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# Rhode Is HERALD

## Schoolbeat

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## Bowing to Pressure, Smithsonian Pulls Plug on 'Israel at 50' Series

by Matthew Dorf

WASHINGTON (JTA)—The Smithsonian Institution has canceled a controversial "Israel at 50" series that was slated to take a critical look at the Jewish state.

Bowing to pressure from some American Jewish groups and threats of congressional hearings, the Smithsonian pulled the plug on a seven-week speakers series scheduled for this spring.

The program was proposed by the New Israel Fund, which was to be a co-sponsor with the prestigious national museum.

The New Israel Fund, a liberal fund-raising organization that gives money to Israeli groups that promote civil rights and social change, lambasted the organizations that had led a campaign against the program.

"We are deeply disappointed that the Smithsonian has been forced by a fringe group of Jewish McCarthyites, led by Americans for a Safe Israel, to back out of the lecture series," said the NIF's executive director, Norman Rosenberg.

Recently, the Smithsonian came under fire from the editorial pages of the *Washington Times*, *New York Post* and *Boston Herald* for the program.

U.S. Rep. Michael Forbes (R-N.Y.) joined the fray, calling on Congress to hold hearings.

The program, which was tentatively titled, "Israel at 50:

Yesterday's Dreams, Today's Realities," was billed as a look at the "difficult challenges that Israel must meet if it is to fulfill its founders' vision of a nation based on the concepts of 'freedom, justice and peace,'" according to a program provided by the New Israel Fund.

But after groups such as Americans for a Safe Israel, B'nai B'rith and the Anti-Defamation League voiced opposition to the program because they believed it was biased, the New Israel Fund backtracked and said it was still working on the final program. In fact, some Likud party speakers were added to the series in recent days.

"It is our intention to highlight Israel's achievements in its stunning 50-year history, to consider some of the key issues it faces, and to examine its hopes for the years ahead," the Smithsonian wrote in a letter to Forbes.

"To that end, we are developing a program that will be fair and appropriate."

In a telephone interview, Forbes hailed the Smithsonian's decision.

"It was clearly a one-sided approach and was not going to be a celebration of the 50 years of the Jewish state, but a critique by the left of the Jewish state," Forbes said.

The Smithsonian rejected a proposal by the Anti-Defama-

tion League to join as a co-sponsor with New Israel Fund and revamp the program.

New Israel Fund officials, who were recently relishing their success in convincing the Smithsonian to sponsor their program, defended its intent.

"It was designed to take an in-depth look at Israel's prodigious accomplishments in its first half-century and some of the challenges facing this vibrant young democracy as it enters its next half-century," Rosenberg said.

For his part, the executive director of Americans for a Safe Israel defended his group and hailed the Smithsonian's decision.

"The program should be fair and without any bias to one side," Herb Zweibon said.

Many others welcomed the Smithsonian's decision as well.

"While I do not expect the Smithsonian to have a birthday party, there was very little they were celebrating," said Abraham Foxman, the ADL's national director.

"It was a shopping bag of all the flaws and anxieties. It was skewed," he said.

For its part, the Israeli Embassy said it has no problem with the original program.

According to an Israeli official, the Smithsonian plans to invite the Israeli ambassador to participate in its new program, now in the planning stages.



### Consul General of Israel Visits Providence

Consul General of Israel Itzhak Levanon recently visited Providence and spoke with the *R.I. Jewish Herald*. During Levanon's two day visit he met with various organizations and heads of state. Levanon also spoke at Temple Emanu-El. Don't forget to look for Levanon's interview with the *Herald* in next week's issue. Photo courtesy of Consulate General of Israel

## Survivors Recall Swiss Policy of Using Jews For Slave Labor

by Douglas Davis

LONDON (JTA) — Some of Switzerland's most famous ski resorts were the sites of forced labor camps for Jewish refugees during World War II.

This latest revelation — unveiled in a recent British television documentary — is likely to further tarnish the pristine reputation of neutrality that the Swiss had nurtured over the past half-century.

Switzerland has always denied that any of the approximately 25,000 Jewish refugees who were permitted to enter the country during the war, along with other non-Swiss Jews — some of whom had lived in Switzerland for years — were subjected to forced labor.

But the mounting body of evidence, supported by recently released official documents and backed by victims' statements, has swept away any lingering doubts.

"I have not spoken of this for 50 years," said Walter Fischer, now 82 and living in France. "But I am convinced the Swiss are guilty of terrible crimes. They exploited us, and they have blood on their hands."

It is now known that a network of more than 100 work camps was established by an official decree on March 12, 1940.

Those who were interned do not equate the Swiss labor camps with the Nazi concentration and death camps, but they do say Jews were held, against their will, in harsh conditions.

"I know we were singled out as Jews because Jews were the only ones there," said Arnold Marque, now 76 and living in California.

Marque had moved to Switzerland from Germany and had been working as an apprentice baker for three years before the start of the war. He was sent to a camp at Bad Schauenberg

where, he recalled, the food consisted of cabbage and potatoes, the pay was equivalent to slave wages and any perceived violations by inmates resulted in threats by the Swiss authorities that they would be sent back to Germany.

It is now known that a network of more than 100 work camps was established by an official decree on March 12, 1940.

Guido Koller, a historian at the Swiss Federal Archive in Zurich, has confirmed that "sanctions were applied" and that some Jews were indeed handed over to the Nazis for "misbehavior."

"The legal status of the refugees meant that the government could send them to places

where they didn't want to go," he said. "They had to do work that they didn't want to — it was compulsory."

Betty Bloom, who now lives in London, considers herself lucky.

She was 13 years old when she arrived in Switzerland, after narrowly escaping a 1943 deportation to Nazi death camps by the government of Vichy France.

"We were treated like criminals," said Bloom, recalling the six months she spent in Swiss camps without proper food or medical attention.

Even when she contracted tuberculosis, which left her unable to have children, the Swiss did not provide medical help.

"Yet, I think of myself as one of the luckier victims of the Swiss refugee policy," she said.

"Ten other children from my French children's home crossed the border but were sent back by the Swiss border guards,

straight into the arms of the Germans," she added. "They perished in Auschwitz. No apology from the Swiss will bring them back to life."

According to Jacques Picard, a Swiss historian who is research director for a Swiss commission of inquiry into the camps, conditions in the camps varied.

But Charlotte Weber, who now lives in Zurich, recalled being sacked as a young commandant of a camp called Bienenberg because she was considered too kind to the Jewish women under her control.

For the Swiss authorities "these Jewish refugees were just third-class citizens," said Weber, 85.

"I was astonished when I discovered the conditions in other camps — Jews were treated abominably. It made me ashamed to be Swiss."

# HAPPENINGS

## Temple Sinai Seniors Meeting

The next meeting of the Temple Sinai Seniors will be held on Jan. 30 at 12:30 p.m. Bring a brown bag lunch. Dessert and drinks will be served. Guest speaker is M. Charles Bask, political columnist for the *Providence Journal* and a regular on "Lively Experiment." Guests are welcome. Any questions, call Baila at 461-6124.

## Civil War Round Table

Paul Archetto, history teacher and former member of the Rhode Island General Assembly, will present a talk entitled "Lincoln's Boy General — George Armstrong Custer," at the Jan. 21 Rhode Island Civil War Round Table meeting at the William Hall Library, 1825 Broad St., at 7 p.m.

The program is free and open to the public. The library is accessible to people with physical handicaps. For further information, contact John Bucci, 781-2450.

## 2nd International Conference on Feminism and Orthodoxy

The 2nd International Conference on Feminism and Orthodoxy will focus on an expansion of roles and rights of women committed to an Orthodox Jewish life on Feb. 15 and 16 at Grand Hyatt Hotel, Park Avenue at 42nd Street, New York City. Sponsors of the conference include the Drisha Institute for Jewish Education; Edah, devoted to modern Orthodox leadership development; the Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance; Ohr Torah Institutions/Midreshet Lindenbaum, and the Women's Tefillah Network. Registration fees range from \$185 for the full conference, including meals, to a \$30 special rate for students. More than 30 sessions are scheduled. Speakers and discussants are from the U.S. and abroad.

The conference is open to women and men. For more information or reservations, call (800) 550-6614.

## Correction

The Joseph and Leba Zelniker Conference for Jewish Educators on Jan. 25 from 9 a.m. to noon will be held at Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston. The conference will not be held at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island as stated in last week's issue.

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## Calendar: January 15 thru January 24

- 15 "Voyage to Freedom," Amistad exhibit at Mystic Seaport, Conn., open through spring season. Exhibit examines conflict over Amistad case and issues of slavery that created a deep rift in American society. For information, call (860) 572-5315.
- 17 JFK Library Children's Hour presents "Daddy King," a moving tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Boston, 10:30 a.m. Free and open to public. Sumner McClain, storyteller, portrays "Daddy King," father of the civil rights leader. For more information, call (617) 929-1230.
- Sports Memorabilia "Appraisal Day," Providence Marriott. Experts from Leland's Auction House will be at hand to appraise or buy your sport treasures. For information, call (617) 227-2206 or (617) 742-2083.
- 18 Family Fireside Concert with Ocean State Chamber Orchestra and music by young composers, at St. Martin's Church, Providence, 2 p.m. Call 946-2565 for tickets.
- Judaism: Yours, Mine or Ours? with Avraham Infeld. The Jewish Federation of Rhode Island invites you to this fascinating and inspiring presentation by Avraham Infeld, founder and chairman of the Melitz Center for Jewish-Zionist Education in Jerusalem. Melitz is a non-profit educational institute in Israel dedicated to Jewish education, respecting religious diversity and devoted to mutual respect. 7:30 to 9 a.m. Jewish Federation Board Room, 130 Sessions St., Providence. Space is limited. Call 421-4111.
- Fitness and Healthy Lifestyles Day at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island. The day's events include a variety of free sample classes, health screenings and information. For more information, call Bill Fagen at 861-8800.
- Morning Bird Walks, every Sunday in January at Norman Bird Sanctuary, Middletown, 8 a.m. Call 846-2577 for more information.
- Jewish Genealogical Society of Boston hosts "Maps for Genealogy," 1 to 4:30 p.m. at Temple Reyim, Newton, Mass. To register or for information, call (617) 283-8003.
- 19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day, A Program of Music An inter-denominational, inter-ethnic program of music will commemorate the late Dr. Martin Luther King and the civil rights movement. Song leaders will include Bill Harley, producer of "I'm Gonna Let it Shine: A Gathering of Voices for Freedom," an album of freedom songs, the R.I. Feminist Chorus, and Conway Toliver, Sr., of Holy Cross Church in Christ. Participants in the Youth Leadership Academy of Nonviolence will speak. Co-sponsors include Bethel AME Church, Mount Hope Neighborhood Association and the R.I. Committee for Nonviolence Initiatives. 7 to 9 p.m. Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence.
- Pawtucket Family YMCA offers new class, "Abs & More Abs," on Monday through Thursday, total abdominal workout geared to all levels. To register or for more information call 727-7900.
- 20 "Let's Get Fit," Memorial Hospital conducts 3-week program for overweight adolescents (9 to 15). Program teaches parents and children about nutrition and physical activity. Class size is limited. Call 729-2574 to register.
- Messianic Hopes, Rabbi Lawrence, Ph.D., will speak on this topic as part of the lecture series of Temple Emanu-El's Adult Institute commemorating the 50th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel. The series is funded by a 50th anniversary grant from the Endowment Fund of the JFRI. Call 331-1616.
- Midrash Montage, "Expression," Jewish women's spirituality and creativity conference, early registration due. The conference will be held Feb. 1 at the Leventhal-Sidman Jewish Community Center, Newton, Mass. Lunch will be included. Call for information or regular registration, (617) 558-6442.
- 21 "Keeping Kosher in an Unkosher World," Aish Hatorah Couple Class Series, Boston, 8 p.m. Call (617) 731-1324 for more information.
- Queen Elizabeth comes to life at East Providence Public Library; features actress Marilyn M. Meardon, 7:30 p.m. Meardon will personify Elizabeth I at mid-reign, reflecting on her years as head of state through her writings. Sponsored by Brown University's Women Writers Project and funded by R.I. Committee for the Humanities.
- Wednesday Birding, sponsored by R.I. Ornithological Society. Call David Emerson for time and location, (508) 822-7430.
- "2.5 Minute Ride" by Lisa Kron will be performed at Perishable Theatre, Providence, Jan. 21 to 25. Proceeds will assist the R.I. Holocaust Memorial Museum. Call 351-4242 for tickets.
- 22 Creating Memories: The Wendy Adler Memorial Teacher's Workshop. Methods of using the BJE Resource Center Die-Cut Machine and other interesting materials to create scrap books, journals, and bulletin boards. 7 to 9 p.m., BJE, 130 Sessions St., Providence.
- Lunch & Learn with Jenny Klein reservations due. Pawtucket Hadassah presents enriching meeting Feb. 1, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at JCCRI, Providence. For information, contact Jan Ziegler.
- 24 "Farewell Cracow & Voices From Theresienstadt," by Dybbuk Theatre Oslo, Jan. 24 and 25, Boston. For tickets or information, call (617) 965-5226.
- Nature Drawing Workshop, Providence, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Artist Gretchen Halpert leads sketching workshop in a greenhouse. Call Environmental Connections for more information at 783-5895.

If you have an event you would like featured on our Happenings Page, please send it to the Rhode Island Jewish Herald, P.O. Box 6063, Providence, R.I. 02940 or fax to 726-5820.

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# JEWISH COMMUNITY

## RI Rabbi Teaches Old Testament In One Week

by Emily Torgan-Shalansky  
Jewish Community Reporter

No one really asked Rabbi Benjamin Lefkowitz to teach him the Torah while he stood on one foot.

