

Rhode Island Jewish HERALD

**Bridal
1998
SPECIAL INSERT**

The Only English-Jewish Weekly in Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts

VOLUME LXVIII, NUMBER 14

SHEVAT 23, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1998

35¢ PER COPY

Jewish Immigrant's Dream May Expire

by Yehudah A. Biss
Herald Editor

Avrohom Martinez stood in prayer at Providence Hebrew Day School one Saturday morning when someone abruptly interrupted him. His son, Eliezer, was waiting outside for him. Granted sole custody, Eliezer was coming back from his weekly visit with his mother. But this was odd, Avrohom wondered. Why wasn't Eliezer dropped off inside the synagogue like usual? He walked onto Savoy Avenue to see his boy with his mother. Before he could reach his son, an unmarked vehicle pulled up next to them. Wrapped in his tallit with prayer book in his right hand, four Immigration and Naturalization Service agents jumped out of the car and quickly seized him, as Eliezer watched dumbfoundedly. He stayed in jail for 3 months while the Orthodox community rallied around him and bailed him out.

Artistic Roots

Avrohom Martinez didn't begin his life as an Orthodox Jew. Brought up as Alvaro Martinez in France without any religious upbringing, he became interested in his Jewish roots through a Lubavitch center in Paris. Martinez' artistic talents allowed him to travel to Spain and eventually Cape Verde. In 1989, he applied for a visitors' visa so he could spend Passover in America. Arriving in Boston with a Cape Verdean friend, they made their way to New York, only to stop in Providence

to visit some friends. Martinez never did make it to New York, he spent Passover at the home of Gershom Barros, who shared his knowledge of Spanish. Enjoying the seder, Avrohom decided to stay in Providence a little longer. He hooked up with the Chabad center on Hope Street, where Rabbi Laufer was able to provide him with a place to stay and eat, while Martinez looked for one of his own. After re-doing Rabbi Laufer's house from floor to ceiling, he went on to do interiors of many other community people like Gershom Barros and Rabbi Gibber. He went on to do the Aron (Holy Ark, which holds the Sefer Torah) at New England Rabbinical College. The Herald's esteemed Mike Fink completed three articles about him, one of which deals with his skill as both an artist and carpenter.

His son, from a failed marriage, born July 4, 1993, made him yearn for a secure, nurturing community. He felt the found one in the Providence community. He began to seek religion more and more, and took to Orthodoxy. He eventually moved to an apartment down the street from PHDS. He began to take his son to study with him there, and eventually connected with Rabbi Gibber at NERC. He continues his involvement with this community as he draws from its inspiration and stability. Rabbi Gibber calls Martinez "a hard worker, talented, not a burden to the community. He independently supports his son with hard-earned money and refuses to take from the govern-



A Fruitful Seder

Rabbi Jagolinzer led a special Tu B'Shevat seder at Temple Shalom. More than 50 religious school students, parents and teachers gathered to share a unique evening together. (See related story on Page 6.)

Herald photo by Tara V. Liscindro

ment or anyone else." This is considerably remarkable considering his dealings with immigration and family court. He owes a lot of money to his lawyers.

Mistakes and Mini-Triumphs

The family court has looked kindly on Martinez and granting him sole custody of Eliezer, partially because it was learned that the mother already had five other children taken away from her by the state. She couldn't prove she could support a child, mentally and financially. She couldn't hold a job and has had to live on disability and welfare. Because Martinez showed he cared for his son and could support him without any assistance, the judge granted him sole custody, allowing the mother visitation rights once a week. Because he needed to stay to fight for custody for his son, his visa expired when he didn't leave the country in the appropriate amount of time required by immigration law. From that moment, he became an illegal immigrant. He was advised by other immigrants that if he kept clean and didn't so much as get a parking ticket, no one would notice and he could apply for residency after seven years (allowing him to apply for citizenship five years after that). "I made a mistake," Martinez admits. He could not, at this point, renew his visa or apply for citizenship. Though in this country from 1989 and a possible candidate for residency in '96,

his ex-wife changed all of that in '95. That was when she went to the INS and reported Martinez as an illegal. She did this as a last ditch effort to get her son back. Once Martinez had taken care of his custody battle, in essence, he was thrown into another battle — for his status as an illegal alien. Thrown into jail for those three months, he was concerned that Eliezer would be put in a foster home and never taught about his Jewish roots. When he was bailed out, he got his son back, but that was only temporary. The immigration court ruled to suspend judgement until last month, when they said that he can be deported.

Now What?

His legal advisor, Russell Raskin, says the immigration law does allow an exception to deportation when there is a hardship. Eliezer could be considered a hardship. Martinez is scheduled to go back to family court to allow him to take his son with him should he be deported. Because his son is an American, he would be in the custody of the court upon deportation, since his father would be considered a criminal. He is concerned because time isn't on his side. The judge in the last immigration proceeding gave him extended time, but did not specify when the court would go about deportation procedures. Martinez may not be able to appeal the judge's ruling any more. The chances of the family court allowing him to take his

son with him are good. Two years ago, the family court judge mentioned that if brought to his attention, he would allow Martinez to take his son. The law allows very little notice before deportation. If the immigration judge doesn't grant Martinez extra time before deportation, he may have to leave before it is possible to find out if he can bring his son with him. Knowing the INS tactics, like the incident in '95 during prayers at PHDS, he's concerned about a knock at the door, INS agents barging in and handcuffing him in front of his son, scaring him for life. He is concerned his right to raise his son, given to him by the family court, will be taken away from him. In tears he stated, "He is my son. I love him. I cannot bear to see him taken from me. I stayed here (in Providence) because I thought I could raise my son in a stable community. I saw Providence as a place where I could grow. This is all taken from me if this happens (deportation). I believe in the system, I hope it can provide me with what's best for my son."

Ultimately, the immigration court could rule any day about the status of Martinez. If he should be deported, legal counsel will ask for time so he could get permission to take his son with him. He could see his American dream slip away at any given moment. He worries that he will be separated from his son. He lives in fear of a knock at the door. He doesn't want his relationship with his son to expire.



Avrohom and Eliezer Martinez

Herald photo by Yehudah Biss

HAPPENINGS

Prospective Adoptive Parents Invited to Informational Meetings

Adoption Options, the adoption program of Jewish Family Service, offers regular informational meetings about adoption for anyone interested in exploring the choices. The meetings are held at the offices of Jewish Family Service, located on the second floor of the United Way building at 229 Waterman St. in Providence. Call 331-5437 for dates/times and to register. The meetings are free and open to anyone interested in pursuing an adoption.

A Gathering of Gardeners

Gardeners, farmers and the interested public from throughout Rhode Island will be meeting at the Moses Brown School in Providence on March 7 for the eighth annual winter conference of the Northeast Organic Farmers Association of Rhode Island.

This event, open to the public, will feature 16 workshops on subjects ranging from alternative energy to seed saving. Keynote speaker will be Bill Duesing, author of *Living on the Earth*. In addition, there will be an on-site children's conference organized by the Meadowbrook Waldorf School.

Cost of the conference registration remains \$30. However, early registration and student discounts are available. For general information and registration materials, contact David Baldwin at 246-0275 or Bruce Evje at 467-3699.

Choices for the 21st Century

The Barrington Public Library is leading the way into the 21st century. The library is chosen to host a four-session public-policy discussion, sponsored by Brown University's Watson Institute, and addressing the role of the United States should play in the post-Cold War world. Entitled "Choices for the 21st Century" and financed by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the discussions are scheduled for March 2, 9, 16 and 23, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Sessions will be led by Porter Halyburton. Professor Porter Halyburton has been on the faculty of the United States Naval War College in Newport since his retirement from active Naval service in 1984. He teaches strategy and policy, international relations and the military code of conduct.

Anyone may participate in this free series, and no special knowledge of public policy or world events is required. Textbooks with reading selections will be provided. Registration for "Choices for the 21st Century" begins Feb. 23 at 9 a.m. in person or by phone at the library's reference desk, 247-1920.

Calendar: February 19 thru February 28

- 19 R.I. Spring Flower & Garden Show, Feb. 19 to 22, R.I. Convention Center, Providence.
- 20 Women & Infants hosts "Rodeo Drive," sponsored by Student National Medical Association. All-day charity will benefit the hospital and programs. Silent auction 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Free and open to public. Call 274-1122, ext. 1540.
- 21 Rhode Island Philharmonic presents "The Viennese Schools" at Veterans Memorial Auditorium, 8 p.m. For tickets, call 831-3123, ext. 10.
New England Boat Show from Feb. 21 to March 1. Show hours will be Monday to Friday, 1 to 9 p.m., Sat. 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., at Bayside Expo. Ticket prices: Adults \$8; children 6 to 12, \$3; children under 6 free. Call (800) 225-1577 for more information and directions.
"Motzai Shabbos Live," 7:20 to 8:20 p.m., at New England Rabbinical College, 262 Blackstone Boulevard.
- Pirchei groups at Providence Hebrew Day School, 1 hour 40 minutes before afternoon services. For children grades three to seven.
- 22 The Archaeology of Native Firearms Use in Alaska at Haffenreffer Museum of Anthropology, Providence, 4 p.m. Call 253-8388.
Reconstructionist Judaism: An Approach to Jewish Life in the '90s. Second part of three-part series by Rabbi Gail Diamond, Congregation Agudas Achim, Attleboro, 7 p.m. Call (508) 222-2243.
Community Poetry Reading, 2 p.m., Rhode Island School of Design Museum of Art, 224 Benefit St. Call Anne Clanton at the Langston Hughes Center for the Arts and Education, 598-5422.
- 23 "The Arts in America: Creativity & Controversy," 18th annual Providence Journal/Brown University Public Affairs Conference, Feb. 23 to 27. RISD has also joined in a collaborative effort this year. Students will present short poetry, drama, dance and video performances as well. Student Art Festival organized by theater students will present exhibits of current work. For a complete schedule of events, call 863-9989.
Discuss "One Voice, Many Visions: Works of African-American Artists." Discover innovative ways to integrate art and the exhibition into classroom curricula in all subjects and grade levels (kindergarten to 12). Non-educators welcome. Materials fee \$5. To register, call 454-6545.
- 24 Alperin Schechter Day School girls and boys basketball games, 3:30 and 4:30 p.m., Providence.
- 25 Touro Fraternal Association meets for "Hot Dogs and Buns Night" at Touro Hall. Friendship Lodge is welcome. Just \$1 in advance or \$6 at the door.
The Arthritis Foundation will sponsor a dial-a-doctor call-in, 7 to 9 p.m. Callers can ask the doctor questions about arthritis by calling (800) 541-8350. The volunteer doctor, Harold Horowitz, M.D., an arthritis specialist, will answer general questions about arthritis diagnosis and treatment.
- 26 "The Fussy Eater," presented by Lifespan Health Connection. Discussion assists parents dealing with common eating problems and their children. Free and open to public. Call to preregister, 444-4800.
Rosh Chodesh, Perspectives meeting for women. If you would like to attend or help to plan the women's spiritual groups, call Allison at 863-9357 by Feb. 24.
Arlen Avakian, editor of *Through The Kitchen Window*, collection of writings by women on food and ethnicity, speaks about her book at a lunchtime discussion. Sponsored by Sarah Doyle Women's Center, noon at Brown/RISD Hillel.
Storytelling Open Mike, 7:30 p.m., A5220, 115 Empire St. Hosted by Carolyn Martino's Word-of-Mouth productions. This free event will feature Diane Postoian, artistic director, of Looking Glass Theatre. Call 831-9327 or 351-8090 for more information.
- 28 The Morris Family at Chepstow: The genesis of a collection, by Paul L. Miller, curator, Preservation Society of Newport College. The collection of decorative and fine arts will be discussed at Newport Art Museum, Bellevue Avenue. The Chepstow collection will soon open as a museum in Newport.
"I Have a Dream, The Life and Times of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr." at Vartan Gregorian School, Fox Point, 8 p.m. Presented by All Children's Theatre Ensemble, sponsored by Textron Inc. Free and open to public. Call ACT 331-7174.
Beth Sholom & PHDS sponsor Art Auction at Beth Sholom, Providence, at 7:30 p.m. Profits benefit PHDS scholarship fund and Beth Sholom general fund. Contact Marvin Stark at 331-5327.
Zamir Chorale of Boston visits Temple Torat Yisrael, Martha S. Hoffman Memorial, Cranston, 8:30 p.m.

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How Old is Your Home?

The Preservation Society of Pawtucket is hosting a homeowners workshop, "How Old Is My House?" at the Pawtucket Public Library, Feb. 28 from 1 to 3 p.m. Pawtucket residents and homeowners are invited to join the Preservation Society of Pawtucket in using the preservation resource library to discover how old their house is through its architectural design. Those wishing information regarding accurate restoration and decoration are encouraged to bring a picture of their house. PSP architects will be answering questions and look forward to speaking with Pawtucket residents about their homes.

This workshop is one of many events being sponsored by the PSP over the next several months. All are welcome to attend to learn about their homes as well as other exciting ventures being taken on by the Preservation Society of Pawtucket. There is no fee for PSP members, and a donation of \$5 is requested from non-members. For more information about "How Old is My House?" or about the Preservation Society of Pawtucket, call the PSP at 725-9581.

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EastSide Prescription Center, Hope St.
Rhoda's Judaica, Burlington St.

JEWISH COMMUNITY

Brandeis Premieres Program For Members of Jewish Press

by Emily Torgan-Shalansky
Jewish Community Reporter

The American Jewish press has informed and educated the American Jewish community for decades, but for just as long, few have bothered to inform and educate members of the Jewish press.

About four years ago, after a group of Jewish journalists shared that fact and other problems with members of the Brandeis University faculty, academics and members of the media alike determined that standards and morale within the Jewish press needed to rise.

As a result, this summer Brandeis University will offer "The Brandeis Fellows for Journalists in the Jewish Press," a new weeklong program of classes about Judaism and Jewish life designed for members of the media.

"Our aim was to create an intensive course for people who work in Jewish journalism who have never had much formal study of Judaism," explained Program Director Jonathan Sarna, a professor of American Jewish history at Brandeis.

Applications for the program's 15 complimentary places will be reviewed until March 1. Those selected to take part will attend classes between July 12 and July 17 from 9 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Evening activities with Jewish cultural themes will follow the sessions.

According to Sharon Gillerman, assistant director of the program and a professor of modern Jewish history at Brandeis, each day will be organized around topics that the journalists and their audiences frequently encounter.

"We'll spend one full day approaching Jewish religious life, and that will include discussion of the holidays, the Jewish religious movements and the role of women and feminism in Judaism," Gillerman said.

The program will also approach the following themes: American Jewish life; modern Jewish history and the birth of Israel; Israel and Diaspora relations; Eastern Europe in the past and present, and commemorations and museums.

Brandeis faculty members will teach most of the classes, Gillerman said.

Both she and Sarna have been careful to keep their expectations for the brief course realistic.

"We're not expecting to get from Abraham to Henry Kissinger," Sarna said. "We're eager to help members of the media learn where to go when they have questions."

According to Sarna, the idea for the pilot offering sprang up in 1994, after a forum for members of the Brandeis faculty and administration and journalists generated a new awareness of problems plaguing the Jewish press.

"For many of us, the Bryn Forum brought home the way that the Jewish press feels that it is perceived," Sarna remembered. "Jewish journalists have a sense that they are a stepchild.

Mainstream journalists do not pay enough attention to them, and the Jewish community does not feel that journalism is worth investing in."

After the conference, Brandeis President Yehuda Reinharz felt that action was in order. Sarna and Gillerman agreed.

About a year later, the Brandeis faculty members called for another meeting.

This time, they invited publisher Milton Gralla and editors from some of the country's leading Jewish publications.

"We had a very useful and interesting discussion about what would be the best thing to do," Sarna said. "We would have liked to send everyone to Brandeis for a year, but it became clear that because of the demands of journalism jobs, the week class was the way to go."

Gralla agreed to finance the developing program, and the editors and Brandeis faculty members began to put together the course materials via e-mail.

"After all, we are not journalists," explained Sarna. "The course grew out of the needs of the people in the field, and they have given us great credibility."

According to Gillerman, the editors presented some critical information about Jewish journalists and their backgrounds.

"Many of them have some interest in or familiarity with Jewish affairs, but they have never had an opportunity to study the issues in a sophisticated way," she said. "Many members of the Jewish press come to Jewish journalism after gaining experience in the larger field and then acquire knowledge in the areas they work in, but the editors said that led to huge gaps in their knowledge."

Despite these problems, Sarna hopes the program will upgrade an American Jewish press that has already improved tremendously.

"Jewish papers have risen to a caliber that has never been seen in America before," Sarna said. "Across the country, there have been very significant improvements. I see this program meshing with that trend."

Sarna also believes the Jewish press is gaining new recognition.

"In many communities, the newspaper is the most significant piece of Judaica that comes into the home," he said. "It's very widely read, and it provides a great opportunity to educate the community. It represents the new world of Jewish journalism that we are hoping to recognize, nurture and develop."

JCAS Offers Second Annual Film Festival

by Emily Torgan-Shalansky
Herald Contributing Reporter

It's back. Because the Jewish Cultural Arts Society's first-ever film festival scored a huge hit last year, its members will present a new group of movies and speakers at the RISD auditorium between March 7 and March 10.

This year, said Melissa Chernofsky, a Hillel Jewish Campus Service Corps fellow who heads the Jewish Cultural Arts Society, the films will be thematically organized to facilitate discussion of the issues they explore.

"We selected the best and most unusual films we could find, then we grouped them according to themes that would appeal to students and community members alike," Chernofsky said of the Jewish Cultural Arts Society, a student organization made possible by the Brown-RISD Hillel.

On March 7, a program entitled "Women and Identity" will include two pieces. Zalisa Rabin's "Nick and Rachel" (1996), a film about a young Orthodox woman who falls in love with a gentile man who works in her father's jewelry store, will run first. "The Return of Sarah's Daughters" (1993), which delves into the

world of Orthodox Judaism and documents its effects on three of its female members, will follow. The program will end at midnight with a showing of "Dirty Dancing."

On March 8, after a reprise showing of "Nick and Rachel," filmmaker Zalisa Rabin will be at RISD to answer questions and discuss her experiences as a woman filmmaker.

At 7 p.m. that evening, as part of a program entitled "Israel at 50," Brown-RISD Hillel and the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island will jointly present "The Flying Camel" (1994), a film about a Jewish professor and a Palestinian rubbish collector who become a metaphor for Arab-Jewish relations.

On March 9, a program entitled "Communities in Conflict," that will be jointly sponsored by the Brown Program in Afro-American studies, will begin with Dr. Seuss' animated classic "The Sneetches." Next, "Blacks and Jews" (1996), a film created by the black/Jewish filmmaking team of Alan Smitow and Deborah Kaufman, will look at the tensions between the two groups as reflected in the media.

On March 10, the festival will close with a segment entitled "Politics and Everyday Life,"

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OPINION

The Wonders of Ecumenism

Last Friday, Rabbi Leo Abrami was completing his pastoral visits at the Miriam Hospital, when a volunteer asked him if he could assist a distressed family which was anxiously waiting in the room adjacent to the Intensive Care Unit. The family comprised the husband and the three daughters of a dying woman who had reached the term of her earthly life. The attendant had been instructed to "pull the plug" as soon as the priest would have administered the last rites.

The Catholic chaplain, however, could not be found and all the efforts of the hospital personnel to find another priest had failed.

The rabbi, then, stepped in the situation and accompanied the family to the bedside of the

woman. He spoke about the ephemeral character of life and the meaning of love and our need to surrender to the will of the Creator. They recited the Psalm 23 and the Lord's prayer (an ancient Jewish prayer, after all) and the oldest daughter recited the Rosary. They embraced each other and committed the life of their mother and wife to G-d.

The Sages of Israel had taught: "When there is no one ready to assume given responsibility, then you must do it." It did not occur to Rabbi Abrami that this could mean that a rabbi could assume the role of a priest (or almost) when no priest can be found.

Carmine D. Olivieri,
President
Temple Am David

'As The Leader, So The Generation'

(Arakin 17a)

The character of the leader has an influence on the character of the generation. Others say the character of the generation determines the quality of the leader.

