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Israeli Youth Delegation Tours Providence Schools

by Tara V. Lisciandro
Herald Editor

For almost one week the teenage pair visited several private and public schools throughout Providence. They spoke to students of their own age and found that although they came from different countries, they had a lot in common. They also found that there were differences, like having to serve in the military after high school. Most of their presentations began with "First, we want to give you some real facts about Israel," said Roni Kedem, 17, of Karmiel, Israel. With that she and her friend, Ohad Portnoy, also 17, of Herzliya, Israel, pulled out a small flag from Israel, books, videos, photos and their map. They began to speak, in perfect English, to the curious faces of the students that were in front of them. "We're here to dispell myths about Israel as well," said Kedem firmly, "the media has a lot to say about us and not all of it is always true."

The Israelis asked and answered questions and held long discussions during each presentation. Kedem and Portnoy conducted presentations with students and schools that would usually have fewer opportunities to learn about Israel. They repeated their presentation, with some variations, throughout the week, in front of numerous students, many of which became friends and penpals.

Kedem and Portnoy were

selected as two of the 60 Israeli youth delegates who would visit various countries throughout the world. The Youth Delegation is the official joint project of Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Education. Every year young students are sent from Israel around the world to interact with local high school students and student organizations. Informal and formal peer meetings are organized with the schools and communities through local Israeli Consulates in order to acquaint students with the life of young people in Israel.

In order to be selected for the Youth Delegation, Israeli students must pass an intensive series of exams, oral and written. Their knowledge of the English language and the country they will be visiting is also tested. They must speak to officials about why they want to travel and the experience they hope to gain from their travel experience. From the estimated 660 students that apply, officials will select only 60.

After visiting Switzerland most of the youth delegation arrived in New York earlier this month. There they were prepared in orientation programs for their host communities and sent in pairs around the country.

During their stay Kedem and Portnoy visited, among many places, the National Conference of Christians and Jews in Providence. The pair was welcomed



JEWL MEMBERS, Sara Feinberg (left) and Ramesh Radparvar welcomed and hosted Roni Kedem and Ohad Portnoy (far right), Israeli youth delegates at the Lincoln School. During their visit to Rhode Island, Kedem and Portnoy made presentations to many schools and organizations.

Herald photo by Tara V. Lisciandro

by directors Robert Jones and Tony Maione. During the two-hour program a handful of Providence high school students and NCCJ staff members participated in active discussion with the Youth Delegates. Together they viewed a video about Israel and then discussed issues that faced teen-agers in two different worlds. "Hot topics," among the U.S. teens included drug use, teen pregnancy, school drop-outs and prejudices. The Israeli teens agreed that those issues weren't high on their lists. However, their most common concern was entering into the army, known as the Defense Force. "Our military system is different," said Kedem, "it's also educational." Portnoy added that their military system opens areas of opportunity such as learning and working with computer technology. And Kedem emphasized that serving in the Israeli military, as she will do soon and her brother is currently doing now, is an act of defending their country and although it is obligatory it is also an honor.

The Youth Delegates from Israel also described their school system. "We go to school six days a week and the hours vary depending on what grade you're in," said Kedem. "We also address teachers by their first names, not the last." In Israel, students partake in general studies until high school when they can go into specialized areas of scholastics such as

science, arts or computer studies, for example. "This is one of the few times we think about college beforehand," said Kedem. Most of the time the military is on their mind, it's the next step after high school. "At 20 you can fly a military plane if you want," said Portnoy. His companion followed agreeing, "We sort of have to grow up pretty fast in Israel. I was brought up knowing that when I was 18 I would serve in the army."

Every year young students are sent from Israel around the world to interact with local high school students and student organizations.

After the Israelis' service is complete, "most of us go and travel afterwards," said Kedem. In fact, she added that almost three quarters of those who served the military would take off for exotic lands and travel for several months until it was time to return home again and start thinking about college and careers.

Kedem and Portnoy were frequently asked during their visit if they were scared about living in Israel, to which they usually responded, "No, it's our home."

The teens explained to their audience that living through terrorist attacks does cause fear to spread, but, "we try to overcome it," said Kedem, "after the attacks, we have to go on." They also stated that living in Israel was different in that "you still feel your religion," added Kedem. Although some families may not be practicing Jews, the teens stated, most of them keep kosher in their homes and daily life goes according to the Jewish calendar. "Even if you're secular you still feel religious," said Kedem.

One of the students' evening presentations took place in front of the RI March of the Living participants (On April 23, 7,000 teens and adults from around the world will march 3 kilometers from Auschwitz to Birkenau to commemorate Yom HaShoah. From Poland their "march" will end in Israel in order to celebrate Israel's 50th Independence Day on April 30). "We spoke about a lot of political issues," said Kedem and Portnoy. The pair added that this was also common for Israeli teens to be very active and interested in politics.

At the Lincoln School (an independent college-preparatory school for girls) Kedem and Portnoy spent a full day with the students and faculty. They were met, welcomed by and toured with JEWL (Judaism Emerging Within Lincoln). Sara Feinberg, a senior, initiated JEWL last year, "because we

(Continued on Page 7)



ISRAELI YOUTH DELEGATES Roni Kedem (left) and Ohad Portnoy enjoyed telling students and faculty at the National Conference of Christians and Jews about Israel's geography and history.

Herald photo by Tara V. Lisciandro

JEWISH COMMUNITY

Emanu-El's "Chai Lights" Lights Up Purim 1998

by Emily Torgan-Shalansky
Jewish Community Reporter

For centuries, Jewish communities worldwide have contentedly celebrated Purim with hamentashen, costumes, and noisemakers.

But for many Rhode Islanders, Purim simply wouldn't be as joyous without another tradition — Temple Emanu-El's Purim Spiel, a jubilant evening of original musical comedy that has become one of the largest and most important Jewish dramatic productions in community history.

On March 11, about 800

and one of the production's five Hamans (Michael Mellion) sang about his desire to kill the Jews to the rhythmic strains of "Louie, Louie."

A slew of songs with clever lyrics set to popular show and rock tunes got fingers snapping, and traditional Purim personalities like Esther (Lisa Bergman) shared the stage with members of Jim Henson's muppets, who included Emanu-El Rabbis Wayne Franklin and Alvan Kaunfer as puppet curmudgeons Statler and Waldorf.

Under the direction of Shelly Katsh, a 12-member band reined

community-based operation," she said. "We don't hold auditions, we just announce that we're starting up."

It was that aura of warmth that initially drew Shamoon, and eventually others, to the production.

"In 1980, Marcia Kaunfer decided that it would be fun to do a spiel," remembered Shamoon. "The first one was performed in 1980. It had five people in the cast and one on the piano."

Prior to the performance, Kaunfer had held a mini-class to work on the script, and Shamoon had taken part.

"It was just so much fun that I turned to my family and told them that I wanted to do it next year," she said.

Slowly, the Purim Spiel began to grow.

"Whoever wanted to come did," Shamoon remembered. "As the writing got more ambitious and the efforts got more sophisticated, it attracted more and more people with wider and wider ranges of talent."

In the mid-1980s, Jules Gelade signed on as a writer.

"He's developed his own show," said Shamoon. "Then, Shelly Katsh pulled the instrumental music together, and Lisa Bergman, a professional dancer, joined and introduced another part."

Next year, said Shamoon, the company will look into doing an additional performance.

"Working on a show that closes opening night can be a hard thing," she said. "We put a lot of energy into it."

But Shamoon considers that energy well spent.

"I do this because it's fun and creative and because it has an artistic and community life all its own," she explained. "The spiel has its own history here, and it's really become something very special."

The Spieler Speaks

"Chai Lights" writer Jules Gelade talks about comedy and the Rhode Island Jewish community

by Emily Torgan-Shalansky
Jewish Community Reporter

Jules Gelade takes comedy seriously.

Sitting on the couch in his East Side home arguing about why Rhode Island's Jewish community needs humorous theater, he sounds like one of those aggressive lawyers who only laughs when an opponent blunders.

It's partly true, for Gelade is a general practice attorney. But his 15 years of writing sidesplitting Purim spiels for Temple Emanu-El have convinced thousands of Rhode Islanders that lawyers — and Jewish theater — can be very funny.

"We need a theater because art is a very important part of Jewish culture," Gelade explained. "This community is rich in terms of education, prestige and power. But if you look, there's a hole in the arts, and I do not think the community is whole without them."

For that reason, Gelade, whose original scripts and lyrics have helped transform Emanu-El's Purim Spiel from a skit into an event that draws crowds of close to 1,000, is planning to do some comic writing for the greater community.

He and his wife, Karen, have been instrumental in getting the new Jewish Theater Ensemble, a program of the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island, off the ground.

"We helped with the fundraising and organization, and I'm now on the steering committee," he said. "It's hard to get people together. That's why the arts are a wonderful thing, and that's why I'm so adamant about getting the Jewish Theater project together."

In January, the Jewish Theater Ensemble put on Don Appell's "Milk & Honey," its

first production. In June, the company will present "Forty Years of Bad Road — The Road to Canaan is Littered with Laughs," an original musical by Gelade that will mark his directorial debut.

"I still plan to write the Purim spiels," Gelade said. "This will be something different, something everyone can get to. I still cannot get a lot of my friends to come to the spiels because they are affiliated with other temples and at other events. These plays will take place at the JCCRI."

Then, as Gelade considered "Chai Lights," the recent Purim production that included many of the hilarious musical numbers he has created over the years, he explained that his skills as a comic playwright grew with the production.

"I've never taken a writing class," he admitted. "My profession involves a lot of writing, but there isn't much comedy in it."

A longtime humor buff, Gelade began to understand the value of laughter during his Rhode Island childhood.

"My father, Boris, and my late mother, Mania, both went through concentration camps," he explained. "My mother had a wonderful sense of humor and she loved to laugh despite everything she went through. It's one of the things that helped her to survive."

But before he got involved in writing the Temple Emanu-El's fledgling purim spiels about 15 years ago, Gelade had hardly recognized his abilities as a comic writer.

"About 15 years ago, a group of us got together and started writing," he remembered. "It was simple stuff, but we had a lot of fun doing it. I found myself writing more and more parodies of songs, and eventually I got the project by default," he explained. "The show is a group effort put together by some seriously talented people,

(Continued on Page 19)



"Chai Lights" 1998

Photo courtesy of Temple Emanu-El

people packed Temple Emanu-El's auditorium to see "Chai Lights," a hilarious musical revue written by Jules Gelade, a Providence resident who has been creating dialogue and lyrics for the spiels for 15 years.

This year's cast of 21 adults and 14 children interpreted Gelade's satiric witticisms beautifully as they sang, tap danced, and delivered a new script that connected 20 musical numbers from productions past.

Expanding on the sophisticated comic tradition that has become the show's hallmark, the production's Mordechai (Don Keifer) said "Oy," and complained about his back when asked to bow to Haman; a passing mohel named Eddie Ow (Edward Adler), who advertised himself as "a cut above the rest," offered to make King Ahashveroth (Toby Marwil) a more suitable groom for Esther,

in the wildly varied score, and a technical crew of eight put a gloss on the special effects.

In the informal environment that has always accompanied the show, members of the audience felt free to laugh, cheer, and finally take to their feet to applaud.

Only a few days after the curtain went down on the 1998 show, Director Linda Shamoon considered the factors that have made the spiel a local tradition.

"It's a temple event, but it's really a function of community spirit that the temple supports," said Shamoon, a professor of English at the University of Rhode Island who has been involved with the production since its 1981 inception.

According to Shamoon, the inclusiveness that characterizes the show has helped it attract both talent and public notice.

"It's a very informal, com-

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OPINION

The Moving Van

by Rabbi Bob Alper

Twenty-five years ago, right after ordination, my first synagogue footed the bill for our move from Cincinnati to Buffalo. Among our possessions: about a quarter ton of cinderblocks which we had acquired and used, along with stained and varnished boards, to hold our sizable library. I felt guilty making the congregation pay for this dead weight, especially as I watched the packers wrap each block in tissue and place them in fresh, individual cardboard boxes.

But, I rationalized, we didn't have much furniture, and if we left the cinderblocks in Cincinnati, we would have had no shelves in Buffalo.

Fast forward to 1990. Another move, this time from Philadelphia to the realization of a dream: Vermont. And for this move, we were paying all the expenses.

"Hello, U-Haul?"

I rented the biggest truck in their fleet, 28 feet long, I think it was. Six men from a Philadelphia moving company loaded the van. Late that afternoon, I discovered we were out of room. I scurried around town, and at the last minute rented a smaller trailer for the overflow, hitching it to the back of the truck.

Our family had disbursed, my wife already working in Vermont, the kids off to summer projects. I drove the truck alone, and must admit that after years of wearing a suit and tie and sitting behind a desk, boosting myself up into that cab was exhilarating, a real change of pace.

I was nervous as I drove cautiously through what was now our former neighborhood, making excessively wide turns to avoid jumping the curbs. But

once I hit the turnpike, I relaxed for the first time and tried the radio. Surprise: it seemed that I could receive only one station, a truckers' country and western format playing tunes like "My Backward Life." I recall one verse: "My dog he gives me kisses, and my wife turns 'round three times before she sits."

No matter. I turned on the portable CB radio I had borrowed from my car trunk. It was a small, emergency model, but worked fine on that clear, warm morning. After eavesdropping on discussions between "Road Renegade" and "Kentucky Wheelie," I entered the banter, using my clever CB name. "George Frederick here," I interjected. "Any Smokies east of Willow Grove?"

There was an unusual stillness on the air. And then a voice that sounded like "Kentucky Wheelie" asked, "Who?"

"George Frederick. George Frederick? That's my Handel. Get it?"

He didn't.

Despite the now-silence in my cab, I picked up the rhythm of cruising down that ribbon of highway, and by mid-day was ready for a break. Naturally, I chose a truck stop. Parked my "rig" between two 18-wheelers. Even considered ordering a cup of "java" to accompany my sandwich, but ultimately opted to request coffee. Full strength.

Halfway through my meal I began to feel his eyes on me. I sat on a stool across the counter. Graying T-shirt, hairy arms, dark sunglasses and an Arafat beard. Blurry tattoos on both biceps and a leather band on one wrist.

He placed some bills next to his plate, took a final sip of coffee, and walked around the

(Continued on Page 19)

The Importance of Shabbat For All Jews

We, the undersigned, agree to and endorse the following points concerning the importance of Shabbat for all Jews:

1. Observing Shabbat, the sacred day of rest, is crucial to the survival of the Jewish people. The statement rings true that "More than Israel has kept the Sabbath, it is the Sabbath that has kept Israel."

2. Shabbat is a great gift to humankind. It is particularly important that all Jewish people embrace this priceless gift by celebrating the Shabbat, so we can communicate its value to the world.

3. Shabbat is a sacred time for all Jews. It marks a separation from the rest of the week, a day to be relieved from the burdens of the week. Shabbat is an opportunity to abstain from one's everyday work, and to step outside the pressures of the consumer culture.

4. Shabbat is a day of spirituality and inspiration, a time for Jews to engage in personal prayer, communal worship in a synagogue, and Torah study. It is a day that gives all Jews the chance to make spiritual connections, and enhance human connections.

5. Shabbat is a time to bond with family and to strengthen Jewish family values. It is a day for passing on Jewish knowledge, customs, and traditions from generation to generation through celebrating such rituals as:

- Lighting Shabbat candles
- Reciting blessings over wine and Challah
- Blessing the children
- Eating a Shabbat meal
- Singing Shabbat songs

6. Shabbat is a day for self improvement. On Shabbat we recognize our shortcomings and

prepare ourselves spiritually for the week to come.

7. Shabbat is a time to express our love — our love of God, love of family and friends, love of our fellow human beings, love of world, and love of life.

Rabbi Jerome Epstein,
executive vice president,
United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism,
Rabbi Mordechai Liebling,
executive director, **Jewish Reconstructionist Federation,**
Rabbi Haskel Lookstein,
Senior Rabbi, **Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun,** and
Rabbi Eric Yoffie, president,
Union of American Hebrew Congregations

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'As G-d Commanded Moses'

by Kalman Zinnes

Throughout the entire Parsha of Pikude, regarding the making and setting up of the Mishkan (Tabernacle), the Torah conveys to us more than 18 times that the work was done "as G-d commanded Moses." Why is it necessary for the Torah to repeat this so many times? Couldn't the Torah have written once, "everything was done as G-d commanded Moses?" Also, the Medrash in *Parshat Vayakel* said that the Mishkan was an atonement for the sin with the Egel (Golden Calf). How was the making of the Mishkan so

befitting a mitzvah to atone for this sin?

The *Bais Halevi* explains that the Jews thought that it would be appropriate to make an intermediary between themselves and G-d. However, since they did this using their own understanding, without having been told to do so by G-d, it was a grave sin. Making the Mishkan as an intermediary between themselves and G-d, following G-d's command, would therefore atone for the Egel.

