Museum, registration required. North Kingstown Free Library. Call 294-3306.

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## Fall Library Booksale

The Friends of the Cranston Public Library will hold a Fall Booksale at the William Hall Library, 1825 Broad St., Cranston, on Nov. 21, from 7 to 9 p.m.; Nov. 22, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and on Nov. 23 from 1 to 4 p.m.

On Nov. 21 evening, current members of the Friends of the Library will be offered an "early bird" selection. Anyone who isn't a member of the Friends, may join at the door. On Nov. 23, all books are half-price.

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## Hiroko Shikashio Exhibit Opens

Hiroko Shikashio, a Japanese-born artist who now lives in Rhode Island, will celebrate the opening of a Warwick Arts Foundation exhibit of her watercolors in the function room gallery at The Village at Waterman Lake, 715 Putnam Pike, Greenville, on Nov. 20 from 4 to 7 p.m.

Shikashio is the recipient of a number of awards, including Art Quest '87, International Society of Artists Competitions, New Haven Paints and Clay Club-Gold Award, Watercolor USA Award, New York Gallery's Select Award, and more. Her work has been shown throughout the United States and internationally.

Wine and cheese will be served in the opening. Shikashio's exhibit will hang through Dec. 21. For more information, call 272-4663.

## Copies of the Herald are available at...

### In Cranston

Barney's, Oaklawn Ave.  
Borders Book Shop, Garden City Ctr.  
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### Providence and Vicinity

Barney's, East Avenue, Pawtucket  
Books on the Square, Wayland Square (on Angell)  
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EastSide Marketplace, Pitman St.  
EastSide Prescription Center, Hope St.  
Rhoda's Judaica, Burlington St.

# JEWISH COMMUNITY

## Queen of Jewish Cuisine Comes Home

(Continued from Page 1)

Therefore, Nathan uniquely captures the flavor of Jewish culture along with the taste of its foods.

As the reader searches for a chocolate babka, he or she meets Ben Moskovitz, a 74-year-old Holocaust survivor who now owns a bakery in Oak Park, Mich., where he works 14 hours a day because he "does not want his recipes to die." His memories of his native Apscha, Czechoslovakia, are infused into his baked goods.

When looking for a challah recipe, the reader meets Andra Tunick Karnofsky, an Illinois psychologist and rabbi's wife who supplies local stores with challah because she believes it creates a wonderful sense of connectedness between people.

The sassy Ann Americk, the first Jewish pastry chef to grace the White House, shares a rugelach recipe and her hilarious memories of an attempt to kosher the White House kitchen for former Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin.

The survival strategy of Elisabeth Rosenfeld, a Hungarian Holocaust survivor who emigrated to Mexico alone with her three children after the war, is preserved along with her

daughter's recipe for banana cake.

"Like many other women in similar situations, Elisabeth began giving cooking lessons in her new home," writes Nathan. "Elisabeth Rosenfeld was, in fact, the teacher for a whole generation of upper-class Jewish and non-Jewish Mexican women.

"It was an in thing to go there," said one of her former students. "She was a thin woman who spoke five languages, but none of them properly."

Although Nathan knows that many of the recipes would vanish if she did not collect them, she believes that Jewish cooking is evolving rather than declining.

"A lot of Jewish cooking is now in the American mainstream," she explained. "Now, a lot of the good kosher restaurants are Iraqi or Uzbeki."

Although Nathan worries that the present generation is growing up without the cultural memories that she had, she believes Jewish food will eventually be used to help restore them.

"Certain things root us, and food is one of them," she said. "A generation that grows up without roots will want to root its own kids."

The following recipes are from Nathan's newest book, *The Jewish Holiday Baker*.

### Mexican Banana Cake

From Lisette Span, the French-born daughter-in-law of Elisabeth Rosenfeld

- 2 1/2 cups unbleached all-purpose flour
- 3/4 cup plus 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 1/2 cup milk or water
- 3 large eggs, separated
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 4 large, ripe bananas, mashed
- 1/2 cup chopped walnuts (optional)
- Confectioner's sugar (optional)

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.
2. In a large mixing bowl, pour in the flour, 3/4 cup of sugar, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Add the oil, milk or water, egg yolks, vanilla and mashed bananas and mix well. Stir in the walnuts.
3. Using an electric mixer, whip the egg whites until they form stiff peaks. Gently fold into the banana mixture.
4. Pour into a buttered and lightly floured 10-inch bundt

pan or other tube pan and bake for 45 to 50 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean.

5. Allow the cake to cool for 10 minutes before removing it from the pan. Continue cooling it on a rack. When ready to serve, sprinkle with the two remaining tablespoons sugar or with confectioner's sugar.

Yield: 8-10 servings

### Zwetschkuchen

Southern German and Alsatian Italian Plum Tart  
from Lisl Nathan Regensteiner

- 1 cup unbleached all-purpose flour
- Dash of salt
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) unsalted butter or parve margarine
- 1 large egg yolk
- 2 teaspoons dried bread crumbs
- 1/3 cup apricot preserves
- 1 tablespoon brandy
- 2 pounds Italian plums
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- Confectioner's sugar

1. To make the crust using a food processor fitted with a metal blade, pulse the flour, salt, and 1 tablespoon of the sugar together. Cut the butter or margarine into small pieces, add to the bowl, and process until crumbly. Add the egg yolk and process until the dough forms a ball, adding more flour if necessary.

To make the dough by hand, use your fingers or a pastry blender to work the butter or margarine into the flour, salt, and 1 tablespoon of the sugar

until the mixture resembles coarse breadcrumbs. Add the egg yolk and work into a ball.

2. Remove the dough from the bowl, dust with flour, and pat into a flattened circle. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least a half-hour.

3. When you are ready to make the crust, dust your hands and the dough with flour. Place the dough in the center of a 9-inch pie plate and with your fingers gently pat it out to cover the bottom and go up the sides.

Trim crust and prick the bottom several times with fork tines.

4. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees.

5. Prebake the crust on the middle rack for 10 minutes. Remove from the oven and let cool slightly. Turn the oven down to 350 degrees.

6. Pit and cut the plums into fourths. Sprinkle the breadcrumbs on the crust, and then spoon the apricot preserves on top and drizzle with the brandy. Place the plum quarters on the crust in concentric circles, starting from the outside and working inward, so that each overlaps the next, into the center. Sprinkle with cinnamon and the remaining sugar. (At this point, if you wish, you can wrap and freeze the tart, to bake it later. Just remove it from the freezer one hour before baking.)

7. Place the tart in the oven and bake about 30 to 40 minutes or until the crust is golden brown and the plums are juicy. Remove from the oven. Just before serving, sprinkle with confectioner's sugar.

## Awards Dinner Honors Kellers

The Annual Awards dinner at Congregation Beth Shalom, 275 Camp St., in Providence, will take place at 5 p.m. on Nov. 30. Dr. and Mrs. Morris Keller will be the honorees for the evening.

For more information about the awards dinner, call 621-9393

## Prospective Adoptive Parents Invited to Meetings

Adoption Options, the adoption program of Jewish Family Service, Providence, is now offering informational meetings about adoption for anyone interested in exploring the choices. The meetings will be held the first Monday of every month from 6 to 8 p.m. at the offices of Jewish Family Service. The next meeting will be held on Dec. 1. The meetings are free and open to anyone interested in pursuing an adoption. Call Adoption Options at 331-5437 for information.

## Jewish Feminist Donates Archive to Brandeis

E. M. Broner, a leading voice in contemporary Jewish feminism, has donated her personal archive to Brandeis University as a tribute to the founding of the International Research Institute on Jewish Women at Brandeis earlier this year by Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America.

The archive, which includes Broner's personal correspondence and recordings of interviews and lectures, will strengthen and enrich Brandeis's materials pertaining to Jewish women, according to IRIJW director, Shulamit Reinharz, professor of sociology and director of the Women's Studies Program.

Reinharz said Broner has been a powerful advocate for the equality of women in Jewish liturgy and a key player in organizing an all-women Passover seder celebrated in New York since 1976, and internationally since 1994. *The Women's Haggadah*, which Broner co-authored for the women's seder, is part of the archive, along with the author's notes and critics' reviews of her novel, *A Weave of Women*, about a feminist utopia.

The E. M. Broner Archive will be housed within the Brandeis University Libraries Special Collections department. For more information, call the IRIJW at (781) 736-2064.

## PART-TIME CANTOR/CANTORIAL SOLOIST

Temple Sinai of Sharon, a 500-family Reform congregation, seeks a part-time cantor or cantorial soloist to begin in August 1998. Music is a central part of the spiritual experience in our congregation. We are open to new opportunities for musical participation for our members.

Position involves leading congregation in song, Friday nights, Saturday mornings, and frequent Havdalah services from late August through June, plus Jewish holidays and festivals. Responsibilities may be broadened depending on candidate's background and interests.

Candidates must demonstrate:

- A strong singing voice
- A working knowledge of Hebrew
- Familiarity with Jewish liturgy
- Scheduling flexibility to meet with rabbi and rehearse occasionally with adult and youth choirs
- Experience preferred

To apply, submit a résumé with references and a demonstration tape no later than December 8, 1997 to: Cantorial Search Committee, Temple Sinai, P.O. Box 114, Sharon, MA 02067

For more information, call David Blocker, (781) 784-1919.

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# OPINION

## Never Ending Creation

by Sharon Gottesman

I grew up listening to the biblical creation story and sitting cross-legged on the floor looking at tranquil picture book images of the seven-day progression of creation. It seemed logical enough — first heavens and the earth, the light and the darkness, dry land and the seas and all of the vegetation therein. Next came the sun, the moon and the stars, and living creatures; and the creation of the earth, sky, and all their array was completed, including a day of rest.

It seemed logical enough — first heavens and the earth, the light and the darkness, dry land and the seas and all of the vegetation therein.

Being a Reform Jew this romantic creation story was frequently discussed with a light-hearted mood. The broad appeal and casual acceptance of this simple story entices many and encourages further exploration of truths that have shaped life. I have never doubted this creation story, it is the first one that I knew and the one I know best, and the underlying values of Judaic stories have prompted me to further understand more scientific and realistic explanations for creation. As a Jew I appreciate both the merits of this simple and globally known myth and the mythic tone with which it was told to me.

"There was silence; there was chaos; there was a voice. A mind went forth to form worlds: now

order reigns where chaos once held sway." This English variant of a Hebrew prayer illustrates some of my thoughts on the origin of life. Life came to be as a result of organization at the most basic levels. Twentieth century biologist Stuart Kauffman brought some insight to my uncertainty regarding the path from chaos to order. The ever-present complexity of life provided a vehicle for the move to order and the evolutionary process that followed. The "autocatalytic metabolism" upon which life is based promotes order. As more catalysts were introduced, with self-sustenance and reproduction, organization was furthered. Self-sustaining cells, provoked by autocatalytic systems, yield the foundation of Darwinian evolution; self-sustaining entities.

The move to self-sustenance is taking complexity and putting it into a most efficient order. This is true of both cellular life as well as countries that want to become independent nations. The move toward independence of self-sustaining life created the opportunity to produce more life. With each new source of vitality comes the diversity to further interactions of sole complex life.

I am still not certain of any one angle on how life appeared, though I follow Kauffman's logic, with some personal intuition added; beginning with complexity and augmented by the reproduction of self-sustaining complexity to create a web of possibilities for life and energy flow. Ultimately, creation, the oldest story in the world, has no end, for continuing diversity promotes infinite creation as life continues to originate.

Sharon Gottesman is a senior at the Wheeler School in Providence.

## Condemning Anti-Semitism and Terrorism Worldwide

The Anti-Defamation League met with interfaith religious and community leaders from Latin America in Brazil recently and issued a joint statement condemning anti-Semitism and terrorism in the Middle East and Latin America, particularly Argentina.

The group pledged interfaith cooperation in condemning "any form of anti-Semitism, a sin against G-d and humanity, which resulted in the horror of the Holocaust" and stated, "as believers in the G-d of peace, it is our great wish that the peace process will advance in the Middle East. At the same time we condemn the actions of terrorist violence, some of them occurring in Latin America, and particularly in a tragic manner in Argentina, resulting in death, mourning and pain."

With the purpose of fostering Catholic-Jewish dialogue and addressing anti-Semitism and terrorism in the Middle East

and Latin America, representatives from ADL, B'nai B'rith Argentina and Uruguay, and the Latin American Jewish Congress took part in a meeting with CELAM, the Latin American Bishops Conference, which is the umbrella organization of all Latin American National Catholic Conferences.

"All the bishops and cardinals of Latin America are receiving the statement which will open doors for the development of future programming in various cities of the continent," said Rabbi Leon Klenicki, ADL director of Interfaith Affairs. "This dialogue creates a bridge between ADL, local Jewish leadership and the bishop or cardinal for joint interfaith programming, constant communication and support at times of crisis or times of mutual concern."