This controversy may shed light on the popular question concerning the relative greatness of Abraham and Noah. If the leader influences his generation, then obviously Abraham was greater than Noah. If the generation influences the leader (and Noah was not swayed by his wicked generation), then he was greater than Abraham (Rabbi M.A. Amiel, *Hegyonath El-Ami*, p. 2).

See *Baba Kamma 52a* — "When the shepherd becomes angry with his flock he appoints a leader (bell-wether) who is blind."

(When the A-mighty wishes to punish the "enemies of Israel," he has them appoint leaders who are not qualified — *Rashi*.)

Eruvin 41a — "After the head the body follows."

Pirke de Rabbi Eliezer 42 — "When the shepherd blunders along his way, his flock blunders after him."

The *Baal Shem Tov* held that every detail that exists in the individual also exists in the human race as a whole. Just as man consists of body and soul, so in a city or a nation, the people are the body while the leader is the soul.

If the soul is pure, so is the body. Consequently, if one wants to improve things in general, he must first improve himself (Rabbi Y.Y. of Polonoye, *Toledoth Yaakov Yosef, Kedoshim*).

Robin's History Lesson

by Cindy Halpern

"Mommy, will you write me a note?" my daughter casually asked me at the breakfast table this morning while I sipped my tea and buttered my bagel. Of course, my suspicious motherly mind wondered whether Robin was looking for an easy way out for not having done her homework assignment. I asked in a blunt tone, "Did you do your homework?"

"Yes, Mommy, but the teacher wants me to pretend to be a nun or Christian clergyman for the class's medieval fair. I told her I can't because I'm Jewish, but she said it was only pretend so that it was all right for me to do it. But, Mommy, I don't think it's all right do you?"

"No, I don't. I'll write you the note to explain to your teacher why it isn't right." Then, I quickly put my cup of tea aside to relate to the teacher a history lesson that isn't written in

Robin's public school history text book.

I wrote about the Crusaders' who massacred Jews on the Rhine on their way to the Holy Land. I told how Jews were segregated into ghettos and made to wear distinguishing clothes so no Christian could mistake them for other Christians. Thus, Robin was not to pretend to be one of the people who brought such hardship to her ancestors.

I folded my note and sent it off to school with Robin, but my stomach continued to feel twisted in knots. Robin's textbook merely follows a curriculum of how people view history. Children are being socialized to believe that the Crusades brought commerce to Europe, improving trade and creating towns. Although these are true facts, it's only part of the picture. It's the same narrow-minded history lesson written by this generation's textbook authors who are repeating what

the last generation of textbook writers wrote for me to read, learn, and believe.

The difference between the other children in my class and myself was that even when I was a child, I was the type who learned to question everything by reading more on the subject that was presented. I would find my way to the Brown University bookstore on Thayer Street and bookstores on Harvard Square in Cambridge, or at the Jewish Museum bookstore in New York. When I began to travel to Europe, I found myself in bookstores in Oxford, Copenhagen, and Amsterdam. My search for new knowledge continues to this very day.

Thankfully, Robin is following in my footsteps. Her quest for truth began a few years back when I no longer permitted her to sit in front of the television. She learned to love books as I do. Now on the weekends, she

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Parshat Shekalim

by Daniel Tarabelo

On the Sabbath prior to the month of Adar, when the last person is called to the Torah, the Parsha of Shekalim which consists of five passages, Exodus 30:11-16, is read. There the Torah describes G-d's commandment to Moses to count the number of people in the Jewish nation via a mandatory "head tax." Each male over the age of 20 was instructed to contribute a half-shekel to the tax. By counting the number of coins contributed, Moses was able to ascertain how many men the nation consisted of.

Each ensuing year every male over the age of 20 was required to contribute a half-shekel to the Tabernacle's sacrificial funds. Later in temple times, each male was again obligated to contribute a half-shekel to the funds of the Temple. The money collected was used for the purchase of the

daily Tamid sacrifice. At the outset of Adar, the congregations were reminded that it was time to contribute the half-shekel for each 20-year-old male. Starting in Nisun, the next month, they began to use the new funds for the purchase of sacrifices. Though we no longer have the Temple, we read the portion of the Torah which discusses G-d's command to Moses to collect the half-shekel as a remembrance of those contributions. However, this was not the initial cause of our giving the half-shekel.

After the sin of the Golden Calf, G-d sent a plague amongst His nation to punish those who had sinned. After the plague subsided, He instructed Moses to count His people. The commentaries give a parable to illustrate why G-d chose to count His nation at that point in time. Just as a shepherd whose flock had survived a severe plague

will stop to count his beloved sheep after the plague had been staved, so, too, G-d wished to count His people after they had survived the plague brought about by their sin of the Golden Calf. The counting was a sign of love from G-d towards His people. By counting the individuals G-d was displaying that each Jew was still dear to Him.

Thus, the initial command to count the people by their contributing a half-shekel was both a means of showing a renewed closeness between G-d and His people, as well as a means for each Jew to contribute and thereby receive an atonement for the sin of the Golden Calf. This initial command to count the Jewish people through their giving of a half-shekel is the special portion of the Torah which we read as the Parsha of Shekalim.

Tarabelo is a student at New England Rabbinical College.

RHODE ISLAND JEWISH HERALD

(USPS 464-780)
Published Every Week By The Jewish Press Publishing Company

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Herald Way, off Webster Street
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OFFICE:
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East Providence, R.I. 02914

Periodical Mail postage paid at Providence, Rhode Island. Postmaster, send address changes to the Rhode Island Jewish Herald, P.O. Box 6063, Providence, R.I. 02940-0603.

Subscription rates: Thirty-five cents per copy. By mail \$15.00 per annum. Outside Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts; \$20.00 per annum. Senior citizen discount available. Bulk rates on request. The Herald assumes subscriptions are continuous unless notified to the contrary in writing.

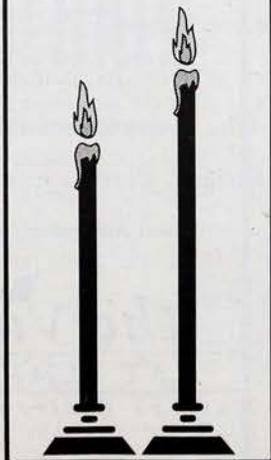
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Candlelighting
February 20, 1998
5:07 p.m.



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

How To Collect a Loan

One of the commandments contained in this week's Torah portion *Mishpatim*, is "If you will lend money to any of My people." Lending money to a poor person is considered a *mitzva*.

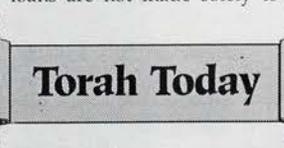
According to our Sages, G-d performs all the same *mitzvot*. He commands the Jewish people to observe, "He declares His word to Jacob, His statutes and His judgements to Israel." The Torah's "statutes" and "judgments" and G-d's statutes and judgements! Thus, G-d, too, observes the *mitzva* of "lending money to the poor," as it were.

Let us examine exactly what is involved in the transaction of a loan: A loan consists of one person giving money to another, even though he is not obligated to do so. The money is a gift; the borrower does not give anything in exchange. Nonetheless, the person on the receiving end of the transaction is obliged to eventually repay the giver.

The Holy One, Blessed Be He,

observes all of the Torah's commandments. G-d's "loan" to us, however, consists of the strengths and abilities He endows us with to succeed in our daily lives.

These gifts are not measured, nor does G-d grant them only to the deserving, just as monetary loans are not made solely to



those in dire need. And yet, they are still "loans" and must therefore be repaid. But how do we repay our debt? By utilizing our strengths and abilities to carry out our divinely appointed mission in life, observing G-d's "statutes" and judgements" in fulfillment of His will.

The second half of the above commandment reads, "You shall not be a creditor to him, nor shall you lay upon him in-

terest." It is forbidden for a lender to pressure the borrower into repaying his loan. He may neither ask for his money nor cause him distress. If the loan has not yet been repaid it is obvious that the borrower does not have the money to do so. In fact, the lender may not even show himself to the borrower, that he not be made to feel any embarrassment or shame.

G-d also observes the prohibition against being a creditor. G-d could easily demand payment by punishing His children and inflicting pain and suffering, but He does not. For it is forbidden for a creditor to cause sorrow to those who are in his debt.

Instead, G-d acts toward the Jewish people with kindness and mercy, granting them all manner of revealed and open goodness.

Adapted from Likutei Sichot, Volume 1. Submitted by Rabbi Laufer, Chabad House, Providence.



Sipping at Surrealism

by Mike Fink
Herald Contributing Reporter

I guess all art is a bit surreal, dipped in dreamland. My meeting with Professor Jeff Lesser at my nearby spot struck a note of dada.

I expected a quiet quarter hour at a wintry window on a lazy, hazy afternoon. Instead, the place was jammed with cheerful elders...from the corner group home. It was a sociable and amiable troop, and I had brought along my small dog to curl on my lap like a cat. Her

these exotic sketches in words. The groupies, I mean the challenged cafe guests, couldn't stay away. They moved close to us three, drawn to the companionable tone. They didn't resent our circle. They liked it. The servers took to us as well. But they assumed that my pet belonged to Jeff. I suffered a tiny twinge of protective parental pride at their error. "She's mine," I murmur and pat a furry head.

Professor Lesser teaches his-



Herald photo by Mike Fink

breed tends to tremble as if from the cold in the presence of strangers, and of crowds. But they couldn't stay away or stop smiling at her.

Jeff brought us two little cups of espresso, his with fancy cream on top. He summed up his story. "I speak perfect Portuguese and imperfect French, Spanish and Yiddish. My twin 5-year-old boys talk with the accent they picked up in Brazil. My wife is Brazilian."

We have a mutual friend who suggested that we set up this rendezvous with destinies. Amy studied Jewish-Brazilian history and knew of my interest in marranic crypto customs south of our border.

"No, my in-laws do not trace their roots to the Inquisition, but rather to the Holocaust. They were well established in Bucharest, Rumania, and were lucky to get out to England just before the war. They made their way to Palestine and then got visas to Brazil. But the Ashkenazic community is not really an intellectual or artistic society. They prosper, but they stay to themselves. On the other hand, if you canoe along the Amazon into the jungle, you will find ancient Jewish gravestones. And you may visit wonderful, historic synagogues in secluded towns."

I was comfortable on a couch, but my pooch made her way over to Jeff's lap while he drew

tory at Connecticut College, but keeps an office within the Portuguese department headquarters at Brown while on semester sabbatical. "I question the common notion that half of Brazil is secretly Jewish, that any name derived from nature—a tree, an animal, a bird, a flower—goes back to the flight from the Holy Office. But it is true that among the Jewish families in Recife there are some remnants of the Sephardics. Most of them left for New Amsterdam, and some families, of course, came to Newport, Rhode Island. They left traces throughout the Caribbean, in all the places Jews go to for vacation, to gamble and frolic, nowadays. In those days travel was more serious."

The Lessers may choose to send their boys on from nearby King to local Jewish schools. The surreal, or painterly, or dada element in our chat came from the pictures going through my mind as Jeff spoke. Brazil is an immense canvas. But the great river runs through it. And those markers and monuments and those lines from faraway crossing and meeting and mixing the familiar and the strange. I once eyed a little token fetish souvenir, a tiny bottle of sand and water from Recife, the Jewish port in Brazil, like an hourglass of our collective migrations. But then, the coffeehouse where Jeff and I sipped our demitasse was

(Continued on Page 15)

Happy As We

by Mike Fink
Herald Contributing Reporter

"Why do I love you? Why do you love me?" My mom used to sing to me these lyrics from "Showboat" which came out the season she was married—1927. It's a musical play that spans a lot of history. I had the privilege of introducing a screening of the 1951 film version at a Connecticut cinema. My gig gave me the chance to research the background of this greatest and lushest of our American dream designs, the make-believe operatic world of Jerome Kern—and of Oscar Hammerstein II, and of Edna Ferber, and of a shipload of other creative talents.

I get a letter from my college classmate asking me to pick out a movie from his collection. I read some books, view some videos, drive up into the glaring sunset, make my introduction, and chalk up yet another winter's celebration of a tradition we have set up. I watched "Till the Clouds Roll By," the MGM '40s bio of Kern's obsession with the metaphor of the Mississippi showboat, starring Robert Walker as the great man. Mostly, he seems to cross the Atlantic mixing British and European tunes with the new sounds of our immigrant shores. "Showboat" is almost the story of Hollywood and Broadway combined, with its tragicomic churning of the wheels of progress, while ol' man river, he jes' keeps rollin' along. The sound, the look, the feel of the epic event in popular entertainment hold grandeur, poetry, even philosophy.

I told the audience at the sparkling, restored downtown theater that Paul Robeson had put some humor and commentary in the black and white 1936 screen edition, and Irene Dunne had done an elegant Magnolia. But the '50s was a cautious, if also sometimes hopeful, time, and technicolor added vibrancy to the tale. In the end, Ava Gardner steals the show, even though her voice is dubbed.

She really did drink on the set, and her scenes as a lush are disturbingly convincing and poignant. Her Julie, whose mixed race dooms and destroys her, is inspired by her personal dilemmas and makes her close-ups both lyrical and strangely regal. "Showboat" deals with injustice and imbalance, and gives an audience plenty to think about as well as to enjoy. Our audience folded in youngsters impressed by the power of the past, along with elders moved by the reminder of the culture of their youth. I have a small fan club by now, formed from the number of times I've made this trek over the R.I. border.

There's Klara from Russia, a tiny grandmother who brings me a doll from her Byelorussian background and a book in Cyrillic characters about her mother's career as an actress on the Soviet stage. There's Burt the projectionist who also puts out the free coffee and doughnuts to draw the crowd to the nostalgic gathering.

The first time I saw Ava's Julie was the original downtown

Albee showing in 1951. I went with a black Hope High classmate, a pianist named Raymond Jackson. At that time it was unusual to see white and black kids on the street together. It

it alone, a beauty rather like the Wolf Gal or Moonbeam McSwine, a force of nature, not culture.

No lack of things to talk about, before, during and after staring



MIKE FINK, Klara and Naomi at the State Cinema in Stamford screening of "Showboat."

Herald photo by Mike Fink

was our only rendezvous, but I never forgot its stiff intensity of shared feeling.

But prints themselves forget the intensity of coloring. I mean, no matter how carefully you store the cans and air-condition the room, the reds go rusty, and the blues fade to gray. The glory of the fabulous '50s pours onto the silver dots in a sepia stain.

The rest of the cast add superb songs, extravagant attire, and an inspired level and tone. The Champions doing their ballet and tap, the team of Grayson and Keel solidly strong in duets, the fancy Agnes Moorhead and surprisingly subtle Joe E. Brown as Cap'n Andy, and the deep notes of William Warfield doing the theme song, all surround Ava Gardner with the stuff of voice and dance, while she suggests and slips and slides through like a chord of silver or gold. Coming from alliances with Mickey Rooney and Artie Shaw and moving on to Frank Sinatra, she could take it or leave

up at the old story once more, comparing then to now, backwards and forwards.

My love for the old movies has followed me lifelong, from the Hope Theater to the Loew's and the Strand, through college and beyond. They are shared illusions, magical stories that belong to a generation, and can be handed down to the next one, even if the hue is dimmed. They lift you to a higher plane and leave you there for a few moments or hours afterward while you mull them over.

And then, the showboat of my visit to my old schoolmate, of whose success as a mensch I am so proud, rolls on. And the Jewish-American hit, only recently returned to splendor on Broadway, captures the journey from a boyhood listening to mom "Why should there be two, happy as we?" to a delightful reunion of friends connecting in Connecticut. It all closes with Cap'n Andy hiccupping and counseling, "Smile, 'Noly, smile!"

Giants In The Land

by Mike Fink
Herald Contributing Reporter

Maybe our lives are like landfills, piles of accidental events. Or perhaps every footstep is laid down like a garden path. I met two students on the same day. Jenny was producing a videoportrait of her father's cousin, a freakshow carnival giant and monster actor in Hollywood B movies, made famous by Diane Arbus in one of her startling camera icon images. Yes, he was a Jewish giant like a golem!

Jenny was born the year he died, but her childhood was haunted by her grotesque collection of pictures of the renowned relative. "People only whispered about him. He was a scandal and an embarrassment. My father changed the subject if I asked about him."

I made some generalizations about the physically unusual. How it can serve as a privilege as well as a dishonor. I told her

to look up the symbolism of a giant in dream dictionaries and folklore references. I spun some yarns from my memory and added in the irony that Jews are not supposed to be giants except in moral stature. We are Davids, not Goliaths.

"Giantism is weakness, not strength. My family cousin never married, because the condition makes you impotent," said Jenny. She added, "I hope you will watch my work so far and help me put together a narration." And she moved across my long, oblong office to fetch a pile of tissues from the box to wipe her eyes. "I can't speak about him, and us, without weeping, even in front of the entire class," she says with a sob in her voice.

Now, about the other encounter with a student. Johann is the grandson of a former Nazi physician, who was charged with the task of shaping the

(Continued on Page 15)

JEWISH COMMUNITY

Temple Shalom Hosts A Fruitful Seder

by Tara V. Lisciandro
Herald Editor

More than 75 students attend Temple Shalom religious school in Middletown. Younger children spend three days a week at Temple Shalom while teenage students visit two days a week. "We nurture the kids," said Rabbi Jagolinzer, "They enjoy coming here and they want to come." The rabbi's words are more than true as anxious children buzz in and out of classrooms, preparing for a special event. Tucked away on Aquidneck Island, Temple Shalom hosts a series of programs as well as religious school for families to take part in and Tu

B'Shevat is just one of the many. Normally students would attend classes, complete projects and discuss various issues and ideas. But for Tu B'Shevat students gathered together and prepared a special seder in order to celebrate the Jewish New Year For Trees. While little hands peeled big juicy oranges, apples, pears and other seasonal fruits, Rabbi Jagolinzer joined them in the kitchen and began a rather fruitful discussion. "What does Tu B'Shevat mean?" he started, "Who sends us trees to plant?" Lively voices respond with "JNF." The rabbi has their attention, "And what does JNF stand for?" he asks. Again, al-



PARENTS, CHILDREN AND TEACHERS filled Temple Shalom on Tu B'Shevat. Together they shared a fruit salad seder, songs and learning.
Herald photo by Tara V. Lisciandro



RABBI JAGOLINZER and religious school students work together to prepare a special Tu B'Shevat seder.

Herald photo by Tara V. Lisciandro

most all of the youngsters know the answer, "The Jewish National Fund!" The questions and answers go on until more than five big glass bowls of fresh fruit have been prepared for the seder.

Meanwhile, other students have prepared tables with cups and spoons, sparkling grape juice and a special Tu B'Shevat Haggadah. Students created colorful drawings of trees, forests and other nature scenes as Haggadah covers and Rabbi Jagolinzer prepared other materials for the Haggadah.

Soon enough parents begin to enter and take their seats. Rabbi Jagolinzer takes to the

head table and begins to talk about the importance of Tu B'Shevat. Anxious little hands wave in the air as the rabbi asks questions and students show off their knowledge of the holiday to their parents. Later in the evening families share their fruitful seder then join in songs and conversation.

"The temple serves three purposes," said Rabbi Jagolinzer, "spiritual, educational and social. The temple also fills a void and a need." Senior groups, scouts, adults and students and a religious school share the temple. "It's multifunctional," said Rabbi Jagolinzer, "It's more than a building, it's the people, we perpetuate and care about Judaism."

Young Judaea Announces New Israel Programs

Whether the teen-agers in your family love to hike off the beaten track in search of adventure or prefer exploring the link between ancient and modern history, Young Judaea has the perfect program.

"Young Judaea's new four-week programs have been designed to provide students with physically, intellectually and spiritually challenging experiences, while leaving them ample time to pursue their other favorite summertime activities," said Marlene E. Post, national president of Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, which sponsors the Zionist youth movement, Young Judaea.

This summer, Young Judaea offers two new four-week summer excursions to Israel from June 23 to July 21:

Israel Expedition for teens who love outdoor adventure. Four week program includes: camel riding and Bedouin hospitality, a night hike, rafting on the Jordan River, water hikes,

snorkeling in the Red Sea, rappelling, a sea-to-sea hike and camping under the stars.