However, Professor Michael Coogan, chairman of the religious studies department at Stonehill College in Easton, Mass. did ask him to teach a course on the entire Old Testament to 28 students in one week.

And between Jan. 5, and Jan. 9, Lefkowitz did it.

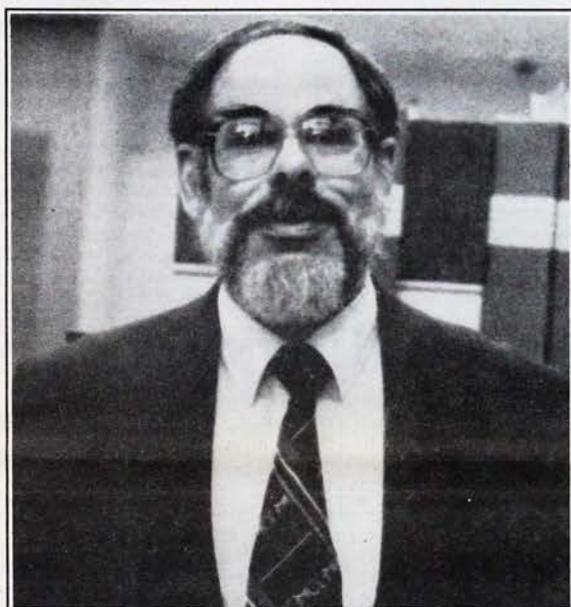
"The running joke in class was that if it took G-d six days to create the world, how could we hope to do this in five?" laughed

Lefkowitz, a Rhode Islander who holds the pulpit at the Conservative Temple Beth Shalom in Hull, Mass.

It took the rabbi, who also serves as chaplain at the Star of David Nursing Center in West Roxbury, Mass., and who is an adjunct instructor in Stonehill's religious studies department, a while to figure out how to put the course materials together.

"This would be the second time I had taught the course at Stonehill, but the first time I had an entire semester," said Rabbi Lefkowitz.

(Continued on Page 15)



Rabbi Benjamin Lefkowitz

Herald photo by Emily Torgan-Shalansky

## RI Holocaust Museum and Perishable Theater Present Lisa Kron's "2.5 Minute Ride" at Trinity

by Emily Torgan-Shalansky  
Jewish Community Reporter

They both want to educate the public, they both favor artistic expression, and they both need funding and public support.

For these and some less obvious reasons, the Rhode Island Holocaust Memorial Museum and Perishable Theater will jointly present a Jan. 21 benefit performance of writer Lisa Kron's "2.5 Minute Ride" at the Trinity Repertory Company.

"This is the first time the museum has collaborated on an event with an organization that is not defined as Jewish," said Liz Prager, director of development at the Holocaust Memorial Museum. "It's a special marriage of needs."

Incorporating Holocaust memorial issues and contemporary theater, Kron's darkly comic play switches between her alternating memories of clutching at her father. Some of the father-daughter contact takes place on a roller coaster in a midwestern amusement park, and some occurs on a visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau, where Kron's father was once incarcerated and where his parents died.

Perishable Theater artistic director Mark Lerman explained how his desire to present Kron and her "2.5 Minute Ride" led him to approach the museum about the mutual benefit.

Lerman's interest in Kron began four years ago when she

was on the Perishable stage for an evening of performance art.

"Lisa spent 20 minutes reading the rough draft of '2.5 Minute Ride,' and it stole the show," Lerman said. "It was fantastic. I knew I wanted her to come back

the time her "2.5 Minute Ride" was ready.

Kron's "101 Humiliating Stories" had been nominated for a 1994-1995 Drama Desk Award, and she had become a charter member of the Obie and Bessie



PERISHABLE THEATRE Artistic Director Mark Lerman.

Herald photo by Emily Torgan-Shalansky

when it was finished."

Although Kron returned to Providence in 1996 to do her "101 Humiliating Stories" as part of Perishable Theatre's 1996 Multimedia Art and Performance Art Series, she had received considerable acclaim by

Award-winning theater company entitled The Five Lesbian Brothers. In 1994, she had received the Robert Chesley Foundation Gay and Lesbian Playwriting Award, and she was at work on both a book of les-

(Continued on Page 15)

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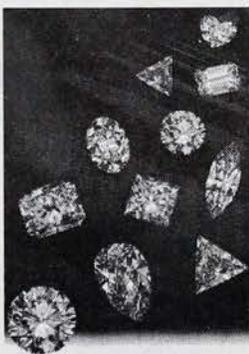
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# OPINION

## Message From The Rabbi

by Rabbi Maurice Weisenberg

I have been reading some good news regarding religion. A most welcome development was the Vatican's decision to conduct a Chanukah ceremony, for the first time lighting a candle in a sheltered garden where popes have strolled for centuries. Before lighting the candle, Cardinal Edward I. Cassidy of Australia said, "There is much darkness in the world around us. There is much need of light. It is our hope that these celebrations will bring much joy to the people of Israel, light to those who govern the state and peace to all who live within its borders."

The Italian government, in an act of atonement, held its Chanukah ceremony under Rome's Arch of Titus, built to celebrate the Roman Empire's destruction of the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem in A.D. 70. Pope John Paul II has done much to rid the church of anti-Semitism, denouncing it as a sin and establishing formal diplomatic relations with Israel in a historic process of reconciliation.

Recent polls indicate that 71 percent of those asked say that they never doubt the existence of G-d. In 1987 the figure was 50 percent. The poll also found that 61 percent of Americans believe in miracles, and 53 percent said prayer is important in daily life. In 1987, it was 41 percent. There

appears to be a greater interest in religious phenomena. "Touched by an Angel" ranks among TV's highest-rated shows. Books on angels, miracles, and spirituality, in general, line bookstore shelves. Newspapers and magazines feature important articles on religious issues.

In the Jewish community there are also signs of new vitality. Some synagogues and temples are reporting a larger number of people involved in their programs including religious services. All of this is welcome, despite the fact that the percentage of Jews attending religious services is still smaller than that of any other religious group in America.

The downside of the renewed interest in religion in America is that it is often a search for personal fulfillment with a narrow focus on those aspects of religion which make a person feel good, while disregarding the larger message and wider principles of faith. While more people are ready to volunteer at soup kitchens, people are less willing to have a significant amount of their money go to help the needy, either through private charities or government taxes.

The *Globe* reported on remarks by Laura Schlessinger on "Meet the Press" that the clergy are reluctant to make demands on worshippers. "I think the clergy have become more like

camp counselors than leaders. What they are doing is saying, 'I want the people to come back next week. You can't challenge them too much, can't ask too much, can't tell them that religion demands something of you. G-d demands something of you.'"

More disturbing to me are the reports of the brutality of religious zealots such as the wholesale killing of innocent villagers by Islamic militants in Algeria, and the cruel treatment of non-conformists in other countries governed by Muslim fundamentalists who believe they have a G-d-given right to persecute those who violate the true faith.

Whatever a person believes deeply and acts on is that person's religion. The big difference is not between the religious and the non-religious, but between those who adhere to good religion and those who hold on to bad religion. "Happy is the person who obeys Your commands and takes Your Torah and Your word to heart."

Rabbi Weisenberg is from Congregation Agudath Achim, Taunton, Mass.

## Love Means Having to Say You're Sorry

Too many couples in troubled relationships wait too long before seeking help, said the head of the counseling staff at Jewish Family Service. Julie Gutterman, the agency's director of Professional Services, explains: "They wait until their problems seem insurmountable, or until one partner has found someone else before pushing the panic button."

Couples could deal better with their problems if they got help sooner, said Gutterman. The counseling staff at Jewish Family Service suggests that couples explore potential problem areas before they reach crisis proportions. These areas include: parenting, household responsibility, sex, in-laws, substance abuse, communication, money, physical disability, leisure time, personal habits, time priorities, affection and violence/abuse.

With counseling there are many ways to help people get through the "normal" stages of relationships. The agency's counselors work with couples about to marry, problem-solving such issues as handling

money, relationships with parents and in-laws and increasing intimacy while leaving some personal space. They also work with couples on the issues of communicating, negotiating and compromising regularly and effectively. Solid relationships, they note, can survive difficult issues if both partners are willing and able to figure out how they feel, to communicate openly (which involves listening as well as speaking), to problem solve, to negotiate and to compromise.

"Love," said the counselors, "does not conquer all nor does it mean 'never having to say you're sorry.' Quite the opposite: love means often saying you're sorry; love means listening sensitively to your partner, even when you do not like what you are hearing; love means making a commitment to the work of therapy, not giving up when troubles mount."

Jewish Family Service offers counseling for couples who are married or not, re-married or separated or in interfaith relationships. For information, call (401) 331-1244.

## Is Seeing Believing?

by Carole B. Balin

Smack in the middle of this week's Torah portion, we find one of the most dramatic images contained in the Bible: the burning bush that was not consumed. Moses, the protagonist of our story, is ordained from birth to be the savior of the Jewish people, who are enslaved in Egypt. But this revelation remains unknown to Moses until he encounters a bizarre, indeed miraculous, phenomenon in the wilderness. G-d, it would seem, has planted this thorn bush in Moses' path as he wanders through the desert herding his sheep. The text describes the incident in this way: "[Moses] gazed, and there was a bush all aflame, yet the bush was not consumed. Moses said, 'I must turn aside to look at this marvelous sight; why doesn't the bush burn up?' (Exod. 3:2-3) Startling Moses in this way, G-d succeeds in stopping him dead in his tracks in order to then engage him in a

dialogue about the future role he will play as the leader of the Jews.

While Moses readily takes note of the wondrous sight before him, a Reform Jew of the 19th century in that same situation may have missed the marvelous bush altogether. Our Reform ancestors tended to eschew the supernatural, the implausible, the incredible. It is

narratives." (Pittsburgh Platform, 1885) Wonders and miracles that contradicted reality knowable only through the five senses were not for them.

How then are we contemporary Reform Jews to interpret the dramatic image of the bush that burns but is not consumed? On the one hand, we might dismiss it as an unrealistic and thus

unreasonable element that functions merely as a literary device in this story. On the other hand, it might serve as a reminder to us that miracles can and do, in fact, occur in our daily lives if we, like Moses, "turn aside to look" at these marvelous sights. Seeing is believing if we choose to notice and acknowledge what we see.

For further study: *Sacred Fragments: Recovering Theology for the Modern Jew*, Neil Gillman (Philadelphia: JPS, 1990).

Rabbi Carole B. Balin is assistant professor of history at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, New York.

## Living Torah

well known that the rationalist roots of Reform Judaism led to the removal of miraculous elements from the prayer book, such as the resurrection of the dead. At the same time, as children of the Age of Reason, the earliest Reformers regarded the Bible as "reflecting the primitive ideas of its own age, and at times clothing its conception of Divine Providence and justice dealing with man in miraculous

## What's In A Name?

by Ruben Arquilevich

*Shemot*, the first portion in the book of Exodus, contains Moses' quest for and discovery of G-d's name — *Ehyeh-Asher-Ehyeh*. The name connotes great mystery and ambiguity and creates infinite space for interpretation.

The portion contains the story of Moses and his tumultuous beginnings. As a newborn, he is retrieved from the Nile. As a young man, he slays an Egyptian and has to flee into the wilderness. He arrives in Midian, marries, has a son, and is a shepherd. A significant amount of time passes until one day, while tending his flock, Moses encoun-

ters G-d in a burning bush. G-d presents Moses with his mission: to set Israel free from Egyptian rule. Although reluctant, a humble Moses eventually returns to Egypt to confront Pharaoh.

Moses is reluctant to accept his task to free Israel. He wonders, "Why me?" He expresses concern that the people will not listen to him. He contends that he is inadequate because he is "slow of speech and slow of tongue." (Exod. 4:10) G-d has responses to all these concerns, informing Moses that He will be with him and that several signs will be displayed to illustrate G-d's mightiness. In addi-

tion, Aaron, Moses' brother and a strong speaker, will join him at G-d's bequest.

But G-d does not address all of Moses' concerns. When Moses asks G-d, "When I come to the Israelites and say to them 'The G-d of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is His Name?' what shall I say to them?" (Exod. 3:13) G-d answers Moses: *Ehyeh-Asher-Ehyeh* ("I will be what I will be"). This name, used to define the Divine Presence, is a new term to Moses. Moses' inquiry about G-d's name is an attempt to better understand G-d's essence. While *Ehyeh-*

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### HAVE AN OPINION?

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

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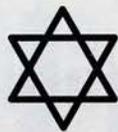
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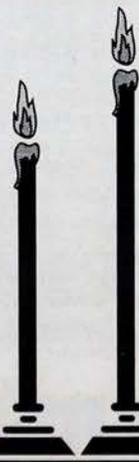
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### Candlelighting

January 16, 1998

4:23 p.m.



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

# FEATURE

## Harry and Will

by Mike Fink  
Herald Contributing Reporter

You meet your haut monde, your great world, in the gaudy corridors of the vast new cinema complexes out of town. First I had to check out Gus Van Sant's "Good Will Hunting"—partly from loyalty to a former R.I.S.D. student. This storyline makes use of a fairytale plot, like Allerleirauh, the royal runaway hiding below stairs. This time it's a juvenile janitor—a boy genius who cleans up after the Harvard undergrads, leaving brilliant solutions to math problems scrawled in chalk on the blackboards.

He had been an abused orphan, but the professors, social workers and psychiatrists who come to his help are also in their way using and abusing him. He sees through them at once. Does the yarn seem familiar? Did you see "Powder?" It's something of a genre film, but with some twists and turns of style and content.

