



# Rhode Is HERALD

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## Israel Readies For Attack But Doubts Iraq Will Strike

by Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israelis are hearing conflicting opinions over the latest crisis with Iraq — and no matter what the experts say, it appears they are preparing for the worst-case scenario.

On the one hand, there are the comments by Richard Butler, head of the U.N. weapons inspections team. Butler's remarks that Iraq had enough biological material "to blow away Tel Aviv" captured banner headlines in the Israeli press and brought back disturbing memories of the 1991 Persian Gulf War, when 39 Scud missiles were fired on Israel.

But according to experts like Israel's former chief of staff, Dan Shomron, and Reserve Gen. Avihu Bin-Nun, the commander of the Israeli air force during the Gulf War, the chances for an Iraqi missile attack on Israel now are "very, very slim."

As the United States mustered support in Europe and the Middle East for possible military action against Iraq, which has snubbed the U.N. weapons inspections teams, Baghdad had yet to threaten the Jewish state.

The circumstances this time, said Bin-Nun, are different. There is no international coalition for Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein to try to break up by provoking Israel to attack; Iraq's military capability is more limited than it was seven years ago; and Saddam realizes that an Is-

raeli counterattack might be too difficult to endure.

In an effort to turn public opinion, Iraqi spokesmen bent over backward to describe Butler's comments regarding a possible attack on Tel Aviv as a deliberate American provocation. "He chose Tel Aviv," wrote the government-controlled Al-Jumhuriya, "because he knows that this will move the USA, under the pressures of the Zionist lobby, to attack Iraq."

Other Israeli military experts echoed Bin-Nun's comments.

The American response also appears to be different this time. In 1991, Israel, under pressure from the Bush administration, refrained from responding to the missiles, all armed with conventional warheads. The attacks caused property damage and only two blast-related deaths.

At a news conference recently held in Jerusalem after she met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said, "Nothing will shake the iron-clad commitment of the U.S. when it comes to the security of Israel."

Albright would not respond to a question about whether the United States had asked Israel to refrain from responding to an Iraq attack, but she indicated that Washington would not oppose Israeli military action.

"It is obviously always up to each country to determine its

own way of defending itself," Albright said.

Meanwhile, Netanyahu stressed that Israel alone would decide how to defend itself.

"We will respond as needed, to protect Israel and fortify its national security," he said. "We are the only ones making the decision."

Recently, heads of the defense establishment tried to reassure the Israeli public that even in the unlikely event of renewed missile attacks, the home front was much better prepared than in the past, and that anti-missile rockets were much more effective now in intercepting Scud missiles.

Four batteries of U.S.-produced Patriot anti-ballistic missiles were deployed in the Negev in southern Israel in a move described by the army spokesman as part of "routine training drills."

This came, even as some members of Knesset criticized the policy of the Netanyahu government to keep its preparations vague in order to reduce panic. Despite these reassurances, Israelis are facing some troubling reports.

Prior to the Gulf War, every Israeli was given a gas mask in case of a chemical attack. Only after the war did it turn out that had a chemical attack taken place, the masks would not have done much good.

And no matter what the experts and politicians say, some Israelis aren't prepared to take any chances.

"Seven years ago, we didn't think twice," said Tamar Golan of Haifa, "as soon as the war broke out we packed a few belongings and our 3-year-old daughter and went on a long trip overseas."

"If need be," she said recently, "we would do the same. None of us want to be heroes."

There also appeared to be evidence that, as critics are charging, Israel is not fully prepared for an Iraqi attack.

At least one municipal official charged last week that more than 300,000 pupils lacked proper shelters. The education ministry confirmed that there was a problem, but added, without elaborating, that it had "contingency plans how to act in case of emergency."

Reuven Pedatzur, a military analyst for the Israeli daily newspaper *Ha'aretz*, said, "We are not better prepared, and if chemical warheads hit Tel Aviv, the casualties will be much higher than 300 to 400 people."

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## Soviet Émigrés Make Up Israeli Team at the Olympics

by Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Call it the Soviet connection.

All three athletes representing Israel at the 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan, have roots in the former Soviet Union — and two were actually there.

The ice dancing duo of Galit Chayat, 23, and Sergei Sankanovsky, 22, will join Misha Shmerkin, who participated in the 1994 games in Lillehammer, Norway.

Chayat, born to a Russian family in the Israeli town of Kfar Saba, moved at the age of 6 with

her family to the United States. Sakanovsky, born in Russia, made aliyah three years ago and then moved to Delaware to train with Chayat.

The couple recently placed 12th in the European championships in Milan, Italy.

Shmerkin, who was born in Odessa, Ukraine, will participate in men's skating — he will perform to Chasidic and Israeli music in his short program, and to Central European Jewish music for his free skate.

Shmerkin placed 16th at the Lillehammer games. He hopes to finish in the top 10 this year.

## U.S. Jewish Groups Press E.U. on Middle East Policy

by Daniel Kurtzman

WASHINGTON (JTA) — American Jewish officials are urging the European Union to take a more balanced approach to the Middle East peace process.

In a meeting with a senior European Union official organized by B'nai B'rith, Jewish officials criticized what they say has been a "tilt" by the European Union over the years toward the Arab side of the conflict.

Specifically, they took umbrage with a report recently released by European Commission Vice President Manuel Marin which demands that the 15-nation European Union take on a larger, more active role in the peace process.

The 23-page document, approved by the European Com-

mission — which serves as the E.U.'s highest decision-making body — blames Palestinian economic misfortune exclusively on measures that have been taken by Israel, particularly the closures it imposes on the self-rule areas after each terror attack.

The European Union has been the largest donor to the Palestinian Authority, but the E.U. document speaks of "international donor fatigue" brought on by a lack of progress and warns that "regional cooperation and integration cannot make headway unless there is real progress toward a solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict."

Dan Mariaschin, director of B'nai B'rith Center for Public Policy, called the report "one example of many over the years of this insensitivity to the Israeli

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### Rediscovering Their Heritage

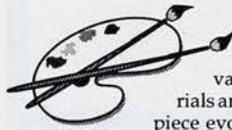
Participants at the JDC-organized Jewish Book Festival in Krasnoyarsk, Siberia, look over Russian-language books on Judaism and Jewish history. Aimed at introducing Jewish in the FSU to their religion, cultural history and literature, Jewish Book Festivals were held in 32 cities. (See story on page 9).

Photo by JDC

# HAPPENINGS

## Painting Demonstration and Lecture

Join renowned marine artist Don Demers at Mystic Maritime Gallery in Connecticut for an entertaining and informative lecture/demonstration on Feb. 21. Demers will lead a lively discussion on the challenges and concerns he faces while executing a painting on canvas. Gain a deeper understanding of materials and techniques, while watching a masterpiece evolve. Reservations are required. Mystic Maritime Gallery is located across from the main entrance to Mystic Seaport; admission is not charged. Reservations are required and may be made by calling (860) 572-5388.



## Abe Lincoln Visits Cranston Library

Rob Dimmick, actor and playwright, will portray Abraham Lincoln in a one-man show at the William Hall Library, 1825 Broad St. on Feb. 18 at 7 p.m. The program, sponsored by the R.I. Civil War Round Table and the Cranston Public Library, is free and open to the public.

"A Lincoln Portrait" offers a performance of purely Lincoln, recreating a moment in history that will afford a memorable evening. The performance covers Lincoln's childhood, romantic follies, and turmoil as president of a nation in crisis.

For information, contact John Bucci, 781-2450.

## Five Painters Offer 'The Painters Position' at RIC

The Rhode Island College Bannister Gallery winter/spring season opens with an exhibition featuring five artists who strive to reassert the significance of painting, a medium which has recently found itself in contention with such forms as video, multimedia, installation and performance art.

Running through Feb. 27, the show will feature works by Derrick Buisch, Deborah Cornell, Thomas Gregg, Christine Hopkins and David Kohan.

For the five artists in this exhibition, painting remains, figuratively and literally, a significant field.

The work of each builds upon the long tradition of painting and seeks to extend it.

Both the exhibit and discussion are free and open to the public.

The gallery, located in the College Art Center, is open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, and from 6 to 9 Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

For more information, call Dennis O'Malley at 456-9765.

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## Calendar: February 12 thru February 21

- 13 Newport Winter Festival runs from the Feb. 13 to 22. Call 847-7666.
- 14 Auditions at Perishable Theatre, from noon to 4 p.m., 95 Empire St. The five roles needed for this production are: woman, age 10 to 16; woman, age 35 to 60; 2 men, age 20 to 35; man, age 35 to 60. To reserve a time slot, call Mick at 331-2695.
- 15 "Adventures from the Book of Virtues," PBS starting Feb. 15, weekly. Check local listings for time/station.  
Kol B'Yachad, Jewish Collegiate Festival of the Performing Arts. For more information, call Brown/RISD Hillel at 863-2805.
- 16 JFK Library is offering free admission in celebration of President's Day. Hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The library is located on Columbia Point in Boston, adjacent to the University of Massachusetts-Boston campus.  
Vacation Week Workshop, "What a World!" Offered by Rhode Island School of Design. Feb. 16 to 20. Learn about cultures that are rich in art and beauty. Appropriate for children 5 to 11. Call 454-6200 to register.
- 17 Israel's Early Years, 1948-1967. Discussion with Yehuda Lev, 1 p.m., Brown/RISD Hillel, Providence. Call 331-1616 for information.
- 18 "The Bacchae" at Brown's Leeds Theatre, 8 p.m., will run from Feb. 18 to 22. The theater is located on Waterman Street near the marquee. For tickets, call the Leeds Theatre box office at 863-2838.  
CJP's Genesis Forum, noon, 126 High St., Boston. Bring a lunch and study the Book of Exodus with other downtown professionals. Call Pam Susi for more information at (617) 457-8536.  
Authors Henry Brown and Louis McGown at Borders, 7 p.m. For more information, call 944-9160.  
Heart Month Seminars at Landmark Medical Center in Christiansen Conference Center, 115 Cass Ave., Woonsocket, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in honor of American Heart Month. Call 769-4100, ext. 2064 for more information.
- 19 Winter Festival Youth Tours with art activities at the Newport Art Museum, Bellevue Ave., Newport. \$4 members, \$6 non-members.  
Children's Fingerprinting Clinic at Cranston Public Library, 1 to 3 p.m. Refreshments will be available. Call 943-9080.  
Andre Tippett, A Personal Journey to Judaism, 7 p.m. at Combined Jewish Philanthropies 126 High St. in Boston. Registration is \$10/person in advance, \$15 at door. Call (617) 457-8793 for more information.
- 20 "Harvey" at the Blackfriars Theatre, Feb. 20 to 23, Harkins Hall, Providence College. Tickets are \$7, senior citizen and PC faculty/staff \$5, and \$3 for all students. Tickets may also be reserved by calling 865-2218.
- 21 The Sixth annual Mardi Gras Ball, from 7:30 to midnight at the Rhodes-On-The-Pawtuxet ballroom, 60 Rhodes Place, Cranston. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. For more information and directions, call 783-3926.  
Daughters of Aging Mother Workshop, 2 session workshop, Feb. 21 and 28, 10-noon, Warwick with Sharon Foley. Call 727-2996.

## RISD Events

Feb. 16 to 20 — Vacation Week Workshop. "What a World!" Learn about cultures that are rich in art and beauty by making Egyptian jewelry, African masks, Asian kites, Indonesian shadow puppets and Native American wall hangings (appropriate for children ages 5 to 11) 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. To register, call 454-6200. RISD's Tillinghast Farm, Barrington.

Feb. 18 to 20 — Vacation Week Workshops. "Art Is Something To Do." Create different, hand-on projects each day which relate to drawings, paintings and works on paper in Working the Stone: Process and Progress of Lithography and Artistic Expressions of the Human Spirit: Selections from the Nancy Sayles Day Collection of Modern Latin American Art (appropriate for children age 6 to 12). \$5 per child, per day at the door. 1 to 3 p.m. To register, call 454-6545. RISD Museum, Providence.

Feb. 20 — Jazz Friday. Listen to artists from the New England Conservatory of Music, Boston. Wine Bar. Free with museum admission. 6 to 7:30 p.m. RISD Museum, Providence.

Feb. 27 — Concert. "Music from the Age of Napoleon." Listen to artists from the New England Conservatory of Music, Boston. Free with museum admission. 6 to 7:30 p.m. RISD Museum, Providence.

Feb. 28 — Free-For-All Saturdays Program. "Who Am I? What is my World?" Explore issues of identity in a full day of family activities including storytelling by Rhode Island artist Len Cabral, music and dance performances, exhibition tours, family art projects, and an unveiling of a mosaic mural. Presented by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School, Brown University, and the RISD Museum. Free. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. RISD Museum, Providence.

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## 'Amistad' Lecture Series: Voices of Freedom

In this lectures serie, Amy Trout, curator of the New Haven Colony Historical Society, personalizes the "Amistad" story by presenting the incident through the eyes of the people involved.

This lively, interactive program introduces us to such diverse voices as Cinque — the leader of the slaves, the slave traders, Martin Van Buren, and John Quincy Adams. This Feb. 24 evening lecture will begin at 7 p.m. and takes place in the Meeting House at Mystic Seaport, Conn. Series fee for adults is \$35 (\$10 for Mystic Seaport members). Series is free to all youth ages 10 to 18 and college students with a valid I.D.

Reservations are required and may be made by calling (860) 572-5339.

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### In Cranston

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

### Providence and Vicinity

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

# JEWISH COMMUNITY

## Providence Public Library Pays Tribute to the Riverkeepers

John Torgan, Narragansett BayKeeper at Save The Bay, receives an award for "outstanding efforts"

by Emily Torgan-Shalansky  
Jewish Community Reporter

Water and knowledge are both essential to human life, but while wisdom is infinite, natural resources are scarce and subject to ruin.

On Feb. 8 at the Westin Hotel, a benefit for the Providence Public Library showed that when agencies of public information work to support environmentalists, the ongoing fight against pollution gains a great deal of power.

To help spread awareness of

Kennedy said. "There were no public parks or swimming pools. The environment was their community and their property."

But when the Pennsylvania Central Railroad began haphazardly transporting oil on the Hudson, the beaches, the fishing stock and the mood of the town all blackened.

"Even though this was a patriotic community largely made up of veterans and marines, these people were so angry with the government and the industry that they wanted to blow things up," Kennedy said.

But one night, Bob Boyle, an outdoor writer for Sports Illustrated, attended a meeting.

"He said that he had come

Hudson Riverkeeper John Cronin admitted that he too was dubious at first, but said that he hung on as the Hudson was transformed from a symbol of pollution into an international model of ecosystem protection.

"I have learned about the power of the people to stand up," Cronin said. "It's not about governments or companies, it's about citizens making demands."

Next, Torgan said that *The Riverkeepers* seemed strangely familiar as he accepted an award for his outstanding efforts to protect Narragansett Bay for the people of Rhode Island.

"Kennedy and Cronin have been heroes of mine for many years," said Torgan, who joined Save the Bay in 1993. "Their salty dog fisherman might as well have been ours, their complacent regulators might as well have been ours, and their polluters might as well have been ours too."

Although Torgan grew up during a time when few were allowed near the Providence River, his childhood experiences with Narragansett Bay and its salt marshes inspired his career path.

A third-generation Rhode Islander who was educated at Moses Brown and confirmed at Temple Beth-El, Torgan re-



JOHN TORGAN, Narragansett BayKeeper for Save the Bay.

Herald photo by Emily Torgan-Shalansky

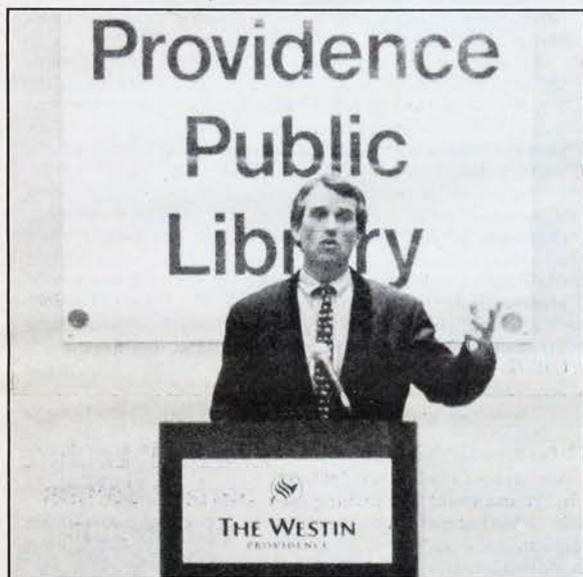
turned to Rhode Island and its waters soon after he obtained a B.S. in environmental science from Union College.

Three years later, in 1996, he was able to play a critical role in the emergency response to the North Cape oil spill by assisting at the site, handling media inquiries, and helping to mobilize thousands of volunteers for cleanup and wildlife rescue efforts.

Although Torgan admitted that conditions in the state's waters have improved, he cautioned against laxity, reminding his audience that the Rhode Island Economic Development

Corporation is negotiating with a major port developer to fill over 550 acres of the bay to create a "megaport" at Quonset Point/Davisville.

"There is a misconception that we must choose between the economy and the environment, because anything that is good for the environment is also good for the economy," Torgan said. "Save the Bay's vision is one of beaches that are beautiful and alive. It's one of protection rather than degradation. If we work together, the bay will come through healthier and stronger. The bay will be a resource for my kids too."



ROBERT F. KENNEDY, JR. at the Providence Public Library, speaking on behalf of *The Riverkeepers*.

Herald photo by Emily Torgan-Shalansky

environmental activism, the PPL presented John H. Cronin and Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., authors of *The Riverkeepers* (1997: Scribener's, New York, New York) an account of the grassroots movement that successfully restored the Hudson River.

To show appreciation for local environmental efforts, the PPL also honored John Torgan, a member of Rhode Island's Jewish community and the Narragansett BayKeeper for Save The Bay.

Kennedy, chief prosecuting attorney for Hudson Riverkeepers Inc. and senior attorney for the national resource defense council, began his account of the transformation of the Hudson by admitting that the task had seemed impossible at first.

"It was like David against Goliath," he admitted as he discussed the massive movement that began in Crotonville, a small, poor blue-collar community located on the Hudson in New York.

Many community members, said Kennedy, had fished in the Hudson River continuously since Dutch Colonial times.

"It was a poor town,"

across a statute that said it was illegal to pollute the water," Kennedy explained. "It said that anyone who reported a polluter would get to keep half of the proceeds. He also said that the statute had never been enforced."

But it soon was, for community members soon used it to stop the Pennsylvania Central Railroad.

