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**NEWS AT
A GLANCE**

- Israeli and Palestinian troops faced off with guns in the Gaza Strip after some soldiers got into a fist fight. The incident took place after Israeli troops parked a truck across the main north-south highway before Palestinians held a protest march against Israeli settlements. The standoff, which took place when the troops refused to move the truck, was later defused by commanders from each side.
- A fervently Orthodox leader in Israel warned of civil war if the Supreme Court does not stop interfering in religious matters. Rabbi Meir Porush's comments came in the wake of a massive demonstration in Jerusalem by some 250,000 members of Israel's Orthodox community, who protested recent court decisions that they say undermine their way of life. Some 50,000 secular Israelis took part in a counter-demonstration.
- Palestinian police confirmed that they arrested a leading Hamas activist who they said harbored a fugitive involved in the killing of a policeman earlier this month in the Gaza Strip. Hamas spokesman Mahmoud Zahar disappeared after being summoned by Palestinian police several days ago. A Hamas official said Zahar was only doing his job as a doctor when he gave medical treatment to the fugitive.
- Gwyneth Paltrow, the Oscar-nominated heroine of the film "Shakespeare in Love," is reportedly descended from a distinguished rabbinical dynasty that may stretch back to 17th-century Russia. According to the London-based *Jewish Chronicle*, the actress can count 33 rabbis among her ancestors on her father's side.

Modern Orthodox Find Community Amid Struggle to Define an Identityby Debra Nussbaum Cohen
NEW YORK (JTA) — A sense of community.

That was the overriding feeling among some 1,500 modern Orthodox Jews who gathered in New York over the Presidents Day weekend for a conference whose goal was to re-articulate just what it means to be a modern Orthodox Jew today.

The conference, which was organized by the nascent group Edah and drew twice as many people as expected, came at a time when many of modern Orthodoxy's adherents are struggling to define their movement's philosophy.

"I'm joyous," said Beth Wohlgeleter, a New Yorker who manages a start-up high technology firm and was a member of the Edah conference planning committee.

"I feel like we were all wandering in the desert for 40 years, but now I have a community again," she said while surveying the crowded hotel ballroom as she waited for the group's spiritual mentor, Rabbi Saul Berman, to begin his keynote address.

The conference, titled "Orthodoxy Encounters a Changing World," attracted participants from as far away as California, North Carolina and Canada.

Other hallmarks of the conference were the prominence of women as plenary lecturers and teachers, the gathering's central focus on "women's issues," and nearly equal time devoted to exploring Jewish texts and Orthodox legal and communal policy issues.

"There's no better place than this conference to find people who are inspiring us to engage the world while we stick to our modern Orthodox traditions," said Rabbi Gershon Sonnenschein, who came from Springfield, Mass., with 14 people from the synagogue he leads, Congregation Kadimah.

"Just being together with this many people is very empowering."

The conference was also an opportunity for participants, particularly those in many of the dozens of sessions, to engage in a self-critique of modern Orthodoxy's failings.

"To be a modern Orthodox Jew today is often to feel lonely, to be without a community in which to ask ideological questions," said Rabbi Daniel Lehmann, who was ordained at Yeshiva University and is now headmaster of the pluralistic New Jewish High School, in Waltham, Mass.

Even with the strong feelings of community, the participants' views were not monolithic.

Respectful disagreement on such issues as the right balance between modernity and traditional Jewish priorities, and on the appropriate ritual roles for women, was heard in many workshop sessions.

The diversity of dress provided an obvious illustration of the ideological span found at the conference.

Some women covered every strand of their hair with wigs and scarves, while most left their heads uncovered. Some wore long sleeves and long skirts, others wore shorter skirts, and yet other women wore slacks.

Most of the men wore colorful shirts and knitted *kipot*, though some were dressed in the more somber attire of dark suits, whiter shirts and black *kipot* common in the fervently Orthodox community.

A multiplicity of visions for the movement was also evident

as participants bandied about alternatives to the term "modern Orthodoxy."

In his presentation on "Assessments of, and Visions for, Modern Orthodoxy," Lehmann disavowed the term "centrist Orthodoxy," a label that has gained currency in recent years among Orthodox Jews who feel that the modifier modern is, well, too modern.

Lehmann offered as alternatives the terms "open Orthodoxy," "progressive Orthodoxy" and "post-modern Orthodoxy." He also jokingly suggested "bourgeois Orthodoxy." Eli Leitner of New York City, who attended the session, suggested "heterodox Orthodoxy."

"The fact that we're not comfortable with the names points to the need for ideological clarification" in the movement, said Lehmann.

Many committed to a modern Orthodox integration of religious and secular life have in recent years felt delegitimized by the *haredim*, or fervently Orthodox, who view the religious and secular worlds as essentially incompatible.

A longtime hallmark of modern Orthodoxy — a willingness to dialogue and work with non-Orthodox Jews — has eroded in recent years as the movement's

(Continued on Page 15)

**Mayor Cianci Presides at Swearing-In of Housing Court Judge**

It's official! Mayor Vincent A. Cianci, Jr. administered the oath of office to Irving Brodsky on Feb. 10, chief judge of the Providence Housing Court, for a term that will expire in January 2002.

A graduate of Classical High School, Brown University and Harvard Law School, Chief Justice Brodsky served the State of Rhode Island as an assistant attorney general for 14 years, and was appointed Providence City Solicitor by Mayor Cianci in 1991. He has been serving the city as a housing court justice since 1992.

Chief Justice Brodsky has been in continuous, and active practice of the law since 1938. He served his community through active involvement in various agencies and organizations, including Temple Beth-Israel, Jewish Family and Children's Service of Rhode Island and the First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Providence, among many others.

