

Rhode Island Jewish HERALD

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Memorial Day
in the Jewish
Community

PAGE 8

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Making Memories on Memorial Day

by Tara V. Lisciandro
Herald Editor

Almost every afternoon Elizabeth Shapira visits the Jewish Convalescent Home in New Bedford. She brings with her a bag, filled with a few things she'll need for the day. As she enters, her eyes light up and a broad smile sweeps across her gentle face, she has come to visit her husband, Kolman. He is seated in a chair in a jogging suit, next to his well-made bed, awaiting his wife. She greets him with a kiss and kind words and he replies with the same. The couple, married in 1950 at Temple Beth-El in Providence, is inseparable. "We've never been apart," says Elizabeth, "except for now."

Just several months ago Elizabeth's husband was placed in the home because of his health conditions. But the couple's great spirit and love for one another is a bond which could never be broken by any problem they encounter. "We've been so lucky," says Elizabeth, "we were married late in life, but we love each other."

too," he added.

Kolman was a student at Boston University, then was drafted for the first world war. Although he was never sent to any foreign destination, Kolman was trained and ready to serve. Then, just a few years later, he was drafted again and served for three years in World War II. "I served both wars!" he exclaimed with pride and a grand smile. Kolman served as a private, "then I graduated to sergeant."

During the second world war Kolman was involved with the aeronautics division. He often flew in army planes and was responsible for reporting the weather and air conditions for the government. "He flew with the stars," said his wife. And in fact, Kolman did fly with many Hollywood stars like Jimmy Stewart and Clark Gable. Besides army troops, the stars were the only other people allowed to fly during war time. "They entertained the troops," said Kolman. "He said Jimmy was very pleasant but he didn't care for Clark," added Elizabeth.

After the war came to an end, Kolman and Elizabeth met and were married. "We settled in Providence and lived there for 25 years," said Elizabeth. She grew up near Roger Williams Park in Providence with her two sisters, and worked in a dress shop of one of her sister's. Betty Finkelstein and Ann Gould, Elizabeth's sisters, currently reside in Cranston and New Bedford.

Later, the couple moved to New Bedford where Kolman had opened his law practice. Over time, Kolman built up a large practice and had many clients that depended on his excellent skills as a lawyer. "He was the oldest practicing attorney in Massachusetts," said Edward Rudnick, board member of the Jewish Convalescent Home in New Bedford. "He's modest and probably wouldn't tell you that at 95 he sat down at his desk, when his secretary had already left, and typed!" Kolman was also awarded by the Massachusetts Bar Association for his practice.

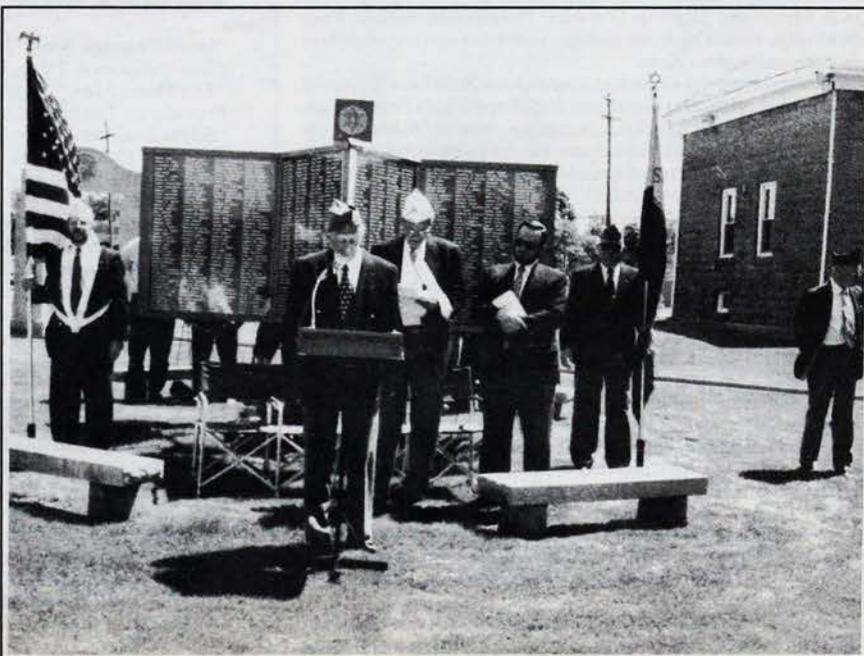
Up until almost three years ago, Kolman took part in the annual parade and marches of the JWV of New Bedford. This Memorial Day, however, his achievements and dedication will be well remembered by his colleagues, friends and most of all by his devoted wife, Elizabeth.

Born in Fall River in 1900, Kolman Shapira grew up "a good Jewish boy."

It sounds more like a Jewish Valentine's Day story, but in fact Kolman is a Jewish War Veteran of New Bedford, one of thousands who will celebrate Memorial Day on May 30, the "true" date. He became a charter member of JWV in New Bedford several years ago and is their oldest living member at 98. His devoted and loving wife is 93.

In 1992 Kolman was given an award of recognition for outstanding service to his country in World War I. The mayor of New Bedford officiated the ceremony while hundreds of guests surrounded him that evening. A gold medal commemorating 75 years after his service in World War I, was also given to Kolman and hangs proudly on his wall at home.

Born in Fall River in 1900, Kolman grew up "a good Jewish boy," he said, with seven brothers and two sisters, all of whom are deceased. He recalls going to temple and at 13, when reminded about his bar mitzvah, his face still lights up with joy. "Oh! Yes, I remember that. My family was there, my friends



Jewish War Veterans Honor Members

During Memorial Day Services at Lincoln Park Cemetery in Warwick, The Rhode Island Department of Jewish War Veterans paid tribute to past members and those who defended their country during times of war. Irving Levin, department commander; Rabbi George Astrachan and Cantor Rennie Brown of Temple Sinai in Cranston, led the services. (See page 8).

Herald photo by Tara V. Lisciandro

AIPAC Delegates Look to Future Despite Cloud Over U.S.-Israel Ties

by Daniel Kurtzman

WASHINGTON (JTA) — As pro-Israel activists recently gathered for the American Israel Public Affairs Committee's annual policy conference, this much was clear:

There is no conflict or lack of clarity when it comes to backing Israel on its right to determine its own security requirements.

Indeed, recent attempts by the United States to force Israel's hand in ceding land to the Palestinians only seemed to galvanize and strengthen the resolve of the some 2,000 activists, pushing many of them more squarely into the corner of the Israeli government.

But for the most part, the Jewish leaders and rank-and-file activists, including 700 students, who gathered from around the country were looking past the events of recent weeks, which had seen the greatest strain on U.S.-Israel relations since former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and President Bush sparred in 1991 over U.S. loan guarantees and Jewish settlements.

There was a sense that despite uncertainty over what would happen next, at least for the moment a trying period had

passed and now was the time to reaffirm the bond between the two countries.

The AIPAC conference was convened at a time of delicate and intense U.S. efforts to break the deadlock in the long-stalled Israeli-Palestinians talks. Earlier this month, U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright threatened to reconsider the U.S. mediating role if Israel did not accept a U.S. plan that calls for Israel to pull back from a further 13 percent of the West Bank in exchange for a series of Palestinian steps to crack down on terrorism.

Last week, under fire from Congress and American Jewish organizational leaders, the Clinton administration backed away from ultimatums and deadlines, and quickly moved to downplay any hint of confrontation.

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton's recent remarks that it would be "in the long-term interests of the Middle East for Palestine to be a state" served to further stoke the ire of American Jews, many of whom saw the comment as another pressure point from the administration.

Israeli Prime Minister Ben-

jamin Netanyahu, during a five-day visit to Washington and New York, sought to win support for Israel's position that the U.S. proposal would endanger Israel's security. Two intensive rounds of talks between Netanyahu and Albright failed to produce a breakthrough, and the Israeli premier emerged from the week with strong backing from Congress and American Jewish groups.

While the American Jewish community remains divided about how to proceed in the peace process, the consensus view from the pro-Israel community represented at the AIPAC conference was that the Clinton administration had stepped way over the line in attempting to impose its judgment on Israel.

But there was also broad agreement that the administration should continue to play a role as a facilitator in the process.

"One can disagree and disagree strongly with the administration over its strategic approach to any given issue, while still understanding this is an administration that's been deeply, deeply committed to the

(Continued on Page 15)

HAPPENINGS

JVS Starts Business Program

On June 3 at 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Jewish Vocational service of Boston, Mass., offers a free program for individuals with low-to-moderate income called "So You Want to Start Your Own Business." Find out what it takes to start a business and how to apply for JVS's business training classes which are offered for free or at low cost. The program is accessible to individuals with disabilities and is held in downtown Boston at 26 West St. second floor, room #6. Call Demian Hess at (617) 451-8147, ext 148, to register.

CWA Hosts Writing Workshop

Marci Coyote Rose will speak on the art and craft of writing humor on June 7, from 4 to 6 p.m., the third in a series of CWA Sunday lecture programs hosted by Community Writers Association at Barnes and Noble in Warwick. Writers who wish to learn how to write wittier material for their novel, essays or screenplays will learn much from Rose.

A former writer for comedian Joan Rivers, Rose has performed with a host of celebrities, including Bob Hope, Paula Poundstone, Rodney Dangerfield, Bill Hicks, Smokey Robinson, Willie Nelson, Roberta Flack and The Temptations. Her impressive list of television credits include "Primetime Live" with Diane Sawyer (ABC), "Evening at the Improv" (A&E), "Comedy In The Park" (HBO), "She's So Funny" (WTN) and "Caught In The Act" (CBC).

Rose's hour-long lecture will be followed by an open reading session at 5 p.m. Poets and essayists are invited to come and share their works with an appreciative audience at Barnes & Noble, 1441 Bald Hill Road, Warwick.

Special Olympics Hosts 30th Annual State Summer Games

On May 29 through 31, Special Olympics Rhode Island will hold its 30th annual State Summer Games for children and adults with mental retardation at the University of Rhode Island. More than 1,500 athletes will compete in a multitude of Special Olympics events this year. The theme for this year's games is "30 Years of Heroes." The days festivities will begin at the State House at 1:30 p.m.

Opening ceremonies will begin at 7:30 p.m. on May 29 with Sportradio 790 "The Score" Coach John Colletto as Master of Ceremonies.

The evening's festivities will highlight the "Flame of Hope" Torch run by the Law Enforcement/Fire Services, carried into the Meade Stadium by Honorary Chairman Attorney General Jeffrey B. Pine. The games will conclude on May 31, at noon, wrapping up a weekend work of incredible competition and well-deserved victories. Come be a part of what promises to be an exciting weekend of sports competition.

Calendar: May 28 thru June 7

- 28 **Storyteller and actress Diane Edgecomb**, featured performer at a storytelling open mike at AS220, Providence, 7:30 p.m. Call 831-9327.
 - 29 **"A Night to Howl,"** Volunteer Services for Animals hosts annual fund-raiser at Bryant College. Evening includes dinner, entertainment, auction and more. Call for tickets, 273-0358.
 - 30 **Dusk to Dawn.** Full night of study and discussion with Hebrew College faculty and friends, Brookline, Mass., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call (617) 457-8666.
 - 31 **Shavuot.** "Feast of Weeks," "Harvest Festival," and "Giving of the Torah." **New Torah Celebration,** 10:30 a.m. at Newport Historical Society; new Torah cover dedicated in memory of L. Ehrlich. R.S.V.P. at 849-9197.
 - Wine Tasting & Auction,** 4 to 7 p.m. at Providence Performing Arts Center. Sample wines and take part in an auction including a cruise on America's Cup yacht and more. Call for reservations, 421-ARTS.
- June**
- 1 **"Israel Through Song,"** Jewish Theatre of New England in Newton, Mass. Concert will take place outdoors at 2 p.m. For reservations, call (617) 965-5226.
 - "The Music Man,"** (June 1 to 7) and "How I Learned to Drive" (June 1 to 28) at Trinity Rep, Providence. For tickets, call 351-4242.
 - "Silver Sneakers,"** exercise class for seniors at YWCA, Providence, Mondays and Wednesdays, 9 to 10 a.m. Call to register, 831-9922.
 - Photography Exhibit** by David B. Esau, E. Greenwich Photo Gallery, June 1 to 28, opening reception is June 5, 6 to 8 p.m. Public is welcome. Call 884-0220.
 - 2 **Dream Interpretation Workshop** at Barrington Public Library, June 2 and 9 at 7:30 p.m. Sessions will be led by Moll McGetrick. Call to register, 247-1920, ext. 2.
 - Newport International Film Festival,** June 2 to 7. The festival will tie extraordinary history of 20th-century cinema films from the vanguard of contemporary filmmaking. Call 245-5011.
 - Golf lessons for women,** YWCA, at Golf Center in Seekonk, Mass. Five-week session, Tuesdays 6 to 7 p.m., equipment provided. To register, call 831-9922.
 - Ida Schmulowitz Landscapes** at Atrium Gallery, Providence, June 2 to 30. Opening reception June 4, 4:30 to 7:30 p.m., 1 Capital Hill (State Administration Building).
 - 3 **Diabetes Support Group** meets at Memorial Hospital, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Pawtucket. Meets first Wednesday of each month. Call 729-2574.
 - 4 **"Forty Years of Bad Road,"** Jewish Theatre Ensemble at Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island, June 4 to 14. Call 861-8800, ext. 108 for tickets.
 - Alperin Schechter Day School,** 20th annual meeting, 7:30 p.m., Providence. Presentation of Sanford Kroll and Shirley Aronson Goldberg Memorial Gifts and election and installation of officers and board of directors.
 - 5 **Providence Waterfire,** art installation by Barnaby Evens along river in downtown Providence, 9 p.m. Call 273-1155 for additional dates.
 - Temple Torat Yisrael Men's Club,** Cranston, honors members for time and dedication; installation of officers. Call 461-5301.
 - 6 **National Trails Day;** explore the trails, history and scenic beauty of the Blackstone River Valley Heritage Corridor. Call 762-0440.
 - Annual Children's Festival,** 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., South County Museum, Narragansett. Enjoy games, rides, mimes, stories and more. Call 783-5400.
 - Children's Story Hour** at Raven's Nest Bookstore, Art Gallery & Cafe, 155 Main St., Wakefield, 10 to 11 a.m., 1 to 2 p.m. Call 783-6378.
 - 7 **Israel's 50th Birthday Bash,** street festival and celebration, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Elmgrove Avenue, Providence, sponsored by JCCRI. Don't forget to look for the *R.I. Jewish Herald's* booth where special activities for kids and adults will be held throughout the day!
 - "Walk for Life,"** a 10K block party pledge-walk to benefit AIDS project R.I. For more information, call 831-5595.
 - Nature Walk** at Pysz Farm, 9 to 11 a.m., W. Greenwich. 154-acre family farmstead, explore forest, fields and swamp, home to rare plants and animals. Call for reservations, 783-5895.
 - Temple Emanu-El Leisure Club** meeting in Bohnen Vestry, 2 p.m. Guest speaker will be Father F. Flannery. Call 274-0725.