They then used the \$2,000 that they had gained from PCA to fund the Riverkeeper, a boat that patrols the Hudson looking for polluters.

Soon, Kennedy got his law students at Pace University involved.

"We brought over 100 successful legal actions against violators," Kennedy said, ending his presentation by pointing out what made the battle for the river strong and effective.

"It was the people who made war," Kennedy said. "It was fought not so much to protect the birds and the fish as to protect the nature that enriches us spiritually and economically. It's not just for shad or striped bass - it's because we believe that our lives will be richer if we live in a world where there are shad and striped bass."

## JFRI "Lunch Series" Workshop Explores Spirituality in the Workplace

by Emily Torgan-Shalansky  
Jewish Community Reporter

It hardly seemed like the time or place to search for G-d.

However, on Feb. 4, some 25 women in business suits made their way downtown to the law offices of Brown, Rudnick, Freed & Gesmer, stepped into its sleek conference room, and waited for the Business and Professional Women's Affiliate of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island's "Net and Nosh" event to begin.

The program, the third in a series organized for the first time this year, was entitled "Judaism That Works: Finding G-d in the office and at home."

The speaker was Rabbi Gail Diamond of Congregation Agudas Achim, and she had about an hour to address the topic.

After the socializing diminished and the platefuls of chicken salad disappeared, Rabbi Diamond took one of the seats around the vast conference table.

"You're going to be doing most of the talking," the rabbi Diamond informed her audience, then began to ask questions.

"I like to use an idea from Rabbi Harold Kushner," she said. "He suggests that when we talk about G-d, we shouldn't ask who or where, but when. He says we should ask ourselves when we feel the presence of G-d in our lives, or when we feel spiritual."

Shifting awkwardly from so-

cial chatter to deeply personal issues, participants conferred with their neighbors. Some volunteered their responses.

"When I'm with my grandchildren," one woman offered.

"When I'm snorkeling underneath the ocean," another said.

After a number of answers that included illness in the family, car accidents, and praying outside with one's peers, Rabbi Diamond spoke.

"No one mentioned work," she said.

As attendees burst out laughing, she directed them to a worksheet entitled "Finding G-d at Home and at Work." The sheet included four short quotations from Jewish sources.

"Next, I'm going to introduce an idea from Rabbi Jeffrey Salkin, the author of *Being G-d's Partner* [Jewish Lights Press]. It's about spiritualizing our entire lives by becoming G-d's partners."

The rabbi focused on a quotation on her sheet from Ba'al Shem Tov, the creator of modern Hasidism.

"It says that there is no place devoid of G-d," she said. "That means the whole earth. It means everyplace, including offices and boardrooms."

Next, Rabbi Diamond directed participants to confer about where it was hardest to find G-d.

Responses ranged from comic to tragic.

"When I'm on the South East Expressway," said one woman.

"When I see a child who has been badly abused," said another.

Rabbi Diamond then explained Salkin's theory about how to bring G-d into such places by becoming his partner.

"One is active, and one is receptive," she said. "The active concept is that we should be holy because G-d is holy. The receptive idea is that G-d is with us in the places that we let him into."

The rabbi then asked the women about what they do in their lives that makes them feel holy.

Most of the responses, such as lighting Shabbat candles and raising children, were centered in the home and/or Jewish tradition.

Rabbi Diamond then polled the group about their professional lives and helped them to see holiness there too.

"Anyone in the legal profession is helping to make justice," she explained. "Anyone who works in the garment industry is helping to clothe the naked. Any work done with good conscience can be expanded to bring the G-d idea in."

Our sense of holiness in life, said the rabbi, is enhanced when we understand the concept of tzimtzum.

"Tzimtzum" is the ability to pull ourselves back," she said. "It's a crucial part of maturity. G-d had to pull back to make an

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# OPINION

## Go East, My Son

by Yehudah Biss  
Herald Editor

Ahh, the East Side, the scent of the ocean. It permeates the night like the mist from a good bowl of soup. Sometimes I join the multitude of walkers that make their way wandering the streets there. Blackstone Boulevard is their Mecca, with its luscious trees, cute shrubbery and neatly cultivated lawn. It's almost as if Mayor Buddy himself cuts the grass on Blackstone. I could see him in the driver's seat, just waving and smiling at everyone.

See, the East Side is a hidden treasure. Like Solomon's Mines in the Congo (maybe not that hidden). It is a place with streets like Jenckes, Blackstone, Bowen and the like. Jenckes can boast a 35 percent grade slope, which used to be a two-way street, but had to be changed due to its inclining nature (and two car accidents). Blackstone is as we said, and if you haven't been to the beginning of Bowen (Prospect Park) you haven't seen all of Providence, literally. These magnificent streets accentuate the distinctiveness of Providence, letting this great city stand above all the suburban,

pre-planned, assembly-line "styled" cities. When *U.S. News and World Report* recently called Providence an up-and-coming city, they should have extended it an additional title: *unique* up and coming city. Whereas other cities may have a wonderful downtown mall and other amenities which Providence also is working on), Providence stands out as different because of its history and quaint streets. The East Side makes that difference. No one could plan the East Side. It just had to grow that way.

In the current "global village" that we live in, it's nice to have a city like ours still around. In that way, Providence parallels Venice, Italy. In fact, Mayor Buddy has recreated some similarities with Venice recently, by offering gondola services in the canal downtown. But this article isn't about the new downtown (although that is the primary reason for *U.S. News'* pick). Yes, downtown has transformed into a romantic beauty. But there still is nothing like smelling the sweet aroma of Blackstone Boulevard. It's good to be back.

Yehudah Biss recently joined the R.I. Jewish Herald as co-editor.

## Torah: Jewish Spiritual Therapy

by Velv "Wally" Spiegler

The Torah lays out a course of mental and emotional healing that may not be obvious from the text itself but yet it served the Jewish people from before the pre-exilic period until the rise of modern psychotherapy. The Torah's call for loving your neighbor as you love yourself with the emphasis on "yourself" is the foundation of the Jewish system.

Love, whether for yourself or for another, is not a feeling or an emotion; it is an energy. This energy which pervades throughout the universe and manifests in the form of caring, sharing, commitment, healing, and awareness generates the special feeling we call love. The awareness is expressed consciously, meaning that it is detached from judgment between good and evil, right or wrong and is the basis for unconditional love. Its quality is that of a witness, an observer, a beholder of the events in our lives without the need to be attached to them. A hint of this self-love comes to us from the scribe's lettering of the Torah verse *Sh'ma Yisroel Hashem Elokeinu, Hashem Echad*. The Hebrew letter ayin

of *Sh'ma* and the dalet of *Echad* are written considerably larger than the rest of the verse; one of those prominent Torah markers which signals something of importance. These two letters spell the word "AID," meaning witness in Hebrew, the source for unconditional love. Romantic love, passionate love, and too often even marital or parental love is conditional, not real love; it depends on the behavior of the other.

From Jewish mysticism we find further sources for emotional healing. The Kabbalah teaches the concept of Arba

Olamot, the four worlds. In essence it states that everything in the universe was formed by or exists in four levels of energy, which would also be true for our emotional and mental life. Level One relates to survival and physical issues, particularly those of money and health. Its symptom is fear and its remedy is feeling unconditionally loved — knowing that a loving, Divine power cares for our every need. We express this in the amidah of the daily prayer service. Level Two deals in relationship and sexuality issues.

(Continued on Page 19)

## Dershowitz Says Clinton Crisis Will Not Create Anti-Semitism

by Emily Torgan-Shalansky  
Jewish Community Reporter

The scandal that could topple the Clinton administration involves Monica Lewinsky, a young Jewish girl with a loose mouth and even looser morals.

According to Author and Professor Alan M. Dershowitz, the repercussions of her alleged behavior should not affect her co-

religionists any more than their fellow Americans.

"Jews are making too much of the Jewish connection," said Dershowitz. "I got at least half a dozen calls from the Israeli media about it, and I told them that it would be shocking if her being Jewish was any major issue here. I told them that they didn't understand."

Dershowitz believes that Lewinsky's situation raises some important issues about modern Jewish life.

"We're way past the time that anyone represents the Jewish community," he said. "Monica Lewinsky doesn't represent the Jewish community, and her lawyer William Ginsburg doesn't represent."

(Continued on Page 19)

## The Feinstein Chronicles

February 1998, No. 7

Thank you, WLKW, for your public service announcements helping us to relieve hunger. Please keep it up. That so many people going hungry in our country — the richest, greatest country in the world — is a shame.

Recently we announced an offer to match all donations of \$25 or more — up to a total of \$1 million — made from February 4 to 14 — to food pantries, food banks or soup kitchens throughout the country. I hope this challenge not only raises money to help the needy but shows our government the public's deep concern for this problem.

The responses are already coming in. A doctor in California has pledged all of his fees from Feb. 4 to 14 to go toward our challenge. A Long Island businessman was spurred by it to open his own soup kitchen. A Massachusetts store manager is thinking of matching our offer for all his customers who respond to it.

That could be tripling those donors' money!... A great thing for any establishment to do, and great public relations, too! It should even attract new customers — people who really appreciate such a gesture.

The things good people can do when they listen to their hearts...

Anything interesting you do or hear about, please let me know — P.O. Box 2065, Cranston, RI 02905.

Who knows? Maybe together we can end hunger...

In the last month, the number of food pantries the Feinstein Foundation has helped start in houses of worship throughout the country has risen from 173 to 179.

Alan Shawn Feinstein

### RHODE ISLAND JEWISH HERALD

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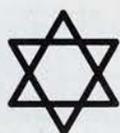
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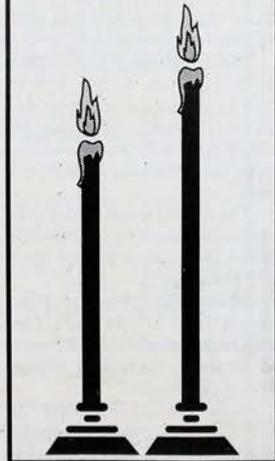
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Candlelighting  
February 13, 1998  
4:58 p.m.



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

## Moses Learns How to Share

by Julie R. Spitzer

No doubt about it: Moses is the epitome of a good leader. When we are asked to name a biblical figure who models what a leader should be, Moses tops the list. And why not? Moses led a rag-tag band from slavery to freedom. Moses the unassuming. Moses the man of uncertain speech. Moses the impatient. However, early leadership qualities are not necessarily what we remember about him.

In fact, what makes Moses stand out as a leader is his own transformation that occurred between the shores of the Sea of Reeds and Mount Nebo. Moses is not perfect. He is decidedly human. And in this week's *parashah*, we learn, along with Moses, one of the most important lessons of good leadership: the need to share responsibility with others.

How many of us recognize ourselves in the Moses of chapter 18, verses 13-16? The leader who toils from "morning until evening," trying to settle everyone's disputes. Doing it all on our own. Perhaps we do so because we think that we alone have the skills, the information, and the personality needed to

get the job done. Isn't it great to know that we are needed by so many? Nobody else can do it as well as we can.

If we keep leading like this Moses, nobody will do it any better because no one else will get a chance to try. And slowly we will lose our effectiveness. We will tire. We will "burn out." We will alienate family and friends, the very ones whose support enables us to be leaders. Jethro knows this. The father-in-law of Moses watches and observes.

He notes how the people come to Moses "from morning until evening." And Jethro speaks his mind: "The thing you are doing is not right; you will surely wear yourself out, and these people as well...; you cannot do it alone." (Exodus 18:17-18).

It is Jethro who teaches Moses the leader how to lead.

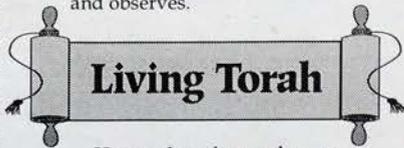
Find "capable men," Jethro suggests. Assign them to head groups of thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens. Let them judge the minor disputes and bring

the difficult matters to you. (Exodus 18:21:26)

So simple and yet so important. By delegating responsibility, Moses not only makes his impossible workload manageable, he also guarantees his future and that of his community. He can work together with all his team leaders, encouraging their growth and, it is hoped, learning as well from their example. While there is no doubt where the final authority rests in this instance, everyone will benefit from a well-managed system of shared leadership.

One final note. We have a major advantage over Moses. Not only can we choose from capable men but also from capable women. We know that Miriam would surely have been included among the leaders in Jethro's day had Moses been so instructed. In our day, Miriam and her heirs are not only fundamental to the leadership of the Jewish people, they are often its final authority. Next to G-d, of course.

Rabbi Julie R. Spitzer is the director of the UAHC Greater New York Council of Reform Synagogues.



## Jacob and Esau in the Womb

by Mike Fink

Herald Contributing Reporter

His name means both field and dwelling, as though he needs to stay and to go. He told me once he needed the woods, and time alone. But I was glad he found a soul-mate to share a future and a home.

He graduated last year, but she is studying abroad for a semester. My former student called and asked me over to see some of his latest art work. Ever in a vision quest and hunting for his role in life, he embodies for me the twin spirits of Jacob and also Esau, the indoor, inward person, and the outdoor wanderer.

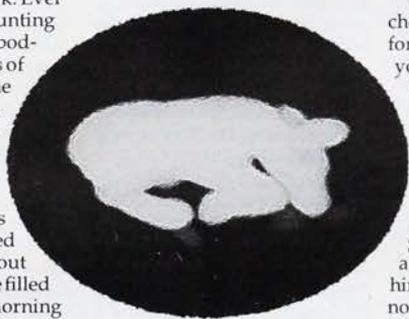
The last time I had laid eyes on my ally it was at Misha's talk on wolves and a lost youth. He looked too thin, and I worried about him. When he phoned, he filled me in. "I awoke one morning without feeling in my fingers and toes. I was losing weight, and I seemed to be disappearing, dissolving. I couldn't tell if it was mental or physical or which came first. The doctors can't figure it out. My mother took a look at me and said I had a ghostly look from a d.p. camp."

I made my way to his apartment, an antique but not restored Victorian, a flat with left-over fancy furnishings, French doors, damask wallpapers, and all the urban comforts. But my host's things ran counter to the setting.

He had built a large poplar trunk to hold the skins of deer and other animals whose carcasses he finds and cures to make

parchments. "I like the flow of the grain in the wood, and I seek the sacred spirits of the wilderness in the hides," he claims as he unfolds the ruglike scrolls. He has carved and printed Hebrew prayers in mystic circles with dyes, inks and stains. They are elegant forms, with the little crowns above the letters.

But as I study his face I see the sculpturing of suffering on his features. "Are you in pain?" I



ask. "Yes, sometimes, especially when I eat," he confides softly. "I am trying to commune with the souls of animals. But I feel less and less toward living beings, as though I am withdrawing into myself."

We settled in with mugs of tea. I could choose herbal or Darjeeling. He served a saucer of nuts which he had warmed. As we sipped and crunched, he went on in his calm but also troubled voice. "My work for City Year tired me out. I'd like to teach. I work on my sculpture. I am making mummies from animal skulls I find in the forest."

I feel a level of startling alarm,

but I am happy that he is going home to his parents for a visit. Dad is a lawyer, and Mom is an actress. They are outgoing people. Their son has always been more in-going, deep in his thoughts. "I am the ram that saved Isaac's life," he tells me. In fact, just before he marched in commencement, he gave me a small ceramic image he had made and glazed an albino white: a kneeling calf.

I rang him up next day to check out his state of mind before his journey. "Thanks for your reassuring words, which I needed," he said. "I am grateful for the privilege of your friendship," I returned.

I'm only a writer, and his former, not his actual, mentor. In a society that worships power, ambition, aggression, what place is left for a moral domain? I offer to him, to myself, and to my story no answer but rather a response of honor and concern, and a sense of timing.

I have been haunted of late by a Chassidic idea that each coincident, accidental meeting along our daily pathways counts for something, adds up to something. We meet persons, phantoms, creatures, things, each with a spark, or a mark of punctuation along the sentence of the week. We connect more with some moments than with others, seldom entirely. We keep so many ties and bonds in our warm lives.

With him, the pull of the past and the push of the present are struggling like a paragraph in scripture. I read the careful aleph bet of his fate with care and prayer.



## Where Can Adam Hide?

by Mike Fink  
Herald Contributing Reporter

I lost my physician and my optometrist seasons ago, and my dentist retired to take up a career in jazz music! So I let my fingers do the walking, just round my block, and a band of near strangers has come to know me intimately.

I am a person who developed a cold early this winter. It turned out, the doctor with an office closest to my house had once been my student at R.I.S.D. She got me to undergo an x-ray and a blood test, measures I dread and avoid. She prescribed bed rest and glasses of juice.

And then, last week, my tongue found a cavity, and I feared I was finally just rotting through and through, deep down. My terror of the Novocain needle surpasses my fear of the drill, and I asked my new dentist if she could go at it just plain. I got rave credit for courage and bravery, but it was really just super-cowardice.

It's been time for an upgrade of my spectacles, long, long overdue. Driving is an ordeal for me, if I have to read road signs. I have been working too hard to make sense of the shape of my world. I opened the pages of my phone book and chose the clinic round the corner.

I told the saga of my seeing from boyhood days walking into trees at camp, to getting sunstroke and losing my vision for a

full day, to volleyballs hitting my foolish head on school courts. He sat me on his throne, brought that great gear over to my face, and stared through brilliant lights behind my eyes into my retina, into my soul. What state secrets did he see written there? "I don't expect miracles, doctor, only slightly sharper letters and signs." He came up with numbers and letters on a sheet of paper, passed on to the optician, who promises the delivery of a new pair of glasses for Route 95.

What is the theme of my ode? It's kind of loose. Everybody knows you, really, the banker, the baker, the candlestick maker, and you can't hide anymore than Adam could, from G-d, in Eden. But a new battery of health care professionals look pretty thoroughly into your very being and may find things you'd rather not know. Your ignorance is your bliss. If you get away this time, it's a grateful lease on life.

My cold has gone off. My tooth is nicely filed and filled and polished. I've gotten away with it all, and left records of my inner life here and there beyond the borders of my friends and family. It's all photographed and written down by people I hardly know, who know me inside and outside. It's both a lonely feeling and a reassuring and alarming one at once, as time goes by.

## A Rose of Hope and Harmony

by Mike Fink

Herald Contributing Reporter

It was a funeral like any other. And yet it was unique. One survivor shook your hand in the receiving line, a nephew. I fibbed a little. I said she had been my French teacher. "Then you must have tasted her onion soup," he noted fondly. The line was short, and the hall held only a handful of mourners. But the melancholy was mixed with a sense of pride in your loss, and the triumph of a life well lived. Cantor Ida Rae Cahana sang as elegantly as some exotic, fabulous winter bird in a shaft of sunshine. Her husband the rabbi said, "Ida Rae came home with a joyful story of a day well spent with a remarkable woman, nearly at the century mark, who was both sharp and genial, clear as a bell." So the hymns rang out with a personal, private sound.