Judge Brodsky is married to Naomi Brodsky. They are the parents of two sons, and grandparents to five children.

Photo courtesy of City of Providence

Specter Only Jewish Senator to Break Rank on Impeachment Vote

by Daniel Kurtzman
WASHINGTON (JTA) — There was little doubt about what verdict the 10 Jewish Democratic senators would render on impeachment — all voted not guilty on both the perjury and obstruction of justice charges.

But Sen. Arlen Specter (R-Pa.), the Senate's only Jewish Republican, surprised some observers when he broke ranks with his party and voted to acquit Clinton on both articles.

Specter, a former prosecutor, offered a unique vote, rising to say, "Not proved, therefore not guilty." He earlier announced he would vote that way in accordance with Scottish court practice, which he said allowed the nuance of "not proved" as an alternative verdict.

Other Jewish lawmakers distinguished themselves as well during the course of the trial.

Sen. Russell Feingold (D-Wisc.) was the only Democrat to break party rank and vote against dismissing the charges against the president. He also joined Republicans in voting to take depositions from the three witnesses called by the House managers.

And in the last matter of official business directly after Clinton's acquittal, Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) attempted to bring to the floor a censure resolution for which she had painstakingly gathered 38 signatures. It stated that Clinton had "deliberately misled and deceived the American people" and took actions "impeding" the judicial process.

Sen. Phil Gramm (R-Tex.), however, threw up a parliamentary roadblock that prevented the measure from being considered, and it appeared unlikely the Senate would revisit the issue again.

HAPPENINGS

Entertainment For Children

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

February

- 25 **Play and Learn.** 3 to 4:30 p.m. Preschoolers ages 2 to 4 work on developing skills as they participate in games and activities designed especially for them in Littlewoods.
- 26 **Preschool Friday.** 9:40 a.m. to 1:50 p.m. Stories Aloud! Preschoolers ages 3 to 5 are captivated by the story "In the Snow: who's been there?" then unravel a mystery about critters and the clues they leave in the snow. After pondering footprint clues and snowy landscapes, preschoolers print a footprint of their own creation on a snow-white collage. Enrollment in an eight-week series is recommended. 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.
- 27 **Poetry Slam!** 1 to 3 p.m. Kids ages 5 and up learn that they are already poets, even if they don't yet know it. Young wordsmiths play with their words and sounds to create amazing, youthful poetry. Special guests, students from Brown University, help guide the poets in their wordplay and exploration.
- 28 **Flute Flirtation.** 1 to 3 p.m. Kids ages 7 and up ponder the airy mystery of the flute. A special guest musician demonstrates the basics of this hauntingly lovely wind instrument. A flautist demonstrates fingering skills, how a flute is put together, how different breaths affect tone, and discusses the commitment and rewards of learning to play the flute. Same day registration available at admissions desk.

March

- 1 **Pop-Out Art** — On March 1 and 2 from 3 to 4:30 p.m., kids ages 5 and up craft eye-popping greeting cards with opening doors and hidden surprises. Card-crafters experiment with layers to add new dimensions to their artistic creations.
- 3 **Play and Learn** — 3 to 4:30 p.m., children ages 2 to 4 play developmental games and explore the cozy environment of Littlewoods.

Calendar: February 25th thru March 3rd

- 25 **On exhibit through April 11 at the Rhode Island School of Design Museum, 2 College St., Providence, "American Paintings from the Museum's Collection."** Oil paintings by American artists of the late 19th and 20th centuries.
 - 26 **Looking to see the country through the eyes of an RV?** Then attend the RV Show at the Rhode Island Convention Center, One Sabin St., Providence. Feb. 26 through 28. Call (732) 449-4004 or 458-6000.
The Mill River Dinner Theatre presents "She Loves Me," 449 High St., Central Falls. Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m., Sunday matinee at 1 p.m., Feb. 26 through March 28. Dinner and show \$25; show only \$15. Call 721-0909.
 - 27 **New Opportunities For Tax Profit Workshop** at Borders Book Store, Garden City, Cranston. Financial advisers Heidi Hanson and Beth Rosenberg King of Prudential Securities lead the workshop. 2 p.m. Call 944-9160.
The Rhode Island Philharmonic performs at Veterans Memorial Auditorium under the baton of Larry Rachleff and featuring violinist Mark Peskanov. 8 p.m. Tickets: \$22, \$35, and \$40. Call 272-4862.
Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence, will hold a lunch and discussion after morning services. Rabbi Susan Fendrick will speak on "Sacred Transgressions: Violating Jewish Practices For G-d's Sake." 12:15 p.m. Call 331-1616.
 - 28 **Temple Beth-El Passover Wine Sale** to benefit youth scholarships, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call 331-6070.
The Rhode Island Watercolor Society hosts a Winter Wonderland open juried show, Feb. 28 through March 26, Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday 1 to 5 p.m.
- March**
- 1 **The Muir String Quartet** performs at Gage Auditorium, Rhode Island College, Providence. 8 p.m. Call 456-8144.
The Boston Ballet performs "Festival of Firsts" at the Shubert Theatre, Boston. Call (800) 447-7400.
 - 2 **Celebrate the birthday of Dr. Suess** by reciting your favorite portion of *Green Eggs & Ham* to win a Cat-in-the-Hat hat at Oop!, 297 Thayer St., Providence. Call 421-9205.
 - 3 **The Providence Bruins** take on the Adirondack Red Wings at the Providence Civic Center, 1 Lasalle Square, Providence, 7:05 p.m. Call 273-5000.