Israel Uncovered explores the deep layers of Israel's past. History-buffs will walk through Jewish history as they follow the footsteps of their biblical ancestors and ancient civilizations through modern times. Archaeological sites, ancient caves, historical landmarks and the land of Israel itself will be explored.

Each group, comprised of approximately 35 to 40 students from North America, will travel in modern, air-conditioned buses and will be staffed by four permanent counselors. Medical services will be available 24 hours a day. The price of \$2,500 includes airfare from a New York-area airport, meals, lodging, all admissions, tour guides and medical insurance. Space is limited.

To sign up, or for more information about any of Young Judaea's youth program, call (800) 725-0612.

Temple Torat Yisrael presents ZAMIR CHORALE OF BOSTON



IN CELEBRATION OF ISRAEL'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Saturday Evening, February 28 at 8:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$15 adults, \$10 seniors and students

For tickets and information contact Temple Torat Yisrael
330 Park Avenue, Cranston, RI 02905 ~ (401) 785-1800

Help Bring Passover to Those in Need

The literal translation of Moe's Chitim means "money for wheat." Established to help the old, infirm, lonely and poor to celebrate Passover with matzoh and traditional foods, the United Moe's Chitim Fund is again asking for the community's support. Contributions will support the annual Community Seder at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island and a seder for residents of the Institute of Mental Health and Ladd Center.

To fulfill this traditional obligation, send a donation to the United Moe's Chitim Fund, in care of Jewish Family Service, 229 Waterman St., Providence, RI 02906.

JEWISH COMMUNITY

ORT Extends Invite to Israel 50th Trip

Women's American ORT is inviting interested women — and men — to join its Young Leadership Mission to Israel April 22 to May 1.

Mission co-chair Sheryl Solomon of Wilmette, Ill., described the upcoming trip as a rare opportunity "to be in Israel at this moment in history, traveling with bright, talented men and women." She said, "For ORTists, it's the opportunity to see the fruits of our labor and meet the students at ORT schools."

For people new to ORT, it's a rare chance to learn about ORT technical training programs firsthand."

The trip price — \$1,850 — includes Jerusalem, Masada and the Dead Sea, the springtime

beauty of the Galilee, and the mystical city of Safed.

With all the Young Leadership participants younger than the Jewish State and with ORT now in its 50th year in Israel, co-chair Solomon feels it's a double opportunity to be part of Jewish history.

As the flagship of ORT's global program, ORT-Israel is bringing technical training coupled with Jewish education to 87,000 students, with programs in every major Israeli city and town. ORT is pioneering in producing teaching materials incorporating computers and software into curriculum.

For information on the Young Leadership Mission to Israel, telephone (800) 51-WAORT, ext. 347, or (212) 505-7700, ext. 347.

JCC Association Launches Maccabi Games Website

Jewish Community Centers Association of North America launched its JCC Maccabi website, containing information, highlights and updates on the JCC Maccabi Games. The JCC Maccabi Games combine a weeklong athletic competition for Jewish teenagers with community service. The games are the largest athletic gathering of Jewish teens in the world, with more than 4,200 athletes participating in 1997. The 1998 Games will be held in Charlotte, N.C., from Aug. 9 to 14 and Detroit, Mich., from Aug. 16 to 23.

The website — <www.jccmaccabi.org> — provides information on JCC Maccabi Games programs; history; eligibility requirements; athletic, social and cultural events; links to other athletic websites; and partnership/sponsorship opportunities.

The website also presents details on JCC Association's 1998 Israel Sports Spectacular, a four-week athletic program in Israel for North American Jewish teen-agers. The teen-agers train and compete with Israeli teens, while they develop ties to Israel. The exciting program features sports clinics, a five-day intensive sports camp, and recreational play.

Jewish Community Centers Association of North America is the central leadership and service organization for the 275 JCCs, YM-YWHAs and summer camps across the United States and Canada.

Dr. Judith Romney Wegner Speaks at Congregation Agudas Achim

The Mishnah Class of Congregation Agudas Achim will be holding a Siyyum (concluding) Celebration in honor of their completion of Tractate Berachot (blessings) on Feb. 22 at 9:30 a.m. at Congregation Agudas Achim, 901 N. Main St., Attleboro, Mass. Dr. Judith Romney Wegner, professor at Brown University, is the guest speaker. Her topic is "Mishnah: Sacred Text, Law Code, or Sociological Mirror?"

Wegner, a retired lawyer and member of both the English and American Bars, was born and educated in England. She received law degrees from both Cambridge and Harvard and was special assistant attorney general for the State of Rhode Island from 1975 to 1977. She gave up law to study for a doctorate in Judaic studies for which she received her Ph.D. at Brown University in 1986. Since then she has taught Judaic studies at Williams College, University of Massachusetts at Amherst and Connecticut College in New London and has published many articles on the image and status of women in Judaism and Jewish law. Professor Wegner's dissertation "Chattel or Person?"

the Status of Women in the Mishnah" was published by Oxford University Press in 1988.

All are welcome to attend this celebration with the Mishnah Class and hear Dr. Wegner. Breakfast will also be served. For further information, call the synagogue at (508) 222-2243.

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 Schneieron 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.

Community Melave Malka

A gathering of about 50 people met at Congregation Mishkan Tefilah, Feb. 15 to share food and thought. The event was sponsored by Torah Education Center. Fischel Bressler provided the music. To top the night off, Rabbi Nachman Klein, of Baltimore, Md, addressed the audience. He said the purpose of the Melave Malka is to "focus on the unity of all approaches to Torah Judaism in the city of Providence." He reminded everyone to "put aside our differences and work together for Judaism."



Rabbi Nachman Klein
of Baltimore, MD



Fischel Bressler

Temple Torat Yisrael Hosts Jewish Theological Seminary Shabbat

Temple Torat Yisrael welcomes Gideon Zelermyer, a first-year rabbinical student representing a new generation of Jewish learning, leadership and commitment. Zelermyer also shares with us his excitement and thrill of being a second generation rabbi in training. With an instantaneous connection to the community, Zelermyer spent his earliest years in shul at Temple Torat Yisrael, holding hands with his father, Rabbi Gerald Zelermyer. When his presence was requested he beamed from ear to ear and promptly accepted our invitation. Annually since 1986, the seminary has reached out to the North American Jewish Community by sending students from all seminary disciplines to

teach, share, and "put a face on the seminary." Cantor Lieberman, a graduate of the seminary, visited a congregation in Chicago, Ill., that first Seminary Shabbat; this year the seminary will be reaching more than 130 Jewish communities.

Born in Providence, Zelermyer attended the Alperin Schechter Day School until moving to Connecticut. He went on to graduate cum laude from The George Washington University after majoring in Judaic studies and religion. Zelermyer is also an accomplished singer. A tenor with a penchant for oratorio, a passion for opera, he is utilizing his musical talents and Judaic background in cantorial singing. He performs with the H.L. Miller Cantorial School Choir which, with one exception, is comprised of cantorial students. At present, Zelermyer is co-officiating Shabbat and holidays with his father Rabbi Gerald Zelermyer at The Emanuel Synagogue in West Hartford, Conn.

Join Temple Torat Yisrael on Feb. 27 for a Shabbat dinner at 6 p.m., followed by services led by the U.S.Y. at 7:30 p.m. and Oneg Shabbat, and at 9:30 a.m. Shabbat morning come daven with Zelermyer, and welcome him back home.

For information, call 785-1800.

Omission

In last week's *Herald*, the name of the Kohain in the picture of the Pidyon Haben (page 8) was omitted. Rabbi Ephraim Berlinsky acted as the Kohain.

Rabbi Leo Abrami Begins at Temple Am David

Rabbi Leo Abrami will be officially installed as rabbi of Temple Am David in Warwick on Feb. 21 at 9:30 a.m.

Rabbi Abrami was born in Paris, France. He studied archeology of the Middle East at the Sorbonne and psychoanalysis in Geneva, Switzerland.

He later attended the Jewish Seminary of Paris, France, and the Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati, Ohio, where he received a master's degree in Hebrew letters and was ordained as a rabbi.

He served congregations in California and South Africa before coming to Warwick, R.I. He contributed to *The Dead Sea Scrolls Uncovered* by Robert Eisenman and Michael Wise and has written articles for *Midstream* magazine and the *International Forum for Logotherapy* and an introduction to *Logotherapy in French*, soon to be published.

Completion of Mishna

Pirchei Agudas Yisroel of America is hosting its annual Siyum HaMishnayot, completion of Mishna, in Lakewood, NJ.

A delegation of students grades 3-8 will attend the event. Each student must recite at least 10 Mishnayot by heart to be included in the delegation.

The Siyum delegation will leave for Lakewood 8:30 a.m., March 6, in front of Providence Hebrew Day School, 345 Elm-grove Ave., and return March 8, between 8 and 9 p.m. to New England Rabbinical College, 262 Blackstone Blvd.

There is a \$30 transportation fee. Any student interested in attending can still call Yaakov Yenowitz at 272-9439 for more information or to reserve a seat.

JEWISH COMMUNITY

Survivor Visits Cranston West

by Yehudah Biss
Herald Editor

Leah Eliash, as *Herald* readers may recall, is a survivor. Her phenomenal story inspires and motivates. This is why she continues to tell it to all that would listen. As her late husband was dying, he requested of her that she talk, "tell as many people as you can" about the Holocaust. It is with this petition that she came to Cranston High School West Feb. 11. She came to give meaning to a play the students are putting on, "I Never Saw Another Butterfly." Based on poems and drawings from children who passed through the Terezin ghetto, Nancy Donegan, the play's director and producer, wanted Leah to speak to the cast and crew so the experience could enhance the students' performance. Donegan noted Eliash's talk as being "vivid" and remarked on Eliash herself as selfless when she refused to escape when she had a chance, because the other 35 people in the ghetto would be killed if the Nazis found Eliash missing.

The students then put on a mock rehearsal for Eliash. The play promises to be a heavy, dark look at ghetto life. Eliash sighed during the rehearsal, as if she felt the anguish being portrayed.

Moved to tears, Donegan gathered the students around Eliash and thanked her. "To have read about it in a book is one thing, when you see Leah, you see your grandmother and it hits closer to home," said Donegan. Eliash focused on the humanity of it all from the extreme hardships and horrors to her life after the war, the kindness of others who helped Eliash and her husband (who left Dachau only weighing 60 pounds). "It made me think about how lucky we are in our own life," Melody Gamba, a student who plays a pivotal role in the production, said, "Leah told us that she felt lucky when she only had to walk three miles to work, and to us, walking three miles is torture." She added, "But mainly, I was inspired by how positive she was. That was truly moving."

Eliash emphasized at the end of the rehearsal, "When I was asked if I blame G-d for what happened, I reply 'No I blame human beings.'" Eliash exemplified strength in a weak world. Her courage touched everyone in the room.

"I Never Saw Another Butterfly" is presented by Cranston High School West and will run March 20 to 22. Call 781-6395 for more information.



LEAH ELIASH Visits Cranston High School Photo by Yehudah Biss

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Rabbi Ely Katz Dies at Age 100

Rabbi Ely Katz died on Feb. 8, after having celebrated his 100th birthday on Feb. 2.

Rabbi Katz served as a cantor at Touro Synagogue in Newport from 1944 until his retirement on Oct. 30, 1986. In 1998 he moved to Kfar Saba, Israel where he died and is buried.

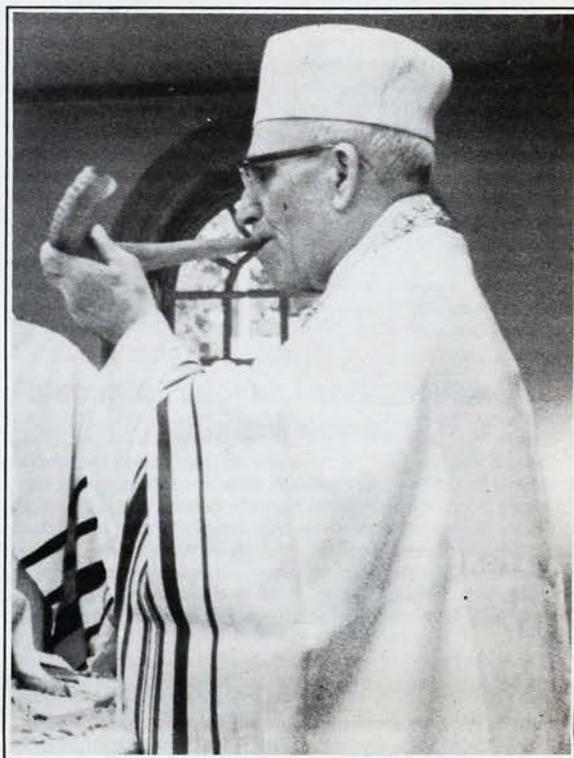
Before coming to Newport he served as cantor and teacher with congregations in Europe, Savannah, Ga.; Terre Haute, Ind.; and St. Paul, Minn. At Touro Synagogue in Newport he taught at least two generations of Newport Hebrew School students before retiring from teaching in 1976. At that time he decided to fulfill a cherished dream to become ordained as a rabbi. He was given a two-year study assignment by Rabbi Savitsky of Boston, a highly esteemed authority in Orthodox Judaism. By sheer desire and determination, Rabbi Katz completed the assignment in less than one year, and was ordained in 1977 at the age of 78, an inspiration to all who knew him.

Rabbi Katz was born in Romania in 1898, the only son and oldest child in a family of seven. He studied at a seminary in Romania before coming to the United States with his wife and infant son in 1921. After the death of his father in 1921, Rabbi Katz and his wife, Mavina, undertook the responsibility of helping to support his family in Romania even during the years of the depression. After World War II they arranged for his mother and sisters to move to Israel.

Rabbi Katz leaves a son and daughter-in-law, Harold and Mimi Katz of Israel; a daughter and son-in-law, Hannah and Max Schlamowitz of Houston, Texas; a sister, Rachello Engler of Israel; three grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces, nephews,

great-nieces, great-nephews, and many friends, both in the United States and in Israel.

In recognition of Rabbi Katz's love of learning and of his long and valued service to the congregation, The Rabbi Katz Library was established in the Touro Community Center in 1978.



Rabbi Ely Katz

Aristides de Sousa Mendes Society Meeting

A breakfast meeting of the society on Feb. 22 will be held at Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence, at 9:30 a.m. The breakfast will be cosponsored by the Temple Kulanu and Kulanu of Silver Spring, Md.

The featured speaker will be Rufina Bernadetti Silva Mausebaum of Capetown, South Africa, who was born in Portugal and baptized in the Catholic Church. She converted to Orthodox Judaism, the religion of her forefathers, almost 30 years ago. Mausebaum will speak on "Saudade — Remembering our Ancestors," the closely intertwined history of the Jewish and Portuguese communities spanning many centuries.

The breakfast will also feature a song recital by Dr. Judith Cohen of Toronto, Canada, an ethnomusicologist, specializing in Judeo-Spanish Sephardi songs and medieval and traditional music.

Please R.S.V.P. to 331-1616.



Rufina Bernadetti
Silva Mausebaum

Israel Symposium

Temple Emanu-El is hosting a symposium on "Israel at 50." Speakers will address such broad topics as Where is Israel Heading and Heroes in Israeli Literature. The series is sponsored by the Temple Emanu-El Adult Institute with the help of a special grant from the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island. The lectures are free, open to the public and are held from 9:10 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Temple Emanu-El. The upcoming topics are:

Feb. 24 — Various Heroes in Current Israeli Literature — Professor David Jacobson.

March 3 — Looking Toward the Future — Panel of Israeli speakers.

Camp JORI Launches New Store

JORI campers can now display their affection and support for the camp with JORI gear. The camp has opened its first store of Camp JORI merchandise, featuring apparel for children and adults. Past and future campers will be able to choose from sweatshirts, T-shirts, shorts and hat emblazoned with the official Camp JORI insignia.

In addition, the store which has opened in plenty of time for the camp's 61st season, will offer Camp JORI stationery kits, the perfect item for campers' correspondence with friends and family. All of the JORI items are available by mail or phone.

"The idea for JORI gear re-

ally came from former campers who wanted to be able to buy casual clothing with the JORI logo for themselves and their children," said camp director Ronni Guttin. "And we think the store is going to be a great way to raise money for scholarships," said Guttin who explained that all the proceeds from store sales will go the Camp JORI scholarship fund.

The Narragansett-based camp will open the 1998 camping season on June 29. For further information on Camp JORI, call 521-2655. To find out more about the Camp JORI store or to order items, call Nancy Mills at 943-4875.

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In Iraqi Crisis, Washington Facing Lose-Lose Proposition

by Douglas Davis

LONDON (JTA)—Washington is damned if it does and damned if it doesn't.

If it launches a military strike against Iraq, it risks deepening the rift with those countries that oppose such action. If it does not, it risks appearing to lack resolve, which will significantly erode its diplomatic prestige and its role as the global superpower.

Iraq's president, Saddam Hussein, by contrast, has played a brilliant hand, timing his provocations — the denial of U.N. inspectors access to suspected weapons sites — with exquisite precision.

Saddam has succeeded in peeling off the Arab opponent of the 1991 Gulf War coalition, which provided an umbrella of legitimacy for a U.S.-led attack against an Arab state.

And he has neutralized three of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council — Russia, China and France — by raising the possibility of lucrative post-sanctions trade contracts and appealing to their economic self-interest.

Washington must now make do with a somewhat threadbare diplomatic cover: The wholehearted backing of Britain and the lukewarm support of Kuwait, the sole Arab state to back action against Iraq.

Syria has been the only Arab nation to flatly condemn any U.S. actions, but the rest have given mixed signals at best. Saudi Arabia recently denied the use of its bases for American attacks on Iraq, leaving the U.S. secretary of defense, William Cohen — who visited the Saudis to drum up their support — seeking to downplay the need for their bases.

The lack of a strong coalition against Iraq creates the prospect of a military action that carries diplomatic consequences for Washington that are entirely unpredictable and potentially catastrophic.

Saddam knows he cannot seriously resist, let alone defeat, America's overwhelming tech-

nological sophistication and firepower, and he will mount a mere token resistance — perhaps reserving his retaliation for Israel and Saudi Arabia.

More importantly, he knows that diplomatic gains will far outweigh the punishment that he — or, rather, the Iraqi people — will have to absorb. He has nowhere to go but up if he survives.

From Washington's perspective, the outlook is far more complex. An airstrike on Iraq will, at best, devastate Saddam's command, control, communications and logistical facilities.

At worst, it could end in disaster and disgrace if it causes major civilian casualties, which could well lead to international demands for the operation to be aborted.

Either way, Saddam wins. Purely physical damage, as he demonstrated after the 1991 Gulf War, can be swiftly and effectively repaired, while civilian casualties — which worry Western leaders far more than the Iraqi leader — will play into his hands by casting the United States in the role of imperialist hooligan and international pariah.

Either way, Saddam will be the besieged and battered underdog who faced down the mightiest power on earth.

Military action may also produce another significant gain for Baghdad if it serves to deepen the rift between Washington and Russia, China and France.

They might well reciprocate to what they perceive as Washington's unilateral resort to the military option with a unilateral abandonment or sanctions against Iraq. Saddam's gamble will then have paid off in spades.

The most serious flaw in Washington's threat of military action against Iraq is its failure to define clear and achievable military goals and objectives.

U.S. officials speak of their determination to prevent Saddam from acquiring the capacity to develop weapons of mass destruction and the mis-

siles for delivering them.

But this is not a goal that can be achieved by air strikes. Chemical and biological weapons are portable and relatively easy to hide — as are missiles and launchers.

Nor, for that matter, can air strikes destroy the knowledge of scientists and engineers who have the technical skills to develop the weapons and the missiles.

U.S. officials know which sites have been denied to the U.N. weapons inspectors, and they may well suspect where chemical and biological weapons are being manufactured and stored.

But it is beyond even the most optimistic expectations that all of these highly toxic, highly concentrated weapons will be found and destroyed by aerial bombardment.

Asking American pilots and missile-guidance crews to achieve such an amorphous goal amounts to a futile, needle-in-the-haystack exercise.

The goal of the 1991 Gulf War was both clear and achievable — to drive Iraq out of Kuwait and restore Kuwait's ruling family.

The military goal now — to deny Saddam the capacity to develop weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery — is almost certainly not achievable.