Some of you, unlike me, may have been her former pupils. My Hope High classmate, Dazzle Devoe, loyal and devoted, showed up. They had shared not only language courses, but also concert spaces: Her teacher was also a role model fellow pianist who delighted many with her performances.

Miss Rose Presel left us the legacy of her musical art and her belief in language. And her faith and commitment to public

education. She was a living symbol of Hope High School at its very best, and she gave her 40-year career to that torch of leadership.

My own friendship with the benevolent Miss Presel was indirect. She was chair of the foreign language department, when you studied not only for practical purposes—a business career, a job with immigration, a requirement for advancement—but primarily for the philosophical beauty of the tongue, the words, the heritage of an entire culture, another form of music.

But Miss Presel always knew my name and greeted me as a person, long after I had left the corridors of her kind influence. I am a teacher myself, but I confess, with discomfort, that I can name each student in my room spottily. I blame my eyeglasses, but it's a cop-out. Miss Presel, on the other hand, called out to me, cordially and warmly, on the Hope Street bus in the years of her retirement and asked after my welfare and my family. She looked wonderful, straight, proud, regal. I mean no disrespect, but I compare her to the drawings in the Babar books. The aging royal highnesses of the Frenchified jungle might look as though years had passed over them, but custom had never staled their infinite variety.

Miss Presel brought the fin-

est elements of the Ashkenazic Jewish prewar world into the east side of Providence. Her passing gently closes that chapter of local history, like the back cover of a beautiful book.

"Our families came from the same shtetl," said Martin Temkin, who sat beside me. Jerome Spunt carefully guided a woman with a Caribbean accent, who had looked in on Miss Presel in her final years of independence on Elmgrove Avenue. Her neighbor and friend Ida Millman joined the little congregation of admirers and allies. I had a poetic image in my mind as the rabbi repeated her name. I saw a white rose in a winter garden, blooming in a strange dream. And I played with a thought, that the phrase "Eurocentrism" gets a real beating in the spiritual presence of Miss Rose Presel. Today's academics reject the noble heritage of music, art, poetry and history that used to mark the highest levels of education. But Miss Rose reigned over our community with dignity, beauty, class and wisdom. It's a fascinating fact that one of her nephews serves as our ambassador to Uzbekistan. And the nephew, Peter, who was here, an engineer, declared, "If I were to design and construct the perfect educator, it would take the shape and soul of Rose Presel."

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# JEWISH COMMUNITY

## UMass Dartmouth Hillel Builds a Jewish Community

New Hillel director Raina Goldberg spent her first semester at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth meeting the challenges of getting to know people, creating a new community of Jewish students, and developing interfaith programming with colleagues from other faiths in the office of religious resources.

Despite the fact the job brings her to campus only one day per week, she has managed an impressive number of accomplishments. During the fall semester, the list of students who participated in Hillel programming grew from nearly none to almost 40. Most recently a dozen students made ceramic menorahs with graduate student Arlene Selmonosky and 20 students enjoyed a Chanukah party just before semester break.

Other achievements include guiding the students through the process of establishing a board of directors, creating events programming, and collaborating on interfaith projects. Examples of the last are the seasonal religious observance tables set up in classroom buildings which provided information and traditional foods of Christian, Jewish and Moslem holidays for passersby.

Considering her first and most daunting task was to identify just who, exactly, are the Jewish students at UMass Dartmouth, Goldberg has brought Hillel a long way. Students' religious preferences are not solicited on applications for admission to the university, so



Raina Goldberg

she has had an interesting dilemma: how to identify current Jewish students, who are few in number, and then demonstrate to prospective students that UMass Dartmouth offers a supportive environment for Jewish students so that more will enroll.

"I think that I can really identify with the Jewish students here," she said. "I grew up in very small Jewish communities in Jacksonville and Pensacola, Fla. I do know what it's like to be in the minority."

Goldberg lives in Boston where she is director of regional student services for the Hillel Council of New England. In addition to her one-day-a-week stint at UMass Dartmouth, she performs similar duties at the University of New Hampshire. She holds a bachelor's degree in history and elementary education — a double major — from the University of Miami in Florida, and a master's degree in counseling from Boston University.

It was at UM that she became interested in Hillel. "They have a very strong Hillel and I walked in the door my second day on campus. I became very involved with Hillel. I felt very at home there. And they were good to me, sending me to national conferences right away and giving me leadership training and opportunities.

"I am also very excited by the opportunities I think (UMass Dartmouth) presents," she says. "Getting in on the ground floor is very exciting. Challenge is a good thing!"

## Temple Am David Hosts Magic Show for Adults

Professional magician Bruce Kalver will be entertaining adults with his show "Moments of Illusion" at Temple Am David in Warwick on March 1 at 6 p.m. This show includes a deli dinner, dessert and refreshments.

Kalver has performed his magic for major corporations, cruise lines, and resort hotels and has appeared on a number of television shows. A member of Hollywood's Magic Castle, Kalver has lectured all over the world on his craft. He has received the degree of Associate of the Inner Magic Circle with a Silver Star from The Magic Circle of London, England.

Kalver's act includes audience participation, psychic effects, memory demonstrations and many amazing visual illusions. The performance at Temple Am-David will include his latest act which is usually performed exclusively for magicians at various magician's conferences in North America. "Classic Conjuring" is a magic theater vignette performed with his 10-year-old son Eric, about an elderly magician who is losing his touch when a young apprentice appears wanting to

learn his craft. When the old magician teaches the young boy, he becomes young again.

From the manipulating of small silver spheres to sleight of hand with a deck of cards, Kalver's skill of prestidigitation is remarkable. Lorraine Luciola in the *Providence Journal* wrote, "Bruce is immediately likeable as he strolls from table to table greeting old friends and making new ones. He is boyish and at the same time, slick and experienced.... In short, Kalver is a smooth professional."

Magic is having a resurgence. Broadway is hosting two live magic performers entertaining audiences with sophisticated sleight of hand. Television in the last couple of months has shown no less than 10 magic-related specials. Adults are once again rediscovering that they enjoy being fooled by the wonder they once had as a child.

Ticket reservations must be made and cost \$15 (\$18 if you pay at the door). Visa and Mastercard will be accepted.

Temple Am David is located at 40 Gardiner St., Warwick. For more information and reservations, call 463-7944.

## Can't Buy Me Love

by Yehudah Biss  
Herald Editor

My daughter was born in the Mazel of Akrav-Cancer, but just barely. Maybe that explains our similar personalities. Or could it just be love? See, before my Esti was born, my wife was worried that I wouldn't have an easy time adjusting to young children. I was the guy who could light up a room of teenagers with excitement but be stumped when a 4-year-old would ask me my name. That all changed the day I met Esther Malka. Suddenly, she became part of my new family. I was now fused with my wife, with the help of the A-mighty, to contribute to this one beautiful child. Yet minutes old, they put her on a warming table, where they intended to clean her off. She and I had other things in mind. We had some bonding to do. After all, she knew her mother for nine months and could communicate with her

through emotional and physical ties. But I was out of the loop, until now. Her eyes met mine and I saw for the first time the love that I spoke of earlier. A love I had for no one else in this world. A unique love no one could ever break. I extended my pinkie and touched her hand as she responded with a slight gentle hold. All of the world changed for me that day. See, she was my birthday present. Born five days after my 23rd birthday. A birthday present for all birthday presents. One I will cherish as long as I live. I now have a sweet 2 1/2-year-old daughter (my, the years do go by fast) who has become everything and more to me and my wife.

I've seen a lot of things in my life, none more important than her and her new little brother. I will cry like a banshee on her wedding day and hope to see her children born. But until then, I cherish every moment of our lives together, father and daughter.

## Mystery Solved

The photograph of the five couples who were featured in the latest "Can You Help Us?" article from the R.I. Jewish Historical Association of Jan. 29 brought a large response from the readers of the *Herald* even from as far away as those who were vacationing in Florida.

Identified and verified by several callers were the following: (Seated) Abe and Esther Barnett; Rebecca and Hyman Brososky. Standing are Ida and Lee Paster; Fannie and Nathan Resnik; Issac and Jesse Coken.

The consensus of opinion is that the event (perhaps a wedding or a bar mitzvah) might not have been a Temple Beth Israel function as were most of the photographs given to the archives by the Kelman children. This was based on the fact that the group in the picture were Pawtucket residents.

Several of the callers were related to those in the photograph. They dated the picture to the 1950 decade.

## Cranston High School West Presents 'I Never Saw Another Butterfly'

A one-act cutting of Celeste Raspanti's play, "I Never Saw Another Butterfly," is being presented by Cranston High School West students on March 20 and 21 at 8 p.m. and March 22 at 3 p.m.

Directed by Nancy Donegan and featuring a cast and crew of more than 30 students, this play offers a glimpse into life within the Terezin concentration camp as seen through the eyes of children inmates and especially Raja, a survivor.

Tickets for this presentation are \$6 general and \$4 students and seniors. For more information and ticket reservations call: 781-6395. Due to mature subject matter, this production is not recommended for viewers under the age of 12.

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## Temple Beth El Teaches Modern Jewish History

Rabbi William E. Kaufman of Temple Beth El in Fall River, Mass., will present his Adult Jewish Literacy Course VIII — Modern Jewish History — on Monday evenings at 7:30 p.m. during March in the Schneerson Vestry. All classes are open to the public as well as temple members. The class schedule is as follows:

**March 2** — The Emergence of Modern Anti-Semitism and the Rise of Racism

**March 9** — Martin Luther — Precursor of Modern Anti-Semitism. Guest speaker will be Professor J. Olsen, history professor at Rhode Island College.

**March 23** — The Jews in Hitler's Mental World

**March 30** — The Machinery of the Holocaust

**April 6** — The Birth of the State of Israel

To register for classes or for more information, call Temple Beth El at (508) 674-3529. Temple Beth El is located at 385 High St. in Fall River.

# JEWISH COMMUNITY

## Israeli Film Festival Celebrates State's 50th Anniversary

In honor of Israel's 50th anniversary, three Israeli films will be shown at the Rhode Island School of Design auditorium, 17 Canal Walk at Market Square, Providence, during February and March. The films, in Hebrew with English subtitles, are "I Love You Rosa" (1972), Feb. 22 at 3 p.m., "Under the Domim Tree" (1995), March 1 at 3 p.m. and "The Flying Camel" (1994), March 8 at 7 p.m. The series will be sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island and the Brown University Program in Judaic Studies. In addition it will be co-sponsored by Brown-RISD Hillel's Jewish Cultural Arts Society as part of an ongoing weeklong Jewish film festival.

According to David Jacobson, associate professor of Judaic

studies at Brown, "Films have come to play an increasingly significant role in Israeli culture over the past 50 years. As we celebrate the state's 50th anniversary, this film series provides us with an appropriate way to honor the accomplishments of Israeli cinema today."

The films, representing defining periods in Israel's history, focus on its Sephardic heritage, the transition from Holocaust to statehood, and the Arab-Israeli Conflict and the search for peace. Jacobson will introduce "I Love You Rosa," which addresses the impact of the Jewish religious tradition on the status of women, and "The Flying Camel," which centers on two collectors of relics of the past, an eccentric Jewish professor and a

Palestinian rubbish collector, who serve as a metaphor for Arab-Jewish relations. Michael Fink, professor of liberal arts at RISD, will introduce the Jerusalem Film Festival winner and Cannes Film Festival entry, "Under the Domim Tree," an inspirational account of a group of teen-age Holocaust survivors in a youth village in the 1950s, based on the autobiographical memoir by Israeli film star Gila Almagor.

The series was organized by Professors Jacobson and Fink, Patricia Cohen and Joan Slafsky, chairperson, Alysia Kotler-Berkowitz and Melissa Chernofsky.

Admission is \$5 to the public and free for students with identification.

## Zamir Chorale of Boston Visits Temple Torat Yisrael

To round out Temple Torat Yisrael's Seminary Shabbat, the Zamir Chorale of Boston, under the skilled and talented directorship of Joshua Jacobson will perform in Rhode Island. The Hebrew word Zamir means "nightingale," an appropriate name for an ensemble specializing in the full spectrum of music arising out of various Jewish traditions.

Zamir's programs reflect its commitment to both the musical and Jewish communities, with projects ranging from concerts for Boston-area school children and elderly groups to appearances at synagogues and major concert halls. Zamir has performed throughout New England including New York, toured Israel and Great Britain

and appeared with the Jerusalem Symphony and the Israel Philharmonic Orchestras, conductors Daniel Barenboim, Zubin Mehta, and soloists Theodore Bikel and Herschel Bernardi.

Among major works that Zamir has performed are Leonard Bernstein's "Chichester Psalms," Ernest Bloch's "Sacred Service," Beethoven's "Ninth Symphony," Mahler's "Second Symphony," Handel's "Saul" and most recently "Judas Macabaeus." Temple Torat Yisrael's Cantor Lieberman sang the role of Simon in "Judas Macabaeus."

The proposed program for this concert will draw attention to the celebration of Israel's 50th anniversary, an event, by itself, worthy of joyful celebration. We will hear some familiar songs such as "HaFinjan," "Rad HaLaylah," and "Zemer Lach" in a medley entitled "Around The Campfire." But sadly, with every Jewish joy, there is a little sadness. We will also hear the song "Hitrag'ut," a Sephardic lullaby. Also on the program will be selections by composers Leonard Bernstein, Meir Finklestein, Charles Osborne, Darius Milhaud, Salamone Rossi, and Max Janowski. Rounding out the classical portion will be Cantor Robert Lieberman and the Zamir in selections from "Judas Macabaeus." This palate of music is extraordinary for an extraordinary event at Temple Torat Yisrael, and will thrill and excite from beginning to encore.

Tickets for the concert are \$15 adult, \$10 seniors and students on Feb. 28 at 8:30 p.m.

## A Tasty Torah Tradition

On Feb. 14, the Torah Education Center will continue a community tradition. Twice before, Providence has hosted a communitywide Melaveh Malkah, sponsored by private contributions and organized by local volunteers. While the title, "Melaveh Malkah," traditionally refers to any meal eaten to honor the departure of Shabbat, this Melaveh Malkah has been something special in years past.

This time there will be a new attraction for the annual event. In addition to musical entertainment, provided by local talent Fishel Bressler, and in addition to such delectables as cheesecake and fruit, a featured speaker will be the highlight of the gathering. Rabbi Nachman Klein of Baltimore, Md., is to address the Melaveh Malkah on the topic of "Sparks of Torah."

Rabbi Klein is well-known and widely known. He is a *dayyan* (judge) on a *Beit Dan*

(court of Torah law) in Baltimore, as well as the owner of his own business. He teaches weekly in the Baltimore synagogue, Arugas HaBosem, and he also presents a weekly class in his own home. As one rabbi stated, "The honor of Rabbi Klein's visit to Providence cannot be understated, his words are known far and wide for their erudition and inspiration."

This is an opportunity for different social circles to meet and mingle. Said one longtime Providence resident, "Because our local synagogues and schools hold so many functions, we rarely have the chance to have a community-wide gathering, where the different groups can meet and socialize."

For last-minute reservations, directions, and information on the Kashrut supervision, call Anshel Strauss at 861-1714. There is a suggested minimum donation of \$3 per attendee.

## JGSGB Looks at Intermarriage Past and Present

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston presents Intermarriage in Biblical Times & Today, Implications for Jewish Genealogy & Our Family Stories with Dr. Paula Brody, director of Reform Jewish Outreach, UAHC/Northeast Council, on Feb. 23 from 7 to 9:30 p.m. at Temple Reyim, Newton, Mass. The program is free for members and \$3 for non-members. You may join the society at the door.

Intermarriage has affected our Jewish family histories in past and current generations. Brody will reflect on the impact of intermarriage on biblical genealogy, and will discuss societal influences contributing to the rate of intermarriage today. Brody has been at the forefront of evolving responses to Jewish intermarriage.

Formed in 1981, the JGSGB, with a membership of 400, is among the most active of more than 50 Jewish Genealogical Societies worldwide. The JGSGB sponsored the 1996 annual seminar on Jewish Genealogy in Boston, attended by more than 600 genealogy amateurs and professionals from around the nation and world.

For information, call (617) 283-8003.

## Hadassah's 'Training Wheels' Rolls Into Town

Training Wheels is a program that helps to establish a sense of continuity and structure within Jewish families. It was designed specifically for families with young children (ages 2 to 5).

An organizational meeting for adults will be held on Feb. 25 at Temple Beth David, in Narragansett, at 7:30 p.m. to introduce interested parents to the program.

There is no charge for this meeting. For more information, call Elaine at 789-1136. Space is limited.

**TELL THEM YOU SAW IN THE HERALD.**

## Beth Sholom & PHDS Sponsor Art Auction

A benefit art auction for Congregation Beth Sholom and the Providence Hebrew Day School will be held on Feb. 28. It will take place at Congregation Beth Sholom located at 275 Camp St. in Providence. The art preview will begin at 7:30 p.m. and the auction will begin at 8:30 p.m. Proceeds benefit the PHDS scholarship fund and The Beth Sholom general fund.

More than 200 works of art by national and internationally recognized artists will be auctioned. The collection presented for auction includes art

by Agam, Behrens, Chagall, Dali, Neimen, Picasso, Rockwell and Scott, plus many more. Beginning bids will be below retail gallery prices. The auction is being conducted by State of the Art Auctions, LTD. On the art auction committee planning the event are Laurie Noorparvar, Ruth Kerzer and Elaine Saklad.

A door prize will be awarded and wine and pastry will be served. Admission is \$5 in advance and \$6 at the door. Please contact Marvin Stark at 331-5327 for more information.

### Correction

In the Jan. 29 issue of the *Herald*, a typographical error appeared in "A New Sound in Jewish Music Comes to New England," (page 8). The correct sentence should have read "Dedi is not only a talented musician..."

The *Rhode Island Jewish Herald* regrets the error.

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# JEWISH COMMUNITY

## Pidyon Haben at Mishkan Tefilah

A very rare mitzvah recently took place at Congregation Mishkan Tefilah, Pidyon Haben, Redemption of the firstborn. Done on the baby's 30th day as symbolic praise to G-d for saving the firstborn during the tenth plague in Egypt, it is customary to show thanks by giving a gift to a local kohain, a descendant of Aharon, the first priest of Israel. It is a joyous occasion and a feast

always follows the ceremony. Mazel Tov to Chaim and Yocheved Betzalel, who live in Wickliffe, Ohio. Yocheved is the daughter of Rabbi Avrohom and Lynn Jacobowicz, both teachers at Providence Hebrew Day School.