Free Osteoporosis Seminar

The Arthritis Foundation and Care New England Wellness Center will cosponsor a free educational seminar on osteoporosis. The program, scheduled for March 10 from 6:30 to 8:15 p.m. will be conducted at Care New England's Wellness Center at 2191 Post Road, Warwick.

The program will highlight information on diagnosing, treating and preventing osteoporosis. The featured speaker is Warwick rheumatologist Theresa Suarez, M.D. Other speakers include a dietitian and physical therapist from Care New England's Wellness Center who will discuss the importance of a healthy diet and exercise in treating and preventing osteoporosis.

Pre-registration is required. For more information or to pre-register, contact the Arthritis Foundation at 434-5792.

Diabetes Support Group to Meet March 3

Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island's Diabetes Support Group will meet on March 3 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in Dining Room 3, located on the ground floor of the hospital. The topic of this meeting will be "Do You Need a Vacation?"

Vacations are wonderful, especially if they are well planned. If you have diabetes, it's important to plan ahead to assure a safe and healthy trip. At our next support group we will discuss traveling tips and check-lists for what to pack. Whether you have Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes, you are welcome to join our group.

The Diabetes Support Group meets the first Wednesday of each month at Memorial. For more information, call Memorial's outpatient dietitian, Jane Sylvestre, M.S., R.D., L.D.N., at 729-2574.

Aquatic Arthritis Class Registration

The Arthritis Foundation YMCA Aquatic Program is being offered beginning March 1 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Trained personnel lead program participants through a series of specially designed exercises. This program is a recreational series of gentle activities in the pool and is open to anyone with arthritis. The program is designed to help relieve pain and stiffness caused by arthritis while providing a fun, social opportunity. The program has been developed by the National Arthritis Foundation and is cosponsored by the R.I. Chapter of the Arthritis Foundation in collaboration with the YMCA of the United States.

It is not necessary to know how to swim in order to participate in the class. Preregistration is necessary and enrollment is limited. For more information, contact Scott at the Cranston YMCA at 943-0444 or stop by at 1225 Park Avenue.

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Providence and Vicinity

Barney's, East Avenue, Pawtucket
Books on the Square, Wayland Square (on Angell)
College Hill Book Store, Thayer St.
EastSide Marketplace, Pitman St.
East Side Prescription Center, Hope St.
J. Elliott's, Hope St.
Rhoda's Judaica, Hope St.

JEWISH COMMUNITY

Shalom Memorial Chapel Opens in Cranston

by Emily Torgan-Shalansky
Jewish Community Reporter
For the first time in decades, a new Jewish funeral home is open in Rhode Island.

Island and Southeastern Massachusetts. My late grandfather was a mohel, my late father was a cantor at Temple Torat Yisrael for many years, and my cousin,

from the Lincoln Park Cemetery and about 12 from the Temple Beth-El Cemetery. That will cut down on highway schlepping for the funeral processions."

When renovations on the building began in October, Smith and his wife, Marilyn, concentrated on making the new space comforting and accessible.

"We wanted to make it feel as much like a private home as possible," he explained.

Beige walls, plush blue wall-to-wall carpet, understated modern furniture and abundant light impart a serene feeling to the chapel, family room and arrangement room.

"The chapel seats up to 150," Smith said. "The building is in full compliance with the ADA, and people do not have to climb any stairs to get inside. To help the families take care of everything right here, we also have an office, a casket display room and a morgue."

According to Smith, the most important feature of the Shalom Memorial Chapel will be personalized service.

"I plan to do what I have done in the past, which is to give people a feeling of warmth and caring," he explained. "People should not have to worry about any details during their time of need."

He believes that his long relationship with the local Jewish community will help him within an arena that has long been dominated by East Side rivals Max Sugarman and the Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel.

"The Shalom Memorial Chapel will certainly increase the competition, but there are about 300 Jewish funerals a year in this state, and there will be enough business," he said.

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"Odyssey of the Portuguese Jews" Explores Links Between Jewish and Portuguese Cultures

by Emily Torgan-Shalansky
Jewish Community Reporter

Once upon a time, in a castle far, far away, a wicked queen banished all blasphemers from her kingdom. "Be like me or leave this land," she threatened. "If you refuse, I'll have you tortured and killed."

So many of them died, and many of them fled, and many of them pretended to be like the queen when they really weren't like the queen at all.

It may sound like a fairy tale, but once the queen is identified as Isabella of Spain and her cruelties as the Spanish Inquisition, it seems more like a simplification of Iberian Jewish history.

But at "The Odyssey of the Portuguese Jews," as 125 members of the Portuguese and Jewish communities came together to learn how these events had caused their cultural histories to cross so closely that descendants still feel their ramifications today, the story did seem to take on magical dimensions.

On Feb. 21 at Roger Williams University, University President Anthony Santoro and the Saudades/Sepharad Project, an organization dedicated to raising awareness of the links between Portuguese and Jewish culture, jointly presented "The Odyssey of the Portuguese Jews."

Its combination of speakers, music and poetry outlined the often-overlooked story of how the banning of Judaism on the Iberian Peninsula forced the faith into an underground existence that changed dramatically over the centuries and affected both the lives of its practitioners and their countrymen.

Members of Saudades/

Sepharad, explained U.S. Program Coordinator Steven Gorban, have been designing such programs for the Center for Jewish Culture at the University of Massachusetts and local synagogues since the organization's 1992 inception.

"1992 was the 500th anniversary of the Spanish Inquisition, and it was also a time to celebrate Sephardic Jewish culture," remembered Gorban, who was then the program director of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Bedford. "Because my mother was Sephardic, the Federation suggested that I put an event together."

