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King Hussein Dies

by Kimberly Ann Orlandi
(with reports from the
Consulate of Israel and JTA)

Herald Editor

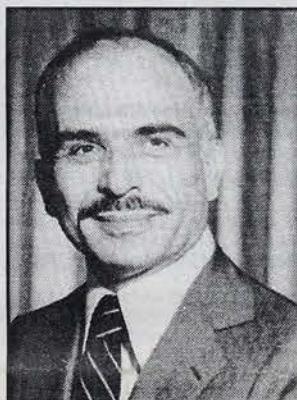
With the monarchy safely passed to Crown Prince Abdullah, King Hussein quietly lost his eight-month battle with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma on Feb. 7. Hussein, the man who had ruled over Jordan for nearly half a century and the leader many say was the vital key to the Wye River Peace Accord signed by the United States, Israel and Palestine in October of last year, died with his wife, Queen Noor, and children by his side.

Abdullah assumed power over the weekend when it became increasingly apparent that Hussein was no longer fit to rule. He was declared king when his father died on Sunday morning. Abdullah, a career military man, educated in both the United States and Great Britain, named his half-brother Hamzeh, the eldest son of Queen Noor, the new Crown Prince and heir to the throne. The announcement is a break from tradition which dictates that the eldest son of the king follow him to the throne.

Although Abdullah is not without his critics with regard to his knowledge of foreign affairs, his appointment is being met with great enthusiasm by world leaders including President Clinton, who, along with several

countries of the United Arab Emirates, have pledged millions in foreign aid to the debt-ridden country.

The United States will send an extra \$300 million and according to the *Jordan Times*, several Arab countries will deposit an undisclosed amount into the Jordanian Central Bank.



King Hussein

Upon learning of the death of Hussein, Israeli Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon said, "The Middle East and the entire world have lost a great leader, and the State of Israel has lost a genuine friend." Sharon went on to say that he, too, is certain that Abdullah will continue the road to peace that began with his father, the late King Hussein.

At the funeral service, friends and foes stood side by side to say good-bye to a man many describe as the bravest of the brave. President Clinton was joined by his wife, Hillary Rodham Clinton, former Presidents George Bush, Gerald Ford, and Jimmy Carter; British Prime Minister Tony Blair accompanied by Prince Charles; Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and a delegation from Israel which included President Ezer Weizman, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who called Hussein "a courageous leader, a loyal friend, a maker of peace," Leah Rabin, the widow of assassinated Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and a surprise appearance by Syria's president, Hafez Assad.

Hussein will probably be best remembered as the man who opened the lines of communication with Israel during a time when it was not politically correct for him to do so. He had begun meeting with Israeli leaders in 1963, four years before the war with Israel. His military confrontation with Israel was not something he was eager to participate in—under increased military pressure from Egypt to go to war with Israel in 1967, Hussein lost much of his kingdom, which included part of Jerusalem and the West Bank, during the Six-Day War with Israel. Albeit personal differences



DEDICATED TO PEACE: King Hussein, despite showing signs of exhaustion due to his illness, arrived at the White House in October 1998, just in time to witness the final signing of the Wye Peace Accord between Israel and the PLO.

Photo courtesy of Marshall H. Cohen

between Hussein and Netanyahu were cool at best after what Hussein saw as Israel's failure to advance the peace process with the Palestinians, the feelings of sorrow and loss gripped Israel when the death of Hussein was learned.

On Sunday, Israel radio played mourning songs traditionally broadcast during national tragedies and the Israeli cabinet gathered in special session for a moment of silence to the late king. And on Monday, Israel radio, *Kol Yisrael*, reported that the Jewish National Fund has decided to plant a forest in Israel in memory of King Hussein. Israel's stamp and medal agency also announced that it will be issuing a commemorative medal to honor the king's memory. Also on Monday, the Israeli government ordered Israeli government offices around the world to lower the blue-and-white flag depicting the Jewish Star of David to half-staff in respect to a man who believed it was necessary to find a peaceful solution to any and all political differences with his neighboring countries, without bloodshed. The question now, will that peaceful solution be found amidst a new governing power? According to University of Rhode Island political science Professor Arthur B. Stein, all indications, at this point, point to Abdullah continuing his father's peaceful journey.

"Over the last few years, Hussein committed himself to peace. He was really an important factor at the Wye Accords," said Stein. "He will be missed by many, especially Israel."

Stein hopes that all will remain rational and sensible and all involved will recognize the need to keep the peace talks alive despite this tragedy. "Abdullah is much like his father in that respect," said Stein.

That same sentiment was echoed by Rabbi Michael Z.

Cahana of Temple Beth-El, Providence. Although it is yet unknown whether Abdullah will continue the peaceful efforts brought forth by his father, Rabbi Cahana believes that he will.

"There must be peace for the next generation," said Rabbi Cahana. "But it takes courage to step forward to institute peace and even more to follow, but he seems to have the trust of the Israeli military and that means a lot."

Rabbi Cahana further described Hussein as a "neutral negotiator, a man whose presence it will be impossible to replace"—comparing him to Rabin and Anwar Sadat.

One of the turning points for Hussien with regard to his relationship with Israel, according to Stein, was the compassion he exhibited after the 1997 shooting at Naharayim in which a Beit Shemesh family lost their daughter. Shimon and Ruhama Cohen lost their daughter Keren when she and six classmates were gunned down by a mentally ill Jordanian soldier on March 13. Recalling Hussein's visit to his house on March 16, Cohen said "I remember he fell on his knees, and went up to my wife and embraced her. He began to cry as if seven of his own daughters had been killed."

"It was an act of greatness of a great man," said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, "a man who knew war and grew to hate it, a man who tasted violence and vowed to banish it. He was an apostle of good will, a visionary with a healthy grasp of the real, a dreamer with a thorough understanding of the possible, a man of infinite courage who craved peace with all his soul."

On Feb. 8, the Cohen's gave birth to a baby girl—the same day Hussein passed away. The couple named their new daughter, Yarden, which is Hebrew for Jordan in the late king's honor.



Students Make Coats of Color

The weekly *parasha* describing Joseph's coat of many colors was brought to life by the kindergarten students of the Alpern Schechter Day School. Each child created his/her own coat in brown paper bags painted in a virtual rainbow of colors. Pictured from left to right are: Julia Sussell, Rebecca Kanter, Michelle Goliger, Michelle Solovayeva, Jennifer Sikov, Daniel DeLuca and Michael Ross.

Photo courtesy of Liz Goldberg

HAPPENINGS

Entertainment For Children

The Providence Children's Museum, 100 South St., Providence announces the following activities. Call 273-KIDS.

February

- 11 Play and Learn. 3 to 4:30 p.m. Kids ages 2 to 4 are challenged as they gather in the cozy environment of Littlewoods to play and explore. Kids listen to stories and play games designed to enhance their developing skills.
- 12 Preschool Friday. 9:40 to 1:50 p.m. Sweet Hearts! Preschoolers ages 3 to 5 join in a magical Valentine celebration. Creative kids create colorful felt banners in honor of this lovely day. Young celebrants meet the glittery Valentine Queen and nibble on sweet heart treats. Enrollment in an eight-week series is recommended. Please call 273-KIDS, ext. 234 for enrollment information. There may be space available for same-day registration at the admissions desk. There is a \$1 fee above the price of admission for same-day registration.
- 13 Gospel Choir. 1 and 2 p.m. Providence Children's Museum honors Black History Month as it presents the powerful and uplifting music of United Ensemble Gospel Choir of Johnson & Wales University as they perform their repertoire echoing both struggle and hope.
- 14 Sweet Hearts. 1 to 3 p.m. Children ages 3 and up celebrate Valentine's Day with lovely activities. Wee artists create heart-felt valentines for their loved ones out of dainty doilies, colorful ribbons and whimsical stickers. Kids play Cupid Toss as they aim bean bags at heart-shaped targets.
- 15 Wondering About Weather. 1 to 2:30 p.m. Children ages 5 and up ponder precipitation and other weather events with help from WJAR-10 meteorologist John Ghiorse. John helps unravel the mysteries of meteorological phenomena, and demonstrates some of the tools of the weather-predicting trade. Same-day registration available at admissions desk. There is no additional charge beyond the price of admission.
- 16 Mardi Gras. Noon to 3 p.m. Kids ages 5 and up join in the feast of Mardi Gras. Young revelers create sparkly masks with colorful sequins, ribbons and feathers; they'll don their new masks as they parade through the museum singing "Oh when the saints go marching in..."

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Calendar: February 11th thru February 17th

- 11 The Newport Art Museum presents their winter lecture series with "The America's Cup 2000 and Beyond." Dr. Robin Wallace, secretary of the America's Cup Challenger Association. Coffee and dessert to follow. Members \$3, non-members \$5. Call 848-8200. The Turtle Writers Circle, AS220, Empire St., Providence. Are you a writer with something to share? Then come to the cafe to share your work with others. 7 p.m. Free. Call 831-9327.
- 12 The Providence Bruins take on the Portland Pirates at 7:05 p.m. at the Providence Civic Center, One Lasalle Square, Providence. Blithewold Valentine Gala. "Music For a While," Blithewold Mansions and Gardens, Ferry Road, Bristol. 8 p.m. \$30. Call 253-2707.
- 13 The Cranston Public Library will hold a three-day booksale at the William Hall Library, 1825 Broad St., Cranston from 7 to 10 p.m.; Feb. 13, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Feb. 14, 1 to 4 p.m. Prices range from 50¢ to \$2. Call 781-2450.
- 13 The Providence Performing Arts Center, 224 Weybosset St., Providence, continues their Big Screen Movie Series with "Bedknobs & Broomsticks." 1 p.m. \$5, children under 13 and seniors \$4. Call 421-ARTS.
- 13 The Pataphysical Circus, AS220, Empire St., Providence, hosted by "The His Panic Band" with special guests and an ultimate improv. 10 p.m. \$5. Call 831-9327.
- 14 CAV, 14 Imperial Place, Providence, presents the folk group "Folks Together." Celebrate Valentine's Day. 7 p.m. Call 751-9164.
- 15 Perspectives Monthly Book Club meets at Books on the Square, 471 Angell St., Providence, to discuss Rachel Kadish's book, *From a Sealed Room*. Call 431-5634.
- 16 The Center for Design & Business, a joint venture between Bryant College and RISD, will sponsor a Product Entrepreneurship Basics Forum — an overview of the things to consider when determining if a new product design has the potential to grow into a business. Fee \$50, \$35 for Center Associates. 9 to 11 a.m. Call 454-6108.
- 16 The Zeiterion Theatre, 684 Purchase St., New Bedford, presents Big Band '99 — The Fabulous Dorseys. The tribute stars The Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra, and the featured vocal group of The Tommy Dorsey Orchestra and The Dorsey Dixieland Band. Tickets \$24, \$19, and \$12. Seniors, educators, and students \$3 discount. 7 p.m. Call (508) 994-2900.
- 16 Harken back to the days of bobby socks and ducktails as "Grease" hits the stage at the Wang Center, Boston, Mass. Call Telecharge at (800) 447-7400 for tickets. For general information, call the box office at (617) 482-9393.
- 17 Unique Lives & Experiences, North America's foremost lecture series, presents Oscar-winning actress Marlee Matlin. Matlin will speak on courage, dreams, hope and success in the face of her own handicap. 7 p.m. Providence Performing Arts Center, 224 Weybosset St., Providence. Call 421-ARTS or Ticketmaster at 331-2211 for tickets.

Haffenreffer Museum Open During February Vacation

Haffenreffer Museum of Anthropology, Brown University, which is normally closed on weekdays during the winter, will be open during part of the February school vacation to accommodate families looking for school vacation activities. The school vacation hours will be 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Feb. 16 through 19. In addition, the museum is open on a regular basis every Saturday and Sunday during the winter from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The museum is located at 300 Tower St., Bristol, just off Route 136 (Metacom Avenue). Call 253-8388. Current exhibits at the Haffenreffer Museum are: Passionate Hobby: Rudolf F. Haffenreffer and the King Philip Museum; Hopi Katsina Dolls: Ancestor Spirit Carvings; Tourist Art; and Photography and the Art of Ethnography — The Kujamaat Jóola of Senegal, West Africa, in the 1960s, by J. David Sapir.

February Open Campus Week at Lincoln School

Lincoln School, the state's only all girls' independent school, nursery through grade 12, will host an Open Campus Week Feb. 16 through 18 from 9 a.m. until noon. Located at 301 Butler Ave. on Providence's historic East Side, the school invites all girls and their families to attend.

Open Campus Week offers the opportunity to meet with administrators, faculty and staff, observe classes in session, go on student-led tours of the campus and obtain information regarding tuition plans and financial assistance.

For more information about Open Campus Week, contact the director of admission and financial aid, Ellen Lough, at 331-9696, ext. 3159. Lincoln School was established in 1884 and is a member of the National Coalition of Girls' Schools.

It's All Monkey Business at the Zeiterion

New Bedford's beloved Miracle Fish Puppets are appearing in "Monkey Business," a new show, at the Zeiterion Theatre during February school vacation week.

Mark your calendar for Feb. 18 at 10:30 a.m.; that's when the fun begins. "Monkey Business" follows the loopy adventures of three monkeys who visit New York City. This musical extravaganza is performed in three 20-minute segments.

The Miracle Fish Puppets have entertained children during school vacation for the past couple of years at the Zeiterion.

Tickets are just \$5, general admission. Group rates are available for 10 or more. Refreshments may be purchased prior to the performance.

The box office is open Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. It is closed Sunday and Monday. Call (508) 994-2900 for more information.

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FEATURE

The Legacy of King Hussein

by Mitchell Danow

New York (JTA) — The most fitting summation of King Hussein bin Talal's nearly five decades as Jordan's ruler may well come from the title of his own 1962 autobiography "Uneasy Lies the Head."

His reign would certainly have been less uneasy had he possessed more cards to play in the region's shifting sands of expedient military alliances and often-deadly power politics.

But his was a desert kingdom with few natural resources and little real regional power. Jordan, created as a buffer state by England and France after World War II, was perpetually buffeted by its more powerful neighbors. Hussein repeatedly had to protect his nation's sovereignty from the onslaughts of Syria, Iraq and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The king was, moreover, something of an outsider in his own country — the royal Hashemite family from which he was descended had its roots in the far southern edge of the Arabian peninsula. On more than one occasion, his loyal Bedouin troops saved his throne.

Of necessity, Hussein walked a political tightrope throughout the more than 46 years he occupied the Hashemite throne.

At his death at 63, he was the region's longest-serving ruler — eight U.S. presidents and 10 British prime ministers came and went from the time he ascended to power in 1952.

He was in short, a political survivor. And he used his survival skills to become, as he will perhaps best be remembered, a champion of peace.

Educated at the Sandhurst military academy in Britain, he was more liberal than any other Arab ruler — particularly in his attitude toward Israel.

Hussein may well have made peace with the Jewish state a decade or two earlier than he actually did in October 1994 — had it not been for the staunch opposition to such a move from the rest of the Arab world and from the Palestinian population that made up the majority of Hussein's kingdom.

With an eye toward achieving a peace with Israel that would also serve Palestinian needs, he held a series of secret meetings with Israeli officials

over the years, some of which have been made public only recently: with Defense Minister Moshe Dayan in 1972, with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in 1987 and with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir that same year.

The meetings were of necessity held in secret. In 1951, when he was 15, Hussein witnessed the assassination of his grandfather, King Abdullah, by a Palestinian gunman angry at the king's perceived willingness to carve up Palestinian lands with Israel. Had his meetings with the Israelis become widely known, Hussein was certain he would suffer a similar fate.

Perhaps the most famous of the "secret" meetings was Hussein's encounter with Prime Minister Golda Meir on the eve of the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

Days before that meeting, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Syrian President Hafez Assad had tried to convince the Jordanian monarch that Israel was about to attack them. They asked him to allow Syrian troops to move through northern Jordan to head off the Israeli assault.

Six years earlier, in the 1967 Six-Day War, Hussein had learned the cost of allying himself with Egypt and Syria. As a result of that war, he lost eastern Jerusalem and the West Bank — "I had never received a more crushing blow than that," Hussein said in an interview.

In 1973, he was not about to make the same mistake again. Far from reaching any agreement with Sadat and Assad, Hussein flew off alone to meet Meir.