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Rhode Island Gears Up For Relay For Life

The American Cancer Society's Relay for Life is not just a fund-raising event. It's a team event to help fight cancer and it's a celebration of cancer survivorship. East Bay residents are invited to be part of a community that takes up the fight against cancer by joining the Relay for Life. This unique 18-hour fund-raising event is being held in the following communities:

- May 29 and 30 — Paolino Recreation Center Outdoor Track at Roger Williams University, Bristol
- June 5 and 6 — Westerly High School Track, Westerly
- June 12 and 13 — Bain Middle School Walking Track, Cranston
- June 19 and 20 — North Kingstown High School Track, North Kingstown

Businesses, neighborhoods, social groups, families, friends and organizations are encouraged to form teams of 8 to 14 members. Team members will take turns on the track walking or running relay style in shifts. Cancer survivors are invited to take part in the opening lap of the event and to then attend a reception. To join, call the American Cancer Society in Rhode Island at 722-8480.

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

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EastSide Marketplace, Pitman St.
East Side Prescription Center, Hope St.
Rhoda's Judaica, Burlington St.

JEWISH COMMUNITY

Rhode Island Paper Puts Local News In Russian Language

by Emily Torgan-Shalansky
Jewish Community Reporter

A picture of the Rhode Island state capitol above a Cyrillic headline.

A photo of Providence's Waterplace Park and a portrait of a Russian soldier atop a World War II-era tank.

Although some might think that newsprint juxtaposing such images could serve only Hollywood, *The Russian Messenger*, a monthly Russian-language newspaper, is a real-life necessity for many members of Rhode Island's New American community.

"For some, it is a great effort to read in English," explained Alla Goman, the *Messenger's* volunteer coordinator and member of the New American community. "Still, they want to know about the United States and Rhode Island. When they walk on Rochambeau Avenue, they want to know who the street was named for and why."

Now a 16- to 20-page publication staffed by New American volunteers and supplemented by the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island, and The Rhode Island Foundation, *The Russian Messenger* reaches 500 New Americans living in the region each month.

"We print national news as well as news from the local, Jewish and Russian communities," Goman said. "There is American history and information about Judaism, and we have a humor column as well."

According to Goman, *The Russian Messenger* began when Sarah Karush, who is presently a Brown alumna, brought her plans for an independent study project into the community.

Karush, then a student of journalism and Russian, had just come back from a semester at Moscow University, and she wanted to begin a Russian newsletter that Brown University had agreed to fund.

"In 1996, she came to the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island, and asked for a list of volunteers to help her out," Goman said. "I gave her a list, and she called people. Those who were interested got very involved. Her grant was very small, and the advertising had to make enough money to get the paper out."

Using Brown University's computers and the *Messenger's* advertising revenues, the volunteers generated their first issue.

Shortly thereafter, a real need for the publication emerged throughout the Russian commu-

nity, which was not solely comprised of Jews.

"We had some Armenian contributors, and there are some Eastern Orthodox émigrés from the former U.S.S.R. who were interested as well," Goman said.

Early on in the project, Karush met Boris Gorachevskiy, a retired New American who had been a distinguished journalist, author and professor of journalism in Russia.

"Boris worked really hard, and he taught her a lot," Goman remembered.

After Karush graduated and went to Russia, Gorachevskiy took over as editor, and has continued to work with Irina Ramm, a reporter, Ilya Vinarskiy, the advertising director and a writer, Boris Nosovskiy, a writer, Margarita Ter-Simonian, an arts writer, Nina Ivanova, a copy editor, and Goman, a coordinator, to keep *The Russian Messenger* delivering.

"Last year, we started to apply for different grants," said Goman. "Without grants, we knew that the paper would die, because it's language-specific and our advertising does not make as much money as an English paper could."

(Continued on Page 15)



ALLA GOMAN, coordinator for *The Rhode Island Messenger*, a Russian-language monthly, holds a few issues of the publication.
Herald photo by Emily Torgan-Shalansky

Rosh Hodesh Holiday Gains Ground With Jewish Women

by Emily Torgan-Shalansky
Jewish Community Reporter

It was May 26, 1998, so Jewish women celebrated.

Although the solar calendar said it was just a regular day, the Hebrew calendar proclaimed that it was Rosh Hodesh, an ancient holiday that falls at the beginning of each month.

Rosh Hodesh, which marks the resurgence of the new moon, has itself resurged, for the holiday, which was once relegated to the peripheries of modern Jewish practice, has gained a new popularity among Jewish feminists of various denominations, both within and well beyond Rhode Island.

"There are other Rosh Hodesh groups in Providence, but I felt there was a need for one here," explained Alison Link, director of Perspectives, Rhode Island's Jewish young adult project, as she welcomed participants at a newly founded Rosh Hodesh

group at Brown University's Hillel. "Some of them have sign-up sheets to help people decide what to talk about each month. Other groups lay out their agendas early in the year. This group is very informal, and participants discuss whatever they want to."

Within Rhode Island, Rosh Hodesh gatherings, traditionally a time for women to come together for company, conversation, candlelight, food, and perhaps music, dance or readings, are very much in demand.

"About 35 or 40 people attended our first Rosh Hodesh this spring, and another group was just started last year," said Link.

As participants began their celebration by lighting round candles and naming their maternal ancestors, they invoked the feel of ancient tradition before moving into conversations about their lives as Jewish women.

According to Rabbi Eliezer

Levy of the Chai Center in Warwick, this long-standing female orientation has always been a part of Rosh Hodesh.

"In traditional circles, it has always been observed, and it's been a women's holiday from the very beginning," Levy said.

Rosh Hodesh, or the head of the month, begins when the first silver of the new moon is visible in the sky. An important time in

(Continued on Page 15)

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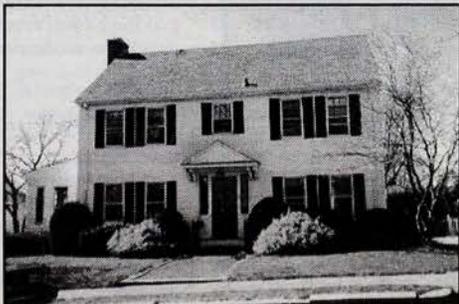
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OPINION

The Festival of Shavuot

by Rabbi Maurice Weisenberg

Shavuot commemorates the great events at Mt. Sinai when Israel, newly redeemed from the slavery of Egypt, received the Torah of G-d, and pledged themselves: "All that the L-rd hath spoken, we will do and we will listen." It is for this reason that this day was chosen for confirmation, when young men and women re-affirm the vow of our people at Sinai.

Shavuot is also an agricultural festival marking the ripening of first fruits and the presentation of bikkurim to the Temple. Shavuot itself means "weeks" since there are seven full weeks between the onset of Pesach and Shavuot. It is also known as Pentecost, from the Greek word meaning 50, since the festival occurs 50 days after the start of Pesach.

As a reminder of the agricultural significance of the day and of the verdure which grew on Mt. Sinai, as well as an allusion to the fact that the Torah is called a "Tree of Life," it is customary to decorate the home and the synagogue with greens and flowers.

On this holiday, it is also customary to eat dairy foods, since the Torah is often compared to milk and honey, having the nourishment of the former and the sweetness of the latter.

The Giving of the Torah

The heart of the Jews' rules for living is the Torah. At Mount Sinai, where the Jews of Moses' time were given the Torah, they pledged to follow G-d's rules. To this day, we believe that by following these rules we serve G-d. Not only as individuals but also as a people, by what we do together in our communities. We want to set an example to all the peoples of the world, so they, too, will come to follow these holy rules of conduct.

Shavuot is the holiday on which we celebrate G-d's giving to us the Torah. We call this holiday the "Time of the Giving of the Torah." Not the "receiving" of the Torah but the "giving" of the Torah. A Hasidic rabbi gave two reasons why:

First, we were given the Torah only once, in Moses' time, on Shavuot, but every Jew in every generation receives the Torah whenever he or she studies.

Second, while every Jew is given the Torah equally, not every Jew receives it equally. Some Jews understand it better than others; some Jews follow it more closely than others.

So we celebrate its giving, not its receiving.

Rabbi Weisenberg is from Congregation Agudath in Taunton, Mass.

The Importance of Shavuot Today

Shavuot is the special time for us to reawaken and strengthen our special relationship with G-d. We can do so by rededicating ourselves to the observance and study of the Torah—our most precious heritage.

5758 Shavuot Schedule

May 30 — Light the Yom Tov candles from a pre-existing flame after the time indicated on the back panel and say both blessings.

Tikun Lail Shavuot during the night.

May 31 — Everyone should attend services in the morning and hear the reading of the Ten Commandments.

Light the Yom Tov candles from a pre-existing flame after the time indicated on the back panel and say both blessings.

June 1 — Yizkor is said during services.

Candlelighting Blessings
Bo-ruch A-toh Ado-ni E-lo-
hei-nu
Me-lech Ho-olom A-she-
r Ki-de-sha-nu
Be-mitz-vo-sov Vi-tzi-vo-nu
Le-had-lik
Ner Shef Yom Tov.

Bo-ruch A-toh Ado-ni E-lo-
hei-nu
Me-lech Ho-olom She-heh-
che-yoh-nu
Vi-ki-ye-mo-nu Ve-he-ge-o-
nu Liz-man
Ha-zeh.

The Written And Oral Law

The Torah is composed of two parts: the written law and the oral law. The written Torah contains the Five Books of Moses,

the Prophets and the Writings. Together with the written Torah, Moses was also given the oral law which explains and clarifies the written law. It was transmitted orally from generation to generation and eventually transcribed in the Talmud and Midrash. Throughout the generations our people have studied these works, commenting upon them, clarifying their meanings, deriving practical applications of these principles and codifying the laws derived from them. Thus, a continuous chain of tradition extends throughout the generations, connecting the scholars of the present day to the revelation at Mt. Sinai.

Speaking metaphorically, our sages tell us that G-d constantly "gazes into the Torah and cre-

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HAVE AN OPINION?

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

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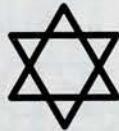
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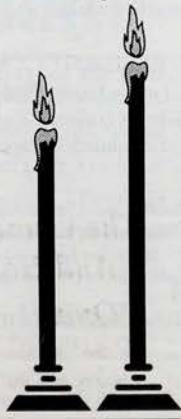
Unsolicited manuscripts: Unsolicited manuscripts are welcome. We do not pay for copy printed. All manuscripts must be typed, double-spaced. Enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you want the manuscript returned. Letters to the editor represent the opinions of the writers, not the editors, and should include the letter writer's telephone number for verification.

The Herald is a member of the New England Press Association and a subscriber to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.



Candlelighting

May 29, 1998
7:54 p.m.



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

To the Editor:

I have before me Mike Fink's feature article "Bravo and Encore" which appeared in the *Rhode Island Jewish Herald*, May 14.

There were the three cantors.

But where, oh, where were three other names I sought!

Cantor Joseph Ness of West Hartford, Conn., who so skillfully orchestrated the variety of musical pieces of different eras in our long common Jewish history. We owe him a Yishar Koach for his talent and execution.

Oskar Eustis, artistic director of Trinity Rep. The voice that charmed us. The depth of feeling that reverberated through the theater. The artist within him which gave meaning to the words.

Gershon Levine, community relations council director, whose words (that Oskar Eustis spoke) wove them together into a magnificent frame making an unforgettable picture on the occasion of the 50th Jubilee year of the State of Israel. Gershon exhibited a sensitivity for our people — a depth and breadth of understanding of our Jewish culture — an ability to weave together the spirit, the nostalgia, the beauty of our heritage. Judaism, Zionism, Yiddishkeit were a partnership. Thank you, Gershon. Only you could do this.