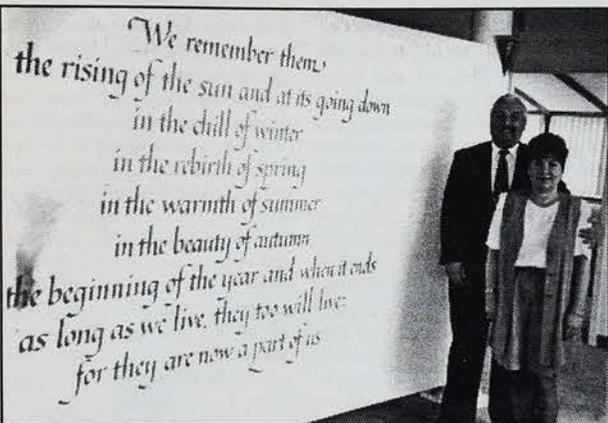
As Gorban worked with members of the greater Sephardic community, he and his supporters recognized tremendous interest among the local Jewish, Portuguese and Cape Verdean populations.

Over the next few years, Gorban and Saudades/Sepharad presented numerous local programs about Jewish-Portuguese history at the University of Massachusetts and at local synagogues, and are now developing their website and seeking grants to enhance their outreach efforts.

"It's a vast, vast story that affected the growth of the entire New World," Gorban said. "It was the Age of Exploration, and wherever the Portuguese went, the Jews went with them — it is estimated that about 30 million members of Brazil's population were once Jews. But it is often overshadowed by 20th century history."

Dr. Manuel da Silva opened

(Continued on Page 10)



MICHAEL AND MARILYN SMITH at their newly opened Shalom Memorial Chapel in Cranston. Herald photo by Emily Torgan-Shalansky

According to owner and Funeral Director Michael Smith, the Shalom Memorial Chapel at 1100 New London Ave., Cranston is now ready to offer services that will combine traditional elements with additional benefits such as pleasant surroundings, a convenient location, and experienced independent ownership.

"Many people already know me, and I know them," explained Smith, who was the executive director of the Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel in Providence for 20 years. "I know the business."

Smith left Max Sugarman in 1995 to prepare to open his own memorial chapel.

"I wanted to serve the community," explained Smith, a Rhode Island native and Warwick resident. "I grew up here, and my family was dedicated to the Jewish community in Rhode

Remmie Brown, is the cantor at Temple Sinai."

Smith, who witnessed countless Jewish lifecycle events as he grew up, learned even more about Jewish funeral law and custom at Max Sugarman.

He obtained the necessary licenses from the New England Institute of Applied Arts and Sciences and Mount Ida College, and was eventually promoted to executive director.

Later, as he began to contemplate his own memorial chapel, his considerable experience helped him to shape the new facility.

"This is the first Jewish funeral home to be located in the Cranston/Warwick area in many years," he explained. "There's a sizeable community here, and I hope to help them as well as those from the East Side and other parts of the state. Also, we're about six minutes away

Feinstein Chronicles

March 1999 No. 20



Latest winning students in our banknote game...
Anne Gillie of Springbrook Elementary in Westerly, Olivia Mattley of West Kingston Elementary in West Kingston, Eugenio Gomes of St. Patrick's in Cumberland, Jacob Alves of Kickemuit Middle in Warren, Geoffrey McElroy of Fairlawn Early Learning Center in Lincoln, and Ashley Casto of John J. McLaughlin Cumberland Hill in Cumberland.

Congratulations! Be sure to let me know the charity you and your classmates choose for your donation.

Here are the new winning numbers. Deadline for matching them is March 31.

21317378	21317632	20558954	20559982	20559187
20554027	21319761	21313529	21311156	20814373
20465411	20323714	20818039	20018724	20819631
20467932	21195333	20324815	20431418	21232247

Our second annual challenge to help non-profit agencies nationwide feeding the hungry has just been announced. I'm asking other philanthropists to join with me and more money has already been pledged in several states.

This is a great opportunity for agencies to raise funds just by asking their donors to "please help us get some of the Feinstein challenge money."

Tell your house of worship or hunger agency about this so they can get some of this money, too!

For more information on this challenge, or for our updated petition count calling on Congress and the President to make a commitment for ending hunger in America, see our website at <www.FeinsteinFoundation.com>.

Alan Shawn Feinstein



Liz Sheldon

invites you to preview

Four Fabulous March Trunk Shows

Wellmore Knit Collection - March 5 and 6
The very versatile, velveteen knit will be here for your selection. We will feature daytime, casual separates and evening elegance.

Holly's Harp - March 12 and 13
Soft, feminine, easy styles for that special occasion. Jim Harp knows the importance of the understated elegant look.

Naeem Khan - March 19 and 20
Elegant hand-embroidered and hand-beaded gowns, dresses and jackets. Mr. Khan will be here personally to assist you in all the important details of your choice.

Tadashi - March 26 and 27
Young cocktail and evening fashions for your special occasion. Long gowns and short dresses for an up-to-the-minute fashion statement.

To be ordered in your size and color. Trunk shows 10 am. to 5 p.m. with informal modeling

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OPINION

Adhering to Tradition Because Mom and Dad Said So

by Mark Leibowitz

A couple of days ago I spoke with a longtime friend who called me with an interesting question. He asked, "How would you feel if I started to date someone who wasn't Jewish?" Having known my friend for a number of years I was a little startled at the notion that he was considering this option.

We have known each other for a very long time and grew up under similar circumstances. We each came from less than observant households, yet I struggled to find my own *derech* (path) in Judaism. I accepted the reality that members of my family were content to remain secular by today's standards. I have had my "battles" with close relatives in trying to explain why I will not eat at a non-kosher restaurant, why it is not possible to perform certain tasks on Shabbos, or even the significance of why I choose to wear a *kippah* and *tzitzit*.