The group considered the contribution of Pope John Paul II to the Jewish Catholic dialogue; a historical review of the

Jewish Catholic relationship in the continent; and a Jewish reflection on the perspectives of the Catholic-Jewish dialogue towards the 21st century.

ADL delegates were Leilane and Barry Mehler, Muriel and Ralph Pinkus, Dr. Jacobo Hassan of B'nai B'rith Uruguay, and Dr. Arman of B'nai B'rith Argentina, who contributed significantly in the preparation of the final statement.

Submitted by The Anti-Defamation League. Founded in 1913, the ADL is the world's leading organization fighting anti-Semitism through programs and services that counteract hatred, prejudice and bigotry.

### HAVE AN OPINION?

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

Send your letter to:  
Rhode Island Jewish Herald  
P.O. Box 6063,  
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## A Call For Jewish Unity

Amidst rising tensions surrounding the pluralism debate, leading rabbinic, lay and Zionist Orthodox organizations have joined together to issue an unprecedented, far-reaching statement calling for civility, tolerance and Jewish unity.

In a full-page ad in the Nov. 17 edition of *USA Today*, the Orthodox Union, the Rabbinical Council of America, Emunah of America, Poale Agudath Israel and Religious Zionists of America, urged continued support for "the Israeli government-appointed Ne'eman committee

to find common ground among Jews" and appealed to the Jewish people to "keep the debate within the family."

Entitled "A Call for Jewish Unity," the ad appeared in the Midwest edition of the national newspaper, and was timed to coincide with the annual General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations in Indianapolis. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and President Bill Clinton addressed the 3,500-delegate convention.

Rabbi Raphael Butler, executive vice president of the Ortho-

dox Union, said, "The General Assembly is an ideal forum for the Jewish community to unite in our support for the State of Israel, Jewish education, and Jewish values and work together in the fight against those external forces which threaten the survival of the Jewish people such as fundamentalism, terrorism, anti-Semitism, Jewish poverty, assimilation and intermarriage. This is an opportunity that should not be squandered."

Submitted by the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America.

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**Candlelighting**  
November 21, 1997  
4:02 p.m.



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

## Traditions Strengthen Our Sense of Belonging

by Jo Kay

What is so compelling about tradition that draws us to religious ritual when, for the most part, we don't consider ourselves bound to ancient laws or precepts? Aren't we members of a branch of Judaism that prefers to think, evaluate, and choose that which is meaningful to us in our day?

So why do we hear about Reform Jews choosing to have a *Pidyon Haben* (Redemption of the Firstborn) ceremony when liberal Jews have all but abandoned this custom? And why are more and more liberal Jews choosing to go to the *mikveh* (the ritual bath) before marriage, or choosing to include the ritual of circling the groom (and/or the bride) or the custom of *badeken* (veiling of the bride) at their wedding?

Just what is tradition? Most people think of it as a behavior handed down from one generation to the next. It is usually so powerful that it seems to have the force of law. Traditions strengthen our sense of family and help us define our sense of belonging. Traditions connect us

to our past and to our heritage, adding beauty and meaning to our lives.

This week's Torah portion, *Chaye Sarah*, presents some of the traditions associated with death and those associated with marriage. After Sarah dies, Abraham sends his servant Eliezer to find a bride for Isaac. Eliezer returns with Rebecca who "took her veil and covered herself" (Genesis 24:65) upon seeing Isaac for the first time. Perhaps as a sign of modesty or perhaps to indicate that the

it is customary to bless her with the blessing that was given to Rebecca: "O sister, may you grow into thousands of myriads" (Genesis 24:60), and the blessing has come to include "May G-d make you as Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, and Leah." Thus the blessing given to the first Jewish bride is repeated for all her descendants. It connects the bride to her ancestry and helps her define her future as a Jewish woman. Even as we do

our own thinking, evaluating, and choosing, a tradition like the *badeken* ceremony can give powerful associations new interpretations.

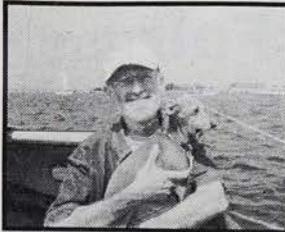
In Song of Songs, King Solomon uses the metaphor of Israel and G-d as bride and groom. And in Jewish thought, the Sabbath is allegorically referred to as the "bride" of the Jewish people. Might we then think about *badeken* as symbolizing G-d's protection of Israel and as the Jewish people's protection of the Sabbath? How else can this tradition be given greater meaning today?

Jo Kay is the educator at Rodeph Shalom Congregation, New York, N.Y.

### Living Torah

groom is not primarily interested in his bride's physical beauty but rather in her spiritual qualities, the custom of *badeken* (which can be traced to sources 600 years old) continues to be practiced today. Furthermore, just as Isaac's marriage to Rebecca marks the beginning of the Jewish people, today's brides dream of creating a special legacy of their own a Rebecca did.

After the veiling of the bride,



## A Distant Cousin

by Mike Fink  
Herald Contributing Reporter

I haven't got very many first cousins for someone of our first-born American generation. And I only met cousin Selma when she drove down from Montreal with her family right after the war. Her parents had broken up, and she had changed her last name to that of her new stepfather. We took her to the beach to show her off. She was already engaged to Josh, who would shortly give her yet another name. It was whispered that she had had a very lonely and unhappy childhood. With her sharp features, the arched eyebrows and the ironic grin, she had an elfin, elusive quality.

She married so young and then had three great kids. I figured she was just fine, safe and sound, beyond the spheres of my sorrows and uncertainties, her troubles put away in an attic to gather cobwebs and dust.

It was only after the deaths of her brother and mother that I reached out, by phone, to share stories and gather family lore. It was too late: she was rather cool on long distance. But we met again at the round table with the black cloth and the tall flowers in a Montreal temple ballroom. "I'm a complicated, complex person," she said frankly. She had quarreled with her only uncle. She returned his gifts unopened. She had lost contact with her brother just before his death. Our beautiful cousin Rhoda, bedecked in sparkling jewels, leaned across the table to chat with her contemporary fellow Canadian, once almost a sister. Her bare back picked up the light

against the formal dark jackets, dresses and shadows. I watched the silhouettes of my brothers as they, too, attempted to touch our lost lady. But Selma was not forlorn. Her gentle husband Josh sat right by her side. "We go to Israel every other year. I teach in a Montreal Jewish school that keeps up four languages, Hebrew, Yiddish, French and English. In fact, I am a francophone, and my daughter prefers everyday French. If we have to leave Quebec for Ottawa, it will be a hardship."

I look at my cousin and ask her, "Do we look at all alike? We share a set of grandparents' genes. In fact, I have a sepia portrait of your mother and father taken at the time of their wedding."

"It's not in the blood but in the words and thoughts that you find your bonds," she wisely answers with that smile both sad and cheery. Her physical father had gone on to other marriages, other children. He ended up pouring gasoline upon himself and sending himself to Gehenna with a lit match. What a statement of passions turning against yourself! Selma has good reasons to keep her words and thoughts to herself, away from a world she doesn't trust.

I think Selma puts her blessings upon me and my family. But maybe Shakespeare uses the word "cousin" more aptly, simply as a term of endearment, not a legal term of inheritance. We aren't heirs to the winds of time, but Selma in the spotlight leaves me with a poignant portrait.



## Hosting Halacha Happily

by Mike Fink  
Herald Contributing Reporter

"If you see the women lifting their skirts to scrub their clothes barefoot on the rocks at the river, avert your eyes." So warns the Shulchan Aruch, the guide to bedroom and bathroom behavior in the olden days. Rabbi Mitchell Levine of Congregation Beth Shalom translated from the Hebrew text with the assistance of lawyer Mel Zurier. "Men should visit the outhouse alone. Women are allowed to talk in the powder room. Don't laugh with a woman other than your wife, but you may listen to her words." Why was the rabbi citing these passages from our past?

The occasion was the first of a group of luncheon study sessions on Wednesdays at the office of accountant Jay Rosenstein. More than a dozen participants have gathered there for five seasons to relate current events to halachic interpretation. This time the issue was the possible law suit against Yale University, to be brought by a group of five from students who refuse to live in the

coed dorms with their shared facilities. What are their rights, what are those of the university?

"I started out supporting their case and then moved 180 degrees to oppose it," claimed one member of the table. "The same with me, but in the opposite direction," countered another. "They're only suing to save the fee for the rental, not really on principle, since an exception has already been made in their favor," added a third. There was no lack of rich discussion and response, though no conclusion was formed in any unanimity. The great achievement of the forum was this, that Reform, Conservative, Orthodox and even unaffiliated Jews, men and also a woman, were able to sit and dine together in peace and reason to talk over a recent pressing dilemma and share perspectives.

"They told my grandfather that Elihu Yale would turn over in his grave at the thought of a special scholarship for a Jewish student," noted a Yale heir. In the age of diversity, Jewish voices are raised in pride and poise.

# The Mirage of Montreal

by Mike Fink  
Herald Contributing Reporter

Montreal in November mist has the quality of a mirage. Where are we? Is this Paris, or a mystical isle off Scotland? Anglophones and francophones switch phrases, but on the week of Remembrance everybody wears the nostalgic red poppy in a buttonhole, a touch of ruby glowing like a firefly and flashing brightly in the grey-brown fog.

We flew up for a cousin's wedding, but we stayed in a small chateau-hotel near the museums and the cafes. At the Musée des Arts Décoratifs we toured an exhibit of playful household designs that included some wild and crazy Israeli work. Our favorite piece was a metal bookcase that twists, bends and sways like a pretzel, a toy, an amusement park trick. The shelves change shape every time you pick up a volume or pack up your magazines. My head spun with the whimsy of the idea. Israeli chairs and tables took you down the same poetic path of novelty, charm, and questioning.

But is Quebec a province of Canada, a haven for Jews and other cultures, or already a separate domain, dominated by French chauvinism, backed by church bias and reactionary nationalism? Some of my cousins are on the brink of leaving for safer parts of the nation of the maple leaf and the sweet syrup of good will—Ottawa or Toronto. Others will stay put and keep up the thriving world of synagogue, bagel breakfast club, and gala of Russian and Moroccan New Quebecois. My cousins learned their French from the maids of their childhood. But like Genet's play "The Maids," the tables turn, the roles roll round, and the French now run the show, as it goes on and on and sometimes off.

The *Montreal Gazette* gives lots of page space to matters of Jewish concern. A McGill professor of medicine who moved to Israel sent a special report for Remembrance Days (our Armistice or Veterans Day) that struck me as unique to the Commonwealth. For him, the parades that included the combatants of the Great War, World War I, made the deepest and most lasting imprint upon his soul. And there, in Jerusalem, he visits the military graveyard where he finds 1917 Canadian English names oddly out of today's context. The telly spends hours going over footage of World War II, with its strange mixture of support for Britain and some Vichy loyalty and conflict.

The *Gazette* I peruse in my hotel room, once a Catholic retreat, also devotes a full page to a report on a recent reconstructionist colloquium that at-

tracted Canadian scholars, a gathering of writers and teachers who conclude, "Jews survived by being dispersed in different places. When they were threatened in one place, they moved to another. The history of Jews is not the list of persecutions, but of thesis and antithesis."

We experienced Montreal as a marvelous, ever-changing metropolis, with a special meaning for me: it was the place of my mother's girlhood, her youth, her growing up. Yet she

pany in 1939 to honor the visit of the new king, George VI, stand on the richly stocked bar of the best kosher whiskies and wines, including Muscadets and Merlots, white and red, and all mevushal to suit the Orthodox shul. Clearly, Jews can do well here in the snow between the Protestants and the Catholics, within their proud temples.

The bride speaks four languages, having spent two years in Italy, her way station, awaiting a visa to our hemisphere. The rabbi cited Lech Lecha, the

portion of the week that directs the Jewish spirit to set out on the road and seek your spiritual fortune somewhere else along the dusty road of destiny.

But going back to Montreal, Quebec, Canada, and to its silver silhouette. Is there any longer anything left of the pilgrimages I used to make, with my brother, with my father, with my bride, with my friends, to hear talk about my mother, to gather praise for my fine French, to make believe the past and the future are only an hour's flight, a morning's drive, away from the coastline of little Rhody? Montreal has an uncertainty about its values, a fragility about its memories, and like a dream it leaves you mostly with a feeling about yourself.

The groom beams, the bride shines, and dances madly with her fellow Russians(?) or New Canadians, or Quebecois, or whatever she may whirl herself into being and belonging to, tall, stately, intelligent, and newlywed. "They have poise, the young Jews of Montreal, they greet you graciously, kindly, grandly," notes my table companion.

Take all the words home and sort them out along with the images in my mind and perhaps in my camera.

The accordion squeezing out your request, the cantor chanting eloquently and musically, while the bride's relatives play violin and organ, the gowns in every color and style turning upon the dance floor, these pleasant moments among the friendly words will soften my melancholy as time goes by.