I have this day made the suggestion, daring though it may be, that your script be publicly published so that all the Jews of Rhode Island may have a permanent memento of that glorious concert of three cantors.

Jenny Klein
Providence, R.I.

In The Wilderness

by Ellen J. Lewis

I had never had a mystical experience until I entered the wilderness of Sinai about 20 years ago. At the time, I didn't know I was having a mystical experience. It is only hindsight that allows me to recognize what it was.

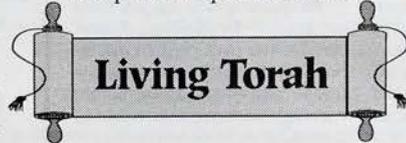
I had signed up for a five-day hike through Sinai with the Society for the Preservation of Nature in Israel. I knew no one else on the trip. All I knew was that each of us was to bring our own food and camping equipment for a journey that would include hiking through remote areas of the desert.

I look back now and see how isolated and alone I must have felt, as scared as our ancestors may have been as they wandered through that same wilderness.

On the second day of the journey, we had planned to reach the base of Mount Sinai in the early afternoon so that we could spend the night inside the cloistered monastery of Santa Caterina, but we were late and did not arrive there until shortly before sunset. The purple mountains cast ominous shadows upon us as we hiked futilely toward the locked monastery. We were tired, cold, and weary. I remember the moment when I looked in despair at the plains behind us and the mountains

towering over us, thinking, "So this is where it happened!"

Then I shook myself. This is where *what* happened? Never before had I believed that an actual revelation of Torah had occurred in the Sinai wilderness. I was, after all, a rational person. I knew the Bible had been written by human beings, albeit ones inspired by G-d. Yet somehow in that moment, an unexpected and powerful spiritual current



opened me up to a new way of experiencing G-d's Presence. For the first time in my life, I felt the power of divine revelation.

To this day, I am convinced that the reason was something about the wilderness itself. It was quite in a way I had never heard quiet before, empty in a way I had never seen emptiness. No debris of daily life cluttered my mind. The usual distractions were absent. For a brief moment, my self as I knew it was not the same. Paradoxically, it seemed that the very nothingness of the desert was what had led me to new belief in Something. And I understood, at last, why G-d had spoken to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai: "Any-

one who does not make himself or herself open like the wilderness will not be able to acquire wisdom and Torah; and so, it is said, 'in the wilderness of Sinai.'" (*Bemidbar Rabbah* 1:8)

Twenty years later, I long to reenter that wilderness, to find that place, to strip myself down to nothingness so that I can again let the Divine Presence find its way in:

Before you begin to pray, cast aside that which limits you and enter the endless world of Nothing.

In prayer turn to G-d alone and have no thoughts of yourself at all.

Nothing but G-d exists for you; you yourself have ceased to be.

The true redemption of the soul can only happen as you step outside the body's limits.

(*Shemu'ah Tovah* 79b to 80a, as quoted in *Your Word Is Fire: The Hasidic Masters on Contemplative Prayer*, Arthur Green and Barry Holtz, eds., Jewish Lights Publishing, Woodstock, VT, 1993).

Ellen J. Lewis is the rabbi of the Jewish Center of North West Jersey in Washington, N.J., and has offices for the practice of therapy in Manhattan and in Watchung, N.J.

Old Garden, New Ideas

by Mike Fink

Herald Contributing Reporter

They don't make shovels the way they used to, heavy and curvy, with iron and thick shafts of real wood. I saved the one my father used for coal, for loam, for snow. I put it in my school office as a souvenir and objet d'art. But this springtime I found another use for it. I brought it to a sculptor-welder at a fancy Wickford garden shop called Bittersweet, along with a couple of his rusty golf clubs and a hand clipper for trimming lawns along sidewalks. "Make me a bird or a giraffe to put on my rocks and weeds," I said as I lay down my relics among the mirror globes, decorated stepping stones, cherubs and urns.

Then I went off to a stonecutter, a maker of monuments in granite and polished marble, over in Silver Lake. I carried a curbstone, but he had better blocks with shining faces to carve my message. I wanted to inscribe the number of my house, so the mailman can deliver messages through the grove of overgrown shrubs and trees that hide the numeral from easy view. Especially on our street, where the pattern of names and figures is pretty confusing.

I also wanted the date of our wedding written on stone. It was an anniversary notion. I thought, rock suggests permanence, and flowers around it say something about renewal and freshness. Mr. Sciolto knows the Hebrew characters, and takes me around his arty studio, and then around back where I discover: a silver lake, complete with a ring of trees, whose leaves he can identify, and a small flock of shorebirds, whose silhouettes he knows and names.

Some of us do our gardening with a green thumb and get good dirt under our finger nails.

I often do mine by strolling around my really small duke-dom space and thinking up a screwball scheme for making even the weeds feel good about themselves and surprising the

mates do some harm to the annuals and wreak havoc with balls and sticks on the branches of maples and bushes. But my father's once serious and practical tools now making merry



SATYR SITS silently in the green garden.

Herald photo by Mike Fink

perennials. It doesn't always work. I spotted a book about Feng Shui, the Hong Kong art of arranging your things so that a life force can flow beneficially around your family and bring you luck. They call it "chi," I think. I figure, my dog runs around and carries her own chi. She also makes a mess. Squirrels tip over my birdfeeders, but they sure add chi with their graceful but restless pranks. A dashing, flashing jay-bird jabs in for a jaunt. A pretty purple pigeon restores calm on a shingled rooftop, cooing, preening, circling in a courtly gesture. My son and his crew of school-

pranks and the markers sometimes meant for the dead now serving romantic and friendly ends give me something to look forward to as sun and shade and the months ahead do their own designing. Other sites may offer more impressive sights, but my yard has "texture," as a guest put it graciously as sun broke through cloud and mist.

We're all in there trying our tikkun olam, our little repair jobs around our dwelling places, our tents, rebuilding wilderness but giving it a human countenance as we greet the month of June.

Gifts to Judaism

by Mike Fink
Herald Contributing Reporter



Bernice K. Weiss came to town and joined me at table in a small cafe, along with fellow Rabbi Joel Braude, my wife and son, and a host of other tablehoppers. Rabbi Weiss chairs the Washington Institute for Conversion and the Study of Judaism based in Rockville, Maryland.

She sent me a kind note thanking me for "the chance to feel welcome" and for "an interest in my work." This active and energetic rabbi recently received a modestly unidentified honorary degree, and writes letters about the value of Jewish "pluralism." Her forthcoming publication, *Choosing to be Chosen: The Converts' Gifts to Judaism*, awaits the completion of a chapter on the history of conversion. She enclosed a couple of accounts of the thoughts of young women whom she has counseled.

"I have chosen to live by a morality that values mindfulness in our daily lives, so that we can make the ordinary holy, and most of all, kindness...I am happy and privileged to choose to join the family of Judaism, and I thank you, God, for having chosen me." Mari came from

a Christian background both Protestant and Catholic, changed Mari to Miriam, recited the shema with tears in her eyes, and fixed a mezuzah to her doorpost.

Stella Ogata moved from her Shinto Japanese culture ever deeper into Judaism, going from Reform to Conservative to Orthodox. She writes a remarkable paragraph about her journey of spirit. "Just as my husband was always drawn to Asian women, I was drawn to Jewish men. I have an affinity for the Jewish people, their rich joy. Our son Max has a middle name: Chiune, the name of the Japanese envoy who saved Jews during the Holocaust. It's a good way to join two traditions. But on the level of soul, I have a Jewish soul. I am a Japanese Jew."

Rabbi Bernice sums up her career of bringing people together within Judaism through her personal letter. "You can get an idea of what makes me tick, of what I do. I am truly not complicated. I enjoy the simplicities, the caring, the friendships that make a difference. That's what happened in Providence."

Of Kashrut And Kindness

by Mike Fink
Herald Contributing Reporter

"Don't talk about animal rights. Say animal protection. It calms people down." Arnold Baer, director of the New England regional office of the Humane Society, sat with me in the dappled shade of the Marriott pool oasis. He wore a white shirt and tie with a pattern of cats. He had come to Rhode Island to urge legislation in favor of our feline pets, the first state to pass a bill registering household cats to keep them safe from harm and mass euthanizing. I argued that the rights of domesticated beasts clashed with the rights of wildlife. "I believe all cats should live indoors, not ferally," he answered.

In nearby Connecticut, he counters the slaughter of pest Canada geese and mute swans with gentler programs to check their spreading populations. "Nature may be cruel, but we are supposed to be the kind species, the thoughtful animal. We can rise above cruelty if we choose."

Baer's family came from Germany. "My uncle arrived to join us here just after Krystallnacht. He had run a meat business there, but kosher slaughtering, even if was invented to show mercy to cattle, has become a terrible method. Some day, for reasons of space and expense in a crowded world, we may all become vegetarian. We will look back and call these eating habits barbaric. In the meantime, we should interpret kashrut in a

new way, with an eye to the welfare and comfort of the poor beasts."

Baer spoke freely on topics ranging from caged birds to land grants. "We allow no hunting in our reserves and preserves." He asked, if the Orthodox rebuild a temple in Jerusalem, will they sacrifice rams and lambs once again?

I offered, only partly kidding, "It might indeed be a lesson in the sacredness of life. After all, we may be sentimental, but we are certainly not truly thoughtful of our fellow mammals. We just don't look at the slaughterhouses, the hidden concentration camps for other creatures."

As we passed through the lobby, the statue of a golden dog by a hunting mural like a tapestry took on new meaning for me. I shook hands three times with Arnold Baer, like a rabbi in a new guise, and thanked him for his helpful words.



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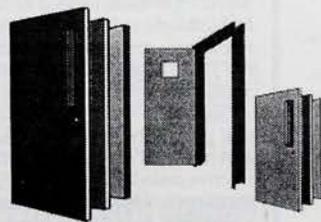
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JEWISH COMMUNITY

From Right to Left and Left to Right

(And We're Not Talking Politics)

The International Conference on Hebrew Language and Literature will be held June 7 to 9 at Jewish Theological Seminary in New York.

Capetown, Sydney, Mexico City, Sao Paulo and Tel Aviv will be among the many cities represented at the annual conference of the National Association of Professors of Hebrew, which will be hosted this year by JTS and chaired by Dr. Adina Ofek, associate professor of Jewish education.

The conference, sponsored by the Toby and Morton Gross Hebrew Language Institute of JTS and the Lucius Littauer Foundation, is designed for professors of Hebrew language and literature on the university and high school levels. It will feature three days of lectures, seminars and informal conversation over dinner on June 7, 8 and 9. A number of the sessions — on teaching Hebrew language,

Bible and literature in Hebrew and in translation — will be in Hebrew.

Highlights of the gathering that will be conducted in English and are open to the public include the Sunday evening keynote address, "The Complexity of the Political Poem: U.Z. Greenberg," by Dr. Dan Miron, noted Hebrew literary critic, author and Leonard Kaye Professor of Hebrew Literature at Columbia University; a session on Monday evening with renowned linguist Ruth Berman of the University of Tel Aviv on "What Drives and/or Delays Language Learning?" and a lively evening on Sunday as Rivka Maoz of Hebrew University and Edna Amir Coffin of the University of Michigan lecture on the image of women in songs of the Palmach.

Registration is \$50 for the entire program, and advance reservations are required. For complete information, call Ofek at (212) 678-8814.

JFS Invites Children to "Draw the People You Love"

Children celebrating Israel's 50th anniversary at the big birthday party for Israel which the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island will hold on June 7 will also get a chance to celebrate their loved ones. The festivities, officially billed as Israel's 50th Birthday Bash, will take place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Elmgrove Avenue and include a children's "Draw the People You Love" booth, sponsored by Jewish Family Service.

"A celebration like this emphasizes the links among us, including the primary connection we feel toward our families. So we thought the children would enjoy an activity in which they can show how they picture the people they care about. And JFS will provide the paper and the crayons," said Paul Segal, executive director of JFS.

Participating children will receive certificates and their drawings will be exhibited at JFS.

Congregation Ohave Sholam Installs Rabbi Torczyner

On June 21 at 5:30 p.m., Congregation Ohave Sholam in Pawtucket will hold the installation of Rabbi Mordechai Torczyner.

The keynote speaker for the evening will be Rabbi Michael Broyle.

Black tie is optional. For reservations, call Sloane Taube at 722-8867 or Nita Pliskin at 725-3886.

JFS Offers "The Sandwich Generation" Workshop

Family Life Education at Jewish Family Service will offer a four-session workshop this June which will focus on individuals' experiences with aging parents. This workshop will give participants the opportunity to share feelings and concerns about a loved one's aging and discuss their role in that process. Topics to be addressed include physical and psychological changes which result from the aging process, shifting relationships, realistic expectations and community resources that are available to maintain independence.

The program led by JFS clinical social worker Erin Gisherman Minior, will meet Mondays from 5:30 to 7 p.m., June 8 through 29 at JFS, 229 Waterman St. in Providence. The fee for the program is \$40 per person.

For further information or to pre-register, call 331-1244.