Herald photos by Yehudah Biss



## Hallmarks of the Adoption Process at Adoption Options

Protecting the best interests of the child, the birth parents and the adoptive family should be foremost in the adoption process. Yet how does one ensure that the needs of everyone involved are actually met? Their legal rights safeguarded? Their feelings respected and privacy preserved?

To minimize the legal and emotional risks implicit in the adoption process, said Toby Zaitchik, adoption coordinator at Adoption Options, the non-profit and non-sectarian adoption program of Jewish Family Service, both the birth and adoptive parents need to work with a reputable adoption agency. "There are many choices available, many agencies, individuals and possible scenarios. A licensed agency will give you access to the information you need and the chance to work with experts who are there to serve the best interests of all the concerned parties," explained Zaitchik.

Licensed, accredited adoption agencies provide several services which are vital to the adoption process and can make the difference between a positive and a negative adoption experience. The most critical of these are: the home study process which includes screening the adoptive parents, counseling the birth parents and the adoptive family, and legal protection.

To protect the child, adoptive parents are carefully screened during the home study to ensure that they can provide a safe, stable and loving home. Screening enables the adoption agency to discover criminal records, domestic violence, substance abuse and other factors which would be detrimental to the child's well being.

Home study, however, is more than just a screening to eliminate unsuitable adoptive parents. It also provides the members of the potential adoptive family with an opportunity to work through any adoption issues they may have and become confident that they are ready to adopt.

Another important ingredient in the adoption process is counseling which provides emotional support for the birth and the adoptive parents. Experienced counselors work separately with both sets of parents, helping them prepare for the changes and emotions that occur with adoption.

Equally critical, a good adoption agency will make sure that every legal step and procedure is handled properly throughout the adoption process. Safeguarding the rights of the birth and adoptive parents is imperative in adoption and should always be entrusted to experienced adoption professionals.

"If you will be making an adoption plan for a child or are planning to adopt a child," said Zaitchik, "look for an adoption agency with integrity, one for whom the child's welfare, the comfort level of the birth and the adoptive parents and the correct legal process will be paramount." She adds that the best agencies will also take the time to explain every step in the whole adoption process to the birth and adoptive parents and will sensitively work out with both sets of parents what level of contact they may choose to have with each other.

Adoption Options, a non-profit, non-sectarian adoption program, offers comprehensive adoption services to birth parents, adoptive parents and children. It also provides an Adoption Resource Center (located on the second floor of the United Way building at 229 Waterman St., Providence), which makes available to birth parents, adoptive parents, potential adoptive parents, adoptees and professionals working with members of the adoptive community videos, books, periodicals, magazines and Internet connections. For more information about the Adoption Resource Center, call 331-5437.

## University of Rhode Island Hillel Wins Award

The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life recently announced that the University of Rhode Island Hillel was awarded the William Haber Award for Programs of Quality for the Jewish Campus Community for its program entitled The World's Largest Matzah Ball.

The award, presented at the 1997 Schusterman Hillel International Professional Staff Conference in Rye Brook, N.Y., recognizes programs that enhance both student experiences on campus and provide models for other Hillels to replicate. University of Rhode Island Hillel was one of six Hillels selected for this honor.

Hillel director Guy Bermel said, "We are thrilled to have received such an honor especially for a worthwhile fundraising program like the Giant Matzah Ball." The University of Rhode Island Hillel serves more than 1,500 Jewish students on the URI campus through a wide array of programs and activities including its award-winning Giant Matzah Ball. Students

across the campus came together to make a 60-pound matzah ball, with 360 eggs, and sell it in soup to raise money for a homeless shelter. This was a wonderful project that involved, not only Hillel staff, students, faculty and board, but more than 20 generous local businesses as well. All proceeds went to help the Welcome House, a transitional shelter in South County.

The prestigious William Haber award is announced annually. Winners are chosen by a committee comprised of Hillel lay leaders, students, professionals, and outside experts. The award honors the late Dean William Haber of the University of Michigan who served as chairman of the Hillel Commission from 1955 to 1963 and was an outstanding communal leader in many areas of vital significance to world Jewry. Haber was a renowned academician and an economist of international stature whose achievements and commitments embodied the highest ideals of Jewish communal service.

## Student Explores Portugal and Jewish Connections

A University of Massachusetts grad student, artist Arlene Selmonosky, will spend the Jewish holiday of Passover with Crypto Jews in Belmonte, Portugal. Sponsored in part by the Center for Jewish Culture and the Center for Portuguese Studies and Culture at the university, Selmonosky will experience the unique relationships between the Spanish, Portuguese and Jews in this small isolated village in Portugal.

Selmonosky describes herself as a southern Hispanic Jewish American woman; she recently lived in Portugal for five years. While in Belmonte, Selmonosky will collect oral histories of villagers, and photograph the town

and people. These photographs will be the basis for a series of tile collages created by Selmonosky, and for a slide lecture which she will present to the university community.

Selmonosky believes that the Jews in Belmonte are descendants of 15th-century Spanish Jews who were forced out of Spain during the Inquisition. Spanish, she said, continued as their native language and many Jewish traditions were passed down orally in Spanish. Although many Jews converted to Christianity, Selmonosky explains that some, known as the Crypto Jews, practiced Jewish customs in secrecy until the last 20 years.

## Teen Connection Goes Bowling

The B'nai B'rith Youth Organization recently announced its next great event for Teen Connection. Teen Connection is designed for the six- and seventh-graders who would like to meet other Jewish youth throughout New England. Once a month the members get together for a day of activities. The events are planned

by the members of Teen Connection and chaperoned by parents and BBYO professionals.

The first event was a trip to Amesbury Sports Park for a day of snow tubing. The snow was great and a return visit for next year is a must.

The event was attended by members of BBYO and Teen Connection. Many of the older members assisted in helping their younger counterparts.

The next event is scheduled for Feb. 22. Transportation will be provided from Temple Torat Yisrael at 10:45 a.m. The morning will begin with ice breakers, pizza, and a fun time at Legion Bowl. The cost of the event will be \$10. Parents must pick their children up from the Legion Bowl no later than 2:30 p.m.

If you would like information concerning the Teen Connection program, call David Hochman at 467-BBYO or the regional office at (617) 969-8455.

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## BBYO Continues Coat Drive

The B'nai B'rith Youth Organization and the Legion Bowl have extended the date for their coat drive. The drive that started last month has collected more than 40 winter coats. The drive will continue until Feb. 22. Men's and children's coats are needed for this event to be a success.

The Legion Bowl offers a family fun package that includes duck pin bowling, pool tables, a snack bar, and arcade games. The owner of Legion Bowl has joined with BBYO to offer a \$5 gift certificate to anyone donating a winter coat.

Check your basements and closets for any winter apparel. This event is not a rummage sale so do not bring outdated clothing.

If you would like one of the BBYO members to pick up your donations, call David Hochman, Rhode Island coordinator for B'nai B'rith Youth Organization at 467-BBYO (2296).

# FEATURE

## Answers To The Age-Old Question

*But Were They Good For The Jews?*

*Over 150 Historical Figures Viewed From a Jewish Perspective*

by Elliot Rosenberg  
Birth Lane Press;  
February 1998; \$22.50 cloth

"One day, as I enthusiastically recounted King Richard the Lion-Hearted's daring exploits to my uncle Louis, he suddenly interrupted, 'Yes, he was a great leader, but was he good for the Jews?'" In *But Were They Good For The Jews?* Over 150 Historical Figures Viewed From a Jewish Perspective, author Elliot Rosenberg asks the same question Jewish people throughout the world have been asking for generations about events of their times.

*But Were They Good For The Jews?* Takes the classic question and refocuses it directly on the great figures of world history. As far as the Jewish people were concerned, were history's "good guys" really good? Were "bad guys" truly villainous?

This book offers vignettes with this special approach to more than 150 men and women from ancient Greece and Rome through the Dark Ages, the Renaissance, the Reformation, the Age of Enlightenment, the 19th century and right up to the present day. Among them:

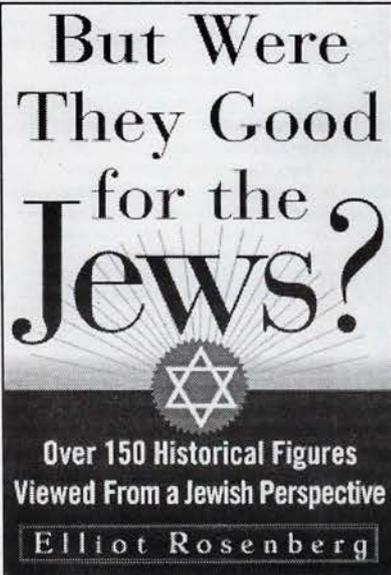
- Claudius (10 B.C.-54 A.D.) rates as a "good guy." As Roman emperor, he quenched the anti-Semitic rampages of Alexandria's Greek community, warning it "to behave gently and kindly toward Jews... and

apostolic status in the intellectual ferment of eighteenth-century France, but he hated the Jews.

- Anwar el-Sadat (1918-1981) broke all precedent for Arab leaders when he shook hands with Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin.

- Richard M. Nixon (1913-1994) was a man noted for anti-Semitic statements. Yet he oversaw much-needed American support when Israel was battling for its very life in the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

The proclamations and edicts of these sovereigns, commanders, men of letters, and politicians brought relief, anxiety, or terror to their Jewish subjects for two millennia. These historical sketches from this unusual Jewish perspective will be of interest not only to students and teachers of Judaism, but to everyone who enjoys a different view of history.



not to dishonor any of their customs in their worship of G-d."

- Oliver Cromwell (1599-1658) invited Jews back to England after an exile of more than three centuries.

- Voltaire (1694-1778) gained

Elliot Rosenberg taught history in New York public schools for 30 years. His articles have appeared in American Heritage, the B'nai B'rith International Jewish Monthly, Seaport, New York Newsday, and the Wall Street Journal. He lives in New York.

## Jewish Book Festival Draws More Than 10,000 Visitors From Former Soviet Union

The idea began when Sara Bogen and her staff were trying to combine Joint Distribution Committee's community development projects in the former Soviet Union with programs focusing on libraries. Not an easy task, they thought, until someone casually mentioned how popular Jewish book Festival Months is in Israel. And if it worked in Israel, they thought, why not the former Soviet Union, too?

So began a series of discussions concluding that the 1.5 million Jews living across the former Soviet Union, in a culture that values academic learning and cultural activities more than most, would certainly be interested in a book festival of some sort.

But nothing prepared them for the overwhelming turnout and diversity of programs. More than 10,000 men, women and children, Jews and non-Jews alike, turned out in 31 different communities for programs such as poetry readings, skits on Jewish humor, ancient Jewish book displays, seminars on Jewish underground writers, and concerts.

In Minsk, for example, the participants of a Belarussian writers conference taking place across town left their seminar en masse to attend a session on Jewish poetry reading.

"My first reaction was utter amazement," said Bogen, director of Community Center Development in the former Soviet Union for the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

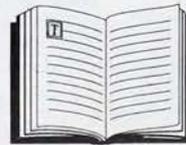
"And then I thought 'Why should I be surprised? I should have known.' In Russia, books have the power to mobilize people beyond belief."

And so the JDC staff began planning the conference, named "Ofek" — a Russian acronym for Community Festivals of the Jewish Book and Hebrew for "Horizon," by inviting Jewish community leaders from across the former Soviet Union to a training seminar in Moscow.

At the seminar, community leaders formed committees to work on their respective festivals, a method of organization still somewhat unusual in the former Soviet Union, said Bogen. But once the committees were in place, members brainstormed to such an extent that they walked away with programs that filled the month of September and far surpassed what anyone had anticipated.

In Kishenev, they held seminars on underground Jewish cultural activities in the 1920s and 1930s. And in Minsk, they held an evening of Jewish humor that attracted as many non-Jews as it did Jews — and was so popular that an encore performance was held the following night.

"This truly marks a fundamental shift in the internal workings of the Jewish communities across the former Soviet Union. It has created such status for the communities, internal and external, it's unbelievable," said Bogen.



## When Life Hurts

by Rabbi Wayne Dosick  
Feb. 1998, \$19

Nearly 20 years ago a little-known rabbi confronting the fatal illness of his child wrote a very personal reflection attempting to answer the question, "Why me?" Harold Kushner's *When Bad Things Happen to Good People* quickly turned into a runaway bestseller as it deftly guided suffering seekers through the often inadequate traditional answers to painful personal losses. In this same spirit, Rabbi Wayne Dosick, author of the beloved *Golden Rules*, has written a profoundly personal meditation on rebuilding after the fires of tragedy, offering ways to create a new and deeper life in the aftermath of pain. And like Kushner's book, Rabbi Dosick's has been greeted with a remarkable response by prominent advance readers — from John Gray and Laura Schlessinger to Deepak Chopra and Elie Wiesel.

*When Life Hurts: A Book of Hope* is a powerful account of one couple's personal story

in the aftermath of the devastating Harmony Grove fire in San Diego, Calif., in 1996. Rabbi Dosick recounts the slow process of recovery as he and his wife, Ellen, literally sift through the ashes of their lives to uncover those few physical artifacts that remain. Candidly discussing the feelings that devastating events bring — anger,

grief, despair — *When Life Hurts* explores the centuries-old questions about suffering:

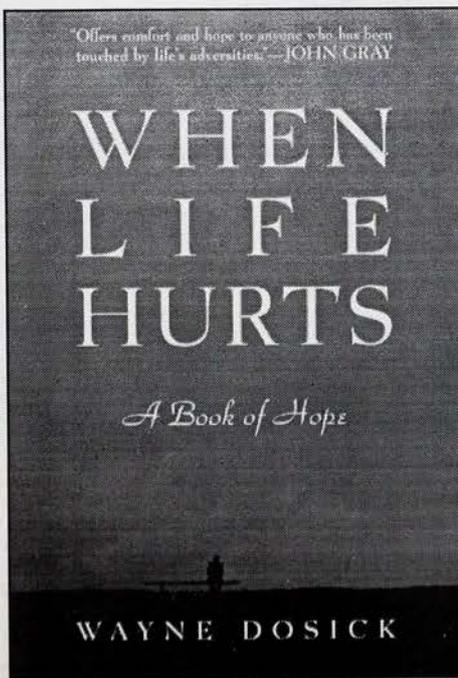
- How, when the time comes, do we deal with life's inevitable storms?

- How can we struggle through and pick up the broken pieces of our lives and make them, and ourselves, whole again?

- How do we create a new and deeper life in the aftermath of pain?

- How do we keep faith in a supposedly just and loving G-d when life seems so unfair?

*When Life Hurts* is for all of us who have received that dreaded phone call about a loved one, or who are waiting to get those test results back from our doctors, or who are trying to find a way to hold on in the wake of tragedies like Oklahoma City and TWA Flight 800. Rabbi Dosick teaches that new lessons of caring, joy and meaning can emerge from these despairing moments when we seem to be without hope.



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# HEALTHWISE

## Lifespan Health Connection Plans February Calendar

Throughout the year, the Lifespan Health Connection sponsors a variety of health activities and events in the Providence area. All programs are free unless otherwise noted. Preregistration is required as space is limited.

To register or for more information, call the Lifespan Health Connection at 444-4800 or (800) 927-1230. Visit the web site at <www.lifespan.org> for monthly calendars, updates, and special services.

### Heart Health Education & Screenings

During the month of February, Visiting Nurses Association of Rhode Island is offering free

blood pressure checks in the Rhode Island area. Call the VNA at 444-9400 or (800) 638-6274 for a location near you.

**Feb. 18 — How to Prevent Sudden Death in the Young and Old**, 7 to 8 p.m. George Auditorium, Rhode Island Hospital, by Dr. Robert Lemery.

**Feb. 23 — The Heart Healthy Diet**, 7 to 8 p.m. Lecture Hall, The Miriam Hospital, by Terry Jerominek, RD, MS.

**Feb. 25 — Tests for Heart Disease: What Are They and What do They Tell Your Doctor?** 7 to 8 p.m. Sopkin Auditorium, The Miriam Hospital, by Dr. Alan Katz.

### Classes

**Tai Chi Class, Every Monday**, 6:30 p.m., Eldercare (Community Room), 150 Franklin St., Bristol.

**Feb. 17 and 24 — Stress: Control it Before it Controls You**, 7 to 8 p.m. The Miriam Hospital, by Suzanne Moriarty, MSW. Learn to identify, prevent and reduce the impact of stress. Fee: \$60 (covered under the Lifespan Blue Behavioral Medicine Benefit).

**March 17 — Diabetes Education Series**, 1 to 3 p.m. Presented by VNA of Rhode Island

at Benjamin Church Senior Center, 1020 Hope St., Bristol. Certified diabetes educators will help you better manage the various aspects of diabetes, such as diet, weight, medication, and your lifestyle.

**Feb. 17 — Draw a Breath: Kids Controlling Asthma**, 4 to 6 p.m., Cooperative Care Center, Rooms 116 and 117, 2 Dudley St., Providence. Health care professionals teach children with asthma and their families how to manage this chronic condition.

**Feb. 19 and 26 — Relaxation Training**, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Conference Room C, Fain Health Centers, Miriam Hospital, by Jeanne Esler, MA. Learn about and experience a variety of different relaxation techniques. Fee: \$60 (covered under the Lifespan Blue Behavioral Medicine Benefit).

**Feb. 16 to March 9 — Exercise for Good Health**, 7 to 8 p.m., The Miriam Hospital, by Joe Gillis, BS; Janice Tripolone, BS; and Lynn Bucknam, BS. A four-session program to help participants develop a comprehensive approach to exercise. Fee: \$60 (covered under the Lifespan Blue Behavioral Medicine Benefit).

**Feb. 19 — Healthwise®**, 7 to 8 p.m., private dining room 1, Rhode Island Hospital. Learn to improve the care you provide for yourself and your family, as well as ways to improve communication with your doctors. Cost of \$5 per family for the *Healthwise® Handbook*.

**Feb. 24 — The Dieting Dilemma**, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. YMCA, Park Avenue, Cranston. Elizabeth Lloyd, Ph.D., will examine current weight loss methods and the importance of a nutritious, well-balanced diet.

**Feb. 26 — The Fussy Eater**, 7 to 9 p.m. George Auditorium, Rhode Island Hospital, by Barbara Robinson, RD, CNSD and Gretchen Stalters, RD, MS.

### Support Groups

**Cancer Support Group** — 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., first and third Wednesday of each month. Cooperative Care Center, Room 117, Rhode Island Hospital. Call 444-5013.