A military campaign with unclear and unattainable goals raises more questions than it answers:

At what point will the United States be able to credibly declare that it has achieved its objective? And if it cannot be achieved, how will the United States justify the millions of dollars worth of smart bombs and the enormous losses — strategic and, quite possibly, human?

Will President Clinton be tempted to commit ground troops in a bid to force access to some of the forbidden sites?

And what if, as is widely discussed, Saddam decides to switch the focus by launching a

missile attack on Israel?

Cohen said that Washington would "strongly urge" Israel not to retaliate if Iraq were to launch a missile assault.

But that was not the prevailing view among other top American officials. And indeed, after meeting in Germany over the weekend with the Israeli defense minister, Yitzhak Mordechai, Cohen reversed himself, saying, "Israel obviously has the right of self-defense."

At this point, two safe bets can be made: First, a U.S. military action which is not completely successful will carry a high price tag — a significant relaxation of sanctions, perhaps, or their complete abandonment.

Second, the United States will pay for the strike in Israeli currency; winning favor in the Arab world again will involve substantial gestures — recognition of a future Palestinian state, perhaps, and overt pressure on Jerusalem to make large concessions to the Palestinians.

Among the Arab world, par-

ticularly the Persian Gulf states, there would likely be much private cheering — despite the current posturing to the contrary — should American jets and cruise missiles start racing to their targets in Iraq.

Much of the reluctance of Arab leaders to publicly support a U.S. action comes because they do not trust the resolve of the international community to contain Saddam indefinitely.

Their abiding nightmare is that sanctions will, one way or another, come to an end and they will be left to face the wrath of Saddam, who is both willing and able to use non-conventional weapons against them.

The problem for the Arab states — and indeed for much of the rest of an uncomprehending world — is not Saddam's arsenal of non-conventional weapons, his scud missiles or his technicians who produce the deadly toxins and design their means of delivery.

The problem, many believe, is Saddam. Period.

Kennedy Library Hosts Pulitzer Prize Winner Taylor Branch

Pulitzer Prize winner and noted civil rights historian Taylor Branch, author of *Pillar of Fire: America in the King Years, 1963-1965*, will be the featured speaker at the John F. Kennedy Library's public forum on March 1 from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Branch, who took nine years to write the second installment of the civil rights trilogy, will be introduced by Deval Patrick, former assistant attorney general for civil rights, U.S. Department of Justice. Patrick's nearly three-year tenure in Washington was distinguished by his quick and thorough investigation into the burning of nearly 300 southern black churches, an investigation which brought 114 arrests.

Branch's first volume, *Parting the Waters, America in the King Years, 1954-1963*, won the Pulitzer Prize for history in 1988. *Pillar of Fire* covers the upheavals of 1963, 1964 and 1965, as the movement broadened its geo-

graphical and political scope and became more contentious and entangled with other national and international issues. The final volume of the trilogy, *At Canaan's Edge*, will appear sometime in the future.

Branch, himself a civil rights and political activist, will talk about his passion for the civil rights movement, and about the conclusions he has drawn from nearly two decades of research. He will also respond to audience questions and sign copies of the book which will be on sale at the library's museum store. The Kennedy Library Public Forums are free. Reservations are recommended and may be made by calling (617) 929-4571.

The forum is part of the Kennedy Library's program "Facing a Moral Crisis — The Struggle for Civil Rights," a commemoration of the dramatic events surrounding the struggle for civil rights in America.

Legislation to Recover Insurance Benefits For Holocaust Survivors

B'nai B'rith supports national legislative efforts that compel several European insurance companies and their American subsidiaries to disclose information and pay life insurance claims to Holocaust survivors or their heirs. On Capitol Hill the U.S. House Banking and Financial Services Committee will hold hearings to address the insurance claims of Holocaust victims and their heirs.

"These bills serve as important measures toward correcting the shameful conduct of many European insurance companies and their subsidiaries toward Holocaust victims and their families. They must disclose and honor all existing claims immediately," said Tommy P. Baer, international president of B'nai B'rith. "These claimants have already waited 50 years to collect what is right-

fully theirs; how much longer will they be forced to wait?" asked Baer.

B'nai B'rith praised Reps. Mark Foley (R-Fla.) and Eliot Engel (D-N.Y.) for introducing legislation that rights this 50-year wrong. B'nai B'rith also welcomes a proposal by Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R-N.Y.) to create an independent panel to assist in searching insurance company files for unpaid policies and the establishment of a fund to assist needy Holocaust survivors.

Foley's legislation, the Comprehensive Holocaust Accountability in Insurance Measure, will force certain European life insurance companies to disclose files containing the names of Holocaust victims who had policies with the companies. So far, these companies have refused to disclose the names or pay benefits to the survivors or heirs.

Engel's legislation, the Holocaust Victims Insurance Act, will force insurance companies which sold policies to Holocaust victims to finally pay the victims or heirs.

B'nai B'rith, a founding member of the World Jewish Restitution Organization, has fought for decades for restitution for Holocaust survivors, many of whom are destitute and elderly. "Many Holocaust survivors spent years being worked to the bone, barely surviving and now, 50 years later, they are trying to collect insurance claims that are rightfully theirs. For the insurance companies to profit from these misfortunes would be unconscionable," said Dr. Sidney Clearfield, B'nai B'rith's executive vice president, who recently returned from WJRO meetings in Switzerland.

Art Of The State: Israel at 50

Kennedy Center Chairman James A. Johnston recently announced that the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the creation of the independent state of Israel with *Art of the State: Israel at 50*, a festival of music, dance, theater, film, and literature from Israel, Feb. 28 to April 4. In the Kennedy Center's Israeli Lounge, a room beautifully decorated with gifts given to the Kennedy Center by the people of Israel in 1971, Johnston said, "It is with great pride that we pay tribute to Israel at 50. Our festival will celebrate the brilliance of Israel's extraordinary artistic traditions."

Kennedy Center President Lawrence J. Wilker added, "This

festival continues our tradition of presenting the unique art of countries such as Australia, Germany and the continent of Africa." Wilker continued, "Art of the State: Israel at 50 is designed to bring a sampling of Israel's contemporary arts scene to the capital of the United States. In order to demonstrate Israel's unique heritage, we have chosen productions by several of the country's foremost dance and theater companies, as well as musicians, screenwriters and stars from the country's vibrant cinematic scene, and distinguished members of Israel's literary community to represent the country's multi-layered cultural identity."

For more information, call (202) 467-4600.

FEATURE

Opening of Jewish Office is Hottest Ticket in Berlin

by Deidre Berger

BERLIN (JTA) — The hottest ticket in Berlin recently was an invitation to the gala dinner to celebrate the inauguration of the American Jewish Committee's European office.

The event attracted more than 500 American and German government officials, businessmen, and community leaders.

It was accompanied by a media blitz, including lead coverage on evening newscasts and front-page headlines in newspapers.

The unprecedented attention surrounding the office's recent opening turned it into a major political event, comparable to the opening of a national consulate.

Many of the visiting AJCommittee staff officials and the 100-member delegation of the organization's board of governors say the extraordinary public interest in Germany took them by surprise.

Many commentators hailed the new AJCommittee presence as the return of Jewry to Germany and to Berlin, a city whose cultural identity in the 19th and early 20th centuries was heavily influenced by Jewish scholars, artists and writers.

Another reason for the unusually intense public interest is the symbolic value of a major American political and civil rights organization opening an office in the center of a city still struggling to forge an identity in the post-Cold War political landscape of Europe.

The opening also comes at a time of heightened interest in

Jewish topics in Germany, the growing self-assertiveness of Germany's own Jewish community and increased German and international media coverage in recent years of issues relating to the Holocaust.

The new AJCommittee office in Berlin, according to the organization's officials, will serve as a base to foster ever closer relations between Germany and American Jewry, between the German and American governments and support the development of Germany's rapidly growing Jewish community, which now numbers about 70,000.

The organization plans to sponsor exchange programs between Germany and the United States and conferences on German-Jewish relations, as well as to support research on Jewish topics.

The Berlin office will also coordinate the organization's expanding outreach program with Jewish communities in Central and Eastern Europe.

At the inauguration of the office, the AJCommittee's executive director, David Harris, said the organization believes in the stability of German democracy but will nonetheless act as a watchdog on matters of civil rights and political extremism.

Germany's foreign minister, Klaus Kinkel, who delivered the keynote speech, emphasized Germany's responsibility for the Nazi era, promising that Germany will never forget the victims of the Holocaust.

"Indeed, the desire in Germany to remember and face up

to the past is not waning but growing, in strength. Young people, especially, are demanding to know what happened," he said to guests sitting in an overfilled ballroom in the prestigious Adlon Hotel.

Kinkel made numerous deviations from his printed speech to emphasize the extent of Jewish suffering under the Nazis as well as Germany's commitment to prevent the renewed spread of racial hatred and anti-Semitism.

The new AJCommittee office in Berlin, will serve as a base to foster ever closer relations between Germany and American Jewry.

Despite the clear language, the message contained no new analysis of German-Jewish relations and seemed more geared for a domestic audience than for the visiting guest.

Many of the visitors also had one question: Where was Helmut Kohl?

The German chancellor, who has often met with AJCommittee representatives during their visits to Germany, was invited but did not attend events.

He reportedly sent a message of congratulations on the office opening too late for it to be read aloud during the three days of events surrounding the inauguration.

Both German and Jewish of-

icials attributed his absence in part to tensions surrounding the recently completed negotiations between Bonn and the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, which resulted in Germany's agreement to pay Jewish Holocaust survivors living in former Soviet-bloc countries.

Before the agreement was reached—and after several years of fruitless discussions with German officials — the AJCommittee went public with the issue, taking out large newspaper ads criticizing the German government for its behavior.

There was another possible reason for the chancellor's absence: In private discussions, government officials in recent months have expressed disapproval of the AJCommittee's decision to expand its working partners in Germany to include members of all political parties.

For many years the AJCommittee worked closely with foundations linked to the ruling conservative coalition.

German President Roman Herzog held a reception for the 100 members of the AJCommittee board of governors who traveled to Berlin for the office opening.

Committee members said they were impressed by the sincerity and strength of commitment to German-Jewish relations voiced by Herzog.

But his warm tones did not cover up differences on crucial issues. While Kinkel reiterated Germany's support for Israel and condemned Palestinian terrorism, he also called for a moratorium on the construction of the disputed Har Homa settlement in southeastern Jerusalem.

AJCommittee president Robert Rifkind said American Jews brought mixed emotions to the gathering in Berlin, warning that the opening of the new office did not reflect any absolution by American Jewry of German responsibility for its past.

"We close no books, we settle no accounts," he said to the mixed audience of Germans, Americans, Israelis and representatives from European Jewish communities.

"American Jews do not have the authority or the power to do that. What we can do is build a

bridge to the future."

Looking toward the future was a major theme of the deeply personal speeches that marked many of the events.

At the gala dinner, Harris of the AJCommittee, talked about his father, a Berlin-born Jew who later lived in Vienna and spent three years in a work camp in France.

When he asked his father what he thought about the opening of an AJCommittee office in Berlin, he said his father told him that "opening such an office is the step in the right direction because we are increasingly living in one world. It is time to remove barriers."

Lawrence Ramer, a Los Angeles benefactor whose financial support will facilitate much of the Berlin office activities, told the story of his grandfather risking his life in 1936 to go back to Germany from the United States to rescue relatives. He returned with two cousins.

"We have a heartbreaking photograph of him with five others who refused to leave because they thought it would all blow over," said Ramer, who added that he said he made his contribution in honor of his grandfather and for his children and grandchildren.

Dottie Bennett from Falls Church, Va., donated money to start a library on American Jewry in the AJCommittee office.

She said at the office dedication that she decided on her contribution after visiting a memorial in Berlin commemorating book burnings by the Nazis.

When she saw the empty bookshelves symbolizing the burnings, she said, she wanted "to put books back on the shelves where they belonged. We are a people of the book and I am proud to bring this full circle."

Other visiting members of the AJCommittee said they were deeply moved by the office opening.

Martin Bresler said that when he watched the mezuzah being affixed to the door of the new AJCommittee office suite he found himself saying involuntarily, "Take that, Joseph Goebbels." What he represented is gone and we are still here, and that makes me weep."

Claims Conference Provides \$40 Million

Organizations serving the needs of indigent, elderly Holocaust survivors and institutions engaged in research, documentation and education about the Holocaust will receive \$40 million this year from the conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany. Seventy-eight percent of the funds were in support of shelter and social services for Holocaust survivors, and the balance was allocated to research, education and documentation of the Holocaust.

Organizations serving the needs of destitute elderly Holocaust survivors in the former Soviet Union will receive more than \$17 million from the Claims Conference in 1998. "The former Soviet Union continues to be in desperate need of programs for the care of elderly, needy Holocaust survivors," said Rabbi Israel Miller, president of the Claims Conference funding.

The Claims Conference supports these programs in cooperation with the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee to provide basic assistance to Jewish Holocaust survivors: food packages, winter relief, homecare, medical care and equipment and medicine in eight cities and nearby areas in the former Soviet Union.

Institutions in Israel received one third of the funds for the care of Holocaust survivors. In the United States, most of the funds will support services provided by Jewish Family Services for Holocaust survivors. One third of the \$3 million allocated to U.S. programs was concentrated in southeast Florida where many survivors live. In the New York area the Claims Conference allocated a major portion to Brooklyn's Selfhelp Community Services. This organization has served over 650

elderly survivors with programs such as individual case management, supportive emotional counseling, and home-maker services.

Three quarters of the \$8.7 million allocated to Holocaust research, documentation and education went to 13 institutions in Israel. Heavy emphasis was also placed on bringing students to visit actual Holocaust sites in Europe, through programs of the March of the Living and the World Zionist Organization. The Claims Conference provided substantial support for important Holocaust centers elsewhere, such as the Jewish Historical Institute, in Warsaw, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., and the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York.

The funds for these allocations come from the sale of unclaimed Jewish properties in East Germany that were confiscated by the Nazis during the Holocaust. The German government designated the Claims Conference as the Successor Organization, the heir of last resort, for any such property that remained unclaimed by heirs of the original owner at the end of 1992. To date, the Claims Conference has allocated more than \$130 million to similar projects from this source alone.

\$1 Million Three-Pointer Missed at NBA's All-Star Weekend

by Peter Ephross

NEW YORK (JTA) — The big money was in sight.

But despite donning a black yarmulka on the advice of his rabbi, a Cuban-born Orthodox Jew failed to win \$1 million when he missed a three-point shot recently at the National Basketball Association's All-Star Weekend in New York City's Madison Square Garden.

Saul Holcman of Queens, N.Y., a 5-foot, 8-inch, 200-pound guidance counselor who is currently a stay-at-home dad, had qualified to take the shot by winning the Sony Minidisk Million Dollar Shooter contest, which involved scratching off a card at an electronics store.

Holcman's shot from 23 feet, 9 inches away, bounced off the rim.

Holcman and his wife, Robin, attend an Orthodox synagogue in the Forest Hills section of Queens, and their twin 6-year-old daughters attend a local Jewish academy.

Holcman said that despite missing the shot, "It was a wonderful experience."

"I'll never forget this for the rest of my life, and the memories are worth a million dollars," he said.

As a consolation prize, he did receive a car, some stereo equipment and \$10,000.

The money, he says, will go for his daughters' education.

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MILESTONES

Rebecca Weiss is Candidate for Presidential Scholars Program

Moses Brown School senior Rebecca Weiss, of Providence, has been selected as a candidate for the United States Presidential Scholars Program.

The United States Presidential Scholars Program was established in 1964, by executive order of the president, to recognize and honor some of our nation's most distinguished graduating seniors. In 1979, the program was expanded to recognize students who demonstrate exceptional scholarship and talent in the visual, creative, and performing arts.

Annually, up to 141 students are chosen from among outstanding graduating seniors — nationwide — to become Presidential Scholars, one of the nation's highest honors for high school students.

The scholars are chosen on the basis of their accomplishments in many areas — academic and artistic success, leadership, and involvement in school and the community. The scholars represent excellence in education and the promise of greatness in America's young people. Scholars are invited to Washington, D.C., in June to participate in National Recognition Week. The week includes many enrichment activities and events and culminates with the presentation of the Presidential Scholars medallion during a ceremony sponsored by the White House.

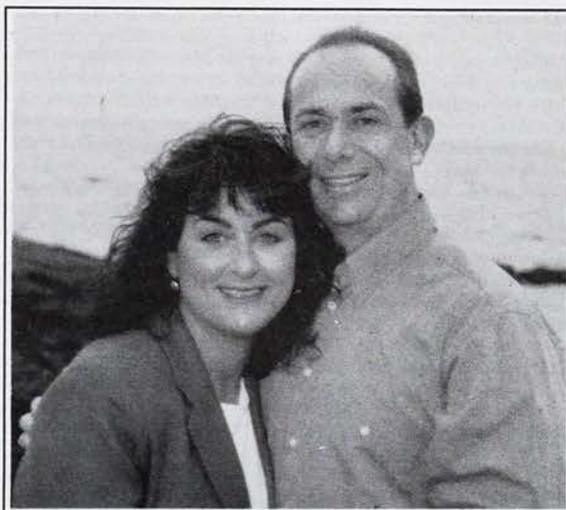
Elyse Meister to Wed Fredric Thaler

Herbert and Melba Meister of Providence, R.I., announce the engagement of their daughter, Elyse B. Meister, of Providence, R.I., to Fredric E. Thaler of Somerset, Mass., son of Esther Thaler and the late Jack J. Thaler of Fall River, Mass.

The bride-to-be graduated from Charles E. Shea High School, Pawtucket, R.I., and Forsyth Dental/Northeastern University and is currently employed as a dental hygienist for Dr. Michael A. Barry, Johnston, R.I.

Her fiancé is a graduate of Bishop Connolly High School, Fall River, Mass., and received a B.S. degree in civil engineering from Northeastern University and is currently employed as project manager for Gordon R. Archibald, Inc., Pawtucket, R.I.

A June 1998 wedding has been planned.



Elyse B. Meister and Fredric E. Thaler

Amy Bedrick Weds Charles Kantor

Amy Lynn Bedrick and Charles Claude Kantor were married Nov. 15, 1997, at Temple Emanu-El, Providence. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Bedrick of Providence, R.I. The bridegroom is the son of Dean and Mrs. Brian Kantor of Capetown, South Africa.

Rabbi Wayne Franklin officiated at the ceremony and Kantor Brian Mayer and the choir participated.

The reception was held in the ballroom at the Biltmore Hotel.

The bride was given in marriage by her parents.

Maid of honor was Kate Steckler and bridesmaids were Jenny Rosenfeld and Kristen Kilduff.

Best man was Daniel Kantor, brother of the bridegroom. Ushers were David Bedrick, brother of the bride, Andrew Selby, Heggai Golan, Gary Millner, Gary Locketz, and Trevor Garvin.

The bride received an undergraduate degree from George Washington University and a graduate degree from Tufts University in occupational therapy. She is employed as an occupational therapist at Rusk Rehabilitation Center at NYU Hospital.

The bridegroom has a busi-



Mr. and Mrs. Kantor

Photo by the Nourses

ness degree from University of Capetown and is vice president of Stern Stewart Consulting in Manhattan.

The couple honeymooned in the Caribbean. They have made their home in Gramercy Park, New York, N.Y.



Ross Nathaniel Talarico

Marci and Edward Talarico of Merrick, N.Y., announce the birth of their first child, a son, Ross Nathaniel Talarico, on Jan. 12.

Maternal grandparents are Susan Rappoport of Warwick, R.I., and Ronald Rappoport of Smithfield, R.I. Paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Robert Talarico of Danbury, Conn. Great-grandparents are Dr. and Mrs. Leonard Hershon of Wilmington, Del.; Mr. and Mrs. Norton Rappoport of Warwick, R.I.; and Mrs. Nathaniel Talarico of Danbury, Conn.

Gourse Publishes 21st Book

Leslie Gourse, daughter of Zelda Fisher Gourse and the late Harry Andrew Gourse, has just published her 21st book entitled *Straight, No Chaser: The Life and Genius of Thelonious Monk*. She is a well-known authority and writer on jazz whose books have been widely praised in jazz journals. Gourse was born in Providence and attended Columbia University.