Hotel Chateau Versailles

was not Canadian. Her passion read Rumanian. She sojourned here. At the banquet table we sat with a group of my first cousins. I had met them first, once, as young girls. Now they are grandmas. One speaks French as her first language. She taught at a Hebrew school where four tongues are mixed, Yiddish, English, French, and Hebrew. Another cousin prefers English: her children moved to California. What is good for the Jews? You believe what you see. The splendor and luxury of the wedding feast overwhelms the senses. The best man is none other than Steve Bronfman, son of Charles, nephew of Edgar, in sum, one of the wealthiest bachelors in all Canada, in all Judea. Bottles of Crown Royal, created by the Bronfman Seagram com-

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# THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

## JCCRI Hosts 38th Annual Book Fair

Planned to coincide with National Jewish Book Month and featuring more than 4,000 new books, the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island announces its 38th annual Book Fair on Nov. 30. The 1997 Book Fair has been extended to last for four weeks and will feature more books, guest speakers, and special events than ever before. There is an enlarged Israel section, in honor of Israel's upcoming 50th anniversary, as well as an enhanced Judaica and enlarged children's sections. In addition, with contributions from the Rochambeau Branch of the Providence Public Library as well as private estates throughout Rhode Island, this year's used book section will also be bigger than ever.

The JCCRI is hosting six acclaimed authors, sponsoring a trip to the National Yiddish Book Center, originating the first-ever Chicken Soup Cook Off, and opening an internationally celebrated art exhibit and sale. In addition, the JCCRI invites the public to join in special Chanukah games, crafts, and activities throughout the holiday and to enjoy such Chanukah festivities as candlelighting at 4:30 p.m. during Chanukah.

The Book Fair is open every day, except Saturday, call 861-8800 for hours. Each week features a new theme with special book selections, guest speakers, and events for people of all ages. The Book Fair also features a gift gallery, offering elegant Judaica, menorahs, jewelry, and glassware in addition to a variety of affordable toys and games, with prices to suit every budget. The calendar of special speakers and events is as follows:

### Nov. 30 to Dec. 6

Expressions: Fine Art & Crafts by Israel's Finest Artists and Artisans — a unique exhibition and sale of works by more than 70 distinguished Israeli artists and artisans. It is the largest collection of Israeli art ever assembled and brought to the United States, featuring sculpture, jewelry, ceramics, and more. There is no charge to view the exhibit and proceeds from the sale of art benefit the State of Israel and the JCCRI.

### Dec. 2 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The JCCRI is offering a trip to the new National Yiddish Book Center at Hampshire College in Amherst, Mass. The center, which just opened in June 1997, is the culmination of an 18-year effort of one individual who aspired to rescue, restore, store, circulate, and celebrate more than a million books of Yiddish literature, a once-threatened treasure of Jewish culture in America and Europe. Transportation and lunch included, price to be announced.

### Dec. 3 and 4

Author Faye Silton, who wrote the award-winning manuscript *Of Heroes, Hooks, and Heirlooms*, is being brought to Rhode Island with a grant from the Rhode Island Foundation in conjunction with the JCCRI, the Rhode Island Libraries Association, and the Rhode Island Holocaust Memorial Museum. Her book, about a child of Holocaust survivors who participates in a heritage program at school, is an outstanding piece of children's literature with a Jewish theme and a universal appeal to children.

### Dec. 5 at 11 a.m.

Special "Traditions-On-Wheels" Shabbat will celebrate children's Israeli books with *Justin's Hebrew Name*, a book written by Ellie Gellman, read by a special guest speaker to be announced. Traditions-On-Wheels is the JCCRI's unique interactive educational resource, featuring holiday and theme exhibits year-round.



### Dec. 8 at 7 p.m. and Dec. 9 at noon

Author Myra Chanin, better known as Mother Wonderful of *Mother Wonderful's Profusely Illustrated Guide to the Proper Preparation of Chicken Soup*, has been called "a cross between Julia Child and Woody Allen." In conjunction with her Rhode Island visit, the JCCRI is sponsoring the first-ever Chicken Soup Cook Off, which will invite all local caterers and restaurants to participate.

### Dec. 11 and 12

In *Prince Charming Isn't Coming: How Women Get Smart About Money*, author Barbara Stanny, the daughter of one of the founders of H&R Block, writes about her life from privileged childhood to learning that her husband depleted her trust fund. Her journey towards financial independence is enlightening and inspiring. She is appearing in Rhode Island as a

joint effort of the JCCRI and the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island's Business and Professional Women.

### Dec. 12 at noon

In *The Journey Home: Jewish Women and the American Century*, author Joyce Antler, who teaches American studies at Brandeis University, documents the achievements of American Jewish women over the past 100 years. From anarchist Emma Goldman to Zionist and founder of Hadassah Henrietta Szold, from "Red Hot Mamma" Sophie Tucker to Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Antler blends history, anecdote, and biography to emphasize the achievements of these women, who attempted to satisfy family, G-d, and themselves.

### Dec. 16 at 7:30 p.m.

In *MISHA — A Memoire of the Holocaust Years*, author Misha Defonseca tells the story of a four-year, 3,000-mile journey across Europe in search of her family. Her survival story, which recounts finding safety among wolves is at once compelling, chilling, and uplifting. Her presentation, co-sponsored by the JCCRI with the Rhode Island Holocaust Memorial Museum, is free and open to the public.



## Get Ready For Burning Bush Adventures

Burning Bush Adventures, the unique experiential educational program offered by Congregation Beth El of Bennington, Vt., announces its 1998 season of affordable wilderness travel for the Jewish adventurer. Each trip is designed to deepen the participants appreciation of Jew-

### Dec. 18: Two Preschool Workshops and an Adult Evening Workshop

With an extensive background in Jewish education, Rabbi Klayman has introduced many creative cultural programs for parents and children. In his new book, *Sharing Blessings: Children's Stories for Exploring the Spirit of the Jewish Holidays* (co-authored with his wife Raheel Musleah), he offers families examples of everyday life that demonstrate the spiritual messages of Shabbat and 12 other Jewish holidays. His evening program is free, but registration is required.

### Dec. 18

Annual Chanukah Dinner (\$5 adult, \$4 children, \$18 family maximum). This annual event features a diverse menu, including traditional holiday favorites and special Israeli cuisine in honor of Israel's upcoming 50th anniversary. Last year more than 200 people attended; guests are encouraged to reserve early.

### Dec. 23 at Noon

The JCCRI invites the public to attend a mezuzah workshop with artist Joyce Zimmerman. This workshop, offered in collaboration with the Bureau of Jewish Education, allows participants a view of Judaism through creative expression, exploring the meaning of mezuzah and creating one with found objects.

ish environmental wisdom, Judaism in general and the natural world. This year in addition to the popular winter camping/dog sled trek and family canoeing expedition, Congregation Beth El will be offering a new rite of passage canoe expedition for children who are recent b'nai mitzvah and their parents, as well as a canoeing trip for single adults.

Burning Bush Adventures is open to all. No previous experience (outdoors or Jewish) is necessary. General fitness, good health and natural curiosity are the only prerequisites for participating in a Burning Bush adventure. (Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.) The congregation's approach to ritual, tradition and halacha is to embrace them warmly yet creatively. Meals are vegetarian, prayer services are egalitarian. Shabbat is celebrated.

Howard A. Cohen, rabbi of Congregation Beth El, a former program director for Outward Bound, provides wilderness and rabbinic leadership on all of the trips.

Burning Bush Adventures is one of the innovative programs offered by Congregation Beth El, a member of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation.

For more information or to request an application, write to 107 Adams St., Bennington, Vt. 05201, or call (802) 442-9645, or e-mail at <bethel@sover.net>.

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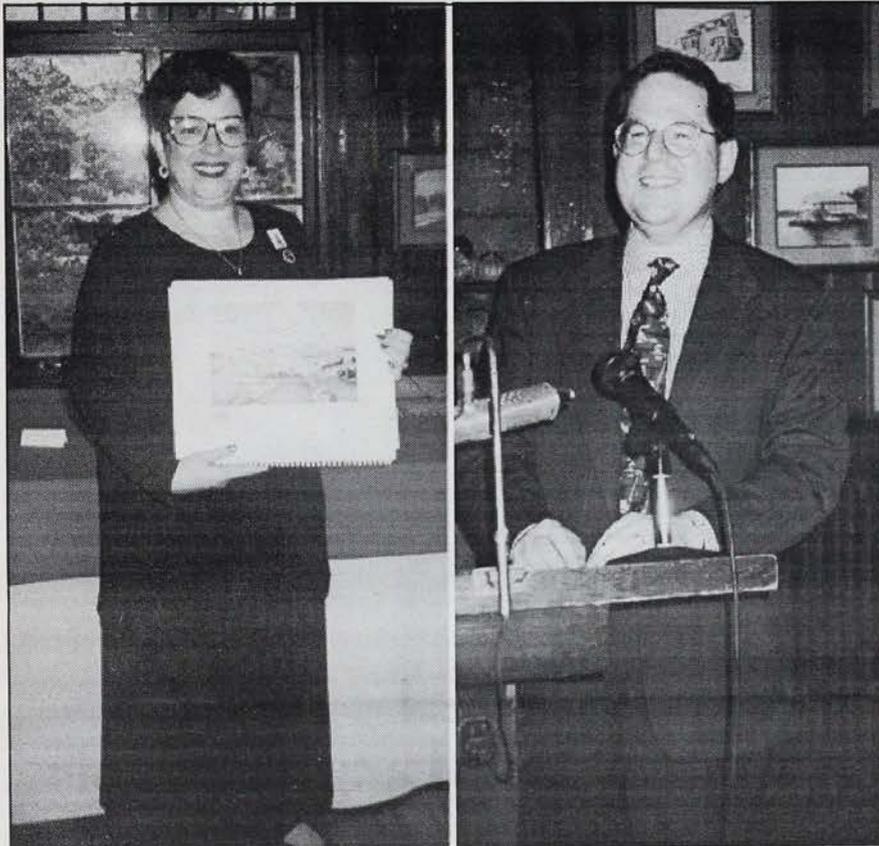
# THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

## Cranston-Warwick Hadassah Hosts Successful Luncheon

The Cranston-Warwick group of R.I. Hadassah recently held its 11th annual "Special Gifts" luncheon at the Squantum Club in East Providence. Ruth Siperstein welcomed the group followed by the invocation by Shirley Schreiber. Helen Abrams introduced Rickie Leiter, president of the Western New England Region of Hadassah.

Leiter spoke about the accomplishments of Hadassah in the United States as well as in Israel. She informed everyone about the first Jewish Women's Institute of Research at Brandeis University. "Hadassah changes people's lives — they see a need but also take action," said Leiter.

Cantor Robert Lieberman entertained with story and song. Proceeds from this event will benefit the Hadassah Medical Organization.



RICKIE LEITER and Cantor Robert Lieberman entertained at the Special Gifts luncheon sponsored by Cranston-Warwick Hadassah.

Photos by Ruth Snyder

## Fishel Bresler Visits Stone Soup

Michael Bresler, who brings his Klezmer Orchestra to the Stone Soup Coffeehouse on Nov. 29, is not your average musician. He is a master of klezmer, that wild, passionate, sometimes melancholy music of the Jews of Eastern Europe, but he's also one of the funniest men on the planet and last time we saw his picture a local paper, he was strumming a mandolin while standing in a gondola serenading Mayor Vincent Cianci with Neapolitan music.

Odd, you say, for a klezmer musician. But, as Bresler (Fishel in Jewish circles) would explain, klezmer is the ultimate in eclectic music. It began with itinerant Jewish musicians in the Middle Ages, over the centuries absorbed influences from surrounding non-Jewish cultures in the shtetls of Eastern Europe and when it leaped across the Atlantic to the

United States, early jazz became an important influence, as did the music of the Yiddish theater on Second Avenue in Manhattan. Bresler himself is a musical melting pot: a founder of the late, lamented Neon Valley Boys, a jazz saxophonist and leading student of the legendary klezmer clarinetist Andy Statman.

The concert, one of the liveliest nights of the season at Stone Soup, begins at 8 p.m. in the Undercroft of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 15 Hayes St., Providence. Admission is \$8. And although klezmer may be very Jewish music indeed, its popularity has long since spread far and wide, maybe because of its "Fiddler on the Roof" appeal, more likely because it's hard to imagine a music that's more fun to listen, and dance, to.

For more information, call 781-0061.

## Alperin Schechter Day School Hosts Open House

On Dec. 5, the Ruth and Max Alperin Schechter Day School of Rhode Island, 85 Taft Ave., Providence, will host its annual Recruitment Open House from 9 to 11 a.m. in the Bohnen Vestry of Temple Emanu-El.

Tours of the school will be led by school director, Dr. Hasse K. Halley; assistant director, Marcia Kaunfer, and admissions director, Penney Stein. Visitors will also have an opportunity to meet with administrators, faculty, and parents and get an overview of the Schechter program. Topics to be discussed include: the application procedure, academic curriculum, extracurricular activities, busing, and opportunities for financial aid.