**Transplant Support Group** — 6:30 p.m., first Tuesday of each month. Private dining rooms 5 and 6, Rhode Island Hospital. For transplant candidates, recipients, and their families.

## Applying Your Knowledge of Arthritis

How much you know about the disabling condition known as arthritis — and what you can do for it — could make a difference in how well you feel as the years go by. Try this little test.

1. Arthritis is mainly a disease of the (a) joints (b) muscles (c) bones.
2. Rheumatoid arthritis mainly affects (a) children (b) people in their 20s to 40s (c) those over 65.
3. There's nothing that can be done for arthritis pain. (a) True (b) False.
4. Almost everyone gets osteoarthritis eventually. (a) True (b) False.
5. Regular exercise tends to (a) help (b) exacerbate (c) bring on arthritis.

### Answers

1. (a) The condition is also known as degenerative joint disease. It develops most commonly in the larger, weight-bearing joints such as the knees and spine.
2. (b) The condition, however, can occur at any age. Osteoarthritis is more common among the elderly.
3. (b) False. In fact, there is much that both doctors and their patients can do. Doctors can prescribe or recommend pain killers. Surgery is sometimes successful. It's a good idea to keep your weight down, to exercise regularly, to keep the painful part warm and to get plenty of rest. Many people also apply a topical pain rub.
4. (a) True. As time and gravity work on your joints, arthritis is almost inevitable.
5. (a) Although people who put a lot of stress on certain joints, such as ballet dancers or football players, may be more prone to problems, moderate exercise, especially swimming, can be beneficial for delaying and easing arthritis.

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# HEALTHWISE

## Memorial Hospital Offers Spring Weight Loss and Fitness Program

Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island will sponsor a six-week weight loss and fitness program, beginning March 9 and concluding April 13. The program, entitled "Lose Weight, Feel Great," will be held Mondays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the hospital's Sayles Conference Center.

The program is specifically designed for those who have failed at past dieting attempts and will teach participants a safer, more effective way to permanent weight loss. It will help participants reduce their body fat, in-

crease their energy level, and follow an overall healthy lifestyle plan. Led by a registered dietitian, the program will feature guest lecturers and a healthy cooking demonstration, low-fat recipe revisions, assessments of individual eating habits including stress-related eating, tips for dining out, a workshop on label reading, a guide for making healthy choices in the supermarket, and fitness activi-

ties to get you moving. Body fat analyses will be performed on each participant at the start and finish of the program.



The fee for this class, which includes all written materials, food samples and body fat analyses, is \$60. The class will be limited to 20 participants.

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

## Dealing With Depression

Feeling blue or down in the dumps once in a while is normal. But there's a difference between feeling blue and having depression.

People with major depression have the following symptoms every day, all day, for two weeks or longer.

- sad/empty, lost feelings
- perception of low self-worth or guilt
- change in appetite and/or weight
- thoughts of death or suicide
- difficulty focusing
- feelings of complete exhaustion
- emotional numbness

If you're depressed, you may also have headaches, other aches and pains, digestive problems, and problems with sex or a lack of desire for sex.

Depression is not caused by personal weakness, laziness or lack of willpower. It is a medical illness that can be treated. Treatments may involve medicine, a

special type of counseling called psychotherapy, or both.

When physicians refer to depression, they usually mean major depression.

### Overcoming Depression

- Avoid drugs and alcohol. Both make depression worse. (Both can cause dangerous side effects.)

- Set a realistic schedule, don't try to do more than you really can.

- Exercise. This not only provides a distraction from depression but also causes a chemical reaction in the body that can cause your mood to improve.

- Don't get discouraged: treatment works for almost everyone!

### How Long Will Depression Last?

This depends on you. Get help, talk to your doctor. Left untreated, most depressions will lift in about six months to a year.

For more information on depression, talk with your personal physician.

## Fantasy Auction Benefits Leukemia Society

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The Fantasy Auction will be held once again at the Astors' Beechwood mansion on Feb. 20. A silent auction will run from 7 to 8 p.m. with a live auction beginning immediately afterwards continuing on until all items have been sold. The Fantasy Auction is a premier event within the Newport Winter Festival and

benefits the R.I. Chapter of the Leukemia Society of America. Tickets can be purchased for \$12.50 (with a Newport Winter Festival button) or for \$15 and can either be purchased in advance at the Gateway Center in Newport, through the Leukemia Society, or at the door the evening of the event.

The Fantasy Auction has been known to raise more than \$20,000

in past years. All proceeds will be put forth towards the Leukemia Society's mission statement: to cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma, and improve the quality of life for patients and their families.

For more information regarding the Fantasy Auction, call the Leukemia Society at 943-8888 or the Newport Winter Festival at 847-7666.

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For people ordering less than five bouquets, pick ups can be made at participating Newport Creamery restaurants. When placing orders, you must select a store and then pick up flowers at that store during regular business hours from noon on March 23 through March 25.

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# FEATURE

## Finding Love In All The Right Cyberspaces

by Daniel Kurtzman  
WASHINGTON (JTA) — You might say Jan and Joel have fate to thank. Or perhaps, they owe it all to IBM.

It began with an Internet connection.

Too hyper to sleep one Saturday night after going out dancing, Jan turned on her computer and started browsing the personal ads in the Jewish matchmaker area on America Online.

She was taken with Joel's photo and bio. Only one problem. He was what's called — in the lingo of cyber dating and elsewhere — GU: geographically undesirable. He was living in Hawaii, a long commute from Peekskill, N.Y.

She wrote him a short note: "It's a shame you're half a world away."

Joel wrote back: "If you face West and I face East when we pray, we'll meet."

They began corresponding regularly through e-mail. Before long, Jan was making plans to visit Hawaii, and Joel was inviting her to stay with him.

"It may not have been love at first sight, but the second sight

undoubtedly worked its magic," Joel says of the two weeks they spent touring the island together and taking in sunsets.

Even before leaving New York, Jan says she knew Joel was her "bashert," telling a friend, "I'm going to marry that man."

Her prediction will prove true when the two exchange vows this summer.

Jan, 55, and Joel, 61, are among a growing number of Jewish couples who, with the help of online Jewish singles forums, are making their way from cyberspace to the chupah.

On American Online, the Jewish Community Online maintains a "matchmaker" area (keyword: Jewish Singles), one of the more popular online Jewish singles venues.

In December, as many as 34,000 different users, most of them between the ages of 20 and 45, visited the singles area, spending a total of 10,600 hours there.

Currently, there are more than 1,500 matchmaker profiles listed on the AOL site, along with a sampling of 30 success stories.

Dozens of other web sites for Jewish singles, many serving specific regions of the country, can be found through simple searches using Yahoo! or any other Internet search engine.

While there generally is no cost to simply browse around and check out personal ads listed online, most services charge a fee to post your own.

So, how are Jewish singles turning Internet connections into lifelong partnerships?

In a typical cyber courtship scenario, someone places an ad, often with a photo, into particular age and geographic group-

ings within a designation such as "women seeking men."

"Woody Allen type seeks his soul mate," "Cultured, classy, charismatic cuddler," and "Your mother will love me" are some of the headings for ads recently posted in the Jewish Community Online's matchmaker area.

Responses come by way of e-mail, allowing a chance for both people to read about each other and perhaps check out each other's online profiles before they begin corresponding.

"You feel in control," said Rela Mintz Geffen, a professor of sociology at Gratz College in Philadelphia who dabbles in the online dating scene. "You can control your own destiny."

Dozens of other websites for Jewish singles, many serving specific regions of the country, can be found through simple searches using Yahoo! or any other Internet search engine.

In other instances, people might come into contact through real-time communication channels.

"What will happen is, you'll be in a chat room, you'll see someone who says something that interests you, then you instant-message them and have a private conversation, a one-on-one chat," said Tsilli Pines, a producer for Jewish Community Online who manages the singles area.

The opportunity to correspond with a prospective date often proves disarming, online

matchmaking gurus say, and it carries a distinct advantage over the more traditional practices of responding to personal ads in newspapers or going through computerized dating services.

"It's less intimidating because it gives you time to think about how you want to approach them," Pines says. "You can sort of test them before you divulge" personal "information."

"It's restored the art of letter-writing, and in a way, it makes for an almost more old-fashioned courtship," Geffen said.

Erika and Jason got to know each other slowly over a period of several months, regularly chatting online before exchanging phone numbers.

She was living in Florida, he in New York, and it wasn't until they spoke that they discovered they grew up in the same neighborhood in Brooklyn, attended the same elementary school and were in the same kindergarten and first-grade classes.

"Figuring it was fate, Jason flew to Florida three weeks later," Erika said. "It was love at first site!"

Cross-country romances are not uncommon in this emerging global village of Jewish singles. Indeed, online singles forums have succeeded in removing geographical boundaries, effectively opening up a range of new possibilities for Jews on the prowl.

"For Jews living in remote places who find it hard to even find other Jews, it's a really important way to connect with other Jewish people," Pines said.

"Then in somewhere like New York — which is brimming with Jews" and can feel "overwhelming because it's a big city — it's a way to connect with a small community of people."

Susan went on line around 3 a.m. one morning in search of just that — a small community. Heartbroken and on the verge of breaking up with her boyfriend of two years, she struck up a conversation with three people in a chat room, all of whom agreed she should throw her boyfriend out.

One of them was Warren, who followed up with her a week or so later to see how she was doing.

They began corresponding, and soon after Susan invited him to take her to a Jewish singles party in Atlantic City — no small proposition, considering he was living on the West Coast.

"This wonderful man took a plane and flew out 3,000 miles for a 'blind date,'" Susan said. "We spent four glorious days together and fell in love."

Before long, Warren was making the drive across America, belongings in tow, to start a new life out East.

"We both feel that this is a mitzvah," he said, "that has been arranged on another level."

### Where to Meet

Dozens of meeting places for Jewish singles are available online. As part of Jewish Web Week <www.jww.org>, there will be ongoing singles events throughout the week through the "Connect with Others" channel. In addition, on Feb. 25 at 10 p.m., AOL members can go to Keyword: Jewish Chat for a "Cybershmooze" with other singles.

### Other Jewish singles sites include:

- The Jewish Community Online's Matchmaker area on America Online (keyword: Jewish Singles);
- Yenta! The Jewish Matchmaker System <www.yenta.email.net>;
- Single Jew.Com <www.singlejew.com>;
- JQS: Jewish Quality Singles <www.jqs.com>. They will be hosting "Most eligible bachelor and bachelorette of Jewish Web/Net Week";
- Jdate — The Jewish Singles Network <www.jdate.com>;
- The Jewish Personals <www.jewishpersonals.com>.

Other Jewish singles sites, some serving specific regions of the country, can be found through simple searches using Yahoo! <www.yahoo.com> or any other Internet search engine.

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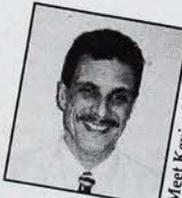
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## Farrakhan Kicked Out of Southern Russia

by Lev Krichevsky  
MOSCOW (JTA) — Authorities in southern Russia have expelled Louis Farrakhan.

Officials in the autonomous region of Dagestan expelled a delegation of foreign Muslims led by the Nation of Islam leader, saying Farrakhan and his group lacked the proper documents.

But the leader of Union of Muslims of Russia, an umbrella group that invited Farrakhan to Russia, said the expulsion was politically motivated and was due to the fact that Dagestani authorities "erroneously described Farrakhan as an extremist."

Farrakhan's delegation was to have traveled to the Dagestani-Chechen border to meet with the leadership of the former break-away Russian region of Chechnya, like Dagestan, is predominantly Muslim.

Recently, Farrakhan told more than 5,000 Russian Muslims gathered in Moscow's central mosque to spread Islam throughout the country.

Russian Jewish leaders said they did not understand the purpose of Farrakhan's visit, which marks the halfway point of his worldwide tour.

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# Papon May Benefit From Extended War Crimes Trial

by Lee Yanowitch

PARIS (JTA) — The war crimes case against accused Nazi collaborator Maurice Papon appeared open and shut at the start of his trial.

But what once seemed simple has become complex, making the verdict increasingly unpredictable with each day of proceedings.

The 4-month-old trial has visibly exasperated the media — and some lawyers fear it could have the same effect on the jurors.

"I am afraid that public opinion may change," said lawyer Gerard Boulanger, who launched the first suit against Papon in 1981. "The exasperation could become so great that it would cause the jury to revolt. That would be catastrophic."

The numerous postponements sought by the 87-year-old Papon because of complaints of ill health have contributed to the slow pace of the trial.

These delays were so frequent at the start of the trial that lawyers for Holocaust victims and their families accused Papon last November of using his health as an excuse to delay the trial.

The trial encountered another difficulty recently, when a prosecution lawyer dropped a bombshell that could have derailed the proceedings entirely.

Arno Klarsfeld, son of famed Nazi-hunter Serge Klarsfeld, called for the presiding judge to remove himself because of a conflict of interest, saying he was related to Jews whom Papon allegedly had deported from the southwestern city of Bordeaux during the wartime Vichy regime and later perished at Auschwitz.

Part of the reason behind Klarsfeld's call was the fear that if he had not revealed the family link, the defense would do so to discredit a conviction.

But Klarsfeld himself admitted that the move was also motivated by a personal vendetta against Judge Jean-Louis Castagnede, who has allowed Papon to go free for the duration of the trial instead of keeping him in prison, as is customary in France, or under surveillance in a hospital.

The public prosecutor, as well as the other lawyers for the civil plaintiffs, denounced Klarsfeld's motion and France's umbrella group for Jewish secular groups, the CRIF, asked him to back off.

In a sharp turnaround, Klarsfeld withdrew his motion calling for the judge to step down — a move that brought evident relief to those who did not want to see the already drawn-out trial thrown into further disarray.

But beyond Papon's health claims and the abortive move by Klarsfeld, the proceedings — which opened Oct. 8, 1997 and initially were scheduled to end Dec. 23, 1997 — have also been extended by lengthy testimony from historians and witnesses, as well as by a painstaking analysis of the hierarchy of the Bordeaux prefect's office, where Papon was the second-highest-ranking official and acted as supervisor for the Office for Jewish Questions during the Nazi occupation.

A Paris police chief and budget minister after the war, Papon went on trial on accusations that he ordered the arrest of 1,560 Jews, 223 of them children, for deportation to death camps between 1942 and 1944.

Papon denies the charges against him, saying he was a powerless underling who spent the war saving Jewish lives.

Now, even those who had been fervently in favor of the trial have voiced their disappointment.

"Poorly prepared, poorly organized and above all, poorly explained, the Papon trial is in danger of becoming a disaster," Jewish writer Marek Halter recently wrote in an opinion piece in the French daily "Liberation."

The worst blow came from the widely read news magazine

*l'Express*, which described the trial in a recent article as rambling and aimless.

"This artificial dragging out not only creates boredom, but it stresses the shortcomings and irregularities of the proceedings," the article said, blaming the delay on the exhaustive and "repetitive" cross-examinations of the 18 lawyers representing the civil plaintiffs.

The day after the *l'Express* article appeared, Castagnede summoned the lawyers from both sides to a meeting and ordered them to speed up the proceedings, saying he would also require witnesses to be more concise.

Many observers blame the delays on Castagnede himself for allowing witnesses to ramble endlessly and failing to impose discipline on the proceedings.

While Castagnede's directive to the lawyers may help create order and accelerate the daily arguments, much of the damage may have already been done.

Boulanger, the lawyer who launched the 1981 trial against Papon, voiced the fear that the evidence against Papon — documents from the prefect's office

concerning the roundup and transport of Jews — has become lost amid the months of interrogation and testimony by some 50 witnesses.

Another 50 are expected to take the stand.

"The arguments have been diluted. We have gone too far off the track. The main obstacle we must imperatively surmount is the slow pace of the debates," he said.

Once critic said that the trial was destroying all the soul-searching France had done to come to terms with its collaborationist past.

"All the historical, pedagogical and cultural work accomplished during the last 20 years is being smashed to pieces," said Maurice Szafran, editor of the weekly magazine *Marianne*.

Papon is the highest, and undoubtedly the last, French official to go on trial for crimes against humanity.

Legal action was first taken against him 16 years ago, but was repeatedly obstructed by the administration of late President François Mitterrand, who was reluctant to see the painful aspects of France's past dragged out for re-examination.

## Collector's Heirs Ask Museum to Return Nazi-Looted Painting

by Lee Yanowitch

PARIS (JTA) — The heirs of a prominent Jewish art collector are seeking to recover a Cubist masterpiece that was plundered by the Nazis and is now hanging in a major art museum in Paris.

The 1914 painting by Georges Braque, "The Guitar Player," was looted by the Nazis in 1940, along with dozens of others, from the mansion of Alphonse Kann in the Paris suburb of Saint-Germain-en-Laye.

The controversy over the painting is just one of several involving art works plundered by the Nazis — last month, the state of New York prevented the Museum of Modern Art from sending two paintings by the Austrian painter Egon Schiele back to Austria after two Jewish families claimed that they had been looted from them.

Kann, a collector of 20th-century art, had already fled to London when his collection was looted. He died in 1948.

Didier Schulman, a curator at the Georges Pompidou Center in Paris, where the Braque now hangs, said in an interview that the painting was a major work, but could not say how much it was worth today.

He also denied that the museum was trying to conceal the fact that the work had been plundered.

"We bought it in good faith. As soon as we bought it, we did some research and we realized it had belonged to Alphonse Kann. We mentioned that in our

catalogue," Schulman said.

As all transactions with the Nazis were declared null and void by the Allies in 1943, a 1942 exchange of the painting between the Nazis and an art dealer was illegal — and would seem to imply that the Braque should be returned to its rightful owners.

But Schulman said that the museum still has to "determine exactly what happened to it between 1942 and 1948 before returning it."

What happened to the painting during that period is still unclear, but recent investigations by the Pompidou Center and Kann's heirs have shed some light on a series of sales by brokers and collectors.

It appears that in 1942 the Nazis exchanged "The Guitar Player" — along with works by Matisse, Leger, Picasso and de Chirico — for an "Adoration of the Magi" by a German master.

The Nazis considered most modern art "degenerate" and usually bartered such works for art that corresponded to their Aryan ideal, often trading several modern works for a single painting by a Dutch or German master.

The Paris art dealer who received the painting in exchange for the "Adoration of the Magi" then sold the Braque, which had several owners before emerging at a 1948 exhibit with the mention "Collection of Andre Lefevre."