Of course, the script holds the usual crude words, the expected bloody roughhousing. But it stirs in some sugar as well. Gus has kept a trademark from his undergrad days. He shows both the good and the bad in teachers and elders. There's always a passage or two from Shakespeare and a painting or two to be thoroughly discussed and intimately revealed. Gus has even dedicated the movie to the memory of Ginsberg and Burroughs, two inspiring figures from his past. Culture and tradition have meaning for Gus. He gives a role to Robin Williams that frees the actor from his usual wild frenzy and lets him speak coherently. "Hunting" rings true.

On the other hand, Woody Allen in his latest memoir, "Deconstructing Harry," takes a few self-serving broad swipes at all history and custom. The marquee leaves off the name "Harry," and prints the title "Deconstructing," and your ticket shortens it even more to "Deconstruct." Read it as you will: The tag comes from a literary theory that rejected the authority of the artist and gave the consumer the right to craft his or her own meaning from the text.

So, Harry's life is offered up in a fragmented series of bits and pieces of autobiography, mixed in with the roles of the fake characters dreamed up and written/typed about by Harry/Woody. Of course, his odyssey and quest focus entirely on his sex life, his Picasso-like urge to take control of every young girl he lays his eyes upon.

As usual, you get some great cinematic visual gags. You'll

meet Death, a Yiddish image knocking, and calling, at the door of a young scamp hiding out with a hard-faced Asian lady of the night. When a person loses charisma and confidence, he goes literally out of focus, blurred, causing nausea wherever he goes, rather like Al Capp's Joe Btsfplk.

And then, Hell is shown as a theme department store exhibit: Harry goes down an elevator from Dantesian infernal level to level. Deep below escaped war criminals he finds a poor soul stabbed at by devils. "What was your sin?" "I invented aluminum siding," moans the damned. That won a laugh from me, although I resist one-liners. Then, Woody finds his own papa, cursed forever by the son's blame.

But it's time at 60 to forgive your forebear, and Woody wants to buy him a ticket to heaven. "Please, just send me to a Chinese restaurant," says the father figure matter-of-factly. Hell for Milton and for Allen, like Dante, is simply a poetic place where in dim light our false pathways are revealed to us.

There's always good stuff, fine music, plays of wit, in a Woody Allen vehicle. One of my favorite moments simply shows the star, small, balding, a little shabby, standing on a street corner with a taller female person, looking both elfin and pathetic. The chase scene, in which the author, his kidnapped son, his dying friend, and a black hooker in pink hot pants make their way to a school from which Woody was once expelled, to which he is now invited, holds the picaresque picture together more or less.

Nevertheless, there among

the counters and ticketlines of the theatre world, I found folks who objected to "Deconstruct." Woody makes some strongly anti-Jewish statements. He hates ritual the way he despises nature, trusting only the things you say to your own shrink. True, he lets the women in his life, his wives, girl friends, and sister, have a few angry words to counter his opinions, to deconstruct his justifications. But not really. In their anger they look out of control, dull. It's hard to mount an honest autobiography. Maybe Jack Benny did it, by giving the good lines to others, not grabbing them all for himself. I can't go along with the crowd and expect a humorist to say a straight thing. The job of a jokester is to destroy, not to build. To subvert, not to defend.

I do miss the subtle story-telling and filmmaking of the past—Thurber and Benchley, and Roland Young, who never had to resort to four-letter words and who let the ladies dress in high style. But this is now, and it is Woody's work.

Perhaps in his Manhattan the Jewish world is strong enough to take his assaults in stride. But here in Little Rhody, site of the Touro, the Jews who light the candles, the bar/bat mitzvah young people who learn Hebrew blessings and passages of Torah, and the Survivors who keep Yiddishkeit alive are forming a resistance group against the trivializing tyranny of cynicism, are keeping a lighthouse against spiritual shipwreck. When you deconstruct "Deconstruct," there isn't a lot left to treasure. Hunt for Hunting first.



### Take A Walk on South Park

by Mike Fink  
Herald Contributing Reporter

You can count me in as a groupie of the hit show "South Park." My son Reuben calls his pal Ben from up the hillside to dash down and watch with him. They yell at the stairwell for me to drop in and huddle in.

I couldn't believe the language! I summoned up some energy to cluck in disapproval. But we all gave in and caved in to roars and yelps of shock and glee. Each of us at different words, as there is blessedly no laughtrack to guide you.

You must have seen or read something of the "South Park" plots. A wrinkled elder sternly demands that his grandson kill him, a twist on the topic of euthanasia. Some tots cross an elephant with a flirty pig for a science fair project. The school chef, of color and off color, wisely and foolishly eggs them on. The big pachyderm requires booze and jazz to get in the mood. But it doesn't quite work: the baby looks more like the science teacher!

Say it's silly, but admit that there's more bite, invention, and goodnatured fun than you get on mainline television fare.

The Holiday episode first got bruited, touted, bandied about among the cafes frequent. The guys at their sidewalk tables on Hope Street, a gathering of artists and hippies, told me Jesus flings his halo at a monstrous Santa, and that Mr. Hanky comes up from the toilet to teach a messy lesson and wrap up the drama, smearing his ho ho ho on mirrors and walls. Well!

We set up a "South Park" party of small fry chez nous. Reuben invited his entire crew and their cousins. The cartoon skit took our breath away, and we bonded in boyish giggling.

Throw away your 1950 rules and your canned knee-jerk reflexes. I suppose I could tsk tsk about the loss of high ideals in mass culture, bogged down in muck. But it's only envy at the earned success of youthful geniuses!

## Making the Most of Light

Gallery 729 on Hope Street brings in some wonderful local work. Currently, Deborah Forman is showing a collection of recent paintings, in conjunction with her colleague and companion, Matt Finger. Each artist takes one side of the long, deep space. At the first January Sunday opening of the year, a table of treats set up by the cafe stood in the center, with the crowd circulating around its display.

Forman teaches art in nearby

use the energy you felt. My own energy goes into my art."

Forman's wall socks out messages of beauty and intelligence. They also transmit tranquillity and silent thoughtfulness. Dressed in a dark long skirt, Forman does her hostess role also with dignity and a demeanor of gentle kindness. "I'm pushing 30," she says, "and I have to go on studying and teaching and find my way in the world."

Her friend Matthew Finger was also once my student at R.I.S.D. and even introduced me to his visiting identical twin from Chicago a season ago, at this very Hope Street coffeehouse. But his paintings are unique. "A teacher, not from R.I.S.D., told me to explore my feelings and go with my own moods and responses, and it clicked for me," he confided. The small illustrations of scenes in northern New England are very deep and lovely. "I use underpainting techniques, letting colors seep through from behind the image. It adds luster and inwardness." They introduce me as their former professor, and I have to come up with something to say.

All I could summon in response was, "We get so many canned messages from tube and screen, it's a joy to stand in front of your pictures and enjoy their sheer poetry and freedom of feeling." Or something like that. I didn't use a tape or even a pad, so I'm just getting the jist of what we said to each other.

But you must go and see for yourself. They are gorgeous things at 729. They merit an audience and a public. You won't find a finer, more astute and hardworking couple of artists in our midst. On an unusually sunny and mild winter's day, their current canvasses took the light and made the very most of it.



Westport. A group of her former students, now attending area colleges, showed up for support. So did her nonagenarian grandmother, offering hugs and kisses. Her work consists of a series of small white studies of ordinary household objects, placed beside large canvasses in glowing, rich colors, using some of the same motifs. "I have been studying the process of saturation of tones," said the painter, as eloquent in words as in oils. "The bowls my mother and grandmother used figure in my pictures as symbols with emotion and power. My father's family came from New York. My grandpa went to school with Eddie Cantor. In that time and place, you either rose in the world or sunk into crime. You had to

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# THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

## JOLT Announces 1998 Future Faces

The Jewish Outreach Leadership Training committee recently announced this year's winners of the Future Faces awards. Future Faces is a teen-recognition ceremony designed to honor teens in grades 11 and 12 who show outstanding commitment in the areas of leadership or community service or who exhibit excellence in the arts and sciences. This year's Future Faces awards ceremony took place on Jan. 13 at the Brown/RISD Hillel. The six awardees were chosen out of 28 applicants.

The Future Faces for the year 5758 are:

### Celine Arsac

Arsac is a senior at Cranston High School East where she is president of the Environmental Community Action Club and on the Cranston East swim and track and field teams. Arsac has also participated in Volunteers for Israel where she volunteered in the Israeli Army. She regularly attends the Harry Elkin Midrasha Community High School and is co-president of USY at Temple Torat Yisrael. Her awards include: National Honor Society member, National Merit Scholarship Program Letter of Commendation and the Dartmouth Book Award.



Celine Arsac

### Touro Fraternal Association Meets

Touro Goes Back to the country! The Old Country Buffet in Seekonk, that is!

Come join Friendship Lodge members as they present their January feast and business meeting on Jan. 28 at 6:30 p.m. The Harmony Lodge is welcome. \$5 (or five Bagel Bucks) in advance, or \$10 (or 10 Bagel Bucks) at the door. R.S.V.P. by Jan. 21 to the Touro Fraternal Association in Cranston.

### Rabbi Marcus Speaks at Israel Aliyah Center

The Israel Aliyah Center presents psychological and practical preparation for aliyah on Jan. 21 at 6:30 p.m., at the offices of Hadassah/Young Judaea, 2001 Beacon St., Cleveland Circle, Brookline, Mass.

Rabbi David Marcus, national director, Tehilla, The Union for Religious Aliyah, and professor of psychology at Touro College, will be the guest speaker.

R.S.V.P. to the Israel Aliyah Center at (617) 457-8750.

### Jewish Chamber Orchestra Seeks Musicians

Auditions for the Jewish Chamber Orchestra of Boston are currently being made by appointment. The Jewish Chamber Orchestra is seeking violin, cello, bass, oboe, horn, trumpets and tuba musicians. Rehearsals begin Feb. 16 in Brookline, Mass., and the concert is scheduled for May 17.

The Jewish Chamber Orchestra of Boston, a professional and community organization, is New England's only orchestra researching and performing Jewish music. Their upcoming concert will feature Chasidic and Yiddish music.

For an appointment or information, contact the music director at (617) 232-5035.

### Andrew Eil

Eil is a senior at The Wheeler School, where his academic achievement is rarely surpassed. Eil is a National Merit Semifinalist, an AP scholar, a Gold Medalist in the national Latin Exam, and in the Cum Laude Society. He is also on the Wheeler School varsity baseball team and math team, in the Performance Handballs Ensemble, and a Peer Tutor. He regularly attends the Harry Elkin Midrasha Community High School and Temple Emanu-El and has done volunteer work at the Smith Hill Community Center.



Andrew Eil

### Amy Krasner

A senior at East Greenwich High School, Krasner is a member of the National Honor Society, East Greenwich High School Diversity Club and a co-initiator of the MADD RI Youth in Action program. She has received the National Youth Caring for Others Award. She is an active contributor to Temple Sinai, where she is a Hebrew tutor and a student teacher. She is also a Girl Scouts group leader and a concert pianist.

### Stacey Lehrer

Lehrer is a junior at Cranston High School East where she is involved in the Peer Education Program, teaching fourth- and sixth-graders about drugs and violence. Lehrer is president of her Girl Scout troop and has received the Gold Award in Girl Scouting. Her other awards include the Feinstein Enriching America Award and the Betty Hellman Award for Outstanding Confirmand. She is an Certified Lifeguard and a counselor at the Juliette Low Camp for physically and/or mentally disabled girls. She attends Temple Sinai.



Stacey Lehrer

### Amy Krasner



### NEAT Hosts Fund-raiser

by Camille Chorney  
NEAT Foundation

Standing before an enthusiastic group at the Jewish Community Center in Providence on Dec. 28, the Boston Rebbe, grand Rabbi Levi I. Horowitz strongly urged the Providence community to reopen the Boys' High School so that Jewish students would no longer have to go out of state to continue Jewish high school education.

The chairmen of the NEAT Foundation Committee and Dr. Richard Neil Diamond, presented a plaque to Israel and Solomon Kofman for their donation of a 35.7-acre parcel of land in Exeter, to the committee in order to "spark off" its fund-raising drive.

Rabbi Shlomo Reskin, who urged a Boys' High school on his visit to a Providence synagogue in 1996, also spoke.

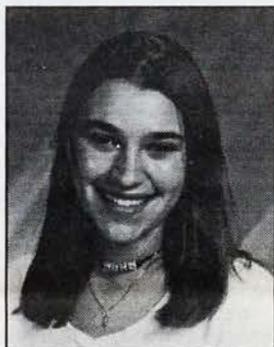
Also in support of a separate Boys' High School is the National is the National Association of Hebrew Day Schools, "Torah Umesorah" and Rabbi Ari Solomont, head of NCSY, New England Region. Rabbi Solomont was also present.

For information, contact Camille Chorney at 726-7193.

### Rebecca Zisseron

Zisseron is a junior at Cranston High School West, where she is involved in Peer Helpers and in Amnesty International. She also volunteers at South Providence Neighborhood Ministries. Her honors include the Cranston High School West Department Awards for Achievement in English, Chemistry, Spanish II, and Algebra II, and second place for the Jack Reed Congressional Art Contest. She is a member of the National Honor Society. She regularly attends the Harry Elkin Midrasha Community High School, leads Junior Congregation at Temple Am David and is their USY co-president.

JOLT is an initiative of the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island Department of Secondary Education to enhance informal Jewish education for Jewish teens. It is funded by a Continuity Grant from the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.



Rebecca Zisseron

### Winter Semester Begins at Temple Shalom

The winter semester of the Adult Learning Program of Temple Shalom will commence on Jan. 21 and continue through Feb. 11. The programs will be offered the following evenings (Wednesdays): Jan. 21, 28, and Feb. 4, 11.