He warned the prime minister that Egypt and Syria were planning a surprise attack on Israel. But Meir, with no intelligence reports to back up Hussein's assessment, did not heed the warning.

The king's meeting with her was in no small part the repayment of a debt to the Jewish state dating back to September 1970, when he was attempting to remove the PLO from Jordanian soil.

In the wake of the 1967 war, the PLO had entrenched itself in Jordan, from where it launched repeated raids on Israel. By 1970, PLO leader Yasser Arafat and other factional heads were attempting to overthrow the king, who viewed their operations

against Israel as a threat to Jordan.

After Hussein came under machine-gun fire in the streets of Amman — and after the PLO staged the destruction of several hijacked airplanes at the capital's airport — the king had enough and declared war on the PLO.

Fighting erupted in and around Amman in what later became known as Black September.

The wider Arab world, which had long distrusted Hussein as a West puppet, sided with the PLO. Syria sent tanks into Jordan — and the king was powerless to stop their steady advance.

After seeking American intervention — he could not possibly have sought Israeli help directly — on Sept. 16, four Israeli phantom jets flew low over the Syrian tanks. Without a shot being fired, the tanks got the message, turned north and headed back for Damascus.

For years on end, Hussein had to seek peace with Israel from the shadows. His pro-Western proclivities had made him suspect among pan-Arabists since the 1950s, when he was the target of a succession of assassination and coup attempts.

He had to wait — until after Egypt, then the Palestinians, signed peace treaties with the Jewish state.

On Sept. 14, 1993, Hussein finally had his chance. Only one day after Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Arafat shared their historic handshake on the White House lawn, Israel and Jordan signed a "Common Agenda" in Washington.

That document served as a blueprint for the peace treaty the two nations signed a year later, on October 26, 1994.

It was then, in a signing ceremony with Rabin and President Clinton on the Israeli-Jordanian border, that Hussein could state, for all the world to hear, what he had previously pursued behind the scenes.

"This great valley in which we stand will become the valley

(Continued on Page 18)

Israelis Grieve King Hussein

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met with Jordan's King Abdullah and expressed his condolences over the death of Abdullah's father, King Hussein, during Hussein's funeral in Amman on Feb. 8, Israel Radio, *Kol Yisrael*, reported.

"I appreciate your support and the support of the Israeli people at this time," Abdullah told Netanyahu in return, saying that he would make an effort to hold a meeting between the two leaders as soon as possible to sustain the warm relations between Israel and Jordan.

During the funeral Netanyahu also had brief conversations with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and United States President Bill Clinton.

The Jerusalem Post reported that many Israelis, young and old, some bearing flower bouquets, traveled to the Jordanian embassy in Ramat Gan to sign a condolence book for King Hussein's family.

Ma'ariv reported that Israel has opened up its airspace to visitors from other parts of the world who are coming to pay their respects to Hussein's family.

Israel Radio, *Kol Yisrael*, also reported that the Knesset will send a condolence call delegation to Jordan comprising various members of Knesset who could not attend the funeral.

Weizman Shakes Hands With DFLP Leader

The head of a radical Palestinian group that rejects the Oslo accord shook hands with President Ezer Weizman during King Hussein's funeral on Feb. 8, *Ha'aretz* reported. Nayif Hawatmeh, the general secretary of the Damascus-based Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, approached Weizman at the royal palace in Amman while waiting for the funeral to begin, according to one of Weizman's aides. Weizman said he was intro-

duced to Hawatmeh and the two exchanged an Arabic greeting.

Hawatmeh told Weizman, "You are a man of peace who fought for many years to advance peace in the Middle East. We recognize this and G-d willing, peace will come to our region," according to Arie Shumer, director general of Weizman's office.

The move aroused considerable criticism in Israel, however. Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon complained that Hawatmeh's hands are "covered with blood."

Speaking on Channel One on Feb. 8, Weizman defended himself by pointing out that it was Hawatmeh who initiated the interaction. The President made clear that he viewed Hawatmeh's move as a sign that he accepts Israel's existence and therefore had no problem shaking hands with him.

Syria to Continue Dialogue With Israel, United States

Syria's Ambassador to the United States, Walid Mu'alem, said recently that Damascus expects to resume negotiations with Israel within the next several months, regardless of which government comes to power, Israel Radio, *Kol Yisrael*, reported. Mu'alem made these comments in an interview on CNN, in which Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, Dore Gold, also participated.

United States President Bill Clinton and Syrian President Hafez al-Assad met briefly recently during King Hussein's funeral in Amman. According to Israel Radio, *Kol Yisrael*, the two leaders discussed the Middle East and the space process. Syria's official news agency reported recently that Clinton and Assad have decided to establish an open channel of contract that will be run by Syrian Vice President Abdel Halim Haddam, Foreign Minister Farouk Ashara, U.S. Undersecretary Martin Indyk and U.S. Middle East Envoy Dennis Ross.



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The Beginning of Peace

King Hussein (left) stands with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin (center) as President Clinton applauds the official signing of their 1994 Peace Treaty.

OPINION —

Black Hats, Bad Guys —

by Rabbi Avi Shafran
Director of Public Affairs,
Agudath Israel of America

Let me confess at the outset: I'm an Orthodox Jewish fundamentalist.

That seems to be the term these days for those of us who believe in the divine origin and eternally binding nature of the Torah and who endeavor to comply with the requirements of Jewish religious law (*halacha*) — as Jews have done for millennia.

In the eyes and words of some contemporary non-Orthodox leaders, that conviction makes me and Jews like me bad guys.

Admittedly, the men among us tend to favor black hats. All the same, though, we are innocent of the pending charges: that we see non-Orthodox Jews as something other than our brothers and sisters, that we bear them ill will, that we disparage the ideal of Jewish unity.

Those accusations stem largely from our opposition to changes in Israel's "religious status quo," the compromise that Israel's early leaders instituted in order to allow a secular, socialist-democratic system of government to simultaneously exist as a Jewish State.

That *modus vivendi* has always provided Israelis total freedom of religion, but at the same time accommodated the Jewish religious tradition in limited areas. For example: A Jewish school system is provided for those opting for it (with secular schools for the rest); the Jewish dietary laws are respected at government-sponsored gatherings and in the military; and traditional *halacha*, through the medium of an official rabbinate, is the arbiter of Jewish "personal status" issues — like marriage, divorce and conversion to Judaism. That latter accommodation, by virtue of the single standard

it maintains for accepting non-Jews into the Jewish people in Israel, has helped prevent the emergence of multiple "Jewish peoples" in the Jewish State for the past half-century.

Israel's need to embrace the Jewish religious tradition's standards for personal status issues is no fundamentalist plot to ensure Orthodox hegemony. It was originally laid out, in fact, in a letter signed by, among other non-black hatters, the Jewish State's "founding father" David Ben-Gurion, the secularist who would become Israel's first Prime Minister. He realized that, without a single standard for conversion, the Jewish people "would, G-d forbid, become split into two."

Ben-Gurion's common sense insight — that Jewish unity is enhanced, not degraded, through the embrace of a single standard acceptable to all — is no less relevant today than it was when Israel was founded 50 years ago. What has changed is that the leaders of the American-based Reform and Conservative movements have in recent years decided to aggressively attack the single-standard common denominator approach. Their attack has proceeded on two separate fronts: in the Israeli courts, where they have enlisted an activist judiciary in exploiting the absence of express statutory authority for the religious status quo; and in the court of public opinion, where they have attempted to portray Israel as a theocracy controlled by religious fanatics who treat non-Orthodox Jews as second-class citizens.

Bad guys that we "Ultra-Orthodox" are, the Israelis among us dared respond to the court rulings by... well, by doing pretty much what we Americans would do were the U.S. Supreme Court to suddenly de-

termine a lack of adequate statutory basis for a legal protection that had always been assumed to exist. They asked their representatives in the Knesset — the counterparts of ours in the Congress — to legislate it back into existence.

An uproar among Reform and Conservative leaders ensued — and has since intensified. Israeli legislators have been threatened with persona non grata status in American temples, and the Israeli government is being warned of a "break in relations with" (read: "cessation of donations from") American non-Orthodox Jews. And, just to remind everybody who the enemy was, an advertisement on the op-ed page of *The New York Times*, not only referred to Orthodox Jews as "fundamentalists," but included words like "hijack" and "madness" to ensure that readers would visualize crazed eyes, kaffiyas and Kalishnikovs instead of citizens appealing to their democratically elected representatives. For good measure, and to ensure the vitality of the old canard about Orthodox Jews rejecting the Jewishness of non-Orthodox Jews, the New Israel Fund, in the large headline of a full-page ad it placed in the same paper (and others), challenged American Jews to "tell the Israeli government exactly what we are. Jews."

Most amazing of all, in the very same breath that they issue calls for multiple conversion standards in Israel — the surest

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Protecting One's 'Homeland'

To the Editor:

Recent headlines involving an Israeli Arab family that is trying to work out a compensation arrangement with JNF following a judgment by the Supreme Court of Israel, which deemed that their house stood on a parcel of land belonging to JNF, has caused great concern for me and JNF.

All sides acknowledge and recognize that the highest court of the land has repeatedly ruled that this property belongs to JNF. This case has been tested through the legal system since the Six Day War of 1967, in which Jerusalem was united and restored to Jewish hands for the first time in 2,000 years. Each round of the legal process has favored JNF and has ordered the family to leave the land and accept a financial settlement. Each time, the family has vacillated.

Several months ago, JNF received notification from American Friends for Peace Now, a fellow member of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, that its Israeli body was going to stage a press conference and criticize our handling of the matter. A document was circulated which said, amongst other things, that JNF has a policy of not selling land to non-Jews. This went outside the Jewish "family," and ended up in such respected publications as the *New York Times*, the *Financial Times of London* and others. This was unfortunate and an unfair, distorted appraisal of facts.

The fact is that JNF does not, nor has it ever, sold land to non-Jews. But then again, JNF does not sell land to Jews. The JNF does not sell land. We are mandated to be the caretakers of the Land of Israel on behalf of all Jews everywhere since 1901.

It is common knowledge that only the most reckless Israeli Arabs would dare transfer land to the Jews, even under court action. So far this year, 11 Israeli Arabs have lost their lives because they did what the family in question would not do — they took money from Jews for land. We are concerned about human lives and not about political agendas or headlines. That is why we have stayed out of the press.

JNF was content to let this matter drag on for as long as necessary, just so that the family would get what it needed in order to move on without fanfare or attention. Everyone involved in this case understands how terrorists get their information: They read it in the newspapers.

The legal system of Israel, one of the most ethical, moral and liberal in the world determined that this land was the property of JNF. The facts are as follows:

- The Jewish National Fund, Israel's non-political guarantee of a sense of security and connection for Jews throughout the world, should not be expected to break the law of Israel.
- Judgment has been passed on sub-division number 56 in plot number 30125. It is Jewish and the property of JNF.

(Continued on Page 19)

Diamonds Are Forever

The story is told of a man who hears about a faraway land where diamonds litter the streets and the man decides to travel to this distant spot. Upon his arrival, the man sees diamonds scattered everywhere. He begins loading his suitcases until, after hours of work, they are full.

The newly rich gentleman drags his suitcases to a hotel and asks for a luxury suite. He then goes to the dining room and orders an expensive meal.

When the bill arrives, the diamond magnate takes out a huge diamond and tells the waiter, "Keep the change."

"What is this stone doing here?" the waiter asks with a sour face.

"This is payment for my most delicious meal," smiles the newcomer.

"These pebbles have no value here," snaps the waiter. "Here we value chicken fat! And if you haven't enough chicken fat to pay for your meal, you will have to wash dishes."

The man thinks this is a joke. But, as he is dragged to the kitchen, he realizes that this faraway land is one place where diamonds are useless.

The man works off his meal. But then he has other expenses to pay for. Weeks pass. He rises in the hotel ranks and is able to actually save a little cold fat. Time passes and the man has quite a collection of chicken fat.

He has become what some might consider wealthy. It is now time to return home.

As his yacht nears the dock, he sees his family waiting. But, why are they covering their noses? His wife forces a smile and inquires about the horrible odor. Smiling, she asks, "Is that chicken fat I smell?"

"Yes," her husband says excitedly. "The yacht is filled with chicken fat. We are rich!"

Where are the diamonds that you were to bring after all these years away?" asks the wife in confusion.

"What value are diamonds?" asks the husband. "They are like pebbles. Chicken fat has value."

Shocked, his wife tries to ex-

With that one small diamond, he manages to pay the debts his family has incurred during his absence and to start all over again.

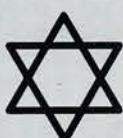
This story is a parable for the descent of the soul into the body. When the soul comes into this world it is told, "Be righteous and do not be wicked" — follow G-d's commandment, for they are as precious as diamonds. Collect them, cherish them. Garner as many as you can during your short sojourn.

But often, the soul gets confused. It forgets its mission and its promise. The soul begins to collect "chicken fat," oblivious to the fact that it has forgotten the reason for its descent into this world.

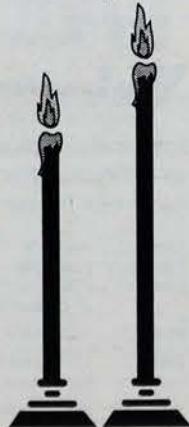
Gently, in the Heavenly Court, it is asked, "Have you not a few precious diamonds, some mitzvot to show for your years on earth?"

Ashamedly, the soul searches here and there until it finds a few things: a kind word; a prayer offered for someone's speedy recovery; charity to support a *yeshiva*; a blessing recited on *challah*; a Jewish class attended; a Shabbat candle lit; *tefillin* put on. And oh, how the soul wishes that it would have remembered its purpose and the reason for its descent.

Submitted by Rabbi Laufer of Chabad House, Providence.



Candlelighting
February 12, 1999
4:57 p.m.



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

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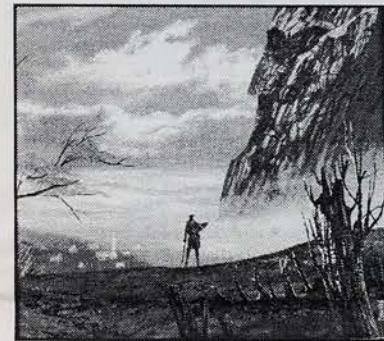
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FEATURE**Wandering Far But Near**

by Mike Fink
Herald Contributing Reporter

I looked through the angelic harp set before the hearth at the Rochambeau library tea, taking note of Ruth Saltzman's superb hands as she brought forth such sweet sounds from its strings. Beyond the instrument, the player, and the zone of harmony, I saw the bookshelves. What a charming way to get back into the late winter's semi-hibernation, with books!

The helpful staff sent for Elsa Maxwell's cheerful name-dropping memoir called simply "R.S.V.P." and published in 1954. Surely some of you remember the Eighth Wonder of the World, as GBS labelled the lively lady. Elsa was a dumpy, dowdy, but elfin eccentric, who had no interest in men, marriage, booze, property, or jewelry—only in having some laughs and keeping some friends. She had a light touch and endeared herself to the mighty of the great world. They never envied me, so they trusted



Hawthorne's Wandering Jew

me, she declares, and tells some fascinating tales of kings and queens, ministers and minstrels, beauties and tyrants.

All she offered was ideas for costume parties, some small talent at the upright piano to relieve stiffness in the parlor, and the freedom to pack up a suitcase and take off. A host once gave her a \$5,000 gift certificate at Cartier's, but she cashed it in to pay Fritz Kreisler's fee to play his violin for one of her soirees! Now, that's class, that's style, that's character, that's chic!

A Kiss To This Land

by Mike Fink
Herald Contributing Reporter

Daniel Goldberg, soft-spoken and modest, came to Rhode Island from his native Mexico to present his recent film "A Kiss to This Land" for audiences at both U.R.I. campus centers in Peace Dale and at the Shepherd Building in Providence.

This documentary study shows and tells the progress of immigrants from east Europe in the 1920s and 1930s who gradually became truly Mexican. They may have sought entry into the U.S.A. but were kept out because of the then new, isolationist, reactionary, immigrant laws, but the lively Latino culture that welcomed them won them over and earned their affection and respect.