When the Torah discusses the making of the various parts of the Mishkan, the reader might wonder, "Why is the making of

this intermediary permitted?" The answer to this is simple. The difference between the Mishkan and the Egel was G-d's command. This is the reason the Torah constantly repeats "as G-d commanded Moses." The Torah wants to make clear that the Mishkan wasn't the same as the Egel.

Furthermore, the Torah wants to stress the point that even though the craftsmen may have understood the appropriate way to make the Mishkan on their own, their only intention while making each part was to do so "as G-d commanded Moses."

The Accountability of Public Officials

by Deborah Prinz

This week we read two Torah portions, *Vayakhel* and *Pekude*. Each of the three preceding *parashot* details instructions for the building of the ancient Tabernacle in the wilderness. *Vayakhel* and *Pekude* and discuss that process. While on the surface *Pekude* seems to repeat much of what went before, the rabbinic interpretations of these portions introduce new ideas: for example, the commentators on these *parashot* caution us about the morality of those in public office. In light of our current focus on the latter, we should heed the rabbis' words.

Pekude begins, "These are the records (*pekude*) of the Tabernacle of the Pact, which were drawn up at Moses' bidding..." Why does Moses himself provide a full accounting of the materials entrusted to him for the construction project? One would think that Moses, of all people, was trusted absolutely by the people. According to some rabbinic views, Moses' accounting was his direct response to accusations that he had improperly managed public funds. Indeed, several rabbinic texts state that the sources of Moses' wealth, as well as his weight, were sharply criticized by others: "They looked at his back and

said one to another, 'What a neck! What legs! Look at Moses' thighs; how thick they are! Of course, he eats and drinks from what he takes from us.' Another would reply: 'Fool! A man who is in charge of the work of the Tabernacle, talents of silver, talents of gold, uncounted, unweighed, and unnumbered, what do you expect — that he should not be rich?' When Moses heard this he said, 'As soon as the work of the Tabernacle is finished, I shall render them an account.' And as soon as it was finished, he said to

28:20), and everything over which Moses was appointed custodian was blessed because of his trustworthiness." (*Midrash Rabbah* 51:1) Isaac Spinka, a chasidic rabbi (1875-1944), maintained that Moses was only reporting proudly that all the work had been carefully completed. The Chatam Sofer (1762-1839) taught that Moses intended to set an example for later leaders of the importance of remaining above suspicion. Talmudic passages further instruct about the necessity to avoid even the appearance of misdeeds, illustrated by the honesty of the ancient priestly families. Never, the Talmud states, did the members of those families possess in private the specialties that were produced for use in the Temple, such as the shewbread and the incense. (Babylonian Talmud, *Yoma* 38a)

The words of *Pekude*, then, remind us that leaders earn trust through their anticipation of the needs of the people, fiscal responsibility, and caution about even the merest appearance of wrongdoing. As Numbers 32:22 advised, "You shall be clear before G-d and Israel"; that is, a leader must possess integrity.

Deborah Prinz is the rabbi of Temple Adat Shalom, Poway, Calif.

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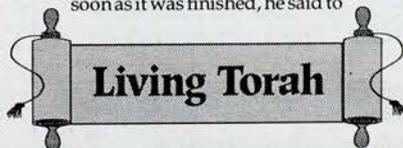
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Candlelighting
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5:40 p.m.



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Diversity at Harvard

by Mike Fink
Herald Contributing Reporter

Harvard Yard was flooded ankle-deep with early spring rain, but the Faculty Club held all the comforts its hosts can offer. You go up and down the red carpet on the curving dark wood stairway, among canvases of great ladies and gentlemen, while the baby grand piano soothes your soaked nerves and collars with lightly tinkling ivories. Charles Berlin, Widener Library bibliographer in the Judaica Division, had set up the symposium on Israeli film school production and asked me to sit on a panel and make a few comments on the clips shown and the papers read.

He graciously invited me and my guests to kosher lunch and dinner in the impressive house just outside the gates of the Yard. I sat beside a column with a poster of Marcel Marceau, who had visited my own Harvard classroom, to show us how to teach a word through pantomime, not translation. The teaching of Hebrew led the way at Harvard to new ideas in education. Now, the subject of small-scale Jewish films was being discussed by three scholars, Akiva Tevet, director of the Camera Obscura School of Art in Tel Aviv, Dubi Rubinstein, head of production programs at Tel Aviv University, and David Jacobson, associate professor of Judaic Stud-

ies here in Providence at Brown.

Tevet claimed only that the scenes or short film sketches he showed held sociological and historical interest for collectors like our coordinator Charles Berlin. "Perhaps they lack irony and exportable elegance, but they are based on real life and belief," he said. The first video he projected brought a pair of fancy elders, good actors and dancers both, to a groomed cemetery, where they seek a pleasant spot for themselves. She slips and falls into an open grave. Once her husband gets her out, they do a graceful modern waltz step, celebrating life and love in a place of death. It is an impressive piece of work!

Rubinstein spoke of the search for a private "protagonist," rather than a collective symbol of group strength in the scripts he reviews. He wants his students to dig into their own homes and past personal events to find the anguish of lonely truth, not political propaganda and official government versions of Israeli history. And yet, the images of soldiers and their prisoners, elders and their tragic memories, landscapes steeped and stacked in layers all reveal a small nation quite different from ours, with school facilities less lavish than the polished halls of most im-

pressive Harvard.

The last speaker, David Jacobson, spoke of the efforts at the Ma'aleh School of Communication in Jerusalem, where the challenge is to disprove the notion that Jewish religious tradition is incompatible with filmmaking. He chose a few scenes among the 40 movies he studied and clearly won the argument that you can tell a superb visual story within traditional spiritual boundaries. We

meet a retarded waiter, a simple child and a veteran in a wheelchair who make friends upon a beach.

We deal with a Havdalah ritual on the day Israeli troops are dismantling a settlement upon occupied territory—a futuristic fantasy, but far from escapist.

The first-speaker on the panel, an English teacher named Linda Dittmar, said, "I grew up in the early years of the state of Israel. I could see details in image and word that hinted, no matter what the script or the role, at the anxiety and complexity of Israeli life."

This first-rate symposium was documented thoroughly by camera and camcorder, to be fixed within the memory bank of the Harvard library system. And yet, formal and festive though the occasion was, it also had the humor and dignity of all things Israeli.

The Map of Mizrach

by Mike Fink
Herald Contributing Reporter



I sat with my son's Hebrew school art teacher at his Emanuel Shabbat supper, sipping excellent kosher Beaujolais generously and tastefully provided by Barbara Binder and David Katzen. I said my heartfelt thanks. Bruce Lenore, the melamud, like a poet brings work and play together. He kept my boy focussed on the crafting of a mizrach, which turned out terrific! Know what a mizrach is? In this case it's a couple of gold lions cut from paper and heraldically holding the Hebrew letters that point you east, toward the morning light and the gates of the holy city. We fixed the fragile design in a fancy gilt frame and hung it in the vestibule.

One day shortly after dawn I followed its spiritual compass and drove into the pink horizon, moving toward Hundred Acre Cove, where I lived with my family in the summers when

to the street: without that landmark, I lose my way and skip the left turn. No, I am not flooded with memories of a bygone boyhood. I've been through all that. It's just a lovely early morning late winter motor trip brought on by the amulet in my little foyer.

But every day holds one small surprise to dwell on next day, over coffee or at my journal. I spent the evening reading a Holocaust memoir that for me contrasted the most intense experiences, with my own cribbage or solitaire on the side stairs over our private beach, Jewish generation 1940's destinies going on at the same time the rough Atlantic away.

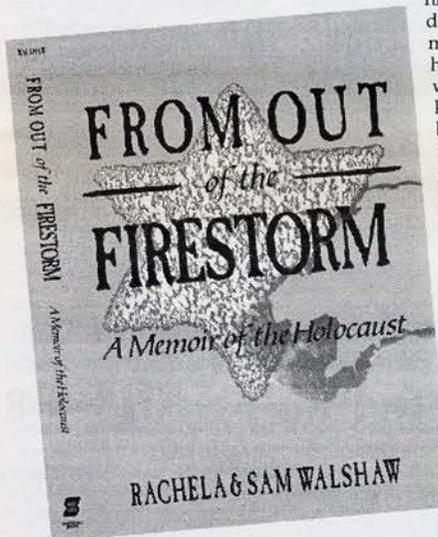
I stopped by that evening for my nightcap of mocha at a nearby cafe. I ran into a fellow named Rinaldo, whose birth name was Ronald. He was reading a book on grief. This was the first anniversary of the death of

his mother. "She devoted herself to me, and I lived for her. Her name was Rose and I keep one rosebud on my table like a candle," he tells me in an unusually high-pitched voice. Rinaldo took the Italian name during his studies in Rome, where he earned a doctorate in music. Yet he has no piano in his one-room flat. "I was raised as a Catholic, but I feel Jewish. I even had can-

torial music at her funeral. Perhaps when we left Poland we switched from synagogue to church, I don't know." A sad chat, but a sacred duty to share, a high point as my watch dial makes its rounds. But just before I take off, he whispers to me, "Even lit a kaddish candle, but you know what?—I am a priest!"

Anyway, my son also molded and fired a clay mezuzah. It doesn't yet hold the words of prayer, and so it hasn't been nailed to the threshold. But I follow the rules of ritual whenever I can. Like Emerson I write "whim" on my doorpost and let each day take me where it may. My fine lad's toys are turning into guideposts for me as well as for him.

Hebrew custom makes much and mitzvot of the movement of light, from sun and moon, from dawn to dusk, from east to west. I search for the sunbeam of exaltation and find it, however fleeting the moments, among streetlight, lamplight, and starlight.



war was raging abroad and its survivors were making their way to the promised land. It's a familiar path for me, from the East Side along the Wampanoag Trail, over the little white bridge and around the curves to the dead end of tiny homesteads that stand on a mini-cliff above the tidal inlet. In those years our downtown river looked and smelled terrible. And the oil storage tanks on the way to Hampden Meadows gave off a pungent gassy reek that spoiled the pleasure of the drive, which was then something of a special Sunday luxury. In fact, holiday times in this cluttered realm outside of Barrington held lots of textures and perfumes, like muck and skunk, that come back to mind as I cruise in and out among the narrow lanes, where Jewish families founded a cozy colony.

The big tree before my family's seat has left its stump on the front space, where guests could jam in their large sedans. The corner variety store has vanished and simple lawn stretches

Things Are Happening

by Mike Fink
Herald Contributing Reporter

Sunday afternoons at the Art Club and Dodge House gather together many merry folks to take tea or a glass of wine among the makers of beauty.

Joan Feldman called her new group of watercolors and collages "Georgia on My Mind." You could feel the delight she takes in form, color, texture, and the sensory pleasures of objects. You could note that she had a great success selling some of her lively pieces, but her purpose lies deeper than the surface. "I would like to go on studying, with a trusted guide, to seek my fortunes as a painter and as a person."

Riva Leviten mixes her visual work with her searching words in an exhibit upstairs in the feudal main gallery. There's even a photograph of the artist as a young girl with an enormous fish, which casts a whimsical sunbeam upon the show. She looked great then, smiling in the California light beside this symbol of something caught, grasped, won from the deep, and she looks great now, in brown silks and amber beads, articulate and gracious among the crowd at the opening. "I didn't take one wall and leave the other to Madolin Maxey, but we shuffled our work together and even cooperated in a mutual painting," she told me. "We are presenting a 'Double Dialogue' at the club. They never had anything quite like this before. We are changing things,"

she penned in her flowing ink calligraphy on a postcard.

The community that goes to the galleries brings good cheer

and goodwill to painters among us who pour out things of bright light and vivid shape from their cornucopia of intelligent zest.



Riva Leviten

Herald photo by Mike Fink

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JEWISH COMMUNITY

Thousands Participate in Siyum Mishnayot

More than 2,700 9- to 13-year-old Jewish boys converged in Lakewood, N.J., earlier this month for the 35th annual Pirchei Agudath Israel "Siyum Mishnayot" (Mishna-completion celebration) — the first time the event was held in New Jersey.

More than 1,000 boys from throughout the tri-state area and Jewish communities, including a delegation of 20 boys from Providence, arrived in time to experience the annual Pirchei Agudath Israel "Interbranch Shabbos" that preceded the siyum.

The massive Saturday night celebration was held at the Bais Faiga Hall, a spacious site that was nevertheless quickly filled.

A hush fell over the thousands of boys as the evening's two main speakers, Rabbi Aryeh Malkiel Kotler, Rosh HaYeshiva, Beth Medrash Govoha and Rabbi Mattisyohu Solomon,

Mashgiach, Beth Madrash Govoha, addressed them.

And thousands of eyes turned as one when Rabbi Shimon Grama, Pirchei Agudath Israel's national director, announced the arrival of Rabbi Nosson Wachtfogel, the Mashgiach emeritus of Beth Medrash Govoha, and informed the boys that the presence of such Torah luminaries was born of honor for the Torah they had studied.

To qualify for participation in the siyum, each of the boys in attendance had to master at least two chapters of Mishna or memorize one.

After the siyum, Rabbi Grama expressed his gratitude to the entire Lakewood community for opening its homes, synagogues and study hall to the visiting boys and for giving the guests a Shabbos and a siyum that few of them will likely ever forget.

Camp JORI Anticipates Record Enrollment

It is only March, but one of Camp JORI's most popular attractions — Leadership in Training — has already begun to fill up. This selective program, which provides 14- and 15-year-old teen-agers with the opportunity to develop their leadership skills, now has a waiting list. Girls rushed to enroll in the Leadership in Training program, filling all of the available slots in the first of its two four-week overnight sessions. "There is still room," said camp director Ronnie Guttin, "for boys in the first LIT session and for both boys and girls in the second session, but girls who would like to participate in the first session will have to go on a waiting list."

Guttin, who attributes the popularity of the LIT program to its well-balanced mix of fun and

leadership development activities, sees the rush to get into the LIT program as part of a new surge of interest in the camp.

The new sports skills workshops which Camp JORI is adding to its sports program, starting in June, "are also generating a lot of interest in the camp," added Guttin. Workshops designed to help JORI campers improve their skills in such sports as tennis, diving, soccer, softball and archery will be conducted by staff members who specialize in these areas.

Camp JORI, which is located on 13.5 acres in Narragansett, will open its 1998 season on June 29. Camperships based on need are available for Rhode Island residents. For more information or to receive an application packet, call 521-2655.

JFS Offers Workshop

Jewish Family Service will offer a workshop series this spring for individuals who are divorced. (Another series will be offered in the fall.) The workshop, "Divorce and Moving On," will offer an opportunity to share feelings and experiences as participants explore issues which may include coping with anger, dealing with sadness over the loss of a relationship, co-parenting with an ex-spouse, handling the dating scene, issues related to re-marriage and stepparenting. The program will be led by JFS clinical social worker Rebecca Rofman, MA, CAGS, LICSW. In addition to her experience as a therapist, Rofman has also completed a 40-hour course in Divorce Mediation Training at Roger Williams University Law School.

The six-session workshop will meet Wednesdays from 5:30 to 7 p.m., April 22 through May 27. The fee for the workshop is \$50; preregistration is suggested before April 1. For more information or to preregister, contact Rebecca Rofman at 331-1244.

Upcoming Events at Temple Shalom

Temple Shalom, the Conservative Congregation of Newport County, will host a special Black-Jewish seder on March 19 at 7 p.m. in the social hall. Rabbi Marc S. Jagolinzer of Temple Shalom and the Rev. Vincent Thompson of Community Baptist Church will conduct the seder. Members of both congregations and friends will share in this celebration which reminds both communities of their respective histories, as well as reasserts their commitment to secure liberty for all those people not yet free. Reservations are necessary. Call the temple office at 846-9002.

On March 20, Temple Shalom will join with hundreds of other congregations throughout the country in a special program, Shabbat Across America, commencing at 6 p.m. with a traditional Friday evening Sabbath service. Following the service, a delicious traditional Shabbateve dinner will be served, with an Oneg Shabbat program following. Reservations may be made by calling 846-9002.

On March 21 at 7 p.m., members of grade one of the Samuel Zilman Bazarsky Religious School will present a Havdalah ceremony. This weekly custom bids farewell to the Sabbath and ushers in the coming week. A collation will follow the ceremony. All are cordially invited to attend.

Temple Shalom is located at 223 Valley Road in Middletown.

Author Researches The Ivy League And The Jews

A Maryland resident, Robert J. Greene, has recently begun researching a book to be titled *The Ivy League and the Jews... From Defamation And Discrimination Toward a Campus Based on Individual Merit*. His study will be an examination of the dynamics of change at the prestigious colleges.

Greene hopes to reach as many former Jewish students and/or graduates of Ivy League schools, especially those who matriculated during the years before World War II and the years immediately after it. Greene said it is essential to the book to capture the mood of the eight campuses — Harvard,

Yale, Princeton, Dartmouth, Columbia, Brown, Cornell and the University of Pennsylvania.

As an author and researcher, Greene hopes to find answers to: "What was student life like? Did it 'feel' any different being a Jewish student rather than just a student? Was the Jewish student, and were his fellow Jews, aware of being treated differently from non-Jews in being admitted, assigned housing, or did he/she sense any distinction in the way they were treated in official or private conduct and relations?"