Israel Through Song — A Land of Many Voices

Israel's songs are a window to her history, and as Israel turns 50, the Jewish Theatre of New England celebrates this milestone with an outdoor concert. Join the Jewish Theatre on the West Lawn at the Leventhal-Sidman Jewish Community Center, Newton, Mass., on June 7 at 2 p.m. for an afternoon of Israeli music, sun, fun, and food. Admission is \$10, \$8 for seniors and students; \$5 for children under 12. The Leventhal-Sidman Jewish Community Center is located at 333 Nahanton St. in Newton Centre. For information and tickets call the JTNE box office, (617) 965-5226.

Song has always been an integral part of the Jewish tradition and history. Prayer, with its distinctive melodic lines, and songs for the promised land, have been an integral part of the fabric of Jewish life and an essential ingredient of Jewish folklore and celebration. Experience the history and joy of Israel through music as you join in on your favorite song or learn a new one. Lyrics and transliterations will be available as well as narrated programs. Bring your lawn chair, a picnic lunch and enjoy a talented group of Israeli musicians for an afternoon of outdoor fun!

Israel's 50th Birthday Bash

Street Festival & Celebration

The Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island invites the public to come join friends, neighbors, and a host of government officials as the state of Rhode Island celebrates the birth of a nation.

This festive celebration will be held on June 7 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Elmgrove Avenue in Providence and is free and open to the public.

Schedule of Events

- 11 to 11:45 a.m. — Bressler Entertainment, featuring Fischel Bressler, a renowned klezmer musician
- 11:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. — Alperin Schechter Day School Zimriyah
- 12:15 to 12:30 p.m. — Israel 50th Dancers
- 12:30 to 1 p.m. — Bressler Entertainment and Providence Hebrew Day School Choir
- 1 to 1:30 p.m. — The Jubilee Festival Chorus, which joins the choral voices of Temple Emanu-El, Temple Beth-El, Temple Torat Yisrael, Temple Am David, and Congregation Beth Sholom will perform "Hatikvah" and the national anthem
- 1:30 to 2:15 p.m. — The Aviv Band, an Israeli band with spirited music
- 2:15 to 2:30 p.m. — JCC's Jewish Theatre Ensemble presents selections from "40 Years of Bad Road"
- 2:30 to 3:15 p.m. — Aviv Band Encore
- 3:15 to 3:30 p.m. — Kol Sasson (Voice of Joy), the year-old Children's Klezmer Band of Temple Emanu-El's Religious School
- 3:30 to 4 p.m. — Bressler Entertainment Encore

Children's Stage Entertainment

- 11 to 11:30 a.m. — Deidra Morris performs on stilts
 - 11:35 to 11:55 a.m. — Award-winning storyteller Judith Black with "Let Me Tell You A Story"
 - Noon to 12:25 p.m. — Marc Kohler's Puppets brings nearly 30 years of entertainment experience to the stage, with hand and mouth-moving puppets performing a traditional Jewish tale
 - 12:55 to 1:15 p.m. — Singer, songwriter, and recording artist Laura Berkson will perform everything from folk songs to original pieces
 - 1:20 to 1:40 p.m. — Award-winning storyteller Judith Black returns to the stage
 - 1:45 to 2:05 p.m. — Bruce Kalver, magical entertainer
 - 2:10 to 2:35 p.m. — Marc Kohler's puppets return
 - 2:40 to 3 p.m. — Bruce Kalver, magical entertainer
 - 3:05 to 3:35 p.m. — Deidra Morris, stilts performer, returns
- There will be numerous activities, exhibits and programs ongoing, all day, including a petting zoo.

Community Expo Organizations

The Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island, The Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, Israel Aliyah Center, Alperin Schechter Day School, Temple Habonim, Providence Hebrew Day School, Family Resources, The Rhode Island Jewish Herald, R.I. Hadassah, Jewish Family Service, Bureau of Jewish Education, JOLT, Chabad of West Bay, The National Conference, Camp JORI, Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island, R.I. Jewish Historical Association, Chabad House of R.I., Temple Beth-El, Temple Emanu-El, Temple Sinai, Congregation Beth Sholom, Women's Association of the Jewish Home Corporation, Am David, Congregation Agudas Achim, Perspectives, BBYO, Touro Fraternal Association, Temple Torat Yisrael Sisterhood, Temple Shalom, Samuel Zilman Bazarsky Religious School, American Associates, and Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Shuk (Israeli Marketplace)

Mezuzahs by Norman Gordon, Jewelry by DaYo Designs, Judaica by Art Attack, Kippot by Wendy Garf-Lipp, Caricatures by Len Shalansky, Judaica by Rhoda's Judaica, Books and Mezuzahs from Wellspring Books, Watercolors by Lisa Fliegle, Flowers by Blooming Blossoms, Quilts by Laura Rosenspan, Paintings by Ben Weiss, Judaica, Paintings, etc., by Dabbles, Judaica by Everett Gruber, Judaica by Jessica Horowitz, Stamps by LGT Company, Judaica by Mayan Hands, Books from Books on the Square, Noah's Ark from Miriam Hospital Gift Shop, Skin Care by Dead Sea Ski Care, Jewelry by Fanny Fish Jewelry, Israeli Travel by Winkleman Travel, El Al Israeli Airlines, Calligraphy by Marcia Kaunfer, Pins by Merav Minkin, Silver Jewelry by Green River Silver, Recordings by Laura Berkson, Travel from Your Travel Agent, Judaic Art, Children's Educational Judaica by GP Limited Editions, Hope Travel, Temple Beth-El Gift Shop, Temple Emanu-El Gift Shop, Ceramics by Bruce Lenore

Plus... food, food, and more food. Israeli and American food (certified by the Vaad) will be served all day.

For more information or to volunteer, call 861-8800.

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SPECIAL EVENTS

Barbecues, Highridge Olympics, Open House, Guest Privileges

JEWISH COMMUNITY

NCJW Hosts 103rd Annual Meeting

National Council of Jewish Women, Rhode Island Section, will hold its 103rd annual meeting on June 3 at Temple Beth-El. There will be an election of officers and board members on a slate presented by the nominating committee as follows: Presidents, Carol Brooklyn, Nan Levine, Judith Litchman; vice president, Paulla Lipsey, community services; vice president, Elaine Kroll, Muriel Leach, program; vice president, Eunice Greenfield, Rosalind Bolusky, membership; vice president, Gertrude Gordon, fund-raising; treasurer, Zelda Horvitz; recording secretary, Roberta Loebenberg; corresponding secretary, Leona Sherman; assistant correspond-

ing secretary, Doris Zaidman; financial secretary, Charlotte Primack; mailing secretaries, Esther Swartz and Herta Hoffman. Board of directors 1998 to 1999, Grace Alpert, Betty Kotlen, Stella Pollock, Phyllis Berry, Anita Norman, Gladys Sandler, Joan Isserlis, Charlotte Penn, Estelle Singer. Board of directors 1998 to 2000, Claire Bell, Marjorie Blake, Elaine Hoffman, Doris Hirsch, Glenda Labush, Gertrude Max, Helene Nemtsov, Hinda Semonoff, Harriett Traugott. Retiring officer to serve one-year courtesy term to 1999, Lola Schwartz. Nominating committee 1998 to 1999, Ruth Rotenberg, chairwoman; Grace Alpert, Audrey Bieder, Sylvia

Denhoff, Eleanor Elbaum, Kay Kaplan, Estelle Klemer.

A reception with dessert will begin at 12:30 p.m. and the program will begin at 1 p.m.

Bonnie Ryvicker and Penny Faich, who direct the Jewish Eldercare in Rhode Island, will speak about the future of JERI, "Will there be Jewish Eldercare in Rhode Island when you need it?" Both women have devoted their careers to advocating on behalf of Jewish eldercare.

The meeting is open to all who would like to attend. Members are asked to bring a grocery item to be donated to the R.I. Community Food Bank. Contact Lola Schwartz, 861-9519, for further information.

Cranston Senior Guild Hosts Installation Luncheon

Judah Rosen Re-Elected President

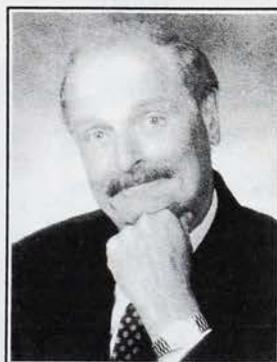
On June 3 the Cranston Senior Guild will hold their installation luncheon at noon at the Venus de Milo in Swansea.

Guest include Mel Simons and Jeffrey Pine.

Humorist Mel Simons is a well-known humorist and accordionist. He is also one of the biggest collectors in the world of old-time radio and television shows.

Simons entertains often at Kutshers and the Concord Hotel

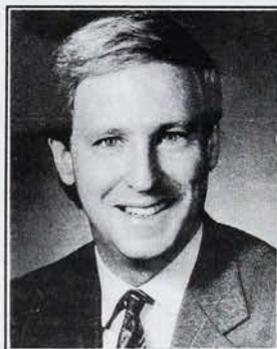
in the Catskill Mountains. He was the master of ceremonies at the Brickman Hotel for 10 years, and has appeared on many radio and television shows.



Mel Simons

Simons can be heard on the Bob Raleigh radio show every Tuesday night at midnight on WBZ 10:30 a.m.

The installing officer will be Jeffrey B. Pine, attorney general for the State of Rhode Island.



Jeffrey B. Pine



Russian Community Celebrates

The annual remembrance of the Russian "Victory over Germany" celebration was recently held at the Jewish Community Center in Providence. Uniformed men and women were featured during the program which represented hope and freedom for this growing community of new Americans.

Photo courtesy of JCCRI

Congregation Ohave Shalom Shavuot Schedule

May 29 — 6:30 p.m., Mincha, Kabbalas Shabbos and Maariv. Early time for the summer.

7 p.m., latest time to light Shabbos candles.

May 30 — 9 a.m., Shacharis and Musaf

7 p.m., Chumash and Gemorrah classes

7:45 p.m., Mincha, Seudat Shlishit and Maariv. Havdolah is made as part of the Yom Tov Kiddush without spices and using the Yom Tov candles.

Shavuot first night — 8:57 p.m. Earliest time to light Yom Tov candles from existing flame.

11 p.m., Tikun Laal Shavuot all night learning begins. (See schedule below)

May 31 — 4:40 a.m. Early Shacharis and Musaf for those learning all night.

9 a.m. — Regular Shacharis and Musaf. The rabbi will be at the early davening only. Joshua Pearlman will read the Torah at this service.

Shavuot second night — 8 p.m., Mincha, learning and Maariv.

8:58 p.m., earliest time to light Yom Tov candles from existing flame.

June 1 — 9 a.m. Shacharis

and Musaf. Megillas Rusis read. **10:30 a.m.**, Yizkor

8 p.m., Mincha, learning and Maariv

8:59 p.m., Yom Tov ends. Havdolah over wine only.

May 30, Shavuot Night

11 p.m. to 12:15 a.m. — "Were the Jews Forced to Accept The Torah?"

Food Break — 12:30 a.m. to 1:45 a.m. "Prophecy" Rabbi Szendro

Food Break — 2 to 3 a.m.

"The Thought Police: 'Do Not Covet'"

Food Break — 3:15 to 4:30 a.m. "Revelation" Rabbi Szendro 4 a.m.; Shacharis.

All programs are for men and women. Classes: Rabbi Mordechai Torczyner. Food provided by Simply Scrumptious Catering

There is room for sleeping children (bring sleeping bags). Congregation Ohave Shalom is located on East Avenue in Pawtucket.

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Chabad House Celebrates Shavuot

Celebrate Shavuot, The Festival of the Giving of the Torah, on May 31 thru June 1 at Chabad House in Providence.

May 31, 11 a.m. The Ten Commandments. Followed by a festive holiday luncheon with sweets and ice cream.

June 1, 11 a.m. Yizkor Services, 11:30 a.m.

All Night Torah Learn-a-Thon May 30 noon to dawn, study groups, discussions and more at the Chabad House, 360 Hope St., Providence.

For holiday hospitality, call 273-7238.



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June 7, 7:30 pm
June 13, 9:15 pm
June 14, 4:00 pm

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JEWISH COMMUNITY

Jewish War Veterans Honor Past Members



CANTOR REMMIE BROWN of Temple Sinai, leads Irving Levin, Rabbi Astrachan and the audience in the National Anthem during services.



MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD and JWV paid a special tribute to deceased war heroes at the end of the Memorial Day Ceremony.

The Jewish Community gathered on Memorial Day to remember war heroes.

Text and photos by
Tara V. Lisciandro
Herald Editor

On a bright, warm and sun-filled morning, the Rhode Island Department of Jewish War Veterans, families and friends gathered at the Lincoln Park Cemetery in Warwick for the annual Memorial Day Service. Under a clear blue sky, Irving Levin, JWV department commander and former state representative, stood proudly at the podium and addressed his audience. In front of him stood 12 imported Italian stone markers decorated with the Star of David and special Hebrew inscriptions. These 12 Jewish War heroes were killed in action during the second world war. Meanwhile, a silver granite arch, at the entrance of the cemetery, is inscribed with the 13 names of the men and women who were lost in action during the second world war.

Behind the grave markers sat families who came to pay tribute to deceased family members. "Every year we hold services in memory of those who have passed away, and we read



HARVEY GREEN, JR. Vice Commander and Post Commander at Post 406 in Pawtucket, stands proudly with the RI Jewish War Veterans Flag during Memorial Day Services at Lincoln Park Cemetery in Warwick.