The movie was greeted with warmth and enthusiasm by a goodly crowd on Westminster Street. "You have described exactly my own experience first in Cuba and later here," claimed Joseph Katz, who thanked the artist for his efforts. The post-screening discussion brought out a number of emotion-laden stories. The director took each question and response with genuine courtesy, low-key recognition and kindliness of tone.

In conjunction with Professor David Gitlitz of U.R.I., Goldberg is in the process of creating a sort of sequel to his study, in which he explores the ties that link the Ashkenazim of our own century with the Sephardim who date back to

She revels in the revenge of Irving Berlin, labelled by his future wife's father, the multi-millionaire Mackay, "the little Jew from the East Side." Berlin rose to such eminence he later bailed out his bankrupt bigoted in-law with a cash gift of a million American bucks. She claims she broke with the duchess of Windsor because of her Nazi connections, although she rejects the notion that the Windsors were treasonous. She describes Wallis thus: "a tiny, ordinary woman, but with a power within that made me think of the endless vibration you feel on an ocean liner." She believed the continental aristocrats were pro-German, but the Brits were better than that...you don't have to believe everything she says, but she seemed to have more fun than anybody else in her long reign as jester and hostess. Maxwell knew everybody, and was treated with the generosity she showed to endless guests at countless, if count-full, parties she helped to throw decade after decade in the years of cafe society. My own mom used to read accounts of these exploits in the pages of *Life* magazine, and rather liked her unpretentious and outrageous manner—a nice contrast to the more middle-class rules and regulations of a bridge table!

I got a few evenings worth of pleasure from "R.S.V.P." and moved right along to a twice-told collection of fantastic fables by Nathaniel Hawthorne. Once again, the folks at Rochambeau come through with these lovely texts like genii.

Hawthorne called this legend "a moss from the manse," and titles the short story "A Virtuoso's Collection." I had heard about it via a footnote in a Jewish encyclopedia. The au-

thor, or narrator, visits a weird museum, where he finds fabulous things, such as the very same white dove, stuffed and preserved, that reassured Noah the flood was over. The curator is a curious, cold, courteous scholar, who turns out to be none other than The Wandering Jew in person. "He had almost lost the sense of strangeness in his fate. The soul is dead within him, without a single heart-throb of human brotherhood."

I confess I was shocked, chilled, by the otherwise kindly and gentle writer's lack of insight into the Jewish condition. I made an effort to see something extra, some sympathy for yet another victim beyond Salem of human prejudice, but to no avail.

The myth of the Wandering Jew, my encyclopedia explained, began with an undying guilt-ridden figure not identified as a Jew or of any particular nationality until the sixth century. After that period, the church used the cursed figure to justify its anti-Jewish policies. And yet, Jews as wanderers continue to capture the imagination even of Jews themselves. Early American settlers thought each peddler, including the Levi who created denim dungarees, to be the Wandering Jew himself. Whenever we wear our jeans, we profile the Wandering Jew.

Getting back to the bookshelves, and to the ethereal golden tones of the harp, I would say that my local library brings the past to me on those thick pages with the clear print and the heavy cloth covers along with the perfume of the bindings. I carry the volumes home, return them, and feel as though I have made a secret visit to vaults in old castles. I have partied with celebrities, traveled without a trunk, and moved freely from zone to zone without any passport but my blue card.

**That Harvey Girl**

by Mike Fink
Herald Contributing Reporter

I'm so proud to list myself among the many friends and fans of Bunny Harvey, a winner of this year's prestigious Pell Award. A painter and a Wellesley professor, Harvey has always taken an active part in our cultural and artistic local community, although she is also an international star and a world traveler of renown.

I'm not about to list her considerable achievements and accomplishments, honors which will surely be made known at the time of the forthcoming presentation and celebration. I can only give a brief account of my personal history with the R.I.S.D. graduate. Bunny always took front row seating, and gathered admirers even then around her zest and humor. She had an expression that varied, but always kept an attentiveness, even in that era of cop-out, drop-out fallout. Eager to learn, Bunny never seemed to waste a moment or an opportunity—the very definition of the poet, the one upon whom nothing is thrown away.

Bunny Harvey had a streak of hospitality in her nature: she loved Providence and its denizens, not just the superficially promising parts and persons, but the hidden, the subtle, the less obvious. She didn't always "pick a winner," but instead gave haven and help to the lost souls of talent and even genius who seem to thrive in divine Providence. She took rooms in back streets where her wondrous collections of furnishings, collectibles, found objects and found friendships shone like magical lamps and lanterns. She threw wide her doors to me at various dinners and openings over the years and decades, with the loyalty and generosity of spirit that earned her the respect

and goodwill of 50 many people, great and humble.

Bunny sailed the Atlantic on one of the first R.I.S.D. Rome honors program crossings abroad stately ocean liners of yore, in the latter days of such romantic sea voyages, before we saved time but lost leisure, by jet journey. Her more recent visits to Egypt and revisits to, and sabbatical sojourns in, Italy influence her canvases, which have a graceful and thoughtful quality of palimpsest, of things recalled over other experiences.

Just so, Bunny also has a sort of marrano mirage in her character. Although she is not affiliated with a synagogue, she keeps a strong sense of belonging to Jewish culture. Her husband, Frank Muhy, wrote the script for the recent documentary history of the Touro Synagogue. Their son, Nicholas Asher, or "Nico," is a remarkable youthful composer, and a person with the courtesy and gracious kindness of both his parents. You might expect a touch of teenage arrogance, spoiled egotism, or introverted withdrawal, from such talent and fame, but not one bit, not the slightest iota of it: nothing but good will to one and all who enter their friendly world on Catalpa Road. I can recall many amusing and rousing tales of their dinners with the likes of Lauren Bacall at glittering Manhattan galas, but the crowd on their own block is just as wild and full of wizardry and the glamour they spotlight close to home.

This short piece is merely an early word of congratulations to a caring, gifted, and giving painter in our midst, a supporter of schools and the arts and everything they hold for us of hope, grace, and solace.

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JEWISH COMMUNITY —

Siddur Ceremony Held at ASDS

First-grade students of the Alperin Schechter Day School received their siddurim during a ceremony held with family, teachers and friends of the school. The service began with tefillot led by Judaic studies teacher Rivka Eskovits, who guided the children through booklets created by the students. Laura Berkson, music director, led everyone on guitar in a new version of Hiney Ma Tov with refrain.

Students performed the Alef Bet song with great enthusiasm and demonstrated their dance abilities to the delight of all. Rabbi Spitzer was on hand to give the Dvar Torah emphasizing the significance of the siddur they were about to receive and equating it to a "Jewish" passport.

Dr. Penney Stein, head of school, and Rabbi Spitzer presented each child with their siddur, congratulating them on their accomplishments. Stein



FIRST-GRADE STUDENTS AT ASDS receive siddurim during special ceremony, gathering under a tallit comprised of individual squares designed and fabricated by their parents.

Photo courtesy of Liz Goldberg

assembled all the first-graders under a very special tallit created by their parents. Each family had contributed a handmade square depicting special symbols and messages to their child, which was assembled by ASDS

parent Pat Matusow into the beautiful tallit. As the children gathered under the tallit, special prayers were recited to mark this milestone. Festivities concluded with refreshments and a closer viewing of the tallit.

Staying Current With Adoption Information is Key at Adoption Options

How can an adoption counselor make sure things go smoothly when a birth parent wants the adoptive parents present at the birth? What are the concerns of adoptive parents in today's information-oriented society? How do you maximize successful placements and minimize risk of wrongful adoption? How do you address the issues that are important for diverse populations and non-traditional adoptions?

"Adoption is experiencing a phenomenal amount of growth and change these days. Knowledgeable adoption counselors can help parents navigate all the choices and questions," said Jewish Family Service Executive Director Paul Segal. "Our Adoption Options staff regularly attends conferences and workshops about a wide range

of adoption topics, to stay on the leading edge of developments in the field." Adoption Options is the nonsectarian, comprehensive adoption service at Jewish Family Service.

A conference provided by Cambridge Hospital's continuing education division in Boston was attended by three Adoption Options staffers. Entitled "Issues in Adoption," the program featured presentations on issues including working with birth parents, meeting the needs of adoptive families, handling adoption issues that arise in medical settings, international adoptions, discussing how hospitals respond to adoptive situations. One of the speakers was Joyce Pavao, an adoption specialist in the Boston area, whose books are widely regarded among adoption professionals.

She spoke about her new book, *The Family of Adoption*. "The conference provided the opportunity to keep up with the newest thinking in the field and network with other professionals," stated Adoption Options Adoption Social Worker Shelley Katsh.

(Continued on Page 19)

Fain's Financial Filosofies

by Robert Fain CLU, ChFC

This is the first of a series of educational columns about financial and human topics that have an interest to a large number of people. As a practitioner, speaker, and writer for the past 35 years, there are certain areas of interest that keep recurring. I will be addressing these items from a technical, tax, advisor and human sense. After 35 years, I am very committed to what happens to the family, business associates and the individual as life cycle events present themselves.

Here is a partial list of some of the items that will be addressed. Send your personal questions so that I may reprint them (with your permission). This would be the Ann Landers of money.

1) IRA. This may be the single most important vehicle. This is the receptacle for the 401K and other retirement money when you do retire. It also may be the most complicated and where you will need the most advice. Who should be the beneficiary? How does Required Minimum Distribution work at age 70 1/2?

2) Estate Planning. Everyone has a plan. It is either the one you have created for yourself or the one your state creates for you.

3) Long Term Health Care. This is not an insurance discussion. It will be a discussion about what happens to families and friends when a person develops a long-term chronic condition. Ask me about the Well Spouse Foundation.

4) Disability. What happens when you can't earn an income anymore?

5) Education. How will you pay for it? Where can grandparents fit in?

6) Retirement. Yes, I know. Everyone seems to have the answers. I will try to give you different views.

7) Investments. It is so difficult. The internet, no-load funds, brokers, financial planners, the choice of products. Life insurance, disability insurance, long-term health care, liability insurance; what do I do? Certificates of deposit, money market accounts, bonds (corporate or government, domestic or international), stocks, mutual funds, managed money, commission or no commission, fees or no fees. There are so many experts and so many decisions to make.

8) More. What about situations of the widow and widower, divorcees, people living together and the possible financial ramifications? Life can be complicated.

And there is still more...

Robert Fain owns Fain Financial Services which is located at 56 Pine St., Providence, R.I., and is also a registered representative with Commonwealth Financial Network, member NASD and SIPC. In addition, he is a registered investment advisor.

Send questions to Fain's Financial Filosofies, c/o The Rhode Island Jewish Herald, Classbox FFF, P.O. Box 6063, Providence, R.I. 02940.

B'nai B'rith Taps Deanne Stone for Regional Management Post

Deanne Stone of Framingham, Mass., has been named New England regional director for B'nai B'rith International. BBI executive vice president, Dr. Sidney M. Clearfield, announced Stone's appointment.

Stone will oversee B'nai B'rith's Brighton, Mass., office, which serves Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. "Deanne Stone's strong Jewish communal experience makes her an ideal person for this job," said Clearfield. "I'm delighted to have her directing our New England Region."

For the past two years, Stone has served as director of the women's department of the

Council of Jewish Federations. Her experience in Jewish communal service also includes having served as executive director of the Maimonides Day School and Temple Israel of Boston and as development director for an Israeli Youth Aliyah Village. She also worked as a consultant with the Seventh-Day Adventist community on a righteous gentle project at Atlantic Union College in Massachusetts.

She continues to be an active volunteer in the Jewish community. She has served as a past CJF women's department national chair and past chair of the CJF working group to implement the Memorandum of Understanding between the United States and Israel for human services.

At the Greater Framingham Jewish Federation, Stone held every major position including president, general campaign chair, and editor of the community monthly. Currently, she serves on the women's division board of the Combined Jewish Philanthropies and is a vice president of the Bureau of Jewish Education in Boston.

Stone earned a bachelor of arts, magna cum laude, from Brandeis University and a master of science in management from Lesley College. She has additional training in such key administrative skills as budgeting, fund-raising, and public speaking.

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JEWISH COMMUNITY

RIHMM Hosts Annual Student Awareness Contest

The Rhode Island Holocaust Memorial Museum recently announced the theme for this year's statewide student arts and writing contest. "Resistance" will be the theme for students in Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts middle (grades six through eight) and high schools.

The arts and writing contest culminates on Student Awareness Day which will take place on May 6 at the Odeum Theater in East Greenwich. Students will be awarded prizes based on their works following the theme of "resistance." The annual contest is sponsored by the RIHMM. One high-school senior (first place in the writing division) will be awarded a special \$100 check from the Morris Gastfreund Family Holocaust Memorial Fund. The fund was established by Gastfreund, the only survivor of a large family, whose aims are to give students the incentive to read and research the history of the Holocaust upon entering college.

In addition, winning student works (second place and honorable mention) will receive Holocaust-related books, certificates and a viewing of "I Never Saw Another Butterfly" by the All Children's Theater. The school of each winner will receive a matching set of books and the teacher will receive an award of honor.

All student art and writing is due to the R.I. Holocaust Memorial Museum, located at 401 Elmwood Ave., in Providence, by March 31 at 3 p.m. For more information about the RIHMM contest and contest rules, call Tara V. Lisciandro, executive director, at 453-7860.

For those interested in submitting works to the USHMM, contact the museum at USHMM, Attn.: Arts and Writing Contest, 100 Raoul Wallenberg P1, SW, Washington, DC 20024-2150 or (202) 488-0400. You may request a brochure about their annual contest.

Pulitzer Prize-Winning Journalist Speaks at The Jewish Theological Seminary

Currently on special assignment for the *New York Times*, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Serge Schmemann will deliver the year's first Jack and Lewis Rudin Lecture on Feb. 23 at 5:30 p.m. at the Jewish Theological Seminary. His speech, "Three Years in Israel: A Reporter's Notebook," will highlight Schmemann's memorable experiences as the *Times'* Jerusalem bureau chief from 1995-1998. Among the monumental stories he covered were the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and the ongoing struggle for peace in the Middle East.

The author of various publications, Schmemann's most recent work was a book published by Knopf in 1997, *Echoes of a Native Land: Two Centuries of a Russian Village*. It traces the story of his ancestral home, a village in central Russia, from czarist times through the present.

After receiving a B.A. cum laude in English literature from Harvard in 1967, Schmemann pursued study in Russian literature at Columbia University, where he received a master's in 1971. In recognition of his many achievements, Middlebury College awarded him a doctorate in 1995.

The lecture, followed by a reception, is open to the public, free of charge. No tickets are necessary, but reservations are required.

The Rudin lectures, held bi-annually, provide the opportunity for eminent professors, religious leaders, intellectuals and public figures to present addresses on topics of interest to the JTS community and to the public at large.

The Jewish Theological Seminary, located at 3080 Broadway at 122nd St., is the spiritual and academic center of Conservative Judaism worldwide.

Hope High School Class of '54 Will Hold Reunion

The Hope High School class of January 1954 will have its 45th reunion on May 30 at the Spanish Tavern in Narragansett. Help is needed to locate the following class members:

Louis Araujo, Gail Brewster, Howard Chase, Frances P. Clarke, Richard Correira, Carolyn Dudley Riley, Sylvia Faella, Lois Gentile, Ann Gauthier Hicks, Joan Godek, Paul Gorman, Mary Holmes, Donald Johnson, Loring F. Johnson, William Waite Johnson, Phyllis Kirshenbaum Leapman, Charles Lynch, Paul Melkonian, Valerie Mitchell, Cynthia Molloy Falcao, Geraldine Monteiro Wright, Bernard Otterman, Richard Rizk, Cynthia Robinson, Frances Stein, Helen Tromper, Anne Warren, Russell White, Michael Zoglio, Jr.

If you have knowledge of these classmates or have not received the informational letter, call Lois Weiss Torman at 781-2650.

Feinstein's Holiday Challenge Raises More Than \$900,000

A holiday challenge issued by Alan Shawn Feinstein to help the needy in Rhode Island and nearby Massachusetts and Connecticut has raised \$911,719 in just 24 days.

The challenge, initially begun with \$25,000 from Feinstein, rose to \$36,000 when the Rhode Island Foundation and John Hazen White, Sr., added to it.

Checks have been sent to all participating organizations receiving a proportionate amount of the \$36,000 challenge money.

"Incredible," said Dr. Moe Gaebe, chancellor of Johnson & Wales, "There must be a special place in heaven for that man (Feinstein)."