You may contact Greene at <crjg070@aol.com> or write to 15007 Candover Court, Silver Spring, Md. 20906-1743.

Jewish Family Service Invites Family of the Year Nominations

In keeping with its commitment to honor families, Jewish Family Service is inviting nominations for the 1998 Family of the Year Award. For the fourth year, members of the community are being asked to submit a profile of a family who exemplifies the best in family life.

What strengths and values do we admire in family life? Is there a family who typifies these values? What are the everyday qualities that we take for granted, yet provide the basis for a strong family unit? Jewish Family Service requests that you give some thought to these questions in making a nomination.

The rules of eligibility are simple:

1. A family is defined as more than one person.
2. At least one member of the family must be Jewish.
3. Individuals may nominate only one family.
4. Relatives of the staff of Jewish Family Service are not eligible.
5. Relatives of the Family of the Year Committee are not eligible.

The deadline for entries is midnight, May 29. Awards will be announced at the Jewish Family Service annual meeting on Oct. 21. Entries must be mailed or brought to Jewish Family Service at 220 Waterman St., Providence, R.I. 02906. For nomination forms and additional information, call 331-1244.

Purim Party Success at Sons of Jacob

The Sons of Jacob Purim party and raffle was recently held and was a great success.

First prize of the RCA 19" color stereo remote TV was won by Mel Fleischer; second prize, the GE telephone/answering combo, was won by Seymore Golden; third prize, several bottles of liquor, was won by Joseph Silberman; and fourth prize, the picture frame assortment, was won by Moshe Massouda.

JWV Visit Washington, D.C.

The Jewish War Veterans are sponsoring a trip to Washington, D.C., to visit the Holocaust Museum, the White House, Smithsonian Institute, Congress, their Congressional delegation, and a night tour of the Washington Monument, the Jefferson and Lincoln Memorials, plus the Korean and Vietnam Memorials. The trip will begin on April 27 and end on April 29. The price is \$179 per person (double) occupancy. The price includes round-trip motorcoach transportation, two nights hotel accommodations. For more information, call Irv Levin, 941-6032.

Moves to Israel

The Consulate General of Israel to New England and the Israel Aliyah Center present the Coming Home Fair on March 22 from 11 to 5 p.m.

Meet vendors and shippers who specialize in goods and services for people considering moving to Israel at the JCC of Brookline, Mass., 50 Sutherland Road.

The day's schedule is as follows:

Noon to 1 p.m. — Ilan Ohad, consul — representative of Israel Customs and VAT in North America. An Overview of Customs Rights for Olim.

2 to 3 p.m. — An Overview of Shipping Household Goods to Israel and Releasing Your Lift from Customs, given by a licensed Israeli customs broker.

11 a.m. to 5 p.m. — Fair. Representatives from the following companies will be available to answer your questions: Rainier Overseas, Balvin Export Trading, Revivim, ABC Trading, A.S.M., Worldwide Cargo, Astro TV and Appliances, Glo-Best, New England Household, Uniworld Cargo, Bondy, Eagle Electronics, Dean Witter, Zim, Omega.

R.S.V.P. to the Israel Aliyah Center at (617) 457-8750 or <mass.alyah@aol.com>.

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JEWISH COMMUNITY

Fred Friendly Leaves Important Memories

Earlier this month, the Rhode Island and New York communities lost a great friend, Fred W. Friendly, at 82 years of age. Friendly (son of Samuel Wachenheimer and Theresa Friendly Wachenheimer) passed away at his home in Riverdale, NY. Friendly became a well-known CBS executive and pioneer in TV news coverage.

"It was at radio station WEAN in Providence, RI, that Friendly's career in broadcasting began," stated the *New York Times* obituary. He was brought up in Providence and studied at the Business College. Friendly left the radio station after four years and in 1941 served in the Army in the China-Burma-India Theatre in World War II. Friendly rose to the rank of master sergeant and worked as a reporter for the army's newspaper, *The CBI Roundup*.

During his service Friendly wrote a series of letters to his mother in Rhode Island. Throughout the letters Friendly expressed his visions of the aftermath of one of the world's most disastrous wars.

The following excerpts have been taken from one of his first letters. His wife and family treasure this letter and read it together every year.

May 19, 1945
Dear Mother,

In just a few days I will be in an airplane on my way back to the APO to which you write me. Before I leave Europe, I must write this letter and attempt to convey to you that which I saw, felt and gasped at as I saw a war and a frightened

peace stagger into a perilous existence. I have seen a dead Germany. If it is not dead it is certainly ruptured beyond repair. I have seen the beer hall where the era of the inferno and hate began... I wondered how a civilization could ever again spring from cities so utterly removed from the face of the earth by weapons the enemy taught us to use at Coventry and Canterbury. I have met the Germans, have examined the storm trooper, his wife and his heritage of hate, and I have learned to hate — almost with as much fury as the G.I. who saw his buddy killed at the Bulge... I have learned now and only now that this war had to be fought. I wish I might have done more. I envy with a bottomless and endless spirit, the American soldier who may tell his grandchildren that with his hands he killed Germans.

That which is in my heart now I want you and those dear to us to know and yet I find myself completely incapable of putting it into letter form... I think if I could sit down in our living room or the den at 11 President, I might be able to convey a portion of the dismal, horrible and yet titanic mural which is Europe today...

...When I go to the Boston Symphony, when I hear waves of applause, no matter what the music is, I shall be traveling back to a town near Linz where I heard applause unequalled in history, and where I was allowed to see the ordeal which our fellow brothers and sisters of the human race have endured. To me Poland is no longer the place where Chopin composed, or where a radio station held out for three weeks — to me Poland is the place from which the prisoners of Mauthausen came, when I think of

the Czechs, I will think of those who were butchered here, and that goes for the Jews, the Russians, the Austrians, the people of 15 difference lands... This was... Mauthausen. I want you to remember the word. I want you to know, I want you to never forget or let our disbelieving friends forget, that your flesh and blood saw this. This was no movie, no printed page. Your son saw this with his own eyes and in doing this aged 10 years.

Mauthausen was built with a half-million rocks which 150,000 prisoners — 18,000 was the capacity — carried up on their backs from a quarry 800 feet below. They carried it up steps so steep that a captain and I walked it once and were winded, without a load. They carried granite and made 8 trips a day and if they stumbled, the S.S. men pushed them into the quarry. There are 285 steps, covered with blood. They called it the steps of death. I saw the shower room (twice or three times the size of our bathroom) a chamber lined with tile and topped with sprinklers where 150 prisoners at a time were disrobed and ordered in for a shower which never gushed forth from the sprinklers because the chemical was gas. ...They gave these jobs to the Jews because they all died anyhow, and they didn't want the rest of the

prisoners to know their own fate... I saw their emaciated bodies in piles like chords of wood... the stench of death... I saw the living skeletons... Malnutrition doesn't stop the day that food is administered. Don't get the idea that these people were all... just masses of people... some of them were doctors, authors, some of them American citizens, a scattered few were G.I.s... I saw where they lived, I saw where the sick died, three and four in a bed, no toilets, no nothing. I saw the look in their eyes...

And how does the applause fit in. Mother, I walked thru countless cell blocks filled with sick dying people — 300 in a room twice the size of our living room and as we walked in — there was a ripple of applause and then an inspiring burst of applause and cheers, and men who could not stand up sat up and whispered though they tired to shout it — *Vive L'Americansky... Vive L'Americansky... the applause, the cheers, those faces of men with legs the size and shape of rope, with ulcerated bodies, weeping with a kind of joy you and I will never, I hope, know. Vive L'Americansky... I got a cousin in Milwaukee. We thought you guys would come... Vive L'Americansky... Applause — gaunt, hopeless faces at last filled with hope. One younger man asked*

me something in Polish which I could not understand but I did detect the word "jid" ... I asked an interpreter what he said... "He wants to know if you are a Jew." When I smiled and stuck out my mit and said "yes" he was unable to speak or show the feeling that was in his heart... That, my dear, was Mauthausen. There but for the Grace of G-d —

I will write more letters in days to come... I want to write and tell you how I sat next to Patton and Tolbukhin at a banquet at the Castle of Franz Joseph. I want to write and tell you how the Germans look in defeat, how Munich looked in death, but those things sparkle with excitement and make good reading... I hope you will see fit to let Bill Braude and the folks read it. I would like to think that all the Wachenheimers and all the Friendlys and all our good Providence friends would read it. I want you to take it out and make your grandchildren read it.

For, if there had been no America, we, all of us, might well have carried granite at Mauthausen.

All my love,
F.F.

(This letter was submitted by Bernie Bell, acquaintance of Fred Friendly and president of the Aristides Sousa de Mendes Society).

Brandeis Hosts Israeli Film Festival

To celebrate Israel's 50th anniversary, Brandeis University and the National Center for Jewish Film, in association with the Consulate General of Israel to New England, are presenting "Israel On Screen: Films for the 50th." The festival runs March 28 to April 5 at Brandeis University in its newly renovated 240-seat theater equipped with 35mm projection and Dolby surround sound.

Eight of the 23 films selected for the festival have never before been screened in Boston. Those premiering include: "Exodus 1947" (1996), "Tel-Aviv Berlin" (1987), "Everlasting Joy" (1994), winner of best script, Jerusalem Film Festival, and "Pick a Card" (aka "Afula Express"), which won best Israel Feature at the 1997 Jerusalem Film Festival and is currently one of Israel's most popular films. Acclaimed Israeli writer and director Ephraim Kishon will take part in the gala opening on March 28, which will feature a screening of his comedy "Sallah Shabbati," the 1963 Academy Award Nominee for Best Foreign Film. Born in Budapest in 1924, Kishon moved to Israel after World War II and quickly became a popular satirist. He has written more than 50 prize-winning books, novels and plays and

has made five feature films. Kishon's works satirize the emerging Jewish society in Israel — the political parties, the government bureaucracy, and those who took themselves a little too seriously during the first years of statehood. The third day of the festival, March 30, pays tribute to Kishon's contributions to Israeli cinema with a repeat screening of "Sallah Shabbati," followed by "Ervinka" (1967), "The Big Dig" (1969), and "The Policeman" (1971).

March 29 will be devoted to five films about the creation of the State of Israel and will include a panel discussion that will examine representations of Israel on screen.

Preceding each film will be a talk by a film historian (including Amy Kronish) or an Israel scholar who will place the subject matter within an historical and cultural context. Frank Lavine, a crew member on the most famous Aliyah Bet ships that tried to run the British blockade of Palestine, will introduce the documentary "Exodus 1947" that examines the history and impact of that event.

For program information, call (781) 736-2125, or visit the National Center for Jewish Film website at <www.brandeis.edu/jewishfilm.>

wanted to make Judaism more evident and there's a lot of kids who want to know a lot about Judaism, but they don't speak up and ask, especially when there are so few Jews at the school. We just wanted to make everyone more comfortable with Judaism." Feinberg, along with other members of JEWL, has arranged programs within their school and thinks the program has been a great success so far. "We went to my house for Sukkot and host several holiday programs. We're also looking to get some assembly time during school hours," added Feinberg.

During their day at Lincoln the Youth Delegates gave more than five presentations to history classes and a special meeting with JEWL. They spoke about everything from their views on the Peace Process to what they do on a daily basis in Israel. "It's so great to have them here," said Ramesh Radparvar, a junior and a member of JEWL, "We're so lucky to be listening to their personal views, it's so important." Both Radparvar and Feinberg will be taking part in the March of the Living and hope to keep in touch and possibly visit with their new Israeli friends soon. They were also excited to be hosts and guides for Kedem and Portnoy for the day.

After each day of presenting themselves and talking about Israel, Kedem and Portnoy returned to their host families in Providence. "It's great having her here," said Eitan Hersh, 15, a student at Classical High School and host to Kedem for the week, "Unfortunately, they are so busy, but at night we have time to talk." Hersh en-

Israeli Youth Delegation

(Continued from Page 1)

joyed learning more about Israel since he and his family will be visiting the country for one month this summer. As for Kedem, he stated, "She has respect for everyone and yet has strong views." Meanwhile, Portnoy was hosted by the Beraha family. "They're incredible kids," said Karen Beraha, "Ohad has been such an inspiration. My three boys have enjoyed asking questions and speaking Hebrew together." Beraha also added that her son Josh will be spending part of his summer in Israel and hopes to visit with his new friends. "I would open our home to this program any time," said Beraha.

After visiting Rhode Island the Israeli Youth Delegates will make stops in Springfield, Mass., and Burlington, Vt., They

will then return to their homes in Israel and share a wealth of experiences with their friends and families. "I have kept a journal for my school about my trip. Everyone will have a chance to read it," said Portnoy. Kedem will also share her experiences with her school by speaking with them. The Israeli Youth Delegates also hope to keep in touch with their many new American friends and families. "It has been a wonderful trip and a great experience," stated Kedem and Portnoy.

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JEWISH COMMUNITY

"Hava Nashira" Brings Israel's Music To Rhode Island

by Emily Torgan-Shalansky
Jewish Community Reporter
Music brings people together in a way that words alone cannot.

That's why Temple Sinai, Temple Am David, the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island and some 250 parents and children joined in numbers and spirit for "Hava Nashira," a celebration of Israeli folk song saluting Israel's 50th birthday.

As Six Rivers, a professional singing duo featuring Cantor Wayne and Nancy Krieger, mounted the stage at Cranston's Temple Sinai, they shared their warm spirits and mastery of folk music with the audience.

"You will know some of the songs, and you will not know others," said Wayne, a cantor at Temple Beth Shalom in Manchester, Conn., as he strummed his guitar.

As Six Rivers presented an interactive program of music, storytelling and chanting that demonstrated the diversity of Jewish culture across the world, the audience alternately sang along, clapped, and sat back to let the music wash over them. "Give me a flamenco clap," the cantor shouted at the youngsters, who answered his request with syncopated rhythms.

As Six Rivers moved through their program, a snappy but obscure Moroccan folk song yielded giggles and more traditional favorites such as Hatikvah and Lailah Tov inspired and soothed spirits.

During many of the pieces, Nancy Krieger spelled out the lyrics in sign language.

After the final applause and an Israeli buffet luncheon, the Kriegers, who reside in Manchester, Conn., explained the genesis of their program.

Wayne Krieger, a Rhode Island native and graduate of a cantorial program at the Hartt School of Music was playing in a klezmer band when Nancy, who was then in real estate, decided to audition.

"I didn't get into the band, but I met Wayne," laughed Nancy, who has had a long-standing interest in folk music.

After a wedding and three children, the Kriegers went to Israel between 1994 and 1995 to work on their music and perform around the country.

For them, "Hava Nashira" was a new experience.

"We love doing music together, and my area of specialization is family education," Wayne explained. "This is the first time we have put together a program that has had music and storytelling. It was great that everyone got so involved."

He went on to discuss the signing that accompanied much of the program.

"I taught the deaf for two years about 20 years ago, and when I became a Jewish educator I knew how to access signing to enhance the liturgy," he said. "It became a way to reach out to people, and also a beautiful way to express music in another form."

Temple Sinai Education Director Lenore Somes was moved by both the creation of the "Hava Nashira" as well as the performance.

"This has truly been a community event," she said. "Temple Sinai, which is Reform, got together with the Conservative Am David, and the JFRI helped as well. Members of Am David koshered our kitchen and provided the luncheon."

Somes paused, then restated the purpose of the family concert.

"Many of us read about Israel in the newspapers and see it on television, but those of us who have been there experience it differently," she explained. "This music makes you feel Israel. By the end of a performance like this, some can't wait to see Israel and others can't wait to get back."



NANCY AND WAYNE KRIEGER perform at Temple Sinai on March 15.

Herald photo by Emily Torgan-Shalansky

Upcoming Events at JCCRI

On April 11 the Jewish Community Center will host its annual second night seder. While most people attend a first night seder at home, with relatives or with friends, a second night seder in the company of a larger group offers individuals and families an opportunity to celebrate the Jews liberation from Egypt and the message of religious freedom with a sense of belonging and community. Call 861-8800 for more details.

The seder is also cultural arts director Dana Zucker's last event as a JCCRI staff member. She joined the center three years ago as the youth coordinator. Since that time, she has taken on the responsibilities of cultural arts director, Jewish culture specialist, and camp director. After coordinating the center's annual seder, she and her family will move to New Jersey.

Irina Fogelson in Concert

The JCCRI recently announced that on April 26 at 6 p.m., world-renowned singer Irina Fogelson will perform at the JCCRI. This Russian-born vocalist, who sings in Yiddish, Hebrew, Russian, and English, is quickly becoming one of the most popular entertainers of her kind in Europe and throughout

North America. Her performances in Paris, Rome, Tel Aviv, Philadelphia, Chicago, and Boston won uniform critical acclaim from critics and audiences alike. Call Sue Robbio at 861-8800 for details and ticket information.

Talking to Your Kids About G-d

Tackling a tough topic from the abstracts to the emotional. Parent Education Series Part II in JCCRI adult lounge.