Her biography, *The Tragedy and Triumph of Billie Holiday*, was selected as one of the best books for young adults in 1996 by the New York Public Library.

Gourse received an ASCAP-Deems Taylor Award for journalism. Over the past 28 years she has written about jazz and general culture for jazz journals, popular magazines and newspapers including the *L.A. Times*, *The New York Times*, *The Village Voice*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Washington Post*, *Down Beat*, *Jazz Times*, *Ebony*, *Man*, *Essence* and others.

Gourse lives in New York City.



Samantha Nicole Land

Lori and Kevin Land of Champaign, Ill., announce the birth of their daughter, Samantha Nicole, born on Oct. 20, 1997.

Maternal grandparents are Sheila Sussman of Florida and Jay and Sherril Sussman of Warwick. Maternal great-grandparents are Rae Greenberg and Mildred and Rubin Sussman, all of Florida. Paternal grandparents, Sheila and Sheldon Land, and great-grandmother, Dorothy Land, are all from Warwick. Samantha Nicole was named after her great-grandfather, David Land.



Gefen Kortick

Joel and Naama Kortick of Jerusalem, Israel, announce the birth of their first child, a daughter, Gefen, on Oct. 30, 1997.

Maternal grandparents are Sassona and Yossi Yovell of Jerusalem. Paternal grandparents are Janet and Carl Kortick of Cranston, R.I.

The Herald welcomes all community photos.

However, photos must be accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope if you wish them to be returned, otherwise they will be discarded.

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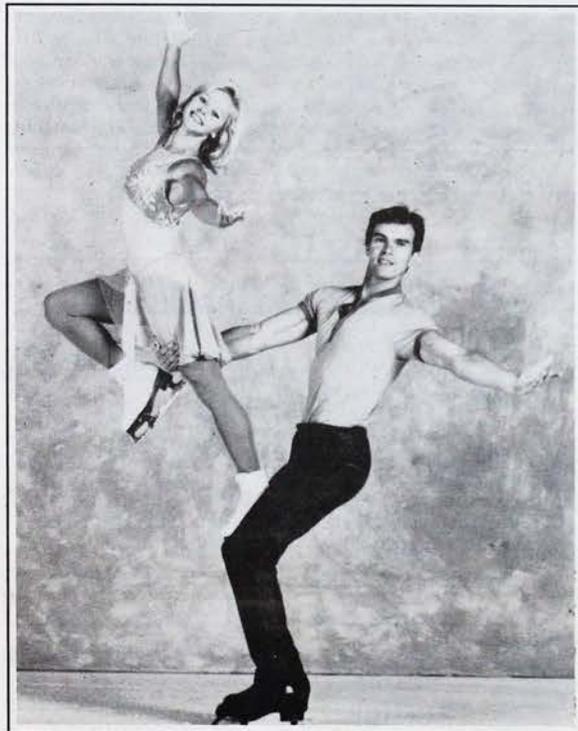
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Stars on Ice Visit Providence

The 1997-98 Discover® Stars on Ice™, presented by Smucker's, will be in Providence as one stop on a 57-city tour of Olympic and world champion figure skaters including Kristi Yamaguchi, Scott Hamilton, Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean, Paul Wylie, Kurt Browning, Ekaterina Gordeeva, Brian Orser, Elena Bechke and Denis Petrov and Rosalynn Summers. On March 10 at 7:30 p.m., the Providence Civic Center will be visited by these champion skaters.

For the ninth consecutive year, the official charity for the tour will be the Make-A-Wish Foundation of America, an organization which grants wishes to children with life-threatening illnesses, and part of Discover Card Youth Program. Two dollars from each ticket purchased with a Discover Card will be donated to the local Make-A-Wish chapter.

Tickets are priced from \$42 to \$30 and are now available at all Ticketmaster outlets and at the arena box office. Call 331-2211 or (508) 931-2000 to charge tickets. For group information, call 331-0700.



Elena Bechke and Denis Petrov

Photos by Heinz Knetmeier

RISD Offers a Savory Weekend Getaway

Enjoy a weekend at the Culinary Institute of America on the majestic Hudson in elegant Hyde Park, N.Y. This getaway, offered by Rhode Island School of Design's Division of Continuing Education, is scheduled for May 15 through May 17.

Travelers will dine at the CIA's America Bounty restaurant. Saturday will be spent exploring the Mediterranean in the CIA's professional kitchens under the direction of a CIA chef instructor. Participants will sample the flavors of Spanish, Turkish, Moroccan, and Italian cooking while learning about traditional ingredients, spices, and techniques. The day will conclude with a tasting and evaluation of the cooking experience, including wines compatible with selected dishes. An optical tour of the area's historic residences and the impressive Roosevelt estates will also be offered.

Anyone interested in the Culinary Institute Getaway Weekend should call RISD's Division of Continuing Education at 454-6200. A range of options and prices are available for this excursion.

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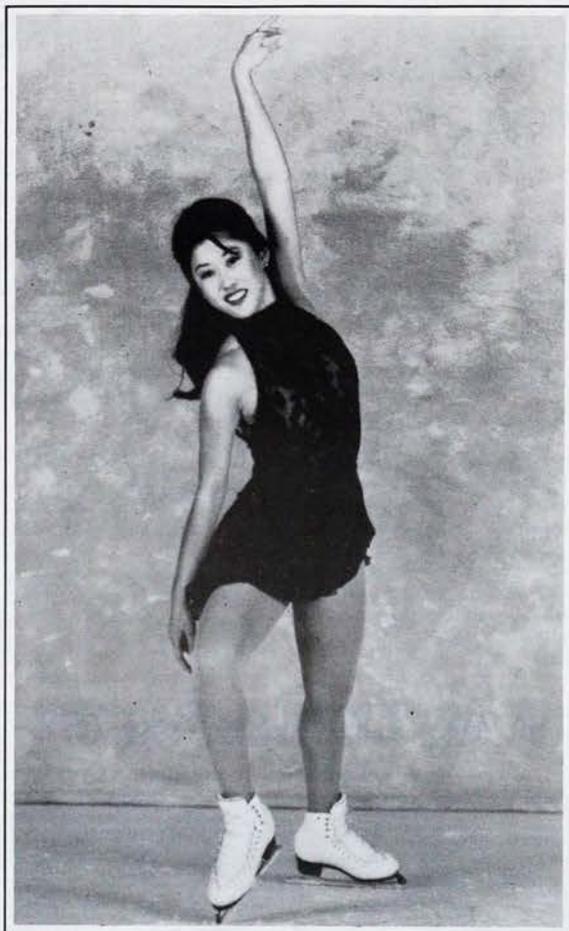
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Kristi Yamaguchi

The Mystic And The Muse

The six women of Ensemble Galilei will be performing a concert featuring selections from their latest release, "The Mystic and the Muse," on Feb. 26, at 8 p.m. in Gaige Hall auditorium as part of the Rhode Island College Performing Arts Series.

The performance by the all-instrumental group features medieval, Celtic and traditional folk music written by or about women over the last 600 years.

Their new CD has music ranging from the medieval chant of Hildegard von Bingen to the Renaissance dances of John Dowland and Erasmus Widmann to Irish traditional airs, jigs and reels, to new compositions.

Recorded at National Public Radio in November of 1996, it is a collaborative effort between NPR, the Troy, N.Y.-based Dorian Recordings and Ensemble Galilei, with a portion of the proceeds from the sales of the recordings going to benefit NPR. It also is being used for their national fund-raising effort.

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

'A Girl's Life' Opens at Trinity Rep

As part of the second Providence New Play Festival, Trinity Repertory Company, under the artistic direction of Oskar Eustis, will present Kathleen Tolan's "A Girl's Life," Feb. 27 through March 22. Under the direction of Barry Edelstein, with Brown graduate Rebecca Hart in the title role, this production asks hard-hitting questions with no easy answers. "A Girl's Life" is sponsored by The Chace Fund, through the generosity of Malcolm and Elizabeth Chace.

"A Girl's Life" turns the belief system of a two-parent, two-daughter family upside down as they struggle with some of the most difficult issues of the day, including teen-age pregnancy and abortion. Seventeen-year-old Jen writes angst-driven songs and plays them with her friend Sheila. She tries to sort out her reactions to her younger sister, Jesse, a studious but outspoken 11-year-old; to her mom, a nurse who feels that she has put her family's lives ahead of her own; and to her dad, who is a research scientist in a pharmaceutical company that is developing an abortion pill. In the

midst of ethical or emotional turmoil, several of the characters in "A Girl's Life" are visited by legendary figures, such as St. Catherine and Louis Pasteur, who drop by to offer tongue-in-cheek advice.

Tolan has written about the precarious transition from girlhood to adulthood, about how a young woman chooses who to confide in and who to listen to. "A Girl's Life" tackles the often-unspoken issue at the core of any debate over contraception and abortion: the powerful, subterranean force of sexual desire. How can those who are just dis-

covering that force cope with the pressures it creates within their bodies, hearts and minds.

There will be post-show discussions after each performance of "A Girl's Life."

A Humanities Rep discussion, led by Sam Coale, with Rhode Island college professor Carol Cummings, will take place March 7, after the 2 p.m. performance. The Humanities Rep program will focus on self-esteem in young women and on how adolescent women make choices in our culture.

For tickets or information, call 521-1100.

A subscription to the Herald makes a great gift.
Call 724-0200 for more information.

Flower in the Crannied Wall

by Alfred, Lord Tennyson

Flower in the crannied wall,
I pluck you out of the crannies,
I hold you here, root and all, in my hand,
Little flower — but if I could understand
What you are, root and all, and all in all,
I should know what G-d and man is.

The Nature of Man

by Yehudah Biss

A symbolic flower is picked from deep within a wall, analogous to humanity, where we are all picked from life eventually. But to contemplate that, to hold the root in your hand, is difficult. This is the mystery of life. Behind every flower, there is a root. Lord Tennyson acknowledges his humanity and inability to grasp the "root of all" and "all in all." Behind every person there is a reason for his creation. It is this mystery which eludes him.

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.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Happy Birthday, Dr. Suess

March 2 has special significance for millions of children nationwide — it is the birthday of the beloved children's author, Dr. Suess. This year, March 2 will mark a unique celebration of reading across the country — Read Across America. On that day, and the days leading up to it, the National Education Association Rhode Island will join thousands of its local and state affiliates in calling for every child to be in the company of a book.

"People can write their hands about the decline of the family, the influence of television, the power of pop culture, and a dozen other reasons why our children are not reading," said NEARI President Harvey Press. "Or they can fight back."

"Research shows that when children read outside of school they do better in school. From coast to coast, educators, celebrities, and others are coming up with wonderful ways to spark and rekindle our children's passion for reading.

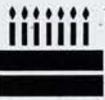
The weekend prior to March 2 — Feb. 28 to March 1 — NEA

Rhode Island will celebrate Read Across America on the center stage at Warwick Mall. Children of all ages will be invited to hear Rhode Island's own celebrities read their favorite books, and pose with the Cat in the Hat for parents to take their photograph. Plus, more surprises are being added to the celebration every day from other businesses and organizations, including Waldenbooks. Hours will be 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Feb. 28 and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on March 1.

Local districts and schools are planning their own events.

"We hold pep rallies to show students that football is important," said Press. "We sponsor plays to show that the arts are important. This is a celebration to show our students how much we value reading."

NEA and NEA Rhode Island are joined in the Read Across America celebration by the American Library Association, Reading is Fundamental, and the International Reading Association.



Peer Gynt Gets a Makeover

by Yehudah Biss
Herald Editor

There are two primary reasons Peer Gynt gives you the urge to rub your hand through Fred Sullivan's unruly hair. A) the closeness to the stage, B) Fred plays Peer like an already sugar-stuffed boy eating Sugar-Coated Sugar Cubes. His voice booms like he was talking to the dead. His very blonde hair is reminiscent of the bleachedness of Kenneth Branagh's in Hamlet. His character more Fred Flintstonian than his Fred.

Peer is well-known in his hometown for his outlandish, outspoken, brash kamikaze style. Only looking out for himself, he sets about town fornicating with anyone he can get his hands on. He is crass, pompous, and decidedly self-centered. Even his mother gets left in his fumes. Split up in two Peers, Fred Sullivan plays the younger Peer with such hyperkinetic-short-attention-span yells and shrieks, you get the feeling Peer is really a boy trapped in a 21-year-old body. His struggles with neighbors bring out his pompous style as well as their resounding disdain for Peer. This protagonist-antagonist struggle is dwelled on for most of this portion of the play — specifically, the back-and-forth Peer has with Aslak, played very well by Bob Grady, who eggs Peer on, only to taunt him and his family. Peer's ego crushed, he runs off with Ingrid, played by Rebecca Poole. He takes advantage of her, then leaves for his lifelong journey through the world. Right before he leaves, we get a glimpse at his relationship with his love, Solveig, whom he tries to court from the very beginning, and finally gets. He promising to be back soon, Solveig says she will wait for him, forever if she has to. He leaves his

mother, Solveig, the troll princess, and Ingrid behind, simply because he can't stand up to his commitments. He still yearns to be Emperor, and the natives in his homeland know him too well to let that happen. So he figures he can try his luck elsewhere.

Ibsen himself put Peer in perspective for us when he said, "If the Modern Norwegian recognizes himself in Peer Gynt, that is the good gentleman's own funeral." Much of the satire in the original had to do with Norwegian mythology and political goings-on of Ibsen's day, so a remake of Peer is appropriate for American audiences. In fact, Swiss director Stephen Muller notes the different approach he took to Peer in Europe, where he starts with the physical, and

considers giving the crew a raise. The contrast with the two Peers is clear. This is brought out even more so by differences between the two actors' style. The elder is a little more tactful, a smidgen less self-centered, and more determined. Timothy Crowe communicates his character's conflict on his face, wearing a gnarly beard and gaunt frame. His restraint is more evident, something missing by the younger Peer, as Fred Sullivan goes hog-wild with his youthful dreams.

What makes this adaptation special is its use of wit and humor. The first Peer has to deal with a Hatfield-McCoy type feud, and many references are made to the farm culture of America. It felt like watching reruns of "Hee-Haw" at times.



FRED SULLIVAN, JR. as Peer Gynt and Melinda Pinto as Solveig in Trinity Repertory Company's production of "Peer Gynt," by Henrik Ibsen.

Photo by T. Charles Erickson

R.I. Philharmonic Presents 'The Viennese Schools'

The Rhode Island Philharmonic will present "The Viennese Schools," a Classical Series concert on Feb. 21 at Veterans Memorial Auditorium in Providence at 8 p.m. Music director Larry Rachleff will lead the philharmonic in a program that includes Webern's "Five Pieces for Orchestra," Mozart's "Sinfonia Concertante, K297b" and Brahms' "Symphony No. 1 in C minor, Op. 68." Principal players of the Philharmonic will be featured as soloists in the Mozart "Sinfonia": Cheryl Priebe Bishkoff, oboe; Ian Greitzer, clarinet; Ron Haroutunian, bassoon; and Kevin Owen, horn. Merrill Lynch is the sponsor of the concert.

Tickets for "The Viennese Schools" are available at the Philharmonic office. The Philharmonic is located at 222 Richmond St., Providence. Tickets may be purchased by calling 831-3123, ext. 10, using MasterCard or Visa, or in person during business hours Monday to Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Friday until 3 p.m. Ticket prices are \$20, \$30 and \$35 for adults with discounts for groups of 10 or more, full-time students and senior citizens [65 or over].

The Philharmonic will present a repeat matinee performance on Feb. 22 at 3 p.m. at the University of Rhode Island Fine Arts Center Recital Hall in South Kingstown. Tickets for that concert are available by calling 874-2431.

BCC Theater Rep Performs 'Worlds at War'

Bristol Community College Theater Rep will perform an original creative movement piece entitled "Worlds at War" on the mainstage of the Margaret L. Jackson Arts Center on March 12, 13, and 14. The curtain rises each evening at 8 p.m.

Rylan Brenner, professor of theater and director of BCC Theater Rep, and members of the acting troupe created the movement theater production, which is based on H.G. Wells' 1898 science fiction masterpiece *War of the Worlds*. The novel was later adapted for a radio play, and gained instant notoriety on Halloween 1938, when Orson Wells' chilling narration sent the country into panic. The story relates man's struggle to defeat an invasion of Earth by Martians, who are more technologically advanced.

Tickets for the performances are \$3 for students and seniors, and \$8 for general admission. For more information, contact the theater department at (508) 678-2811, ext. 2440.

Children's Theatre Presents 'The Bird Room'

The Children's Theatre at Bridgewater State College presents its newest show entitled "The Bird Room." This show is an original musical play for young audiences adapted from the novel *Jack and Jill*, written by Louisa May Alcott.

"The Bird Room" incorporates puppetry, masks, shadow imagery, music and more to tell the tale of a very lively and caring group of teens who come to realize that the most important part of life is friendship.

"The Bird Room" will be performed on Feb. 27 at 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., Feb. 28 and March 1 at 2 p.m., March 2 and March 3 at 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m., and on March 4 at 9:30 a.m. All performances are open to the public and presented in the Rondileau Auditorium at Bridgewater State College.

Ticket prices are \$6 for adults,

\$4 for children, students, and seniors, and \$3 for groups of 10 or more. For more information or reservations, call the Bridgewater State College box office at (508) 697-1321.

The Children's Theatre has also put together a touring show called "The Flower Fables," based on a book with the same name by Alcott. For more information regarding the touring show, contact Professor Jim Quinn at (508) 697-1200, ext. 2141.

The Children's Theatre at Bridgewater State College was started in 1969 by Dr. Richard Warye. Its purpose is to provide a positive and fun learning experience for children attending live performance. Since its inception the Children's Theatre has performed 30 different shows for local children and their families.

in America, he delves into word meanings.

Upon returning from intermission, though, Timothy Crowe plays the elder Peer as an introspective, retrospective world-class jerk and globe-trotter. This is the part you'll want to stay for. Flashbacks provide us with Peer's travails as he confronts issues of self, the Invisible Hand, Cancer, a shipwreck, and ultimately, the Coin Inspectors there to melt him down. This Peer is the onion-peeler, where-is-the-heart-of-it-all thinker. Yet he always draws back to the same old conclusions. This is where we see him taken advantage of as Prophet and newly appointed madhouse director of the Great Sphinx. His character is developed thoroughly through these vignettes, we see another side of Peer that is somewhat redeeming. Before his ship goes under, he even

Maybe that's where some of the actors drew their inspirations. Later, the Invisible Hand acts as the biblical "divine providence," where fate subliminally guides Peer through his adventures. Peer meets with "Cancer," dressed as a smoking smooth-talker and tells him to go away and talks his way out of being melted down by the Coin Inspectors. His constant stubborn determination and struggle with death is admirable and funny at once. Throughout the production surprises greet you at every seat, as they use every inch of the theatre.

With trolls aplenty and plenty of madcap Gyntian moments, this adaptation works in your favor, as long as you're willing to stay for the second half and be rewarded by the last scene. Trinity Repertory Company's production of "Peer Gynt" runs through March 8. Call 351-4242.

OBITUARIES

HARRY ASHMAN

PROVIDENCE — Harry Ashman, 91, of 355 Blackstone Blvd., a retired Baltimore, Md., attorney, died Feb. 11 at Miriam Hospital. He was the husband of the late Adele (Salzman) Ashman.

Born in Baltimore, a son of the late Henry and Ida (Myers) Ashman, he had lived in Baltimore before moving to Providence last year.

He was a 1930 graduate of the University of Maryland.

He was a member of the Howard County and Maryland Bar Association.

He was a past officer and member of the board of Temple Oheb Shalom in Baltimore and a member of Temple Beth-El in Providence. He was a member of the Laurelmead Resident's Association.

He leaves a son, P. Miller Ashman of Pittsford, N.Y.; a daughter, Ellen A. Goldenberg of East Greenwich; a brother, William Ashman in Virginia; six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He was the brother of the late Samuel, Ely and Jerome Ashman.

The funeral was held Feb. 15 in the Sol Levinson and Brothers Funeral Home, Baltimore. Burial was in Oheb Shalom Memorial Park, Reisterstown, Md. Arrangements were by Max Sugarman Memorial, 458 Hope St., Providence.