My friend does not hold to the level of observance that I do. But he always assured me that he would never date a non-Jew. That would be a line he would never cross. However, it seems as if he is eyeing that "line" and is weighing the options more heavily today. Why would he consider dating someone who was not Jewish?

In today's day and age we hear about many Jewish organizations trying to find the key that will keep our children Jewish into the next century. "Jewish continuity" has become a catchy phrase of the '90s and the subject of many panel discussions throughout the American Jewish community. Parents, grandparents, teachers and community leaders worry that their grandchildren and great-grandchildren will eventually fall under the statistical column

of those who are "intermarried," "unaffiliated" or even possibly "not Jewish."

When I was fall orientation leader at my college Hillel, I was constantly approached by parents during the first week of school with similar comments: "Will you make sure that Rachel meets some other Jewish kids?" "Please let me know if David is not coming to Hillel events or dances." "I want my daughter to meet a nice Jewish boy and I told her that she is not to date non-Jews."

I was always astounded when I spoke with these incoming freshmen following a conversation with the parents. A majority of the Davids and Rachels would end up telling me that they came to the Hillel that day because they wanted to keep their parents happy. No student wants mom and dad to leave a college fall orientation without showing them the "effort" they were making to meet other Jewish students.

The extent of their Jewish affiliation, as well as many of their parents, was disheartening. Most would tell me that they went to Hebrew school three days a week, had a bar/bat mitzvah party with a great DJ, got presents at Chanukah/Christmas parties and dreaded going to grandma's for a boring Passover seder. Some had traveled to Israel but a lot did not feel any desire to return or even make an initial visit. Keeping kosher was something their grandparents did a long time ago but they found little significance in it.

These kids rarely attended a Hillel event and would eventually blend in with the rest of the student body. I would sometimes run into their parents during homecoming or on a Sunday visit. Only this time mom or dad were angry after learning

that their child never went to that ice cream social or a bagel brunch at Hillel.

Can we really blame these kids for not seeking out other Jewish students? How can we possibly expect our children to meet (much less date) other Jews when there has been an absence of Jewish life in the home? Can we really expect these kids to seek out Jewish friends when the parents themselves have never made a strong commitment to Jewish observance?

Of course there will always be Jews who seek out the significance of their heritage on their own regardless of their upbringing. Thank G-d, I was able to discover on my own the wondrous beauty and responsibilities that come with being a member of *B'nai Yisrael* (the Children of Israel). Unfortunately, my friend has not and is beginning to drift away from his people and heritage.

There is certainly not a magic formula that will insure that our Davids eventually meet the Rachels in this wide open world. But as I see it, many of our Jewish boys and girls will end up being the casualties to assimilation and intermarriage if a lack of Jewish commitment in the home becomes the norm.

Our homes must become vibrant centers of Jewish life. We must never feel that our commitment to Jewish observance rests on one Friday night at the temple or by dropping off our children at Hebrew school on a Sunday evening. By integrating a proud Jewish observance daily into our homes, we give our children an inheritance that will most likely follow them under the *chuppah* (wedding canopy) and for a lifetime.

Change of Life

by Velvel 'Wally' Spiegler

I have a deep conviction that ethnic cultures are attentive and respectful of their members in every possible way. Judaism has everything required to satisfy the needs of its community, yet we go elsewhere for help. We should be guided by these words of Hillel, "do not separate yourself from the community," particularly at moments of crisis. Many of us enlist the aid of gurus and yoga teachers for spiritual growth; we consult psychotherapists, psychiatrists and counselors for emotional problems. We enter psychotherapy with the hope that the therapist has the "magic bullet," the right advice or the healthy choice to heal our sufferings, like a physician handing us a prescription. It takes a lot more than that to calm the fury within. It sometimes takes years for folks to find relief and I personally know many who still have yet to change.

Judaism has, and always had, the formula, the elixir, the potion to end emotional distress. If you were to pore through the pages of the Torah you probably won't find answers—even though the rabbis of old tell us that everything we need is found in the text. "Delve in the Torah and continue to delve in it for everything is in it; look deeply into it; grow old and grey over it" (Pirkei Avot 5:26). Exile is the Jewish expression of emotional disturbance, found throughout Jewish literature to describe the condition of alienation, not specifically, from the land of Israel, but from G-d and from ourselves.

Emotional problems occur because we substitute or confuse our real self (who we really are) with our self-image. We are

not our self-image; it is a fantasy or illusion of the mind. It's like Jacob who feared revenge from his brother Esau for cheating him out of his rightful inheritance. In fear of Esau's wrath Jacob devised strategies to insure survival of his family; yet when the brothers finally met, Esau poignantly embraced him. Like Jacob we do the same. We misconstrue the real threats to our survival, and we're always busy protecting our illusory self-image. These illusory threats to self-image are the cause of our emotional pain. It's the pain, the fear, the stress that encourages us to run or fight (the flight or fight syndrome). Running is failing to live up to our full potential and fighting causes the quarrels with family and companions.

How do you learn to distinguish between what's self (the who that you are) and self-image? What's reality and what's illusion? We learn by experience. We focus meditatively in prayer, on G-d and on sensations.