The Alperin Schechter Day School of Rhode Island, with grades kindergarten through eight and fully certified by the state of Rhode Island, is one of a network of Conservative Jewish Day Schools across the United States and is a member of the Independent School Association of Rhode Island.

Those who are considering a Jewish day school education for children in primary and upper grades as well as in kindergarten, are cordially invited to attend the open house. Information on lateral entry (grades one to six) will also be available.

For more information, call Penney Stein, admissions director, at 751-2470.

## Temple Shalom Hosts Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

The 23rd annual Community Wide Interfaith Thanksgiving Eve Service will take place on Nov. 26 at 7 p.m. in the main sanctuary of Temple Shalom, 223 Valley Road in Middletown.

This ecumenical event provides one of the rare opportunities for the people of Newport County and surrounding areas to worship together in a community of thanksgiving and serves to strengthen the bonds of understanding and goodwill among the members of the community.

This annual observance originated with Rabbi Marc S. Jagolinzer of Temple Shalom and the late Rev. Dr. Bertil Norman of United Congregational Church. The first service was held at United with Rabbi Jagolinzer preaching. As the years passed, the service has grown and additional clergy and congregations have participated.

This year's service will include Rabbi Jagolinzer and Joseph A. Dannin of Temple Shalom; The Rev. Canon Roy Green of Trinity Church; The Rev. Dr. Vincent Thompson of Community Baptist Church; The Rev.

Dr. Quinton Ivy, president, Rhode Island State Council of Churches; The Rev. Stephanie Shoemaker of St. Columba's Chapel; Sister Shelia Murphy of St. Lucy's Roman Catholic Church and The Rev. James Hensley of Calvary United

Methodist Church. Storyteller Cindy Killavey will be featured as she shares a very special Thanksgiving story with the congregation.

All are cordially invited to attend the service and refreshments will follow.

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# THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

## Sukkah Contest Winners

For the third year in a row, the Bureau of Jewish Education held its annual Sukkah Decorating Contest. The contest is sponsored through the generosity of Professor Shaye Cohen and Miriam May. Entries were judged on the basis of originality, creativity and fun. This year's entries came from throughout Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts.

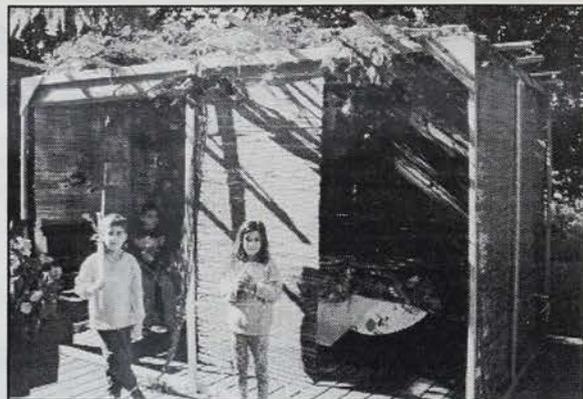
The winners were: First place — The Gladstone family of East Greenwich, Jeffrey, Jodi, Alexa and Caleb. Runners-up: the Jablow family of Providence, Steven, Barbara, Noah, Eva and Nathan and the family of Robin Sper, George Brier and Corey Sper Brier of North Smithfield.

Honorable mentions were given to: Barry, Bonnie and Rachael Cooperstein of Taunton, Mass.; Ephraim, Rivkie, Rafi and Ellie Gerber of Pawtucket; and Rabbi Vicki, Cantor Robert, Tovah and Joshua Lieberman of Woonsocket. Congratulations to all the winners!

*Photos courtesy of BJE/RI*



RAFI AND ELLIE GERBER won an honorable mention for their colorful sukkah.



NATHAN, NOAH AND EVA JABLOW in their sukkah. The Jablows were runners-up in the contest.



JEFFREY AND ALEXA GLADSTONE decorate their first-prize sukkah.

## Local Students to Participate in 'March of the Living'

The Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island is still accepting applications for the fifth biennial international educational program, "March of the Living." Six thousand Jewish teens from more than 40 countries including Israel, the United States of America, Canada, Mexico, South America, France, Britain and other Western European countries, Morocco, India, Australia, Russia, Hungary, Rumania, and Poland will participate.

From April 19, to May 3, 1998 participants will share in a once-in-a-lifetime experience where they will march the 3 kilometers from Auschwitz to Birkenau on Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day; from Poland, participants will fly to Israel

where they will celebrate Israel's 50th Independence Day, Yom ha'Atzmaut, on April 30. Two weeks of unforgettable experiences have been planned.

The program is open to 11th- and 12th-grade students, and selected 10th-graders. Students who are chosen to participate will also attend several educational seminars and a half-day retreat, specifically created to prepare them for the march.

More than 6,000 Jewish high-school students from a variety of religious and educational backgrounds are expected to participate. The group will be accompanied by a staff which includes rabbis, Jewish educators, university professors, survivors, medical professionals, social workers and community leaders.

In Poland, sites to be visited include the concentration camps of Auschwitz, Birkenau, Treblinka, and Majdanek; also the historic Jewish sites in Warsaw (the Ghetto Memorial, 10

Mila, the Jewish Cemetery); in Cracow (the Jewish Quarter, Rema Synagogue); and Lublin (the famous yeshiva, now a Polish medical school). The March of the Living will highlight the Poland experience.

In Israel students will visit a number of exciting locations and ancient sites including Jerusalem, Massada, Tel Aviv, the Golan Heights, Galilee, the Negev, and more. Students will also take part in many special events organized specifically for the march, culminating in the April 30 Yom Ha'Atzmaut celebration, where all groups from around the world will join thousands of Israelis in this national celebration of Israel's 50th birthday.

The cost for the program is approximately \$3,400; grants and scholarships of up to half the cost of the trip are available to all Rhode Island residents. In addition, other need-based scholarships are available. El Al and Lot (Polish Airlines) will be the principal air carriers.

For details about this program, or for an application, call or write Ruth Page at: BJE/RI, 130 Sessions St., Providence, RI 02906, 331-0956.

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## Attention Jewish Writers!

The Association of Jewish Libraries in partnership with Pitspopany Press announces the sponsorship of a new Jewish short story competition for non-published authors writing for middle grade readers (ages 8 to 12). This competition serves the mandate of AJL to promote and encourage publication of children's literature of high literary merit with positive Jewish focus, content and values. Winners and runners-up of the Judaica Librarians' Choice Award will receive monetary

prizes and their stories will become the property of Pitspopany Press. While the Association of Jewish Libraries cannot assure publication of the prize-winning stories, it is the plan of Pitspopany Press to consider the winning entries for potential future publication.

The topic for the 1997-98 competition is humor stories.

The winning story will receive an award of \$1,000, and three runners-up will receive awards of \$250 each. All four authors will be invited to receive their awards at the closing banquet of the Association of Jewish Libraries Convention in June 1998. One night's hotel and banquet costs will be covered by the sponsors of the award.

Manuscripts must be post-marked by Feb. 15, 1998. Winners will be notified by May 15, 1998.

For the rules of submission and the AJL release form, write to: Hazel Karp, 880 Somerset Drive, NW, Atlanta, GA 30327.

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## CAJE Publishes Crisis Curriculum on Jewish Unity

In an atmosphere of rising dissension, delegitimization and distancing between various groups of Jews, in North America and in Israel, the Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education has published a crisis curriculum on the need for *ahavat Yisrael*, the love of fellow Jews, and civility of discourse. The 24-page pamphlet, entitled *Am Ehad, Lev Ehad, Going to the Heart of the Matter: A Curriculum on Jewish Unity*, includes essays by Rabbis Bradley Shavit Artson, Richard Levy, David Wolpe, Nina Cardin and David Hartman and text passages from Pirke Avot, Talmud, and 20th-century Jewish thinkers.

This timely booklet was developed and produced in under two weeks to be distributed and discussed at the General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations meeting recently held in Indianapolis, Ind.

"The state of hostility among Jews has registered with our young people," noted Luisa Latham, CAJE's publication chairman, in her introduction, "and they are bewildered by the divisiveness around them." Latham suggests that we must replace *sinat hinam*, groundless hatred, with *ahavat hinam*, gratuitous love of fellow Jews. The pamphlet offers ways to teach this value, through text study, in the classroom.

In an essay entitled "Unity Without Uniformity: Learning to Love the Jews Again," Rabbi Bradley Shavit Artson writes, "However deep our wounds, however strident the rhetoric, it is not too late to step back from

the brink, to affirm our unity and our desire for connections with each other." He suggests that we keep in mind that which unites us — "heritage and destiny" — and put our differences into perspective.

Rabbi Richard Levy's piece suggests concrete steps that could be taken to bring liberal and Orthodox Jews together. Rabbi David Wolpe warns of the danger, when speaking of the current situation in Israel, that our children hear not only the criticism but also the love of Israel. Rabbi Nina Cardin noted, "We are family...[and] what families require is commitment," and suggests the necessity for a "leap of commitment." Rabbi David Hartman insists that "the burning issues facing Judaism today are not halakhic authority...[but] *pekuah nefesh* (saving a life) — whether this people is going to disappear."

Following the essays are selections from classical and modern rabbinic sources — Pirke Avot, the Talmud, the Tosefta, Rav Kook, and Rabbi Joseph Dov Soloveitchik — with study questions for each. The translations and questions were prepared by the Shalom Harman Institute and the Amit Network of Educational Projects in Israel.

This 24-page pamphlet is available for \$2 plus \$1 shipping and handling from CAJE, 261 W. 35th St., New York, NY 10001, e-mail: <500-8447@mci mail.com>. CAJE is a membership organization of 4,000 Jewish educators, from across the ideological and professional spectrum, involved in transmission of the Jewish heritage.

## Internet Site Launched to Help Holocaust Survivors Find Family

by Bill Gladstone

TORONTO (JTA) — A Holocaust registry has opened its electronic doors.

The JewishGen Holocaust Global Registry, which was launched recently on the Internet, aims to provide a location for survivors around the world to list themselves and to search for friends and relatives who may still be alive.

"Until now, there has not been a central place to maintain the data on Holocaust survivors living around the world," said Susan King, director of JewishGen, the leading Internet site for Jewish genealogy, which created the new registry.

"Without such a tool, searching has been extremely difficult, costly and relatively unproductive," said King, a Houston-area travel industry professional.

She said that while oral testimonies and lists of survivors have been collected over the years, no one had established a worldwide mechanism to help relatives reconnect with each other.

"Child survivors who don't even remember their surnames may enter whatever information they have in the hope of discovering their roots," said King.

"Anyone may add names or search for lost relatives who might still be alive. This registry will fill an information gap that has persisted for too long."

The Holocaust registry is accessible worldwide at <<http://www.jewishgen.org>>.

## White House Conference Marks First Step in Reducing Hate Crimes

by Daniel Kurtzman

WASHINGTON (JTA) — When President Clinton convened a recent White House conference aimed at countering the scourge of hate-driven violence, a major breakthrough was achieved: A president had put the weight of his office behind such efforts.

But activists involved in the fight against racism, bigotry and prejudice say the more important accomplishment — seeing that everyone from the federal government down to the individual household follows through to help eradicate hate — can only be realized with time and hard work.

"There is no question in my mind how important and significant and necessary this is — and it's about time," said Abraham Foxman, the national director of the Anti-Defamation League, who spoke at the conference.

"The very fact that the president used his bully pulpit on this subject makes all the difference in the world in terms of where it goes from here, and we have to pick up the ball."

Another participant, Kenneth Stern, a program specialist on anti-Semitism and extremism for the American Jewish Committee, said he hopes that the conference marks the beginning of a continuing process that will not only focus on toughening U.S. laws against hate crimes, but on other areas as well, including education, public service and community involvement against hate.

"If people use the momentum from the conference wisely, they can help make some of the other components become a reality," Stern said.

The daylong conference, part of Clinton's race relations initiative, brought together more than 350 civil rights activists, educators, religious leaders, law enforcement officials and victims of hate crimes.

Vice President Al Gore, Attorney General Janet Reno and several other members of Clinton's Cabinet also took part in the proceedings.

Calling hate crimes the "antithesis of the values that define us as a nation," Clinton announced a series of law-enforcement and prevention efforts to address the problem.

"Anybody who thinks that in the world of today and to-

morrow that he or she can hide from the kind of poison that we see in various places in our country is living in a dream world," Clinton said.

"Whether we like it or not, our futures are bound together, and it is time we acted like it."

There were 8,759 hate crimes reported in 1996, up from 7,947 the previous year. Because reporting is voluntary, however, it remains uncertain whether the numbers reflect an increase in hate activity or simply better reporting.