The Early Childhood Committee of the JCCRI presents Part II of the free Parent Education Series on April 30 at 7:30 p.m., the topic for which was designed in response to parents' overwhelming requests.

Rabbi Wayne Franklin of Temple Emanu-El and Anne Presser Franklin, a Ph.D. in child psychology will facilitate this casual evening.

Rabbi Franklin will offer an overview for adults, exploring the evolution of the benevolent G-d concept. Dr. Presser Franklin will translate "for little minds," discussing children's readiness for these issues in regard to their emotional development. For more information on this event or how to become involved with the Early Childhood Committee, call Eya Sil-

ver, early childhood director, at 861-8800, ext. 142.

1998 Swimathon

During the week of May 3 to May 10, all bets are on for who will win the gold in this year's JCCRI Swimathon.

The Swimathon invites all interested participants to enjoy the pool and help raise money for new aquatic and camp sports equipment. Participation is open to the public.

Prizes will be awarded to people who either raise or donate money that is received by the JCCRI by May 24. Sponsor sheets are available at the JCCRI's front desk and at the fitness desk. While any level of donation is appreciated, prize categories for raising certain dollar amounts are as follows:

- \$500 — Benefactor. Name listed on plaque in fitness lobby and all prizes below
- \$250 — Platinum Sponsor. T-shirt, swim goggles, guest passes, and free pool party
- \$100 — Gold Sponsor. T-shirt and guest passes
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- \$25 — Bronze Sponsor. Two guest passes. For more information, call Patty Gold at 861-8800, ext. 153.

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Look for the Rhode Island Jewish Herald's special Home and Garden Issue next week, March 26. Contact Diana Florio for advertising or Tara V. Lisciandro for related stories and photos, 724.-0200.

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JEWISH COMMUNITY

Temple Beth-El Hosts Successful Workshop

Temple Beth-El Adult Enrichment recently presented their first "How-To" Passover workshop at the temple.

Workshops were held for novice and experienced seder leaders, chefs and noshers, workshop included:

- "Kosher for Passover" — How to make the week unique
- "Have I Gotta Haggadah For You!" — Find the right one for your seder
- "The Seder Starts in the Kitchen" — Create new and old Passover favorites
- "When Do We Eat Already?" — The ABC's of leading a seder
- "How is This Seder Different?" — New/old customs to liven up your seder (and to adapt to your changing family).

Passover wine tasting with guest Elliot Fishbein from Town Wine and Spirits, charoset tasting (bring your own favorites), and music and dance were also a part of the special day.



DESSERT TASTING was enjoyed by Temple Beth-El's Passover workshop guests.

Photos courtesy of Temple Beth-El



DOUG BLAKE performs a cooking demo at the Temple Beth-El Passover workshop.



WINE TASTING with Elliot Fishbein at the Temple Beth-El Passover workshop.

Celebrate Israel's 50th With a History-Maker at Temple Emanu-El

Kulanu at Temple Emanu-El will present Professor Benno Weiser Varon, of Boston University, at brunch on March 29. Varon is recognized in the *Encyclopedia Judaica* as one of the driving forces in the Latin American department of the Jewish Agency. He was instrumental in helping to win the political backing of several Latin American governments for the U.N. Partition Plan in 1947-48, and thereby helped secure the establishment of the State of Israel.

In 1964, Golda Meir appointed Varon to serve as Israel's ambassador to a succession of Latin American countries. He was born in Czernowitz and was taken to Vienna when he was 9 months old. If not for the Nazis,

he would have completed medical school in Vienna, from which he fled to Ecuador.

He has had many careers, as a journalist, cabaret songwriter and performer, dramatist, diplomat and scholar. His finely honed sense of humor has sustained him well in each arena of his life's endeavors.

The community is invited to hear Varon's fascinating lecture, "Diplomacy Through Humor." Brunch begins at 9:30 a.m. in the Bohnen Vestry of Temple Emanu-El. For information, call 331-1616.

URI Hillel and Perspectives Lunch and Learn

URI Hillel and Perspectives, the Rhode Island Jewish Young Adult Project, invite the community to a lunch and learn presentation entitled: "The Diary of a Psychiatrist in the Concentration Camps," on March 31 at noon. Bagels will be provided as well as an opportunity to meet one of the community's new rabbis.

Join Rabbi Leo Abrami of Temple Am David in Warwick for this discussion on Victor Frankel's psychoanalytic therapy that he developed while in Auschwitz. The luncheon presentation will take place in the Memorial Union, Room 360. For more information, call 874-2740.

URI Hillel Events

- April 1 — An Inter-faith seder at the Kingston Congregational Church 6 p.m. University chaplains will be present and the service will be led by Guy Bernel, URI Hillel director.
- April 6 — The famous chocolate seder will be held at URI's Memorial Union at 7 p.m.
- April 7 — Jyl Felman will give a lecture and discussion at 4 p.m.
- April 19 — Ramble '98 on a 3-mile walk around URI and help raise money for UJA and Mazon. Pre-registration necessary. For more information about these events call 874-2740

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Purim Cele



LEANNA RAPOPPORT with her children Peretz and Kayla dressed as clowns.

A Grand Purim Feast

Text and photos by Tara V. Lisciandro, Herald Editor

The Grand Purim Feast, entitled "An Evening of Klezmer and Shtick," sponsored by the Chabad of West Bay Chai Center of Warwick, was recently held in the social hall of Temple Am David. More than 150 guests attended the "gala event" which was coordinated by Rabbi Levy and his wife, Chanie. "This evening's special guests of honor are the children," said Rabbi Levy, "without them we wouldn't be here."



CHANIE LEVY and her children (from left) Mussie, Shneur, Mendel, and Bekel in the Purim spirit.



ANXIOUS PURIM GUESTS make requests to the klezmer band.

The evening began with a late Megillah reading followed by hors d'oeuvres and a grand dinner. While parents and friends socialized, children were busy dancing and parading in their beautiful costumes. Tables were decorated with colorful, festive balloons, candles and crisp settings. The Intergalactic Klezmer Orchestra along with Rob Salafia and the Chai Purim Shpeilers entertained guests with lots of Purim fun and music.

Guests came from the Chai Center, Temple Am David and a handful of other surrounding congregations. "Purim civilizes Jewish unity," stated Rabbi Levy at the beginning of the dinner, "the entire Jewish spectrum is here tonight."



CHILDREN WAIT IN LINE for their turn at the microphone and a chance to reveal themselves. Rabbi Levy then handed each one a special token of appreciation.



RABBI LEVY and guest Howie Brown of Middletown cut the challah together at the start of the dinner while a curious child gets a closer look.

ASDS Celebrates Purim

Purim is a perennial favorite for both students and teachers, a chance to laugh and sing, to remember and celebrate. **Alperin Schechter Day School** was buzzing with activity as teachers and students arrived in costume, toting gift bags filled with delicious goodies.

The entire school gathered together to hear the Megillah read by Middle School students and to drown out the name of Haman. The Megillah reading was followed by a costume parade and festive seudah, enlivened by entertainment provided by each class.

Each class also collected tzedakah to be given out as part of Matanot l'Evyonim, another Purim practice.

School let out early, enabling families to deliver Mishloah Manot to friends and neighbors — a deliciously satisfying end to a wonderful day.



TEACHERS AND STUDENTS at Alperin Schechter Day School enjoyed a happy and festive Purim (above), while students entertained staff and friends during the holiday (right).

Photos courtesy of ASDS



PURIM-GOERS dressed as Wee-Willy-Winkie enjoyed klezmer music, fine food and lots of Purim fun.

brations 1998



SUPER FLUFF (Shlomo Kreitman) fluffs his way through the crowd of mere mortals.

A Cold Parade

Text and photos by Yehudah Biss, Herald Editor

Even the mayor played kazoo. On a record cold Thursday morning, Aaron Siegel led the New England Rabbinical College's 11th annual Providence Purim Parade 'round the blocks of Elmgrove, Savoy, Taft, and Sessions.

Revelers turned up in all sorts of 'tunes. Gershon Barros, a local financial planner, dressed as a black cowboy. Shlomo Kreitman, a student at the college, dressed as Super Fluff, representing the only superhero known to be able to eat a whole jar of fluff within a single minute (I guess that's what his superpower is). Mayor Cianci had wonderful praise for everyone who braved the cold to take part in the event.



GRAND MARSHAL AARON SEGAL (left) looks on while Mayor Buddy Cianci speaks. Dano the Clown holds an umbrella to protect His Honor and Aryeh Gibber, parade coordinator bows in reverence.



RABBI GIBBER, dean of New England Rabbinical College, pauses for a moment to pose with Trouserman, who only has legs and feet, no torso or head.



LIPSON BOYS, Shaul and Eli, demonstrate how they became the Torah by dressing up as two ends of a Torah scroll. Notice the walking Haman sign in the background.



A "RASTA" FAMILY joins in the fun (Barbara and Perry Antelman and children).



HAMAN (Barak Halderson) pulls Mordechai (Meir Rubenstein) through the streets of Providence.



BLACK COWBOY (Gershon Barros) meets White Indian Rabbi Avrohom Jakubowicz, showing a true v'nahapuch (turnabout).

Temple Beth-El Explores Purim

The Wonderful World of Purim was recently held at Temple Beth-El in Providence. Temple Beth-El festivities included a costume parade, Megillah reading and hamantaschen reception.



CHILDREN ENJOY the celebration in costume... including Sheryl Reedy and her son, Nathaniel (above, left).

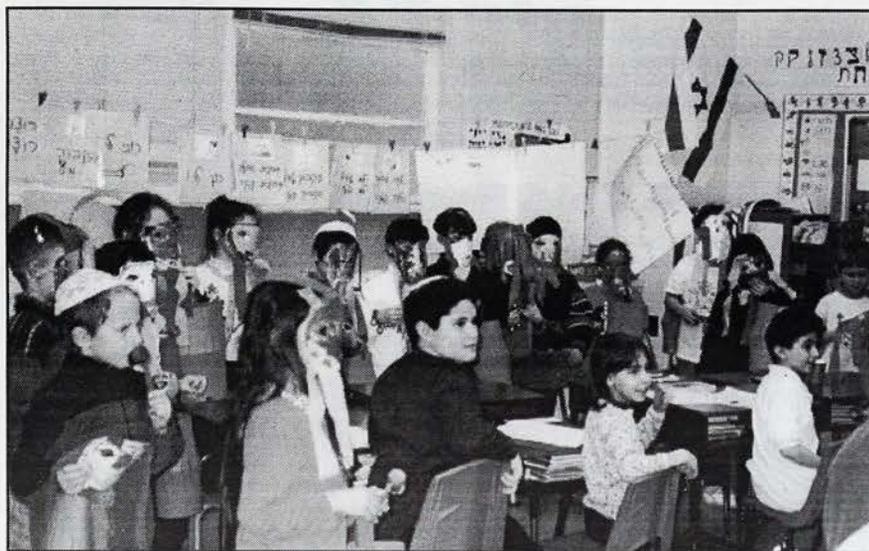


AVIS AND ALAN ROSENBERG and their son Jacob (above) listen to Cantor Ida Rae Cahana at Beth-El's Purim celebration.





SCHOOLBEAT



Happy Chinese New Year!

Second-grade students at the Ruth and Max Alperin Schechter Day School paraded through the classrooms in recognition of the Chinese New Year. Wearing masks, clanging and banging homemade noisemakers, the revelers swept through the halls, summoning all to their New Year celebrations.

Photo courtesy of ASDS

Brooks Announces Scholarship Fund

Rhode Island high school seniors have until the end of the month to complete applications for the third annual Brooks Friendly Neighbor College Scholarship Fund sponsored by Warwick-based Brooks Pharmacy and American Greetings.

With each American Greetings card purchase, Brooks will make a donation to the scholarship fund, which will award 63 Rhode Island high school seniors a \$1,000 scholarship to the college of their choice. Awards

will be based on community service, financial need, academic achievement and school involvement. The program will be administered by Cleveland, Ohio based Cleveland Scholarship Programs, Inc.

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

ing their community a better place to live."

Applicants will be judged on community service, financial need, academic achievement and school involvement, and should have a 3.0 cumulative grade point average based on a 4.0 scale during their years of high school.

Scholarship applications are available at all Rhode Island Brooks Pharmacy locations. The deadline for applications is March 31.

Arson Watch Reward Program

The Arson Watch Reward Program recently announced its 16th annual statewide poster contest for students in grades 5 thru 8 for all schools in the State of Rhode Island.

*Last year, more people died in U.S. fires than any time since 1990. In all, 4,990 people died in fires in this country in 1996. The U.S. fire death rate is the highest in the industrialized world outside the Soviet bloc. Although fire death rates have generally declined throughout this century, fire still poses a significant problem in the United States. Victims are more likely to die from fire in their homes than anywhere else.

Early education is fire safety has proven useful in correcting behavior that can lead to firesetting and, as a result, injuries and deaths. This year's poster theme, Bright Ideas on Candle and Lighter Safety, is designed to help in this area.

Prizes of \$250, \$100 and \$50

will be paid at two levels to those prize-winning students whose posters best depict this year's theme. Level I is for students in the seventh and eighth grades, while Level II is for students in the fifth and sixth grades.

All schools may submit multiple entries according to the contest rules which have been distributed to all public, private and parochial school principals.

Deadline for receiving posters is April 17. Winners will be chosen on April 30. Teachers of winning students will be notified in writing shortly thereafter. Awards will be presented to winning students and their teachers at a luncheon ceremony to be held on June 3, at the Holiday Inn at The Crossings in Warwick.

For questions and information, call Nancy Rodes at the Rhode Island FAIR Plan, (617) 557-5535 or (800) 392-8978, ext. 5535.

*Statistics taken from NFPA Information Press Release (1998).

URI Launches Classes For Seniors

Wondering what you're going to do next now that you're retired? Or are you approaching retirement age and wonder what's next on the docket?

The University of Rhode Island has the answers. This spring, URI's College of Continuing Education Special Programs Office will launch the Academy of Learning, Teaching, and Enlightenment in Retirement, ALTER, for short. The intention is to develop a community of senior learners.

"We hope to meet the intellectual and social interests of people nearing or in retirement," said Ed Lees, coordinator of the ALTER program. "We'd like to help them maximize their own potential and eventually teach others who follow them in the life cycle."

There will be many senior citizens to follow, according to Lees. "Today, about 17 percent of Rhode Island's population is 60 years and over. By the year 2020, that figure will rise to about 26 percent."

The new URI program gets off to a start in April with three different courses offered at both URI's Providence and Kingston campuses:

1. *Surfing the Net/Binding Families Together by E-mail*

Participants can learn to explore the Internet for the wealth of information and knowledge it contains as well as learning how to use E-mail to stay in close and frequent contact with

family and friends no matter where they might be geographically. Course fee is \$70.

URI/Providence: April 22, 23 and 24, 1 to 3:30 p.m., Room 301.

URI Kingston: May 5, 6 and 7, 3 to 5:30 p.m., Ballentine Hall, Room 202.

2. *Legal Issues in Retirement*

Retirement often requires special legal awareness. This course helps you grasp fundamental legal focal points of programs such as Medicaid and Medicare as well as financial and estate planning. In addition, it provides direction in how to seek professional legal assistance to best serve your overall retirement needs. Course fee is \$65.

URI/Providence: April 27, 28 and 29, 1 to 3:30 p.m., Room 442.

URI/Providence: May 11, 12, and 13, 3 to 5:30 p.m., White Hall, Room 220.

3. *Memoirs*

Each of us has a story to tell, a book to write but few of us even begin. This course is designed to help start the process. Using human development theory as a guide, the course will help prioritize and order reflections, memories, and dreams of a life-time in terms of their relevance to the story we have to tell. Course fee is \$65.

URI/Providence: April 27, 28 and 29, 1 to 3:30 p.m., Room 443.

URI/Providence: May 13, 14, and 15, 3 to 5:30 p.m., White Hall, Room 225.

For more information, call 874-2116.

A Lesson in Persistence and The Scientific Method

Mychal Feingold and Lymor Ringer, eighth-grade students at the Ruth and Max Alperin Schechter Day School, are good friends and able researchers. Their recent work on a science fair project has made them better scientists and consumers.

Their project, entitled "100 Scrubs a Day Keeps The Germs Away," tested the effectiveness of over-the-counter disinfectants on *Escherichia coli* and *Staphylococcus epidermis* bacteria. Feingold and Ringer found that all but one of the products were effective. In an attempt to be both fair and thorough, the students repeated their experiment, with the same result.

Not content to accept the results without further investigation, these young scientists consulted with an infectious disease specialist and contacted the manufacturer's research and development office. Scientists there discussed possible reasons for the results, suggested alternate procedures, and finally released the company's own research report.

Feingold and Ringer have a plan for the future and will continue to follow up on their original research, using both laboratory and in vivo testing. "These students have learned a tremendous amount from their experiment," says Marilyn Feingold, Mychie's mother. "They have



LYMOR RINGER AND MYCHAL FEINGOLD at work in the lab.