Similarly when we learn about our emotions empirically, we remember the feelings. How did I feel about that music, that painting, that traumatic experience? We learn not by words or books but by experience—sensations, dreams, imagination (the experiential faculty), and all the arts. Life takes place in the here and now, the present moment. We experience life through our senses, not thoughts about past or future. In the here and now we encounter the Divine, a place where healing occurs and is shrouded in the same mystery as the Holy of Holies, the *ayin*, the nothingness, where all existence origi-

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RHODE ISLAND JEWISH HERALD

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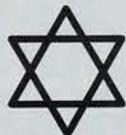
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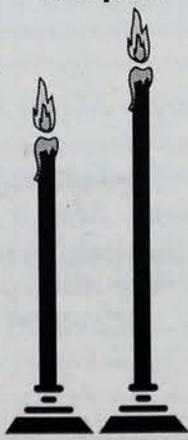
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Candlelighting
February 26, 1999
5:14 p.m.



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

Purim Revisited

Purim is a holiday for children and the children at heart.

And why shouldn't it be? According to Jewish teachings, it was because of the Jewish children that the miraculous rescue of the entire Jewish people took place.

Let's backtrack a little in the Purim story, though, to get the whole picture. Haman had managed to get King Ahasuerus to agree to his evil plan of totally annihilating the Jewish people. He even had in his hand the decree with the royal stamp on it, rendering the ruling irrevocable. At this point, Haman once again encountered Mordechai, who was teaching Torah to a group of thousands of children.

As before, this time, too, Mordechai did not bow or in any way humble himself to Haman. Feeling himself at the apex of his political power and prowess, Haman was more enraged than ever before. He vowed that the children would be the first to die.

The mothers of the children begged them to leave Mordechai, but they refused. They urged their children to break their fast—a fast which,

at Esther's request, Mordechai had required of the entire Jewish people. The children, once more, refused. They would remain with Mordechai, studying Torah and praying to G-d with the firm belief that He would hear their sincere and pure prayers and redeem them from this catastrophe.

What was it that gave these children such faith, and more to

(thereby nullifying the earthly decree of Haman and King Ahasuerus). And what made their prayers so powerful, was that they had been educated by Mordechai to believe in the rebuilding of the Holy Temple, the gathering of the exiles back to Israel, and the Redemption.

Today, thank G-d, there is no place in the world where Jews are threatened with annihilation. But still, there are personal, communal, national and global issues that we would like to see rectified. All of us, or various levels, dream of a perfect world.

When the long-awaited Redemption commences, all of humankind will experience this perfect world. And the way to properly direct our prayers and actions to hasten the Redemption, is through studying Torah specifically Torah that inspire hope, faith and longing for the Redemption.

Happy Purim, and may we celebrate it together as one united people, in Jerusalem with the revelation of Moshiah Now!

Submitted by Rabbi Y. Laifer
Chabad House, Providence.

Torah Today

the point, such hope, despite the seemingly helpless situation?

The children had been studying with Mordechai laws concerning the Holy Temple. Though the First Temple had already been destroyed and the Second Temple had not yet been built, Mordechai taught the children about the Holy Temple. These teachings instilled within the children a strong belief, longing and hope that at any moment the Holy Temple could and would be rebuilt.

The children's prayers, their tears and cries, persuaded G-d to revoke the Divine Decree

FEATURE

Like Whiffenpoofs

by Mike Fink

Herald Contributing Reporter

My midwinter reunion in Connecticut took its usual, traditional place in Stamford, at the sparkling State Cinema. Classmate-host Joel Freedman asks me to pick a classic film of Jewish interest from his private collection of excellent prints. He screens my choice free to the public, and pulls them in with a pledge to match any contribution to a worthy Jewish cause.

This time round I introduced "Marjorie Morningstar" from the novel by Herman Wouk, and starring, of course, Natalie

the group that showed up on a Sunday morning brought an eager thoughtfulness to the cinema.

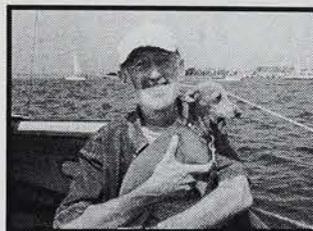
We stayed for the weekend at Joel and Naomi's Brookdale home, three former roommates coming in from Chicago, Washington, D.C., and over the border in Rhode Island. We spread out photos of our families on the large glass coffee table before the window with its view of the pond and the circle of trees. Jim, from Chicago, has five daughters, two from his late wife's previous marriage, and the youngest, who lives with him, a

quarters, and also the ivy-covered halls of Yale and the cold war outposts of the Air Force, where he served as a pilot during his career. Doug from D.C. filled us in on his adventures, recent and dating back to our undergraduate days.

Doug's dad had opened a lock at Dachau and seen the unforgettable horrors of the Nazi camps. But Doug's thesis had been a documentation of the Russian massacre at Katyn forest. "My father always insisted it had to be the Germans. The cold war was in full force, but he never forgot the scenes he had witnessed."

Joel brought down from an attic chamber a large black album with clear black and white portraits he had taken of us at two events of our senior year. A night at the local pizzeria, simply called "the spot." It wasn't a chain place, just a converted garage down a narrow alleyway. After we had studied or gone to a campus event, we piled into Joel's red convertible and took off to this delightful salon for beer and tomato pie. There I was without a beard, before so many things had happened. The second group records the prom for which occasion we had rented a mansion on the ocean and given the grand gala of our generation. Doug and Miriam were already a couple, and they look so fresh and marvelous. Remember when young ladies wore long gowns in the evening and neat dresses and suits for a formal weekend of social engagements?

I felt that "Marjorie Morningstar" suited the occasion perfectly. We left behind a collection of empty bottles of fine Moët et Chandon champagne, an echo of laughter, a rich mood of recall, and a bond of shared connections both historical and highly personal. Like whiffenpoofs, we raised our glasses in a *l'chaim* to last year and next year.