Clinton endorsed legislation that Sens. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) and Arlen Specter (R-Pa.) are sponsoring that would give federal prosecutors new authority to prosecute racial violence and hate crimes against women, the disabled, and gay and les-

During the conference, which was held at the George Washington University, Clinton participated in a panel discussion that included a Jewish woman from Billings, Mont., who rallied her community against an outbreak of anti-Semitic activity four years ago.

Tammie Schnitzer, who had converted to Judaism, said she was rudely awakened to anti-Semitism when a brick came hurtling through her son's window, where he had displayed a menorah.

In an extraordinary show of solidarity, the people of Billings responded by posting pictures of menorahs in their own windows, ultimately driving the perpetrators out of town.

"We came together as a community, we fought back with weapons of the spirit — determination, commitment, compassion, empathy and understanding — and we won the battle of Billings," she said.

Clinton praised Schnitzer as a "remarkable citizen who changed the whole psychology of a community," and others pointed to Billings as an example for other communities to follow.

Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, who also attended the conference, said the president's focus on combating hate crimes is particularly important from the Jewish community's perspective because there is always the potential for anti-Semitic scapegoating in the event of an economic collapse or other "extreme pressures on America."

"We can't predict the future of America and we can't sit back on our laurels because the Skinhead movement or the neo-Nazi movement may be down from one year to the next," Hier said.

"It's important," he added, "to take stock of where we are in terms of hate, combating hate and who the haters are."

"Whether we like it or not, our futures are bound together, and it is time we acted like it."

President Clinton

bian Americans. Rep. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) intends to introduce a companion bill in the House of Representatives.

Crimes committed against people because of their race, religion, color or national origin are considered hate crimes under existing federal law.

Clinton also announced plans to create a network of local hate-crime groups to coordinate investigations and prosecutions. He said the Justice Department would assign more than 50 new FBI agents and prosecutors to work on hate-crimes enforcement.

He also said the Department of Housing and Urban Development would begin imposing larger fines against people who discriminate in housing.

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## FEATURE

# Heritage Harbor Museum Launches \$19.5 Million Campaign

The official launch of a \$19.5 million capital campaign on behalf of the Heritage Harbor Museum recently took place, as announced at a kick-off event at the museum site in Providence by David A. Duffy, capital campaign chairman and president of Duffy & Shanley, Inc. To date, \$2,240,000 has been raised, including a \$1 million grant from the Federal Economic Development Administration.

Scheduled to open in 2001, the Heritage Harbor Museum will serve as Rhode Island's first statewide heritage center. Heritage Harbor will bring together the stories of 13 or more Rhode Island historical and cultural organizations through interactive exhibits, festivals, theater and art. Notably, the museum will unite mainstream and minority museums under one roof, a move unprecedented in the museum world.

"We are launching one of the most ambitious capital campaigns in Rhode Island history," said Duffy, "but given the progress we've made thus far and the support of the Federal Economic Development Administration, we're confident that our goal will be met. Essential to our success, of course, is

corporate and community support, both of which should be forthcoming because of the significant impact Heritage Harbor Museum promises to have on all Rhode Islanders from an educational, cultural and economic standpoint. The museum, which is expected to draw more than 200,000 visitors a year, will have a tremendous economic impact by providing millions of dollars annually in additional state tourism revenues."

The concept of the museum became a reality last spring with New England Electric System and Narragansett Electric Company's announcement of its intent to donate the land and building that comprise the former South Street Power Station. The capital campaign's \$19.5 million goal is the estimated cost of shell and site improvements and the construction of 80,000 square feet of exhibits, multi-purpose areas, offices and collection facilities.

In addition to the Federal EDA grant, the capital campaign has received \$300,000 from the Rhode Island Foundation, \$250,000 from the Providence Journal, \$175,000 in grants from the city of Providence, \$150,000 from the state of Rhode Island, and \$365,000 from the

museum partners.

"The support we've received to date has been encouraging," states Albert T. Klyberg, executive director of Heritage Harbor Museum and the Rhode Island Historical Society. "Clearly, the time has come for this museum to become a reality. A full 80 percent of Rhode Islanders have no place to go to see their history. Heritage Harbor will change that by telling the story of Rhode Island's Native Americans and the immigrant tales of Portuguese, Italian, Jewish, Armenian, Irish, African-American, Hispanic, and Asian populations. The museum will also highlight the state's jewelry, diner, urban and industrial, maritime, military and sports histories. And we will accomplish this in a creative and interactive manner."

Museum exhibits will include a fully furnished Rhode Island triple-decker house, a life-size replica of a 15th-century caravel which first brought European explorers to Rhode Island shores, a working diner, a model railroad, a Corliss steam engine, holographic and interactive exhibits and the nation's first high-definition history theater.

Heritage Harbor Corpora-

tion is a qualified charitable organization and all contributions are tax deductible as provided by law. The museum is located in a state enterprise zone and Rhode Island donors are eligible for a 20-percent tax credit. Heritage Harbor Museum is seeking the support of volunteers and benefactors. For more information, contact the museum's development department at 331-8575, ext. 125.

Here are some interesting Rhode Island "fun facts" from the Heritage Harbor Museum:

- In 1524, Giovanni da Verrazzano, an Italian navigator working for France, explored Narragansett Bay. He named Rhode Island when he wrote that it resembled the island of Rhodes in the Mediterranean.
- Rhode Island colonists played a key role in the Revolutionary War by attacking the British revenue schooner Gaspee in protest of the king's tax collecting practices.
- In 1775, two Jews, Jacob Rodriguez Rivera and his son-in-law, Aaron Lopez, contributed generously to the first building at Brown University and purchased lottery tickets to support the fund

drive for the first Baptist Meeting House in Providence.

• The Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association is the oldest local Jewish and oldest local ethnic historical society in continuous operation.

• The African Freedman's Society, which became the Bethel A.M.E. Church, was founded in 1795. Located on Benefit Street, it served as a station for runaway slaves.

• In 1794, Nehemiah Dodge, a Providence goldsmith, invented the process of gold filling in jewelry manufacture.

• The last German U-Boat sunk in World War II was two miles off Point Judith lighthouse in Narragansett.

• The first torpedo boat in the nation, the Stiletto, was built in 1887 by the Herreshoff boat yard in Bristol.

• The Herreshoff Manufacturing Company in Bristol built eight consecutive America's Cup defending yachts between 1893 and 1934.

• Future Baseball Hall of Famer Babe Ruth pitched for the Providence Grays in 1914.

• In 1928, the Providence Steam Rollers beat out the Packers for the NFL championship.

## Brandeis Study Finds Benefits in Free Synagogue Membership

by Susan Jacobs

NEW YORK (JTA) — A Brandeis University researcher is maintaining that synagogues can increase their membership by offering free membership.

Joel Streiker bases his thesis largely on a recent study he conducted for San Francisco's Temple Emanu-El, which began last year to offer new members free membership for one year.

Between July 1996 and June 1997, 220 people joined the Reform congregation.

Usually, 50 new members join every year.

In his survey, Streiker found that 78 percent of the new members said the dues policy was important in their decision to join the synagogue. About 73 percent of those surveyed had

never belonged to a synagogue as an adult.

After one year of free membership, nearly half of the new members decided to pay the annual dues and become regular members of the congregation.

"There is a perception in the Jewish community that Jewish living is expensive," said Gary Cohn, executive director of Temple Emanu-El. He said the congregation wanted to tell prospective members that "the most important thing is to get connected."

Temple Emanu-El's membership dues are \$1,400 for families and \$800 for single adults. Different rates are available for young adults and senior citizens.

A similar program is now

being tested at Congregation Shearith Israel in San Francisco, said Streiker, but such programs require considerable financial risk by the congregation.

Streiker was enthusiastic about the potential success of such programs, but warned, "If synagogues don't have anything to offer, after a year, new members will drop off."

According to the study, the cost of membership is often a deterrent to potential members for financial and psychological reasons.

Emanu-El has been inundated with questions from other congregations about the program, said Cohn, who estimates that as many as 20 congregations across the country will adopt similar programs within the next year.

## For Families Who Have Experienced a Loss

### A Guide for Getting Through Special Occasions From Jewish Family Service

Thanksgiving is just around the corner and so are a lot of other holidays, birthdays and anniversaries. "For those who have experienced a loss through death or a divorce, these events can be painful and even anticipated with dread," said Julie Gutterman, director of professional services at Jewish Family Service.

To help cope with the feelings of sadness, confusion, failure, anger and loneliness that can surface, the counseling staff at Jewish Family Service offers some advice. Its list of do's and don'ts may be helpful.

1. Don't ignore the changes.

Don't try to pretend things are the same. Don't act as if the family structure is constant.

Do learn from those who have lost loved ones that it's good to acknowledge who's not there, what has changed.

Do communicate openly as the special event approaches that "things may be different this year."

Do ask your children/parents how they are feeling as the event approaches.

Do allow family members to express sadness, guilt or disappointment.

Do discuss with your children/parents various new ideas for the holiday or celebration.

2. Don't try to keep everything the same.

Do try new menus and new venues.

Do introduce a new ritual. For example, at Thanksgiving everyone can go around the table and tell one thing he or she is thankful for.

Do seat people at new spots at the table.

Do invite new people to join in holidays and other celebrations.

3. Don't avoid reasons to celebrate, even though it's tempting to avoid negative and uncomfortable feelings.

Do acknowledge and mark holidays and other events.

4. Do create a new occasion to celebrate something, for example, a child's achievement, a parent's "first."

The counseling staff at Jewish Family Service point out that moments of fun, growth and sharing can still occur, even though one may feel wounded or depressed because of a loss. Learning to move on, they say, is an achievable goal.



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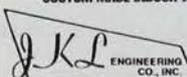
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## FEATURE

## Bring Flavors From Around the World to Your Thanksgiving Table

If you're looking to make something different for Thanksgiving, you may want to try some of the following recipes.

**Amish Turkey**

Yield: 4 to 6 servings

The Empire Kosher plant is located in central Pennsylvania, in the midst of a large Amish population. This recipe for Amish Turkey is invariably served at their weddings, customarily held in the fall, where the bride's family may cook for several hundred people.

It's a very simple dish to prepare, and permits you to carve a holiday turkey one day and serve a family turkey that doesn't resemble a tired leftover the third day. When roasting the turkey, save the juice and brown bits from the bottom of the pan if you don't make gravy.

- 2 cups or more white or dark turkey, cooked and cut into chunks
- 4 to 6 cups prepared bread stuffing or equivalent in bread cubes with your favorite herb mix
- 1/2 cup parsley, chopped
- 1 cup onions, chopped
- 1 cup celery, chopped
- Pepper to taste
- 2 cups turkey broth from the pan or chicken stock
- 1/2 stick margarine, cut into chunks

1. Preheat oven to 325° F.
  2. Mix stuffing, parsley, cooked turkey and broth in a roasting pan.
  3. Top with onions, celery and margarine. Bake in a 325 degrees oven 1 to 1 1/2 hours, covered. Add more broth if necessary. The top should be crisp, the interior soft and fragrant.
- Recipe from Kosher Kettle: International Adventures in Jewish Cooking, edited by Sybil Ruth Kaplan, Five Star Publications, 1996.

**Guvetch Sephardic Vegetable Stew**

Yield: 6 to 8 servings

This Turkish vegetable stew named after the pottery in which it was originally cooked, is popular in areas influenced by the Ottoman Empire. It is a close relative of the better-known Provençal version, ratatouille.

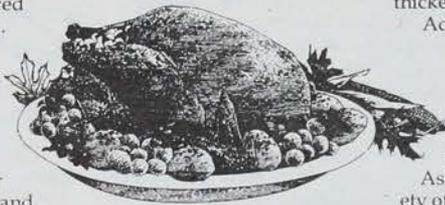
- 5 tablespoons vegetable or olive oil
- 2 large yellow onions, sliced
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 3 medium carrots, sliced
- 1 1/2 pounds eggplant, cubed
- 1 pound green beans
- 4 small zucchini or other summer squash, cut into chunks
- 1 pound trimmed okra or sliced mushrooms
- 6 medium tomatoes, peeled, seeded, and chopped
- 2 medium green bell peppers, seeded and sliced
- 2 medium red bell peppers, seeded and sliced
- 1/2 cup water
- About 1/2 tsp. salt
- Ground black pepper to taste
- Pinch of sugar

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.

2. Heat 3 Tbsp. of the oil in a large saucepan over medium heat. Add the onions, garlic, and carrots and sauté until softened, 5 to 10 minutes.

3. Add the eggplant and sauté until slightly softened, about 5 minutes. Add the remaining vegetables in the order listed. Add the water, salt, pepper, and sugar.

4. Spoon into a large casserole and drizzle with the remaining 2 Tbsp. oil. Cover and bake until very soft, about 1 1/2 hours. Serve warm or at room temperature.

**Split Peas**

It was not until the 16th century that varieties of peas were developed that could be eaten fresh. Until then, they were always dried. Split peas are so named because they split in half during drying. For thousands of years, these green or yellow seeds were prepared as a potage, similar to *kik wot*, and once served as a staple of European cooking. Several cultures, most notably Persian and Indian, use split peas in expanded roles such as fritters, stews, and stuffings.