#### First session: 7:15 to 8 p.m.

- Beginner's Hebrew II, Barbara N. Jagolinzer, instructor. Now that you have learned the basics, begin to fine tune what you have learned by reading Hebrew stories. Build upon your vocabulary and speak Hebrew with others.

- Recharging Your Jewish Batteries, Rabbi Marc S. Jagolinzer, instructor. Come discuss the "why" of being Jewish as we enter the 21st century. Is the old Yiddish expression, "It's hard to be a Jew," truer today than ever before? A wide variety of topics will be explored and discussed. For those who want to study and learn.

#### Second session: 8 to 9 p.m.

- Adult bar/bat mitzvah group, Rabbi Marc S. Jagolinzer, instructor.

Tuition is \$15 for temple members and \$20 for non-temple members. For further information, contact Rabbi Marc S. Jagolinzer at 846-9002.

### Craig Zettel

Zettel is a senior at Cranston High School East, where he is involved in the Can-Do Program, which recycles cans to buy food for the Rhode Island Food Bank. He is also a volunteer at the Cranston Senior Center where he prepares and serves lunch. He is a Hospitality Representative at the VA Medical Center. Zettel is a Special Olympic World Athlete, where he has won the Silver and Bronze Medals in the 800 and 4,000 meter races, respectively. He attends Temple Torat Yisrael in Cranston.



Craig Zettel

### Newport Havurah Hosts Winter Events

The Newport Havurah will present the following events in January and February:

**Adult Education** Jan. 18 at 10:30 a.m. at the home of Aaron and Bernice Jasper, 2 Martin St., Newport, 849-4177. Richard Tyre, will lead the discussion on Body Language — The Differences Between Eastern European/Mediterranean and Western European Jews. When people learn to really understand each other, 86 percent of the communication is nonverbal. A potluck brunch will follow the talk.

**Business Meeting**, Jan. 26 at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Howard and Mary Newman, 55 Farewell St., Newport, 846-4784. The meeting will focus on financial goals and program planning.

**Shabbat Services**, Jan. 30 at 7 p.m. at the home of Donna Benisch, 11 1/2 Tilley Ave., Newport, 846-9219. Services at 7:30 p.m. A potluck supper will follow services.

**Adult Education**, Feb. 8 at 10 a.m. at Salve Regina University, Newport. Havurah will view Louis Malle's "Au Revoir les Enfants" and then host a discussion led by Lisa Tyre. The story is Louis Malle's own experience growing up in wartime France. Call Lisa Tyre, 423-2561, or Lynne Glickman, 849-9197, for details. A potluck lunch will follow at the home of Judith Sobol, 10 Leroy Ave., Newport, 849-1131.

**Havdalah Service**, Feb. 28 at 5 p.m. at the home of Jodi Redlich and Len Katzman, 162 Spring Hill Rd., Portsmouth, 683-5000. A potluck supper will follow services.

R.S.V.P. to the hosts as soon as possible. They will need to know the number of guests at each event.

# THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

## BJE and JCCRI House Jewish Heritage Video Collection

The Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island Library and the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island recently announced the arrival of the Jewish Heritage Video Collection, a video lending library of over 200 films and television programs. An exciting new approach to Jewish education through media, this collection opens up a multitude of exciting possibilities to bring people together within a Jewish setting to discover — and rediscover — their history, culture, and identity. Through the collection, the community can offer compelling Jewish educational courses and a lending library of Jewish interest videos for members to watch at home. Many of these films are not available for rental from any other source. The video display is housed in the lobby of the JCCRI. The collection circulates from the Bureau of Jewish Education. To check out a video, go to the JCC lobby, select a film from the Heritage display, take the box to the Bureau of Jewish Education. The entrance to the BJE is at 130 Sessions St. After filling out a membership card, the staff of the BJE will locate the

video for you; you can keep it for one week. Up to two videos may be borrowed at a time. There is no rental fee; however, there will be a fine of \$1 per day for late returns.

In addition to the video collection itself, the bureau library has nine course notebooks designed around the films. These curricula can be borrowed for school courses, adult education courses, havurah groups, and other educational settings. The library and courses serve in partnership to enhance one another and extend the learning and enrichment experience of the program. Course topics are:

- More than chemistry: The Romantic Choices of American Jews
- Visions of Israel: Israeli Filmmakers and Images of the Jewish State
- American Jewish Comedy: An Introduction
- American Jewish Directors: Three Visions of the American Jewish Experience
- The Holocaust: A course for Adolescents
- The Jewish Image in American Film: A Century of Jewish Characters and Themes

- "Real Americans": The Evolving Identities of American Jews

- Yiddish Culture: Between the Old World and the New

- Growing-up Stories: Coming of Age in the Media and in Literature

The BJE and the JCCRI are grateful to the Righteous Persons Foundation and the Richard and Rhoda Goodman Fund, with additional support from the Jewish Media Fund and the Pritzker Cousins Foundation and the Dorot Foundation for making this outstanding collection of videos and curricula available to the entire Rhode Island community.

Call Toby Rossner, Director of Media Services of the Bureau of Jewish Education, at 331-0956 (x184) for further information.

## 'A Taste of Passover'

Hebrew College presents "A Taste of Passover." Join Hebrew College for a special live taping of an original musical variety show to be aired on public radio stations nationally. Passover 1998 is a co-production of WGBH Radio, 89.7 FM, Concert Productions, Inc., in association with New England Conservatory of Music for the benefit of Hebrew College. The performance will take place in NEC's Jordan Hall on Jan. 24 at 8 p.m. Featured guests are Theodore Bikel, New York's Cantor David Levine, Yiddish star Chasia Segal with The Klezmer Conservatory Band's Hankus Netzky, artistic director, and more than 200 musicians from NEC. For ticket information, call (617) 278-4949.

## Community Sing to be Held King Holiday Weekend

"Songs of Freedom, Words of Hope" is the theme of the third annual Community Sing to be held the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Weekend. The sing is scheduled for Jan. 19, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave. in Providence. The program is sponsored by Bethel AME Church, the Mount Hope Neighborhood Association, the R.I. Committee for Nonviolence Initiatives and the Social Action Committee of Temple Emanu-El. The sing is open to the public. A freewill donation of \$5 adults, \$3 students and senior citizens is suggested. Proceeds will benefit youth training in non-violence.

Song leaders will include Bill Harley, producer of an album of freedom songs called "I'm Gonna Let It Shine: A Gathering of Voices for Freedom"; Conway Toliver, Sr., of the Ebenezer Baptist Church; and members of the Rhode Island Feminist Chorus.

The Community Sing will combine songs of the civil rights movement with storytelling by Ramona Bass and testimonies from Providence high school youth enrolled in the Youth Leadership Academy in Non-violence.

The Community Sing, a family event, began in 1996 with the visit to Rhode Island of Dorothy Cotton, education director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference under Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. As Cotton has written, "Music — singing — carried the civil rights movement. Singing out of sorrow, with others of the same predica-

ment, caused a bonding that gave strength to the burgeoning resolve to do something about our plight. Not only did we sing out of our sorrow, but also out of hope and joy. We sang to reduce fear. We sang songs that motivated and challenged us. We sang songs that challenged those not yet committed to join the struggle. We sang because we were together — for the healing it brought, for the good feeling. Singing together reminds us of our common humanity, our common problems, hopes, and dreams for our lives."

The Community Sing this year coincides with the 25th anniversary of the death of Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, a close friend and marching companion of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Speaking at a rabbinical assembly 10 days prior to King's assassination, Heschel introduced his colleague by proclaiming: "Martin Luther King, Jr., is a voice, a vision, and a way. I call upon every Jew to harken to his voice, to share his vision, to follow in his way. The whole future of America will depend on the impact and influence of Dr. King."

Co-sponsors of the sing include the Black Jewish Alliance, City Year R.I., Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of R.I., Ministers Alliance of R.I., The National R.I. Board of Rabbis, R.I. State Council of Churches, Socio-Economic Development Center for Southeast Asians, United Synagogue Youth of Temple Emanu-El, and Urban League of R.I.

## Swiss Bank Claims Available in Braille

The Jewish Heritage for the Blind in cooperation with the State of New York Banking Department has made available, free of charge, to the visually impaired and all handicapped Swiss bank claim information and forms, in large print or braille to recover assets deposited in Swiss banks and unpaid monies of European insurance policies through the Holocaust claims Processing Office established by Gov. George E. Pataki.

All U.S.A. residents may utilize this service by mailing their name, address and type of form requested to: The Jewish Heritage for the Blind, 1655 East 24th St., Brooklyn, N.Y., 11229 or fax (718) 338-0653.

## Israel Trips Forum

The BJE/RI Israel Trips Forum will be held on Jan. 15 at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island, Providence, from 7 to 9 p.m.

- Discover the range of options for Israel Study/Travel programs from the students who experienced them.

- Learn about scholarships and grants available from the Leonard I. Salmanson Fund, the Graubart Irving Fund and Marochneck Fund of Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, and Lillian and Sidney Ross Fund of the Board of Jewish Education of Rhode Island.

- Hear about the Israel Test on March 3 and The Zaiman Award for the high scorer on the test.

- Mark your calendars for the Israel Orientations May 26 and June 3 and re-entry program (Fall 1998).

Call Ruth Page at the BJE, 331-0956, for more information.

## Dancing and Singing Our Jewish Lives

The Family Education Program of Congregation Agudas Achim in Attleboro will present "Dancing/Singing Our Jewish Lives" on Jan. 18 from 10 a.m. to noon. The program will be preceded by a breakfast from 9:30 to 10 a.m.

Participants in this program will explore their experience of Judaism through movement and music. Pamela Faith Lerman, a dance and movement therapist, will lead the program. Lerman has worked with Jewish groups around the country helping to put expression to Jewish experience and identity. This program will provide fun for people of all ages.

Members of the public are welcome to attend. Reservations for breakfast may be made by calling the synagogue at (508) 222-2243. Congregation Agudas Achim is located at 901 North Main St., Attleboro, just off Route 95.

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## FEATURE

### Women of Reform Judaism Publish 'Pilot Volume' of Torah Commentary

Much of the richness and subtlety of women's roles in the bible, including the complexity of family relationships underlying many of its most dramatic episodes, are often missed by male scholars, according to a new "pilot" volume for a women's commentary on the Torah published by Women of Reform Judaism, The Federation of Temple Sisterhoods.

The work was written and edited entirely by women, including clergy and academic experts on the Pentateuch—The Five Books of Moses. It sharply challenges the subordinate position assigned to women in traditional male-centered commentaries. Contributions to the volume came from writers from the United States, Canada, England, Australia and Israel.

Titled *Beginning the Journey: Toward a Woman's Commentary on Torah*, the book covers portions from Genesis, Exodus and Numbers. It is viewed as the forerunner of a comprehensive volume now being planned that will deal with selections from all the books of the Pentateuch. The project is expected to take several years to complete.

"This is an historic effort to redefine the role of women in the Bible and in Judaism," said Judith O. Rosenkranz of Tampa,

Fl., immediate past president of Women of Reform Judaism, which represents the sisterhoods of more than 600 Reform synagogues throughout North America.

The editor of the commentary is Rabbi Emily H. Feigenson, spiritual leader of Congregation Adat Chaverim of Los Alamitos, Calif., who noted that "what is revolutionary here is women's entrance into serious public discussion of text. This collection of commentaries provides the opportunity to view Torah through women's eyes."

Among the episodes covered in the pilot volume is the story of Jacob and his two wives, Leah and Rachel, who were sisters as well as rivals for their husband's attention and love. Dr. Judith R. Baskin, a biblical scholar, writes that co-wives in the Bible were in a constant struggle for power.

Rabbi Ruth Sohn, also writing about Leah and Rachel, said that on first reading, the sisters' relationship seems to parallel the rivalry between biblical brothers—Cain and Abel, Isaac and Ishmael, Jacob and Esau—where jealousy and conflict are dominant. But in the case of Jacob's wives, she observes, another perspective emerges—one in which Rachel has compassion for Leah. Rabbi Sohn

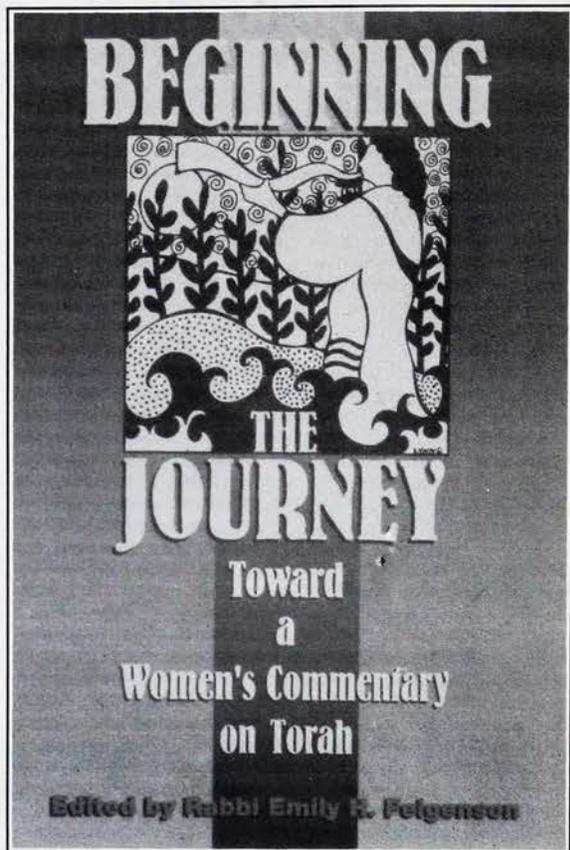
reviews previous generations of male rabbinic commentary in order to provide a new understanding of the women's rivalry and their love for one another.