Last February, Feinstein's \$1 million national challenge for America's emergency food providers raised more than \$33 million.

The 'G' Lesson

Jeremy Harlam brings the letter "G" to life in the kindergarten's weekly show-and-tell learning exercise. This Alpern Schechter Day School student made an enormous impact statement to fellow kindergartners when he demonstrated his knowledge of the letter "G." What could he bring in to show as an example? It didn't take Harlam long to decide that his twin brother, Gregory, was perfect. Gregory is pictured here, albeit under wraps, as his proud brother is about to reveal him.

Photo by Liz Goldberg

MAZON Awards Grant to Food Bank

MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger, one of the largest privately held philanthropic organizations addressing hunger in America, has awarded the Rhode Island Community Food Bank a \$10,000 grant.

The money will be used to help pay the salary of a community food coordinator, who will support our increased efforts to distribute food directly to our member agencies," explained Bernard J. Beaudreau, Food Bank executive director.

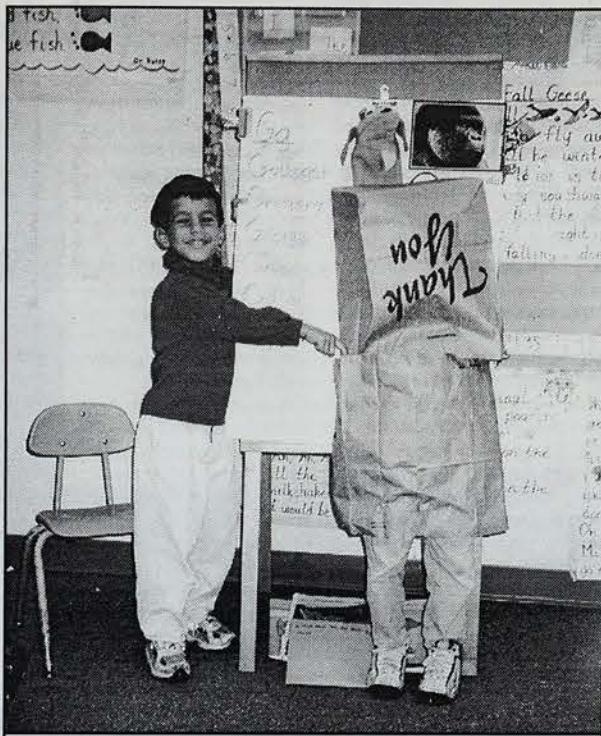
This coordinator will help the Food Bank expand its direct distribution program from deliveries to agencies in Pawtucket/Central Falls, Newport, and Woonsocket, R.I., and New Bedford, Mass., to pantries in Providence, R.I., and Fall River and Attleboro, Mass.

"This grant gives us the funds we need to strengthen our food distribution to member agencies

and better serve people in need," said Beaudreau. "We appreciate MAZON's continued support of our efforts."

MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger is one of the largest privately supported philanthropic organizations addressing hunger in America. MAZON (Hebrew word for "food") raises funds principally by asking American Jews to contribute 3 percent of the cost of their lifestyle celebrations and makes grants to non-profit organizations working in the United States and abroad to reduce hunger, malnutrition and poverty.

MAZON, founded in 1986, has awarded grants totaling more than \$16 million to emergency feeding programs, food banks, anti-hunger advocacy groups, service organizations offering food, shelter and counseling, and small-scale hunger relief and development projects in Israel and poor countries.



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JEWISH COMMUNITY

ASDS Wins 'Shoot-Out' Tournament

The boys and girls basketball teams of the Ruth and Max Alperin Schechter Day School, Providence, recently participated in the Solomon Schechter Day Schools of Greater Boston Shoot-Out, competing against three other local teams for the title. Held at the SSDS — Newton recently, this first in an annual series of competition, was a daylong event. In first round action Alperin Schechter Day School matched with Cohen Hillel School of Marblehead, Mass. The boys team defeated Cohen Hillel with a score of 50-39, and the girls team won with a 28-12 score. Aaron Matusow led the boys team with 19 points, closely followed by brother Ben with 15, Jonah Gabry 8, and David Levinson 4. Sandy Schneider found the hoop for 8 points while Rebecca Levine and Elina Kaplan, each with 6, accounted for the majority of total baskets. The Solomon Schechter

Day School of Stoughton lost to Solomon Schechter Day School of Newton in their first round game.

Final round match-ups had ASDS up against Newton Schechter. High scorer, Ben Matusow drove in 14 points for the boys team, followed by Aaron Matusow, Jonah Gabry and Noah Jablow with 8 points each.

Coupled with the outstanding performance of Michael Wolpert, who assisted the lead scorers and pulled down a remarkable number of rebounds for the team, the boys team was able to defeat Newton with a final score of 41-47, thus bringing to Providence the first "Shoot-Out" Trophy.

On the girl's side, the final match-up of ASDS vs. Newton resulted in a second



JONAH GABRY, eighth-grade student at ASDS, dribbles past defender on his run to the basket.

Photos by Liz Goldberg

place finish for the ASDS team, with a final score of 29-28. Sandy Schneider and Elina Kaplan lead the way with 6 points apiece, while Noga Nevel and Rebecca Levine contributed 5 each. The defensive tactics of Limor Nevel, Hope Sholes and Rachel Furman enabled ASDS to hold Newton to their lowest total points for the tournament. "The phenomenal efforts of both teams" remarked coach, Jared Earley, have highlighted what continues to be a winning season for both teams.

Come to an Evening With Rachel Kadish

Perspectives: The Rhode Island Jewish Young Adult Project's Book Club invites everyone to join them when they meet critically acclaimed author Rachel Kadish. The Jan. 10, *New York Times* Book Review describes her first novel, *From a Sealed Room*, as follows: "Out of a fictional landscape informed by the gulf war, the Los Angeles riots, the Holocaust, the back streets of Brooklyn and strife-torn Israel hurtles Rachel Kadish's first novel, an intense, ambitious story that explores the



chasms between truth and falsehood, past and present. The plot circles around three women, each of whom struggles to admit light into the sealed room of her inner life." Elie Wiesel writes: "I am taken by the poignancy of its voice — by its evocative imagery, too. I hope it reaches many homes and hearts." Books on the Square, 471 Angell St., Providence. Feb. 15 at 7:30 p.m. For more information, contact Perspectives at 863-9357.

Brandeis Professor Finds Scattered Jewish Communities in Alaska

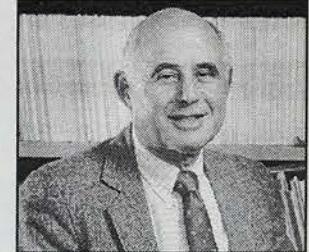
Bernard Reisman, Klutznick professor of contemporary Jewish studies and founder of the Benjamin S. Hornstein Program in Jewish Communal Service at Brandeis University, is planning another trip to Alaska this June. It will be his fourth visit in a study that began five years ago and culminated in the discovery of more than 3,000 Jews living in the "last frontier." Reisman's work recently won the Marshal Sklare Award, given by the Association for the Social Scientific Study of Contemporary Jewry.

The study, titled "Life on the Frontier: the Jews of Alaska," found that the majority of the Jews now living in that state arrived in the period after the Vietnam War, lured by good job opportunities and the region's natural beauty and individualistic lifestyle. "Unlike earlier generations of American Jews who were less secure as Jews and tended to huddle together in their 'ghettos,' the Jews of Alaska no longer feared being victims of anti-Semitism and they were quite secure in choosing to settle in non-traditional areas," said Reisman.

Reisman visited 15 Jewish communities in Alaska and served frequently as "convenor," which entailed finding the Jews living in the area and helping them come together and form their own Jewish community groups.

Forty-five percent of Alaskan Jews in the study said they considered being Jewish as "very important," compared to 37 percent of Jews in the lower 48 states. More than half of Jewish families were of mixed marriage, and "in a good number of cases, the non-Jewish spouse considers him or herself as Jewish," according to the study. Alaskan Jews reported "consis-

tently higher levels of observance of Jewish customs," compared to Jews living in the more typical communities of the lower 48 states.



Bernard Reisman

Alaskan Jews also shared concerns about the physical and emotional challenges associated with living in a place where it's dark four months of the year, the temperature often drops to minus 35, and the nearest neighbor may live dozens of miles away.

"The sense of vulnerability is further exacerbated by the lack of connection to parents and relatives, most of whom continue to live back home, typically in the northeast section of the United States, thousands of miles from Alaska," said Reisman.

There are only two Jewish communal professionals in Alaska: a Lubavitch rebbe and a Reform rabbi, both of whom live in Anchorage, the state's biggest city.

Reisman is working with a committee of Jewish leaders headed by the Gottstein family — longtime residents of Alaska, to hire a "Jewish community professional on wheels." This professional will seek out and bring together individual Jews living in the same area to create their own local Jewish community groups.

News From the RIHMM

A special second generation group will participate in the March of the Living 1999. This educational trip will bring guests to Poland and Israel between Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) and Yom Haatzmaut (Israel Independence Day), April 10 through 25.

The trip began with the intention for teenage students as a learning experience, but the 1999 trip will include a special group of adult children of Holocaust survivors. This group will be led by Dr. William Shulman of the Holocaust Resource Center and Archives on Bayside, N.Y. The trip is open to members of the Second Generation and their children ages 16 and up.

Participants can opt to go only to Poland for \$2,000 or to both Poland and Israel for \$3,400. The price includes all expenses from New York. For more information about this trip, call (718) 225-0378 or e-mail <hrcaho@orsai.org>.

The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., has announced plans for

the Displaced Persons Camp Conference for the year 2000. The conference will take place Jan. 14 to 17, 2000 at USHMM. This is expected to be an international event drawing Displaced Persons and Holocaust scholars from around the world. If you would like more information or want to register, call (202) 488-0414.

A New York filmmaker, and grandson of a Holocaust survivor, is searching for survivors who worked for I.G. Farben (any Farben site) for a documentary series to be produced about I.G. Farben and their "business" of war. More immediately, survivors can also serve as plaintiffs in a class-action suit on behalf of the individuals who are still alive and for the heirs of those already deceased. If you want more information about this project, call Jonathan Gruber at (212) 260-0971.

This information was furnished by the R.I. Holocaust Memorial Museum and can be found in their bi-monthly newsletter. Call Tara V. Lisciandro at the RIHMM for a newsletter or information, 453-7860.



Alperin Schechter Day School Boys Basketball Team with coach, Jared Earley, and assistant coach, Rich Walter, display the first place trophy won at the Solomon Schechter Day Schools of Greater Boston Shoot-Out. Shown also are members of the ASDS Girls Basketball Team who placed second in the tournament.

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HEALTHWISE

New Thickened Infant Formula Meets Baby's Nutritional Needs

Say goodbye to imprecise "homemade" thickened infant formulas. The days of clogged bottle nipples and worries that babies are not getting complete and balanced nutrition are coming to an end.

Mead Johnson Nutritionals, a leader in infant formula innovations, has introduced Enfamil AR™, a breakthrough infant formula for mothers who in the past have thickened their babies' formula by adding rice cereal. The newest member of the Enfamil Family of Formulas™, Enfamil AR is a pre-thickened infant formula and is specially designed to provide complete and balanced nutrition. It is the first and only one of its kind available in the United States.

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Designed to allow formula to flow through standard nipples, Enfamil AR, unlike "homemade" rice cereal-thickened formula, is not gooey, sticky or clumpy. Slightly thicker in the bottle than regular formula, Enfamil AR thickens more as it comes in contact with an acidic

(Continued on next page)

New Rules on Benefits For Mothers and Newborns

There's good news for pregnant mothers about their insurance coverage. They can no longer be forced by insurance companies to leave the hospital before 48 hours have elapsed.

The new regulations implement the Newborns' and Mothers' Health Protection Act of 1996. They generally affect both group plans and individual insurance policies that began on Jan. 1, 1998.

The Newborns' Act affects the amount of time a mother and newborn child are covered for a hospital stay following childbirth. Group health plans, insurance companies and health maintenance organizations (HMOs) that are subject to the Newborns' Act may not restrict benefits for a hospital stay in connection with childbirth to less than 48 hours following a vaginal delivery or 96 hours following a delivery by Cesarean section.

However, the attending pro-

vider may decide after consulting with the mother to discharge the mother and newborn earlier. In either case, the attending provider cannot receive incentives to discharge the mother or newborn earlier than 48 hours (or 96 hours).

The U.S. Department of Labor Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration answers the following questions about the NMHPA.

Q. When does the 48- or 96-hour period start?

A. Here are a couple of examples:

• A pregnant woman covered under a group health plan goes into labor and is admitted to the hospital at 10 p.m. on June 11. She gives birth by vaginal delivery at 6 a.m. on June 12. In this example, the 48-hour period begins at 6 a.m. on June 12.

• A woman covered under a group health plan gives birth at home by vaginal delivery. After the delivery, the woman begins

bleeding excessively in connection with childbirth and is admitted to the hospital. In this example, the 48-hour period begins at the time of admission.

Q. Does the Newborns' Act apply to my coverage?

A. It depends. First you need to know what type of coverage you have. Your health benefits may be either self-insured through an employer-based plan or provided through an insurance policy or HMO. To find out what type of coverage you have, check your plan's Summary Plan Description or contact your plan administrator.

If your coverage is insured by an insurance company or HMO, you should check with the Insurance Commissioner's Office for your state to find out your rights.

For information on the Newborns' Act, call the Labor Department's publications hotline at (800) 998-7542 to obtain the booklet *Q&A: Recent Changes in Health Care Law* or its web site at <www.dol.gov/dol/pwba>.

Women & Infants' Center for Health Education Will Hold Classes

Foods That Harm; Foods That Heal, Feb. 18 and 25 at 7 p.m. \$5 for the series. A two-part series that offers a new approach to our relationship with food. Mindful eating and partnering with the body will be addressed in this holistic perspective on foods.

All Day Childbirth Class, March 13 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. \$65. A class preparing expectant parents for their labor and birth experience.

Breastfeeding Class, March 4 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. \$15, which is covered by some insurance companies. Topics include ad-

vantages of breastfeeding, preparing for nursing, avoiding common problems, pumping and storing milk, returning to work/school issues, and weaning.

Caring For You And Your Infant, April 7 and 14, from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Discussion will include basic newborn care, personal care of mom and family adjustments. Recommended for all expecting parents. \$25, which is covered by some insurance companies.

Yoga, Thursday mornings, from 9 to 10:30 a.m. \$6 for six-week series. Continuous six-week series for beginners and intermediates.

Classes are at Women & Infants' Center for Health Education, located at 6 Whipple St., North Attleboro, Mass. Call to register at 453-7790.

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HEALTHWISE

Children's Medicine a Trial For Parents

by Mark S. Mandell, Esq.

While it was safety concerns that led to child-proof caps on medicine bottles, it turns out that it's sometimes the parents who unwittingly present a hazard when dispensing doses to children.

A recent study involving 100 caregivers who brought children to the Emergency Department of Egleston Children's Hospital in Atlanta proves this fact. When asked in a mock trial to choose the correct child-dosage of the over-the-counter medication acetaminophen (Tylenol) and measure it correctly, only 30 percent succeeded.

The ramifications of such unawareness are significant in light of the fact that more than 17 million children each year are taken to emergency rooms with fever-related illnesses.

Dr. Harold Simon, a physician involved in the Egleston study, was quoted in the *Washington Post* as calling the find-

ings "appalling," especially in light of the fact that it was not a traumatic, real-life experiment. "There was no child crying in the middle of the night with the parent rushing to the medicine cabinet," Simon explained. "This was an ideal situation, and still only 30 percent were able to deliver what would be a proper dose."

The researchers found that parents were taking their children to the emergency room because they could not get their children's fevers to come down—not a surprising fact in light of the study's results. Once the proper dose of acetaminophen was administered, the children's fevers usually would subside.

The big question that must be asked is: Why do parents have such difficulty administering the proper dosages of over-the-counter children's medicines?

There are a number of major concerns. For one, the dosages of most medicines are based on the child's weight—something, it appears, most parents really don't know about their children. What's more, most par-

ents don't even read the labels on their children's medicines.