**Kik Wot Ethiopian Split Pea Stew**

Yield: 6 to 8 servings

In meat-scarce Ethiopia, stews made from dried legumes have long been the most common food. These stews are always well seasoned with spices in the manner of Indian curries. For a more fiery *wot*, add 1 to 3 tablespoons *berbere* (Ethiopian chili powder).

- 9 1/2 cups water
- 2 cups yellow or green split peas
- 3 medium yellow onions, chopped (about 1 1/2 cups)
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 2 to 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 1/2 tsp. minced fresh ginger
- About 1 tsp. salt
- 1/8 tsp. ground cardamom
- 1/8 tsp. ground allspice
- 1/8 tsp. ground turmeric

1. Bring 8 cups of the water to a boil. Add the split peas (there should be enough water to completely cover the peas) and cook until the peas begin to get mushy, 30 to 40 minutes. Drain.

2. In a dry large skillet over medium heat, cook the onions, stirring, until they begin to soften, 2 to 3 minutes. Add the oil, garlic, and ginger and sauté until fragrant, 2 to 3 minutes.

3. Add 1/2 cup of the water and the salt and spices and cook. Stir constantly, until the onions are soft, about 5 minutes.

4. Add the split peas and remaining 1 cup water. Partially cover, reduce the heat to low, and simmer until the sauce has thickened, about 30 minutes.

Adjust the seasonings.

**Carrots**

The carrot, a member of the same family as parsnips and parsley, is a native of central Asia. In Asia, carrots grow in a variety of colors — yellow, red, orange, and the two original colors, purple and white. The now-common orange variety probably emerged in Holland during the late Middle Ages.

Choose firm, well-formed roots. Avoid carrots that are split, blemished or show signs of rotting at either end. The greens draw moisture from the roots and should be removed for storage.

**Gadjar Kari Indian Carrot Curry**

Yield: 4 to 5 servings

- 1/4 cup (1/2 stick) margarine or vegetable oil
- 1 Tbsp. cumin seeds
- 1 1/2 tsp. yellow mustard seeds
- 1 1/2 tsp. ground turmeric
- 1 tsp. ground cardamom
- 1 tsp. curry powder
- 1/4 tsp. ground cloves
- 1/4 tsp. cayenne
- 1 pound carrots, sliced or cut into chunks
- 1 medium banana, peeled and sliced
- 1/4 cup golden raisins
- 1 cup water
- About 1 tsp. salt
- Ground black pepper to taste
- Chopped fresh parsley or coriander for garnish

1. Heat the margarine or oil in a large non-reactive pan (do not use iron, copper, or brass) over medium heat. Add the cumin seeds, mustard seeds, turmeric, cardamom, curry powder, cloves,

and cayenne and sauté until fragrant, about 30 seconds.

2. Add the carrots and sauté until lightly colored, 3 to 5 minutes. Stir in the banana and raisins.

3. Add the water, salt, and pepper. Bring to a boil, cover, reduce the heat to low, and simmer until the carrots are tender but not mushy, about 20 minutes.

4. Uncover, increase the heat to medium, and cook, shaking the pan frequently, until most of the liquid is evaporated and the carrots and raisins are glazed, 5 to 10 minutes. Garnish with the parsley or coriander.

**Eggplant**

Eggplant, a member of the nightshade family, is actually a large berry. The original eggplant was small, white, and egg-shaped, hence its name. However, since the white variety bruised easily, it was hybridized to create the more familiar purple color. The globe eggplant is the largest variety, with a thick, deep-purple skin and many large seeds. The Italian



variety ranges from 2 to 4 inches long with a thinner. The Japanese variety is long and slender with a thin, light purple skin.

Eggplant is a native of northern India where it has been cultivated for more than 4,000 years. In the 13th century, the Arabs introduced it to Spain and a little later to Sicily, where it became an important part of local Jewish cooking. The reception was very different, however, when the eggplant reached the Christian parts of Europe, where it was considered to be poisonous.

Eggplant, one of the most important vegetables in the Sephardic culinary repertoire, is found in casseroles, stews, salads, omelets, and pickles.

The above recipes are from The World of Jewish Cooking by Gil Marks, Simon & Schuster, 1996.

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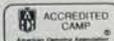
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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## New Touring Production of 'West Side Story' Comes to PPAC

Nearly 40 years since it first electrified Broadway, the musical theater classic, "West Side Story" is back and more exciting than ever in a new, national touring production coming to the Providence Performing Arts Center, Dec. 26 to 28. Featuring the brilliant collaboration of four theatrical legends — director-choreographer Jerome Robbins, librettist Arthur Laurents, composer Leonard Bernstein and lyricist Stephen Sondheim — this production boasts a cast of the most energetic, young singer-dancers ever assembled.

Based on Shakespeare's timeless love story *Romeo and Juliet*, "West Side Story" is set against the gritty backdrop of gang warfare on the streets of New York City. As two rival teen-age gangs battle over their share of neighborhood turf, a boy and a girl from the opposing sides — and different backgrounds — meet and fall in love. These familiar themes make this powerful and gripping musical as poignant today as when it took Broadway by storm in 1957.

Jerome Robbins' original direction and Tony Award-winning choreography will be reproduced for this new production of "West Side Story." Prior to the "West Side Story," original premiere in the 1950s, it was inconceivable

that dance would be as integral to the narrative as the music, lyrics and book. This show changed all that.

The book by Arthur Laurents tells the story of star-crossed lovers whose romance ends in tragedy. The memorable score, written by composer Leonard Bernstein and lyricist Stephen Sondheim, features some of the most extraordinary songs ever heard from the Broadway stage, including "Somewhere," "Maria," "America," "One Hand, One Heart" and "Tonight."

The original musical production of "West Side Story" opened at the Winter Garden Theatre in New York City on Sept. 26, 1957, and ran for 732 performances before it closed on June 27, 1959. "West Side Story" won Tony Awards for best choreographer (Jerome Robbins) and Best Scenic Design (Oliver Smith). The show was last seen on Broadway in 1980, when it won the Tony Award for Best Revival of a Musical. The classic 1961 motion picture, starring Natalie Wood, garnered 10 Academy Awards, including Best Picture and Best Director, as well as a special award for Jerome Robbins' choreography.

Tickets for performances of "West Side Story" are on sale now. The performance schedule for "West Side Story" is Dec. 26 at 8 p.m., Dec. 27 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Dec. 28 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Ticket prices are \$37.50, \$27.50, \$17.50. Call 421-ARTS to charge by phone; MasterCard, Visa, Discover and American Express are accepted. Box office hours are Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. Discounts for groups of 20 or more are available by calling 421-2997, ext. 3121. Tickets are also available through Ticketmaster locations or by calling 331-2211.

## Perishable Theatre Presents Shows for Young Audiences

Perishable Theatre, "Rhode Island's radical, off-beat, thought-provoking theater company," welcomes home its award-winning touring children's theater company, Shows For Young Audiences. Entertaining and educating more than 40,000 children a year, Perishable's Shows For Young Audiences visits 250 schools and libraries annually. Shows For Young Audiences is New England's premier professional touring children's theater company, specializing in the development of original scripts based on myths, folklore and fairy tales from around the world and adding to them elements of contemporary social and educational concerns. This season the Shows For Young Audiences will return home to present three new plays at the Perishable Theatre, 95 Empire St., downtown Providence.

**"Keith Munslow: Can't Sit Still"** — This witty production features original music and stories including "Highway Folk Tale," "Pothole Peter and Jenny," as well as a visit from cowboy poet, Tex Pentameter. All the while Munslow's wild cartoon drawing ties it all together into a fast and funny show that will captivate children and adults alike. Nov. 29 and Dec. 20.

**"The Peaceable Kid"** — Perishable's acclaimed new musical utilizes the genre of the American "Wild West" to explore creative methods for dealing with conflict. It's fun! It's kinetic! And it teaches alternatives to violence. Nov. 22 and Dec. 20.

**"The Potion"** — Perishable's award-winning musical comedy mixes Motown-style music into a traditional fairy-tale motif while addressing issues of self-esteem and substance abuse. Dec. 6.

All shows begin at 11 a.m. Tickets are general admission; \$6 for adults, \$3 for children under 12. Free for children under 3. For reservations, call 331-2695.

## Newport Art Museum Calls For Entries

All artists are invited to submit artwork to the Newport Art Museum's 11th annual Members' Juried Exhibition.

Work in all media will be accepted, including video, mixed and experimental media.

To enter, artists must be members of the Newport Art Museum and Art Association. Membership dues will be accepted when work is delivered for jurying.

The exhibition juror is Laurene Buckley, Ph.D., director and curator, New Britain Museum of American Art. She curated *Red Grooms: A Personal Art History*, which was at the Newport Art Museum last spring. She has also written extensively about 20th century American Art.

The "Best of Show" winner will receive a one-person exhibition in the Newport Art Museum's Wright Gallery (375 square feet) during the 1999 Members' Juried Exhibition. Other prizes will be awarded.

Prize winners are expected to participate in public talks about their work.

All entrants must be current members of the Newport Art Museum. Each artist may enter only one work. All media are accepted. There are no size limitations. Each work must be clearly labeled on the back (or in another appropriate location) with the artist's name, address, phone number, and its title,

medium and insurance value. All works must be exhibition-ready, i.e., framed, wired, ready to hang, etc. The museum reserves the right to deny entry to any work not properly prepared for exhibition. Only work completed in 1997 will be accepted. No wet work will be accepted, nor any that arrive early or late. The museum will insure all work accepted for exhibition, while on exhibition.

Jurying will take place on Jan. 12. Notification of acceptance will be mailed on Jan. 13.

All works must be delivered to the Cushing Memorial Gallery between noon and 8 p.m. on Jan. 8; or between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Jan. 9, 1998. A fee of \$10 is required with each entry.

Artists are responsible for transportation of their work to and from the museum. All non-accepted work must be picked up on Jan. 15, between noon and 8 p.m. or Jan. 16, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

After the exhibition, accepted work must be picked up from the Cushing Memorial Gallery on March 30 between noon and 8 p.m.; or March 31, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Work not picked up will become the property of the Newport Art Museum and may be sold to benefit the museum's education programs.

For more information, call the museum at 848-8200.



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## The Delanys Continue Having Their Say at Trinity Rep

Trinity Repertory Company, under the artistic direction of Oskar Eustis, has recently announced a two-week extension of Emily Mann's "Having Our Say," directed by Trinity Rep associate director Neal Baron.

Since its opening Oct. 3, "Having Our Say" — based on the 1993 autobiography of the centenarian sisters, Sadie and Bessie Delany, written with Amy Hill Hearth — has played to sold-out houses and received standing ovations at every performance.

Originally slated to close Nov. 23, Trinity Rep will hold over this production through Dec. 7 with a new actress in the role of Sadie Delany. Amentha Dymally will join the show beginning Nov. 25 and will play the part of Sadie, the older sister who is still alive and writing at 108. Barbara Meek will continue to portray Bessie Delany, who died in 1995 at 104. "Having Our Say" is the captivating chronicle of these two sisters whose lives span the history of 20th-century America.

Performances for "Having Our Say" will continue in the Downstairs Theatre at Trinity Rep's downtown Providence location. VISA, MasterCard and American Express holders may charge by phone by calling the box office at 351-4242, or by FAX at 831-1612, between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The added show dates are: Nov. 25, 7 p.m.; Nov. 28, 8 p.m.; Nov. 29, 2 and 8 p.m.; Nov. 30, 2 and 7 p.m.; Dec. 3, 7 p.m.; Dec. 4, 8 p.m.; Dec. 5, 8 p.m.; Dec. 6, 2 and 8 p.m.; and Dec. 7, 2 p.m.

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## ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT



## Picasso and Einstein Match Wits in PPAC Show

by David Soll

Most comedies do not feature an extended riff on word problems, but then Steve Martin's "Picasso at the Lapin Agile" is not your typical comedy. The play is set in a Paris bar in 1904 where Albert Einstein and Pablo Picasso meet and discuss how their ideas will affect the 20th century. However, one need not be a physicist or an artist to appreciate the conversations between Einstein and Picasso. Martin is not interested in the substance of relativity or cubism or probing the characters of the two geniuses; what motivates him is the opportunity to play with time and history, on both personal and societal levels.

Most importantly, the play is a whole lot of fun. It dragged only at the end, which isn't bad for an hour and a half play with no intermission. Martin manages to lampoon the French, the Spanish and old age, all in a playful style that celebrates life. Martin employs anachronistic humor wonderfully; when the bartender says, "Who are you, EINSTEIN?" with the emphasis on the Einstein, the audience hooted with glee at the notion that Einstein could possibly have been a synonym for genius in 1904, well before he became famous.