Cola and Champagne

by Mike Fink
Herald Contributing Reporter

The Governor's Room glitters with the lights of the chandeliers and welcomes visitors atop those grand marble stairways. The Coalition of Library Advocates—they call themselves "COLA" as in "Coke"—renamed its Friends Group award the William E. Reeves Award to honor and remember "such a dear friend to the library community." These are the words cited at the annual meeting that followed the champagne reception.

One of the awards presented went to the Friends of Rochambeau. "This group is ever diligent in their efforts to improve and serve. They were selected because of their incredible events which they either organize themselves, or fund. Things like the Mystery Buffs, the adult book discussion groups, children's vacation and summer programs."

Beth W. Sousa, chair of the board of directors of COLA, also introduced the guest speaker, Leslie Burger, who reported on the progress of a study on the current and future status of our state libraries.

"People want a proper mix of technology and tradition. They know their youngsters need to learn modern skills, but they must also hold onto the literary treasures of books."

I spoke to a number of familiar East Side Rochambeau persons. Herman Rose, who volunteers at the gallery of computers at the front desk with his reassuring smile and deeply caring concerns for youngsters and also for staff, spoke to me of his desire to dig into the legacy of the community around the Rochambeau community. "I am interested in Rhode Island's rural past, the farm roots most Americans go back to not so many years into their past. Maybe libraries can give us a similar sense of sharing, of belonging together."

Our State Capitol, gleaming in polished stone white as a fresh snowfall, seemed a noble and proud symbol of the promises upheld by libraries and by all who support, staff, and use them. Congratulations to Rochambeau!



Joel, Doug and Jim in cinema lobby. Herald photo by Mike Fink

Wood and Gene Kelly, with Ed Wynn stealing the show as a *schmorrer* uncle. I gave due credit to director, writer, producer, studio, and even reviewers and critics at release time, 1958. Mostly, I posed the problem of Jewish values. Does the story tell us to settle for conventional materialism and give up dreams of glory and beauty? Or does it simply acknowledge that people are people, seeking a context in which they can live authentically? The picture was gorgeous in the era's Warner-color, and

Down's Syndrome mascot who brings out everybody's good will and affection. You can tell from the candid, as each sister hugs her with a fond grin. Jim just flew back from Ireland: His whole gang went on a rescue mission to check out the stone tower one of the girls bought. Jim had written his senior paper on the memoirs of Churchill. He was, and is, almost uniquely capable of looking at a conflict from several points of view. He traces his own roots to Indian reservations, sailing ships, slave

Comfort Without Joy

by Mike Fink

Herald Contributing Reporter

I only encountered the word "comfort" used to describe food quite recently. It struck me that the term covers a lot of ground. We wear those pajama outfits to lounge in called "sweats" for cozy let-go ease before the glare and blare of television. So we eat, drink, dress, and sit in hot-house "comfort." Chairs are designed not to hold us up but to drop us down. Don't they call them beanbags or something? Have you noticed how many racks of clothes proudly label that they will suit our bigger frames without strain? Makes it tougher for me, thin fellow that I am, to find anything that fits.

I took down my dictionary and flipped through the c's to find the derivation of "comfort." It contains the word "fort," as in "fortitude," and helps to show what the letters spell out. You give strength to the bereaved, help healing in the hurt, and seek solace for a shock through "comfort." You didn't just spread out and give

up once your work day was done. The word dates back before it meant lethargy.

I feel the same way about the victory of the computer over the human hand and brain. What happened to the bar mitzvah fountain pen? It used to ask the young man to fill up the inner compartment with ink from a jar or well by placing your thumbnail under and upon the panel and then pumping and squeezing up the dark liquid. Then you could get busy putting down your thoughts, your thanks, your words of comfort to the troubled among you, and wear the proud Waterman in a pocket of your jacket, proof of your new adult status. If you made an honest mistake in your spelling, you either tried again, or earned the smirk, or the gracious pardon, of your reader. You made an effort and you learned something, letter by letter, with the flow of Carter's.

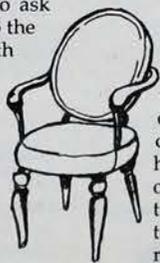
Now, on the other hand, you

let the heavy computer, the Mac or the Apple or the IBM do the "processing," the spelling and syntax, and believe me they do a terrible job at it! I pick out mistakes and errors galore, on

papers, reports, pages of newspaper and magazine, and even p.r. releases. Nobody knows, cares, or takes note of the lowering of the level of language. In fact, quite the reverse. We have stupidly talked ourselves into believing that the computer teaches us, rather than robbing us of learning!

Learning requires a degree of discomfort, not accessibility. We need to spill a little ink on our fingers and the borders of our sheets of paper. We need to sit up straight in a wing chair and find something to say during a blackout.

This, from a reporter who is working on a computer, cruising around in a four-wheel drive vehicle, and wearing a flannel shirt and loafers, even as he rants and raves!



A Palace of Wisdom

Herald photo by Mike Fink

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JEWISH COMMUNITY



Auction a Success

It was a Saturday night that the parents and supporters of Providence Hebrew Day School will remember for a long time. The school's first Winter Extravaganza — a combination goods/services auction and raffle — had more than 200 people in attendance. The chairperson of the event, Devorah Raskin, commented that it was a success on different levels. "As a fundraiser, we were very pleased at the amount of money we raised but we were also happy that everyone enjoyed the music, food, free door prizes and entertainment." Local merchants, parents and friends of PHDS donated more than 225 different items and services. The auction committee has already met to evaluate the event and to make plans for next year. *Photo courtesy of PHDS*

See Camp JORI at ORT Fair

Has Few Openings Left

Camp JORI will have a booth at the ORT Fair at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island on March 7 from noon to 4 p.m. "It's the perfect time to get information and ask questions," said Director Ronni Guttin. But she suggests not waiting until then to register, because few openings remain. For girls 7 to 13, both trips are full and there is a waiting list; for boys 7 to 13, there are still a few openings. The LIT program is full with a waiting list.