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Margie Edwards

Margaretta L. Edwards
Executive Director, Public Education Fund

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the names of those who have died in the last year," said Levin. The names are then added to an enclosed memorial board, a long list of deceased members that stands in front of the arch. As members of the R.I. JWV stood proudly during the ceremony, Levin reminded the audience of the JWV's future leaders.

"Most of us are in our 70s and 80s, and the younger veterans must soon take our places," said Levin, who emphasized the younger veterans important and ultimate roles during the services.

Religious services were conducted by Rabbi George J. Astrachan and Cantor Remie Brown, both from Temple Sinai in Cranston. Cantor Brown led the audience in "The Star Spangled Banner" and the National Anthem. The National Guard was also present and honored the veterans with a rifle salute while the bugle played "Taps."

SUMMER CAMP

Student Summer Adventures

The warm weather of summer is upon us and it's time for students to start thinking of summer plans. Many will be attending camp while others take on summer jobs, vacations abroad or other interesting adventures.

What will YOU be taking part in this summer? Why not try your hand at creative writing? The *RI Jewish Herald* will publish the winning entries throughout the summer.

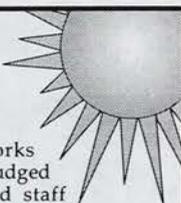
Students from grades 7 through 12 may enter any

"Summer Story," and students in grades 1 through 6 may enter any "Summer Poem." The theme for all stories and poems must be "Summer Adventures."

All entries are due by June 11. Entries can also be handed in to the *RI Jewish Herald* Booth at the Israel Birthday Bash at the JCCRI on June 7. "Summer Stories," must be at least 400 words and no longer than 650. "Summer Poems," can take any poetry form and must not be longer than 100 words.

All works will be judged by Herald staff and community members. Don't forget to include your name, address, phone number, school and grade on the first page of your entry. All entries remain property of the *RI Jewish Herald*.

For more information, call Tara at 724-0200 or mail entries to: Attn: Summer Stories, *RI Jewish Herald*, PO Box 6063, Providence, RI 02940.



NCT Offers Summer Workshops

The Newport Children's Theatre is offering Summer Theatre Workshops for students entering kindergarten thru 12. Sessions are scheduled from July 6 through 31, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in Newport. Tuition assistance is available and based on need. The NCT offers basic one- and two-week workshops for ages 7 and up, a special morning program for 5- and 6-year-olds, as well as an evening program for teens.

The basic workshops will focus on creative drama, acting skills, voice technique, improvisation, story telling, dance, costumes and makeup. "Comedy Capers," a comedy, melodrama and clowning workshop, will be held July 6 to 10. The second session, "Jack and the Beanstalk" will be a production workshop held July 13 to 17.

At the conclusion of these one-week workshops, family and friends are invited to a presentation of the week's work.

The third session is "Playing with Shakespeare," a two-week production workshop to be held July 20 through 31 with performances on the July 31 and Aug. 1 and 2. Students will audition, rehearse their roles, and create sets and costumes for the public performances: Friday at 7 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday afternoons at 4 p.m.

In addition to the basic Summer Theatre Workshops, the NCT is again offering its special program for youngsters entering kindergarten and first grade — "Stories On Stage." Two sessions will be offered, July 6 to 10 and July 13 to 17, with classes from 9 a.m. to noon.

NCT will again offer an acting-performance workshop specifically designed for novice and intermediate actors ages 13 and up. Under the direction of the faculty, they will develop the basics of acting technique within the performance situation, rehearsing and creating simple sets and costumes for a special production. Teen acting classes will be held Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings from 6 to 9 p.m., July 6 to 22. Class size is limited.

Through its workshop and performance programs, the NCT offers young people the opportunity to discover their creative potential and to develop and fine tune performance skills, all in an ensemble atmosphere. For information, call 848-0266.

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Activists Turn to States to Ensure Religious Rights

by Daniel Kurtzman

WASHINGTON (JTA) — In the year since the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, lawmakers and activists have been scrambling to find ways to ensure that Americans are able to practice religion free from government intrusion.

Much of that effort has centered around crafting new federal legislation to restore some of the protections that existed under the now-defunct law. The legislation—shaped in large part by a broad coalition of religious and civil liberties groups—is expected to be introduced in Congress in coming weeks.

Activists concede, however, that even the meticulously constructed bill will amount to little more than a shadow of the original law.

For that reason, the coalition has undertaken an arduous task: working state by state to pass religious freedom statutes that mirror the original federal law. The goal is to win passage in a few states this year, and then build on the momentum.

RFRA was enacted in 1993 to provide broad protections against government interference with the free practice of religion. While the First Amendment guarantees free religious exercise, activists say that in the absence of the law it has become more difficult to secure religious rights when, for example, a law prohibits state employees from wearing hats or head coverings in the workplace, or when autopsies are required for Orthodox Jews or Muslims.

In striking down RFRA, the high court said in essence that it was unconstitutional for Congress to dictate a standard for religious freedom to the states. Now, seeking to restore the religious freedom protections eliminated by the court, advocates are trying to convince the states to dictate the RFRA standard to themselves.

To begin with, the coalition is targeting a handful of states where legislation modeled after RFRA stands the best chance of passing. Efforts to pass nearly identical measures are currently

under way in states where the coalition has the most resources and where lawmakers are more or less favorably disposed to enacting new religious freedom laws.

So far, Florida and Illinois are leading the way. Both are awaiting the governors' signatures. If they are enacted, Florida and Illinois would join Connecticut and Rhode Island, both of which adopted similar legislation in the early 1990s, as the only states with RFRA statutes on the books.

In Alabama, a state constitutional amendment securing free religious exercise passed the legislature last month and will be sent to voters in November.

The coalition has undertaken an arduous task: working state by state to pass religious freedom statutes that mirror the original federal law.

Meanwhile, activists remain optimistic about the prospects of passing RFRA legislation this year in California, Michigan and South Carolina. But in some of those states concerns about reconciling the bills with anti-discrimination laws and exemptions for prisoners are holding up efforts.

Elsewhere the lobbying effort has been fraught with even more difficulty.

Attempts to pass a RFRA statute in Maryland were met with resistance from municipalities who argued that religious groups should not be exempted from zoning ordinances and other laws. The bill eventually was withdrawn.

And bills are stalled in the New York and New Jersey state legislatures, largely as a result of partisan wrangling.

Chief among the obstacles the coalition faces across the country is getting the attention of state lawmakers.

Many simply do not see it as a

problem, said Michael Lieberman, Washington counsel for the Anti-Defamation League and co-chairman of the coalition working to enact the state RFRA's. For that reason, he said, activists have worked to document and dramatize hardships individuals have experienced without RFRA's protections.

But the fact that such a broad coalition—including such varied groups as the Christian Legal Society and the American Civil Liberties Union—has come together to promote the legislation has also helped to catch lawmakers' attention, Lieberman added.

At the same time, some Conservative Christian groups that were members of the original RFRA coalition have splintered off as they look for other ways to restore the protections. Some of the groups are advocating for a constitutional amendment—possibly in the form of Rep. Ernest Istook's (R-Okl.) sweeping "Religious Freedom Amendment"—which would give the go-ahead to government subsidy of religion and prayer in school.

But members of the coalition—which include Jewish groups across the political spectrum—see that as a dangerous path.

Indeed, RFRA activists are skirting the issue in certain states in the South and elsewhere out of concern "that the whole effort will be hijacked and turned into a prayer in schools effort," said Lieberman.

The task to revive RFRA has been further complicated by the lack of an organized religious lobby in most states, according to Marc Stern, co-director of the American Jewish Congress' legal department.

"You don't have the same degree of organization as you do in Washington," said Stern, who has played a lead role in drafting the new federal religious freedom legislation.

Once RFRA laws are on the books in states such as Florida, California, Illinois and Michigan, Jewish activists hope to focus on other states with large Jewish populations, including Maryland, New York, New Jersey, Ohio and Virginia.

'Italy Italy' Probes Jewish Culture

Jewish culture in Italy, its timeless traditions, historic figures, and ancient ghettos such as the Jewish ghetto of Rome have become national museums, and stories of the dark times during World War II—a feature article in every issue of *Italy Italy* magazine will be devoted to these subjects.

Italy Italy is the only English-language publication to have focused on Italian culture for 16 years, offering the world, and North America in particular, a view of the part Italy has played in the heritage of humanity, from the Etruscans to the ancient Romans to the splendors of the Renaissance, up to the recent success of Italian design and gourmet food. These are what make Italy the second most visited country in the world, after the United States.

"In Rome," said Francesco Nicotra, publisher of *Italy Italy* magazine, "a flourishing Jewish community and synagogue existed long before the Christian era. And that is why the Jews of Rome can rightfully claim to be the oldest residents of Italy's capital."

But this curious fact, according to Nicotra, is not the only reason why his magazine devotes ever more space to Jewish culture and the history of Jews in Italy. "Actually," explains Nicotra, "Jewish communities in many cities have in many ways enormously enriched Italian culture—so much so that in

several regions of Italy some highly interesting Jewish itineraries were organized recently for tourists who want to learn more about this fascinating chapter of the history of Italy and Europe."

In keeping with its broad culture scope, *Italy Italy* in recent years has examined many aspects of Jewish culture and traditions in Italy, such as the ghettos that are now national monuments in important Italian cities, with synagogues that are treasure houses of art and history, such as those in Venice, Florence, and Rome.

The magazine has also published several articles about the story of the Jews in Italy during World War II stories of untold suffering, but also of heroism and brotherhood in "Risking All For Brotherhood."

In upcoming issues, in addition to the series on Jewish itineraries, *Italy Italy* will feature other articles such as the little-known story of Villa Emma in Nonantola: The Story of the American Invasion of Southern Italy; and the stories of the Resistance in Italy and outside of Italy; of slave labor camp survival and stories of courage in the rescue of Italian and foreign Jews.

The bi-monthly magazine is available by subscription. One free issue of *Italy Italy* is offered to subscribers. For information, call (800) 984-8259 or check the web page at <<http://www.italyitaly.com/italy>>

Websites for Jewish Journalists

The New York-based Internet company Jewish Communication Network™ <www.jcn18.com> will offer free web pages to Jewish journalist, writers and authors.

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Here's how it works: Send e-mail to <aengler@jcn18.com> with your name and identify what publication(s) you write for, or what kind of writing you do or plan to do. Within a week, JCN, will get back with your logon and password information, together with a brief how-to-sheet telling you how to use JCN's NewDesk™ Internet Publishing and Content Management Application.

NIAF Offers Scholastic Opportunity

by Tara V. Liscianadro
Herald Editor

Material contributed from NIAF Publications and Italy/Italy Magazine

The director of the National Italian American Foundation recently organized "The Holocaust in Southern Europe: Risking All for Brotherhood," conference at the Lincoln Theater in Washington, D.C. A total of 18 U.S. federal government agencies sponsored the program which described the rescue of 80 percent of the Jews in Italy and in Italian-occupied territories of Albania, Greece, France, and Yugoslavia during the second world war.

Among the guests were Holocaust survivors who shared their experiences with others and a number of speakers also dis-

cussed related issues that evening as well. A two-part exhibit, "The Jewish Ghetto of Rome," was also made possible by Francesco Nicotra, managing editor of *Italy/Italy Magazine*. Students also included art work with the exhibit which depicted the moral lessons taught by the Holocaust.

Since 1986, more than 20 conferences on this topic have been conducted in 20 major U.S. cities with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, NIAF, the Italian government and Jewish organizations.

As part of its grant program NIAF is making available grants of \$3,000 to \$5,000 to the Italian and Jewish community for research and projects on the Holocaust in Southern Europe. For organizations, or individuals,

wishing to match NIAF funds, contact Dr. Maria Lombardo at (202) 387-0600. For grant guidelines, send a SASE to: NIAF Grant Programs, 1860 19th St. NW, Washington, DC 20009. The deadline for all applications is June 15.

For anyone planning to visit Italy this summer, or for those who want to find out more about Jewish communities in Italy, contact the following institutions in Rome:

Main Synagogue, Lungotevere Cenci, 00186

Union of Italian Jewish Communities, Lungotevere Sanzio 9, 00513

Institute of Jewish Studies, Lungotevere Sanzio 14, 00153

Pitigliani Jewish Center, Via Arco dei Tolomei 1, 00153

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Tiverton Garden And Herb Festival

This year marks the Fourth annual Garden and Herb Festival sponsored by the Four Corners Arts Center. The festival May 30 (rain date May 31) is held on the grounds of the historic Soule Seabury House at the heart of Tiverton four corners. This year the festival is bigger and better than ever with booths of potted plants, perennials, annuals, herbs, garden ornaments, garden tools, fresh grilled foods, live string band entertainers, and Alpaca petting zoo, horse-drawn carriage rides to all the shops at Four Corners, wine tasting from Sakonnet Vineyards, and clinics all afternoon in the Meeting House. Catch a sneak preview of some of the sculptures on the grounds for the first annual Sculpture Park.

10 a.m. — R.I. Butterfly Society will present a lecture on what

flowers and herbs to plant in your garden to attract butterflies native to this area.

11:30 a.m. — Koi Villa of Foster will present a lecture on bonsai trees and their care, when to trim and how to trim them.

12:30 p.m. — Koi Villa will present its second lecture on the popular new trend of water gardens.