The performances were, for the most part, exceptional. Especially notable was Mark Nelson as Einstein, who managed to convey the enormous frustration of having an earth-shattering idea which 99 percent of the world is incapable of understanding. Nelson was so charming, I almost wished

Picasso, played by Paul Provenza, had waited backstage until the play was over. Martin paints Picasso as a self-absorbed womanizer waiting for an epiphany to strike.

Thus, while both Einstein and Picasso are supposed to be in their "pre-genius" days, only Einstein comes across as a character with depth. In a comedy, however, depth of character is far less important than the qual-

ity of the punchlines. Although a few lines that generated laughs among the huge audience fell flat for me, most were right on the money.

In an age in which comedy has become extremely vulgar, "Picasso at the Lapin Agile," is a welcome exception.

"Picasso at the Lapin Agile" plays through Nov. 23 at the Providence Performing Arts Center.



SUSANNAH SCHULMAN and Paul Provenza in Steve Martin's award-winning comedy "Picasso at the Lapin Agile."

Photo by Joan Marcus

## Freud's Antiquities: A View From The Couch

The Arts Consortium recently announced another event in its Visiting Lecturer series: On Dec. 1 Stephen Scully, associate professor in classics at Boston University, will present "Freud's Antiquities: A View From The Couch." Freud possessed a huge collection of museum quality classical artifacts and displayed them, curiously enough, only in his examination rooms. Scully will explore the fascinating relationship between the theories of the father of psychoanalysis and the pieces of visual art.

The lecture will be at 7 p.m. at the Westerly Public Library auditorium on Dec. 1. Call the library at 596-2877 for information.

The Arts Consortium is a teaching and arts advocacy group based in South County. The consortium provides qual-

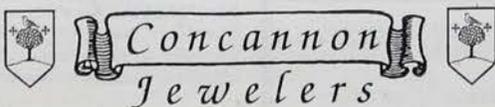
ity, professional art classes in various disciplines such as painting, sculpture, ceramics, drawing, etc., as well as promoting and celebrating the unique resource of creative talent in the arts in South County and adjoining Connecticut.

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## Orpheum Theatre Announces Upcoming Youth Series

The Orpheum Theatre in Foxborough presents its 1997/98 Youth Series, featuring dramas, classic musicals and lively dance productions performed by some of the finest youth theatre groups in the country for young and family audiences.

Frances Hodgson Burnett's "The Secret Garden," performed by Theatreworks/USA, kicks off the 1997/98 Youth Series in December. This enchanting work is the story of Mary Lennox, a spoiled English girl whose life is turned upside down when she is sent to live on her uncle's gloomy estate. Mary, along with her invalid cousin and Dickon, a cheerful local, discover the hidden magic of the estate's secret garden. The "Secret Garden" will be performed at the Orpheum on Dec. 19 at 7 p.m. and Dec. 20 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

"Round Midnight: Jazz Fables," a fast and frenetic collection of stories performed to a pulsing jazz score, "Round Midnight" provides a brand new look at some classic fables, including "The Grasshopper and the Ants," "The Frog and Their King," and "The Cat Maiden." Founded by Chris Burney and Fran Kirmsler in 1995, Soliton explores the interaction of dance and puppetry against a background of contemporary musical idioms. Created

exclusively for the Orpheum, "Round Midnight" will be performed on Jan. 17 at 2 p.m.

"Aesop's Fables" comes alive in February. As performed by one-of-a-kind puppeteer Jim West, classical music is woven into this magical experience that dramatizes such classics as "The Tortoise and the Hare," "The Stag at the Pool" and "The Wind and the Sun." "Aesop's Fables" will be performed on Feb. 20 at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. and Feb. 21 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Humperdinck's immortal opera "Hansel & Gretel" concludes the 1997/98 Youth Series at the Orpheum. Picturesque sets, vivid costumes and incomparable music make this unique production, performed by Opera New England, an unforgettable theatrical experience. This fully staged, one-hour abridged version of "Hansel & Gretel," will be performed on April 4 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Subscriptions to the 1997/98 Orpheum Theatre Youth Series are now available at \$38 for adults, \$34 for students/seniors and \$26 for children under 15. Individual ticket prices are \$12.50 for adults, \$10.50 for seniors/students and \$8.50 for children under 15. To purchase tickets, or for more information, call (508) 543-ARTS or 888-ORPHEUM.

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# OBITUARIES

## SONIA DWYER

**PROVIDENCE** — Sonia Dwyer, 93, of 192 Indiana Ave., Providence, died Nov. 9 at Rhode Island Hospital. She was the wife of the late Harry Dwyer.

Born in Lodz, Poland, a daughter of the late Samuel and Barbara Shorakofski, she lived in Providence for more than 60 years, previously living in New York City.

She leaves three sons, Thomas Dwyer of Jessup, Md., Joseph Dwyer of Boston, and Seymour Rosen of Haydenville, Mass.; a daughter, Barbara Feldstein in Florida; 13 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. She was the mother of the late Patricia Roberts.

Burial was in the Rhode Island Veterans Cemetery, Exeter. The family was assisted with the arrangements by Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

## MAX GOLDSTEIN

**PROVIDENCE** — Max Goldstein, 89, of 1 Shalom Drive, owner of Max Goldstein Waste Co. of Pawtucket for 40 years, retiring in 1985, died Nov. 14 at the Roger Williams Medical Center in Providence. He was the husband of the late Shirley (Szesnofige) Goldstein.

Born in Russia, a son of the late Jacob and Rachel (Gelbgiser) Goldstein, he had lived in Pawtucket for 70 years before moving to Warwick.

He was associated with

Globe Industries of Lincoln.

Goldstein was a member of Congregation Ohawe Shalom and Temple Beth-El.

He leaves a daughter, Rachel Kaufman of Cranston; a son, Murray Goldstein of Pawtucket; four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

A graveside funeral service was held Nov. 17 at Sons of Israel and David Cemetery, Providence. The family was assisted with the arrangements by Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

## SYDELL P. GORENBERG

**FALL RIVER** — Sydell P. Gorenberg, 69, of 318 Lepes Road, a family historian, died Nov. 13 at St. Anne Hospital in Fall River. She was the wife of F. David Gorenberg.

Born in the Bronx, N.Y., she was a daughter of the late Shirley and Harold Herman.

She was a 1950 graduate of Syracuse University with a bachelor of arts degree in journalism.

She had worked as a customer service representative for 15 years at Aetna Life and Casualty Co.

She authored a 540-page family history called *Sydell's Saga*, a book that can be found in both the Somerset and Fall River public libraries. She had been working on the 21st chapter of a second volume at the time of her death. She wrote many essays and stories over her lifetime and

also won honorable mention in an American Poetry Contest for her epic poem *The Flood*.

An avid history buff, she took courses at Bristol Community College and Southeastern Massachusetts University. When she was 13, she made an exhaustive collection of 28 scrapbooks recording daily headlines and articles of the events of World War II.

A lifelong member of Hadassah, she was also a founding member of the Fall River Hadassah Evening Group. She was a 43-year member of the Jewish War Veterans Post No. 168 and had served as treasurer and historian for the post.

She was a member of B'nai B'rith, the Brandeis Women's Group and a member of the Sisterhoods of both Adas Israel and Temple Beth El.

She served as a Cub Scout den mother and in 1987 she won second place in the Senior Sweetheart Pageant.

Besides her husband, she leaves a daughter, Robin J. Bazabal of Calexico, Calif.; two sons, Steven M. Gorenberg of Wilton, Conn., and Paul L. Gorenberg of Trooper, Pa.; and five grandchildren.

The funeral was held Nov. 17 at Adas Israel Synagogue, 1647 Robeson St., Fall River. Burial took place in Swan Point Cemetery, Blackstone Boulevard, Providence. The family was assisted with the arrangements by Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

## ANNE KOLB HENRY

**PROVIDENCE** — Anne Kolb Henry, 81, of 101 Highland Ave., a retired self-employed artist, died Nov. 14 at home. She was the wife of the late Carl Henry.

Born in Chicago, a daughter of the late Edward and Selma (Regenstein) Rosenthal, she had lived in Providence since 1938.

She received a bachelor of fine arts degree from the Rhode Island School of Design.

She had been a member of the Providence Art Club since 1953 and had won 28 prizes and awards for her paintings.

She leaves two sons, Jonathan Kolb of Brookline, Mass., and Thomas Kolb of Wellesley, Mass.; a daughter, Judith Morris of New Bedford, Mass.; three step-daughters, Claudia Bottai, Jan Schiaviano and Paula Wilcox; and a twin sister, Janet Hecht, all of Barrington; and six grandchildren.

A memorial service was held Nov. 16 at the Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

## FRED KELMAN

**PROVIDENCE** — Fred Kelman, 77, of 122 Belvedere Drive, owner of the former Fred Kelman Photographers for 36 years, retiring 10 years ago, died Nov. 7 at Miriam Hospital. He was the husband of the late Libby (Medoff) Kelman.

Born in Providence, a son of the late David S. and Golda (Kaplan) Kelman, he lived in Cranston for 10 years.

He served in the Navy during World War II. He was a member of Temple Torat Yisrael and its board of directors. He had been a member of the board of directors of the former Temple Beth Israel, which was in Providence.

He leaves a daughter, Gloria Kelman of Hadley, Mass.; three sons, Daniel Kelman of Hartford, Conn., John Kelman of Orange, Conn., David Kelman of West Hartford, Conn.; a sister, Lillian Potter Goldstein of Providence; and four grandchildren. He was the brother of the late Jack Kellman.

The funeral was held Nov. 10 in Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston. Burial was in B'nai Israel Cemetery, Woonsocket. Arrangements were by Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence.

## BETTY LEVY

**PROVIDENCE** — Betty Levy, 90, of 7 Salem Ave., Cranston, died Nov. 11 at Rhode Island Hospital. She was the wife of the late Louis Levy.

Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Samuel and Ida (Roth) Glazer, she lived in Cranston for 30 years, previously living in Providence.

She was a member of Temple Torat Yisrael of Cranston.

She leaves two brothers, David Glazer of Warwick and Sydney Glazer of Cranston; and a sister, Harriet Landesberg of Cranston. She was the sister of the late Morris and Sadie Glazer.

A funeral service was held Nov. 13 at the Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

## FRANK S. MANDELL

**WEST WARWICK** — Frank S. Mandell, 84, of West View Nursing Home, Legris Avenue, a manufacturer's representative for Belle Steel Corp., Boston, for more than 20 years, and proprietor of the former Dial A Home Real Estate and Shelley Realty Companies for several years before retiring, died Nov. 10 at the home. He was the husband of Ethel (Finkelstein) Mandell of East Providence.

Born in Providence, a son of the late Charles and Florence (Greenleaf) Mandell, he lived in Cranston before moving to Warwick more than 23 years ago. He worked for the Army as a civilian engineer during World War II, where he designed helicopter specifications. He was a former member of Temple Sinai in Cranston, and a member of the Lions Club.

Besides his wife, he leaves three sons, Larry Mandell and Stephen Mandell, both of Warwick, and Dr. Robert M. Mandell of Farmington Hills, Mich.; a daughter, Shelley Marcus of Newton Centre, Mass.; a brother, Leonard Mandell of Pawtucket; and four grandchildren. He was a brother of the late Ethel Lurie and Ruth Mandell.

A graveside service was held Nov. 12 at Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. Arrangements were by Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence.

## CLARA RASHOTSKY

**NEW BEDFORD, Mass.** — Clara (Cutler) Rashotsky, of 200 Hawthorne St., New Bedford, died Nov. 15. She was the wife of the late Louis Rashotsky.

She is survived by a son, Everett Rashotsky of Aventura, Fla.

Graveside services were held Nov. 16 at Beth El Cemetery, Fall River. Arrangements were by the Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

## SOL 'CHICK' WEINER

**SWANSEA** — Sol "Chick" Weiner, 72, of 368 Read St., a salesman at Express Transport in Westport, retiring in 1990, died Nov. 10 at Charlton Memorial Hospital. He was the husband of Helene (Oberman) Weiner.

Born in the Bronx, N.Y., a son of the late Manuel and Nettie (Feldman) Weiner, he lived in Somerset and Swansea for 30 years.

He was a notary public and justice of the peace. He was a private detective, and worked for Pinkerton Detective Agency and Century Detective Agency, both in Providence. He was an Army veteran of World War II.

Besides his wife, he leaves a son, Michael Weiner of Edinburg, Texas; a brother, Frank Weiner in Pennsylvania; and four grandchildren. He was the brother of the late Roxanne Beirola.

A graveside funeral service was held in the Hebrew Cemetery, Fall River. The family was assisted with the arrangements by Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

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## Jews in Foreign Policy

(Continued from Page 1)

limits to Jews. Among the others are:

Dennis Ross, who heads the U.S. peace process team as special Middle East coordinator and counselor to Albright; Aaron Miller, deputy special Middle East coordinator; and Daniel Kurtzer, U.S. ambassador to Egypt.