Photo courtesy of ASDS

learned that persistence and perseverance pay off. When the manufacturer was originally reluctant to release their research data, the girls would not give

up. They kept calling until they got a response — and they have continued their experiments, even after winning a Science Fair prize!

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FEATURE

The Poetry of Vision

by Cindy Halpern

About a year ago, I found myself at the Barrington home of my beloved friend, Dr. Ken Powsner. He was too frail now to live alone and was moving to California to be closer to his son's family. But, in my eyes, Ken could never grow old. Make no mistake about it, his mind remains keen. Few have his wisdom, patience, and scholarship.

For me, Ken will always represent the American dream. He was a young, poor Jewish immigrant from Russia who came to America to work hard. He put himself through college and built his practice in Providence with the determination to succeed. Yet, despite his economic success, he didn't forget his roots. In better days, he often returned to Russia with his son. On one such trip, his son brought back a Russian bride.

Ken sat in his chair in the kitchen as we talked. Then, he smiled to me and said, "Help yourself to my books. My eyes are bad and my favorite books are just sitting here gathering dust. Come, take whatever you wish."

At that moment, life seemed so unfair considering that Ken was a retired optometrist who would continue to find his books to be wonderful companions if not for failed eyesight. He was always an avid reader. He read to search for knowledge through the words of Shakespeare, Freud, Maria Von Trapp, and almost every other author you could possibly name.

Therefore, I looked eagerly through his massive library in search of a book that would bring me some measure of knowledge I lacked. Almost immediately, *A Treasury of Yiddish Stories*, in English translation, caught my eye. Before Vienna, my ancestors lived in Eastern Europe. I am not one to

forget her roots. The only trouble was the memory of the shtetl that was murdered during the Holocaust.

But the world of the shtetl came alive again for me through the translated words of Sholom Aleichem, I.L. Peretz, Zalman Scheour, Moische Kulbak, and other Yiddish writers. They made the past known to me through their eyes.

As I began to read, I heard the gossip in the synagogue among the homeless who sought refuge there from the bitter cold of a friendless outside world. Here on a dark night, the impoverished yeshiva students, the recluse, the man without an identity, and the unemployed found themselves no longer separated by class. Their poverty made them family. They rolled their own cigarettes before going to bed on the benches to dream of being in the warm embrace of a woman.

Meanwhile, in a synagogue in another town in the poverty belt of the Pale, a congregation prayed for their dying rabbi. But after the burial society laid the old man to rest, the worshipers celebrated the youth of their new rabbi by exclaiming, "Mazel Tov." It is the Jewish way to find hope after despair.

Tevye gave a ride in his horse-drawn wagon to a man who came from Yehupetz, who unbeknownst to him, was a revolutionist who wished to change the world. The young man changed Tevye's world forever when he stole his daughter's heart. Hodel later left her Papa to join her exiled husband in his fate.

In "White Chalah," by Lamed Shapiro, I witnessed how the gentle named Vasil is transformed from stealing bread from the Jews to murdering the black-bearded men in prayer shawls and committing rape against a Jewish woman wearing white.

Like mother's milk, he had been fed anti-Semitism as a very young child. His poverty was blamed on the Jews. The wars he later was forced to fight as a soldier was said to be caused by the death of a Jewish soldier who fought beside him didn't make him reconsider. Instead, he brutally mutilated his fallen comrade's body out of a twisted revenge that made no sense in a fighting field where Jewish and gentile blood mingled in the mud.

He was very much a product of his society who sought to destroy the Jewish people because they spoke a different language, dressed oddly, and worshipped G-d in synagogues with their heads covered instead of churches with their heads uncovered.

The 40 short stories in *A Treasury of Yiddish Stories* allow us to see shadows of our collective past. For as unpleasant as these tales may be, they remind us how our ancestors' daily struggle to survive is part of our heritage. They are our images of our grandparents and great-grandparents from another century and country. Let us not forget!

Meanwhile, I fondly miss Ken who now lives 3,000 miles away. But, I feel fortunate to be his friend nevertheless. Whenever I read any of the books he gifted me with, I know he remains close to my heart.

Senate to Consider Bill to Open Nazi-Era Records

by Daniel Kurtzman
WASHINGTON (JTA) — The U.S. Senate will soon be taking up legislation that would open to the public all American records on Nazi war criminals and stolen assets of Holocaust victims.

The Nazi War Crimes Disclosure Act recently approved unanimously by the Senate Judiciary Committee, would amend the Freedom of Information Act to ease the release of Nazi-era records, while creating a special interagency group to identify, declassify and make available to the public all Nazi war records held by the government.

"The perpetrators of the Holocaust committed unthinkable crimes against humanity," said Sen. Mike DeWine (R-Ohio), who is sponsoring the bill along with Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.). "It is time to ensure all doors are fully open on this subject."

Sponsors of the bill believe U.S. openness would set an example for Switzerland and other countries to follow as they trace the movement of Nazi gold and assets stolen from Holocaust victims.

A similar bill authored by Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-N.Y.), which would also seek to illuminate the U.S. government's role in employing known Nazi war criminals after World War II, is pending in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Henny Youngman

1907-1998

by Herb Meister

He called me, "Hoib" in the classic New York way.

Henny and I go back for about 15 years, although I did not meet him in person until about four years ago.

With Henny I share one of his closely kept secrets. Now that he is gone, I will share it at the very end of this article.

Can you imagine my surprise when my secretary announced to me about 15 years ago that the business agent for Henny Youngman was on the phone. Upon speaking to his agent, it was made known that Henny wanted to purchase "large quantities of diamond rings and large quantities of diamond pins" from my costume jewelry factory.

The agent continued, "The correct spelling for the two items is 'dime-on' rings and 'dime-on pins.'" "Be creative," he said, and explained that Henny wanted us to manufacture the items using a dime (10¢ piece) as the diamond.

A special snap-in pronged setting was created for the ring, and for the pin, a dime was soldered to an old-fashioned safety pin. The finish was approved as silver plate. The orders rolled in to be manufactured by the thousands.

After several years, Henny Youngman would call me directly, and we became quite friendly. (I think I was his testing ground for his so-called one-liners).

Every time he called, he would invite me to New York to have lunch with him at the Friars Club. I usually declined un-

til December 1994, when my business partner, my general manager, and I went to see him at the Friars Club.

Lunch at the Friars Club is quite an experience. We arrived about 11:30 a.m., and awaited Henny in this beautiful dark wood-paneled foyer adjoining the dining room of the same motif. We were finally ushered into the dining room to Henny Youngman's special reserved table.

When Henny arrived he was cheered by all the members of the Friars Club. Lunch was a wonderful experience and I really don't recall what I ate. We talked, and he gave us an autographed joke book of some of his one-liners.

Getting back to the Friars Club building. This former mansion complete with elevator was owned previously by Milton Berle who sold it to the Friars. Although no other recognizable celebrities were present, evidence of them was all over the place. (Frank Sinatra, for instance, was a past president and his name is on a plaque on the wall.)

Now for the secret I share. One day I asked Henny what he did with all these pins and rings. Being a very private person, he remarked in a very quiet way that he supported a special charity with them. That was all he would say, and I am very pleased that I was able to share this with him. Rest in Peace, Henny.

Herb Meister has been a volunteer with Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island for three years.

Hebrew College Opens New Ulpan Classes

Modern Hebrew is on the lunch menu for about 15 Combined Jewish Philanthropies staffers this spring. In February the CJP group became the newest satellite of Hebrew College's ulpan—an immersion program of Hebrew language instruction.

The 10-week, Tuesday lunch-time class marks the second time that CJP has invited Hebrew College to bring Hebrew instruction to office staff. According to Judy Krell, CJP associate director of planning, reaction was so positive to the last ulpan several years ago that staff who arrived since then have requested a chance to learn, as well.

The CJP ulpan is the fourth satellite location for the Hebrew college program, which offers nine levels of Hebrew language instruction, from beginners through advanced, to students grouped by proficiency. Classes are taught solely in Hebrew by experienced, professional language instructors who are native Hebrew speakers; the CJP group's teacher, Mira Smoli, is a visiting instructor from Hebrew

University in Jerusalem.

In addition to classes at the college's Brookline campus, Hebrew College offers ulpan classes at Temple Israel, Natick; Temple Beth-Am, Framingham; and the Stoughton JCC. "I want more Jews to be involved. The satellite locations make the ulpan more accessible," said Gabi Mezger, satellite site coordinator.

Using the linguistic immersion method developed and popularized in Israel, the ulpan brings Hebrew to life through discussion of contemporary political, social and cultural topics, and through readings drawn from current Israeli news and social commentary. Celebration of Jewish holidays and a strong emphasis on contemporary Israeli culture enhance sharing and a sense of community. Classes last between three to four hours per week for 12-week semesters. Students may enroll in the ulpan for academic credit.

For more information on Hebrew College's ulpan, call (617) 278-4933.

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FEATURE

Italy's Jews Split Over Twist in Priebeke War Crimes Case

by Ruth E. Gruber

ROME (JTA) — The case involving former Nazi SS Capt. Erich Priebeke has taken more than a few dramatic twists and turns since he was discovered in South America more than a decade ago.

The latest act in the lengthy legal drama was recently played out when an appeals court in Rome, in a stunning revision of earlier verdicts, gave Priebeke and another former Nazi officer life sentences for their involvement in Italy's worst World War II massacre.

The verdict, though, left the Italian Jewish community divided. And media treatment of the affair raised concern in some quarters that the case was being regarded as a specifically "Jewish" issue.

Priebeke and former SS Maj. Karl Hass received the sentences for taking part in the March 1944 massacre of 335 men and boys at the Ardeatine Caves near Rome.

Prosecutors said Priebeke would continue to be held under house arrest, while Hass would remain free pending an expected appeal by the two to Italy's highest court.

Priebeke was quoted by Italian Television as saying he would also appeal to the Euro-

pean Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, France.

The massacre was decreed by the Nazis as a reprisal for an Italian partisan attack that killed 33 German soldiers. While about 75 of the victims were Jews, the massacre was also clearly directed by the Nazi occupiers against the larger Roman community.

In the wake of the recent verdict, and indeed throughout its coverage of the saga, the Italian media has focused largely on Jewish reaction to the case, fostering the impression that Jews were the only ones concerned with the trial's outcome.

This impression has sparked anti-Semitic backlashes on a number of occasions.

In the latest instance, a Jewish woman who lost seven relatives in the massacre received anonymous telephone threats after she told a television interviewer that she was happy with the verdicts.

The sentence also opened a deep divide among Italian Jews themselves.

Tullia Zevi, president of the Union of Jewish Communities in Italy, applauded the sentences, but indicated that she favored an act of clemency that would allow the 84-year-old Priebeke to be freed from house arrest.

"For us, what counts is that an

ethical and irrevocable principle has been affirmed: that there are no statutes of limitations for crimes against humanity."

But, she added, "I don't think that anyone would want an old man in his 80s to pass the rest of his days behind bars."

"At this point I could understand an act of clemency that would allow him to return to his family," she said. "Priebeke as a person doesn't count anymore. What counts is this verdict, which has rendered justice and to which we must pay homage."

Her view angered some Rome Jews, particularly a faction within the community that has taken on the role as a vocal defender of Jewish interests and whose members were prominent in earlier protests against Priebeke.

"It is not Zevi's role to express mercy, in the name of the Jews, for a Nazi criminal," said Riccardo Pacifici, vice president of the Rome Jewish community.

Priebeke had already been tried twice for his involvement in the massacre since he was discovered living in Argentina in 1984 and extradited to Rome 18 months later.

Military judges at the first trial in 1996 found Priebeke guilty but set him free, citing a statute of limitations and other extenuating circumstances.

Friends and relatives of the victims, who heard the verdict read out while crowded into a corridor outside the courtroom, exploded into tears, curses and shouts of "Assassins!" and "Shame! Shame!"

Scores of protesters, many of them militant young Jews wearing kipot, prevented Priebeke and the judges from leaving the courthouse for eight hours.

The public outcry led to Priebeke's rearrest.

The verdict was quashed, and Priebeke was tried a second time last year, this time along with Hass, who is also in his 80s.

At the second trial, Priebeke received a 15-year sentence. But this sentence was reduced to five years because of extenuating circumstances — and because of time already served, Priebeke faced less than a year in jail.

At last year's trial, Hass, who was a prosecution witness in Priebeke's first trial, was sentenced to 10 years and eight months for his role in the massacre, but was set free immediately due to extenuating circumstances.

Both men had appealed these verdicts in order to clear their names, but prosecutors also had appealed to get harsher sentences imposed.

Priebeke reacted bitterly to the recent verdict.

"The law is not equal for everyone," Priebeke told Italian Television.

During the proceedings against him, Priebeke had admitted to killing two of the Ardeatine Caves victims and marking off the names of victims from a list. His defense was that he had just been carrying out orders.

The airmen who killed hundreds of thousands by dropping a nuclear bomb on Hiroshima and bombing Dresden who had "just been following orders," he told Italian Television. "For all of this, no one served even a day in prison."

Before the verdict was announced, Priebeke read a 50-minute statement claiming he was being prosecuted as a symbol "of all the evils" of World War II.

"It doesn't really matter who Erich Priebeke is and what he has done," he said in a statement to the court. "It only matters what he represents."

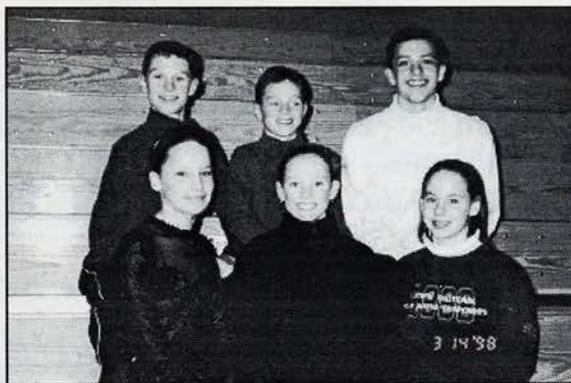
"Even Argentina, to which I gave 50 years of my life, has issued an expulsion order and doesn't want me any more."

"Even Germany, where I was born, took away my passport and now want to put me on trial for the things that it ordered me do 50 years ago," he said.

Junior Olympic Skaters Head to Dallas

They may not be household names yet but wait a little while, and they could be. Names like Adam Kaplan (Barrington); brothers Aaron and Jeremy Wolff (East Greenwich); and their partners, Colette Appel (Simsbury, Conn.), Holly Nadeau (Providence Pawtucket FSC), and Alexandra Dahlin (Smithfield FSC), will be on the program at the 1998 U.S. Junior Olympic Championships in Dallas, Texas. "When we perform, we try to capture the audience's attention and show them how much we enjoy what we do," said Aaron Wolff. The event — akin to the U.S. Figure Skating Championships, and sponsored by that organization — is geared to skaters at intermediate level and below.

Skaters advance to the Junior Olympics from nine regional and three sectional competitions throughout the country, and they must place within the top



JUNIOR OLYMPIC SKATERS from left (top) Adam Kaplan, Jeremy Wolff, Aaron Wolff (bottom) Colette Appel, Alexandra Dahlin and Holly Nadeau.

positions. Adam Kaplan is a member of the Warwick Figure Skaters Club, and a student at Barrington High School and the Harry Elkin Midrasha Hebrew High School of the R.I. Bureau

of Jewish Education. "I really want to get to the Olympics. I skate six days a week... and want to become a coach," stated Kaplan. Kaplan, an intermediate men's competitor, is the highest-ranking freestyle competitor at WFS. He will also compete in pairs skating at the intermediate level. His pairs partner, Appel, is 11 and from Hartford, Conn., and together they finished second in Int. pairs at the 1998 USFSA Easterns and 1998 New England Regionals.

The 1998 U.S. Junior Olympic Championships will be hosted by the Lone Star Figure Skating Club March 17 to 21, at the International Skating Center of Texas, at Ice Bound Entertainment Center in Plano, Texas. "When we go to Dallas, I want to do two things: skate and go to the mall. They even have a mall you can skate at," said Dahlin.

This Day In History

March 19

- An order issued in 1497 provided for the seizure of all Portuguese Jewish children, ages 4 to 14, for forcible conversion.
- Rabbi Chaim Algazi of Constantinople, author of *Nisivos HaMishpat* died in 1640.
- The English Naturalization Act, passed in 1740, granted Jews the right of naturalization in the American colonies.
- German troops occupied Hungary in 1944.

March 20

- The first performance of a Goldfaden operetta in New York marked the establishment of the Yiddish theater in America in 1885. An earlier production of a Yiddish show in 1884 failed for lack of professional standards.
- The capture of Ein-Gedi by Israel in 1949 brought to a conclusion the military engagements of the War of Independence.

March 21

- The ghetto pillars of Ferrara, Italy, were destroyed by the professors and students of the Athenaeum in 1848.
- Rabbi Samuel Strashun (Reshash) of Vilna, author of Talmudic annotations died in 1872.
- The Jewish Congress Organization Committee was formed in New York in 1915.

March 22

- King Richard I granted a charter of rights to Jews of England in 1190.
- The first Young Men's Hebrew Association was organized in New York in 1874.