2 p.m. — Carol Dowling from the Gray Cottage Herb Farm will give an informative lecture on how to grow a fabulous herb garden.

Free admission to the garden festival, \$2 admission to each clinic, \$5 for a clinic series ticket to all four lectures.

The fourth annual Tiverton Garden and Herb Festival is sponsored by the Four Corners Arts Center with help from Michelle Sousa from the Magic Garden of Tiverton. For more information, call 624-2600.

Moses Arrives in Providence on June 4

The Jewish Theatre Ensemble will open its second production, "Forty Years of Bad Road," a musical parody written and directed by Rhode Island attorney Jules Gelade on June 4. The play, which features 22 musical numbers, all with choreography and some with special effects, recounts the biblical 40-year trek by the People of Israel through the Sinai Desert, adding a host of hilarious surprises along the way.

Gelade said, "Expect the unexpected and be prepared to laugh." The musical romp in the desert that starts with the Exodus from Egypt and culminates with Israel's entry into the

Promised Land, proving that the funniest distance between two points is not necessarily a straight line. The desert story is told through an electric mix of hilarious song, biblical parodies, and lively dance. Reserved seating is available at every performance.

"Forty Years of Bad Road" will take place at the Jewish Community Center in Providence. The schedule of performances is as follows: June 4, 8 p.m.; June 6, 9:15 p.m.; June 7, 7:30 p.m.; June 13, 9:15 p.m.; and June 14, 4 p.m. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 for seniors and children under 12. For tickets, call 861-8800, ext. 108.

Perishable Theatre Presents 6th Annual Women's Playwriting Festival

Perishable Theatre is the producer of the Women's Playwriting Festival, one of a handful of festivals dedicated to one-act plays written by women. Three women each receive a \$250 cash prize and a fully staged production for a month-long run. This year's winners are "Water from the Well" by Jean Tay (Singapore), "Mizz Romaine" by Mary Lou Pilkington (Austin, Texas) and "Svetlana's New Flame" by Olga Humphrey (New York, N.Y.).

The Women's Playwriting Festival runs May 28 to June 21, Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m.

For tickets, call 331-2695.

After-Work Lecture Series

In collaboration with The Committee for the Humanities, Perishable Theatre will be presenting an After-Work Lecture Series in conjunction with The Women's Playwriting Festival. The series will explore the issues of topical concern in each of the three plays being presented. Three lectures and discussions will take place Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. at AS220, 115 Empire St., Providence. The series is free and open to the public and the topics will be as follows:

- June 2 — Women and Work
- June 9 — The Immigrant Experience
- June 16 — Women and Romance



PERISHABLE THEATRE PRESENTS Elizabeth Quincy and Stephen Wolfert in "Svetlana's New Flame," as part of the sixth annual Women's Playwriting Festival. Photo by Gary Potvin

The series will be moderated by Judith Swift and Roger Blumberg. Swift is a professor and chair of the theater department at the University of Rhode Island. Her professional credits include work Off Broadway and regional theaters such as Trinity

Rep and Theatre-by-the-Sea. Blumberg has taught and developed courses for the Humanities "core" curriculum at Columbia University. Currently, he is senior hypermedia researcher at Brown University's Scholarly Technology Group.

Zamir Chorale Celebrates Israeli 'Dreamers'

On June 7, the Zamir Chorale of Boston, under the direction of artistic director Joshua Jacobson, will present its annual spring concert, this year in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the State of Israel, at the Casey Theatre on the campus of Regis College in Weston, Mass., at 7:30 p.m. Information and advance ticket reservations can be obtained by calling (617) 325-6113.

Titled "Dreamers," the concert will pay homage to the idealists who turned the dream of a Jewish homeland into a reality. The program will feature the world premiere of a new choral work, Meira Warshauer's "We Are Dreamers," scored for SATB chorus, piano, clarinet and percussion. The piece was commissioned by the Zamir Chorale to honor Israel's 50th Jubilee. Based on Sephardic, Yemenite, Greek, and Moroccan melodies gathered during Warshauer's field research in Israel, "We Are Dreamers" is an enchanting setting of Psalm 126: "When the Lord returns Zion's captives, we will be like dreamers. Our mouths will be filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy."

The Jeff Warshauer Folk Ensemble will also join Zamir in new renditions of the old songs of the "Halutzim," the early settlers who transformed the desert into a garden during a time of optimism, romance, and vision. Warshauer will also perform

some of the Arabic melodies which served as inspiration to Israel's songwriters.

Zamir means "nightingale" in Hebrew, an appropriate name for a choral ensemble specializing in the full spectrum of music arising out of the various Jewish traditions. Since its formation in 1969, the 50-member adult chorale has performed throughout the northeastern United States, Great Britain and Israel. The Zamir Chorale is funded in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

"We Are Dreamers" was inspired by field research Warshauer conducted during a six-week residency in Israel last spring. "I was very moved by the reality of the return of the dispersed Jews to the land of Israel after the long exile," she said. "It is a saga of epic proportions that defies the normal human course of events, and a testament to the endurance of the faith kept over thousands of years." Warshauer found it inspiring "that we have kept alive this dream of return so strong in the midst of diverse cultures, hardship, persecution, and temptations to assimilate, that we are still praying in Hebrew, that I can go to a Yemenite service and be welcomed by my Yemenite sisters, that we are actually living out the prophecy of return, even though much work remains to be done."

During her stay in Israel, Warshauer felt privileged to meet Jews from across the globe, in synagogues representing a wide range of cultures from the Diaspora. Her musical experiences included Yemenite rhythms, Hasidic dances, elaborate Sephardic melodies, Moroccan traditions, and the African rhythms and ornamental melodies of traditional Ethiopian music.

As part of her musical research at the Hebrew University Sound Archives, Warshauer collected contrasting versions of Psalm 126 from various communities. "To me the various versions of Psalm 126 are a microcosm of the diversity of expression and cultural richness of Israel today. They represent the bounty of this return, the carrying of sheaves from a harvest of cultural riches gleaned from the Diaspora experience." Versions of Psalm 126 that found their way into "We Are Dreamers" include a yearning Greek melody from Salonika representing "conflicts still unresolved and dreams yet unfulfilled," a sweet Moroccan version expressing the intimacy of reunion, and a joyful Yemenite melody evoking a great dance "calling for all to join in the joyous return." For Warshauer, these melodies represent "streams in the desert, returning to nourish the land and soul of Israel."

If you have an event you would like featured on our Arts & Entertainment, 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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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Traveling In a Time Machine

by Tara V. Lisciandro
Herald Editor

Trinity Rep was full of curious guests recently; they had awaited the new Pulitzer Prize winning drama by Rhode Island native, Paula Vogel, for some time. The evening began with a few brief words from artistic director Oskar Eustis. He welcomed everyone and thanked director Molly Smith, a longtime friend of Vogel, for her time and dedication as well as William Wingate, new managing director of Trinity. Then guests settled into their seats and strapped their seatbelts on for a unique, and somewhat bumpy, ride.

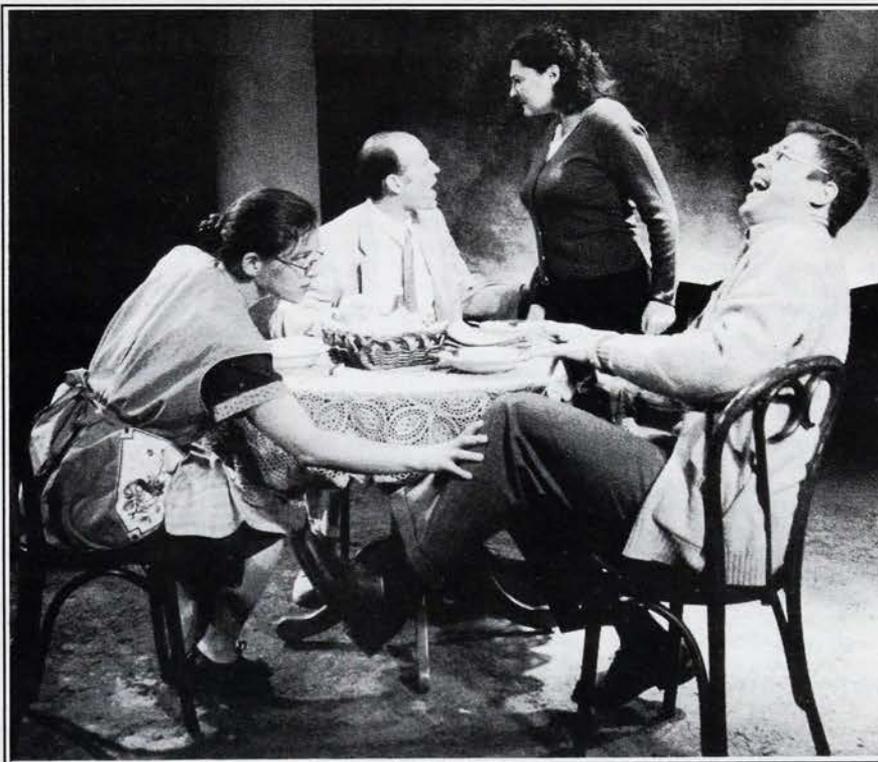
The tale is that of Li'l Bit, played by Anne Scurria, coming into adulthood and a disturbing relationship with her southern Uncle Peck, played by Timothy Crowe. Their story begins in an empty parking lot in Maryland and the same scenography is used throughout the entire two-hour production. A fiery sky hovers over that of tranquil blue and white behind the actors. Li'l Bit is learning to drive from her uncle whose lessons prove to be so well learned that Li'l Bit passes her driving exam with flying colors. The play is sweet and humorous in the beginning then becomes dark and complex, like the sky behind them.

I saw the production less than 24 hours ago and already I can't

remember how old Li'l Bit was at the beginning. I felt like I was traveling through a time machine. Li'l Bit's story finishes somewhere between her early college to post-college years. Music reminds the audience of time as well. Memorable songs of the '60s and '70s are constant reminders of where we are in time. Throughout the entire production the young adolescent's age seems extremely important and central to the plot, but difficult to calculate at times. However, by the production's end, the audience learns that at 11 years of age the child has already been harassed by her uncle. Her early maturity into womanhood has brought her only ridicule by her friends and family throughout her early teenage years. Uncle Peck uses her dilemma to his advantage and makes her feel cared for and loved.

While I wanted to feel sympathy for Li'l Bit, there was always a roadblock in the way. The Greek choruses, played by Janice Duclos, Dan Welch and Marta Ann Lastufka, were reminding the audience of what "gear" we were in or of some sort of driving tip that could save your life. Then, during several scenes, Li'l Bit would actually act somewhat flirtatious with her uncle. In some ways, she seemed to steer him the wrong way, just as he did to her.

Vogel has stated in previ-



"HOW I LEARNED TO DRIVE," by Paula Vogel, featuring (from left) Marta Lastufka, Timothy Crowe, Anne Scurria and Dan Welch at Trinity Rep through June 28. Photo by T. Charles Erickson

ous interviews that her prize-winning production is what everyone makes of it for themselves. "If there are 200 people in the audience, there are 200 plays that night," she stated in a recent *Providence Journal* interview. By the end of the play the author's words are the only ones to help you fig-

ure out where the end really is. There are a number of roads any member of the audience could turn down. Vogel's theme, the road I selected, of growing up during adolescence and learning how to drive, are lessons well learned.

Nevertheless her symbolism and ideas, new to the stage,

are worthy of the Pulitzer she was awarded in April. "How I Learned To Drive," is a play to think about. Its attempts are new, and necessary, to introduce to the theatre and to communities nation-wide.

"How I Learned to Drive," will beat Trinity Rep in Providence until June 28. For tickets, call 351-4242.

1998 Heart Ball... a Renaissance Evening

Themes of the Renaissance will capture the spirit of the 1998 Heart Ball when more than 850 people gather at the R.I. Convention Center on June 13 from 7 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. The ball, which is the American Heart Association's gala event of the year, and a hallmark social event in Rhode Island, is being held

for the first time in the city of Providence, noted as America's Renaissance City.

The event will be highlighted by the participation of Rhode Island resident, Anthony Quinn, as he presents Lifetime Achievement awards to Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., and Ruth Warrick. Also honored will be Pete Gillen,

former coach of Providence College basketball and his wife, Ginnie.

United HealthCare of New England, Inc., is the presenting sponsor of the 1998 Heart Ball.

Entertainment will be provided by the Ronnie Rose Band and Streamline. A silent auction will be held throughout the evening. Some featured items include a trip to Italy; getaways to Nantucket, New Hampshire, Atlantic City; jewelry; artworks; rounds of golf at selected clubs, gourmet dinners; theatre and music tickets and more.

The event is black tie or costume of the Renaissance period. Tickets are \$300/couple or \$150/person. Priority seating is \$450/couple and \$225/person.

For additional information, to order tickets, to assist as a table chairperson, or to donate an auction item, call the American Heart Association at 728-5300.



THE 1998 HEART BALL PLANNING COMMITTEE: back row, left to right, Amanda Whiteleather, Lynn Kramer, Suzanne Cohen, and Joan Skeffington. Front, left, are Helen Taylor and Doris R. Goldstein, chairperson. Absent from photo are John R. Kramer, Linda Grimes, Julie Zito and Sharon Watkins. The Heart Ball will be held June 13 at the R.I. Convention Center, Providence.