Among the themes addressed in *Beginning the Journey* is the often unsung heroism of biblical women, such as the midwives in Exodus at the time of Moses who were commanded by Pharaoh to kill Israelite babies but instead attempted to save them. The volume also examines the key role of mothers and wives in imbuing biblical leaders with the moral stamina, zeal and courage to undertake heroic acts on behalf of the Jewish people.

Although written and edited entirely by women, the pilot volume is directed at a male audience as well as women. *Beginning the Journey* and the comprehensive commentary now planned are expected to have a transforming effect on how Jews—men and women—view women's role in Judaism, according to WRJ leaders.

Rabbi Feigenson, the editor, notes that while some women's commentaries on Judaism have been written in the past, the writings she believes have invariably been lost to general audiences and subsequent generations.

Copies of *Beginning the Journey* are \$10 each, plus \$2.25 for postage and handling. The publication may be ordered from Women of Reform Judaism, 838 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y. 10021. Telephone (212) 650-4052. Fax (212) 650-4059.



*Beginning the Journey Toward a Woman's Commentary on the Torah*, published by Women of Reform Judaism.

### Collection of Yiddish Songs Revived by Italian Publisher

by Ruth E. Gruber  
ROME (JTA) — A collection of songs by the Yiddish songwriter Mordechai Gebirtig has appeared for the first time in Italy.

The collection includes Italian translations of all previously published works by Gebirtig as well as a number of recently discovered poems and songs by the author, who was killed by the Nazis in Krakow, Poland, in 1942.

The release of the book by the Florence-based Jewish publish-

ing house Giuntina reflects the growing interest in Yiddish in Italy.

The book is sold with a cassette recording of performances of some of the songs.

"It is probably the most complete collection of Gebirtig's songs to appear in any language," said Rudi Assuntino, who edited the collection.

Gebirtig, born in Krakow in 1877, worked as a carpenter in his native city but also wrote some of the most famous Yiddish songs, including "Reyzele," "Kinder-yorn," and "Moyshele, Mayn Fraynd" as well as "Undzer Shtetl Brent."

Gebirtig's songs are about everyday life—love, politics, poverty, work, war and prayer. He continued to write even during the Holocaust, when he was confined to the Krakow Ghetto.

His last song, "S'tut Vey..." ("It Hurts..."), was written shortly before the Nazis shot him dead on the street. It deals with the indifference of Poles to the fate of the Jews.

Assuntino said he hopes the translation would help bring Gebirtig's songs into the mainstream.

"Why is Yiddish literature considered part of world literature and Yiddish songs not?" he asked.

"If history had been different, if several million Jews had not been exterminated and their culture canceled from the face of the earth, Gebirtig clearly today would be as important as the Gershwin brothers," he added.

Italy's Jewish community numbers about 30,000, but few of them are of Ashkenazi descent and know Yiddish.

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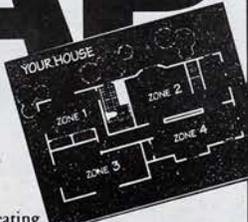
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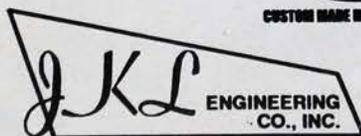
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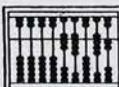
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# FEATURE

## Dancing Dolphins

by Tara V. Lisciandro  
Herald Editor

Ed Gershman created his first dolphin sculpture in 1976. There were 25 dolphins, a limited edition done in pewter. Today, he has recreated and redesigned the sculpture, in bronze. Three playful dolphins leap and dance one over the other in Gershman's newest sculpture. A new limited edition series (25 in all) of the dolphins in bronze will soon be completed and for sale. "I always went fishing and saw them off the RI coast," said Gershman who became fascinated with the gentle sea-creature many years ago. For more than 30 years, Gershman has worked as a metal sculptor and artist. Some of his creative designs include brass whales, a Judaic collage on velvet, menorahs, "A Pillar Of Strength," roses, wall hangings and countless other unique works of art. Today many of Gershman's sculptures decorate such places as the Hasbro Children's Hospital, the Providence Journal

Building, the Textron Offices and many other corporate offices in New England.

The Gershmans have been a creative family since the days when the family (then known as Gaychman) immigrated to the United States in the fall of 1923. Gershman's father opened a Russian-Turkish bath and kosher ritual milevah, a club with steam baths and exercise programs for community members, in the Greater Providence area. This bath was the forerunner of today's modern health clubs. Gershman's brothers were inventive in their own right, constantly creating new ideas and building on old ones. Today, for example, two of Gershman's brothers make natural home-grown honey and therapeutic health aides. Ed Gershman, one of the youngest siblings, took an artistic approach with his inventive creativity as a metal sculptor and he plans to continue creating and designing artistic sculptures in his Pawtucket home for years to come.

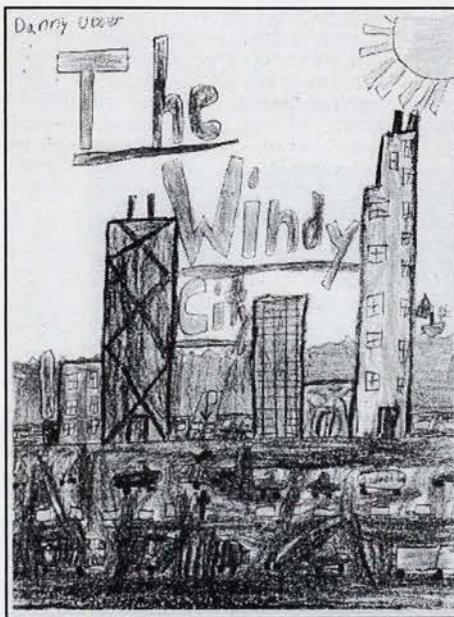
## Chicago Boy Donates \$5,000 Award to Holocaust Museum

A remarkable gesture of giving was made by a 9-year-old Chicago boy at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, this nation's official memorial to the Holocaust. Daniel Obeler, of Buffalo Grove, Ill., presented a \$5,000 award to the museum which he had received from Northwest Airlines for artwork he had entered in Northwest's international art contest for children.

Obeler visited the museum with his parents, Mark and Rita. They were given a special tour of "Remember The Children: Daniel's Story," an exhibition about one boy's experience during the Holocaust. Their private tour was led by Holocaust survivor Nesse Godin, who was only a few years older than Obeler when she was deported with her family to a concentration camp in 1944. After the tour, Obeler remarked, "I wanted to give my award to a good cause that dealt with humanitarian issues and the Jewish people. The Holocaust Museum does both. Walking through the exhibit with Nesse made me sure I had done the right thing."

Obeler's gift will be used in the 1998 Education and Remembrance Fund and will be used for education and outreach throughout the country. "While younger friends of the museum have made contributions in the past, Obeler is the youngest major donor to us with a gift of this size. With it, he is helping to touch young people throughout the United States, only some of whom share his intuitive understanding of the importance of our mission and message," noted the museum's director of development, Marc Breslaw.

In June, Obeler learned that he had won the Chicago-area category of Northwest Airlines WorldPlane Art Contest, which Northwest had launched in January of 1997 to commemorate its 50th year of service to Asia. The contest offered children ages 7 to 12, who live in cities serviced by



Drawing by Daniel Obeler

Northwest Airlines, the opportunity to draw a picture that represents their city or country. Don Foley, international communications director for Northwest Airlines was also on hand to present the check to Obeler who in turn presented it to the museum. "Northwest Airlines is pleased to donate \$5,000 in Danny Obeler's name to the Holocaust Memorial Museum. The contribution is part of almost \$100,000 that Northwest has contributed to non-profit organizations in 1997 associated with our WorldPlane project. WorldPlane has brought us in contact with great individuals such as Danny

and the people at the Holocaust Museum," said Foley.



Herald photo by Tara V. Lisciandro

## Israel Plans to Expand Efrat as U.S. Still Calls For 'Timeout'

by Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israeli approval of plans to expand the West Bank settlement of Efrat has roiled the U.S. administration just as it is striving to get Israel and the Palestinians back on a negotiating track.

Plans to construct several hundred more homes in the large settlement undermines confidence and does not "create the environment required for successful negotiations," James Rubin, State Department spokesman, said in Washington.

The news came as U.S. Middle East envoy Dennis Ross continued his bid to advance peacemaking efforts between Israel and the Palestinians in advance of meetings with President Clinton later this month.

Rubin, who did not distinguish between the expansion of existing settlements and new settlement development, said Ross is discussing the specifics of an Israeli "timeout" on settlement building his meetings with Netanyahu and Arafat.

Meanwhile, Netanyahu re-

cently said that the Cabinet would decide on the scope of a further redeployment from the West Bank before he leaves for Washington this month — but that a final decision on implementing it would be put off for several months.

Israel has been facing American and Palestinian demands to come up with a "credible" proposal for the second stage of a further troop redeployment.

Netanyahu, speaking to coalition leaders, said any decision (Continued on Page 15)

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# MILESTONES

## Ruth Wallach Goldberg Celebrates 90th Birthday

On Nov. 16, 1997, Ruth Wallach Goldberg celebrated her 90th birthday at a party given by her children Lotte and Ross Feinberg at the Spain Restaurant. Relatives and friends from Connecticut, Texas, Ohio, New York, Colorado, Massachusetts, England and Israel attended the birthday celebration.

Goldberg has two grandsons, Steven Feinberg of California and Robert Feinberg of North Kingstown, and three great-grandchildren, Kurt, Benjamin and Laura.



Ruth Wallach Goldberg

## Nicole Debra Chesman to Marry Dr. Gary Mitchell Katzman

Mrs. Janet Chesman of Chester, N.J., and Michael Chesman of New York City announce the engagement of their daughter, Nicole Debra Chesman, to Dr. Gary Mitchell Katzman, the son of Paula and Harry Katzman of Warwick, R.I., and the late Frances Katzman.

The bride-to-be is an accomplished artist. She earned a master of arts in teaching from Rhode Island School of Design in 1995, and a master of fine arts, also from RISD, in 1997. She is teaching at Gallagher Middle School in Smithfield, R.I.

Her fiancé graduated from Wayne State University School of Medicine in 1995 and currently is completing his residency in internal medicine at Brown University. He will be starting fellowship training in cardiology at Brown in July of this year.

A June 1998 wedding is planned.



Nicole Debra Chesman and Dr. Gary Mitchell Katzman

## Dr. Ann M. Frank Weds Gerald S. Goldstein

Dr. Ann M. Frank of Cranston became the bride of Gerald S. Goldstein of Peace Dale, on Oct. 18, 1997, in Temple Beth-El in Providence.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Frank of Cranston. The bridegroom is the son of Mrs. Ida Goldstein of Warwick and the late Joseph H. Goldstein.

The wedding ceremony was officiated by Rabbi Leslie Y. Gutterman and Rabbi Michael Cahana, and by Cantor Ida Rae Cahana.

Fay Rozovsky, sister of the bride, was the matron of honor. Bridesmaids were Jennifer G. Parson, daughter of the bridegroom, Lynda Steinberg, sister of the bridegroom, Judy A. Montgomery, and Dr. Roxanne Friend.

Rudi Hempe was the best man. Ushers were Lorne E. Rozovsky, Hy Steinberg, Dennis Goldstein, brother of the bridegroom, Jonathan Goldstein, son of the bridegroom, and Kyle Parson. Junior ushers were Joshua Rozovsky and Aaron Rozovsky.

The bride is a self-employed, licensed psychologist with a private practice in Lincoln. She earned her bachelor of arts degree from Providence College, a master of arts degree in journalism from the University of Missouri-Columbia, and a doctorate in psychology from Nova University, Florida.



Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Goldstein

The bridegroom earned his bachelor of science degree from the University of Rhode Island. He is the editor of the South County edition of the *Providence Journal-Bulletin*.

The couple spent their honeymoon touring northern New York State and the New England region.

They reside in Cranston.



**Brett Devin Amaral**

Rick and Meredith (Weisman) Amaral of Cranston, R.I., announce the birth of their first child, Brett Devin, on Nov. 15, 1997.

Maternal grandmother is Fran Weisman of Warwick, R.I. Paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Hanabel Amaral, Jr. of East Providence, R.I. Maternal great-grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Harry Feldman and paternal great-grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Hanabel Amaral.

Brett is named for his maternal great-great aunt, Barbara Goldstein.



**Hannah Rose Wolfe**

Jason and Debra Wolfe of Canton, Mass., announce the birth of their first child, a daughter, Hannah Rose, on Dec. 15, 1997.

The grandparents are Dr. Barry and Ann Briss of Chelmsford, Mass., and Alvin and Susan Wolfe of Lexington, Mass.

Great-grandparents are Philip and Bea Briss of Boynton Beach, Fla., and Charlie and Bee Miller of Warwick, R.I.



## Circle of Giving

Philanthropist Alan Shawn Feinstein of Cranston (seated) and University of Rhode Island College of Education Dean Walter Crocker (far left) congratulate URI/CCE recipients of the Feinstein Enriching America Award. Recipients (left to right) Waleed Muhammad of Cranston, Joe Gemma of Cranston, and Irene Bates of Providence were recognized for their many community service efforts.

The Feinstein Enriching America Award was established by the Feinstein Foundation to recognize individuals who best exemplify the values of caring, compassion, brotherhood and community spirit. Each recipient was awarded \$500.

Gemma, a senior janitor at URI/CCE, helps wherever he can. He drops off food, clothes, and toys to various organizations. Many times he does his good deeds anonymously, but sometimes he gets "caught" and thanked.