Upon Lefevre's death, it was sold at auction in 1965 to Heinz

Berggruen, a German-American collector living in Paris. A Braque by the same name, but painted in 1911, hangs in the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

In 1976, Berggruen lent the painting to the Pompidou Center, which bought it in 1981 for some \$1.5 million with a loan from the French government.

Kann's heirs have already recovered one Cubist painting from the Pompidou Center, "Landscape" by Albert Gleizes.

It was looted from Kann's home at the same time as the Braque, but was returned to France from Germany right after the war.

Like hundreds of other looted works, it was temporarily entrusted to the French state museum network until its owner could be located.

The Kann family was able to prove ownership of the Gleizes after a lengthy search, which included delving into the Foreign Ministry archives, and the painting was returned to them in the summer of 1997.

But several works from Kann's collection are still missing.

The French state museum directorate was criticized in a 1996 report by the country's state spending watchdog for failing to try to seek out the owners of looted works.

The museums holding the works ran a spate of exhibits last spring in the hope that the owners would step forward and claim them.

## Kevin Costner Hosts Television Special on Israel

by Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES (JTA) — Actor Kevin Costner will host a CBS television show celebrating Israel's 50th anniversary.

The starring role for Costner, who is not Jewish, will help the show appeal to a wider audience, according to its organizers.

The "America Salutes Israel at 50" extravaganza will be held at the 6,400-seat Shrine Auditorium on April 14, and broadcast the following evening by the CBS television network across the United States — it will also be broadcast around the world.

At a recent planning meeting, organizers acknowledged the virtual meltdown of jubilee celebration plans within Israel and strains between the Jewish state and the Diaspora, but vowed to go all out in Los Angeles.

"It's vital that people in Israel know that they still have

the support of the rest of the world," said honorary co-chairman Lew Wasserman, former chairman of the entertainment conglomerate MCA Universal.

Other plans for the two-hour program include a satellite linkup with Israel, film clips highlighting Israel's history since independence and, possibly, a pre-taped musical performance from Masada.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles and the Simon Wiesenthal Center will sponsor the show.

Two behind-the-Hollywood-scenes power hitters — Merv Adelson, former chairman of Lorimar Pictures, and Marvin Josephson, head of International Creative Management, the influential talent and literary agency — are overseeing the CBS special. They are also international co-chairmen of 50th anniversary celebrations worldwide.

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# FEATURE

## Italian Film on Holocaust Draws Crowds, Controversy

by Ruth E. Gruber

ROME (JTA) — The current film hit by one of Italy's favorite comic actors is a moving — and, at times, hilarious — fable about love, suffering and survival that is largely set in a Nazi death camp.

Since opening a week before Christmas, "La Vita e' Bella" (Life is Beautiful) has packed cinemas across Italy and taken in more than \$20 million.

At the same time, it has sparked widespread debate among Jews and non-Jews alike about the manner in which the Holocaust can — or should — be portrayed on film.

But Jewish actor Moni Ovadia liked it so much that he declared non-Jewish comedian Roberto Benigni, who directed, co-wrote and starred in the movie, "an honorary Jew."

In the film, Benigni, with his trademark wild hair, receding chin and manic style, plays Guido, an Italian Jew in the Tuscan town of Arezzo. In the

late 1930s, Guido falls in love with, courts and marries Dora, a non-Jewish woman. They have a son whom they name Giosue.

Suddenly, without warning, on the boy's 5th birthday, Guido and Giosue are deported by German occupiers to a Nazi death camp. Dora demands — and is allowed — to be deported with them.

Dora and Giosue come through the ordeal alive. Guido becomes one of the 6 million. Benigni's account of how Guido ensures his son's survival is the crux of the film — and of the controversy surrounding it.

From the beginning, Guido decides to protect Giosue by convincing him that the deportation, the death camp and all the horrors around them are obstacles in a strange, exciting game.

Benigni's antics in maintaining this make-believe are sometimes hilarious. But a clearly conveyed sense of desperation permeates the gags. It is clear

that Guido is walking a tightrope — one false step and all will be lost.

It is a powerful demonstration of the love of a father for his child — and the trust of a child in his father.

The first half of the movie is a screwball comedy that sets up Guido's character as a romantic joker and also presents him as a perfectly integrated Italian everyman, no different from anyone else. In one hilarious scene he impersonates a fascist bureaucrat and uses himself as an example of the Aryan ideal.

There is no indication that Guido is Jewish until halfway into the film, when an anti-Semitic slogan suddenly — and shockingly — appears.

"I wanted to portray a Jew who was not recognized by precise signs, but who was the same as I am," Benigni told the Rome Jewish monthly *Shalom*. "I wanted the audience to ask themselves, why are they deporting Benigni, how could they

take even him? [Guido] is a Jew who lives his life, who is not involved in politics, who does his job and then suddenly down comes this ax that smashes his life, just as it really happened."

Italy's leading research center on the Holocaust and anti-Semitism was an adviser on the film, as were several Holocaust survivors.

Response to the movie within the 30,000-strong Italian Jewish community has been warm, but divided.

"I found it a very moving film," political scientist Franco Pavoncello said in an interview after a screening of the film for the Rome Jewish community. "It is an allegorical fable about basic human sentiments that exist even in the face of the tragedy of the Holocaust."

But Daniel Vogelmann, who runs an Italian Jewish publishing house, asked, "Can you write fables about Auschwitz?"

Vogelmann, the son of an Auschwitz survivor, criticized

the film for not portraying the death camp and its conditions — or the pre-war fascist climate — realistically enough.

Shlomo Venezia, who spent 10 months in Auschwitz and consulted on the film said this critique missed the point of the film.

"The film as a whole works, particularly for the Italian mind," Venezia said in an interview after the screening for Rome's Jewish community. "You could never show on film just what Auschwitz was really like. For someone who didn't live through it, I think that the Benigni film can have a greater effect than 'Schindler's List.' For me, 'Schindler's List' seemed impossible."

Several people in the Jewish community suggested that the film could be used in schools as a teaching tool about the Holocaust, but said that it would have to be shown in conjunction with supplementary educational material.

## Learning Online Provides 'Spiritual Lifeline' For Adults

by Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK (JTA) — Eleanor Gibson is a cranberry farmer in a rural part of Washington state where hers, she says with a laugh, is one of only two Jewish families in the area.

Every day — usually for an hour, sometimes for two or three — she logs onto a new, online adult education course.

At Mishpacha: A Community of Learning for Jewish Parents, Gibson learns about Judaism's views on issues as varied as food and death.

But more importantly, she says, she connects with about 10 other men and women with whom she can chew over the pleasures and challenges of living and parenting as Jews today.

"It's like an emotional, spiritual Jewish lifeline for me," said Gibson, who home schools her two youngest children and lives nearly 80 miles from the nearest synagogue.

Gibson also says that participating in Mishpacha <www.mishpacha.org>, which means

family in Hebrew, during the past few months has helped her and her non-Jewish husband, John, cope with conflicts related to their interfaith marriage.

Connecting to the forums on Mishpacha, which is sponsored by the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture, has allowed John to "realize he's not alone, that his questions and doubts are shared" by others, she said.

And that has led him to talk to a rabbi about the possibility of converting to Judaism, said Gibson, a Jew by choice herself.

Mishpacha, which was created by Larry Yudelson, who has been Jewishly active on the World Wide Web, and Conservative Rabbi Dianne Cohler-Esses, is one of a burgeoning number of adult education courses available online.

The first incarnation of online connectivity and learning, which started nearly a decade ago, took the form of electronically mailed listservs, automated systems that distribute information to a community of electronic subscribers.

Hundreds of these listservs continue to be used by tens of thousands of Jews.

Shamash, a Jewish community umbrella site on the Web, alone has 267 lists with 36,000 different people subscribing, according to Nathan Erlich, director of the Center for Information Technology at Hebrew College in Brookline, Mass., where Shamash <www.shamash.org> is based.

The Shamash-housed lists, as well as those situated on Virtual Jerusalem and other central Jewish Web sites, range in perspective from secular to the fervently Orthodox.

Participation in such lists provides experiences that range from informal to formal education, with a heavy emphasis on the exchange of information among peers.

Some are passive, allowing, for example, a subscriber to receive commentaries on the weekly Torah reading sent to an electronic mailbox.

Subjects can be anything from Judaism's traditional teachings about gossip to the Reform perspective on the Jewish news of the day, including Jewish perspectives on hiking, home schooling and Star Trek as well as discussion among gay Orthodox Jews.

The cutting edge of online learning today, say those involved, are adult education courses with teachers and curricula and a high degree of interactivity.

Mishpacha's focus "is not on teaching curriculum and testing people afterwards, but creating discussion in the community as peers about what it means to be Jewish," said course creator Larry Yudelson.

Other programs are more academically inclined.

The Conservative movement's Jewish Theological Seminary of America, for instance, has a Distance Learning Project, which offers two courses — Introduction to the Talmud and an Introduction to Jewish Theology <www.jtsa.edu/melton/courses>.

Each is tailored to different audiences. Each can be taken for college credit, and both are being shaped for use in Jewish supplemental high schools, according to Michael Starr, director of distance learning for JTS.

The best aspects of Jewish online learning, participants and organizers agree, is that it makes high-level resources available to people whenever they are physically or spiritually.

Students, Jewish and not, log on to the courses from all over

the world, from Scarsdale, N.Y., to Israel, fro Curacao to Sweden, says Starr.

Online learning is also well-suited to "people who may have had bad rabbi experiences, or who are frustrated their synagogues don't talk more about G-d and religions," Yudelson says.

The downside, organizers say, is that distance learning "is somewhat disembodied," Starr says. In an effort to "humanize the experience," he adds, course discussion leaders call North American participants during the first week of class.

But, say its proponents, these drawbacks are outweighed by the benefits of learning online.

In live classes, for example, the different levels of previous exposure to the subject often make it difficult for both instructors and the more knowledgeable students. Online course can provide layers of background information for less-knowledgeable students that the more advanced ones don't need.

The electronic approach to Jewish learning is clearly in its infancy.

Coming soon to the seminary's virtual catalog, Starr says, are courses titled "Women in Rabbinic Literature," "Introduction to the Hebrew Bible" and "Finding Spirituality in Prayers."

At Hebrew College, they are developing an online degree-granting program for Israeli teachers working in secular schools, and an intensive tele-course on Jewish civilization, thought and culture that will integrate traditional and new media, according to Erlich.

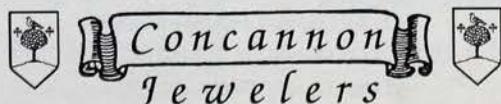
Participants in Hebrew College's creative-writing course, "Finding Your Jewish Voice," didn't want to stop even after the eight-week term ended last year. The instructor dropped out, exhausted, after 12 weeks, Erlich says, but the group continues to meet in cyberspace.

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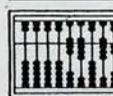
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## JNF Environmental Program Wins Prestigious Hillel Award

JNF on Campus, the student branch of the Jewish National Fund, has won the prestigious 1997 William Haber Award for its Eco-Zionism Conference, held in Marin, Calif., last March. At the three-day conference, 110 students from 60 college campuses across North America studied the relationships among Judaism, Zionism, Israel and the environment.

The award, recognizing "programs of quality for the Jewish campus community," was bestowed by a jury of students, lay leaders and professionals from Hillel, the foundation for Jewish Campus Life.

Receiving the plaque at a Ryebrook, N.Y., dinner, Stephanie R. Stein, JNF's director of student activities, remarked, "Students keep telling us the program is great in connecting their Zionism with environmentalism. We are thrilled that professionals in the field also recognize the excellence of the conference."

The next Eco-Zionism Conference will take place on the weekend of March 20 in Mountain Rest, S.C. Admission is \$75. Scholarships are available to aid in transportation to the conference. For more information, contact JNF on Campus at (212) 879-9305, ext. 330 or <jnfoncamps@aol.com>.



Jewish student activists hiked in the woods during the 1997 JNF on Campus Eco-Zionism Conference held in Marin, Calif.

Photo courtesy of JNF

## EPA — New England Kicks-Off 1998 Poem and Poster Contest

The 26th annual Earth Artists Program sponsored by the New England office of the Environmental Protection Agency is underway for students in grades kindergarten through six to submit poems and posters in which they display ways that they and others can protect the environment.

The program brings environmental education into the classroom through creative learning by asking teachers to discuss environmental topics with their students and then give the students an opportunity to translate what they have learned into

a poem or poster.

The Earth Artists Program is the longest running program in the EPA-New England Regional office and the largest of its kind in the country.

Entries must be received by the EPA no later than April 3, and will be judged in mid-April by a panel of EPA-New England staff and members of environmental, civic and academic groups.

In each New England state, awards will be presented for the best poem and poster in each grade level between kindergarten and six. Winners will be invited to a special awards ceremony

held in each state later in the year. Also, all classes that enter will receive a participation certificate.

To receive program rules and an entry form, contact: The EPA at 888-372-7341 or, send an e-mail to: <bonarrigo.angela@epa.mail.epa.gov>. Also, visit the EPA's web site home page for news and information: <http://www.epa.gov/region01>.

## Events at Brown

Brown University will sponsor the following events:

- **Film explores blacks in the entertainment world.** As part of Black History Month events at Brown, a forum titled "Blacks in Entertainment" will take place at 7 p.m., Feb. 18, in Room 001 of the Salomon Center for Teaching. The forum will feature the film "Color Adjustment" with a discussion following. This event is free and open to the public and is sponsored by the student-run Organization of United African Peoples.

- **Euripides gets a makeover in "The Bacchae."** Brown University Theatre will present a fresh take on "The Bacchae" by Euripides, at 8 p.m., Feb. 18 to 22, in Leeds Theatre, located on Waterman Street near the marquee. This production is directed by Brown senior Dana Edell, and is an adaptation of the classic tale of Dionysus, his revelers and their attempt to lure Pentheus, heir to the throne of Thebes and enemy of this band of Bacchantes, into their lifestyle. For tickets, call the Leeds Theatre Box Office at 863-2838.

## Louis Feinstein Memorial Scholarships Available for Class of 1999

Applications are now available for the Louis Feinstein Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship, which is administered by the Public Education Fund, was established in 1992 by Alan Shawn Feinstein, businessman and philanthropist, in honor of his late father. It is for students who best exemplify the qualities of brotherhood, compassion, integrity, leadership, a dedication to public service and a determination to make a positive difference in the lives of others. Selected students who meet these qualifications will become Feinstein Scholars. Scholars who attend colleges and universities in Rhode Island will receive a \$10,000 scholarship. Since the program's inception, 178 students have been named Feinstein scholars.

The application is to be completed by current juniors in high school, and must be postmarked

by June 30. The criteria reviewed in the selection of Feinstein Scholars includes public and community service activities, honors and special awards, scholastic record, essay questions, and recommendations. All students who believe they are qualified are encouraged to apply. The Feinstein Scholars will be selected in September 1998 by a scholarship committee comprised of members of the Feinstein Foundation, the Public Education Fund and the community at large.

Applications may be obtained in Rhode Island high schools as well as in local libraries and community agencies. Persons wishing an application directly from the Public Education Fund should mail us a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

For further information, contact JoAnn Johnson at 454-1057.

## MADD R.I. Memorial Scholarship Applications

Eligible R.I. high school seniors may now request applications in MADD R.I.'s annual memorial scholarship competition. Seven \$1,000 college tuition scholarships will be awarded for the 1998-99 year. The awards are given in memory of seven R.I. victims of drunk drivers.

Students are eligible if they have current or past involvement in alcohol/substance abuse prevention programs in their schools or communities. They must have maintained at least a "B" grade average in their senior year and will attend an accredited university, college, junior college, or technical school.

The scholarships are for first-year second semester tuition expenses only. Eligible seniors must request an application packet by writing to:

Scholarships  
MADD Rhode Island  
2 Regency Plaza, Suite 3  
Providence, RI 02903

Completed applications must be returned to MADD by April 1, 1998.

The scholarships memorialize the following victims: Denise Allard, 16; Carol DeBlois, 18; Stephen Glasscock, 19; David Walsh, 23; Brendan Moniz, 7; Paul Martin, 5; Kathleen Naylor, 28.

## Multiple Sclerosis READaTHON™ Turns 21

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society — Rhode Island Chapter is getting underway with the 21st MS READaTHON™ to be held in public and private schools throughout the state running through March 13. Honorary chairpersons for the ninth consecutive year are Patrice Wood and Gary Ley both of NBC-10.

Over the years this program has raised more than \$1 million for the Rhode Island Chapter. More than 24,000 kids have read more than 400,000 books to raise funds to fight the devastating disease of MS.

The READaTHON™ program has a dual purpose: helping children develop reading skills while helping Rhode Islanders with multiplesclerosis. "This program has been used throughout the country since 1974 — as a fundraiser for the MS Society and an educational tool for the students," Kathy Mechnig, chapter president, explained.

The success of this program can be attributed to the support of some longtime sponsors.

The READaTHON is a pledge per book program that

awards all participants regardless of their reading level. Every child that participates will receive three tickets to "MS READaTHON Day," a free slice of pizza from Papa Gino's, a free admission to the Providence Children's Museum, a Certificate of Appreciation, and a free roller skating pass to either Narragansett Ocean Club or Roller Magic.

According to the chapter, more than a third of a million Americans have MS, which is a chronic, often disabling disease that attacks a person's nervous system. It is an unpredictable disease as the progress, severity and specific symptoms can't be foreseen; symptoms range from numbness to paralysis and blindness. Most people with MS are diagnosed between the ages of 20 and 40, so they can live 60 or more years with the physical and emotional effects.

For more information about the READaTHON, contact the Rhode Island Chapter National Multiple Sclerosis Society at 535 Centerville Road, Warwick, 02886, or call 738-8383.

## Providence Library Begins A Science Odyssey

The Providence Public Library, in cooperation with VGBH Boston and its funders, was selected as one of 25 public libraries in the country to be a Science Odyssey site. Based on the 10-hour PBS television show hosted by Charles Osgood and aired in January, the local hands-on program for children is called "Sampler of Science." The five-week program will be held weekly in one hour increments and includes activities like hands-on science experiments, videos, guest scientists, and much more. The free programs are aimed for children ages 9 to 12 and will take place at the nine branch libraries throughout the city of Providence. Children interested in participating in the program must register by calling your local branch library.

A range of science topics that will be presented and the opportunity to reach the middle-school student with a series of science programs that explore the fun of science that we too often take for granted," stated Virginia McKeen, Youth Services coordinator for the Providence Public Library.