Photo courtesy of the American Heart Association

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Youth Orchestra Auditions

Rhode Island Philharmonic Youth Orchestra is announcing auditions for all positions for the 1998 to 1999 season including Symphony Orchestra, Repertory Orchestra, Preparatory String Ensemble, String Class and Beginning Strings.

On June 3, 5, 8 and 11 string auditions will take place. On June 4, 9 and 10 woodwinds, brass and percussion auditions will take place. Auditions will be held at Rhode Island College, Roberts Hall, Room 137, in Providence.

Call the Philharmonic office at 831-3123, ext. 14, for audition information.

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OBITUARIES

BARNEY GORMAN
WEST HARTFORD — Barney Gorman, 91, of the Hebrew Home and Hospital in West Hartford, Conn., a foreman and engineer at Hasbro Inc. for 25 years, retiring in 1973, died May 26 at the home. He was the husband of Anna "Honey" (Resh) Gorman.

Born in Boston, a son of the late Isaac and Leah Gorman, he lived in West Hartford since February, previously residing in Cranston for 32 years, and in Providence for 23 years.

He was a member of Temple Beth-Sholom in Manchester, Conn.

Besides his wife, he leaves two sons, Charles Gorman of Manchester, Conn., and Samuel Gorman of Houston, Texas; two sisters, Ida Freedman of Palo Alto, Calif., and Martha Wasser of Lansdale, Pa.; two brothers, Samuel Gorman of Providence and Robert Gorman of Boynton Beach, Fla., and three grandchildren. He was the brother of the late Faye Greenberg.

A graveside funeral service was held May 28 in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. The services were coordinated by Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence.

EDITH MATUSOW
GLEN BURNIE, Md. — Edith Matusow, 91, of 150 Dartmouth St., Pawtucket, who with her husband founded and operated the former Ben's Bakery on Broad Street, Providence, died May 26 at North Arundell Hospital, Glen Burnie, Md. She was the widow of Benjamin Matusow.

Born in Odessa, Russia, she was a daughter of the late Isadore and Jenny (Gederman) Gershman. She came to this country in 1923, settling in Providence. She moved to Pawtucket 15 years ago.

She was a member of the Kulanu of Temple Emanu-El and the Pioneer Women. She was a life member of the Women's Associations of Miriam Hospital, the Jewish Home for the Aged and the Pawtucket Chapter of Hadassah.

She leaves a foster daughter, Jeannett Bornstein of Warren; a sister, Ruth Kimel of Providence; four brothers, Harry Gershman of Ft. Myers, Fla., George Gershman of Rutland, Mass., Edward and Abraham Gershman of Pawtucket; four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. She was the sister of the late Anna Gerson and Paul Gershman.

The funeral service was held May 28 at Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

LEAH TOLIN
FALL RIVER — Leah (Shapiro) Tolin, 84, a resident of the Jewish Home for the Aged, 538 Robeson St., Fall River, died May 25 at the home. She was the wife of the late James Tolin.

Born in Poland, she was a daughter of the late Abraham and the late Basha Shapiro. She had been a resident of Fall River since 1971, previously living in Somerset for 20 years and prior to that in Boston for a few years and prior to that in Gloversville, N.Y., for 10 or 12 years.

She had been a Hebrew school teacher at Temple Beth-El and at Congregation Adas Israel, both in Fall River. She retired in 1986.

She is survived by two sons, Dr. Richard Tolin of Villanova, Pa., and Philip Tolin of Ellensburg, Washington; a sister, Judy Singer of Delray Beach, Fla., and five grandchildren. She was the sister of the late Zelda Pik and the late Zalman Pintel.

Arrangements were by the Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence. The funeral service was held May 27 at Temple Beth El in, Fall River, Mass.

NJ Lawmakers Take First Step Against Swiss Banks

by Ellen Friedland
New Jersey Jewish News
WHIPPANY, N.J. (JTA) — New Jersey may become the first state to impose sanctions on Swiss banks.

The state Assembly took the first step recently when it passed a bill, despite Clinton administration pressure to delay passage. If the state Senate adopts the measure, it will go to the governor for her signature.

The bill provides for the state of New Jersey to impose sanctions on Swiss financial institutions that have not returned to Holocaust victims and their heirs assets deposited before and during World War II. The legislation would bar the state from investing in targeted Swiss banks or using them to house New Jersey investments or to serve as financial intermediaries or advisers.

The state would also divest itself of current holdings in these financial institutions, which currently total about \$86 million, according to the bill's sponsor, Republican assemblyman Joel Weingarten.

Four days before the Assembly vote, Undersecretary of State Stuart Eizenstat, who is heading the U.S. effort to resolve the claims against Swiss banks, had sent letters to Weingarten and the Republican speaker of the Assembly, Jack Collins.

Eizenstat told the legislators he shares their objectives but believes "that sanctions are not merited at a time when we are obtaining cooperation from the major Swiss banks. Moreover, I think that such sanctions are likely to be counterproductive. I believe that we are achieving much more through cooperation with the banks than through confrontation."

The Anti-Defamation League advocated a similar position. The ADL, said Shai Goldstein, executive director of ADL's New Jersey region, "opposes this legislation because we don't think sanctions are appropriate at this time."

After the Assembly vote, Weingarten said in an interview that "the action we took today is intended to aid the negotiations process."

Former German Refugee Donates Compensation to Jewish Schools

by Rona S. Hirsch
Baltimore Jewish Times
BALTIMORE (JTA) — It took 61 years for Henry Lehmann to receive financial compensation for the business that the Nazi government forced his family to sell.

But now that Lehmann finally got the money, he's giving it all away.

The former German refugee is donating the \$200,000 recently awarded to him by the German government toward Jewish education — including \$50,000 to Yeshivat Rambam/Maimonides Academy, an Orthodox day school in suburban Baltimore.

Lehmann pledged an additional \$50,000 to the Mid-Peninsula Jewish Community School in Palo Alto, Calif., and \$100,000 to the New Jewish High School of Greater Boston.

"I don't think there is anything more appropriate to do with German money than give it toward Jewish continuity," said Lehmann, 68, a retired electrical engineer who lives near Baltimore with his wife, Elizabeth. They have four sons and 14 grandchildren.

Lehmann's father owned a thriving egg import and wholesale business in Leipzig, Germany. But in 1937, the family was forced to sell the business for a "negligible amount," he said.

The family fled to France and Brazil before immigrating to the United States in 1941. They settled in New Orleans, where Lehmann earned an engineering degree from the University of Tulane.

After World War II, West Germany honored claims filed by Jewish refugees and Holocaust survivors, but East Germany — where Leipzig is located — did not.

"We made inquiries, but we knew East Germany wouldn't accept any claims," said Lehmann.

After German reunification in 1989, the government "offered to entertain claims," he said. But it was a lengthy and tedious process.

Lehmann and his older brother, Rene, a New Orleans attorney, needed documentation to prove that their late parents owned a legitimate business. They hired a German attorney to search for corroborating documents and tax records to ascertain what the business had been worth.

Last November, they were awarded \$400,000.

"We had no way of determining if that amount was right or wrong," Lehmann said. "But we figured that it was a reasonable amount."

Lehmann immediately decided to donate his share, which he received in March, to the three schools.

"As soon as we heard about the money, which was always sort of a dream, I said to my wife, 'What do you want to do with it?'" he recalled. "Since we don't need it and my kids got plenty, I said, 'Let's give it to Jewish education.' There's nothing more important to assure Jewish continuity."

All the money has been earmarked toward the fledgling schools' campaign funds. "I'm trying to help schools that are just starting out," he said.

Lehmann has a personal connection with each of the three schools that he is helping with the German reparations.

Elizabeth Lehmann served as acting principal of the Mid-Peninsula day school they helped establish when they lived in Palo Alto after he retired in 1987 as

(Continued on Page 15)

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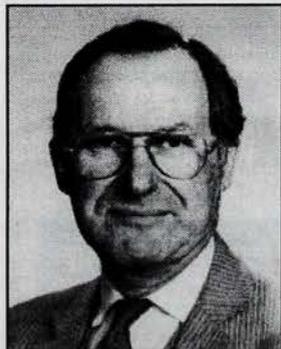
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AIPAC Look to Future

(Continued from Page 1)

well-being of Israel," said Jerry Yanowitz, a 44-year-old Jewish activist from Oakland, Calif.

Still, support for Clinton, whom many Jews have hailed as the most pro-Israel president in U.S. history, appeared to have dampened in the wake of recent events. There were still cheers during the conference for the administration and its efforts, but they were more subdued than in years past.

While many Jewish leaders went out of their way to praise the Clinton administration's record of friendship, the message to U.S. policymakers was clear.

"Public pressure on Israel is counterproductive because it doesn't work, it hurts the cause of peace and it undermines the essential pillars of the peace process," Howard Kohr, AIPAC's executive director, told the delegates.

"Israel," he added, "cannot be seen as yielding to pressure, particularly as it moves toward the much more difficult final-status talks."

For many activists, the events of recent weeks evoked scorn for the administration and sharpened their support for the Israeli government's position.

As 65-year-old Reni Roberts of New York City put it, Hillary Clinton's comments "blew my mind because a state means being allowed to arm and have missiles."

Roberts, who called herself a strong support of President Clinton, said she wrote a letter urging him to "stop pushing on Israel and start demanding from Arafat that he comply with the Oslo agreements."

The recent tensions, meanwhile, also appeared to impact the language adopted this year in AIPAC's action agenda. The group's executive committee — which includes officials from a wide range of Jewish organizations — decided against softening AIPAC's position on Palestinian statehood.

A proposal backed by some in the Jewish community, including AIPAC's own officials, would have called on the United States to oppose "the establishment of a Palestinian state with

full, unlimited sovereign powers," rather than opposing a Palestinian state outright, which was the traditional position.

The proposal was adopted narrowly on a first vote by the executive committee. But opposition gathered amid concerns that the change would be portrayed as a declaration of support from AIPAC for a Palestinian state — and the item was ultimately defeated in a second vote by a very narrow margin.

In another move, the executive committee decided against language endorsing "energetic" American efforts to achieve peace, instead opting for the position that "the United States can play a constructive role in encouraging and facilitating negotiations."

For its part, Americans for Peace Now, which has a seat on the AIPAC executive committee, made clear to AIPAC, the Conference of Presidents and the Clinton administration that it believes there is no consensus among American Jews on these issues.

At the AIPAC conference, in an effort to look to the future, the delegates took their cues in large part from Netanyahu, who helped set the tone with a conciliatory speech in which he underscored the Clinton administration's commitment to Israeli interests.

For its part, the Clinton administration sought to reassure Jews at the AIPAC conference of the United States' "ironclad" commitment to Israel.

Vice President Al Gore told the AIPAC delegates in a speech that the differences between the United States and Israel "are

momentary and not permanent, they are about means and not ends."

He added emphatically: "Don't you even think for one minute that" the differences "believe even the slightest weakening in our underlying unity of purpose or will shift our relationship in any way, shape or form," Gore said, brining the crowd to its feet.

Netanyahu, meanwhile, urged the pro-Israel community to help make the case to members of congress that the Palestinians are not in compliance with their accords with Israel and that only Israel can determine its security interest.

"The marching orders are absolutely clear," said Josh Kantrow, 33, of Chicago, as he and other activists prepared to lobby their lawmakers on Capitol Hill, "and that is to let the congressmen know that public pressure on Israel by the U.S. government will only harm Israel and the U.S.-Israel relationship."

Rosh Hodesh

(Continued from Page 3)

the ancient lunar Hebrew calendar, the holiday was associated with new beginnings, and was a happy time during which fasting and mourning were curtailed.

Almost as soon as it was created, said Levy, Rosh Hodesh became a special time for females.

"It was considered a reward for the Israelite women for refusing to donate their jewelry to make the golden calf," Levy said.

Also, said Levy, the mitzvah of the new moon, the first one given to the Jews before they left Egypt, was associated with the female body.

"According to Jewish law and custom, the women's body has always been closely associated with the monthly cycle," Levysaid.

Although observant women have traditionally marked the holiday by taking a day off from heavy housework and by gathering together, contemporary Jewish feminists have reappropriated the holiday, pointing to the similarities between the cycles of the moon and the cycles of menstruation and to the image of an expanding moon as a symbol of an expanding pregnant belly.

At the Perspectives Rosh Hodesh gathering, the young participants seemed to both tap ancient tradition and build and modern custom as they presented religious objects from their respective childhoods and discussed them.

Within an hour, all of the women had shared very personal thoughts and feelings.

"I come to the Rosh Hodesh gatherings because there has to be a connection between me and Judaism," explained Lisa, a participant, at the end of the discussion. "I don't have a very Jewish home, and it's a chance for me to be with other Jewish women and to be a part of something."

"It's like a youth group for adults, and it's Jewish feminist thing," explained Jane, another participant. "I'm Jewish and I'm a feminist, but I don't usually put the two together."

Shavuot

(Continued from Page 4)

ates the world." The Torah is not only a practical guide for our behavior in daily life, but also on a deeper level it is actually the "blueprint" for creation. Everything that happens in our lives is a manifestation of G-d's wisdom, as expressed in His Torah.

When we study Torah, even on the simplest level, we link our minds and hearts with G-d's true purpose in creating the world. Our actions become a direct expression of G-d's will, our feelings become imbued.