WALTER E. BENJAMIN
 ATTLEBORO — Walter Eldridge Benjamin, 70, of 20 George St., the owner of W.E.

Benjamin Co., a Park Street jewelry store, died Feb. 11 at Sturdy Memorial Hospital, Attleboro. He was the husband of Vera (Diaz) Benjamin.

Born in St. Kitts, West Indies, a son of John Eldridge and the late Evelyn Eldridge, Benjamin had lived in Attleboro for the past three years, previously living in Chelsea and London, England.

He had owned W.E. Benjamin Co. in Boston until 1994, when he moved the business to Attleboro.

He was a member of the Rotary Club of Attleboro, Attleboro Chamber of Commerce, and Congregation Agudas Achim.

He was a graduate of the British Horological Institute in London, with a degree in horological engineering.

Besides his wife, he leaves his father, John Eldridge; three daughters, Angela Gillian Benjamin of Chesterfield, Va., Deborah Benjamin-Faria of North Plainfield, N.J., and Cecile Chapman of Atlanta, Ga.; a son, David Benjamin of Vermont; and six grandchildren. He was also the father of the late Keith Eldridge Benjamin.

The funeral service was held Feb. 15 at Congregation Agudas Achim, 901 North Main St., Attleboro. Burial was in Dodgeville Cemetery. The service was coordinated by the Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

MORRIS W. BREZNIAK
 DELRAY BEACH, Fla. — Morris W. Brezniak, 80, of Boston and Delray Beach, Fla., died

on Feb. 4 at the Delray Medical Center. He was the husband of Lee (Margolis) Brezniak and the late Beatrice (Levine) Brezniak.

Born in Boston's West End, he was a funeral director in the Boston area for more than 51 years. In 1957 he joined his late father-in-law Henry Levine in the operation of Levine Funeral Service, Brookline, and served as president of the firm until the Brezniak family sold their interest in 1989. In 1992 he joined his son and George Rodman in the partnership of Brezniak-Rodman Funeral Directors, West Newton, in serving Fall River and the New Bedford Jewish community. He was corporate director of the West End House in Allston, Mass.; a boys and girls club. In 1993 he received the Keystone Award, "The National Service to Youth Award," by the Boys and Girls Club of America. In 1974 he was named "Man of the Year" by the New England Hebrew Academy. He was a past member of the board of trustees of Congregation Kehillath Israel, Brookline, the Jewish Funeral Directors of America, the Brookline Democratic Town Committee, where he served as Michael Dukakis' first campaign manager when he ran for state representative. He was a member of the Moses Mendelsohn Lodge, Moses Michael Hays Lodge of Masons, Temple Emeth Chestnut Hill and the Brotherhood, the Staro Konstantino Cemetery Association, The Knights of Pythias Lodge, the Shomrim Society and he was deputy sheriff of Nor-

folk County under the late Peter McCormack.

Besides his wife, he leaves a son David of Newton; a daughter, Linda of Sharon; and two stepdaughters, Judy of Boston and Claudia of Newton; a sister, Evelyn Goldstein, of Stoughton and seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

The services were held on Feb. 4 at Temple Emeth. Burial was in Lindwood Memorial Park, Randolph.

NORMA FINCK

PROVIDENCE — Norma Finck, 72, of 355 Blackstone Boulevard, died Feb. 5 at Rhode Island Hospital.

Born in New York, she lived in Manhattan before moving to Providence.

She was a graduate of Wheaton College in Norton, Mass. She was a volunteer English teacher for foreign students, and enrolled in courses at the Brown Learning Center. She was a member of Temple Emanu-El.

She leaves a son, Bob Finck of North Bergen, N.J.; a daughter, Nancy Goldsmith of Dover, Mass.; and four grandchildren.

A memorial service was held Feb. 10 at Ferncliff Cemetery, Hartsdale, N.Y. The service was coordinated by Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence.

FRANCES L. FORMAN

FALL RIVER — Frances L. Forman, 84, of Adams House Home for Aged, 1168 Highland Ave., died Feb. 9.

Born in Fall River, she was the daughter of the late Henry J. and Jennie (Radin) Forman. She was a lifelong resident of Fall River. She attended the former Thibodeau's Business School.

During the World War II and after, she was a contract negotiator for the Navy in Newport.

She was a member of Temple Beth-El, a past president of the Ladies Auxiliary of Post No. 168 of the Jewish War Veterans of America, a past department president of the Massachusetts Auxiliary of the Jewish War Veterans of America, a past national president of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Jewish War Veterans of America, a past president of Retired Government Workers Association and past president of Hadassah.

She is survived by three brothers, Irving Forman of Somerset, David Forman of Fall River and Herbert Forman of Philadelphia. She was also sister of the late Eva Forman.

A memorial service was held Feb. 11. The service was coordinated by Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence.

SETH HARRY GOLDFINE

CRANSTON — Seth Harry Goldfine, 22, of 55 Sweetbriar Drive, Cranston, was killed Feb. 12 in an automobile accident on Route 6 in Foster.

Born in Providence, he was the son of Melvin and Marsha (Forman) Goldfine of Cranston, and was a lifelong Cranston resident.

He was a student at Bard College in Annandale, N.Y. He was a member of the Providence Rugby Association and a founder of the rugby team at Bard two years ago.

He was active in student gov-

ernment at the college. He was a certified emergency medical technician for four years. He was a member of Temple Torat Yisrael, Cranston.

Besides his parents, he leaves two sisters, Stephanie Goldfine of Washington, D.C., and Hilari Goldfine of Baltimore, Md.; and his paternal grandparents, J. Paul and Annie Goldfine of North Providence. He was the grandson of the late Carl and Bernice Forman.

The funeral was held Feb. 15 in Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

IRMA KLAPPER

EAST PROVIDENCE — Irma Klapper, 80, of Edmund Place Health Center, 350 Taunton Ave., for the past year, a production worker at Hasbro Inc. for 20 years, died Feb. 10 at Rhode Island Hospital. She was the wife of Jacob Klapper.

Born in Czechoslovakia, a daughter of the late Benjamin and Amalia Weindling, she lived in Providence for 45 years.

She was a past member of Congregation Shaare Zedek, Temple Emanu-El and congregation Mishkon Tfiloh, all in Providence.

Besides her husband, she leaves two sons, William Klapper of East Windsor, N.J., and Leon Klapper of San Mateo, Calif.; three sisters, Genia Guttfreund of Australia, Mania Halman of Tel Aviv, Israel, and Helene Koren of Rye, N.Y.; and five grandchildren.

The funeral was held Feb. 12 in Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Post Road, Warwick.

TERRY RICKLER

PROVIDENCE — Terry Rickler, 82, of Blackstone Boulevard, a public school teacher in Buffalo, N.Y., for many years before retiring, died Feb. 9 at home after an illness. She was the wife of the late Arnold H. Rickler.

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., a daughter of the late Morris and Ida Wagner, she lived in Buffalo most of her life before moving to Providence 2 1/2 years ago.

She was a graduate of Brooklyn College. She was a former member of Temple Beth Zion in Buffalo, and a life member of Hadassah.

She leaves a son, Kenneth Rickler, M.D., of Providence; a daughter, Phyllis Alexander of Washington, D.C.; and three grandchildren. She was the sister of the late Sylvia Flax and Dorothy Neiman.

A private graveside funeral service was held at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Buffalo. The services were coordinated by Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence.

FREDA L. ROSENBERG

WARWICK — Freda L. Rosenberg, 91, of 303 Greenwich Ave., Apt. 202, credit manager at the former Virginia Dare stores in Providence for 10 years, and a bookkeeper at the former American Toy Co., died Feb. 6, at Kent County Memorial Hospital. She was the wife of the late Jack Rosenberg.

Born in Providence, a daughter
 (Continued on Page 15)

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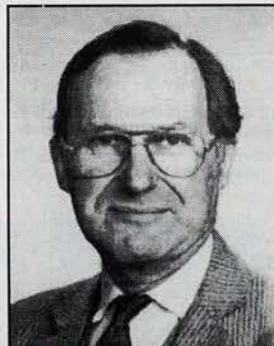
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CLASSIFIED**Giants in the Land**

(Continued from Page 5)

superrace by genetic design. He was a country gynecologist who became a prosperous landowner in the postwar period. But Johann does not look at all like an Aryan superman. He is lean and mocha colored, with a gentle, not a proud mien, a look not of victory but of melancholy. He takes a coffee in the cafeteria with me and confides his story.

"My grandfather controls my comings and goings. He wants me to study in Essen, near his estate, which produces enough income from rentals and produce to support me all the days of my life. In fact, my good fortune keeps me from getting really involved in my study, because I don't need to do it. Everything comes too easily for me."

Johann's mother took a Mediterranean cruise and in North Africa met a Tunisian gentleman, with wives and grown children. That person became Johann's physical father. They only met once, father and son, and it made no impression. But genetically, Johann belongs to his paternal genes. Dress him like an Arab and he would fit into a siouk or a casbah like a hand in a glove. He is tall and graceful like Boris Karloff in "The Mummy."

He wants me to come up with some kind of good counsel or advice. I tell him, "I'm Jewish, you're German." I don't say it coldly, because he was my student, and he wants a friendly word and handshake. I tell him that the great artists of Germany came through the R.I.S.D. museum and left a legacy of bauhaus design upon our shores. He can find himself here just as well as he might back in the realm of his forebears.

I leave these tales, these barks, in midstream, uncertain where they will go. But our careers in life are a mix of choice and constriction, even in our youth. I feel like a living signpost at a crossing.

Obituaries

(Continued from Page 15)

ter of the late Samuel and Perl (Schachter) Ernstof, she lived in Warwick for 21 years, previously living in Providence.

She was a graduate of the Katharine Gibbs School in 1924.

She was a member of Temple Beth-El in Providence and a life member of the Women's Association for the Jewish Home for Aged.

She leaves a son, Samuel H. Rosenberg of Alexandria, Va.; a sister, Claire Ernstof of Warwick; a brother, Joseph "George" Ernstof of Stuart, Fla.; and two grandchildren.

The funeral was held Feb. 9 at Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery.

LILLIAN SMIRA

WARWICK — Lillian Smira, 89, of the Greenwood House Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, 1139 Main Ave., a bookkeeper at the former Mascon Distributors, Providence, for many years, died Feb. 7 at the nursing center. She was the wife of the late William Smira.

Born in Philadelphia, a

Film Festival

(Continued from Page 3)

which includes "Unknown Secrets: Art and the Rosenberg Era" (1990), a portrait of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, and "Song of the Siren" (1994), an Israeli movie about a Tel Aviv advertising executive who dumps her boyfriend in the middle of the Gulf War.

Although many of the speakers have yet to be arranged, Chernofsky is confident that the festival will provide a high level of interest and variety.

"Two of the films are set in the ultra-Orthodox world, and for most people, that's something very different," she said. "'Dirty Dancing' will be a fun Jewish night out, and we selected 'Blacks and Jews' because it was created by a black/Jewish team. It's very important to have balanced perspectives."

Chernofsky hopes that both students and community members will attend the discussion sessions that follow some of the more controversial films.

"Movies are a great way to look at these issues, but we do not want to leave people with volatile feelings and nowhere to explore them," she said.

As the leader of the Jewish Cultural Arts Society, Chernofsky believes that putting the film festival together has already benefited the participating students.

"We've explored many facets of Jewish identity," she said. "When many people think of Jewish filmmaking, they think of Woody Alan or Spielberg. We wanted to work outside of those stereotypes, and to seek out new Jewish connections."

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

For further information, please contact Chernofsky at 863-9354.

daughter of the late Morris and Fannie (Scholnick) Lipson, she lived in Warwick since 1994, previously living in Providence. She lived at Greenwood House since 1994.

She was a member of Hadasah, Temple Beth-El and the Women's Association of the Jewish Home for the Aged.

She leaves three nieces, Ruth Levin of West Warwick, Elaine Kroll of Providence and Janet Friedman of Warwick; and four nephews, Edward Lipson of Warwick, Melvin Lipson of Newport Beach, Calif., David Lipson of East Greenwich and Malcolm Lipson of Osterville, Mass. She was the sister of the late Jeanette Baker, Nathan, Samuel and Louis Lipson.

A graveside service was held Feb. 9 in Lincoln Park Cemetery. The services were coordinated by Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence.

ALTON M. TORGAN

LAKE OSWEGO, Ore. — Alton M. Torgan, 92, of 3800 S.W. Carman Drive, Lake Oswego, Ore., owner of the former Standard Hope Utilities and Mayfair Furniture in Stratton, Conn., died Feb. 4 at home. He

History Lesson

(Continued from Page 4)

is either at a public library or one of three or four bookstores that borders Cranston and Warwick. I know she is so unlike the many other kids of today and truthfully, I am relieved.

Will other children learn how to question what they are taught by simply reading their textbook then hurrying back to the television screen to watch a re-run of "Suddenly Susan" or "Seinfeld"? These children are our future leaders who will one day create national, state, and local policies. How can they improve the world when they aren't taught about past and present prejudices?

Locally, there is the R.I. Holocaust Museum that is used as a teacher's resource in teaching students about the dangers of prejudice, but truthfully, it isn't enough to form an entire school year's curriculum. I wish that every year the history curriculum would be reviewed and revised by a cross section of community leaders and parents. As a result, maybe the textbook companies would begin to print history books that better describe what Jews, Irish, serfs, Huguenots, blacks, gypsies, Hispanics, Indians, and women experience, not just what the white English noblemen or the French King, Louis XIV, or what Pope Urban did to impact upon history.

If this doesn't take place, then our children will continue to be taught history that is based on, important omissions that distort history and their view of the world. Except for the spread of neo-Nazism, nothing frightens me more than for this generation to be taught to see the world through a narrow telescope. Until something is done to change this situation, I will continue to write notes to Robin's teacher to explain history that is not written in her textbook or on the blackboard.

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Surrealism

(Continued from page 5)

also like an hourglass, with our words pouring back and forth, up and down. My family, too, had been Rumanian, but they had come to North, not South America. Yet the Summit Neighborhood pulls us all together into the same spaces, along the same lines, the classrooms and the shops. My server is an artist named Frank, who has been searching for spiritual still life subjects. "I want to find metaphysical meaning in simple things, in faces and objects inspired by sleep," he tells me. It is an afternoon when everything fits together for me.

"Roger Williams thought the Narragansetts were Hebrew," I remind Professor Jeff. "If somebody says you're Jewish, does that confer the fact upon you—the way it did in Spain and Portugal and the way it did in Germany?" I pose this problem for my fellow traveler along the mystical paths of Hope Street.

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Diplomacy at Its Best

Newly arrived U.S. Ambassador to Israel Edward Walker visited Hadassah University Hospital on Mount Scopus recently. Though he knows Hadassah well, he was impressed by the manner in which the hospital takes care of the entire Jerusalem population. "It seems that Hadassah doesn't need the peace process to maintain a daily dialogue between Jews and Arabs," said the ambassador, while touring the patient wings. Pictured here, from left, are: Marlene E. Post, national president of Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, Ambassador Walker and Professor Jacques Michel, director of Hadassah Mount Scopus.

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Family Israeli Dance Workshop

A Family Israeli Dance Workshop for parents, children and friends will be held on March 8 from 1:30 to 3 p.m. The Workshop will be held at the Leventhal-Sidman Jewish Community Center, 333 Nahanton St., Newton, Mass.

Designed for children ages 4 and up, the class teaches Israeli Dancing in a relaxed and engaging manner. A refreshment break is included.

Taught by Pam Kessler, an experienced dancer and member of the professional troupe, Hamakor, the workshop is fun for the whole family!

The workshop is \$4 for individuals and \$12 for a family of 3 or more. Call (617) 558-6480 for registration and information.

SPNI Sponsors Desert Tour

For the first time in the history of its hugely successful Israel Nature Trails tours, the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel is launching a four-nation, 18-day, four-deserts tour.

The tour, by a combination of jeep, camel and foot, comprises Egypt (the Sinai), Palestinian Authority (Judean), Israel (Negev and Judean) and Jordan (Edomite deserts).

"This is a wonderful instance of cooperation among neighboring countries in an effort to bring the very best of scenic and historical interest to visitors to the region and one that we hope will appeal to nature lovers from around the world," said Stephanie Glickman, director of the New York office of SPNI, which is also headquarters for the organization in the United States.

Included in the 18-day, four-nation tour are a three-day hike of the Sinai with a visit to the Saint Catherine Monastery, one of the oldest and most sacred in the world and site of priceless Byzantine artwork, followed by camping under the stars, a visit to the Negev's Ramon Crater, a three-day camel journey in the Negev, a visit to the Dead Sea with an overnight at the Dead Sea Spa Hotel, journey by jeep along ancient desert roads near Petra and a visit to the ancient Nabatean capital of Petra, the incredible rock-carved city where the caravan routes converged.

On the final two days of the

tour, travelers will cross the Jordan River to Jericho on the West Bank, overnighing at a nearby kibbutz before spending the last day in Jerusalem exploring the Old City.

A popular tour in the first regional category lasts for 15 days and is called "the complete active tour of Israel." True to its title, it is the longest of the tours. A hike up the Snake Path of Masada affords closeup views of the Roman Bathhouse and the ancient synagogue as well as spectacular views of the surrounding area. A visit to Wadi Kelt, a distinctive canyon in the Judean Desert includes a visit to the "cliff-hanging" Monastery of St. George. The picturesque Hula Valley in the north provides a hike along the streams in the Baniyas Nature Reserve and a view of the Baniyas waterfall. Toward the end of the tour travelers hike in the Timna and Ramon Craters in the south, and the final day features a visit to the grave of David Ben Gurion.

All proceeds from SPNI tours are used for the protection of nature and preservation of the environment in Israel. SPNI was founded in 1953 and is the Middle East's largest non-governmental body working for the preservation of the environment.

The new brochure is available free of charge by calling or writing the New York office at (212) 645-8732 or (800) 323-0035, 89 Fifth Ave., Suite 800, New York, N.Y. 10003.

Empire Food Donations Double

Thanks to Empire turkey lovers in 22 states, an astounding 18,414 pounds of Empire Kosher poultry products will be donated by the company to the hungry over the next year.

The fifth annual Pound for Pound promotion is steadily gaining momentum, as not only individuals, but synagogues, schools, sisterhoods and senior centers participated in the Empire "Feed the Hungry" campaign. A continuing commitment from Empire Kosher, the program will be repeated during the 1998 Thanksgiving season as well.

In order to maximize participation, the Pound for Pound program was designed to be simple and directly targeted. Individuals and groups saved

the weight labels from their Empire Kosher Thanksgiving turkeys. Mailed-in labels are then matched in total, pound for pound, by the company.

As an Orthodox Jewish company, Empire's sense of corporate and community responsibility involves the sharing of its resources. Traditionally, "mitzvot" or "good deeds" have been an integral part of its outreach program of charitable giving. Because kosher foods are in short supply for the many food banks, local soup kitchens and city food pantries who serve the needy, the availability of donated strictly kosher poultry products is essential to the continued operation of many of the volunteer groups.