Muhammad, an applied communications major at URI/CCE, plays guitar, sings, and gives music workshops to young teen-agers attending the Met School which holds classes at the URI Providence Campus.

An Americorp volunteer, Muhammad, 51, and the father of five, also runs self-esteem and study skill workshops.

Muhammad is also active in the Islamic community. "I like being involved. You can make a difference. It's important to challenge yourself," he said.

Active alumna Bates '89 is the current president of the URI/CCE Alumna Association.

She serves on the board of the Barton Street Community Center in Pawtucket and Center City Artisans in Providence.

# SCHOOLBEAT

## Children Crusaders Create Life Blueprint at URI

While many people will have Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday off on Jan. 19, 300 community youth, University of Rhode Island students, staff and faculty will spend the holiday "on."

The URI Feinstein Center for Service Learning, in cooperation with URI Cooperative Education and the support of the Rhode Island Children's Crusade and their Americorp members, is celebrating the King holiday through service. The day is funded by grants from the National Corporation for Service and the Rhode Island Commission for National and Community Service.

Here's what will happen: About 150 middle school Crusade children from Providence and Pawtucket will take part in the day's event by answering "What is Your Life's Blueprint?"

The teaching/learning forum supports the mission of the Children's Crusade and focuses on the theme "everybody can be great because anybody can serve."

Crusaders will participate in workshops to encourage self-

esteem, team building and citizenship, and be paired with a URI student for lunch. The young crusaders will then create a "blueprint" for service with the assistance of their Americorp counselor. The blueprint will be implemented once the youngsters return to their community.

URI students representing LASA, URUSASA, SOAR, URI Talent Development and the College of Human Science and Services will serve as mentors and help coordinate the day's activities. Faculty, staff and students will be assisting as workshop facilitators.

The Rhode Island Commission for National and Community Service awards mini-grants to ensure that service, an important part of King's legacy, is an integral part of the holiday commemorating his life. The grassroots level events funded by the commission reflect King's conviction that bringing people together in service is a powerful tool in breaking down the social and economic barriers that divide us as a nation.

## RIFGC Offers Scholarships

The Life Member Group of the Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., is now accepting applications for scholarships. Deadline for return of completed forms is March 1.

Students residing in Rhode Island are eligible to apply and must be college juniors, seniors, or graduate students in 1997. Applicants sponsored by a member club of RIFGC are also eligible to apply. Scholarships based on need and academic standing will be given to outstanding students majoring in horticulture, floriculture, landscape design, conservation, botany, plant pathology, forestry, agronomy, environmental concerns, city planning, land management, and/or allied subjects.

The RIFGC will distribute \$2,600 from the Life Member Group for scholarships this year. A \$3,500 scholarship is offered from the National Council of State Garden Clubs. Both applications must be returned to the R.I. Life Member chairman by March 1.

Applications are available from financial aid offices in colleges within this state. Forms may also be obtained by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: R.I. Life Member Scholarship Chairman M. Patricia Boitano, 43 Maplecrest Ave., North Providence, RI 02911.

## A 'Taste of Schechter'

Taste of Schechter, Open School Day for parents at the Ruth and Max Alperin Schechter Day School, is an annual event, much appreciated by the students and their parents.

On Taste of Schechter Day parents are invited to see their children's class in action, observing lessons and specialty time, participating in activities and events.

This year, parents were given a taste of Torah study. Using a section of the portion of the week, Assistant Director Marcia

Lapidus Kaunfer had parents form study groups and begin with the text. Using a series of open-ended questions, Kaunfer demonstrated the king of thought-provoking analysis which accompanies Torah study.

Dr. Hasse K. Halley, ASDS director, then discussed how the skills and techniques of Torah study are interconnected with those often associated with general studies, for example, critical reading and analysis of text, higher level thinking skills, and creative writing.



FROM LEFT, Katya Ofman (mother of Rina Ofman, kindergarten), Martin Lipman (father of Hannah Lipman, grade two), Douglas Gnepp (father of Ethan Gnepp, grade two), and Elliot Waterman (father of Jessica Waterman, grade one) study together.

Photo courtesy of ASDS

## Brooks Pharmacy and American Greetings Sponsor College Scholarship Fund

From now through March 31, R.I. high school seniors can pick up applications at their local Brooks Pharmacy, for the third annual Brooks Friendly Neighbor College Scholarship Fund. The program is sponsored by Warwick-based Brooks Pharmacy and American Greetings.

With each American Greetings card purchase, Brooks will make a donation to the scholarship fund, which will award 63 R.I. high school seniors at \$1,000 scholarship to the college of their choice. Awards will be based on community service, financial need, academic achievement and school involvement. The

program will be administered by Cleveland, Ohio-based Cleveland Scholarship Programs, Inc.

"It's our pleasure to give something back to the communities in which we do business," said Michel Coutu, president of Brooks Pharmacy. "We created the Brooks Friendly Neighbor College Scholarship Fund to recognize those young people who have taken an active role in making their community a better place to live."

Applicants should have a 3.0 cumulative grade point average based on a 4.0 scale during their years of high school.

## Hillel Initiative Encourages Direct Study of Torah Texts

by Susan Jacobs  
NEW YORK (JTA) — A new educational initiative launched by Hillel aims to encourage college students to study the Torah's text directly.

Thanks to a recent \$5 million grant, the Joseph Meyerhoff Center for Jewish Learning will emphasize informal study of Jewish texts. Sessions may take place in dormitories, dining halls and student unions.

The center is based at the Washington headquarters of Hillel: the Foundation for Jewish Campus Life.

The uniqueness of the program is its emphasis on traditional Jewish texts.

"Students will respond, they'll connect to the original text, the words, the story," said Richard Joel, president and international director of Hillel.

Traditional sources, especially those in Hebrew, are often intimidating, Joel said. The center's programs, which will be distributed to Hillels on cam-

puses across the country, "will allow them to encounter text by having a one-on-one relationship with the Torah." Joel made a distinction between Jewish study and Jewish learning. He characterized study as the occupation of formal classroom instruction, now available on many college campuses in part because of Hillel's influence. Jewish learning, in contrast, is informal interaction with traditional sacred texts.

While individual campuses have had text-based learning programs for years, the Meyerhoff Center hopes to make this standard programming on a national and international basis.

The center "takes what is anecdotal and idiosyncratic on college campuses and "makes the entire franchise respond to it," said Joel.

The children and grandchildren of the late Joseph Meyerhoff presented the gift, one of the largest ever received by Hillel.

## Wheeler School Hosts Scholarship Competition

The Wheeler School will hold its annual Scholarship Competition Examination Jan. 24 at 8:15 a.m. at the school. The competition is open to any girl or boy presently enrolled in grades 8 or 9 in Rhode Island or Southeastern Massachusetts who wishes to enter Wheeler.

The scholarship may cover as much as full tuition, and will continue through graduation if academic achievement is noteworthy. Scholarships will be awarded based on examination results, financial need, and evidence of outstanding character. Parents of candidates are invited to a reception while the test is being given.

Pre-registration is requested. Call the admission office at 421-8100. The Wheeler School is located at 216 Hope St. in Providence.

## Girls Soccer Tour to England

Northeast Soccer Tours August tour to England will offer high school girls a unique opportunity to combine the thrill of playing soccer in England with the intensity of instruction of a top-flight soccer camp.

Serving as director of coaching for the August 1998 tour is Julie Hemsley, whose soccer career includes serving as a coach of the England's Ladies National Team, which she also played for, being the only woman chosen to serve on the English Football Association Council and coaching Brighton & Hove Albion in the Women's FA Premier Professional League. NCAA Coach of the Year Mark Krikorian of the University of Hartford and John Mitchell of Franklin Pierce Col-

lege, whose Lady Ravens teams won the NCAA national championship in 1994 and 1995, are acting as consultants for the tour. Tour informational packets are available by calling (603) 437-1967 or faxing (603) 437-1962.

The Soccer Academy will be located in the suburbs of London where players will receive both individual and group training from Coach Hemsley and her staff. Players will get a chance to test their skills against the youth teams of various English professional teams. Along with the soccer instruction and competition, a full slate of sightseeing is also incorporated into the tour. The tour is open to girls who are current freshmen, sophomores and juniors.

## Foreign Exchange Program Welcomes Students

The American Intercultural Student Exchange, a non-profit educational foundation, is seeking local host families for high school foreign exchange students for the 1998-99 school year. AISE's students come from more than 40 countries worldwide, and the program is expanding operations all the time.

Every year, AISE places thousands of exchange students with loving host families throughout the United States. AISE exchange students live with American families and attend local high schools during their 10-month cultural exchange experiences. American host families provide these young ambassadors with a place to sleep, meals, and a family atmosphere in which to live. AISE students are eager to learn about our government, history, customs and language, while at the same time leaving a lasting impression of their cultures in the minds and hearts of their American host families and peers.

Call AISE at (800) SIBLING or visit the AISE web site at <[www.sibling.org](http://www.sibling.org)> for more information.

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Send your information, photos and stories to:

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P.O. Box 6063  
Providence, R.I. 02940  
(Attention: Schoolbeat)  
or fax to (401) 726-5820



## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

### Trinity Rep's 'Fires In The Mirror' Performs at Rhode Island College

Trinity Repertory Company, Rhode Island's Tony Award-winning theater, under the artistic direction of Oskar Eustis, will begin a multi-state tour January through March of "Fires in the Mirror" with the first performance at Rhode Island College on Jan. 28 at 8 p.m. in Roberts Hall auditorium.

A recent new addition to the college's Performing Arts Series this season, "Fires in the Mirror" is Anna Deveare Smith's galvanizing profile of the incendiary conflict between African-Americans and Hasidic Jews in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn.

Frank Rich of the *New York Times* called "Fires in the Mirror" "quite simply the most compelling and sophisticated view of racial and class conflict that one could hope to encounter."

In the play, actors Barbara Meek and Becky London portray more than two dozen characters who were adversaries, victims and eyewitnesses of the historical events in Crown Heights during the summer of 1991, during which a 9-year-old black boy was killed by a rabbi's motorcade, a Hasidic Jew was slain in retaliation and riots rocked the Crown Heights neighborhood, reverberating beyond New York, into the international scene.

"Fires in the Mirror" is part of a cycle of plays written by Pulitzer-nominated Deveare Smith called "On the Road: A Search for the American Character." In "Fires," Deveare Smith utilizes a trademark verbatim technique which she describes as "interviewing people and later performing them using their own words."

With the interview technique, she says her goal is to "find American character in the way that people speak."

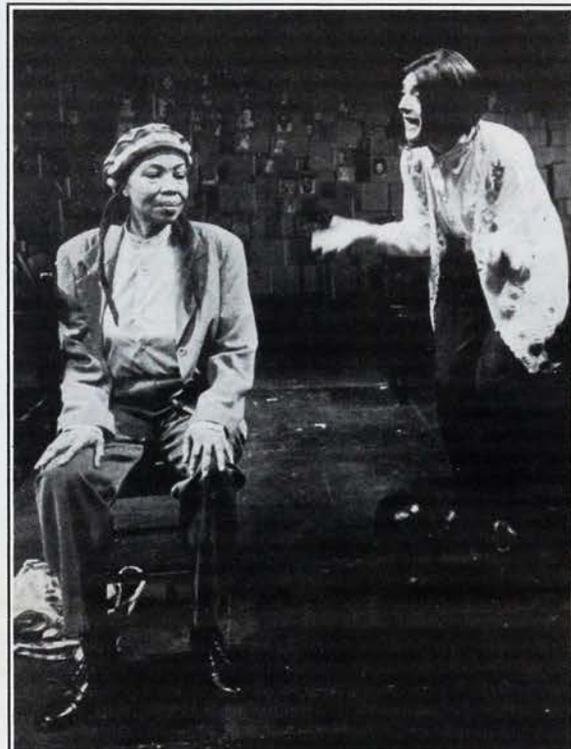
"We're especially proud to introduce or reintroduce Trinity Rep to other parts of the country with a production as compelling and engaging as 'Fires in the Mirror,'" said Artistic Director Eustis.

He and Managing Director Patricia Egan are confident, they said, that touring productions will become an integral part of Trinity Rep's artistic agenda.

The multi-state tour of "Fires

in the Mirror" will bring Trinity Rep to venues across the country, starting at RIC.

Reserved seat tickets are \$18 with discounts for senior citizens and students and may be purchased in advance via telephone with VISA or MasterCard by calling 456-8194. For in-person sales, the Roberts box office is open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. or until time of performance.



"FIRES IN THE MIRROR" by Trinity Rep is a compelling account of race relations in the '90s. Barbara Meek (left) and Becky London act out a scene in the play which will be staged first at Rhode Island College as part of a multi-state tour.

Photo by Mark Morelli

### Trinity Rep Courts College Students

Trinity Repertory Company, Rhode Island's only Tony Award-winning theater, in conjunction with AS220, begins a new series for college students, called Café Trinity. Held on the first Thursday after opening night, this special "college night" allows students to see a show at Trinity Rep, then, using their ticket stub, attend another event later that same evening at AS220 — all for the special price of \$10. Café Trinity is Trinity Rep's way of encouraging college students to become more involved with theater in Providence and Trinity Rep in particular. And it offers an excellent opportunity to meet and mingle with students from other colleges who have similar interests.

The first gathering of Café Trinity will be the world premiere of a new up-beat, fast-paced adaptation of Henrik Ibsen's classic, "Peer Gynt," followed by a stop at AS220 to see Improv Jones. Tickets may be purchased at the door or in advance. After the show, students will meet with Amy Dinnerman

in the lobby and go over to AS220 as a Café Trinity group.

"Peer Gynt," the international poster boy for bad behavior, embarks on a journey of self-discovery, which takes him on adventures worldwide.