Child health specialists also note that measuring devices for liquid medicines can be confusing for parents because they're not uniformly sized. While a medicine label may call for dis-

vary in size, or even with tablespoons. According to Simon "[a] teaspoon out of your kitchen drawer ranges anywhere from 4 to 6cc's," while physicians consider a standard teaspoon 5cc's.

But parents aren't solely to blame for improper dosing. Drug makers are being scrutinized for using tiny print and hard-to-understand wording. The Food and Drug Administration is currently reviewing the labeling and dosing instructions for children's pain and fever medications.

And the manufacturer of children's Tylenol has recently changed its labels to advise parents that exceeding the advised dosage can result in serious health problems.

FDA reviews paint a sobering picture of the prevalence of improper dosing. The FDA found that, in 1996, the American Association of Poison Control Centers reported 31,499 cases of over-exposure to acetaminophen in

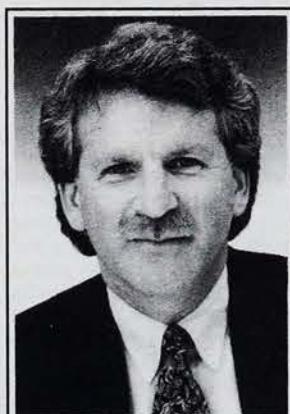
children under age 6.

But child-care specialists also note that over-the-counter medication is generally safe even if a doze or two is mishandled and that acetaminophen is one of the safest medicines available. In addition, when parents err, they most often do so on the side of caution. In the Egleston study, the vast majority of caregivers measured too little rather than too much medicine.

To err is human. To read the fine print and measure our children's medicine accurately is divine.

For more information on safeguarding the health and safety of your children and family, visit the Keep Our Families Safe web site at <<http://family.safety.atla.org>>.

Mark S. Mandell, president of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America, is a partner in the Providence, R.I., law firm of Mandell, Schwartz & Boisclair.



Mark S. Mandell

pensation by a standard-sized teaspoon, many parents mistakenly measure medicines with household teaspoons, which

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FEATURE

Names From Fame and Obscurity — The Fifth Beatle

by Kimberly Ann Orlando
Herald Editor

It was "thirty-three years ago today" ... that The Beatles recorded all the tracks for "Please Please Me" in 12 hours at Abbey Road Studios. Also on this date in 1964: The Beatles' first live performance in America at the Washington, D.C., Coliseum.

He was the driving force behind the greatest rock 'n' roll band of all time. The man who shaped, influenced and changed the face of music forever by introducing four mop-topped



young Liverpudlians to the world. He was not only the man behind the Beatles, but many say when John, Paul, George and Ringo referred to the fifth Beatle—they reverently paid homage to their manager Brian Epstein.

The year was 1964, and America hadn't seen such chaos and fervent behavior from the teenage set since Elvis swung his hips for the first time. "One day we will be bigger than Elvis," said Epstein to a narrow-minded group of record executives after they turned down an opportunity to record the band. "Their sound isn't where music is going," said one executive. But their sound was where music was going, and they proved to be the trailblazers for generations of British bands trying to break into the American market. The Beatles not only influenced a musical generation, they influenced society by challenging it.

For Epstein, the "long and winding road," to stardom wasn't always paved with gold. Epstein spent most of his adult life wandering aimlessly from job to job, from responsibility to

responsibility, and in his youth, from school to school. What he lacked in direction, he more than made up for in enthusiasm and dreams. The fact that he was Jewish had a profound impact on the way he led his life. Growing up in Britain, Epstein experienced anti-Semitism on a daily, yet subtle, basis—in most instances it was through stereotypes, such as jokes portraying Jews as money-grubbing Shylocks. But Epstein grew accustomed to the ribbing, and just ignored the remarks rather than addressing them. The oldest son of a furniture salesman, Epstein was expelled from one school after another for not living up to his academic requirements. He was enrolled at Beaconsfield, a Jewish prep school in England, where he enjoyed horse riding. But, as he approached his 13th birthday, it was time to take the examinations for a public school, which he failed. Finally, it became apparent to both him and his family that academics was not his calling, so at the age of 16, Epstein left school and went into the family furniture business.

To both his and his father's amazement, Epstein proved to be a good salesman. "The trick is to sell them what they don't know they want," Epstein would say—and that became the catalyst by which he propelled the Beatles upon an unsuspecting public. After a brief and unsuccessful time in the Royal Army, Epstein, in 1957, moved away from furniture and into music, managing a small record store within his father's furniture store. It was here, in 1961, that Epstein discovered a local cavern band called the Beatles. One of his regular customers, a man who most always was looking for a rare or hard-to-find album, came into the store one day and asked the magic question, "Do you have the disc by the Beatles?" Not knowing who or what he was referring to, Epstein told the man that he wasn't familiar with the group, but he knew that if one person was asking for it, more would follow, so he set out to find the Beatles.

The group frequently played a small, underground club, called the Cavern. The club occupied an underground, abandoned train tunnel. On the stage that night Epstein witnessed a not-so-polished group of four young men, but the captivity by

which they mesmerized the crowd was something to behold. After the show, Epstein approached the boys and asked them for a copy of their song "My Bonnie" to carry in his store. The furthest thing on Epstein's mind was managing a band. He admits that he knew nothing of music, but he knew sales and he knew what people wanted before they actually knew it themselves—and so on December 3, 1961 Epstein and the Fab Four, as they would soon be known, became partners.

Their relationship lasted only six years, but during that time Epstein put the Beatles on the musical map. Their sound was heard over the American and European airwaves, their faces graced the pages of newspapers, magazines and television. When faced with the possibility that no one was going to take a chance on recording the Beatles—Decca Records had turned them down in 1961—Epstein turned to EMI Records and the now legendary producer, George Martin. Martin met Epstein in June of 1962 and im-

mediately took to both him and the Beatles. That fall, the boys recorded their first British disc—"Love Me Do" and "P.S. I Love You." Within days, the record hit the British charts at number 49, finally climbing to number 17. The group was packing kids into clubs, selling records and causing a major stir within the music scene. With everything running as smoothly as could be expected, the Beatles, at the request of Martin, replaced drummer Pete Best with Ringo Starr—it was up to Epstein to tell him.

Throughout everything, Epstein worked diligently to create an aura around the Beatles that they were the best. His long hours and hard work paid off handsomely when in 1964 the Beatles emerged onto the American music scene with such a buzz, that it quickly became evident that the Beatles were bigger than even Epstein had imagined. Wherever they traveled, the Beatles were mobbed by thousands of screaming fans, most of which were young ladies. Beatlemania had hit and hit big. But at the height of it all, on

August 27, 1967, Epstein left the Beatles by way of an accidental overdose of sleeping pills. Two months prior to his untimely death, the Beatles premiered "All You Need Is Love" off of their successful and influential LP "Sgt. Pepper". Epstein was 32 years old.

In the years that followed, the Beatles would experience even greater popularity, their professional relationships, however, began to suffer. The power struggle within the band and the creative discourse between members hit its zenith shortly after the release of their last album "Let It Be" in May 1970. The Fab Four, made their last public appearance on January 30, 1969 with a concert on the rooftop of Apple Records.

The young boys who turned a decade of music into a lifetime of influence, quietly went their separate ways. After Epstein's death, there was much speculation that Epstein was more than a manager, he was the glue that held the band together—his death seemed to mark the beginning of the end for the Beatles.

From Singing in a Rock 'n' Roll Band to Broadway

by Kimberly Ann Orlando
Herald Editor

When Judith Rose got the job of singing in the Broadway production of "Smoky Joe's Cafe" six months ago, she was both excited and nervous. "It's such a powerful production," said Rose. "You're voice has to be right on all of the time."

The high-energy production is a two-hour trip back to the decades when Eisenhower and Kennedy were presidents and rock 'n' roll was king. "Smoky Joe's Cafe" features the timeless songs of the legendary songwriters Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller—songs like "Stand By Me," "On Broadway," and "Love Potion #9." Rose describes her singing in this production as "being influenced by Janice Joplin," with a little bit of Tina Turner thrown in. Just listening to the raspiness of Rose's voice during our recent telephone conversation, one can distinctly hear the blues influence to which she so reverently refers.

"Growing up in New Jersey," said Rose, "there was no escaping the blues influence of Bruce Springsteen and SouthSide

Johnny. It's something I love to do today."

Rose began her career in music at the tender age of 7 when she entered a talent show in the Catskills. From that point on, she admits she was hooked, and

in entertainment was her destiny.

"I grew up with music in the house," said Rose. "And it was diverse music."

She began taking voice lessons, which she continues to this



SMOKEY JOE'S CAFE cast Judith Rose (left) and Francine Finley (right) entice Brad Staats to take a trip to "Kansas City."

Photo courtesy of Joan Marcus/Troika Entertainment

with the musical influences of her mother, a big band singer in New York, and the piano talents of her grandfather, a career

day with renowned vocal teacher Dr. Reily, the same man who works with Celine Dion, and shortly thereafter began singing with a rock band. As she has for the last 10 years, and during her time off from the Broadway circuit, Rose lends her vocal talents to a group who performs at weddings and bat/bar mitzvahs. At the same time she was singing in a band, Rose went out on auditions for Broadway shows. Her first audition was at the age of 11 for an off-Broadway production, a role she didn't land. "From that point, I was hooked on the stage," said Rose.

Her résumé includes some of Broadway's greatest shows including, "Grease," "Oliver," "A Chorus Line," and probably her favorite "Funny Girl," in which (Continued on Page 19)

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FEATURE

Spy Trial Closes in Cyprus

by Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — An alleged spying affair that embarrassed Israel and strained its relations with Cyprus is apparently drawing to a close — with all references to espionage being dropped.

Just the same, the case may go down as a less-than-inspiring moment in the annals of Israel's Mossad foreign intelligence service.

Over the Jan. 31 weekend, Cyprus decided to drop spy charges against two Israelis arrested there in November in exchange for their admitting to lesser offenses.

The decision came after Israel's attorney general, Elyakim Rubinstein, traveled to Cyprus to negotiate a plea bargain, the Israeli daily *Ha'aretz* reported.

The lesser offenses, including possessions of illegal communications equipment, carry a maximum three-year sentence.

The prosecutor, who confirmed Rubinstein's visit, acknowledged recently that the evidence did not present clear proof of espionage.

Earlier in the trial, the prosecutor agreed to reduce the charges, dropping an indictment of spying for a third country.

That charge could have carried a maximum 10-year sentence.

The two defendants, Yigal Damari and Udi Argov, were arrested three months ago near a Cypriot military installation in the fishing village of Zigi.

When the men were arrested, police found listening equip-

ment, a laptop computer, two cellular telephones, five recording devices and eight maps of Cyprus in their apartment.

Israeli media reported at the time of the arrests that if the two were on an intelligence operation, it was almost thoroughly bungled, particularly given their conspicuous presence in the small village.

Following the arrests, Israel dispatched various political and security officials to Cyprus to try to negotiate the suspects' release.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared at the time that Israel would do whatever it could to bring the two men home.

Mossad officials conveyed messages to Cyprus to dispel suspicions that the two were spying on behalf of Turkey or gathering information on Cypriot military installations.

In the wake of the arrests, a senior Mossad official in the operations branch announced his retirement.

The Cyprus affair was the latest in a string of botched Mossad operations. In October 1997 two Mossad agents were arrested in Jordan after their failed attempt to kill a Hamas political leader on the streets of Amman.

And in February 1998, five Mossad operatives were caught red-handed while attempting to bug an apartment near the Swiss capital of Bern. The apartment belonged to a businessman with suspected links to the Islamic fundamentalist group Hezbollah.

Multibillion-Dollar Arms Arrangement to Be Made by Syria and Russia

by Douglas Davis

LONDON (JTA) — Syria is expected to conclude a massive arms deal with Russia later this month that strategic analysts say will significantly erode, though not actually destroy, Israel's qualitative military edge.

The deal, estimated to be worth between \$2 billion and \$3 billion, has been in the works for two years and is expected to be sealed when Syrian Defense Minister Mustafa Tlas leads a high-level Syrian delegation to Moscow for 10 days of intensive talks in late February.

Among the Russian weapons systems Syria is reportedly seeking are Sukhoi-27 fighter aircraft, T-80 tanks, S-300 anti-aircraft and anti-missile Sam systems. The Sams are said to be equivalent to U.S. Patriot missiles.

According to one strategic analyst, the negotiations hit two snags before agreement was reached: The first was Syria's residual debt — estimated at some \$12 billion — to the former Soviet Union; the second was its inability to finance fresh arms purchases.

Moscow signaled its willingness to find a solution to the debt problem when it approved the sale of 1,000 AT8 Kornet anti-tank missiles to Syria last year, a \$200 million contract that has been described as "an appetizer" compared to the upcoming deal.

This latest deal will be significant for Syria on several counts, according to leading Arab strategic analyst Kassem Mohammad Jaafar.

On one level, he told the London-based daily newspaper *Mideast Mirror*, it would constitute the first major military deal

Syria has concluded with Russia since the demise of the Soviet Union, marking the resumption of strategic cooperation between Damascus and Moscow.

On another level, the acquisition of state-of-the-art weapons by the Syrian armed forces would greatly enhance Syria's military capability, aid Jaafar, who added that the Sukhoi-27 is regarded as equivalent, if not superior, to the U.S.-made F-15 fighter jets that Israel currently has in its arsenal.

Moreover, the T-80 is one of the newest generation of tanks, while the S-300 system would enable Syria to defend itself against both missile and air strikes.

Equally important are other aspects of the deal, which involve the supply of spare parts, the upgrading of weapons systems and the support and modernization of Syria's armed forces.

Moreover, the deal will return Russia as a major player in the Middle East, an ambition that is believed to have been accelerated since the appointment last September of veteran Arabist Yevgeny Primakov as Russian prime minister.

In a related development, British intelligence sources reported that sophisticated Russian technology is being transferred to Damascus to aid Syria's chemical weapons project.

Quoting the intelligence sources, the *London Times* reported that unofficial secret links have been found between Russian technical experts and Syria aimed at helping Damascus produce advanced chemical weapons.

It is now feared that sophisticated Russian technology has

been passed to Syria by former members of Moscow's chemical weapons project," the article said.

Through unofficial exchanges with these experts, Syria is thought to have acquired the technology for dispersing chemical agents, including VX nerve gas, via bombs from aircraft and warheads on surface-to-surface missiles.

Syrian Scud C ballistic missiles with a range of some 325 miles are believed to have been adapted to disperse VX gas. The Syrians have also reportedly shown an interest in acquiring more lethal chemicals that were developed in Russia in the 1980s.

Until the mid-1990s, Syria focused on the production of sarin nerve gas, but Damascus is now developing VX independently and is believed to have test-fired missiles armed with this agent. One test was reported to have been conducted near Damascus last May.

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Time to Give Back

Mr. Tux to Offer Wedding Dowry and College Scholarship

Mr. Tux, a leading formal wear specialist in New England for the past 50 years, has slated 1999 as the year to give back to their loyal customers by offering the Mr. Tux Wedding Dowry and the Mr. Tux/Squire Tux/ and Boston Red Sox Salute to Education College Scholarship.

"Our wedding and prom rental customers have helped us grow to where we are today," said Irving Atkin, the company's founder. "After 50 years in business, we want to show our appreciation for the loyalty and trust our customers have given to us."

The Mr. Tux Wedding Dowry, a gift booklet worth more than \$7,500 in absolutely free gifts and services from more than 60 participating companies throughout New England, will be given to every bridal couple that registers for their formal wear at any Mr. Tux or Squire Tux location in New England. A traditional dowry was the exchange of gifts and money from one family to another at the time of a wedding. The Atkin family developed the idea to update the traditional dowry by offering every bride and groom free gifts to begin their life together.

The Mr. Tux/Squire Tux/ and Boston Red Sox Salute to Education College Scholarship gives every high school senior the opportunity to apply for a

\$5,000 college scholarship, no purchase necessary. After 50 years of providing prom tuxedo rentals, Mr. Tux wanted to share in the excitement of graduating high school seniors by encouraging them to further their education. Scholarship applications, due by May 1, are available at every Mr. Tux or Squire Tux location. The scholarship winner will be chosen by committee and awarded by June 30.