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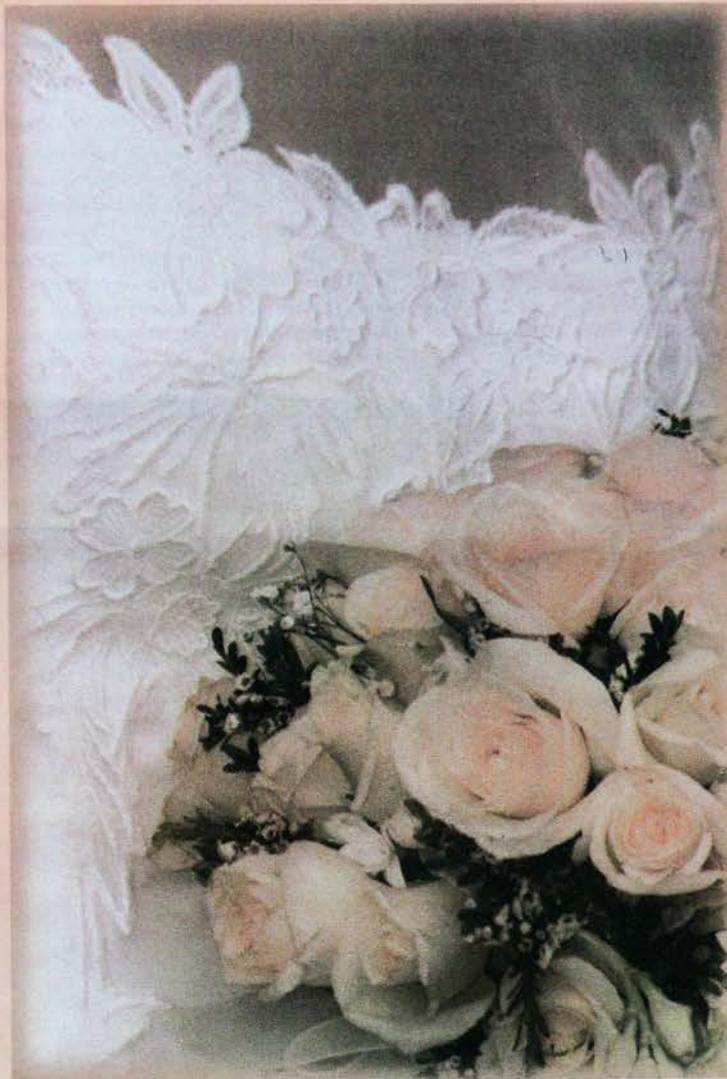
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Bridal Issue

FEBRUARY 19th, 1998



Dance Till You Drop, Party Till Dawn

by Yehudah Biss
Herald Editor

When one attends an Orthodox wedding, one is astounded at the excitement and energy exerted on the dance floor, bringing the dancer out of even the quietest of friends and shyest of relatives. The Torah says "Eivdu es Hashem B'simcha," (serve the Creator with joy) but this takes the cake. Rabbis juggling torches, students eating flaming rods, and all other sorts of strange dances. One of them is

fondly called "The Techias Hamaisim" dance. Techias Hamaisim is to happen at the end of days, when the dead will rise. The dance is done with two people, one acting as the "Dier," the other the "Resuscitator." The two interact as if they are fighting, with the Dier ending up on the floor playing dead.

But his friend feels bad, so he prays fervently for the resuscitation of the Dier. He walks over to the Dier and waves his hand in the air gesturing to the Dier that it's not his time yet. First, the Resuscitator waves a bottle of vodka by the Dier's face; if he still doesn't wake up, he waves a wad of dollar bills. Slowly, the Dier moves upwards, pauses, then continues up gaining strength as the Resuscitator

waves stronger, and in his simcha of reviving his friend, the Resuscitator dances a wiggling, jiggling dance move. They hug and make up and are happy to make it through this trauma

the day of the wedding. It is customary for the couple to fast and pray the Yom Kippur afternoon service the day before the wedding, then they shed their old selves of being a single

entity and become a new entity, that fusion of two to one at the chuppah. This dance re-enacts this procedure in a more light-hearted way. Then there is the Mitzvah Tantz. A compelling dance, normally done by the most Chasidic of Jews, it starts with what's known as a Badchin, a storyteller. He pokes fun at the Choson and Kallah while everyone joins him in song, as the groom takes his gartel (special belt made of wool) and holds one end of it, while the bride grabs the other end, and they dance. The crowd chants louder to "reitz" them "un" — to get them riled up and excited. This is done until late into the night, as some Chasidic weddings last until 2 or 3 a.m.

A compelling dance, the Mitzvah Tantz is normally done by the most Chasidic of Jews, and starts with what's known as a Badchin, a storyteller.

together. While all of this is going on, everyone around is clapping and the band usually does a drum solo of some sort to fit the mood of the dance.

The reason this dance takes place at a wedding is in its symbolism. On wedding day, the Choson and Kallah have a rebirth, as it is like a Yom Kip-

per the day of the wedding. It is customary for the couple to fast and pray the Yom Kippur afternoon service the day before the wedding, then they shed their old selves of being a single entity and become a new entity, that fusion of two to one at the chuppah. This dance re-enacts this procedure in a more light-hearted way.

Then there is the Mitzvah Tantz. A compelling dance, normally done by the most Chasidic of Jews, it starts with what's known as a Badchin, a storyteller. He pokes fun at the Choson and Kallah while everyone joins him in song, as the groom takes his gartel (special belt made of wool) and holds one end of it, while the bride grabs the other end, and they dance. The crowd

At one New England Rabbinical College graduate's wedding, because of the fervor of preparations for that year's upcoming Providence Purim Parade, dancing gave way to a spontaneous wedding parade, where other students made a circle, grabbed plates, used them for steering wheels, and acted like floats in a parade, waving and gesturing to every onlooker. Eventually, the parades grew to become planned events, where grown men dressed as clowns, babies with diapers, gorillas, and fashion victims. Many hold signs of favorite sayings or slogans of the Choson and Kallah; others just line up with the group and make faces or play air guitar. Since then, the Providence Wedding Parade

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has become somewhat a tradition by all other NERC graduates' weddings. The idea is to give the wedding an air of playfulness, even if it means putting yourself at the risk of embarrassment just to put a smile on that face of the Chosen and Kallah.

cleaner, then put the vacuum in reverse. However, because he picked a rugged balloon, it didn't pop right away, so he had to take a fork and pop it by himself. He then told the couple, "May your family grow as large as the confetti now strewn

picking the landscape of Judah like rotten grapes and subsequently the prophets prediction of her demise (her flesh was consumed by dogs after taking a nasty fall) her hands and feet weren't consumed. The Midrash comments on the significance of this. She had merited that they be buried because of her dancing abilities. Ezevel was known for her dancing for Chasanim and Kallos.

By using her hands and feet for that purpose, she merited burial despite all the evil done by the rest of her body and soul (or lack thereof).

When two people commit to marry, they are going into a relationship that has its ups and downs, and if you start it off right, with true feelings of simcha, happiness, then the chances are greater that the two will stay together through thick and thin.

For this same reason Jews continue to celebrate after the wedding with Sheva Brochos, seven days spent feasting with the Choson and Kallah. Although, by the time the seventh day arrives, the couple just wants to be left alone, the memories of sharing joy with your spouse, together with friends and family, last a lifetime and bring much happiness to a marriage.

Ezevel was known for her dancing for Chasanim and Kallos. By using her hands and feet for that purpose, she merited burial despite all the evil done by the rest of her body and soul.

There are other ideas that have come and gone over the years as partygoers try to flex their creativity. There are people who jump a flaming rope, make milk disappear in a newspaper and dance around in clown suits. At one wedding, someone took a balloon with the Choson and Kallah's name on it, filled with confetti, attached it to a vacuum

about this hall." Somehow, I think this is analogous to what G-d promised to Abraham, but in a creative way, the object being to please the Choson and Kallah.

Ezevel, Queen of Judah and wife of Achav, notorious for her adherence to the Baal (an idol) and the killing of prophets, (save 100 hiding in a cave) had one saving grace. Despite

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Wear Your Mother's Wedding Gown

by Joyce LaFrance Tormey

Something old, something new... Young women everywhere can recall hearing those very words at one time or another. And even though today's brides are intelligent independent women who have their own sense of tradition, the days gone by still hold magic for them. In most families, there exists an heirloom gown.

In reality, this can be an original work of design that is about to come to life. Gowns that cost \$100 to \$200 years ago may carry a price of \$2,000 to \$3,000 today. So search the attic and closets for the treasured wedding gown that your mother or grandmother wore on her special day.

The first step in creating your dream dress is to have an expert take care of any stains or discoloration that may have occurred. Do not be alarmed

if the color is as dark and dingy as a smoke-stained room. Many of these gowns can be revived to a beautiful shade of ivory or white. Stains are almost always removed but in the event they aren't, they may be appliquéd with lace to create a new look. The fabrics and laces from the past are unattainable today. But any replacement parts may be custom dyed to match the original. Even beads may be colored in the restoration. Most important is that

you take your dress to an expert who will handle all aspects of the recreation process in order to assess what needs to be accomplished at this step for the final look.

The second step is the fit of the dress. Again, almost any problem can

be corrected. Completely new bodice parts can be made from the enormous yardage in the skirts. If the fit is not too tight a simple gusset may be sufficient.

Necklines can be raised with English net or cut and lowered into a sweetheart, carriage or classic vee.



With the help of a creative designer and seamstress, your mother's wedding gown can be restyled for your trip down the aisle.

Photos courtesy of Joyce LaFrance Tormey

Even the popular portrait collar can be created. The designs are endless. Sleeves are frequently changed to accommodate the new woman of today.

From a simple cap to a leg-of-mutton to a stylish long taper ending

Continued on page 9

the SPA at Michael Rose

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How to Buy Diamonds

by Richard J. Concannon

The purchase of a diamond should be an enjoyable process for you as well as the recipient. It is a symbol of your love. It is a public declaration of exactly what you mean to each other. Try not to rush the process. Enjoy it. This is the first major step marking your life together.

BUDGET

The first and most important step when buying a diamond is to establish a budget with which you are comfortable. There are several theories concerning the establishment of a budget. DeBeers believes that it should be based upon two months gross salary. While this provides a good starting point, I personally believe that no one should be able to tell you what that budget should be. You must examine your finances and your bills and determine for yourself what you are comfortable spending. Remember, this is going to last a lifetime. Even if, in the future, you decide to upgrade the size of her

diamond, chances are that she will want to keep this one because it will be her original engagement ring and has great sentimental value.

Whatever you decide upon for a budget, stick to it! The most common mistake when buying a diamond is to establish a budget and then to greatly exceed it.

VALUE

A diamond's value is established, collectively, by the four Cs. That is carat weight, cut, clarity and color. It is imperative that you take some time to understand these factors. With diamonds, very small, almost imperceptible differences can mean the difference in a lot of money. There are two basic ways to learn and understand the information about the four Cs. First, you can see your family gemologist and have them take the time to explain the four Cs to you. Second, there is a wonderful book on the market called *The Diamond Ring Buying Guide*, by Renee Newman. Either way, you will learn what questions you should ask and gain a basic understanding

of value establishing factors for diamonds.

LOOK AROUND

See what jewelers have to offer. Are you obligated to buy only from their inventory or will they special order exactly what you want?

Different jewelers offer different packages. Some come with an insurance policy already built into the price of the ring. However, there are certain obligations that you must fulfill in order to keep that policy in force.

Some offer different financing packages. Some offer a money-back guarantee while others will only issue a store credit. You must have the return policy explained to your satisfaction before making this type of purchase.

As the consumer, you should find a gemologist or jeweler that you can talk to. Someone with whom you can build a rapport. You must be able to discuss your jewelry needs and know that they will then act according to your wishes. Once you have

found a gemologist or jeweler that you can talk with and you trust, stick with them. You will find that between the two of you, you can successfully take all of the risk out of buying your diamond.

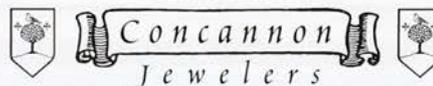
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The Cake: Simply Elegant or Deliciously Eccentric?

by Deborah Kaplan

.....

Wedding cakes are very special. Since the tradition of the wedding cake began thousands of years

ago, it has symbolized good luck, fertility, and a long happy life together for the bride and groom.

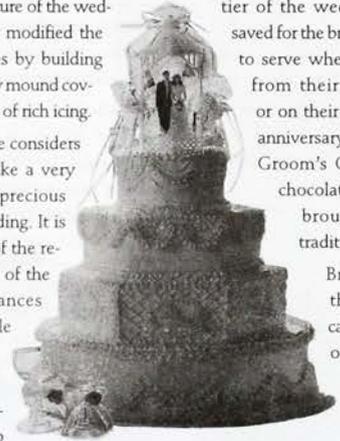
The ceremonial wedding cake began to take on its present form in the middle of the 17th century. English

royalists, who had fled to France during the Puritan revolution became pleasingly astonished at the confections produced by the French pastry chefs, many of which were brought back to England post revolution. Almost immediately they set about

elevating the stature of the wedding cake. They modified the small plain cakes by building them in a shapely mound covered with a layer of rich icing.

Today a bride considers the wedding cake a very important and precious part of her wedding. It is the focal point of the reception and one of the final remembrances the bridal couple has of their wedding day.

In fact, traditionally, the top



tier of the wedding cake is saved for the bride and groom to serve when they return from their honeymoon or on their first wedding anniversary. The English Groom's Cake, usually chocolate, is a newly brought-back old tradition.

Brides choose their wedding cakes with care, often desiring to match their bridal theme and bridal

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party colors. Contemporary, country, traditional, and Victorian are the most popular themes. On a wedding cake the theme can be expressed with the use of flowers (silk or fresh), hearts, bells, swans, angels, doves, lace, ribbons, ruffles, and garlands. With flowers, the season of the year may determine the type and color.

Murray Kaplan, award-winning master



cake decorator and owner of Rainbow Bakery in Cranston, has always welcomed the challenge of an original design. Reproductions range from classic simplicity to elaborate embellishment including unforgettable taste selections featuring silver pound cake, pink, white, and chocolate marble cake, Old English fruit cake, carrot cake, simply lus-

cious cheese cake tiers or smooth as silk rolled fondant, all with or without any number of rich fillings. Cake sizes are adapted to serve whatever the number of wedding guests will be.

Ornament choices vary from fresh flowers, to musicals, porcelains, satins, pearls and silks. And don't forget those tiered and colored water fountains!

All wedding cake designs can

coordinate with the bride's color scheme, flowers and ornaments.

Submitted by Deborah Kaplan, who is a co-owner of Rainbow Bakery and Cafe, 800 Reservoir Ave., Cranston, (401) 944-7171 or (401) 944-8180.

18th century forerunner of today's multi-tiered wedding cakes. French chefs and pastry cooks introduced the idea that the bridal cake should be a colorful showpiece to add to the grand decor.

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Beyond the Dress

by Nancy Rodrigues Spirito

The bridal veil and headpiece are the most symbolic representation in a day full of tradition. The veil represents purity and in some cultures is believed to protect the bride from evil spirits. It is the one accessory that determines a look to be demure, romantic, innocent or sophisticated.

Never before have bridal accessories so closely followed the cue of the fashion pages. The craze of streamlined gowns continues, with sleeveless tank style versions topping the most sought after styles. Following suit, headdresses are either simple and understated or exotically romantic. Minimal, delicate tiaras and hair jewelry (decorative ornaments attached to hairpins and arranged in clusters within the hairstyle) made

of stones, beads, or porcelain flowers held together with intertwined wires of copper, gold, silver or a combination.

Hand beading and embroidery are decorating the edges of veils of any length. Veil fabrics consist of tulle, either nylon or silk, as well as organza for a more ethereal effect. The key to successful accessorizing is to complement the bride's features and dress without overpow-

ering them. Emphasis should be on the bride's face with adornment secondary. Proportion and material coordination should complement and not compete with the gown. While a simple dress can afford a trimmed veil with an intricate headpiece, an elaborate dress should have simpler accessories.

thought about prior to the final selection of the headpiece. Jewelry selection follows.

Bridal accessories are not limited to just headwear. With the potential for inclement weather, capes and wraps have become an essential for late fall, winter and even early spring events.

Never before have bridal accessories so closely followed the cue of the fashion pages.

Headwear, therefore, should be selected only after the dress has been chosen. Typically, the hairstyle has also been determined or at least

The shoe is an often overlooked but equally important accessory. Even the fullest of skirts cannot hide the foot as the skirt is swept up to



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allow the bride to enter her transportation, walk up steps or dance the night away.

Handbags, either clutch, shoulder, pouch or this season's popular "lunch-bag" style are a requirement, if only big enough to hold tissues, mints and makeup essentials.

Though no longer a popular feature of the wedding celebration, the garter is still worn for sentimental reasons. Heirloom garters can be custom made utilizing snippets of fabrics, trims or jewelry from a grandmother's, mother's or favorite aunt's wedding dress or even from a treasured doll, representing a lifetime of memories.

Another popular item is a ring pillow. Pillows can be custom designed to work with your wedding attire as well as coordinate with an interior scheme of your bedroom, living room or even your kitchen. The pillow can then be displayed on a daily basis instead of packed away.

Regardless of your accessory needs, you are not limited to what is offered to you in a bridal salon. Custom bridal designers are available and well worth investigating.

Submitted by Nancy Rodrigues Spirito for Studio. Studio is located at 629B Park Ave., Cranston. Appointments can be made by calling (401) 941-7755.

in a point at just the right position. Skirts can be restyled into the straight look of today, lengthened by exquisite lace edging, or to ball-gown fullness.

The final step is ornamentation. You may choose to add lace appliques, crystals, fabric roses, bows, or pearls. Fabrics from years past were elegant satins that had a sheen all their own, tulle that was as

delicate as clouds, and linens that were crisp as a new morning. Most of the older gowns require less to create that special look.

The headpiece and veil can be completely designed to complement the ensemble by creating the piece with materials which match the gown and choosing the correct veil length and edging. After the wedding, be sure to preserve the gown

so that one day your own daughter can continue the tradition.

When the music begins and all the eyes turn to see, you will be confident in a beautiful original, and walking into your new life in a treasured memory.

Joyce LaFrance Torney, designer, is the owner of A Joyful Creation, 102 Glen Meadows Drive, Pawtucket, RI 02861-4450, (401) 724-2154.

Wear Your Mother's Gown

Continued from page 4



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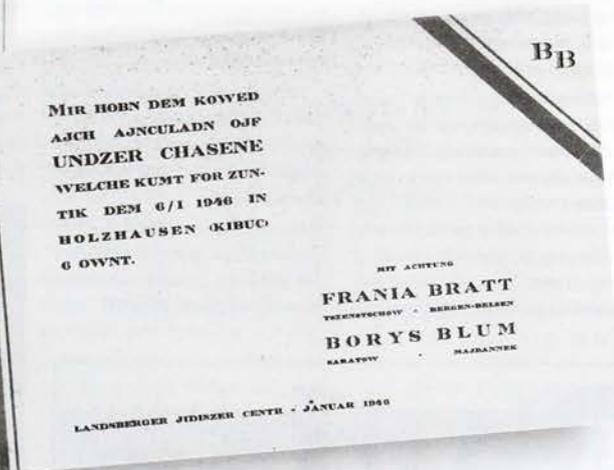
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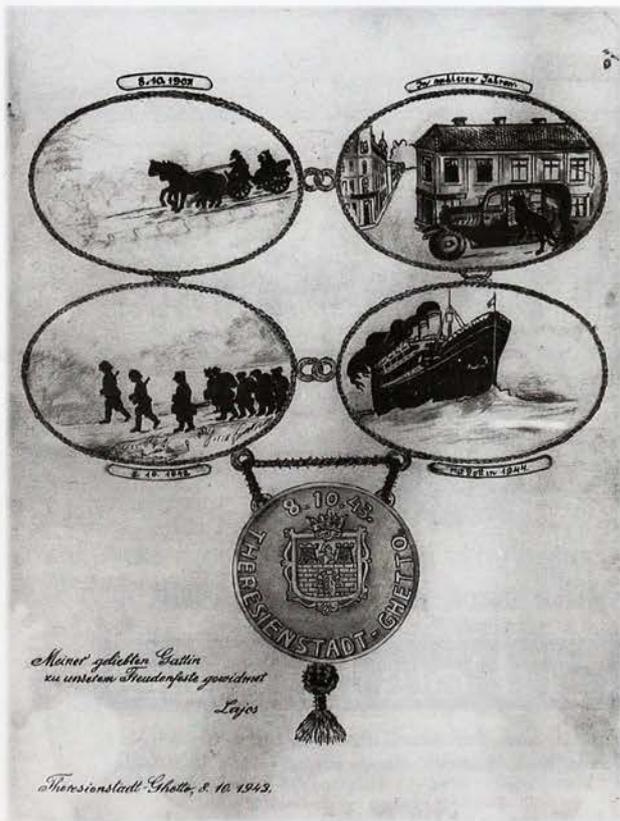
Remembered



Hakl Bakl Puppet Theater. Scene from the Hakl Bakl Puppet Theater portraying a wedding ceremony under a *huppah*. Created by Ruth Heymer and Simche Schwartz who met as Holocaust refugees in Switzerland, the puppet theater performed in Europe, Israel and Argentina.