Other Jews currently serving in senior foreign-policy posts include: Marc Grossman, assistant secretary for European and Canadian affairs; Princeton Lyman, assistant secretary of state for international organizations; Stanley Roth, assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs; Jeffrey Davidow, assistant secretary of state for Inter-American affairs; and James Rubin, assistant secretary for public affairs, spokesman.

In addition, Jewish career foreign-service officers and political appointees hold the post of current or immediate past ambassadors to Switzerland, Brazil, Nepal, Romania, Spain, Hungary, Belgium, Denmark, Morocco and Malaysia.

But deeper than numbers lies a historic shift taking place for Jews in the United States' diplomatic machine.

Gone are the days when American Jews looked on with envy as presidents named Italian Americans as ambassadors to Italy and Irish Americans as ambassadors to Ireland.

Gone are the days when so-called Arabists determined U.S. policy in the Middle East.

Indeed, an article in the October issue of the professional journal of the American Foreign Service Association, *Foreign Service* — headlined "Where've the Arabists Gone?" — laments the changes taking place.

"If any other group had taken over, there would have been a big storm, but with the Jewish-

American takeover, nobody has the courage to speak," William Rugh, a former ambassador to Yemen, was quoted as saying.

A new term, "Jewish Arabists," has cropped up in right-wing circles to describe their view of the Jews who lead the Middle East peace process team.

During Indyk's tenure as ambassador to Israel, a member of Knesset from the hard-line Moledet Party, Rehavam Ze'evi, referred derisively to Indyk as "that Yid" during a Knesset debate in which he was critical of American Middle East policy.

Almost all those interviewed — career officers as well as political appointees — credit the Indyk-Ross peace team with silencing charges that Jews cannot serve U.S. interests when conflicts arise with Israel.

Ross, along with Kurtzer and Miller, began his work in the Bush administration and stayed on under Clinton. Indyk joined the Clinton administration in 1993.

This distinction suggests that the time has come when it doesn't matter whether the administration is Democratic or Republican, or what the degree of warmth is between Israel and the United States.

It took years of hard work to prove that Jewish diplomats serve America first — above Israel and Jewish interests, officials say.

Indicative of the still-sensitive nature of one's Jewish place at the state department, however, one senior official who refused to be interviewed for this article groaned, "No good can come from this. Especially because there are so many of us."

Many of the Jewish diplomats at work in the field today vividly remember the impact that convicted spy Jonathan Pollard had on their careers.

The official said many are still recovering from the trauma Pollard caused when he was caught spying for Israel in the United States.

Ironically, Arabs are now complaining of a Jewish bias.

After a rough patch in the peace process, the Palestinian justice minister accused the United States of a "Zionist conspiracy." They point not only to the many Jews at top state departments posts, but also the National Security Council, which is run by Sandy Berger.

Eizenstat vehemently refutes the charge.

"The peace process is not being made by Jews; it's being made by Americans," Eizenstat said in a recent interview. "Any suggestion of bias is totally inappropriate and inaccurate."

"Obviously, people bring their perspective," he said, adding that some of the Palestinians "would prefer that perspective would not be shaped by any Jewish background."

Although many current Jewish state department officials dismiss discussions about the Jewish character of the state department as fodder for anti-Semites and anti-Israel activists, some have privately acknowledged that one's upbringing can influence policy decisions.

"All of my life experiences make me who I am," said one official when asked whether Judaism affects his work. "You could ask the same question of any ethnic or religious group."

Eizenstat, like many Jews in the state department, continues to face situations where their roots intersect with their official duties.

Cited as the first ambassador to keep a kosher embassy residence when he served in Brussels, Eizenstat's portfolio now includes a multitude of issues surrounding Nazi gold. He also serves as special envoy on property restitution in Central and Eastern Europe.

Eizenstat is not alone.

Madeleine Kunin, U.S. ambassador to Switzerland, was astonished to find her mother's name on a list of dormant Holocaust-era Swiss bank accounts published earlier this year.

And Albright made a special visit to the Czech Republic during the summer to visit the concentration camps where the Nazis killed her grandparents.

But perhaps one of the most surreal times that faith and duty crossed paths came during the marathon Hebron negotiations in January at Indyk's official ambassadorial residence in Israel.

Miller, the No. 2 official on the U.S. Middle East peace-process team, called a break during the talks to gather a minyan from

the U.S. and Israeli teams to say Kaddish for his mother.

Five of the Americans in the room were Jewish. Together with the Israeli team, they retired to the corner to say evening prayers.

Instead of protesting, Palestinian officials later said they had gained respect for Miller's devotion to his Judaism.

If the Palestinians were surprised by that unexpected break in their negotiations, imagine the guests at the 1995 bat mitzvah of Ross's daughter who found themselves socializing with the Israeli and Syrian ambassadors.

Call it bat mitzvah diplomacy. (JTA correspondent Daniel Kurtzman in Washington contributed to this report.)

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## Israel's Infrastructure Minister Calls for Jewish Unity

Israel's minister of infrastructure, Gen. Ariel Sharon, appealed for unity among Jews throughout the world during the 13th annual International Elie Wiesel Holocaust Remembrance Award Dinner, held at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in New York City. "We need to strengthen unity among Jews because unity will make us stronger and therefore help us achieve our goals," Sharon told more than 800 guests and supporters of State of Israel Bonds attending the organization's award dinner.

"Peace can be as painful as war," Sharon declared, "because to achieve it you have to make concessions. We, therefore, need unity, unity between Left and Right, between religious and secular, between Jews in Israel and Jews in the Diaspora. Let's work together so we can achieve our dreams and our hopes."

More than \$50 million in State of Israel Bonds investment funds were raised in the course of the evening. Two prominent Holocaust survivors, Abraham Zuckerman and Murray

Pantirer of New Jersey, were the recipients of the 1997 Israel Bonds Elie Wiesel Holocaust Remembrance Award at the tribute dinner. The World Jewish Congress, represented by its secretary general, Israel Singer, was honored for its work in obtaining restitution and justice for survivors.

Israel Bonds president Gideon Patt said: "I am immensely gratified by the success of the 13th Elie Wiesel Holocaust Remembrance Award Dinner, an event that has become a landmark on the agenda of American Jewry in its efforts to preserve the memory and lessons of the Holocaust. This annual event is an extremely important link between the survivors community and the State of Israel."

Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Elie Wiesel, the evening's guest speaker, urged the survivors to write their memories. "Write now, don't wait, tell your story before it's too late..." He said that books by survivors have an "extraordinary value" for perpetuating the memory of the Holocaust.

Burton P. Resnick, Israel Bonds' national campaign chairman, said: "This event is a reaffirmation of our continued support of Israel and our determination to be a part of the continued development of the Jewish State. We are also gathered here unified in our determination to remember the past and its lessons so it will never be repeated."

The Elie Wiesel Holocaust Remembrance Award was established in 1985 to help perpetuate the memory of the Holocaust. Each year the award is presented to a prominent survivor, or an outstanding individual who successfully raised Holocaust awareness to new levels. The award is presented each year by Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Elie Wiesel. Past award recipients include Henry Kissinger, Sigmund Strochlitz, Samuel Pizar, Sam Halpern, the late Harry Wilf, Dr. Joshua O. Haberman, Rabbi Israel Meir Lau, Steven Spielberg, Benjamin Meed, Vladka Meed, Ambassador Meir Rosenne and Joseph Wilf.

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# Jewish Writers Reflect on Childhood in New Anthology

by Sara Wise  
Herald Editor

Growing Up Jewish:  
An Anthology  
ed. Jay David  
Avon Books, New York, 1997

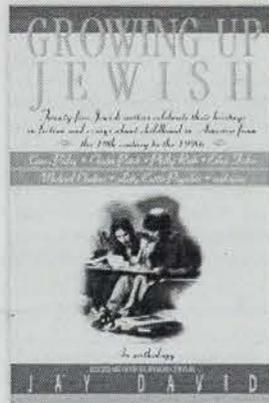
Editor Jay David combines selections from the works of 25 Jewish writers to create an intimate look at growing up Jewish over three generations. The fiction and essays chronicle childhood and adolescence in a humorous and insightful way that celebrates their heritage. Included are works by Jewish literary icons Edna Ferber, Philip Roth, Grace Paley, and Chaim Potok, as well as some younger Jewish voices.

Exploring issues of family life, Jewish identity, assimilation, and generational differences, the pieces embrace the often-explored theme of coming of age, but with a Jewish focus. The first six entries on the immigrant experience tell of sweatshops, the Depression, Yiddish-speaking homes and summers in the Catskills.

Anzia Yezierska's opening story of a young Jewish girl from Russia building a new life in America in the early 1900s is a powerful and poetic expression of fanciful dreams of the promised land that are quickly squashed. She arrives thinking, "Ach, America! From the other end of the earth from where I came, America was a land of living hope, woven of dreams, aflame with longing and desire."

But in the darkness of a sweatshop where she barely survives sewing buttons, Yezierska learns that without skills or language, the best a poor immigrant can hope for is steady hard labor.

In "A Peculiar Treasure," Edna Ferber describes growing up in a small Jewish town where there was no synagogue and



only five or six other Jewish families. She expresses a young girl's love for books and her strong family in a simple and clear manner.

The largest section on "Discovering Americanness" (a nice euphemism for assimilation) is written mostly by second-generation Jews about childhoods caught between the Old World of their parents and their new homeland. Two particularly touching pieces, by Grace Paley and Faye

Moskowitz, focus on trying to find your way without compromising what you believe in.

In Paley's story "The Loudest Voice," young Shirley Abramowitz manages to maintain her own heritage when she participates in a Christmas play by celebrating the part with a strong Jewish voice. Moskowitz's essay, from her collection *And the Bridge is Love*, talks about the influence her spirited cousin Esther had on her as a child. Despite Esther's strict Orthodox upbringing, she manages to combine reverent religious observation with typical teen-age fascinations for painted nails, boys and fancy clothes in a way that enchants the author.

The third section, "New Voices: Growing up as an American Jew," contains only three writers, including Michael Chabon, whose first novel, *The Mysteries of Pittsburgh*, made him the darling of the American literary world. His short story, "The Lost World," taken from *A Model World and Other Stories*, contains the same adolescent hijinks of his other two novels, as 16-year-old Nathan Shapiro meets up with Hebrew school classmate Chaya Feldman while on a drunken late-night dare from his buddies to visit a girl with an "easy" reputation.

That the editor chose so few "new voices" makes one wonder whether there are sufficient young Jewish writers today to choose from. Maybe it's too early to place them into a genre of their own, or maybe the experi-

ence of growing up Jewish today is much less distinct than when Augie March roamed the streets of Chicago or Neil wooed country clubber Brenda Patinkin in *Goodbye Columbus*.

What stands out most in this collection is not just the Jewish writing, but its strongly American Jewish flavor. While Diaspora Jews have learned to

adjust to many new lands, there is something about America that encouraged greater assimilation and many of the writers in *Growing Up Jewish* struggle with this process at different levels.

For readers of any generation (immigrant, second-generation or "American Jew"), there's something that each of us can either relate to or learn from.

## Senior Journal Announces Upcoming Schedule

"The Senior Journal" is a program designed to educate the public on concerns of aging through the personal perspectives of Rhode Island seniors. Sponsored by the Rhode Island Department of Elderly Affairs and COX Cable Television, "The Senior Journal" is written, hosted, produced and edited by senior volunteers. The program is on Mondays at 7 p.m., Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays at 11:30 a.m., and Sundays at 5 p.m., over the statewide cable interconnect, Channel A. Reaching more than 200,000 households in Rhode Island, "The Senior Journal" is chaired by Lee Chalek. The broadcast schedule for "Senior Journal" programs follows:

Nov. 17 to Nov. 27 — "Home and Community Care Programs for Elders," hosted by Lee Chalek of Warwick, and featuring Paulla Lipsey, coordinator of home and community care for the Department of Elderly Affairs; Hope Mathewson, senior companion

volunteer; and Cecile Konicki, senior companion client.

Dec. 1 to Dec. 11 — "Personal & Financial Management," hosted by Lee Chalek of Warwick, and featuring Brock Manville, director; and Susan Bazar, co-director of Personal Management Associates.

Dec. 15 to Dec. 25 — "Prostate Cancer," hosted by Ann Clark of Providence, and featuring Stephen Cohen, M.D., chief of urology, Roger Williams Medical Center; John Sormanti and Frank Morgan, coordinators of Rhode Island Us Too.

Dec. 29 to Jan. 8, 1998 — Rhode Island Meals on Wheels, hosted by Ann Clark of Providence and featuring Sandy Centazzo, executive director, R.I. Meals on Wheels.

Written comments, suggestions, or opinions on "The Senior Journal" are welcome. Write Larry Grimaldi, R.I. Department of Elderly Affairs, 160 Pine St., Providence, R.I. 02903.

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Judging will take place during the following week. **The winning posters will appear in the December 18 issue of the Herald.**

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