Atkin opened the first Mr. Tux formal wear rental store in Revere, Mass., in 1948. Today, the Mr. Tux/Squire Tux company operates more than 40 stores throughout New England, and has a central customer service center that allows them to offer the largest selection and highest quality product possible. Mr. Tux has also expanded their business to offer the largest selection of tuxedos and formal accessories for retail purchase.

Mr. Tux firmly stands by their commitment to give back to the community. They have stated their corporate mission as "...combining outstanding customer service with a top quality product in order to be a leader in the tuxedo industry."

You can find the store location nearest you by calling their customer service hotline at (800) 668-5252 or visiting their website at www.mrtux.com.

Crystal Receives Award From Friends of Hebrew University

by Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES (JTA) — "We're here to honor a short Jew," said *Seinfeld* star Jason Alexander to open a gag-filled evening with a serious purpose.

The vertically challenged honoree was Hollywood star Billy Crystal, who, surrounded by fellow Hollywood stars and close to 900 fans, accepted the National Scopus Award of the American Friends of the Hebrew University.

The dinner at a Beverly Hills hotel raised \$1.5 million, most of it earmarked for the Billy Crystal Endowment for Peace Through Performing Arts program at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

The event also produced a cascade of non-stop jokes and one-liners — mostly on Jewish themes and most of them unprintable — by the likes of stars Robin Williams, Whoopi Goldberg, Garry Shandling and Alexander.

The newly announced endowment program will bring together Jewish and Arab theater arts students at the Hebrew University for a year of classes. The program's graduates will

go out and bring together Israeli and Palestinian school children and teach them coexistence through theater, music and dance.

"These are just baby steps, and the road will be difficult," said Crystal. "But we're not going to talk about tolerance; we're just going to do it."

Earlier, Crystal told a reporter that "Starting with kids, that's your best chance. If they're going to throw rocks, it might as well be at critics."

There was no confirmation of Robin Williams' deadpan announcement that the first Israeli-Palestinian co-production will be "The West Bank Story."

Crystal also announced that he is sponsoring a scholarship for jazz students at the Hebrew University in the name of his late father, Jack, a pioneer New York jazz promoter.

In a separate financial initiative, AFHU President Keith Sachs announced that Ned and Annette Lerner of Washington had pledged \$5.5 million to erect a new sports and aquatic center on the Hebrew University campus.

(Continued on Page 19)



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Dorsey Brothers Tribute at The Zeiterion

Few band leaders inspired more adulation than Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey. Each left an indelible mark on the Swing era, one that continues to be felt today with the resurgence of interest in big band music.

Revisit the past when Big Band '99: The Fabulous Dorseys rolls in on Feb. 16 at 7 p.m. to New Bedford's Zeiterion Theatre. The tribute features the Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra, conducted by trombonist Jim Miller and Jeff Collins on alto sax, in the role of Jimmy Dorsey; Nancy Knorr, who recreates many of Helen O'Connell's memorable hits; The Pied Pipers, who were



Jim Miller and Nancy Knorr —
The Fabulous Dorseys
Photo courtesy of Columbia Artists Management, Inc.

Tommy Dorsey's vocal group; and the Dorseyland Dixieland Band.

The program will be announced from the stage, but it's sure bet you're going to hear old favorites like "The Dipsy Doodle," and "Robins and Roses."

Tickets for this popular event are \$12, \$19, and \$24. Students, educators, children, and seniors are eligible for a \$3 discount. In addition, group rates are available for 10 or more.

The box office is open Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. It is closed Sunday and Monday.

Call (508) 994-2900 for more information.

Sinatra Films at the Barrington Library

A Sinatra Film Series at the Barrington Public Library explores Frank Sinatra as a movie entertainer in the '40s, '50s, and '60s. The series begins with "It Happened in Brooklyn," a 1946 release in which Sinatra starred along with Jimmy Durante, Kathryn Grayson, Peter Lawford and Gloria Grahame. In this buoyant musical with songs by Jule Styne and Sammy Cahn, talented young New Yorkers find fame and fortune. "It Happened in Brooklyn" will be shown on Feb. 11 at 7:30 p.m. Other films in the series, also to be shown on Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m., include: Feb. 18, "On the Town" (1949); Feb. 25, "From Here to Eternity" (1953); March 4, "Pal Joey" (1957); March 11, "Manchurian Candidate" (1962); and March 18, "Come Blow Your Horn" (1963).

Pre-film commentary will be provided each week by Barrington Public Library librarian Doug Swiszcz. The series includes two films in the 16 mm format, "On the Town" and "Pal Joey." The others are video films. Free and open to all.

A Special Valentine For Music Lovers

Blithewold Mansion, Gardens & Arboretum, 101 Ferry Road (Route 114), Bristol, R.I., will host the 14th annual St. Valentine's Concert and Dessert Gala on two consecutive evenings — Feb. 12 and 13. Both performances are at 8 p.m. and will feature Music for a While, a piano-vocal chamber ensemble.

Soprano Julibeth Andrews, tenor Eric Bronner and pianist Nancy Nicholson will offer "Romance From The Concert Hall, Parlor and Stage." Their program includes selections from some of Broadway's most famous shows, classical duets and a performance of the Poulenc Piano Suite. After the performance, concertgoers will be served sparkling wine, a selection of desserts and coffee and will have the opportunity to meet the musicians. All proceeds benefit Blithewold.

Tickets are \$30 (\$25 for Blithewold members). VISA, Mastercard, Discover and American Express accepted. Seating is limited and reservations are required. Call 253-2707 for reservation information.

'A Murderous Crossing' Plays at Evelyn's Villa

"A Murderous Crossing," by David Landau, will run on Feb. 13 and 19 at Evelyn's Villa, 272 Cowesett Ave. (Route 3), West Warwick, R.I. The show begins at 8 p.m. A complete four-course roast chicken dinner will be served. The cost of admission for dinner and show is \$26 per person, including tax and gratuity. Reservations are required.

The show stars Tommy Trenn as a madcap detective, D. Seth Abbott as a drunken priest, Nancy Abbott as the cruise director, Laura Ash and Geoff White as the bride and bridegroom, Dan Sugars as the bride's ex-lover and Heather Davis as the pseudo sister of the bridegroom and bank robber.

The crazy wedding is set aboard the HMS Victoria, which is enroute from Belgium to England. The very talented cast will make you believe that things are going well, but nothing is as it seems.

The Mystery Players Production is directed by Patricia Glad. For reservations or information, call 351-3314.

'Smokey Joe's Café' Struts Into PPAC

Celebrating a rock 'n' roll legacy, "Smokey Joe's Café — The Songs of Leiber and Stoller" returns to the Providence Performing Arts Center for two performances, Feb. 18 at 7:30 p.m. and Feb. 19 at 8 p.m. In the '50s and '60s, you couldn't turn your radio dial without tuning in a rock 'n' roll hit written by Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller, like "Jailhouse Rock," "Stand By Me," "Spanish Harlem," "On Broadway," "Yakety Yak," "Love Potion #9," "Hound Dog," "Poison Ivy," "I'm a Woman," and "Kansas City." These songs are some of the staples of that era — and you can see them come alive through the spirited performances in "Smokey Joe's Café — The Songs of Leiber and Stoller." Revel in the sounds that are synonymous with movin' and groovin' when the seven-time Tony Award-nominated and Grammy Award-winning musical returns. To charge by phone, call 421-ARTS; tickets are also available at all Ticketmaster locations. Ticket prices range from \$30.50 to \$42.50; for groups of 20 or more, call 421-2997, ext. 3121.

You're Never Too Old to Play With Toys

The "Cabin Fever" Antique and Collectible Toy Show will be held at the Holiday Inn, Dedham, Mass., on Feb. 14. Show hours are 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is \$4.50 (\$3.50 after noon). Children 12 and under, accompanied by an adult, will be admitted free. For more information, call Mrs. Devlin at (508) 379-9733.

Three halls of toys will draw collectors and toy lovers to this mid-winter show. Die-cast cars, models, model kits, trucks, planes and cap guns will sit next to classic, old, tin wind-ups, banks, Marx, Corgi, Buddy-L, and pressed steel. Star Wars heroes and villains, G.I. Joe, action figures, Barbies, Pez promos and western toys will line up against colorful, old battery-operated novelties, antique erector sets, games, playsets, Tonka toys, Tinker toys, pedal cars, dolls, dime store "lead" soldiers and many other childhood treasures.

Come snow, rain, or shine, the show is on and "cabin fever" cured. The Dedham Holiday Inn is located on Route 1 at Exit 15A off 128/95. The complete show is wheelchair accessible.

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The guide — available free of charge to culinary students, instructors, chefs and all other food service professionals — discusses the tragedy of hunger in a nation of plenty. It gives detailed advice on how culinary professionals can help solve the problem of hunger in their communities.

Feeding the Hungry was the concept of Thomas J. Farrell, dean of the John Hazen White School of Arts and Sciences at Johnson & Wales. Assisting him in this project were Dr. Angela Renaud, associate dean, and Dr. James Anderson, assistant dean.

For a free copy of the guide, write to the John Hazen White School of Arts and Sciences at Johnson & Wales University, 8 Abbott Park Place, Providence, R.I. 02903, or call 598-1400.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Festive Washington's Birthday Celebration at Old Sturbridge Village

He was a reluctant leader, a wonderful dancer, and a fine athlete. He enjoyed gambling and cock fights. And he was a complex, sometimes explosive, man.

George Washington, our country's first national hero, is still considered by historians to be one of our greatest presidents. Yet his personal character was complicated, and over the years his life story became surrounded by myth.

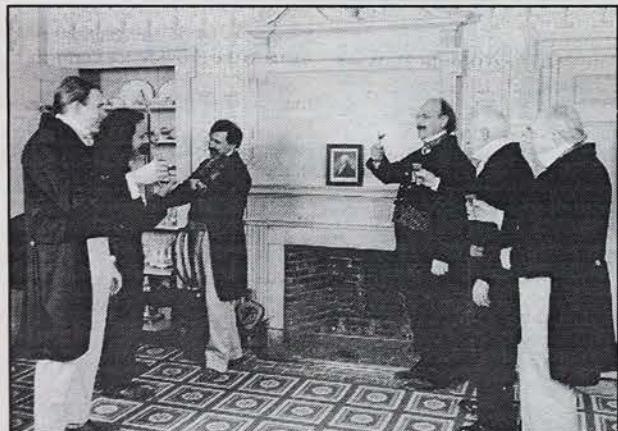
"His achievements, which did indeed deserve the admiration of his countrymen, are even more remarkable when we realize that he, like us, was only human," said Jack Larkin, director of research, collections, and library at Old Sturbridge Village, which holds a festive Washington's Birthday Celebration Feb. 13 to 15 and offers free admission to anyone named George or Martha on Presidents' Day. Larkin will give a talk entitled "Will the Real George Washington Please Stand Up?" at 2:30 p.m. on Presidents' Day. The weekend event also includes song, dance, and formal toasts to Washington.

Washington fed his popular image by his own reticence: he

created the fictional story about young George cutting down a cherry tree. Another spent years compiling Washington's papers but with such reverence that he corrected grammar and spelling, substituted genteel expressions for Washington's earthy ones, and eliminated all expressions of anger or irritation.

During the village's Washington's Birthday Celebration, Feb. 13 through 15, visitors are invited to join village men at 2 p.m. each afternoon in the Bullard Tavern for formal toasts to Washington. On Sunday, from 10:30 a.m. to noon, village ladies will style their hair as they would for a Washington Birthnight Ball. "I Cannot Tell a Lie," a performance of songs and stories about Washington will be held at 1:30 p.m. On Feb. 15, a commemorative program honoring the great general's memory will be held in the Center Meeting House at 1:30 p.m. and Larkin will give his talk at 2:30 p.m. Other activities throughout the weekend include 19th-century dance and period music.

An Old Sturbridge Village Kids Club George Washington Birthday Party will be held Feb.



TRADITIONAL TOASTS to George Washington and other American heroes are among the activities scheduled during the Washington's Birthday Celebration. Photo courtesy of Thomas Neill

discouraged any attempts to write about him during his life and refused to provide his own memoirs.

Most of the legend of Washington was created by an adoring public, including early biographers. The first — who never met the president or any of his associates — seems to have

13 from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Education Building. The party will include games, songs, and stories about the first president. Cost is \$1 for Kids Club members (ages 8 to 12) and \$3 for non-members, plus admission to the village. For more party details, call (508) 347-3362, ext. 217.

(Continued on Page 19)

Model Search and Auditions on February 14

Ms. Laureen A. Krol, executive director of the Barbizon Modeling Agency, is coming to Warwick on Feb. 14 to conduct complimentary auditions at the Sheraton Tara Hotel, located on Post Road near the T.F. Green Airport. Krol will be looking for girls ages 10 to 25 to train for TV commercials, films, magazines, fashion shows and other modeling opportunities in the Boston area through its nationally affiliated modeling agency. No experience is required. This event will be limited to one day only from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and by reservation only.

All young ladies who wish to be seen by Krol and her staff must reserve a time by calling the Barbizon Modeling Agency at (800) 23-4613. Girls of a junior age must be accompanied by a parent.

For more information on the upcoming model search on Feb. 14, phone the Barbizon Modeling Agency at (800) 223-4613.

It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like... Spring?

English gardening author and designer Rosemary Verey will appear as a special guest at the sixth annual Rhode Island Spring Flower & Garden Show, Feb. 18 to 21, at the Rhode Island Convention Center. Verey is internationally respected for her prolific garden writing and designs for English celebrities including Elton John and Prince Charles.

Verey will give three presentations to show visitors. On Feb. 18 and Feb. 20, she will speak on "The Gardens at Barnsley House," her renowned residence outside London. On Feb. 19, she will share her 80 years of wisdom in "Elements of Garden Design." Each presentation is at 1 p.m., followed by a book-signing.

On Feb. 17, Verey will act as honorary chairperson of the Flower Show Preview Party from 6 to 9 p.m. in the Convention Center, benefiting Blithewold Mansion, Gardens and Arboretum.

Verey's writing career is noted for 18 books, including the classics, *The Garden in Winter* and *The Scented Garden*. Other titles include *The Art of Planting*, *The Flower Arranger's Garden*, *Rosemary Verey's Garden Plans*, and *Rosemary Verey's Making of a Garden*. She is also a British television personality with her own series, "The English Country Garden," and lectures throughout Europe and North America.

Though Verey has created gardens for a number of English dignitaries, she is best known for her own personal gardens at Barnsley House, which she has cultivated for almost 50 years. The gardens are a favorite attraction for thousands of visitors each year, and in 1988 won the coveted Christie's and Historic Houses Association Garden of the Year Award.

Due to Verey's popularity, flower show visitors are advised to arrive at least an hour in advance of her presentations; seating is limited and on a first-come basis. To order advance discount tickets to the R.I. Spring Flower & Garden Show, call (800) 766-1670 or <www.flowershow.com>.



American Cancer Society's Daffodil Days Springs Into Action

The American Cancer Society announces the start of its 1999 Daffodil Days campaign. Bouquets of 10 daffodils are only \$5 each and can be ordered now through March 5 by calling (800) 364-5520. Orders of five or more bouquets will be delivered during the week of March 22, the first week of spring.

The "Gift of Hope" is a bouquet of 10 daffodils in a glass vase and is delivered by an American Cancer Society volunteer as an anonymous gift to a cancer patient. This special gift is available at \$10 each. For more information on the "Gift

of Hope," to get a company co-ordinator packet, or to place an order for daffodils, call (800) 364-5520.

As the first flower of spring, the daffodil is also the American Cancer Society's symbol of hope that cancer will be beaten. Proceeds from the Daffodil Days campaign will support local patient service programs like the American Cancer Society's I Can Cope, an educational support group; Reach to Recovery, a one-on-one visitation program for women with concerns about breast cancer; and Man to Man, a prostate cancer educational support program,

and Look Good... Feel Better, a unique program designed to help patients maintain their personal appearance while undergoing treatment for cancer.

The American Cancer Society is the nationwide community-based voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer, saving lives and diminishing suffering from cancer through research, education, advocacy and service. For more information on the programs and services offered by the American Cancer Society, call (800) 364-5520.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Art Dealers Association of America to Present The Art Show

Sixty-four of the nation's leading art dealers will exhibit paintings, sculpture, drawings, prints and photographs at the 11th annual Art Show from Feb. 18 through Feb. 22. Presented by the Art Dealers Association of America, the exhibition will

feature art of all genres ranging from old masters to the avant-garde at the Seventh Regiment Armory, Park Avenue at 67th Street, New York City. All proceeds from The Art Show ticket sales will benefit Henry Street Settlement, a pioneering social

service agency on New York's Lower East Side.