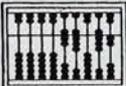
March 23

- The first dated edition of Maimonides' *Mishneh Torah* was published in 1490.
- The Zion Mule Corps, consisting of Jewish volunteers from Palestine was formed in 1915. The Zion Mule Corps was the forerunner of the Jewish Legion, which was formed in 1918.
- The Italian Fascist Party was organized in 1919.
- Adolf Hitler, (ym's), was granted dictatorial powers by the German Reichstag in 1933.
- Israel and Lebanon signed an armistice agreement in 1949.

March 24

- Pope Pius IV in 1564 authorized the printing of the Talmud in Mantua on condition the word Talmud be omitted.
- Rabbi Joseph Caro, codifier, author of the *Shulchan Aruch*, died 1575.
- Rabbi Isaiah Horowitz (Shelah) distinguished kabbalist died in 1630.
- The Chief Rabbinate of Palestine was established in 1921.

(Compiled from Day by Day in Jewish History, Bloch, 1983, KTAV Publishing House).



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Restitution Efforts Focus on Liberating Art Prisoners

by Daniel Kurtzman

WASHINGTON (JTA) — They have been called "the last prisoners of war" — the Renoir portraits, Monet landscapes, Cezanne still lifes and tens of thousands of other artworks that remain scattered around the world.

Seized from thousands of public and private collections as the Nazis swept across Europe nearly six decades ago, the pieces, many of them masterworks, can be found on the walls of the world's most prestigious art museums — without any indication of their true provenance.

Long obscured in the shadow of the Holocaust and the Cold War, looted art has come into sharper focus in recent months as the search for Holocaust victims' assets has moved beyond dormant bank accounts and plundered gold to include the broader range of Jewish assets.

In the ongoing battle to secure moral and material restitution for Holocaust survivors, the issue of looted art carried a unique salience.

"A gold ingot or a gold brick is like any other gold brick," said Elan Steinberg, executive director of the World Jewish Congress. "But a work of art is unique because 'it tells a story of the family in whose parlor it hung.'"

"It tells the story of the transfer of ownership. It is almost a living object itself."

Beyond the difficulties in tracing an artwork's lineage, a number of thorny issues are complicating Jewish efforts to reclaim the looted works:

- convincing art museums to

surrender or provide compensation for prized holdings;

- determining what to do with heirless paintings; and,
- weighing it all against the public stake in keeping the art on public display.

While the full scope of Nazi art plunder remains unknown, a document recently found in the U.S. National Archives offers some perspective.

In 1945, the director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York estimated that the value of artwork plundered by the Nazis in Europe amounted to \$2.5 billion in postwar prices — more than the value of all the art in the United States at that time.

In France alone, where many of the most notable art dealers maintained their collections, the Nazis seized 100,000 pieces of art, 39,000 of which were never recovered, according to France's own post-war accounting.

Another 16,000 artworks were not returned to their rightful owners. Those include some 2,000 paintings, drawings, sculptures and other works of art French museums selected for permanent display after the war.

Convincing European art museums — where most of the art resides — to relinquish their holdings has been difficult, given the difference in American and European laws regarding stolen property.

In America and Britain, the original owners of stolen goods maintain ownership rights, but in most of Europe, a buyer who purchases something in good faith is considered the rightful owner.

Indeed, European museums have taken great offense to charges they are displaying wartime loot, refusing to make such an admission. Jewish officials, meanwhile have looked to U.S. museums to lead the effort by moral example.

But in a move that could portend further cooperation by European museums, Austria announced recently that it would return looted artworks now held by its museums.

Seized from thousands of public and private collections, masterworks can be found on the walls of the world's most prestigious art museums.

"It is a wonderful irony that Austria will lead the way for the other European countries," said Steinberg, adding that "it was no accident" that the Austrian decision comes after the recent move by American museums.

Responding to growing concerns that U.S. museums may be displaying wartime plunder, the Association of Art Museum Directors, which includes the heads of the 170 largest art museums in North America, pledged last month to fully research the ownership history of their holdings.

In testimony before Congress last month, however, the directors of four of the most prestigious U.S. art museums said they were confident few of the

tens of thousands of artworks stolen by the Nazis were in their collections.

Philippe de Montebello, director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, said that even if the number of claims made against U.S. art museums in the last 50 years were tripled, "you would still be below 12 works of art and 12 claims."

But Jewish officials suggest that the number may increase dramatically because many of the paintings are heirless and more information has been made available through the declassification of documents in Eastern Europe in recent years.

Meanwhile, a task force set up by the museum directors has endorsed the creation of a mechanism such as mediation or arbitration to resolve ownership claims.

"We are committed to doing everything possible to ensure that our collections are untainted by the stigma of the Nazi past," Glenn Lowry, director of the Museum of Modern Art in New York, told the U.S. House of Representatives Banking Committee last month.

As a first step in resolving claims, two Jewish groups have teamed up to create a comprehensive database to identify the rightful owners of plundered art — a massive undertaking that will take at least six months.

The World Jewish Congress' Commission of Art Recovery and the B'nai B'rith Klutznick National Jewish Museum's Holocaust Art Restitution Project plan to post the database on the Internet.

While the database may help claimants obtain restitution, the more vexing question involves heirless artworks.

One idea is to sell the paintings at auction and use the proceeds for the benefit of needy Holocaust survivors, similar to the auction of looted art in the so-called Mauerbach collection

in Austria two years ago. That sale raised \$14.5 million for Austrian Holocaust survivors.

But while Jewish officials say compensation is a priority, they also recognize the importance of keeping the paintings in public view.

WJC officials have proposed establishing a museum of rescued art. It could take the form of a gallery housed in New York, Washington or Israel at a museum dedicated to the Holocaust or could function as a traveling museum or lending institution.

Steinberg said such a museum could achieve the dual obligation of keeping the paintings accessible, while also "respecting the memory and legacy of those from whom it was taken."

The idea is not likely to win many backers among art museum officials, some of whom have instead suggested placing special labels next to the looted artworks, correcting their documentation and keeping them in their existing locations — a proposal ruled out by Jewish officials.

U.S. officials, meanwhile, have been busily working on the artworks restitution matter. The United States is planning to host an international conference in June on property stolen from Holocaust victims.

In Congress, Reps. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) and Nita Lowey (D-N.Y.) are writing legislation that would provide \$15 million to help families fund and recover their art. Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R-N.Y.) has said he intends to author a similar bill.

The search will also be aided by \$5 million included in the Holocaust Victims' Redress Act, signed into law last month by President Clinton.

"The operative principle is simple," said Rep. James Leach (R-Iowa), chairman of the House Banking Committee. "Stolen property must be returned. Pillaged art cannot come under a statute of limitations."

CJP Announces Website

Combined Jewish Philanthropies announces its newly launched website, designed by Boston-based Silverweave Interactive. The site was built to educate the community about the lifesaving and life-enhancing work supported by CJP worldwide. It includes information about volunteer programs, travel opportunities and special events in a professional and easily navigated environment.

"The site is an excellent example of a non-profit organization successfully utilizing the Internet and the World Wide Web to build a stronger community," says Shayne Gilbert, president of Silverweave. "Working closely with Combined Jewish Philanthropies, we were able to deliver a polished presence that reflects the unique spirit of the organization."

The new site can be accessed online at <www.cjp.org>.

A Profitable Lesson

by Harry Kolodney

Recently, there appeared an advertisement in an area newspaper, placed by a large retail discount store. It read "Store closed tomorrow for semi-annual inventory. Will re-open following day."

This brings to mind a delightful story with regard to the many thousands of Jews who emigrated to this country in the early part of the century.

Most came from the shtetls and small villages of Eastern Europe, as they fled to escape the anti-Semitism and the cruelty of the various governing agencies, and came to this country, "where the streets were paved with gold," to seek a better life.

Many, having no basic skills obtained low-paying laborer's — jobs. Others became itinerant peddlers, going from door to door — some selling tea and coffee, others selling inexpensive costume jewelry or several other varieties of household items.

A great many of these people chose this manner of obtaining a livelihood, as it enabled them not to desecrate the Shabbat by working, and they substituted Sunday as a working day.

This is the story of one of these individuals. He worked hard, long hours, going from door to door selling a variety of merchandise.

After several years, he was able to afford buying or renting

a horse and wagon, which enabled him to carry a greater line of merchandise and ease up a bit on hard work.

As time went on, he opened a small store, and had customers come to him for purchases. Gradually with the aid of his family, the store increased in size with a greater influx of merchandise to be sold. Within the next several years, he acquired additional space and help to operate this expanding business.

Eventually, he became the proprietor of a huge department store, eight stories high and occupying a complete city block, with hundreds of employees and a very impressive stock.

Came time for him to retire and he turned the business over to his two sons. However, in retirement, he frequently visited the store, greeting old-time employees and inspecting various types of merchandise for standards of quality which he established.

One morning, he arrived at the store, and was amazed to find the doors locked and a large sign reading "Closed today for inventory. Will re-open tomorrow at usual time."

He banged on the door, and attracted the attention of his sons, who opened the door for him. "What is going on," he demanded, "the store closed on a business day, and no one selling anything?"

"You don't understand big business, Father," they said. "If we don't take an inventory at regular intervals, we would not know whether or not we were making a profit."

"Inventory, profit?" said the old man. "Come with me." He led them to an elevator, then to the eighth floor which housed the executive and general offices and several other non-selling functions.

He led them to a door in one corner of the room, which had always remained locked on his orders. He produced a key, and the door opened into a small room which contained an old-fashioned rollout desk, two straight-backed chairs and a small table.

Inserting another key into a drawer in the desk, he removed an old worn, shabby pack, and from the pack he removed a dozen spools of thread, papers, and safety pins (then known as diaper pins), several cards of buttons in assorted sizes and colors, darning needles and sewing thimbles.

"This, my children," he said quietly, "is inventory." Then with a gesture that took in all floors of this large store, and its millions of dollars of merchandise, he continued, "Everything else is profit."

Mr. Kolodney is a resident in Pawtucket and says his story is "half true and half fiction."

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

'Blacks & Jews'

by Yehudah A. Biss
Herald Editor

It was a dark and stormy night with thunder crackling and lightning painting the sky white. Rain fell like a proverbial cat and dog. The wind wound its way through the canal, pushing traffic lights and ruffling overcoats. Truly an evening to stay in that probably affected the turnout for the movie. It felt like Seattle outside, and I've never been to Seattle. But it came down with such ease, it seemed like it belonged there, it was always there, and WE were guests annoying HIM. Torrential rain becomes a family member, like an annoying older brother, espousing a ferocious downpour of constant terror without giving so much as an explanation.

Melissa Chernovsky introduced the films and we sat back and watched. First they showed the "Sneetches," a Dr. Seuss-induced early '70s style cartoon which marvelously paralleled the topic in the main event, Blacks & Jews. It seems the Sneetches with stars are the snobs, who won't let the unstarred Sneetches into social events. Soon a buffoon with a machine to add stars to the Sneetches Without comes to town, eventually making a mess out of the beach where Sneetches With want the stars taken out, and the process goes on in a catch-22 until no one can tell who's who. They then realize their fallacy and denounce their bigotry. All join in a chorus line as the buffoon drives away with all of their money. A very appropriate tie-in to the feature presentation.

The film "Blacks & Jews" covers a lot of ground from many angles and perspectives. Inspired by the 1992 riots in Crown Heights, the filmmakers delivered a cross section of black opinion and Chasidic discontent during and after the riots. They focused on one man who saved a Chasidic Jew and his son. Meeting after the event, it

showed the two immigrants as buddies. The process of healing may be arduous, but there are those willing to venture into the proverbial "Red Sea" before anyone else sees dry ground.

One rabbi got together with a black minister to create a rap group with kids doing street performances, combining Chasidic Jews and blacks. Rabbi Lazerson is one such example of breaking down the barriers. It was moving to hear him talk of the kids' first encounter with each other. First the kids asked questions like, "Why do you wear those things on your heads?" etc., eventually turning to deeper prejudices, like "Why are all of you Jews wealthy?" By arranging intercultural basketball games, Rabbi Lazerson was able to help build relationships between black and Chasidic children.

The scenes from Million Man March are inspiring, but when it turns to Farrakhan on C-SPAN in Chicago, a different picture comes out: That of a dangerous xenophobe. Dangerous because he not only divides, he hates. Many Jews interviewed here talked about wanting repudiation from the black community. They didn't seem impressed that they'd get the response they wished for. After all, Farrakhan has given them hope and structure in the form of the Nation of Islam. They believe his bigotry is a marginal issue. Those segments of the riots and the scenes with Farrakhan were hard realities to face. The rain wasn't the only thing soaking my overcoat.

The film did focus on other black-Jewish issues that somehow didn't seem black-Jewish related. When teen-agers from an Oakland high school went on a field trip in 1994 to see "Schindler's List," some of the students laughed at some of the very graphic scenes. Kicked out of the theater, a media frenzy began, culminating with a visit by Steven Spielberg and then-Gov. Pete Wilson. But, as one student protested Gov. Wilson's appearance, the issue of the

teens' anger centered more on the usage in politics and the media than black-Jewish relations. The teens were concerned that their black history and holocaust was being neglected and substituted for it was the Jews'. In response to that, the school board instituted an intense Afrocentric black history day, and brought Afrocentric scholars from the area to teach the students. It was from those teachers, one Jewish theater thought, that anti-Semitism leaked into the school. You might call it secondary anti-Semitism.

The film also discussed blockbusting on the west side of Chicago in the '60s, which happened to change from a predominantly Jewish neighborhood to a large black neighborhood. Jewish real estate agents scared homeowners into selling, and banks were refusing to lend to black buyers. One Chicago rabbi who helped people in the black community left Chicago for a number of years because of the threats against him for what he did. However, the rabbi even put it better by adding that this was more a housing issue than a black-Jewish issue.

"Blacks & Jews" balances out nicely as a piece chock-full of reality and truth, with only minor flaws that are only somewhat misleading. This reviewer questions their coverage of Mayor David Dinkins' role in the riots, as they failed to stress his inactivity for three days to do anything about the riots. They colored him as an ineffective leader carrying a bull-horn, speaking empty slogans like "Embrace the Peace" to an unsupportive crowd. His neglect was not only leaderless, but the cause of much fear within the Chasidic community. People stayed home from work and school due to the perceived mob outside.

The hope of the movie is to keep the dialogue going. Let's just pray that the right action follows.

RICH Celebrates 25 Years of Service

On April 3, the Rhode Island Committee for the Humanities will celebrate 25 years of service to the people of Rhode Island with a gala anniversary event at the Roger Williams Park Casino. Highlighting the cocktail hour and dinner will be a live history performance by the award-winning actors of RICH's Rhode Island Legacy program. The Rhode Island Legacy brings Rhode Island's living history into nearly 300 R.I. classrooms each year. Master of ceremonies for the evening will be Judith Swift, director of the theatre department at the University of Rhode Island.

RICH promotes public understanding and appreciation of

the humanities and provides opportunities for Rhode Islanders of all ages to learn more about the ideas and values of their state, nation and world. It made its first grant award on April 1, 1973.

The committee awards grants to community groups and offers programs which help Rhode Islanders continue their education in history, literature, philosophy, religion, law, civics, anthropology, sociology — in all of the humanities. Our job, very simply, is to bring ideas to life for all our fellow citizens.

For more information, or to make reservations for the dinner, contact RICH at 273-2250.

The Quality of Mercy

William Shakespeare

1564-1616

The quality of mercy is not strained,
It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven
Upon the place beneath: it is twice blessed;
It blesseth him that gives and him that takes:
'Tis mightiest in the mightiest; it becomes
The throned monarch better than his crown;
His sceptre shows the force of temporal power,
The attribute to awe and majesty,
Wherein doth sit the dread and fear of kings;
But mercy is above this sceptred sway,
It is enthroned in the hearts of kings;
It is an attribute to G-d himself,
And earthly power doth then show likest G-d's
When mercy seasons justice. Therefore, Jew,
Though justice be thy plea, consider this,
That in the course of justice none of us
Should see salvation: we do pray for mercy,
And that same prayer doth teach us all to render
The deeds of mercy.

From "The Merchant of Venice"

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.

Community Players Invite Auditions for 'Steel Magnolias'

The Community Players will hold auditions for Robert Harling's touching, funny and skillfully crafted play, "Steel Magnolias," on March 29 at 3 p.m. and March 31 at 7:30 p.m. at Jenks Junior High School, Division Street, Pawtucket. Director Andrew Bobola seeks two women who can play between the ages 17 to 25 and four women who can play between the ages of 35 to 65. A southern dialect is required for all characters.

The show will be produced at Jenks Junior High School June 19, 20, 26, 27, and 28.

For further information, call 728-5649.

Wholesale Klezmer Appearing April 5

The Wholesale Klezmer Band, which has performed throughout the Northeast, shared the Carnegie Hall stage with Pete Seeger and Sweet Honey in the Rock, and played at Bill Clinton's presidential inaugural, will bring its unique blend of traditional Yiddish dance music, original tunes, political songs and more to CAV, 14 Imperial Place, in Providence on April 5 at 7 p.m.