### Providence Public Library Locations

Mount Pleasant, 315 Academy Ave., 455-8105; Olneyville, 1 Olneyville Sq., 455-8113; Wanskuck, 233 Veazie St., 455-8108; Rochambeau, 708 Hope St., 455-8110; Fox Point, 90 Ives St., 455-8112; Smith Hill, 31 Candace St., 455-8104; Knight Memorial, 275 Elmwood Ave., 455-8102; South Providence, 441 Prairie Ave., 455-8107; Washington Park, 1316 Broad St., 455-8109.

"We are excited about the



# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## 'Phantom of the Opera' Takes Providence, Again

by Tara V. Liscandro  
Herald Editor

It's simple: if you haven't experienced "Phantom of the Opera" yet, now is your chance and if you have, well, there's no reason not to go again! On Feb. 7 "Phantom of the Opera" returned to the Providence Performing Arts Center and once again the mysterious and musical ghost has captured the audience and will continue to do so until March 8. The Providence Performing Arts Center's beautiful theater truly compliments the Phantastic Phantom of the Opera.

Andrew Lloyd Webber's international award-winning musical has captivated thousands of audiences since its 1988 United States premiere at the Majestic Theatre on Broadway. (Note: "Phantom of the Opera" has been seen by more than 6,860,000 people in New York alone!) In 1995 more than 140,000 people attended the production at the Providence Performing Arts Center and it is expected that attendance will be exceeded this year. The great shadow of the Phantom will loom over the city of Providence for one month, for some it will be their first view of the grand ghost while other devoted "Phantom Phans" will be taken away once again.

The twisted love story of Christine, a young soprano, and the hideous Phantom who lurks beneath the Paris Opera stage is

brilliant and the music alone is enough to steal every viewer's heart and soul. "Angel of Music," "The Music of the Night," and "The Phantom of the Opera" are amazing and moving, year after year! And though the deformed Phantom causes mayhem and murders, the audience can't help but feel pity in the end.

The first act is stirring and moving. Christine is stolen through her giant mirror by the Phantom and led through a maze and onto a gondola. Huge drapes, trap doors, moving platforms and hundreds of bright candles attribute to the long journey into the Phantom's lair. Quickly the gondola transforms into Christine's bed and an antique pipe organ bursts into the Phantom's famous anthem, "The Music of the Night."

The following sequences are just as enchanting, haunting and thrilling. Hundreds of special lighting and sound effects lend to the entire musical, creating one of the most spectacular musicals of all time.

For ticket information or reservations call PPAC at 421-ARTS.

### Phantom Phacts and Phigures

Here is a list of some of the most interesting "Phantom Phacts":

- The great chandelier of the Paris Opera weighs 1,000 pounds, took 3 months to build and was rebuilt for the Webber



THE COMPANY IN "The Masquerade" scene from the national touring production of Andrew Lloyd Webber's "The Phantom of the Opera," directed by Harold Prince, winner of seven 1988 Tony Awards. Performs at Providence Performing Arts Center through March 1. Photo by Joan Marcus

production. The scene in which the chandelier falls from the ceiling was inspired by an 1896 incident when a counterweight for the real chandelier fell and killed a woman sitting in the audience.

- Charles Garner was the architect of the original Paris Opera house which opened in 1875. His designs were selected from 171 entries solicited in an open competition. He died in 1898 and is buried in the Pere Lachaise cemetery in Paris. His memoirs contain cryptic references to an assistant, a man who could possibly have been the real Phantom.

- The Broadway production has grossed more than \$375 million.

- The Phantom is said to have studied under a master stone mason in Italy and learned architecture as well, which allowed him to assist in the construction of the Paris Opera, according to some Phantom stories.

- 1.5 tons is the weight of the grand staircase.

- There are 11 life-sized mannequins in the "Phantom" crowd scenes, 36 performers, 16 orchestra members, 60 crew members, and 37 scenery and electrical system operators.

- The mask worn by the Phantom was to cover his hideous face. According to some versions, it was his mother's first and only gift to him. (Each actor playing the Phantom has a mask custom-made for his face and it takes makeup artists a total of 90 minutes, average, to create the Phantom's face for each performance.)

- A total of 230 costumes are used throughout the production.

- The "Phantom" touring deck uses twenty 48-foot semi trucks to move the show and takes a little over 4 months to assemble.

- There is an actual underground lake beneath the Paris Opera stage in the fifth cellar. When workers suddenly discovered the Seine 12 meters under the planned opera site they drained the area, sunk the

building's foundation and allowed water to reenter, creating a lake.

- Two people, backstage, run computers that control 52 automated scenery effects including the travelator (a gigantic platform used as a bridge, cemetery and elevator), candle lights, the telescoping candelabra and the chandelier.

- Within the two and half hour show the audience will see three operas take place.

- 550 pounds of dry ice is used per performance and 114.4 tons of it is used per year.

- The official site <<http://www.reallyuseful.com>> is the spot for Webber's company and contains great information on all of Webber's works as well as updates on shows, schedules, etc.

(Source for "Phantom Phacts": Phantom of the Opera Tour Press representative in New York, "The Complete Phantom of the Opera," by George Perry, *Newsweek*, *The New York Times*, *The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* and the Providence Performing Arts Center.)

*This week, we begin a series of poems we hope you will enjoy. To gain a deeper understanding, we have provided some personal interpretations. Please read the poem out loud and repeat it as many times as necessary to gain insight. We welcome interpretations of your own and encourage any poets to submit samples of their work. Send any correspondence to Rhode Island Jewish Herald, Attn.: Yehudah Biss.*

**Robert Frost**

1875-1963

### Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening

Whose woods these are I think I know.  
His house is in the village though;  
He will not see me stopping here  
To watch his woods fill up with snow.

My little horse must think it queer  
To stop without a farmhouse near  
Between the woods and frozen lake  
The darkest evening of the year.

He gives his harness bells a shake  
To ask if there is some mistake.  
The only other sound's the sweep  
Of easy wind and downy flake.

The woods are lovely, dark and deep.  
But I have promises to keep,  
And miles to go before I sleep,  
And miles to go before I sleep.

### Stop In Order To Go

by Yehudah Biss  
Herald Editor

This poem is symbolic of anticipation and potential. A man is making his way through a dark place in his life (the woods). He is away from home (which is in the village) but stops on his way to absorb the surroundings. He projects loneliness by describing how his horse thinks it queer, as the horse doesn't understand his weariness. He is at a very dark, frozen place, away from the village, without a farmhouse near; building to his loneliness an emptiness and despair.

He confirms this loneliness again by attributing his horses' shaking harness bells to that of bewilderment, which again adds to his loneliness; the horse still doesn't get it. The physical has been described as empty of life but full of snow; sound, as one of a simple wind, bordering on nothingness, adds to the physical emptiness of the woods. Every line reinforces this feeling he has; the woods; the horse; the wind; the snow; and again his horses' bewilderment.

(Continued on Page 19)

## 'Old, Wicked Songs' Comes to New England

The Jewish Theatre of New England will present Mitchell Greenberg starring in the Boston premiere of the Broadway success, "Old, Wicked Songs," running for five weeks from Feb. 21 through March 22.

Mitchell Greenberg, from the New York production, stars in the lead role as Mashkan and Barry Abramowitz, from JTNE's smash hit "Beau Jest," co-stars as his student. Greenberg was last seen in Boston as Gaston in "You Never Know" at the Huntington Theatre.

Directed by Daniel Gidron, this beautiful play of revelation is about an American pianist, an ex-prodigy frozen in silence by his own tension, and the old Austrian professor who rescues his soul and his music. The songs of Robert Schumann are masterfully woven into the story of relationship between the student and his cantankerous old

Viennese teacher. As the two reveal their secrets, both the music teacher and the student slowly develop a nurturing

bond, each learning to neutralize the ghosts of the past.

Filled with warmth and humor, Marans' play explores the essence of life and the power of art. Its two protagonists are splendid companions for an unforgettable evening's journey into the soul.

Performances of "Old, Wicked Songs" are on Thursdays at 2 and 8 p.m., Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Admission for performances range from \$16 to \$22. The Jewish Theatre of New England is accessible by public transportation, has abundant free parking and is handicapped accessible. Located at the Leventhal-Sidman Jewish Community Center, JTNE is minutes off Route 9 and Route 128 in Newton, 2 miles south of Newton Centre. For more information, call the JTNE box office at (617) 965-5226.



**Mitchell Greenberg**

Photo courtesy of Jewish Theatre of New England

## ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT



## Furry Friends Frolic

February Vacation Plans at Roger Williams Park Zoo

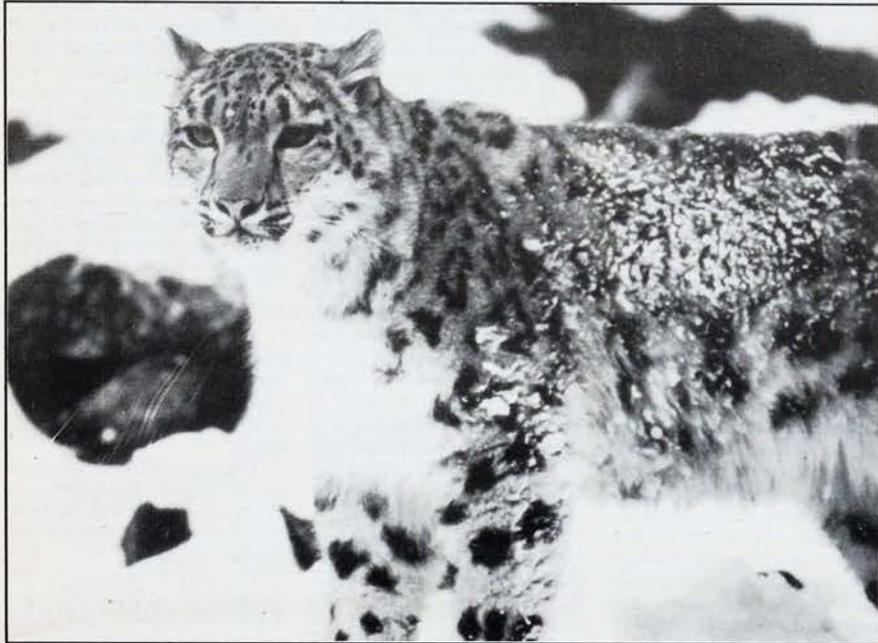
Roger Williams Park Zoo has planned a weeklong tribute to their cold-loving animals during February school vacation. From Feb. 16 through 20, Furry Friends Frolic showcases an animal per day and offers an in-depth look at how these mammals are adapted for cold

weather living. Visitors of all ages can find out fun facts about these interesting animals: Monday, Arctic Foxes; Tuesday, Red Wolves; Wednesday, Snow Leopards; Thursday, Moon Bears; and Friday, Polar Bears.

Animal interview stations will be staffed by zoo docents from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. each day. Fact sheets and handouts, including take-home activities, will be dis-

tributed to all children. Dress warm to visit with these cold weather friends—all the animals will be viewed and discussed in their outside exhibits.

Roger Williams Park Zoo is open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Admission is \$6 for adults, \$3.50 for children ages 3 to 12 and senior citizens. Children under 3 are free. For more information, call 785-3510.



Snow Leopard

Photo courtesy of Roger Williams Zoo

## All Children's Theatre Portrays the Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The All Children's Theatre Ensemble recently announced that Textron will sponsor ACT's upcoming production of "I Have a Dream: The Life and Times of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr." The play chronicles the life of Dr. King with special emphasis on the electrifying speech he delivered before the Lincoln Memorial on Aug. 28, 1963, as the keynote address of the historic march on Washington for civil rights. The play will be directed by Wrenn Goodrum, ACT's founder and artistic director. Cedric Lilly, age 16 and a member of ACT's Ensemble for the past five years, will play King. "We are pleased at Textron to be able to help ACT bring the

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., story to the Rhode Island community," said Donald J. McGrath, Textron's director of community affairs. "During Black History Month we should all strive to understand Dr. King's vision of a society that embraced people of diverse backgrounds in peace and harmony," he added.

Thanks to Textron's generous support, the play will be performed free of charge at schools, community centers, and libraries throughout the state during the month of February, to coincide with the celebration of Black History Month. A free, public performance, recommended for ages 8 through

adult, will be held on Feb. 28, at 8 p.m. Admission is free, but reservations are strongly encouraged.

ACT, now celebrating its 11th season, produces quality theater by, for, and with young people and offers classes to children from age 3 to 14.

For more information about this exciting production or for reservations for the free public performance at the Vartan Gregorian School, 455 Wickenden St., Providence, call the All Children's Theatre at 331-7174.

**If you have an event you would like featured on our Arts & Entertainment 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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## Providence Blooms at the Spring Garden Show

We're still in the throes of Old Man Winter, but New Englanders are about to enjoy a sneak preview of springtime, thanks to the fifth annual Rhode Island Spring Flower & Garden Show, coming to the Rhode Island Convention Center in Providence Feb. 19 to 22.

For four glorious days, the entire Rhode Island Convention Center will blossom into a kaleidoscope of color, thanks to more than 30 lavish garden displays and some 200 home and garden exhibitors spread across three acres of indoor activity.

"It's gratifying to hear how many people anticipate the Rhode Island Flower Show as the harbinger of spring," said show manager Dave Jackson. "We seem to have become a New England tradition after five years."

This year's theme, "The Century in Bloom," is the show's salute to horticultural trendsetters of the past 100 years. Displays feature a retrospective of 20th-century garden styles including a healing garden, a turn-of-the-century child's garden, seaside habitats and other water-related designs, an artist's retreat and a contemporary garden utilizing recycled plastic materials.

Many designers are returning to the show from prior years, including Roger Williams Park Zoo, winner of last year's People's Choice Award, the University of Rhode Island, and R.I. Wild Plant Society.

New entries to the '98 show include the American Plastic Council, which will present an urban garden of recycled hardscape and furnishings, the R.I. Division of Parks & Recreation, presenting a state park scene complete with a beach area and a 200-square-foot putting green on which show visitors

can revive their golfing skill. Also new to the show is a fully landscaped model of Cumberland Town Hall in celebration of its 250th anniversary, plus a dramatic design by Steve Tibbets featuring a spectacular 30-foot waterfall. The '98 show also introduces eight garden "vignettes," small, intensively planted gardens showcasing single plant varieties, plant collections, plants in the arts and historic places.

This year's Children's Activity Garden, presented by Bell Atlantic and designed by Kurt Van Dexter, is sure to be popular with an interactive puppet show, a massive tree fort, live animals, and a hopscotch area of carved stone set in moss.

The 1998 Garden Marketplace presents an extensive array of home- and garden-related products, with almost 200 exhibitors selling everything from house plants and garden tools to apparel and books.

Show visitors have plenty of opportunity to increase their horticultural savvy with a daily schedule of seminars and workshops, presented by *Country Living* magazine, in cooperation with Blythe-wold Mansion & Gardens.

The Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs presents "Spring Around the World," a standard flower show competition. Displays feature a horticulture journey around the globe.

Show hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., February 19 to 21, and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Feb. 22. Tickets are available at the Rhode Island Convention Center box office for \$11, or in advance at Citizens Bank locations for \$9. Seniors and students are \$10, children aged 6 to 12 are \$5, and children under 6 are free.

For general information, call 421-7811.



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Choice of Lobster Casserole & Sirloin, Filet Mignon with Bearnaise Sauce, Grilled Fresh Swordfish, Steak Au Poivre  
Coffee or Tea/Chocolate Truffle Mousse Cake

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### 'Harvey'

Mary Chase's charming comedy tells the story of a harmless eccentric, Elwood P. Dowd, and his constant companion who happens to be a large invisible rabbit named Harvey. Embarrassed by Dowd's behavior, his family arranges to have him treated for his affliction in a sanitarium. However, the treatment takes an unexpected turn when Harvey's existence is acknowledged by more than just Dowd.

"Harvey" will be performed Feb. 20 through 23rd at the Blackfriars Theatre of Providence College. Curtain time is 8 p.m. and 2 p.m. for the Sunday matinee. The Blackfriars Theatre box office is located on the first floor of Harkins Hall on the Providence College campus. The box office is open Monday to Friday 1 to 5 p.m., and one hour prior to performances. Ticket prices are \$7 regular admission, \$5 senior citizen and Providence College faculty/staff, and \$3 for all students. Tickets may also be reserved by calling 865-2218. To receive information concerning advance mail order purchases, or to be placed on the Blackfriars Theatre mailing list, call 865-2084.

# OBITUARIES

## MINNIE COHEN

NEW BEDFORD — Minnie Cohen, 82, of Parker Street, New Bedford, died Feb. 3 at New England Medical Center.

Born in New Bedford, a daughter of the late Abram and Rebecca (Roscoe) Cohen, she was a lifelong city resident.

She was the manager of the former Byrons of New Bedford, retiring 12 years ago. She was a member of the New Bedford Jewish Convalescent Home, Hadassah, Tifereth Israel Congregation and its Sisterhood, all in New Bedford, and the Jewish Federation of Greater New Bedford.

She was the sister of the late Henry Cohen, Sidney Cohen, Harry Cohen, and Rose Tepper.

Funeral services were held Feb. 5 at Tifereth Israel Congregation, 145 Brownell Ave.

Arrangements were by Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

## GERALD I. CONNIS

PROVIDENCE — Gerald I. Connis, 70, of 202 Tenth St., Providence, died Feb. 8 at Charlesgate Nursing Home, Providence.

Born in Providence, the son of Jessie (Cramer) Connis, and the late Joseph M. Connis, he had lived in Providence and Washington where he was an employee of the U.S. Government.

He was a member of Hebrew Day School, Providence Hebrew Free Loan Association, Congregation Mishkon Tfiloh and the

New England Rabbinical College.

His mother is his only survivor. He was the nephew of Jack Cramer of Providence.

Funeral services were held on Feb. 9 at Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery.

## FREEDA COSSOCK

PROVIDENCE — Freeda Cossock, of 101 Highland Ave., died Jan. 31 at Miriam Hospital. She was the wife of the late Ralph Cossock.

Born in Central Falls, a daughter of the late Harris and Fenny Eisenberg, she lived in Providence for 50 years, previously living in Pawtucket.

With her husband, she had worked at the former Ralph Cossock Floor Covering Co.

She leaves several nieces and nephews, including George Levine of Providence. She was a sister of the late Catherine Levin, Gertrude Fagerson, Rebecca Levine, Ida Goodman and Sara, Mary and David Eisenberg.

The funeral was held Feb. 2 in Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

## ANNE (SPIEGLE) GOLDEN

PROVIDENCE — Anne (Spigle) Golden, 86, of 49 Laurel Ave., died Feb. 5 at home. She was the wife of the late Max Golden.

Born in New York City, a daughter of the late Abraham and

Ethel (Goldin) Spigle, she lived in Providence most of her life.