A series of special events will be featured at this year's art show, including lectures by distinguished museum directors Thomas Krens (The Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation) and Samuel Sachs II (The Frick Collection). In addition, art critic Michael Brenson will moderate a panel discussion with leading artists.

The 11th annual art show will include three new galleries: Linda Hyman Fine Arts, Achim Moeller Fine Art, and Nolan/Eckman.

Gala Benefit Preview

The Gala Benefit Preview inaugurating the 11th annual Art Show will be held on Feb. 17 from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m., and will benefit Henry Street Settlement, one of New York City's oldest and most comprehensive social service agencies. The schedule for the preview is as follows:

Benefactors: 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. (\$500)
Patrons: 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. (\$250)
Sponsors: 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. (\$150)

Tickets to the Gala Benefit Preview are available by calling the art show office at Henry Street at (212) 766-9200. Gala Preview tickets will also be on sale at the armory, Feb. 15 through Feb. 17 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call Henry Street Settlement at (212) 766-9200.

All events will take place in the Tiffany Room of the Seventh Regiment Armory. Tickets are \$25 and include one single day pass to the art show (good at any time). Advance ticket purchase is strongly recommended. For information, call (212) 940-8925. All proceeds benefit Henry Street Settlement.

Dates/Admission

The Art Show 1999 will be held from Feb. 18 through Feb. 22, at the Seventh Regiment Armory, Park Avenue at 67th Street, New York City. Admission is \$12 per day. No advance purchase is required. Tickets will be available at the door. Hours are as follows: Feb. 18, noon to 8 p.m.; Feb. 19, noon to 7 p.m.; Feb. 20, noon to 7 p.m.; Feb. 21, noon to 7 p.m.; and Feb. 22, noon to 6 p.m.

All Children's Theatre Announces Spring Classes

Robin Anderson, director of education and outreach for the All Children's Theatre Ensemble, has announced the spring classes curriculum, with classes beginning April 6. The eight-week classes are held at the ACT Studios, One Allens Ave., Providence, with some classes also offered in Barrington.

"The Bag & Box Players — Explore Tales From Under The Sea" teaches basic acting to children ages 3 to 5 in a playful environment during the eight-week period. Classes are held in Providence and Barrington.

"The Arabian Nights — A Storybook Theater Class" for ages 5 to 7 in Barrington and Providence, focuses on developing basic acting skills in this introduction to theater arts course.

Students will use costumes, props and scenery in developing a final presentation from classic tales such as *Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves*, *Aladdin and the Lamp* and *The Farmer and the Genie*.

"ACTing I — Create a Character" is for children ages 8 to 10. Students concentrate on creating characters from students' observations of people around them and through their imaginations. Costumes and make-up will be used in this "trunk-full of characters" class offered in Providence and Barrington locations.

"ACTing II — Be in a Play" is offered in Providence and Barrington to students 8 to 10. Actors learn about character study, plot development and scenic design while learning to create theater magic using costumes and makeup.

"ACTing I — Improvisation" is for ages 11 to 14 and teaches basic improvisational skills using team work and character creations. Vocal techniques for the stage, pantomime, body language and movement will be explored at ACT in Providence.

"ACTing II — Performance Class" offered in Providence for ages 11 to 14 focuses on developing character, voice and stage movement and results in the presentation of a one-act play to an audience at the end of the eight-week session.

"Musical Theater" is offered to children ages 8 to 10 and 11 to 14 in Providence. No experience is necessary for this class that explores singing, acting and dancing styles for the musical theater. Class work will include audition preparation and scene work and the final presentation for family and friends in a musical revue.

For more information about ACT and its programs, call 331-7174 or e-mail <ACTinProv@aol.com>. Limited financial assistance is available.

Ashamu Studio to Showcase Canadian Modern Dance Troupe

The Danny Grossman Dance Company, a Canadian-based ensemble, will present a concert of highly energetic and acrobatic contemporary dance on Feb. 19 at 8 p.m. in the Ashamu Dance Studio at Brown University.

High-voltage physicality has characterized the company for more than 20 years and has garnered the ensemble critical acclaim throughout the United States and Canada. Tours have taken the company to more than 17 countries, and the troupe has appeared at major dance festivals in North America, Germany, Italy and Israel.

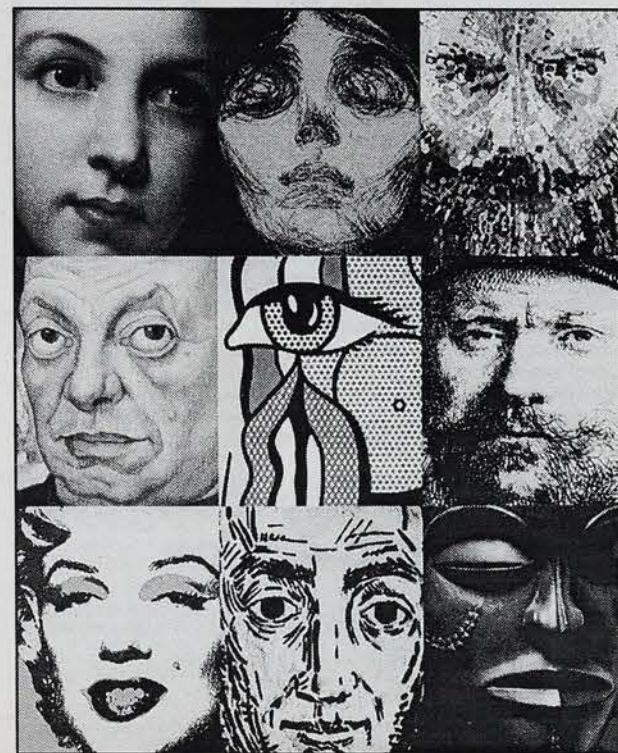
The concert will showcase Grossman's signature "Higher," a duet for man and woman that

features a 6-foot step ladder and is danced to the music of Ray Charles.

The performance will cap a four-day residency at the university that will include lectures, workshops and master classes, Strandberg said. "The Grossman company will be working with Brown dancers and drama students as well as with community dancers."

Company members will teach excerpts of a Grossman work and teach techniques developed by Martha Graham and Paul Taylor. The class will meet from 3 to 4:30 p.m., Feb. 15 through 18, in the Ashamu Dance Studio.

The studio is located in the Catherine Bryan Dill Center for the Performing Arts, at 77 Waterman St. Concert tickets are \$10 for the general public and \$5 for students. For more information, call 863-7596.



Preparing Students For The Work Force

The Cranston Area Career and Technical Center will host an open house on Feb. 24 (snow date: Feb. 25), starting at 7 p.m. The Career and Technical Center is located at 100 Metropolitan Ave., Cranston, in the Cranston High School West Complex.

The open house is an opportunity for all eighth- and ninth-grade students and their parents to explore, examine, and gain information about the 14 programs offered to students at the start of the 10th grade. The programs are available to students who reside in Cranston, Foster, Glocester, Johnston, and Scituate. All of these programs — auto body/painting technology, automotive technology, business technology, child development, computer technology, construction, culinary arts, electronics, graphic communications, health occupations, industrial drafting, marketing and distributive education, pre-engineering/robotics automated systems, travel and tourism (satellite program offered at Cranston High School East) — prepare students to continue their education or enter the job market upon graduation. The skills developed while in a career and technical program are skills needed for a lifetime of success in the world of work, even if work does not begin until graduation from college.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT**'Asleep Away Awake' Week Will Be Held at Zoo During February Vacation**

From a lecture exploring the mating practices of reptiles to special programs that explore how animals adapt to winter weather, a host of special activities are planned at the zoo during February school vacation week, Feb. 14 through 21.

Winter is a difficult season for most animals in the wild. Temperatures are low. Food is scarce. Weather is harsh. Given these conditions, animals have three choices for survival — go to sleep (hibernate), stay awake and tough it out (resist), or go someplace warmer (migrate). Asleep, Away and Awake



stations exploring each of these possibilities will be set up at the zoo throughout vacation week. There will be craft activities to make and take home as well as games to play. Children will also have the opportunity to meet some of the zoo's smaller animals such as hedgehogs and reptiles during daily docent animal interviews.

In addition to Asleep Away Awake Week activities, the zoo is presenting two lectures as part of its Winter Conservation Lecture Series. On Feb. 14 at 2 p.m., Jim Hitchiner, zoo herpetologist, will make a special Valentine's Day presentation exploring the rituals and practices of reptilian romance. (The lecture has adult themes and is recommended for audiences 18 years and older.)

On Feb. 18 at 7 p.m., Tim Flannery, curator of mammals

For more information or to register for the lecture series, call the zoo at 785-3510, ext. 358.

'Romantic Comedy' Opens at City Nights Dinner Theatre

City Nights Dinner Theatre announces production of the Bernard Slade comedy "Romantic Comedy." The show opens Feb. 13 and runs as follows: Friday and Saturday evenings through March 7, Sunday matinees Feb. 28 and March 7, and Thursday evening March 4.

This is one of Bernard Slade's funniest comedies. Jason Carmichael, successful co-author of romantic Broadway comedies, is facing two momentous events — he's about to marry a society belle and his collabora-

tor is retiring. Enter Phoebe Craddock, mousy Vermont schoolteacher and budding playwright. Presto! Fame and success are theirs for 10 years until one disastrous moment — then things change.

City Nights is located at the center of downtown Pawtucket at 27 Exchange St. (next to the Pawtucket Times Building with easy access from Route 95 by Exit 29 (at the end of the exit ramp turn south onto Broadway, then at the first traffic light turn right onto Exchange Street).

The theater is at the intersection of Exchange and Broad streets on the left-hand side. There are four parking lots within a half a block of the theater.

Tickets for the dinner and show total \$24 a person.

Arrival time for evening performances is from 6 to 7 p.m. with dinner/buffet served at 7 p.m. Sunday matinee arrival time is from noon until 1 p.m. with dinner served at 1 p.m. Curtain is approximately an hour after serving time. Cocktails and soft drinks are available at the bar for all performances.

Reservations are also being taken for A.R. Gurney's hilarious comedy "Sylvia" which runs March 20 through April 11. Tickets for City Nights are by reservation only. For reservations or other information, call the box office at 723-6060.

Audubon Society Offers a Winter Birding Excursion

Join the Audubon Society of Rhode Island for a great day of winter birding. We will travel to Cape Anne and Plum Island in Massachusetts on Feb. 13. We will be departing from the ASRI headquarters in Smithfield at 7 a.m. and returning at approximately 5 p.m. The fee for members is \$35 and \$40 for non-members. For more information, call 949-5454.

The striking variety of coastal habitats at Plum Island provides feeding and shelter areas for a large number of wintering birds. Several main stops are planned for this rugged trip, with time in between for warming chilled fingers and toes. Since we're likely to see Oldsquaw, Bufflehead, Iceland Gulls, Glaucous Gulls, Marsh Hawks, Rough-legged Hawks, grebes, goldeneye, eider and perhaps the appearance of the dramatic Snowy Owl, the birding will be worth braving the cold. Leaders Bob Fox and Dana Duxbury will lead us on this fun-filled day of winter birding!

All you need is binoculars, a bagged lunch and your willingness to brave the cold. If you have any questions, call Laura Smith, ASRI trip coordinator, at 949-5454.

It's an Oldie, But a Goodie

King's Row, Southern New England's No. 1 oldies band, is coming to the Stadium Theatre Performing Arts Centre in Woonsocket, Feb. 13.

The two-hour concert begins at 8 p.m. and admission is \$10 for all seats.

Their highly successful CD release titled "By Request" has established King's Row as the best vocal and instrumental oldies band to ever come out of Rhode Island. The unmistakable and lush harmonies have been acknowledged by the *Providence Journal*, who named them "The Kings of Romance." Similarly, *The Fall River Herald* wrote that King's Row are "The Kings of the Oldies." Radio station B101.5 has declared King's Row their "official oldies band" and "the area's premier oldies band."

King's Row has the reputation of being versatile and unique. They have developed a melodic blend of many familiar artists, yet have a very distinct sound of their own. Their four-lead-vocal style and elaborate musical arrangements make their sound not only special, but unparalleled. Unlike larger bands, King's Row creates a sophisticated, clean and warm sound.

Their tremendous success and memorable performances are a result of the concerted efforts and talents of the individual members of King's Row. Founder and lead guitarist of the band is Wayne Lima. He is recognized as one of the elite guitar players in New England, having a smooth, tasteful style.

On bass guitar, Tommy Santos ensures a full, yet flowing dynamic sound to the band.

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Tommy's incredible vocal range has resulted in him being declared "the best falsetto in Rhode Island." Keyboardist Ray Maitoza produces the mood of the band with his symphonic adaptations. Maitoza and Lima co-write arrangements. King's Row is so noted for. On drums, David Teixeira is solid, and the driving energy of King's Row. His fluid performances always make a lasting impression.

Tickets are now on sale at all Stadium Theatre ticket outlets: Radio Stations WNRI and

Woonsocket; A Special Place, Blackstone; Town Hall and Mundy's Flowers, North Smithfield; the Valley Breeze in Cumberland; and the Northern Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce, Lincoln. Tickets are also available at the Stadium Theatre Foundation Office, Monument Square, Woonsocket.

All proceeds will benefit the restoration of the Stadium Theatre. For ticket information and reservations, call the Stadium Theatre Foundation office at 762-4545.

Keeping An Israeli Tradition Alive

A Family Israeli Dance Workshop for parents, children and friends will be held on Feb. 21 from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. The workshop is at the Leventhal-Sidman Jewish Community Center, 333 Nahanton St., Newton.

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

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

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

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OBITUARIES

FLORA SHERMAN BLOOM

NEWTON — Flora Sherman Bloom, 88, formerly of Providence, died Jan. 31 at the Hebrew Rehabilitation Center for Aged in Boston. She was the wife of the late Matthew Sherman and the late Harry Bloom.

Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Benjamin and Stella (Aronson) Copeland, she lived in Providence and Del Ray Beach, Fla., before moving to Newton, Mass., in 1993.

She was a member of Hadassah and the former Gray Ladies Association. She was a former member of Temple Emanu-El and its Sisterhood.

She leaves a son, Aaron Sherman of Oakland, Calif.; a daughter, Barbara Quiroga of Newton, Mass.; and two grandchildren. She was a sister of the late Gladys Korn.

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

RAPHAEL A. RAY FREIMAN

JAMESTOWN — Raphael A. "Ray" Freiman, 78, of 566 East Shore Road, Jamestown, R.I., died Feb. 1 at Miriam Hospital, Providence. He was the husband of Hilda (Eisner) Freiman.

Born in New York, N.Y., a son of the late Joseph and Rose (Jorisch) Freiman, he had lived in Jamestown since 1966, previously living in Stamford, Conn.

He was a scholarship student at Wisconsin University and had a long and distinguished career in publishing, starting with

Kingsport Press and Hadden Craftsmen, book manufacturers. He was vice president of Random House in their book production and art departments for 25 years. In 1966 he formed Ray Freeman and Co. of Stamford, Conn. While at Random House the juvenile series *Beginner Books* was formed under his direction in cooperation with Theodore Geisel (Dr. Seuss). He was a past president of the American Institute of Graphic Arts and was one of the original lecturers in the procedures in publishing course at Radcliffe College.

Besides his wife of 53 years, he leaves a son, Jonathan Robert Freiman, and a daughter, Jessica Brier, both of Jamestown; a sister, Claire Salzbank of Roslyn, N.Y.; and two grandchildren. He was also the brother of the late Irving Freiman.

The funeral was held Feb. 2 at the Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

JUDITH ROSENBERG

JAMESTOWN — Judith Rosenberg, 62, of 126 Highland Drive, a program administrator for medical research with her husband at Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for more than 25 years, died Jan. 31 at the New England Medical Center in Boston, Mass. She was the wife of Dr. Robert Rosenberg.

Born in Poland, a daughter of Esther (Feldman) Schoenfeld and the late Kalman Schoenfeld, she lived in Boston, Brookline, and Jamestown, and was a devoted supporter of medical research.