Called "one of the nicest, and most authentic-sounding Klezmer and Yiddish revival bands performing," in the words of reviewer Avi Davidow, The Wholesale Klezmer Band has for more than 15 years entertained crowds at coffeehouses, concert halls, festivals and dances throughout the East Coast.

The Wholesale Klezmer Band, which recently released its third album, "Yidn Fun Amol" (Jews of Long Ago), is a spiritually rooted, hey mishe (down-home) klezmer band that bridges the gap between tradition and innovation and between rousing dance music and songs that deliberately focus on important aspects of Yiddish culture, especially humor, social justice and tikun olam (repair of the world).

Reservations: 751-9164. Contact The Wholesale Klezmer Band: Joe Kurland (413) 624-3284, or cyber-shmooze at <http://www.crocker.com/~ganeydn>.



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Coffee or Tea/Chocolate Truffle Mousse Cake

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Fresh Salmon Hollandaise, Baked Stuffed Shrimp & Prime Rib
Coffee or Tea/Chocolate Truffle Mousse Cake

OPTION 5 • \$27.95* PER PERSON

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Barrington Library Discusses Ponds and Water Gardens

A seminar, "Ponds and Water Gardens" will be offered at the Barrington Public Library on March 26 at 7:30 p.m.

David Marchetti, an expert on aquariums and ponds with more than 25 years of experience will be the featured speaker on that evening. Marchetti comments:

"Few things can enhance the beauty and tranquility of a yard or garden as much as a decorative pond. "Ponds and Water Gardens" is a seminar designed for lovers of gardening and fish keeping alike. Whether you already have a pond or are thinking of one, the seminar will discuss everything from site selection, to construction, to equipment, to varieties of fish." "Ponds and Water Gardens" is free and open to all.

For information, call 247-1920.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Witches, Harps and Beatles Mark Ballet Program

Witches, harps, and the music of the Beatles will be featured in Rhode Island's ballet theater's presentation of "Chrysalis," a program of six ballets presented March 27 to 29 at the Carriage House Theatre, Providence.

"We're highlighting the beauty and emotional range of ballet in all its forms," said Nancy McAuliffe, artistic director. "We will have classical ballets on pointe, lyrical pieces performed to live harp music, and more contemporary ballets such as 'The Witches of Eastwick.'"

The program is entitled "Chrysalis" to mark the next stage in the growth of the young company which was founded 14 months ago to showcase gifted dancers both young and old who were selected in blind, juried auditions. Since then Rhode Island's ballet theater has been the most active dance company in the region having performed about a dozen times in its first year.

"Debut," the company's first major production, was held in October before a large crowd at Rhode Island College and featured 38 dancers on stage at the same time. "Chrysalis," by con-

trast, is intended to bring the company and the audience closer together for an intimate artistic experience in the small theater at Carriage House.

Ribt's "Chrysalis" program will consist of six pieces, each featuring different talents of the company and styles of ballet. The ballets are:

- "España" a fiery Spanish ballet on pointe which juxtaposes the grace of ballet with the athleticism of ballet.

- "The Witches of Eastwick," choreographed and performed by Myles Marsden, noted ballet master, who is the former director of dance at Point Park College and founder of the State Ballet of Rhode Island. The ballet is inspired by the movie of the same name and features Marsden as the devil with three "witches" from the company.

- "Harp Dances" is a soft ballet featuring younger members of the company who will dance to live harp music performed by Terri Tafuri. Tafuri is on stage with the dancers and very much a part of the performance, not just an accompanist. Musician and dancers are blended seamlessly.

- "Here, There, Everywhere" is a lyrical ballet set to the music of the Beatles. One of Ribt's more popular pieces, it was last performed at the Temple of Music in Roger Williams Park and epitomizes elegance and beauty as the dancers perform in full length, chiffon dresses.

- "Firebird Ballet" is an abstract contemporary ballet performed to Stravinsky's "Firebird Suite" choreographed by Nancy McAuliffe, Ribt artistic director, for a special joint performance of Rhode Island's ballet theatre and the Rhode Island Philharmonic Youth Orchestra. McAuliffe also choreographed "España," "Harp Dances" and "Here, There, Everywhere."

- "Saltimbanco," choreographed by Ann Beretta Morsilli, former principal dancer with State Ballet of Rhode Island and Festival Ballet, is a jazzy, contemporary ballet to music from "Cirque de Soleil."

"Chrysalis" will be performed March 27 and 28 at 8 p.m. and March 29 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$12 and seating is limited. For reservations, call 847-5301.

ACT Presents Shakespeare With a Twist

The All Children's Theatre Ensemble will present William Shakespeare's beloved comedy, "Twelfth Night," March 27, 28, April 3, and 4 at 7 p.m. at the Vartan Gregorian Elementary School at Fox Point, 455 Wickenden St., Providence. Tickets are \$5 for teens and \$8 for adults.

The production, directed by Marylee Vitale of New Bedford, Mass., is set in the shimmering elegance of Victorian Newport. The comedy is centered on the incredulous love triangle between a duke, a countess, and a lady in disguise. A myriad of mistaken identities, rollicking witticisms, and romantic mishaps make this a fresh and delightful spring comedy you won't want to miss.

For reservations or more information, call 331-7174 or e-mail us at <ACTinProv@aol.com>. Group rates and educational packages are available.



CAST MEMBERS from the All Children's Theatre Ensemble's performance of "Twelfth Night." From left (front) Emmanuel Schanzer, Tal Bar Zemer, (back) Carl Smith and Julie Rattey.

Photo by Ira Garber

'The Merchant of Venice' at Orpheum Theatre

Shakespeare's popular comedy of love, money and mercy, "The Merchant of Venice," unfolds on the Orpheum Theatre-Foxborough's stage on March 25 at 8:15 p.m. Produced by the renowned Shakespeare & Company, this production also features an intriguing seminar, "Shakespeare and the Language that Shaped a World," offered before show time at 7 p.m. Both events are part of the Shakespeare & Company's 1998 spring tour.

In a story seemingly written for today's society, "The Merchant of Venice" is an engaging tale weaving together a business deal, a dangerous dating game and a marriage ring. What could be one of the world's first great courtroom dramas, Shakespeare's masterpiece is based on conflicts immersed in

Jewish and Christian differences, forbidden love that transcends the two religious beliefs, and hope for a new life.

Fully mounted and 90 minutes in length, "The Merchant of Venice" will be directed by Kevin Coleman and Jonathan Coy, both of whom have acted and directed with Shakespeare & Company. This production also features an ensemble of seven actors who play all the roles.

Tickets are priced at \$14.50 for adult and \$12.50 for seniors/students. The Orpheum is conveniently located on the Foxboro Common. To purchase tickets, or for more information, contact the Foxborough Regional Center for the Performing Arts, One School St., Foxboro, at (508) 543-ARTS or toll-free at 888-ORPHEUM.

Shades of Opulence

Because of the popularity of this beautiful exhibit, the New Bedford Whaling Museum will extend it through this summer. Entitled "Shades of Opulence: The Lamps of Pairpoint," it is the first exhibition by a public museum solely devoted to the lamps produced by the Pairpoint Corporation. The exhibit includes more than 50 electrified lamps with glass shades made in New Bedford by Pairpoint in the early years of the 20th century. Included in the exhibit is a representative sampling of the more than 500 Pairpoint catalog pages held by the museum which indicate the varieties of shades, bases, and decorations available from the company. The exhibit includes two designs by Floyd Cary for lamp bases, and the bases which were developed from those drawings. Louis O. St. Aubin, Jr., noted expert on New Bedford art glass, is adjunct curator for this exhibition.

The Pairpoint Manufacturing Company was organized in 1880 on property adjoining the Mt. Washington Glass Company in New Bedford to make a complete line of staple and fancy articles in silver plate. With the consolidation of Mt. Washington and Pairpoint in 1894, the Pairpoint Corporation which emerged had capabilities for the manufacture of both glass and metal wares. The development of the incandescent bulb for lighting introduced a new form of lighting technology, and Pairpoint quickly saw the opportunity to enter the market. The New Bedford factory burned to the ground on Oct. 1, 1965. The successor firm, Pairpoint Crystal, today operates in Sagamore, Mass.

For further information, contact Judy Lund, curator, at (508) 997-0046, ext. 18.

Tell Me a Story!

People who like to tell stories — or listen to them — are invited to a storytelling open mike on March 26, at AS220, 115 Empire St., Providence. Hosted by Carolyn Martino's Word-of-Mouth Productions, the open mike begins at 7:30 p.m., followed by popular Rhode Island storyteller, Cindy Killavey, whose background in theater, mime and dance bring exciting new dimensions to the age-old art of storytelling.

The free monthly series is for adults and provides an informal, comfortable setting for both beginning and seasoned storytellers to work on new material, exchange storytelling news and entertain the listeners.

Call 831-9327 or 351-8090 for information.



Cindy Killavey

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

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OBITUARIES

M. LOUIS ABEDON
PROVIDENCE — M. Louis Abedon, 91, of 355 Blackstone Boulevard, a retired lawyer, died March 12 at home. He was the husband of Lillian (Stein) Abedon.

A lifelong Providence resident, he was a son of the late Samuel and Bessie (Brenner) Abedon.

He attended Boston University and was a 1929 graduate of Boston University Law School. He practiced law in Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

He was a member of the Massachusetts and the Rhode Island Bar Associations.

He was a member of the federal courts. He served as U.S. commissioner for the U.S. District Court of Rhode Island from 1954 through 1971. He had been president of the Rhode Island Trial Lawyers Association. He served as president of the Zionist Organization of America, Rhode Island branch.

He was a member of Temple Emanu-El and served as officer and director of its Men's Club.

He was a member of the Redwood Lodge, AF&AM, the Rhode Island Jewish Community Center, the Ahavath Sholom Synagogue, the Touro Fraternal Association and the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.

He was a member of Boston University Law School Alumni Association and served on its executive committee. He was a member of the Rhode Island Republican State Central Committee and the Providence Re-

publican City Committee. He was active in many other philanthropic and fraternal organizations in Rhode Island.

Besides his wife, he leaves a daughter, Roberta Levin of Narragansett; a son, Dr. Michael Abedon of Newton, Mass.; a sister, Myrtle Goldstein of Chester, S.C.; seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. He was brother of the late Byron Abedon.

The funeral was held March 15 in Temple Emanu-El, Morris Avenue at Sessions Street, Providence. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. The service was coordinated by Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence.

SARA ROBINSON BRIER
PROVIDENCE — Sara Robinson Brier, 90, of Regency Plaza, died March 14 at home. She was the wife of the late Benjamin Brier, and the late Judge Maurice Robinson.

Born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, a daughter of the late Mendel Nawchum and Zirel (Abrich) Udisky, she lived in Providence for more than 80 years.

She served four terms as a Rhode Island Democratic delegate to the Electoral College for presidential elections. She had been a member of the board of directors of Miriam Hospital Women's Association. She was a former president of the Rhode Island chapter of Brandeis University Women's Association and the Providence chapter of

Hadassah. She was a member of Temple Emanu-El and its Sisterhood. She was a member of the National Council of Jewish Women, the Women's Association of the Jewish Home for the Aged, and the Jewish Historical Society. She was a member of the board of directors of Bannister House.

She leaves two daughters, Phyllis Berry of Providence and Dottie Brier of New York City; a son, Milton Brier of Saunderstown; a sister, Minna Rosen of Providence; nine grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. She was the mother of the late Shirley Brier Lewis, and sister of the late Ruby Rigney and Charles Udison.

The funeral service was held March 16 at Temple Emanu-El, Morris Avenue at Sessions Street, Providence. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. The service was coordinated by Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence.

MOLLIE COHEN
FALL RIVER — Mollie Cohen, 97, of the Fall River Jewish Home, formerly the Fall River Jewish Home for the Aged, 538 Robeson St., died March 10 at home. She was the wife of the late Benjamin Cohen. In 1973, in recognition of her dedication to the Home for the Aged, the Mollie Cohen Wing was dedicated.

A lifelong resident of Fall River, she was the daughter of the late David and Ida (Boxer) Krasnow.

She attended Victorines Business School. In 1939 she became the third president of the Home for the Aged, then at 46 Forest St. The home, dedicated on June 20, 1926, became her continuing passion. The Home donor Luncheon, at whose head table she sat for 50 years, began during her administration and continues to the present day. In the 1940s, she helped spearhead the drive to build a new Jewish Home for the Aged. On Jan. 22, 1949, her dream was realized with the laying of the cornerstone at the present home.

She was a volunteer for the local American Red Cross blood bank for more than 40 years, beginning during World War II. In the 1970s and 1980s she served as a director. Since 1929 she had been a member of Temple Beth El and its Sisterhood, on whose board she served as auditor for many years. She was a member of Adas Israel Sisterhood and Hadassah.

She leaves a daughter, Marilyn Wolfson, and a son, Howard Cohen; a granddaughter and two great-grandsons. She was the grandmother of the late Donna Wolfson, and sister of the late Frances Perlmutter, Louis Krasnow, Lena Cohen, Eva Godfrey, Jean Ruboy and Albert Krasnow.

Services under the direction of Breznia-Rodman Funeral Directors were held on March 12 at Temple Beth El, Fall River. Burial was in the Temple Beth El Cemetery, Fall River.

BESSIE KAPLAN
PROVIDENCE — Bessie Kaplan, 81, of the Elmhurst Extended Care Facility, 50 Maude St., died March 11 at home. She was the wife of the late Benjamin Kaplan.

Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Nathan and Eva (Polofsky) Mazo, she lived in Providence for four years, previously living in Warwick.

She was a founding member of Temple Beth Am, Warwick, and a member of the Pythian Sisters.

She leaves a daughter, Elyse Goldenberg of Exeter; two sons, Dr. Sheldon Kaplan of Warwick and Jeffrey Kaplan of North Kingstown; two sisters, Jeanette Weinberg of Brockton, Mass., and Charlotte Feldman of Cranston; a brother, Gerald Mazo of

New Mexico; and five grandchildren.

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

JOSEPH LIPSKY
CHANDLER, Ariz. — Joseph Lipsky, 86, formerly of Fall River, proprietor of the former Lipsky Electronics & TV, Fall River, for many years before retiring, died March 6 at May's Haven Home Care, Chandler, Ariz. He was the husband of Gertrude (Orleck) Lipsky.

Born in Fall River, a son of the late Abraham and Jennie (Gourse) Lipsky, he lived in Fall River most of his life before moving to Hallandale, Fla., seven years ago, and to Arizona two years ago.

Besides his wife, he leaves two sons, Michael Lipsky of Phoenix, Ariz., and Arnold Lipsky of Princeton, Ky.; a sister, Rose Bernstein of Providence; and five grandchildren.

The funeral service and burial were held March 8 in Phoenix, Ariz. Arrangements were by Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence.

ELAINE DEITCH STONE
FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Elaine Deitch Stone, 78, of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., a former high school teacher in the Cranston and Lincoln public schools, died March 10 at home. She was the wife of the late Seymour Stone.

Born in Middletown, Conn., a daughter of the late William and Rose (Berman) Deitch, she had lived in Providence before moving to Florida 20 years ago.

She was a graduate of Emerson College, Boston. She was a life member of Hadassah and the former president of the Dade County Brandeis University Association.

She leaves two daughters, Rhonda Bretholz of West Newton, Mass., and Shelley Stone of Orlando, Fla.; a son, Richard Stone of Fort Lauderdale; two brothers, Gerald Deitch of Providence and Perry Deitch of West Warwick; and two grandsons.

A graveside service was held March 15 in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. Arrangements were by Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

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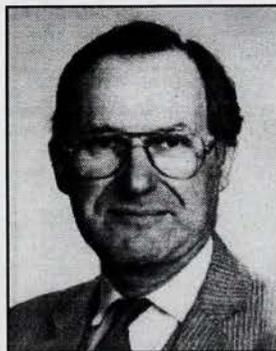
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Vienna Mayor Gives Go-Ahead to Disputed Holocaust Memorial

by Ruth E. Gruber

ROME (JTA) — When a controversial Holocaust monument is finally built in the heart of Vienna, it will be the city's first memorial dedicated solely to Jewish victims of the Shoah.

Vienna's mayor, Michael Haupl, recently announced that the city, which is funding the project, would go ahead with construction on Judenplatz — Jews Square, the former center of the medieval Jewish ghetto.

Haupl's announcement ended years of controversy about the monument, which was originally to have been unveiled Nov. 9, 1996 — the anniversary of Kristallnacht, when marauding bands of Nazis destroyed Jewish property and synagogues in

Nazi-held territory in 1938.

"I am happy that things are finally proceeding," said Vienna Jewish community leader Paul Grosz.

Construction of the monument had been delayed both by the discovery of the remains of a medieval synagogue underneath Judenplatz and by criticism of the monument's design and location.

The design by British artist Rachel Whiteread, called "The Nameless Library," is a large cube of white concrete cast to convey the sense of a library turned inside out.

Some local people said the monument would be a security threat for the neighborhood.