Other Customs of Shavuot

It is customary on Shavuot to adorn the synagogue and home with fruits, flowers and greens.

Fruits: In the time of the Temple the first fruits were brought to the Temple beginning on Shavuot.

Flowers: Sages taught that although Mt. Sinai was situated in a desert, in honor of the Torah the desert bloomed and sprouted flowers.

Greens: Our sages taught that on Shavuot judgement is rendered regarding the trees of the field.

Tikun Lail Shavuot

The Torah was given at day-break. Our tradition relates that the Jewish people did not rise early to be prepared for that revelation, and that it was necessary for G-d Himself to awaken them. To compensate for their behavior, it is customary to stay up the entire first night of Shavuot studying Torah.

Submitted by Rabbi Laufer of Chabad House in Providence.

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Russian Messenger

(Continued from Page 3)

Thankfully, said Goman, the Messenger volunteers obtained grants from the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island and the Rhode Island Foundation, and also received assistance from the JCCRI.

According to Goman, this support has helped the Messenger to provide many New Americans with essential information as well as local news.

"Many organizations want to run notices for people who read in Russian," Goman said. "In the last issue, we had an ad from JFS about citizenship workshops, and one from the Miriam Hospital, which was offering free screening to people without health insurance. There was also something about a daycare center for the elderly — people really need a way to learn about these things."

Although Goman admits that it is very comforting to be able to read in one's native language, she says that *The Russian Messenger* offers New Americans a completely new news experience.

"In Russia, everything was censored, and a lot of writers couldn't publish," she said. "Here, we can read anything, and through this paper, people are learning about subjects like history. And it's not only Jewish history, it's Russian history too."

Compensation

(Continued from Page 14)

head of General Electric's military electronics division in Syracuse, N.Y.

One of his sons, Rabbi Daniel Lehmann, has been the headmaster of the New Jewish High School in Boston since 1996.

And one of his grandchildren graduated from Rambam in Baltimore, another is enrolled there and a third will soon start.

"We're very excited by this gift because it shows the support of the parent body," said Dr. David Sidransky, chairman of Rambam's capital campaign and an oncology professor at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.

"It's selfless devotion to Jewish education," he said. "I don't think there's a better way to show it, particularly because of the terrible loss inflicted by Germany on our people. Education ensures our survival."

'Senior Journal' Summer Schedule

"The Senior Journal," is a program designed to educate the public on concerns of aging through the personal perspectives of Rhode Island seniors. Sponsored by the Rhode Island Department of Elderly Affairs and COX Cable Television, "Senior Journal" is written, hosted, produced and edited by senior volunteers. The program can be viewed Mondays at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 11:30 a.m., and Sundays at 5 p.m., over the statewide cable interconnect, channel "A."

The broadcast schedule for upcoming "Senior Journal" programs follows:

May 31 to June 11 — "Meet Barbara Rayner," hosted by Lee Chalek of Warwick, and featuring Barbara Rayner, director, R.I. Department of Elderly Affairs
 June 14 to 24 — "North

Kingstown Senior Center," hosted by Chalek and featuring Kathleen Carland, director; Janet Galluccio, outreach director; and Marie Marcotte, volunteer coordinator, North Kingstown Senior Center.

June 28 to July 9 — "Legal Guides," hosted by Michael Storti of Warwick, and featuring David Riedel of Tillinghast, Licht, and Semonoff.

July 12 to 23 — "Rhode Island Gray Panthers," hosted by Laura LoRusso of East Providence and featuring John Morris, president, and Richard Gidwell, coordinator, Rhode Island Gray Panthers.

Viewers written comments, suggestions, or opinions on "The Senior Journal" are always welcome and should be addressed to: Larry Grimaldi, R.I. Department of Elderly Affairs, 160 Pine St., Providence, R.I. 02903.

NJOP Sponsors Read Hebrew Program

The National Jewish Outreach Program recently announced plans to sponsor the first-ever continent-wide program aimed at teaching North American Jews to read the Hebrew language. In yet another step toward its goal of reaching 500,000 unaffiliated Jews by the year 2000, NJOP will launch a nationwide Read Hebrew America/Read Hebrew Canada campaign. Scheduled for the entire month of November, NJOP estimates that the Read Hebrew campaign will attract 35,000 Jews at 2,000 locations in the United States and Canada and teach them to read Hebrew — the original and traditional language of the Jewish people. The announcement comes just weeks after NJOP's historic one-night program, Shabbat Across America, united 60,000 Jews around North America to celebrate and learn about the Jewish Sabbath.

Read Hebrew is the first continent-wide program designed to introduce a generation of Jews to the Hebrew language. An essential component to the prac-

tice of Judaism, Hebrew is the primary language in which virtually all Jewish prayer books, holiday services, and significant religious texts are written and read. Since an estimated 80 percent of North American Jews are unable to read Hebrew, NJOP hopes that Hebrew literacy will serve as an entrée for many unaffiliated or marginally affiliated Jews to renew their interest in the Jewish faith.

Throughout the month of November, Read Hebrew will be offered at synagogues, Hillels on college campuses, Hebrew Day Schools, Jewish Community Centers, and other major Jewish organizations across the United States and Canada. Additionally, NJOP is enlisting the support of private organizations such as businesses, social clubs, and associations, to promote the program internally and to actively secure community involvement. In an effort to reach as many North American Jews as possible, NJOP has also allocated a marketing budget of \$600,000.

The Read Hebrew program

will be based on NJOP's popular and enjoyable Hebrew Reading Crash Course, which, since 1987, has taught more than 105,000 North American Jews to read the Hebrew language. Designed for Jews with little or no background in Hebrew, the program concentrates on teaching the Hebrew alphabet and basic reading skills. Additionally, a level-two program is available to those who are interested in further advancing their Hebrew reading and comprehension skills. As they do with their year-round Hebrew Reading Crash Courses, NJOP will provide its free Hebrew primers for each student, as well as its instruction manual and flashcards to each Read Hebrew volunteer instructor.

The National Jewish Outreach Program was established in 1987 by Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald and has become one of the world's largest and most successful Jewish outreach organizations. NJOP offers free programs at more than 2,100 locations across North America and in 27 countries worldwide.



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Safe Sitter Program

A two-day course for would-be babysitters ages 11 to 13. The

program covers basic child care, as well as skills to use in emergency situations. The course will be June 23 and 25, from 9 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. at Hasbro Children's Hospital. The \$25 fee includes the *Safe Sitter* manual.

55 Alive

A two-part driving course for adults 55 and over. A health care instructor will provide information on the aging process and how it affects driving skills. The course will be held at The Miriam Hospital's Fain Health Centers on June 29 and 30, from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the lecture hall. The cost is \$8.

Preregistration is required for all programs as seating is limited. To register or for more information, call the Lifespan Health Connection at 444-4800.

ASDS Children's Toy & Equipment Sale

Ready to clean out the attic? The basement? The garage? This is your chance! Alperin Schechter Day School will host their annual children's sale once again this year.

June 7 is the next drop-off date. All toys, sports equipment, books, games, children's furniture, video and audio tapes in good condition and repair can be donated to the ASDS Children's Toy and Equipment Sale. Bring donations to the Taft Avenue parking lot (Temple Emanu-El) on June 7 from 10 a.m. to noon.

To arrange for pick-up, call ASDS, 751-2470.

For cheaper packages to Israel see the Postal Service

<p>"Sunsational" Israel Top Value Hotels</p>	<p>5 nights in Jerusalem or Tel Aviv Free Hertz Car Daily Israeli buffet breakfast</p>	<p>\$125</p>
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PRE-SCHOOL TEACHER — Seeking for a 3-year-old class, an individual who is warm, creative, flexible and enjoys working as a member of a team. An Orthodox orientation and two- to three-years teaching experience preferred.

TODDLER TEACHER — Opening for a warm, caring, creative toddler lead teacher certified to teach to morning toddler programs. Knowledge of Jewish holidays a plus.

If interested, please send a résumé to

SHAS, 60 Ashcroft Road, Sharon, Mass.

Attention: Janet Perlin or call (781) 784-8700

FEATURE

This Family's Blintzes Resemble The 'Flat' Version of The Torah

by Jane Ulman
ENRICO, Calif. (JTA) — Three thousand years ago, we would be preparing to sacrifice seven unblemished lambs, a young bullock and two rams.

Instead, today, my two younger sons and I are in the kitchen, preparing a double batch of cheese blintzes.

We're engaged in a modern version of a burnt offering — sacrificing our cholesterol counts, our clean kitchen counters and my initially serene countenance as we begin gathering the ingredients and cooking ingredients.

It's the holiday of Shavuot, the festival of the first fruits. It's also the time of the giving of the Torah. Leave it to the ancient rabbis, in an original twist of Jewish geography, to conveniently and illogically conclude that both events occurred on the sixth day of Sivan, on the Hebrew calendar.

Yes, Jewish farmers brought their sacrificial offerings to the Temple in Jerusalem on the exact anniversary of the day that the Israelites, under the leadership of Moses, received the Ten Commandments at Mt. Sinai.

And yes, we can commemorate both events by eating cheese blintzes.

Eating dairy is traditional on Shavuot. Some say it's because Israel is the land of milk and honey. Others say it's in honor of the laws of kashruth, which were part of the Sinai revelation. And others maintain that dairy foods, which are usually white, symbolize the purity of the Torah.

For these reasons and more,

our blintz brigade gets to work. We mix the batter in the KitchenAid, watching bits of eggshell drop into the bowl and clouds of flour fly out of the bowl. We then prepare the filling, blending cream cheese, cottage cheese, butter, eggs, sugar and cinnamon. We bring both bowls to the stove, and our assembly line leaps into action.

Danny, 7, is the boss of the batter. He stands on a step stool at the side of the stove. Careful and conscientious, he measures out a scant quarter-cup. "Is this the right amount?" he asks, awaiting confirmation before pouring it in the well-worn skillet.

Jeremy, my speedy and efficient 9-year-old, is the blintz filler and folder. He taps his fingers impatiently, watching the pancake slowly turn golden. I flip it onto a plate, and he immediately spoons out some white filling. He dips his fingers in ice water, to keep from burning them on the still steaming pancake and quickly assembles the blintz. He wipes his greasy fingers on a dish towel and waits for the next pancake.

The rolled, elongated blintzes are supposed to resemble the two tablets of the Ten Commandments. Not ours. No matter how thick or thin our batter, or how hard we try to roll perfect cylinders, we succeed in making only squat, square blintzes.

Square blintzes, however, are also appropriate. After all, during that auspicious encounter at Mt. Sinai, we received not only the two tablets containing the Ten Commandments but



Secretary of State Stresses Support

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, in an impromptu press conference at the National Press Club on the eve of meetings with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, stressed that the United States support for Israel would not be compromised regardless of the 15-month stalemate in peace negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. However, the United States would continue to seek compromises from both sides in order to implement the terms of the Oslo Agreement within a one-year deadline, Albright said. Although Albright stressed that the United States wants all terrorism to stop, a condition of the peace agreement, the Palestinians not only have not cracked down on terrorism, but openly meet with terrorist leaders. Nevertheless, Albright stressed that the American peace plan obligates Palestinians to stop terrorism.

Photo by Marshall H. Cohen, photojournalist. Special to the R.I. Jewish Herald

also the entire written Torah. And it's that Torah, the flat Five Books of Moses, that our blintzes resemble.

The Torah, the spiritual foundation of Judaism, is handed down from generation to generation. In fact, G-d promises to pass it down to the thousandth generation. The children are the guarantors, promising G-d that their parents will teach them the Torah.

Blintzes, a culinary foundation of Judaism, are also handed down from generation to generation. My sons constitute the fourth generation for our family recipe, which has traveled from my grandmother's home in Bar, Ukraine, to Rock Island, Ill., to Encino, Calif. My grandmother changed the original recipe only slightly, substituting cottage cheese for hoop cheese and adding cream cheese. In one of Judaism's most famous stories, a certain heathen

comes to Hillel and says, "Convert me on condition that you teach me the entire Torah while I stand on one foot." Hillel answers, "That which is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbor. This is the entire Torah; the rest is commentary. Go and learn it."

Shavuot reminds us to go and learn Torah. It also reminds us to make and enjoy cheese blintzes.

Mary Snyder's Cheese Blintzes

4 eggs, well beaten
1 cup sifted flour
1 tsp. salt
1 cup milk
Butter
1 1/2 cups cottage cheese
12 oz. cream cheese
2 egg yolks
1 Tbsp. butter
1 Tbsp. sugar
1 Tbsp. cinnamon

Add flour, salt and milk to eggs, mixing well. Heat heavy-duty skillet until water dropped on skillet "dances." Butter lightly, then pour in only enough batter to cover bottom of skillet. Cook until bubbly and lightly browned. Turn onto board — or table-top covered with clean dish towel — browned-side up. Repeat until all batter has been used, lightly buttering skillet for each pancake.

Blend together cheeses, egg yolks, butter, sugar and cinnamon. Mix well. Place teaspoonful of cheese mixture on each pancake. Roll up and turn ends in. Fry in hot butter until golden brown on all sides. Or place in greased baking pan; bake at 350 degrees until lightly browned. Serve hot with sour cream. Sprinkle with cinnamon sugar, if desired. Makes about 10 blintzes.

Jane Ulman lives in Encino, Calif., with her husband and four sons.

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