Wedding Invitation, Landsberg Displaced Persons Camp, Germany, January 6, 1946. Hand printed by Borys Blum for his wedding with Frania Bratt, this invitation includes the birthplaces of the bride and groom, as well as the concentration camp in which they were inmates.



Anniversary Picture. Terezin Ghetto, Czechoslovakia, October 8, 1943. Drawing by Lajos Pless for his wife, this card shows scenes from their life together: their wedding, home, deportation and a ship symbolizing their hope of leaving.

by Tara V. Lisciandro
Herald Editor

The Museum of Jewish Heritage in Battery Park City, New York, devotes the first floor of the museum to Jewish culture and tradition. Their permanent exhibit, "Jewish Life A Century Ago," includes a "Wedding" section where visitors can view a great number of artifacts such as hand-painted ketubah, a wedding dress, invitations, jewelry and accessories, diaries and other materials. A short description and story (some of which are on videotape) accompany every exhibit.

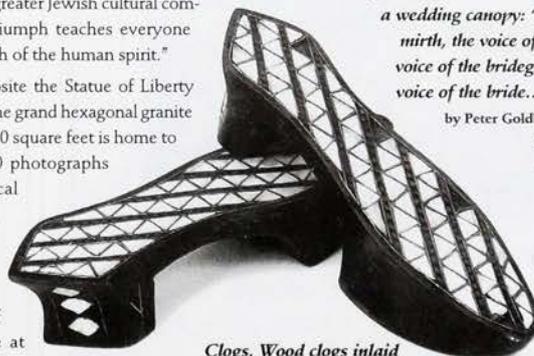
"The museum is both a lesson and a sign of hope for all people," said museum chairman Robert M. Morgenthau. "We will never forget those who perished. At the same time, the museum honors those who survived to rebuild their lives, their families and the greater Jewish cultural community. Their triumph teaches everyone about the strength of the human spirit."

Situated opposite the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, the grand hexagonal granite museum of 30,000 square feet is home to more than 2,000 photographs and 800 historical and cultural Jewish artifacts. For directions or information, call the Museum of Jewish Heritage at (212) 968-1800.

All photos courtesy of Museum of Jewish Heritage, New York.



Porcelain Wedding Cup and Saucer, Germany ca. 1900. The cup bears the Hebrew text from Jeremiah 7:34 often found on a wedding canopy: "...the voice of mirth, the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride...." Photograph by Peter Goldberg/Museum of Jewish Heritage.



Clogs. Wood clogs inlaid with mother-of-pearl. Used for a pre-wedding visit to a Mikveh, a ritual bath. Aleppo, Syria 1898. Photograph by Peter Goldberg/Museum of Jewish Heritage.

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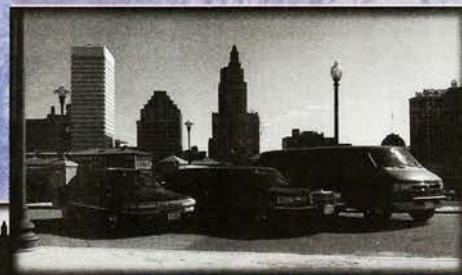
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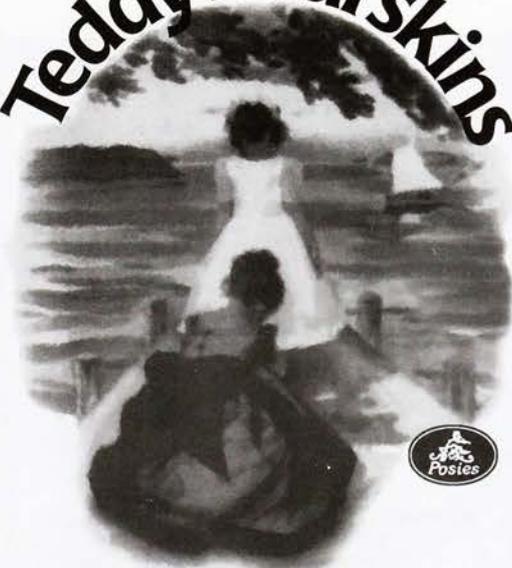
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Styles for Mother to Wear

by Tara V. Lisciandro
Herald Editor

While brides and grooms are busy preparing, organizing, worrying and running around, their mothers are usually close by. Moms are helpful assistants and busy just the same. They, too, deserve a special dress and a day of pampering in order to prepare for their child's special day.

Most mothers enjoy wearing something elegant and a bit unique for this joyous wedding occasion. "Elegant and the simpler the better this year," says Liz Sheldon of Garden City, Cranston, "something you can wear again." Her unique boutique of elegant women's clothing offers something for everyone. "We special order all sizes and colors," she adds.

This year's collection of dresses and suits for mothers-of-the-bride include layers of chiffon, beautiful laces, four-ply silk and hammered silk as well as knits. Pastels, especially lavender, soft silver, navy blue and light colors are perfect for summer and spring weddings, while neutrals such as sand, tawny brown, stone, granite, sea green and cream are ideal for almost any season.

"Light beading on dresses and suits, if any at all," says Sheldon. More emphasis is now going into the fabrics. "Soft fluid styles are more popular this year," she adds. Long dresses and suits flatter almost all shapes and sizes while long one-piece dresses are also making a come back, says Sheldon.

Almost any of the formal dresses and suits that Liz Sheldon carefully selects from New York showrooms and run-ways can easily transform from elegant wedding dresses into formal or casual ware appropriate for friendly gatherings, luncheons and other occasions. For example, a long four-ply silk slip dress and coordinating jacket dressed with simple accessories such as a choker, handsome ring and matching earrings would be suiting for any day or evening wedding. Afterwards, wear the jacket with matching pants, a silk shell and a colorful

scarf for a more casual or business look. Or use the slip dress alone or with a silk or chiffon scarf on a warm



Simple, elegant, soft fluid styles are perfect for mothers-of-the-bride and groom.

Photo by Tara V. Lisciandro



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Plan for a Perfect Wedding Day

by Tara V. Lisciandro

Herald Editor

.....

summer day, perhaps to an outdoor family get-together. "Many of these suits come with matching tops, shorter skirts or pants," says Sheldon, and with a few accessories any formal dress, or suit, can be transformed into other styles.

Handpainted dresses and tops are new and increasingly popular at Liz Sheldon's. Large flower prints painted on soft chiffons and silks flow beautifully and are sure to be unique attention getters at any occasion. Comfortable and simple knits have also returned this year. Short dresses with matching jackets and long knit dresses with coordinating shawls or scarves can be worn to any wedding. Knits' unique colors can be highlighted with elegant, yet simple, crystal earrings and necklaces.

Soft clutch bags of delicate fabrics accent any of this year's dresses and suits. They are comfortable and versatile. Many of the bags are made to match each dress individually. Mothers can make their dresses even more distinctive with other accessories such as gloves, brooches, scarves and rhinestone or pearl jewelry.

Liz Sheldon also offers a line of dresses for those brides seeking something "a little different."

Original, companion headpieces can be coordinated with many of the dresses as well by Sheldon's seamstresses.

For more information call Liz Sheldon at (401) 946-0340.

For several weeks I pondered hundreds of ideas for our special bridal issue,

the issue that just received a first place New England Press Association award. What should I write about? What do people look for when they are about to tie the famous knot? Then it hit me — lists. You need lists and lots of them. Even if you've never used or made a list during your life, you're going to need one now. It's true.

I was married in Sicily, Italy, the land of unorganization. No lists exist there, just a reception seating chart so rivals and secret lovers don't collide. Housewives go shopping daily and create some of the best meals I ever tasted in my life, and they never used a shopping list, they just knew what they needed. Amazing. From April through October men and women were constantly engaging in a host of weddings, but they needed no lists! It was shocking! After all, the first thing I did, the minute after my husband proposed, was make my

first list. I would make about 150 more lists after that. I was the only one who used or referred to them, my in-laws looked at me strangely and often asked why I was wasting my time with paper and pens.

You need lists and lots of them. Even if you've never used or made a list during your life, you're going to need one now.

.....

True, I have always been a list-keeper. I need a list for everything, just to remind me, like a security blanket. I seldom refer to them, nor do I check every line and cross items off when they're complete. I simply like to know that there is a list, an official document. Psychologists and doctors will say that those who create lists frequently are nervous, preoccupied and have difficulties with concentration. Maybe some of that is true;

Continued on Page 16

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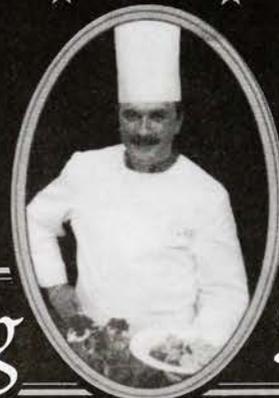
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Salon Advice for Brides...

by Jacquie Kapanakis

Your hair and makeup is an important part of your wedding day. Let's face it. Most women picture themselves a certain way; their dress, flowers and hair. The first thing you need to do is find a salon that is accustomed to assisting weddings and bridal parties. Not all stylists enjoy doing updos and working with headpieces. Find out if your stylist is comfortable doing your hair for your wedding. If he/she



Your local salon can suggest new and creative hairstyles for brides and bridesmaids.

Photos courtesy of Jacqueline Philip Salon

isn't, then ask them for a reference. There are many things that need to be done before your big day. And making your hair and makeup appointments should be one of them. You should secure a stylist and makeup artist four to five months prior to the wedding. It is always recommended that brides do not experiment with their haircut or color or wave pattern within four months of the wedding date.

If there is a body wave needed, Jacqueline Philip Salon in Wayland Square suggests doing it three to four weeks before the wedding. Color or highlights can be done the week prior to your wedding along with your cut. Brides need to have at least one trial run with both hair and makeup. It's very helpful if you have a picture of your gown and bring your headpiece for your trial run. It helps stylists to create the look that is right for your wedding day. Everything should flow: your hair, headpiece and gown. They should all complement each other.

Makeup is a big concern for most brides. Jacqueline Philip suggests a professional makeup artist for your wedding day — someone who is knowledgeable on photography

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makeup. Even brides who usually don't wear any makeup need some, even if it's simply to even out their skin tone.

The trial run should be the right time to pick the colors for your makeup and order what you need for the wedding day. It is also suggested that you bring your jewelry with you to your trial runs to give yourself a true feeling of what you're going to look like. Your nails are important for that day too. A nail technician always recommends to brides and their parties a variety of options. If you plan to have your own nails, you need to start getting manicures two to three months prior. If you plan to use tips and acrylic or other types of artificial nails, you should get them applied four to six weeks prior, so your own nail takes shape underneath and you feel comfortable with the length and shape and color.

The bride should discuss and know the plans for their party's hair as well. If appointments need to be made, they should be in advance. One of the newest trends for weddings is to give the bridal party facials, body treatments, pedicures and manicures as a gift. At the Jacqueline Philip Salon, brides have even catered lunch for their attendants. Plus, going to a beauty salon is a great time

to get friends together and relax before the next day.

HELPFUL HINTS

1. Don't ask too many people their opinion. You're the only one that really matters. If you like it, go with it.
2. As long as you feel comfortable and feel you look great, that's all that matters.
3. Remind your fiancé to get a haircut at the beginning of the week. Tell him to go back the day before the wedding for sideburn and neckline trimming.
4. It's better and less stressful for the bride if the day of her wedding she gets her hair and makeup done and leaves the salon. Don't hang around waiting for the others.
5. Plan to be finished at the salon and home one hour before the photographer gets there. All that needs to be done is your dress.
6. Most of all enjoy yourself. It's your day.

Submitted by *Jacque Kapanakis of Jacqueline Philip Salon, 461 Angell St., Providence, R.I., (401) 521-7773.*



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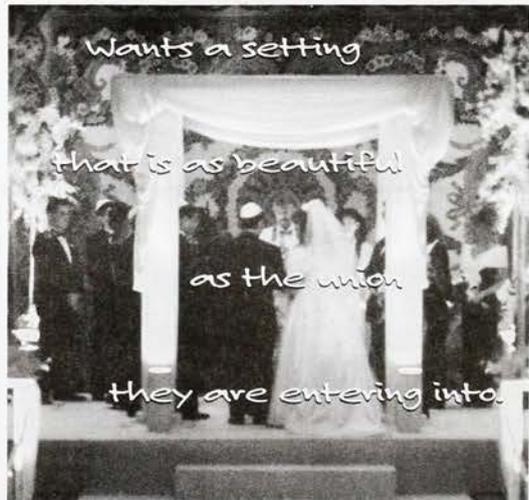
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Plan for the Perfect Wedding

Continued from Page 13
all the same, Americans are dedicated list-makers.

I never planned on going to Italy and really falling in love, nor did I even entertain the thought of getting married in the near future. (I imagined something in the next six or seven years!) But within five months from when my husband proposed a wedding was planned, a dress was

purchased, my family was standing at my side in a tiny Sicilian village, 4,000 miles from what was "home" and 175 people were seated at little round tables, lifting their glasses towards us and saying "Salute e fortuna!". Yes, in only five months, with hardly any lists, I was happily married.

It can be done, but even so, I would still advise using some sort of list.

MAKING A WEDDING LIST
Here are a few helpful hints to keep in mind while planning your wedding:

- Don't worry about how much time you do or don't have, everything will work out in the end! Keep calm, pamper yourself every so often and relax.
- Listen to your intuition, it's your wedding and go with what you have dreamed of for years.
- Once you've made your decisions, stick with them.
Ten to Eleven Months Before:
- Reserve a location for the ceremony and the reception.
- Select bride's and groom's attendants.
- Select a caterer if necessary.
- Pick out a dress (a series of fittings will follow), veil, bridesmaid's dresses, jewelry, florist, transportation, musician and photographer.
- Begin to form a guest list, organize names, addresses and phone numbers (use a separate blank book).
- Decide on the color scheme and wedding theme or style.

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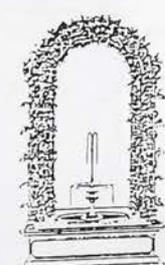
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Four to Five Months Before:

- Select and order invitations and stationery.
- Register at several local stores in the towns of the bride and groom.
- Order all bridal and men's attire.
- Find out about blood tests and marriage license in the state where you'll be married and get physical exams at your doctor's.
- Make plans with a salon for hair, make-up and nails and make appointments for bridesmaids as well.
- Plan for the honeymoon.
- Select and order wedding rings from jeweler.

Two to Three Months Before:

- Complete and mail all invitations.
- Complete and finalize all plans with the photographer, florist, transportation, caterer, musicians, etc.
- Prepare list of songs and music.
- Order wedding cake.
- Finalize honeymoon plans.
- Set up rehearsal and rehearsal dinner or luncheon.
- Purchase and/or order gifts for wedding attendants (bridesmaids, ring bearers, etc.)

Final Month:

- Obtain marriage license and blood tests.
- Final fitting for dress, headpiece and bridesmaids dresses.
- Keep a separate record of wedding gifts received and write and send thank-you notes immediately.
- Purchase guest book, candles, goblets, ring pillow, and all other accessories.

- Prepare wedding announcements for newspapers.
- Obtain necessary forms for name changes if needed and send change-of-address cards to post office and appropriate offices.
- Prepare clothing for honeymoon.
- Host rehearsal luncheon or dinner after rehearsal takes place.
- Practice makeup and hair one last time.
- Give the final total count to caterer and/or restaurant and complete a seating chart.



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Something Old...



*From the archives
OF THE
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*Ruth Ross (above)
married Harry Krasnow
in the 1920s.*

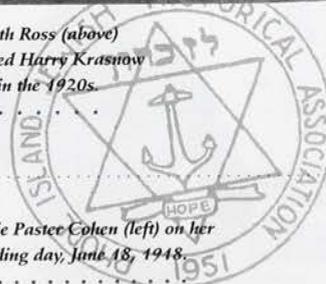
*Nettie Pastee Cohen (left) on her
wedding day, June 18, 1948.*



*Zlotta Goldstein, bride, Hyman Schindler, groom. Date
of marriage calculated to be around 1895. A grand-
daughter, Charlotte Penn, related that 13 children were
born of this marriage. Eight children survived, one of
whom was her mother, Dora Finkler.*



*First row: Left to right: Rose Eisenberg Goldman
(mother of the bride), Sylvia Goldman Tregar, bride.
Second row: David Goldman (father of the bride),
Beatrice Goldman Tregar, and groom, Jack Tregar,
probably around 1930.*





Wedding of Lillian Felder and Seymour Glasberg which took place in Congregation Ein Jacob, Bronx, New York, on February 7, 1948. Best Man, Daniel Glasberg; maid of honor, Esther Felder; and ushers, Philip Glasberg and Howard Freeman.

Tom Thumb weddings, this one circa 1900, an entertainment allowing children to perform a mock wedding ceremony. The children appearing in the picture above are: 1 Alphonse Lederer, 2 Christine Hamburger, 3 Lester Selonek, 4 David Hischer, 5 Herbert Marks, 6 Harold Bernkopf, 7 Vivian Dimond, 8 Gertrude Robinson, 9 Dorothy Steiner, 10 Reetha Hartman, 11 Milton Hoffman, 12 Irving Cohn, 13 unidentified, 14 Sylvia Fish. From the 125th anniversary pictorial book of the Congregation Sons of Israel and David.



Can you help....?



Photograph from a recent acquisition of photographs taken at the now extinct Temple Beth Israel. No information on who the couple is was provided. Perhaps some of our readers attended... if you know who the celebrants are, please contact the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association.

All Marriages Are Mixed

by Mike Fink

Herald Contributing Reporter

My first baby had come into my life, and I phoned my aunt Lillian in New York to tell her about Emily Blima's birth. My mother's sister had lost her only child. Her daughter had died after only a few months among us. A photo stood on her parlor desk. But cancer claimed Lillian before she and my Em ever met. I was told she mixed the memory of her little girl and mine in her last dreams. Her husband, my widower uncle Leonard, came to visit us, wearing a white summer suit and bearing gifts wrapped with pink ribbons. "Lillian told me to come and bring along these things," he said and then made a statement and an announcement. "I'm in love and we're getting married in September. We hope you can come with Emily Blima."

My story is about their marriage and the festivities surrounding it. Lenny married Mae Sydney, who grew up in Providence. They were wed at the fanciest restaurant atop the highest building in Manhattan, the World Trade Center. They were both over 70, recently bereaved, and eager to start new lives among old friends. Not only did they spare nothing to welcome their friends into their happiness, but they even repeated the same gala gathering a couple of years later, a mini-golden anniversary.

Life was good to them for as long as they could expect. They spent summers travelling to music festivals, and weekends in Providence visiting Mae's brothers and sisters, or enjoying reunions with Mae's daughters and grandchildren, who accepted Lenny as a new grandpa, a role that brought him comfort and joy.

My last visit to Len stunned me. I was sipping tea at the table, while my uncle, who was now suffering from Parkinson's disease, looked at me searchingly. "Do you think it's a coincidence, or what is happening? I keep getting phone calls from a woman who is remarkably like Lillian. She also came from Rumania, lived in Canada, had sisters and one brother, and even shared the identical family last names that changed as they moved from one country to the next." These hallucinations seemed so real to him, I felt that I was in the powerful presence of a haunting, a ghost, the intense personality of my late aunt come back to check out her realm.

I'm trying to keep this memoir focussed on the account of a cheerful, late, second marriage, glittering with good will and cordial courage. The story gets out of hand, but it leaves a message written on the kindly wind. It reminds us that marriage means building a bond like a sand castle on the shoreline. My uncle was Italian, but both his wives were Jewish. They gave him drive and delight, he added the rich sounds of his violin, the hearty, gracious and gentle touch of his earthy acceptance and celebration.

I take this occasion to celebrate his concept of the nuptial union, natural, sociable, cultural, and a little fragile.

All marriages are mixed marriages and late marriages. You say your say, sip your champagne, take your bows in the light, and then go out when the poor play is over. What we leave in our wake is not always a direct or genetic heir, but something subtler, deeper but more uncertain. It is a spiritual aura. The gift that Lenny brought with its pink ribbons held not just an outfit for a newborn, but a blessing, a mitzvah, a tale, a legend. He put his hand upon our union as we put ours upon his. Every wedding weaves a silken web with a ribbon of sunshine.