Improv Jones is a hilarious improvisational group which performs every Thursday night at AS220 — a combination cafe, gallery and performance space. AS220 offers something for everyone: exciting new work displayed by up-and-coming local artists, live music, the Pork Chop Lounge Variety Show and other special events.

Listed below are the scheduled evenings for Café Trinity.

"Peer Gynt," by Henrik Ibsen, adapted by David Henry Hwang and Stephan Müller, Feb. 5, 8 p.m.

"A Girl's Life," by Kathleen Tolan, Mar. 5, 8 p.m.

"The Chemistry of Change," by Marlane Meyer, Apr. 9, 8 p.m.

"The Music Man," by Meredith Willson, Apr. 30, 8 p.m.

"How I Learned to Drive," by Paula Vogel, May 21, 8 p.m.

### Chamber Orchestra Welcomes New Spring Players

The Wheaton College Chamber Orchestra is welcoming interested string players to join the chamber orchestra for the spring season. Rehearsals begin on Jan. 26 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Watson Fine Arts Center at Wheaton College, Norton, Mass.

Comprised of students and faculty from Wheaton, adults from surrounding communities and advanced high school students, the chamber orchestra offers its members the opportunity to perform a variety of literature for string orchestra. Past highlights of the chamber orchestra include a performance of opera scenes with singers from the Longy School of Music, numerous visiting soloists and last season's Pops Concert.

Rehearsals are Monday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m. at Wheaton College, Norton, Mass. For more information about the Wheaton College Chamber Orchestra and how to join, call (508) 286-3589.

### 'The Imported Bridegroom' Visits Boston Stage

"The Imported Bridegroom," a feature film set in Boston's Jewish immigrant community at the turn of the century, will soon be transformed into a musical comedy for the stage, thanks to the creator of both film and play, Boston College fine arts Professor Pamela Berger.

Berger, the producer of three independent feature films, currently is putting final touches on "The Imported Bridegroom: The Musical," which will debut Jan. 21 to 25, at Boston College's Robsham Theatre. Berger, writer/director of the 1989 film version, guided that movie through each step of production and is now doing the same for its musical reincarnation, having written book and lyrics herself. The music is being written by Joanne Baker of the Boston Klezmer.

Based on an 1898 novella by Abraham Cahan, "The Imported Bridegroom" tells of a wealthy immigrant landlord in Boston who tries to get into heaven by importing a brilliant Talmudic scholar from the old country to marry his thoroughly Americanized daughter. Comedy, romance and several surprising turns ensue in a story widely praised by critics for its engaging charm.

The 1989 film played to critical acclaim in more than 60 venues in the United States and is now available on video via Ergo Media.

An art historian-turned-filmmaker-turned-lyricist, Berger is a self-taught moviemaker who began her screen career by writing and producing the 1988 feature film "Sorceress."

"It's been a pleasure working with the composer, Joanne Baker," said Berger. "We both

like tuneful, lyrical, singable songs — so we've used musical styles from the first half of the century, klezmer, ragtime, and Victorian waltzes, as well as melodies reminiscent of Yiddish folk tunes. And we've combined them in a musical theater piece that very much emphasizes that richly varied immigrant culture of America in 1900.

"One of the reasons that I've loved working with Joanne is that she can play almost anything by ear, a skill that came in handy as we worked on the creation of the melodies," Berger added. "She also builds marvelous chords that are both surprising and playful."

"My anecdotal and genetic past have come to life in composing the music for 'The Imported Bridegroom,'" said Baker, whose grandfather emigrated to America at the turn of the century. "As a first-time composer, creating tunes to vivify Pamela's lyrics has been exceptionally wonderful for me."

"Boston College has really been a great support. I'm very thankful," said Berger, noting that she has found inspiration in the true community spirit that enables a Catholic university to be so supportive of a project that focuses on Boston's Jewish immigrant history and culture.

Berger also said she anticipates the inevitable comparisons between "Bridegroom" and another well-known musical comedy centering on Jewish life.

"But it's not 'Fiddler on the Roof,'" she said. "It's very much an American piece. People might end up comparing the two. But I don't mind. We should only do so well as to be compared to 'Fiddler on the Roof.'"

For tickets or more information, call (617) 552-4002.

### Zamir Chorale Presents Children's Concert

On Jan. 18, the Zamir Chorale of Boston, under the direction of Joshua Jacobson, will present its popular annual concert of Jewish music for children, ages 7 to 12, at Hebrew College, 43 Hawes St., Brookline, Mass., at 2:30 p.m. The educational and entertaining one-hour program will include selections from the chorale's vast repertoire of Jewish music, explanations about the music's structure and history, and special surprises. Children will be seated on the floor, close to the singers, and will be encouraged to participate in many of the performance activities. Seats will be provided in the rear of the hall for parents and teachers. Admission, at the door only, is \$2 per person, up to \$10 per family. For information, call (617) 325-6113. The Zamir Chorale is funded in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Zamir, "nightingale" in Hebrew, is an appropriate name for a choral ensemble specializing in the full spectrum of music

arising out of the various Jewish traditions. Since its formation in 1969, the 50-member chorale has remained committed to the highest quality performance of this literature, in concerts throughout New England and New York, as well as Israel and Great Britain. The chorale's repertoire, spanning thousands of years, four continents, and a variety of styles both popular and classical, includes Jewish liturgical music, classical works, commissioned compositions by contemporary Jewish composers, and Israeli, Yiddish and Ladino folksongs.

The chorale's current recordings include the newly released "The Majesty of Holiness," masterworks from the great synagogues of 19th-century Berlin, Vienna, and Paris, "Salamone Rossi Hebreo," baroque music for the synagogue and royal court, "Hear Our Voices," songs from ghettos and concentration camps of the Holocaust, and "Seasons of Our Joy," music for the Jewish festivals and holidays.

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



## Trinity Rep Company Announces Second Annual Providence Play Festival

Trinity Repertory Company, under the artistic direction of Oskar Wustis, recently announced two world premieres — "A Girl's Life," by Kathleen Tolan and "The Chemistry of Change," by Marlane Meyer — to anchor its second annual Providence New Play Festival, Jan. 29 to April 26. The festival begins with the two-weekend Steinberg Festival of New Plays, written by students in Brown University's Graduate Playwriting Program. The Providence New Play Festival continues with readings, forums and three-week runs of the major productions. For the second year, it is sponsored by Malcolm and Elizabeth Chace through the Chace Fund, Inc.

Both plays chosen by Trinity Rep look at the ways in which women cope with the world around them. In Tolan's piece, a teen-age girl's search for identity leads her to trust the wrong people; in Meyer's play, a middle-aged woman has never learned to trust herself or her adult children. In "A Girl's Life," a family pulls apart, with tragic consequences; in "The Chemistry of Change," a family finally helps each other grow up and change for the better.

"The Chemistry of Change," set in southern California in the late '50s, has dialogue that is fall-

off-your-chair funny, steeped in the quirks of Meyer's characters but totally believable. Matriarch Lee and her family of misfits are direct descendants of "The Honey-mooners." Their lives are ruled by emotional inertia and irrational indecision until the arrival of a straight-talking stranger — a carnival worker named Smokey, who operates the "Hell Hole" — shakes up the chemistry of the family.

The family in "A Girl's Life" is very '90s: a two-working-parents household, with two daughters, one of them a 17-year-old, Jen, who writes angst-driven songs for her garage band. As Jen struggles to figure out the scope and direction of her life, she takes tentative steps toward independence from her parents, including dating a 22-year-old whose motives are questionable.

Trinity Rep's first Providence New Play Festival garnered nominations for both Anthony Clarvoe's "Ambition Facing West" and Paula Vogel's "The Mineola Twins" for the New Play Awards by the American Theatre Critics Association. The New Play winners for 1997 will be announced in April 1998 at the Humana Festival at the Actors Theatre of Louisville, Ky.

For non-subscribers, a Festival Pass admits the holder to both Trinity Rep plays, two of the Steinberg Festival plays and all special festival events. Festival Pass prices are \$5; student Festival pass prices are \$34, with a special \$20 price for Brown University students.

Single tickets for each of the plays can be purchased through the Trinity Rep box office. Call 351-4242.

## City Nights Holds 'West Side Story' Auditions

City Nights Dinner Theatre recently announced open auditions for "West Side Story." It is produced by David Jepsen and directed by Ernest J. Medeiros. Auditions will be held Jan. 18 and 19 at 7 p.m. at the theater, 27 Exchange St. in Pawtucket. The performances will run in May and June.

Roles include two girls and three young men, late teens to mid-20s to sing, dance and act; three men, 30s to 40s, acting roles (no singing or dancing required) and dancing/singing chorus of 20 men and women, late teens, mid-20s.

Anyone auditioning for roles of Tony, Maria, Anita, Bernardo, Riff or Action need to sing a vocal selection from "West Side Story" for the character for whom they are auditioning. Dancers should wear proper attire and preferably character shoes. If preparing your own dance audition, prepare a dance segment from music in this production.

City Nights provides a stipend payment to all cast, crew and production staffing. Inquiries are always welcome. Apprentice positions are often available. Those auditioning for the first time are encouraged to bring a résumé and recent photo to be kept on file. Auditions are held for new shows approximately every six weeks.

## 'Phantom of the Opera' Returns to PPAC

Andrew Lloyd Webber's "The Phantom of the Opera," directed by Harold Prince and presented by Cameron Mackintosh and The Really Useful Company, Inc., has been confirmed for a multiple-week return engagement at the Providence Performing Arts Center beginning Feb. 7.

"The Phantom of the Opera" is phenomenal six-week Rhode Island premiere at the Providence Performing Arts Center in October 1995 was a tremendous success. More than 140,000 people attended the record-breaking production, with ticket sales exceeding \$6.7 million. The spectacular production had an estimated \$25 million economic impact on area restaurants, hotels and attractions.

"The Phantom of the Opera," which had its United States premier on Jan. 26, 1988, at the Majestic Theatre on Broadway, went on to win seven Tony Awards including Best Musical, seven Drama Desk Awards and three Outer Critics Circle Awards. The original London production opened on Oct. 9, 1986, at Her Majesty's Theatre, winning every major British theater award including the Olivier and Evening Standard Awards.

Based on the classic novel *The Phantom of the Opera* by Gaston Leroux, the musical tells the story of the hideously deformed Phantom who lurks beneath the stage of the Paris Opera, exercising a reign of terror over all its occupants. He falls instantly in love with the young soprano, Christine, devoting himself to creating a new star for the opera by nurturing her extraordinary talents and employing all the skills at his disposal. Internationally, "The Phantom of the Opera" has played or is currently

playing in Toronto, Montreal, London, Tokyo, Stockholm, Hamburg, Melbourne, Vienna, Sydney, and Amsterdam.

The original London creative team has been reunited for this national touring production of "The Phantom of the Opera": musical staging and choreography by Gillian Lynne, sets and

costumes by Maria Bjornson, lighting by Andrew Bridge, sound design by Martin Levan, musical supervision by David Caddick and orchestrations by David Cullen and Andrew Lloyd Webber.

Tickets, subscriptions and information are available by calling (401) 421-ARTS.



RON BOHMER as "The Phantom" in a scene from the second national touring production of Andrew Lloyd Webber's "The Phantom of the Opera," directed by Harold Prince.

Photo by Joan Marcus

## Travel to Ragtime

The South County Center for the Arts is planning a bus trip to New York City to see the musical "Ragtime" on Jan. 31.

"Ragtime," based on E.L. Doctorow's best-selling novel, was adapted for stage by playwright Terrence McNally. Music is by Stephen Flaherty and Lynn Ahrens, the team who wrote the score for the animated film, "Anastasia." "Ragtime" is a traditional-style musical playing in the brand-new Ford Center for the Performing Arts. It tells the story of three families swept up in the political and social practices of the early 20th century.

Travelers will leave the arts center at 9 a.m. with lunch en route. The play is at 2 p.m. On the way back, the group will dine at the historic Brewhouse in Norwalk, Conn. Return time is estimated at 10:30 p.m. Tickets include meals, transportation and theatre admission. The fee is \$155 for arts center members; \$170 for non-members. Call 782-1018 for further information.

## Sarah Doyle Gallery Hosts New Exhibits

The Sarah Doyle Gallery presents recent works by artists Merleann Poulton and Jennifer Rosengarten. The exhibit begins on Jan. 21 and runs through Feb. 21. There will be a reception for the artist on Jan. 23 from 5 to 8 p.m. This reception is free and open to the public.

The gallery is located at 185 Meeting St. There is no charge for admission to the exhibit.

Jennifer Rosengarten lives and teaches art and art history in Providence. She received an MFA from Boston University

and recently shown work at Hera Gallery in Wakefield and the Native Gallery in Providence.

Merleann Poulton is a painter and designer living in Lincoln, R.I. She was educated at the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, N.Y. She recently exhibited at the foundry and at Center City Artisans. She will be showing both paintings and a series of scotch tape sculptures at Sarah Doyle.

For more information, contact Elizabeth Audley, gallery coordinator at 863-2189.

## Rhode Island's Loft Theatre Stages 'Simpatico'

NewGate Theatre continues its Season of New Directions with Sam Shepard's "Simpatico," running through Feb. 7.

The Season of New Directions showcases the work of three directors each offering their production as an audition piece for the post of NewGate Theatre artistic director. Karl O. Aspelund launches the mini season with "Simpatico." Other directors are: Brien Lang, directing Goldoni's "The Servant of Two Masters" (March 4 to 28), and Steven Pennell, directing Diane Samuels' "Kindertransport" (April 22 to May 16).