(Continued on Page 19)

It Takes A Village

by Yehudah Biss
Herald Editor

The sweet smell of potpourri fragrantly scents every room in The Village. Lush carpeting, green and purplish, complementary fronds adorning the walls throughout the hallway. A strong, bold-colored wallpaper adds a certain depth to The Village, mimicking the deep commitment The Village has to its residents. By combining warm hospitality with receptive healthcare, The Village at Elmhurst has attracted many and keeps residents happy.

Opening its doors in late 1996, The Village at Elmhurst joined an already successful Village at Waterman Lake. Located conveniently on 800 Smith Street, residents have full access to all kinds of services that run the gamut, enabling residents to stay home and free of petty errands. Residents also have access to a dedicated shuttle service that takes them to malls or whatever shopping they may desire.

Great detail was spent on the design and layout of the Village. A beautiful library opens up into the foyer near the entrance where a baby grand piano sits sparkingly radiant. They have a beauty salon available three days a week, laundry on-site, Tai Chi classes, a tea room and many club rooms. A marvelous grand dining room

takes up the middle of the second floor. Private dining is available also for parties and special occasions. There are club rooms stocked with ice cream, hot fudge and nuts, billiards and a communal TV.

Residents get to enjoy a rich and rewarding lifestyle. Because the staff takes care of everyday chores like housekeeping and meal preparation, residents have the opportunity to concentrate on the luxuries The Village has to offer. There is a full spa with a masseuse, a Jacuzzi and workout gym. Residents can choose a life that is as busy and active as they'd like.

The Village prides itself on the care and closeness of the staff available to all who require 24-hour health care support. The staff-to-resident ratio is high, full of professional medical practitioners with RNs and CMTs on duty. Many form close relationships with the residents, because nurse turnover is low.

With more than 100 apartments at Elmhurst, residents get a feeling of community. Most come from around the neighborhood and know the area very well. Each room has cable TV and a refrigerator. There are three types of apartments: 2-bedroom, 1-bedroom and studio, most residents take the one bed. The view is beautiful from all rooms; the staff parks in the back, away from the lush gardens out front.

Dining at The Village is elegant. The menu is very low fat and low salt with a rotating menu of gourmet foods. Requests are always welcome. A snack bar is open 24 hours a day and is filled with fruit, coffee, tea, and other snacks.

The Courtyard

A new addition to The Village, the Courtyard, was designed to be supportive of residents with Alzheimer's disease. Drawn out of the most recent Alzheimer's research, the secure Courtyard provides all the comforts and routines of home to ensure the best quality of life. The staff is made up of a team of trained and devoted specialists. The courtyard also offers family support groups and communication with renowned Alzheimer's experts.

In the expanded Courtyard in The Village at Waterman Lake, the environment consists of four identical wings, connected by an atrium, with each wing responding to different stages of the disease. This innovative design allows individuals at similar stages in the disease to share time. Research shows Alzheimer's residents desire familiar surroundings. So the design and decor of each wing — colors, signs, and symbols are identical, helping to minimize emotional upheavals when residents move from one wing to another as the disease progresses. Staff members also rotate to provide a constant sense of familiarity for residents. Shelves adorn each entrance to

resident's rooms, filled with items that jog residents' minds to remind them of their life. These items with residents as their debilitating disease progresses.

All of this is done to put at ease any resident's fear. The

Village goes to great length to make all of its residents comfortable, giving the retiree, assisted-care recipient and Alzheimer's resident a comfortable and luxurious environment filled with life.



The Village at Elmhurst is located at 800 Smith St., Providence. The Village at Waterman Lake is located at 715 Putnam Pike, Greenville. The Village at Hills Grove is located at Minnesota Ave., Warwick. All are open for visits and offer a complimentary lunch. For appointments or more information about the residences, call 949-1333.

Get Ready to Swim The Bay!

Have you ever considered swimming in Jantzen's Save The Bay Swim but weren't sure how to train for it? Are you ready to take on a personal challenge that will help save the bay at the same time? On Aug. 1 at 8 a.m., for the 22nd year, Save The Bay will hold a 1.7-mile open water swim from Newport to Jamestown to raise funds and awareness for Narragansett Bay. This year, YMCA of Greater Providence is going to help get you ready to celebrate your right to swim in a clean and healthy Narragansett Bay.

Each year, the swim attracts people of all ages and fitness levels to take a personal challenge and to help Save The Bay. The YMCA of Greater Providence is sponsoring free swim clinics around the state to teach participants efficient swimming strokes, provide training tips

and help prepare swimmers for their trip across Narragansett Bay. Clinics are two hours long from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and limited to 24 people. Clinics are scheduled as follows:

March 22 — YMCA Seekonk/Newman, 472 Taunton Ave., Seekonk

April 5 — YMCA Eastside-Mt. Hope, 438 Hope St., Providence

April 19 — YMCA Kent County, 900 Centerville Road, Warwick

April 26 — YMCA Cranston, 1225 Park Ave., Cranston

May 10 — YMCA South County, 165 Broad Rock Road, Peacedale

May 31 — YMCA Barrington, 70 West St., Barrington

For information about the YMCA Swim clinics or registering for Jantzen's Save The Bay Swim, call 272-3540.

Attention Herald Readers and Advertisers!

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Passover Issue

Thursday, April 2, 1998

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Fill out the form below, enclose check or money order, and mail to:
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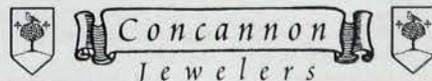
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HAPPENINGS

Israel Aliyah Discusses Appliances

The Israel Aliyah Center will present "Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Appliances in Israel!" on April 1 at 6:30 p.m. at Hebrew College in Brookline, Mass.

The workshop will include shipping and insuring your new appliances and a discussion with expert Aryeh Herzog of ABC Trading in New York.

R.S.V.P. to the Israel Aliyah Center at (617) 457-8750 or Massaliyah@aol.com.



Volunteers Needed at Miriam Hospital

The Miriam Hospital, a Lifespan partner, is recruiting volunteers for many of its family support areas. If you are people-oriented, seek a personally satisfying experience and want to help people directly, join the ranks of caring volunteers at The Miriam Hospital.

Various hours are available. A tuberculosis test is required, as well as proof of immunizations and references. Some of the benefits of being a volunteer at The Miriam Hospital include a meal allowance, pharmacy discounts and free parking.

All interested persons should call the Volunteer Services Department at 793-2510.

JFRI Sponsors Medical Legal Ethics Class

Dr. Milton Hamolsky, the chief administrative officer of the R.I. Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline and professor emeritus of medical science at Brown University, will present a seminar for lawyers and doctors on March 26 from 4 to 6 p.m. The program will provide attorneys an opportunity to obtain one Continuing Legal Education ethics credit and one general credit.

Hamolsky will discuss issues related to death and dying, the role of the Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline, and the ethical concerns of lawyers and doctors in presenting medical testimony.

The program is sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island with the CME certification sponsored by the Miriam Hospital. To register, or for more information, call Aimee Gannon at the Jewish Federation at 421-4111, ext. 161.

Calendar: March 19 thru March 29

- 19 **Black-Jewish seder** at Temple Shalom, Middletown, 7 p.m. Rabbi M. Jagolnizer and the Rev. Dr. Vincent Thompson of Community Baptist Church will conduct the seder. For reservations, call 846-9002.
- 20 **Shabbat Across America** at Temple Shalom, Middletown, 6 p.m., call 846-9002 and Congregation Agudas Achim 6 to 9:30 p.m., Attleboro. Call (508) 222-2243. "I Never Saw Another Butterfly," Cranston High School West, March 20 to 22. Call 781-6395.
- 21 **South County Hadassah hosts annual service**, Temple Beth David, Narragansett, 8 p.m. Call 783-4108.
- 22 **Newport Playhouse and Cabaret presents "Out of Order,"** March 20 to May 10. For reservations, call 883-DINNER.
- 23 **Samuel Adams Beer Dinner**, 6:30 p.m. at Bluefin Grille, 1 Orms St., Providence. Call 272-5852 for reservations.
- 23 **Passover Book and Gift Sale**, Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island, Providence, 861-8800.
- 24 **Citizens Scholarship Foundation of East Providence sponsors Dollars for Scholars** phone-a-thon, March 24 to 26, 6 to 9 p.m. For donations or contributions, contact Louise C. Paiva at 433-3463 or 729-2323.
- 25 **Heart Women to Women**, YMCA, 7 p.m., celebrates Women's History Month with a women's wellness presentation, Providence. Call 831-YWCA.
- 26 **Travels in Israel** on TV 36 at 7:30 p.m. From Holy Land's capitol city to ancient fortress of Masada and Sea of Galilee, past unfolds at historic and religious sites. Check local listings.
- 26 **Second Annual Flower Show** at Attleboro Museum, March 25 to 29. Enjoy easel painting and garden workshops. Registration required, call (508) 222-2644.
- 26 **Eating Disorders: Help for Parents and Adolescents** at R.I. Hospital, 7 to 9 p.m. Preregistration is required. Call Lifespan Health Connection at 444-4800.
- 27 **Women Illuminating Jewish Life**, Havdalah service with Rabbi S. Fendrick, Stoneblossom, 7:30 p.m. Space is limited. Call 863-9357 to reserve.
- 27 **Israel on Screen**, Films for the 50th, March 28 to April 5 at Brandeis University. (See Jewish Community page).
- 27 **Twelve Dancing Princesses** by All Children's Theatre Ensemble at Vartan Gregorian Elementary School at Fox Point, Providence, March 28, April 4 and 11 at 10:30 a.m. For reservations, call 331-7174.
- 29 **Interfaith AIDS Seriv**, JCCRI, 5 to 8 p.m. Call to reserve at 421-4111.
- 29 **"Diaries of a Frog,"** 2 p.m. at Roger Williams Park Zoo, Providence. Call 785-3510.
- Jewish Choral Festival** at Hebrew College, Brookline, Mass. 1 to 7 p.m. Enjoy conductor M. Lazar, founder of Zimri Choral Foundation, and many talented Jewish musicians and educators as well as choirs from New England. Call (617) 278-4958.
- URI Hilld Tours Touro Synagogue** with Newman Club. Call 874-2740 for information.
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Please send us any relevant stories, photos or organized programs and press releases you may have for any, or all, of these issues:

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Directory to this week's Herald

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT	16, 17
CLASSIFIED	19
FEATURE	5, 13-15
HAPPENINGS	2
JEWISH COMMUNITY	3, 6-9
OBITUARIES	18
OPINION	4
PURIM RETROSPECT 1998	10, 11
SCHOOLBEAT	12

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CLASSIFIED

Spieler Speaks

(Continued from Page 3)

and I get to take advantage of that talent."

Over the years, Gelade has found ways to balance his role as writer with his responsibilities as a husband, father and lawyer.

"I compose a lot of my lyrics while I'm walking the dog," he laughed. "A good script with 16 songs takes me about three months. When I need another verse, the musical director tells me to take the dog out again."

Although 1998 is the first year that Gelade has written for two community companies, he intends to maintain his ideas about theater.

"I believe that people want to be entertained," he said. "If I were in the audience, I would want the show to go quickly, and I would want to come out smiling."

Gelade is more excited than apprehensive about his upcoming stint as director.

"This will give me an opportunity to do each number as I envisioned it when I wrote it," he said. "The Jewish people have a wonderful sense of humor, and if the concept is right, everyone is funny."

Moving Van

(Continued from Page 4)

counter until he stood next to me. This was a big, big fellow.

"Hey, mister. You a Jew?"

Uhoh. What's going on here? I began to feel a spicing panic in my stomach. How does he know? My face? I wore no distinguishing jewelry, no identifying logo on my T-shirt. Nothing there at all. Nothing at all... except... except... I had been reading *The Philadelphia Jewish Exponent*. Yeah, I suppose that would be a sign. I took a breath.

"Um, yes, I am." I braced myself just a few seconds.

"Until I heard his next words: 'Do you know where I can find a minyan around here?'"

Harry Golden said it decades ago: Only in America.

Rabbi Alper is a stand-up comic and author of Life Doesn't Get Any Better Than This. Rabbi Alper is a Providence native and can be contacted at 1 (888) GUF-FAWS or www.bobalper.com.

Holocaust Memorial

(Continued from Page 18)

Other critics said the modern, stark concrete would be too sharp a contrast with the surrounding Baroque buildings.

Some members of Vienna's 14,000-member Jewish community said they feared the memorial could become a target for anti-Semitic acts. Others said such a monument should not be in such a prominent position — yet others said the remains of the synagogues should be monument enough.

Haupl announced that the site of the monument would be moved slightly from where it had been originally planned to allow for the complete excavation of the synagogues.

The medieval synagogue under excavation was burned down

France Expands Efforts to Find Nazi-Looted Assets

by Lee Yanowitch
PARIS (JTA) — France has adopted new measures to track down millions of dollars worth of bank accounts and other financial assets looted from Jews during the Nazi occupation of the country.

"A surveillance committee" will be created to oversee the work of banks and other financial institutions in exploring their archives for evidence of such assets, according to an announcement by finance minister Dominique Strauss-Kahn and Bank of France Gov. Jean-Claude Trichet.

The committee will have oversight responsibilities, but it will be up to bank employees to plow through their archives to uncover the assets, which were either abandoned by Jews fleeing persecution or seized by France's collaborationist Vichy regime.

"It will be a long and difficult task, but I am not all worried about the banks' willingness to cooperate with the state," said Strauss-Kahn, who is Jewish.

But French Jewish leaders disagreed, charging that the

committee is not an independent body and that the actual sifting through bank archives will not be done by outsiders.

"What you have is a group of former banking officials looking into French banks," said Henri Hajdenberg, president of CRIF, the umbrella group of secular Jewish organizations in France.

He added that the inquiry should be led by an independent investigative body, pointing to what is being done in Switzerland, where a special commission headed by the former chairman of the U.S. Federal Reserve, Paul Volcker, is searching for missing Jewish assets deposited in Swiss banks during the World War II era.

The surveillance committee will report to a state commission that was appointed a year ago to investigate the extent of Jewish property stolen by the Vichy government or by the Nazis.

The commission plans to make an inventory of such goods — ranging from jewelry and bank accounts to artworks and real estate — and suggest ways to com-

pensate the rightful owners.

That commission, headed by Jean Matteoli, a concentration camp survivor and former resistance fighter, said in a report issued in January that it still had the daunting task of going through hundreds of thousands of files and documents before it could track down all the property and put a price tag on it.

But it said that France should not wait until its work was completed to begin compensating the rightful owners of confiscated property.

Some 76,000 Jews — about a quarter of the country's Jewish population — were deported from France to Nazi death camps. Only 2,500 returned.

Much of the stolen assets were confiscated from Jews as they entered the Drancy detention camp outside Paris — the last stop before Auschwitz.

Recently opened archives from the camp indicate the French police meticulously listed all the valuables they stripped from Jews before deporting them to their deaths.

The archives show that millions of dollars in jewelry, stock and bond certificates, gold pens and other valuables were systematically deposited into state banks and credit institutions.

For decades, hundreds of thousands of documents from the period were kept locked by state laws, prompting Jewish leaders to charge that government ministries were dragging their feet in confronting the extent of the looting.

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Switzerland Being Sued For WWII Restitution

by Fredy Rom
ZURICH (JTA) — Two Jewish men are bringing separate suits against Switzerland linked to the country's policy toward Jewish refugees during World War II.

Charles Sonabend, whose parents were murdered in Auschwitz after Swiss authorities deported them in 1942, is bringing his compensation claim before Switzerland's Supreme Court. The move comes after the Swiss Cabinet recently rejected his claim.

Sonabend, a 67-year-old resident of London, is seeking \$68,000 in damages — the largest amount possible under Swiss regulations — under a new law that allows individuals to make liability claims against public officials.

The law leaves the decision to the Cabinet, but allows for an appeal to Switzerland's Su-

preme Court.

Sonabend was 11 years old when he and his parents entered Switzerland in 1942 from Belgium. Two days later, his parents were arrested and deported to Nazi-occupied France. They were then sent to Auschwitz.

His suit, which was first filed last year, focused renewed attention on the refugee policy of Switzerland, which expelled more than 30,000 Jews during the war. Most of these Jews died.

At the same time, however, Switzerland provided haven to some 25,000 Jewish refugees, who survived the war together with Switzerland's 20,000 Jewish citizens.

A second suit is meanwhile being brought by a 71-year-old Jewish man now living in Austria.

Joseph Sprung is seeking compensation for having twice been turned away at the Swiss border.

The first time, according to Sprung, Swiss border guards sent him back to occupied France, but on the second occasion he and three others fleeing with him were handed directly over to the Germans.

In that second attempt to cross the Swiss border, Sprung and his companions had false papers to make their religion.

But when they arrived in Switzerland, they showed their real papers, thinking they would get asylum more easily as Jews.

Handed over to the Germans, they produced the false papers to avoid detection as Jews.

But German officials knew they were Jewish — because, Sprung charged, the Swiss border guards gave the Germans their real identity papers.

Sprung was dispatched to Auschwitz, where he managed to survive the war.