She was a member of Temple Shalom in Middletown. She graduated from New York University and attended M.I.T. Graduate School of Economics.

Besides her husband and mother, she leaves a daughter, Rebecca Crowley of Pittsburgh, Pa.; a son, Dr. Jerrold Rosenberg of Jamestown, and four grandchildren.

The funeral service was held Feb. 1 at Temple Shalom, 233 Valley Road, Middletown. Burial was in Beth Olam Cemetery, Middletown. Arrangements were by Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence.

MILDRED SCHLEFFER

WARWICK — Mildred Schleffer, 93, of Natick Avenue, died Feb. 1 at Kent County Memorial Hospital. She was the wife of the late Gordon Schleffer.

Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Mordechai and Sarah (Axelrod) Gorodetsky, she had lived in Cranston before moving to Warwick 20 years ago.

She was a former Rhode Island department president of the Jewish War Veterans Auxiliary. She was a member of the drivers corps during World War II. She was the MS Senior Citizen of Rhode Island in 1983.

She leaves a son, Morton Schleffer of Brockton, Mass.; a daughter, Claire Schleffer of Warwick; two brothers, Myron Gorodetsky of Florida and Louis Gorodetsky of North Providence; two grandchildren and a great-grandchild. She was the sister of the late Dorothy Goldberg, Anna Sax and Rose Broomsfield.

The funeral service was held Feb. 4 from the Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

MILDRED SWEET

PROVIDENCE — Mildred Sweet, 77, resident of 355 Blackstone Boulevard, died Feb. 1 at R.I. Hospital. She was the wife of the late Irving Sweet.

Born in Portchester, N.Y., a daughter of the late Simon and Lois (Meyers) Goldae, she was a long-term resident of Providence.

She leaves a son, Dr. Lewis Schneider, New York, N.Y.; a sister, Helen Zabar, Riverside, R.I., and two grandchildren.

The funeral service took place February 2 at Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence. Burial took place on Feb. 3 in a New York City Jewish cemetery. Arrangements were by Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence.

ESTHER F. TORGAN

PROVIDENCE — Esther F. Torgan, 94, of 101 Highland Ave., a bookkeeper at the former Askins Clothing Store, and Gastroenterology Associates before retiring, died Feb. 4 at Miriam Hospital.

A lifelong resident of Providence, she was a daughter of the late Louis and Fanny (Stevens) Torgan.

She was a member of Temple Beth-El in Providence and the Miriam Hospital Women's Association.

She leaves a niece, Nancy Nassau of West Hartford, Conn., and nephew, Dr. Philip Torgan of Providence. She was the sister of the late Ruth Falk, Nora Cohen and William Torgan.

The funeral was held Feb. 7 at Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence. Burial was in Temple Beth-El Cemetery.

The Legacy of King Hussein

(Continued from Page 3)

of peace," he said. "This is peace with dignity. This is peace with commitment. This is our gift to our peoples and the generations to come."

In the ensuing years before he succumbed to cancer, Hussein lived up to those words, infusing warmth and humanity into his country's peace with Israel.

When Rabin's funeral was held on Nov. 6, 1995, Hussein moved the audience with his eulogy for the man he described as a "brother, a colleague and a friend."

"We belong to the camp of peace," he said. "We believe that our one G-d wishes us to live in peace, and we wish his peace upon us. For these are his teachings to all the followers of the three great monotheistic religions, the children of Abraham."

His dedication to peace became evident to all Israelis in March 1997, when Hussein paid condolence calls to the families of Israeli schoolchildren who were killed by a deranged Jordanian soldier while they were making a field trip to a site on the Israeli-Jordanian border.

And if Hussein won the hearts of Israelis at that time, he won over much of the rest of the world when, clearly showing the effects of chemotherapy, he attended the White House signing of the Wye agreement last October.

In what proved his last appearance at a diplomatic event, he spoke of putting aside "our petty differences" and working for a better future, "for all the children of Abraham."

Only days before, he had gotten up from his sick bed to help Israel and the Palestinian Authority reach the accord. For months, he had been undergoing treatment for lymphatic cancer.

On Sunday, that illness succeeded in accomplishing what assassin's bullets and plotting military leaders had failed to do.

Several years ago, when Hussein had overcome prostate cancer, a television interviewer asked him whether he was afraid of death.

"Life is a journey," he replied with regal simplicity. "It has a beginning and an end. Why should I be afraid?"

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The Divine Unity Becomes Man's Task

"Teach me Thy way, L-rd; I will walk in thy truth; unite my heart to fear Thy name" (Psalm 86:11). This sentence of the Psalms has acquired an even richer meaning in Jewish thought, not only for its mysticism and philosophy, but also as an expression of the people's meditation and prayer. For the sentence tells of the one heart which finds its way to the One G-d and the one command. If man attains this one heart and consequently follows the one path, then he has gained true reverence for the One G-d: he thereby brings monotheism to its genuine realization. As the ancient Hebrew morning prayer says, man "unifies G-d" through his love for him. In this desire to "unify G-d, man's creative impulse finds a powerful means of self-expression. Through his moral action man creates the unity of G-d upon earth, and thus even the divine unity becomes, as it were, man's task.

Leo Baeck

The Essence of Judaism

CLASSIFIED**Adoption Options**

(Continued from Page 4)

Two of the staff recently attended a conference in San Antonio, Texas, entitled "Keeping the Promise of Permanency: Achieving Excellence in Special Needs Adoption." The conference included workshops on transracial and transcultural adoption, utilizing technology to connect with adoptive families, gay and lesbian adoptions, adoption by a single parent, preventing wrongful adoption issues, sensitivity issues and record keeping/information management. Adoption Options Adoption Social Worker Betsy Alper said, "Conferences like this give us more information so we can provide more comprehensive services over a wider range of adoption issues."

To offer the community greater access to the latest knowledge about adoption, Adoption Options has established an Adoption Resource Center that encompasses books, videos, periodicals, magazines and Internet connections: all available to potential adoptive parents, adoptive parents, birth parents, adoptees and professionals in the adoption field.

For more information or to arrange a free consultation, call Adoption Options at 331-5437 in Rhode Island or toll-free at (800) 337-6513.

Girl Scouts Need Volunteers For Short-Term Programs

Girl Scouts are seeking adult volunteers for three new short-term programs which will bring Girl Scouting to girls who otherwise wouldn't have the opportunity to participate. Orientation and training will be provided for all volunteers.

Adults are needed to serve as partners for Providence girls without mentors at a family science program, Girls at the Center, for girls and adult partners. The program will be held at the Roger Williams Museum of Natural History at the Roger Williams Park Zoo in Providence on March 20 from 10 a.m. to noon or 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Each term will participate in hands-on-science activities designed to increase confidence in science exploration. Girls at the Center is funded by the National Science Foundation and locally by the Raytheon Corporation.

Girl Scouts Beyond Bars, a Girl Scout program for daughters of incarcerated women at the R.I. Women's Prison in Cranston, needs adult volunteers to assist a trained leader during meeting times beginning in February. Volunteers are welcome for one or more meeting days.

Adult volunteers are also needed to assist a trained leader during meeting times at a Girl Scout activity for girls living in the Chad Brown Housing complex in Providence. Meetings will be held at the Rudolf Tavares Community Center.

Any interested adults may call Trish Driscoll, urban program manager, Girl Scouts of R.I., Inc. at (401) 331-4500, ext. 19.

Old Sturbridge

(Continued from Page 15)

The fun and learning at Old Sturbridge Village continue Feb. 16 through 21 during Family Fun Days. The varying offerings each day include musical performances, storytelling, puppets, parlorgames, 19th-century school activities, candlemaking, and wagon or sleigh rides around the village's common (weather permitting).

The village will open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call the village at (800) SEE-1830 (TDD (508) 347-5383) or visit <www.osv.org>.

Old Sturbridge Village is a re-created village museum where historically costumed staff demonstrate the daily life, work, and community celebrations of a rural New England town of the 1830s. The museum is located on Route 20, just off exit 9 of the Massachusetts Turnpike (I-90) and exit 2 of I-84.

Crystal

(Continued from Page 13)

Sachs also said the group is committed to raising \$350 million to help cover the university's annual deficits.

In a long, applause-filled evening, the biggest hands went to three participants: Helen Greenfield, Crystal's mother, who gave the Motzi, the blessing of the bread, over a giant-sized challah; boxing great Muhammad Ali, Crystal's personal hero, who served as honorary chairman of the event, and Kirk Douglas, the veteran actor and former Scopus recipient, recently slowed by a stroke, who conferred the Scopus Award on Crystal.

In an interview with the Los Angeles Jewish Journal a few days before the dinner, the 50-year-old Crystal spoke about his Jewish identity.

He and Janice, his wife of 28 years, are longtime members of a Reconstructionist congregation, where their two daughters celebrated bat mitzvahs.

"I'm not a religious man, (but) it's in your gut, it's your heritage," he said.

In the interview, Crystal also recalled his stint as master of ceremonies at last year's Oscar awards. An Orthodox rabbinical group had earlier denounced the Reform and Conservative streams of Judaism as not Jewish, and in a throwaway line most of the global TV audience probably missed, he declared, "I just found out I'm a gentile."

Crystal said he does not regret the remark or going public with his concerns about developments in Israel and world Jewry.

"We should mind our own business?" he asked. "If you go to the Hebrew University, look at the names you're going to see. People who have donated their time and millions of dollars: non-Jews and Jews. It's everybody's business. When that happened last year" with the Orthodox Rabbinate, it was "insulting to say we're not Jews. It was insulting to deny our heritage, our parents and how we were taught."

Protecting

(Continued from Page 4)

JNF will see that the family in question is tended to in a responsible, friendly and Jewish way.

We all win when the laws protect us all. That is morality and ethics.

It is the Jewish National Fund, the organization of the blue and white pushke that was founded as a dream and continues today to enhance the land as partners with all the people of Israel. Through ecological research and development, working tirelessly to resolve the water crisis in the Middle East, and providing comfort zones for the people of Israel, the JNF is working with all the people of Israel as caretakers of our land. At JNF, we say that the best way to resolve issues is together in a united effort. Let us all work toward unity—not headlines.

Stephen Hochberg,
President
New England Region-JNF

Smokey Joe's

(Continued from Page 12)

she reprised the role of Fanny Brice, originally made famous by Barbra Streisand. That particular role was the most vocally challenging for Rose because of the fact that the part was so identified with Streisand. Rose actively seeks out the high-energy roles, those which require blood, sweat and tears—and over the years she has shed her fill of tears. Like most actors, Rose had to "toughen up," as she refers to it—acquire a thick skin and not take personally the rejection that accompanies every audition.

"It was difficult," admits Rose, "to get accustomed to that, and I don't think you ever do. You do, however, learn that it's part of the game and that when producers are casting a show, they look for a package rather than just asking can this person sing."

But even with all of the negatives associated with the entertainment business, Rose can't imagine doing anything else as a career, other than maybe acting—paralleling another of her idol's careers, Bette Midler.

"Smokey Joe's Cafe"—The Songs of Lieber and Stoller fill the Providence Performing Arts Center on Feb. 18 at 7:30 p.m., and Feb. 19 at 8 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at the PPAC box office, 220 Weybosset St., Providence, or charge by phone by calling 421-ARTS.

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Black Hats

(Continued from Page 4)

path to multiple "Jewish peoples" — the non-Orthodox leaders declare "Jewish unity" their goal.

And, of course, declare us black-hatted bad guys the Enemy, implying that we would deprive Jews of their freedom of belief when all we seek is to have the Jewish State continue to officially respect the standard for conversion that has kept the Jewish people one nation for more than 3,000 years.

We hope, of course, that the Reform and Conservative laities will neither swallow their leaders' rhetoric nor assume their ill will, that our non-Orthodox brothers and sisters will achieve objectivity and discern the long-term dangers in their leaders' quest for immediate gratification in Israel.

Our prayer is that our fellow Jews will come to understand that true Jewish unity comes not from feel-good diatribes but from foresight; not from hysterical name-calling but from rational stock-taking; not from disparaging the past but from respecting it.

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All In The Family

Three generations celebrate Allison Froehlich's siddur presentation. Pictured are Elaine Odessa, Susan and John Froehlich with children, Allison and Benjamin, accompanied by Benton Odessa, their seventh-grade cousin.

Photo by Liz Goldberg

It's A Tea Party!

Family Workshop. "It's A Tea Party!" On Feb. 14, participate in musical chairs, scavenger hunts, etc., and learn about old tea tables and tea pots. For children and their parents age 5 to 12. Rhode Island School of Design Museum, 224 Benefit St., Providence. Free with museum admission. 3 p.m.



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OF TRUST

Children Deliver Message to Elected Officials in State Capitals



Passing a Strong Primary Seat Belt Law That Covers Adults Will Save Kids's Lives

Children will be taking a life-saving message to state capitals across the nation in February—please pass a strong adult primary seat belt law to protect kids and their families.

New research shows that in order to get children buckled up, we must get adults to wear their seat belts. In fact, a recent study published in the journal *Pediatrics* found drivers who use seat belts are three times more likely to buckle up kids.

Currently, just 14 states and the District of Columbia have strong primary seat belt laws covering adults which permit law enforcement to issue a citation for failure to wear belts, just as they do for any other traffic violation. Weak seat belt laws, often called secondary laws, allow an officer to ticket a driver for not wearing a seat belt only after making a stop for another offense.

Car crashes are the leading cause of death to children of all races. In fact, African American children ages 5 to 12 are almost three times more likely than white children to be killed in car crashes. Six out of 10 children who die in crashes are completely unbuckled. Of those, nearly half would be alive today if drivers had just buckled them up.

That's why beginning Feb. 14, during National Child Passenger Safety Week, kids across America are calling on governors, legislators and other elected leaders in the 36 states that don't now have strong laws requiring adults to wear seat belts to enact a primary seat belt law. The National Conference of Black State Legislators recently passed a resolution supporting the passage of primary belt laws in every state.

Despite the fact that the majority of Americans understand the benefits of seat belts and

child restraints and all states have a child passenger safety law, hundreds of children continue to die each year because they are unbuckled. Child passenger safety laws aren't enough to protect children. Increasing adult seat belt use is the most effective way to reduce the staggering number of children who are dying needlessly each year.

On average, states that have passed strong belt laws have increased adult belt use by 15 percent. And that pushes up child restraint use. For example, when Louisiana passed a strong adult belt law, child restraint use (child safety seats and seat belts) increased from 45 percent to 82 percent in just one year.

Many of the children meeting with elected officials have been personally affected by the use of seat belts. These meetings could potentially have a positive impact on pending legislation or be a catalyst for future legislation to strengthen or adopt a strong primary seat belt law and save children's lives.

The Air Bag & Seat Belt Safety Campaign, a program of the National Safety Council, is sponsoring the state capital visits here and across the country. The campaign, along with a broad, community-based coalition, is also supporting several state efforts underway to advance seat belt laws from secondary to primary enforcement.

Crashes: #1 Killer of Kids

- Traffic crashes are the leading cause of death and injury to children of all races ages 0 to 15. Six out of 10 children who die in crashes are completely unbuckled. Of those, nearly half would be alive today if they were buckled up.

- According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, African American and Hispanic children are more likely to die in car crashes than white children.

- There are one-third fewer fatalities to children who ride properly restrained in the back seat.

Learning About Pawtucket

Dear Residents of Pawtucket,

I am a fifth-grade student at Thornell Elementary School in Pittsford, New York. My class has been studying the Northeast area. I enjoyed reading about your town, Pawtucket.

I would like to know what your schools are like, what industries you have, what types of houses you live in, the population of your town, the activities kids are involved in, the latest headlining news, the main sports you play, and if you like where you live.

Let me tell you a little about Pittsford. Pittsford is located in Western New York. It's about 15 miles from Rochester and 6 hours from New York City. The weather is changeable. The winters are usually cold and snowy and the summers are usually hot. Our main industries are Eastman Kodak, Xerox, Bausch and Lomb. There are many interesting places to visit; the Erie Canal, Lake Ontario, the Finger Lakes, and Bristol Mountain.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely, Zach Grey, age 10,
c/o Mrs. Jane Weaver
431 Thornell Road School,
Pittsford, New York 14534
or e-mail us at <grades@thornell.pittsford.k12.ny.us>