She was a member of Temple Beth-El and its Sisterhood, Hadassah, Brandeis Women's Association, and Miriam Hospital Women's Association. She was a former member of Ledgemont Country Club.

She leaves a son, David Golden of Providence; a daughter, Carol Baker of New York City and Providence; a brother, Sam Spigle of Warwick; a sister, Dorothy Udisky of Brockton, Mass.; and three grandchildren. She was a sister of the late Nathaniel Spigle.

The funeral was held Feb. 6 at Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

## GARY B. MARKS

PROVIDENCE — Gary B. Marks, 49, of 1032 Hope St., passed away at home Feb. 1.

A lifelong resident of Providence, he was the son of the late Jacob "Jack" and Iris (Strong) Marks.

He attended Brown University and graduated with honors from New York University. He received his law degree from the University of Bridgeport, his master of law degree from Boston University, and his master's degree in accounting from the University of Hartford. He was a member of the Rhode Island Bar Association.

He leaves a brother, Dr. Lawrence Marks, of Utica, New York; and two nephews.

A graveside funeral service under the direction of the Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel was held Feb. 4 at the Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

## SANFORD MILLS

NARRAGANSETT — Sanford Mills, 76, of 69 Boon St., proprietor of the former Sanford's Liquors, and the former Sandy's Liquors, both of Providence, the former Warwick Liquors in Cranston, and president of Sandy Industries Inc. and BG Sales, both of Warwick, before retiring, died Feb. 1 at South County Hospital, Wakefield. He was the husband of the late Shirley (Levin) Mills.

Born in Providence, a son of the late David and Ida (Nager) Mills, he lived 30 years in Warwick before moving to Narragansett in 1982.

He was an Army veteran of World War II. He was a member of Congregation Beth David in Narragansett and a member of Torat Yisrael of Cranston, and had been a member of Temple Beth Am and the former Congregation Sons of Abraham.

He is survived by three daughters, Joan Sullivan of Mystic, Conn., Chana Smith of Brooklyn, N.Y., and Ide Ratinetz of New York City, N.Y.; two sons, Richard Mills of Boston, Mass., and Hungary, and Dr. Keith Mills of Philadelphia, Pa.; two brothers, Irving and Albert Mills of Warwick; one sister, Reta Roseman of Yonkers, N.Y.; and 10 grandchildren and one great-grandson. He was also the brother of the late Celia Fleisig, Lillian Chernov, Morris Mills and William Mills.

The funeral service was held Feb. 3 at Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

## JEAN RABINOWITZ

PROVIDENCE — Jean Rabinowitz, 93, of Elmhurst Extended Care Facility, 50 Maude St., Providence, a nurse, poet and volunteer worker for the elderly for many years before retiring, died Feb. 4, at the facility. She was the wife of the late Louis Rabinowitz.

Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Meyer and Freda (Venetsky) Raisner, she moved to North Providence in 1973 and to Warwick in 1994.

She was a published poet. In her earlier years she worked as a nurse. For 10 years, until 1973, she was a telephone operator at the former Charles Chapin Hospital, and received a diamond

pin in 1986 for her years of service. She was a volunteer worker at the Veterans Administration Medical Center for 10 years. The Rhode Island Bar Association, in coordination with the Rhode Island Department of Elderly Affairs, awarded her a plaque for her many years of service to the elderly in Rhode Island.

She was a member of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, the Women's Association of the Jewish Home for the Aged, and the Jewish Orphanage for Girls in Israel.

She leaves three nephews, Harvey Raisner, Myron Raisner and Fred Raisner, and other nieces, grandnephews and grandnieces. She was a sister of the late Abraham and Sam Raisner, and Lillian Jackson.

A graveside funeral service was held Feb. 8 at Lincoln Park Cemetery. Services were coordinated by Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence.

## DIANA SANDERS

WARWICK — Diana Sanders, 84, of 308 George Arden Ave., died Jan. 31 at Kent County Memorial Hospital. She was the wife of the late Abraham Sanders.

Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Philip and Ida (Zaber) Riter, she lived in Warwick since 1987, previously living in Providence.

She was a member of the Women's Association of the Jewish Home for Aged and a past member of the Congregation Sons of Abraham, Providence, and Temple Sinai, Cranston.

She leaves a daughter, Roberta Botham of Warwick; a sister, Lillian Koffler of Providence and Florida; and three grandchildren. She was the sister of the late Katherine Kortick and Rebecca Grossman.

A graveside service was held Feb. 2 at Lincoln Park Cemetery. The service was coordinated by Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence.

## HAROLD

## SHABSHLOWITZ

FALL RIVER — Harold Shabshelowitz, 75, of 331 Albany St., a certified public accountant for 50 years, maintaining an office at 263 Walnut St., died Jan. 31 at home. He was the husband of Anna (Pearlman) Shabshelowitz.

A lifelong resident of Fall River, he was a son of the late Louis and Annie (Loeff) Shabshelowitz.

He was a 1944 graduate of the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. He was a member of Watuppa Masonic Lodge and a Navy veteran of World War II. He was a member of Temple Beth-El in Fall River and Crestwood Country Club, Rehoboth.

Besides his wife, he leaves two daughters, Karen McGinley of Narragansett and Kathi Rosenthal of Needham, Mass.;

(Continued on Next Page)

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## Correction

Philip A. Abrams died  
Jan. 29. He was the brother  
of the late Irving Abrams.

# CLASSIFIED

## Torah

(Continued from Page 4)

the fears and related pain of people not getting along with each other. Consider, for example, why we suffer from stage fright each time we're called upon to make a public presentation. Think of how relaxed and calm we would feel if we knew that everyone in the audience loved us regardless of any blunders or mistakes we might make. Two other common problems related to fear are worry and guilt. Worry is the inappropriate fear of events which may occur in the future and guilt is the overwhelming concern over what happened in the past. Either symptom is alleviated by adapting the observer principle which implies detaching from past or future, both illusions of time, and living in the present where love prevails. Additionally, from the over abundance of worry and guilt, we suffer from the problems which made Prozac and Valium fashionable: depression, the total loss of energy and anxiety, the vigorous symptom of fear. All of this would be unnecessary with the proper dose of self-love, the basis of self-esteem.

The next level of the four worlds is that of anger, that powerful hot flood of emotion usually generated by some kind of frustration. Its effects are devastating but they can be alleviated by learning to take a few deep breaths just before the explosion and stepping back or away from the offending situation just long enough to become lovingly conscious of the event. Finally, we sometimes deal with sadness, the effect of loss. Sadness doesn't only relate to the problem of death; it could be a simpler loss like that of money, friends, possessions or even youth. We need to love ourselves enough for permission to grieve, the self-love which enables us to fully feel and experience the loss and its accompanying pain.

This is just a glimpse of the many possibilities of Torah to provide as a system which kept our people emotionally well since time immemorial. Except for those few cases which require psychiatric intervention, Jews could do very well with Torah as an approach towards mental health. Most of us could benefit from finding a teacher in order to love unconditionally and to receive a good dose of Torah.

*Velvel Spiegler is a certified polarity therapist and a student and teacher of Jewish mysticism. For more information, call (508) 252-4302 or email <DSpieg5411@aol.com>.*

## Obituaries

(Continued from Previous Page)

two sons, Harlan Shabshelowitz of Somerset and Andrew Shabshelowitz of Westport; two sisters, Adel Savitz of Weston, Mass., and Frances Trachtenberg of Massapequa Park, N.Y.; and 15 grandchildren.

The funeral was held Feb. 1 in Temple Beth-El, 385 High St. Burial was in Hebrew Cemetery. The service was coordinated by Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence.

## Dershowitz

(Continued from Page 4)

resent the Jewish community. When we do good and bad things, we do them as individuals now."

According to Dershowitz, Jews who make personal decisions about Clinton crisis - and just about anything else - understand the privileges that are part of American life.

"We have to do the right thing because we believe that it is the right thing, not because of whether or not there will be a shanda in front of the goyim," Dershowitz said. "When I defended O.J. Simpson, a lot of people told me I was making the Jewish community look bad. But that wasn't what it was about. The day that we refrain from doing what we think is right because of what the goyim will think is the day that the anti-Semitism will have succeeded."

Dershowitz maintains that Lewinsky's fellow Jews should judge her as they see fit.

"We shouldn't be afraid to criticize her," he said. "It is important that we maintain our credibility as a community. I've made some critical comments about Ginsberg and Kenneth Starr. It would never occur to me not to criticize someone because of his or her religion."

Dershowitz, who publicly pointed out anti-Semitic stereotypes in two best-selling novels published shortly after several Jewish Wall Street bankers found themselves facing charges, does not think the Lewinsky case will have similar repercussions.

"The association between Jewishness and wealth has been in our culture for a long time," he said. "I think this case is less worrisome because the stereotypes are not out there."

Dershowitz said he was un-

## Middle East Policy

(Continued from Page 1)

concerns," noting that "the security concerns of Israel were given short shrift."

At a recent meeting with Javier Prats, a senior aide to Marin, Jewish officials sought to explain why the European Union will find it difficult to attain greater political clout in Middle East peacemaking.

"Some of the complaints they voice about being at the periphery of the process are self-inflicted," said Jess Hordes, Washington director of the Anti-Defamation League, who also took part in the meeting.

"If you don't have credibility with both of the parties, you're not going to be invited to the table to play the kind of role that you want to play."

Jewish officials said the meeting gave them an opportunity to convey their concerns to the European Union but conceded it did little to narrow the gap in their views.

The meeting came just weeks after B'nai B'rith opened up an office in Brussels, the headquarters of the European Union.

Mariaschin said B'nai B'rith intends to use that new channel to continue to make its views known about European involvement in the peace process.

daunted by media depictions of Lewinsky shuttling between tennis lessons and Hebrew school in Beverly Hills.

"It sounds like they're trying to paint her as a Jewish American Princess," he said. "But she could have been a Catholic American Princess or a Protestant American Princess."

Finally, Dershowitz said he predicted that the Jewish response to the Clinton crisis would be diverse.

"In America, Jews are a pervasive part of public life," he said. "There are Jews on the right and Jews on the left, and some are Clinton supporters and some are Clinton detractors. Because we are very much a part of the American experience, Jews will show up on every side."

## JFRI Workshop

(Continued from Page 3)

empty space to create a world, and there are times when we must pull back. We pull back to see the big picture, or to let others move into the space in front of us."

Participants conferred and offered examples of everyday "tzimtzum," such as continuing to work at a women's health clinic while ignoring angry demonstrators or allowing a child to finish a task on his or her own.

When enacted in the business and everyday worlds, said the rabbi, ethical conduct constitutes holiness.

"Is G-d more interested in how you keep Kashruth or how you run your business?" she asked. "Well, in the holy texts, there are many more references to ethics than there are to Kashruth."

Glancing at her watch, Rabbi Diamond said she wanted to finish with a song.

Participants listened and some even sang along, for by the end of the workshop, singing Hebrew songs in a downtown law firm's conference room did not seem like an unusual thing to do.

## Israel Readies for Attack

(Continued from Page 1)

Just to be on the safe side, however, concerned citizens lined up in front of the gas mask distribution stations to make sure that their masks were still fit.

It was also reported that the United States had agreed, in principle, to send Israel vaccines against biological agents, including Anthrax, that Iraq is believed to possess.

However, experts like Eran Dolev, who headed the medical corps during the Gulf War, explained that such inoculations have their side effects and should therefore be used only on limited segments of the population whose immune systems are weaker.

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## Crystal Cruises Will Celebrate a Traditional Passover Seder

For its Jewish guests, Crystal Cruises is planning a traditional seder service and five-course dinner to celebrate Passover aboard its luxury ships this spring. The service on April 10 includes a recitation of the Passover Haggadah, songs and a complete kosher holiday meal. Conducted by highly qualified guest rabbis, the special events honor all of the historic elements of the holiday of freedom, and are presented with Crystal Cruises' attention to detail and award-winning service.

In keeping with Passover tradition, there will be a seder plate, blessed by the rabbi. Matzoh and charotsehs (chopped apples and walnuts with wine) will be served, as well as the hard-boiled egg with salt water.

The conventional holiday meal, served in Crystal Cruises' six-star style, will begin with gefilte fish accompanied by horseradish, followed by chicken soup with matzoh balls. Roasted kosher chicken will be the featured entrée, complemented with carrot tzimmes, sautéed string beans with almonds, potato latkes and cranberry sauce. For dessert, guests may indulge in a rich honey nut raisin cake served with wine sabayon, fruit compote and coconut macaroons.

In addition, Avner Arad, a Julliard-trained classical pianist who sailed on Crystal Cruises

during Passover last year as an entertainer, specifically requested doing so again this year and will sail aboard Crystal Harmony this April. "I felt as though I was celebrating Passover back home in Israel because of the wonderful atmosphere aboard Crystal Symphony," said Arad. "I am eager to return to Crystal Cruises for this holiday, so that I may share my background and anything else I can contribute to the Passover service."

On Passover Eve, Rabbi Paul Steinberg, vice president and dean of faculty of Hebrew Union College Jewish Institute of Reli-



gion in Scarsdale, N.Y., will conduct the ceremony aboard Crystal Harmony. The 11-day Panama Canal cruise begins on April 7 in Acapulco and concludes in San Juan.

Rabbi Sinclair Rimmer will preside over the service aboard Crystal Symphony's final segment of her gala world cruise, a 16-day Mediterranean voyage departing from Athens on April 9 for London.

Whether sailing during Passover, or other months, all sailings aboard Crystal Cruises include Friday night Sabbath services, including wines, challah, and prayer books ac-

ording to the season. Both Crystal Harmony and Crystal Symphony have their own Torah on board.

In addition, kosher meals are available throughout Passover aboard Crystal Harmony and Crystal Symphony, and the line's guest rabbis may supervise the food as it is prepared in the galley. Although Crystal Cruises does not have a separate kosher kitchen, a large selection of kosher dishes such as rack of veal, rib eye steak, and salmon are offered. Prepackaged kosher dishes are also available and freshly made desserts meeting kosher standards are served. In keeping with kosher standards for food service in the Crystal dining room, Crystal Cruises provides new plates, silverware and glassware upon guests' arrival and utilizes the same dishware throughout the cruise.

Six-star Crystal Harmony and Crystal Symphony are luxurious 940-guest, 50,000-ton vessels featuring expansive decks, award-winning entertainment in a wide variety of spacious lounges, flexible gourmet dining with two alternative restaurants, a state-of-the-art fitness facility, lavish spa, Caesars Palace at Sea casino, and exquisitely-appointed staterooms and penthouses, more than half of which offer private verandahs.

For further information and reservations, contact your travel agent.

## Hear in Rhode Island Prepares Summer Festival

The Fifth annual Hear in Rhode Island Festival will take place on June 13 and 14, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at India Point Waterfront Park in Providence. Hear In R.I. is a two-day festival showcasing some of the best known and unknown music in the Rhode Island area. Three to four stages run simultaneously presenting many genres of music. Over the two days 50 to 75 acts featuring all types of locally produced music are presented. Arts, crafts, mind/body/spirit food vendors will be on site. Admission to the festival is free.

Hear in R.I. is currently soliciting sponsors/donations, booking musical acts, seeking vendors, and looking for volunteers.

**Musical Acts:** All types of music. Performance slots available for four stages — main stage, "unplugged" stage, family/children's stage, and poetry area. All acts should be from or affiliated with the R.I. music community. Performance slots are showcases and vary in length from 15 to 30 minutes. Acts should send a full press kit to Hear in R.I., P.O. Box 367, Harmony, R.I. 02829.

**Vendors:** Arts and crafts, and mind/body/spirit vendors are needed for the festival. Emphasis is put on original art and handcrafted items. There is a charge for the vending space. Vendors should call or write for application.

**Volunteers:** Needed prior to and for the days of the festival. Volunteers are needed for stage help, load in/out, set-up, crowd maintenance, festival coordination. Help produce the festival — it's fun.

**Sponsors/Donations:** The festival runs entirely on contributions, grants and donations (cash for operating expenses and product for the fund-raising raffle). All donations are fully tax-deductible. Also, sponsor's names/logos and links (if available) are included on the festival's web page.

For more information, call 949-0757.

## German Woman Offers The Gift of Life to an Israeli Child

Recently a 34-year-old German woman wrote to the Hadassah Medical Center in Ein-Kerem with an unusual and moving offer: to donate an organ or bone marrow to a deserving Israeli child as her personal atonement for the crimes of the Holocaust.

"I would like very much to give the possibility of life without artificial support to a young Israeli person, since I know how terrible it is for a young person to depend on machinery to stay alive," wrote Kerstin Heimbold of Borsdorf, Germany.

"Perhaps I, who come from a people who eliminated millions of Jews, can save at least one life!" she explained, adding that her grandfather was a soldier in the German army during World War II.

The hospital immediately responded with an explanation on

how to proceed. "We wrote her and told her that we were extremely grateful for her generous offer. This is altruism at its best," said Hadassah Medical Organization spokesman Yossi Shoval. In Israel, organ donations are regulated by a health ministry committee, as there are special rules that apply to organ donations that come from live donors and additional rules that apply to live donors who come from outside of Israel.

Some 10 years ago, Heimbold, who says she is a non-smoker, a non-drinker and in excellent health, began her quest to donate an organ by registering with a transplant center in Berlin. She is also listed as a bone marrow donor at the Leipzig University Organ Transplant Center, but has not yet been chosen as a donor by either German institution.

## Mother of Three Wins Cholent Contest

by Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) A 39-year-old mother of three is the Israeli champion of cholent.

Esther Yisrael of Kfar Saba beat out more than 130 Israeli men and women in Tel Aviv with her recipe for the slow-cooked, casserole-like stew that is traditionally served on the Sabbath.

Yisrael's version of the dish included chicken, beef, semolina dumplings, stuffed vegetables and spinach, flavored with garlic, onion and a medley of herbs, including parsley and cilantro.

With the modesty of a winner — and the perfectionism of a true cook — she said she did not include kishke or stuffed grape leaves because of a lack of time.

## Cranston Historical Society Meeting

The Senior Archaeologist and Principal Investigator at The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. will be guest speaker at the Feb. 17 meeting of the Cranston Historical Society at 1351 Cranston St.

Alan Leveillee will present a lecture entitled: "Histories Written in Stone: The Results of Two Recent Archaeology Projects in Cranston."

Leveillee will discuss the results of excavations at both a

4,000 year old campsite along Furnace Hill Brook, and a residential development where members of the Abenald Indian Tribe believed a sacred burial ground was being destroyed. The different archaeological approaches and the results will be presented during a slide show discussion.

A brief business meeting at 7:30 p.m. will precede Leveillee's lecture. Refreshments will be served.

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