Shepard's first play in 10 years, "Simpatico" is a gritty, sharply funny play about guilt, revenge and finding a safe place in a messy world. Here the street-smart characters of Shepard's past hits have matured and moved to the other side of the tracks; however, they recognize the swamp still creeps under the door.

Aspelund is a graduate of The Wimbeldon College of Art in London. Prior to moving to Providence in the summer of 1996, he served as designer-at-large at Iceland's National Theatre and Iceland's National Ballet. Highlights include sets and

costumes for "Bent," "Cabaret," "Les Miserables," "Dangerous Liaisons," "Die Fledermaus" and "Romeo and Juliet." Aspelund teaches fashion design at the Rhode Island School of Design and the University of Rhode Island. His most recent directorial engagement in Providence was Fugard's "Playland" for the Actors Theatre.

Performances of "Simpatico" are Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$12. Student and senior citizen discounts are available. Members of WGBH receive two tickets for the price of one. The NewGate Theatre is located at 134 Mathewson St., Providence. For information or to order tickets, call 421-9680.

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# OBITUARIES

**ROBERT S. BROWN**  
PROVIDENCE — Robert S. Brown, 69, of 11 Constitution Hill, died Jan. 5 at the Philip Hulitar Hospice Center, Providence. He was the husband of Erika (Prehnalek) Brown.

Born in New York City, a son of the late Joseph and Nennette (Konijere) Brown, he lived in Providence for 11 years, previously living in New York City.

He was a retired businessman and had been a volunteer at Roger Williams Park Zoo.

Besides his wife, he leaves two sons, Kenneth Brown of Providence and Neil Brown of Fort Lee, N.J.; a daughter, Carita Dornfeld of New York City; and three grandchildren.

The funeral was held Jan. 7 in Great Neck, Long Island. Arrangements were by Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

## CARMEL FORSYTE

PROVIDENCE — Carmel Forsyte, 99, of 76 Blackstone Blvd., died Jan. 1 at home. She was the former wife of the late Louis Finkelstein.

Born in London, England, a daughter of the late Herbert and Susanna (Solomon) Bentwich, she settled in New York City at the age of 21. She lived in Rockport, Mass., for 25 years before moving to Providence nine years ago. She had previously lived in Santa Barbara, Calif.

She was a graduate of the Froebel Institute, a teachers training institute in London. She

had been a member of the League of Women Voters, and the World Federalists.

She leaves two daughters, Hadassah Davis of Providence, and Emunah Katzenstein of Jerusalem; a son, Rabbi Ezra Finkelstein of Syosset, N.Y.; 10 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

A graveside funeral service was held Jan. 4 at Mount Hebron Cemetery in Queens, N.Y. Burial followed. The service was coordinated by Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence.

## ANNE GEDACHT

NEW BEDFORD — Anne Gedacht, a resident of 42 Byron St., New Bedford, passed away Jan. 4. She was the wife of the late Charles Gedacht.

Born in Fall River, she was the daughter of the late Jacob and Bessie (Granovsky) Anapol. She had resided in New Bedford for most of her life.

She was a member of Ahavath Achim Synagogue in New Bedford and its Sisterhood.

She is survived by a sister, Mollye Brown of Edmonton, Canada; six grandchildren; three great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews. She was the mother of the late Gary and Leon Gedacht and sister of the late Gertrude Weinstein, Sadye Mickelson, Benjamin Anapol and Frank Anapol.

Services were coordinated by the Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence.

**WILLIAM STECKLER ROSLYN HEIGHTS, L.I.** — William Steckler, Roslyn Heights, L.I., died Nov. 3, 1997. A native New Yorker, he was stationed at Quonset Point as a Navy lieutenant commander and there met his wife, the former Marion Borod, daughter of the late Louis Borod and Esther Borod Hassenfeld. The Stecklers lived in Providence until 1949.

A graduate of Fordham Law School, he pursued a business career in manufacturing and served in the legal department of Robert Hall Clothes for many years. He was a passionate amateur violinist and networked in music circles all over the country.

He is survived by a daughter, Karen, and a son, David. Burial was held at Beth Olom Cemetery, Queens, Long Island.

## DORIS L. ZIEVE

WORCESTER — Doris L. (Silverman) Zieve, 88, of 18 Brookside Ave., died Jan. 6 in St. Vincent Hospital after being stricken at home. She was the wife of Alfred W. Zieve for 63 years.

Born in Boston, a daughter of Max and Bessie (Bornstein) Silverman, she lived 65 years in Worcester.

She was a member of Beth Israel Synagogue and its Sisterhood.

Besides her husband, she is survived by a son, Steven L. Zieve of East Hartford, Conn.; a sister, Selma Price of Cranston,

R.I. and nephews and nieces. She was also the sister of the late Ruth Wolfson of Brockton, Mass.

A funeral service was held at Perlman Funeral Home, 1026 Main St. Burial was in B'nai B'rith Cemetery.

## Jewish War Veterans Dead But Not Forgotten at Arlington

by Matthew Dorf

WASHINGTON (JA) — For decades, Christmas wreaths have decorated many of the Jewish graves at Arlington National Cemetery.

Well-intentioned volunteers lean thousands of donated wreaths on headstones throughout the nation's premier cemetery for veterans.

And each year for the past few years, a couple of days before Christmas, Ken Poch removes the wreaths from the Jewish graves.

Until Poch began researching the Jewish history at Arlington, no one knew the location or number of Jewish graves there.

Attention was focused recently on the Jewish dead at Arlington when M. Larry Lawrence, the former U.S. ambassador to Switzerland, was disinterred and moved after it was learned that he fabricated his war record.

Lawrence, who was buried at Arlington for almost two years, has also been removed from Poch's list.

While Lawrence might have gained some notoriety, the other Jewish veterans buried there remain largely unknown to tourists at the popular northern Virginia destination.

Poch, a conference planner who has made it his hobby — and mission — to chronicle the Jews at the cemetery, has cataloged the location and history of the 2,500 Jews buried at Arlington.

While some of the cemetery's Jewish residents are well known, most of their stories have never been told.

Poch, who twice crisscrossed the cemetery's 250,000 graves looking for Jewish veterans, frequently returns to the cemetery with interested Jewish tourists.

For Poch, who served two years in non-active, stateside duty in the 1960s, this has become his duty.

"There's a myth that Jews don't fight and don't serve," he said during a recent visit to the cemetery.

"I want to know who these people were," he said, pointing to one of many graves he has cataloged.

After the Brooklyn, N.Y., native moved to Virginia a few years ago, Poch read *Where They Lie: Someone Should Say Kaddish*, a book about the Jewish Civil War dead buried at Arlington.

So Poch took the advice of the title and returned to the cemetery. In the Jewish custom, he placed stones on the headstones of the five Jews buried there who died in the Civil War fighting for the Union. He also said Kaddish, the Jewish prayer cited as a memorial to the dead.

Rich with Jewish history, the cemetery includes:

- Moses Ezekiel, who fought for the Confederacy and is buried next to a sculpture he designed in memory of the Confederate soldiers. Ezekiel is known as one of the great 19th-century sculptors and was

knighted by the king of Italy and kaiser of Germany;

- Six Jewish nurses, including Lt. Col. Rae Landy, who served in the U.S. Army during both world wars. In 1913, she went to Palestine and helped develop the clinic that later became Hadassah Hospital;

- Two rabbis, including Rabbi Joshua Goldberg, a Navy captain who served in World War I as an infantryman, received five battle ribbons and participated in the first Maccabiah Games in 1912;

- Rabbi Bertram Korn, a Navy rear admiral and the first Jewish chaplain to achieve such a high rank in the armed forces;

- Pfc. Robert Cohen, who was taken prisoner of war by the Nazis during the Battle of the Bulge. He was murdered in the woods along with 85 other Americans;

- Two brothers, Pvt. Marvin Kaminsky and Pfc. Maynard Kaminsky, who were killed three months apart during World War II;

- Maj. Gen. Julius Ochs Adler, who served in both world wars and later as the general manager of *The New York Times*;

- Sgt. Maj. Lawrence Freedman, Army special forces. The first American killed in Somalia in 1993, he was nicknamed "Super Jew";

- Judith Resnick, mission specialist on the Challenger space shuttle, which exploded during its 1986 launch.

Also buried there was a key non-Jewish influence on the fighting forces that led to the Israel Defense Force. Maj. Gen. Orde Charles Wingate, of the British Army, trained early Jewish settlers in Palestine in defensive battle techniques. Although British, he was killed on a U.S. plane in Burma and buried with the 12 others who were on board the plane.

- The highest-ranking Jew buried at Arlington is Adm. Jeremy Michael Boorda, chief of naval operations, who killed himself in 1996 amid revelations that he had worn medals to which he was not entitled. While his headstone bears a Jewish star, a miniature Christmas tree decorated his grave in December.

Only after World War I were people allowed to place a religious symbol on their headstones. Jewish graves are frequently marked with a Star of David, but not all Jewish graves are marked.

Poch looks up the service history of veterans with Jewish-sounding names whose graves don't have a Jewish marker.

If someone did not list a religion on their form or chose not to reveal their religion during their life, Poch said he does not force them to in death.

But his best information, he said, comes when people hear about his project.

For Poch, it's a duty. "You're only dead if you're forgotten," he said.

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## Guides For The Society For The Protection of Nature in Israel

They are the best tour guides in Israel and quite logically the tours they offer the domestic and foreign traveler are universally regarded as the country's finest.

Becoming a guide for the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel is a lot more difficult than signing up as a participant for the nearly 20 different tours geared specifically toward English-speaking tourists or those conducted in other foreign languages. Acceptance is geared toward selecting those who will be best in helping to attain Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel's ultimate mission of bringing people together with the natural environment.

SPNI was founded in 1953 and is Israel's and the Middle East's largest non-governmental, voluntary organization working on behalf of preserving the environment.

"When SPNI was created, the idea was to get children and adults to hike, see, feel and smell the country of Israel so they would come to love it," said Dr. Yossi Leshem, who was the

organization's executive director from 1991 to 1995.

There are more than 1,500 SPNI guides currently working in Israel.

Dafna Hornik is 20 years old and like many of the young female SPNI guides, she is fulfilling her two years of military service as a guide. It is expected that applicants will be physically fit, although guides with physical handicaps are frequently used to train tourists with similar limitations.

The SPNI training course is approximately four and one-half months long, consisting of more than 250 hours of intense study. It is broken down into three stages. In the first stage, which lasts about one month, the guides-to-be are instructed in such subjects as protecting and preserving the environment, history, geography, theology, geology, ecology and flora and fauna and first aid.

In the second phase, which can vary from one to two months, guides-in-training are taken to the actual regions where they will be conducting

tours. "The students will spend a lot of time outdoors in this stage," according to Miri Lavi, a SPNI supervisor.

In phase three, called the Field School stage, for about six weeks, the future guides learn the most minute details of the area and practice conducting tours of varying difficulty.

"This is where they learn the most amazing facts, such things as the depth of an underground termite house," said Lavi.

Throughout all three stages, students are taught by experts in their specific disciplines, either current or past SPNI guides, university professors or successful business and other professionals.

They then become guides with such organizations as the Ministry of Education, a major source of funding for the SPNI, the National Parks Authority, the Antiquities Authority, or return to military service. Graduates must serve at least two years as SPNI guides and the average length of service is two to 10 years.

While the organization has guided groups whose primary language is either English or Hebrew, guides have led groups in many other languages.

While minimum age for a SPNI guide is 18, there is no maximum.

For more information about SPNI, call the New York office at (800) 323-0035.

## Free Flowering Trees From Arbor Day Foundation

Ten free flowering trees will be given to each person who joins The National Arbor Day Foundation during the month of January.

The free trees are part of the non-profit foundation's Trees for America campaign.

The 10 trees include White Flowering Dogwoods, Flowering Crabapples, Golden Raintrees, Washington Hawthorns and American Redbuds.

"These compact trees were selected for planting in large or small spaces," said John Rosenow, the foundation's president. "They will give your home the beauty of lovely pink, white, and yellow flowers — and also provide winter berries

and nesting sites for songbirds."

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

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

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



### Attention Advertisers and Readers!

On January 29 the *Rhode Island Jewish Herald* will publish a special summer camp section. It's never too early to prepare kids for summer camp programs!

If you wish to advertise in this special issue call the advertising representative, Diana Florio.

If you would like to submit photos, stories or other camp-related material, call the editor, Tara V. Lisciandro.

The deadline for all advertisements and camp materials is January 26 at 12 p.m.

Call the *Rhode Island Jewish Herald* at 724-0200 to reserve your space.

### Cooking With Cupid

Love is most definitely in the air at Johnson & Wales University with romantic Chef's Choice classes scheduled in the coming weeks.

The "Cooking with Cupid" series features two programs at the school on Jan. 31. Sweets for Your Sweetie, which will teach how to make desserts and candies, from 9 a.m. to noon, and Dinner for Two, which will demonstrate how to create a candlelight dinner for loved ones, from 1 to 4 p.m. The cost is \$45 each.

As part of the new Sakonnet House dinner series, a special dinner is scheduled for Valentine's Day, Feb. 14. This particular dinner, featuring food and beverages linked to love, will be prepared by Chef Frank Terranova in the kitchen at Sakonnet House overlooking Sakonnet Vineyards in Little Compton. Terranova is the host of the television cooking show "Cooking with Class," seen daily on NBC 10. This dinner will begin at 6 p.m. The cost is \$95 per couple, or \$50 for an individual.

Also on Valentine's Day, classes will be offered at Johnson & Wales on Italian pastries and cookies from 9 a.m. to noon. Viva Italian will be taught from 1 to 4 p.m.

A number of other Chef's Choice classes are scheduled for now through May. For details, call (401) 598-2336 or (800) 342-5598.

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