Camp JORI's four-week overnight camp for boys and girls ages 7 through 13 provides them with a month in which to pursue talents and interests, build confidence and have fun. There is time to develop and perfect their skills, both with sports activities and creative arts and Crafts projects. Trip I is from June 28 to July 5; Trip II is from July 26 to Aug. 22.

The two-week overnight program for boys and girls ages 7 to

13 who are having their first camping experience provides an introduction to the JORI camping experience. Two-week campers participate in all camp activities and, if they want, can extend their camping for another two weeks. For 14- and 15-year-olds, Camp JORI offers a selective Leadership in Training program. LIT's have their own daily schedule of sports and other camp activities, leadership training and trips away from camp. Participants also have the opportunity to assist the staff and take other leadership roles in camp.

For the 1999 season at Camp JORI, campers can also look forward to an American Canoe Association certified boating program (canoe and kayak) for all campers, an expanded tennis program and newly surfaced courts, an American Red Cross certified swimming program and the new infirmary.

For more information about Camp JORI, call 521-2655.

Women's Role in American History Reexamined, Celebrated

The National Museum of American Jewish Military History announced plans for the opening of an important new exhibit, "Women in the Military: A Jewish Perspective," on March 5 at 2 p.m. The NMAJMH, located in Washington, D.C., at 1811 R Street N.W., Tel. (202) 265-6280, has extended invitations to members of various leading national women's, veterans', and Jewish organizations to join the museum community and witness the exhibit's impact on the preconceived notions of those attending the highly anticipated event. The exhibit will profile Jewish female veterans of U.S. conflicts from the Civil War to the Gulf War, and through their stories, will bring to the forefront the vital role women have played to contribute to America's war efforts throughout our history.

Even before the accomplishments of the feminist movement, women were transcending traditional roles in support of America's military efforts, bravely serving their country in times of need. The NMAJMH exhibit focuses on these female war heroes in an effort to educate the public on the vital contributions of women to our country's safety and well-being over the years.

Among those featured in the exhibit are female heroes from every American conflict, from Phoebe Yates Pember, who toiled in Civil War military hospitals, to Miranda Bloch, one of the few female Marines issued Flight Orders as a World War II Aircraft Radio Mechanic, to Captain Cindy Gats, a Desert Storm veteran currently serving at El Toro Marine Air Station in California.

The exhibit not only focuses on the barriers these individuals faced as women, but also those they overcame as Jews. Often experiencing dual-bigotry, these amazing veterans epitomized true American patriots in their willingness to fight past such obstacles to preserve their nation and their way of life.

"The Women in the Military: A Jewish Perspective" exhibit opens on March 5 at 2 p.m. and will continue through the year 2000. Be sure to plan a visit to this compelling exhibition.

JCCRI Celebrates Purim

The Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence, R.I., will be showing its true colors on Purim, March 2. With events for individuals, families and seniors, this Purim the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island is the place to be.

Seniors Purim Party

Seniors from all over Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts will be flocking to the JCCRI for its annual Purim Party on March 2 at 11:30 a.m. Live entertainment, a delicious catered lunch and many surprises are planned. There is limited transportation available and the cost for the party and lunch is just \$3 per person. The JCCRI Seniors Purim Party is just one of the exciting programs for seniors at the JCCRI; others include weekly bridge games, health and fitness classes specially designed for the needs of seniors, Brown Bag Lunch programs with vibrant speakers from around the region and so much more. Watch for more information on the JCCRI Seniors trip to the Museum of Fine Arts

in Boston to see the Mary Cassatt exhibit on April 14. For more information on the JCCRI Seniors Purim Party or other seniors programming, call Sue Robbio at 861-8800.

Community Purim Dinner and Party

Food, fun and frolic will be at the community-wide Purim Party at the JCCRI. Featuring a delicious, home-made Purim dinner, live entertainment and more on March 2 at 6 p.m. The cost of the tickets is adults \$7, kids \$5 and family of four \$15. Entertainment includes spell-binding magic with the amazing magician, Bruce Kalver — who is sure to baffle adults and kids equally. Also performing is Brown-RISD Hillel's acclaimed a capella singing group, Kol B'Yachad. Arts and crafts projects for the kids will be offered throughout the evening. This is guaranteed to be a Purim party you'll never forget!

For more information on JCCRI Purim events, membership or volunteer opportunities, call 861-8800.

Adoption Options Celebrates Adoptive Families Party

Babies smiled and were admired... toddlers enjoyed having their faces painted... cake and other goodies were eaten, gift bags were given, balloons were everywhere.

Adoptive parents were connecting with each other at the recent, first annual post holiday party of the Jewish Family Service Adoption Options Resource Center. Nearly 60 people attended the Feb. 14 event, which was designed as a celebration of families and a way for families who have recently adopted a child to share a sense of connection with other adoptive families.

One of the highlights of the day was the creation of a poster with hand prints from all the children. The poster is currently being mounted and will be on display at the Adoption Resource Center. Mostly, children played and parents talked.

"We're very excited because one of our goals was to facilitate the formation of a play group," said Adoption worker, Shelley Katsh. "There was a loss of interest, and it is being organized now."

Adoption Options is a non-



sectarian, comprehensive adoption program under the auspices of Jewish Family Service. For information about Adoption Options, the play group for adoptive families, or the Adoption Resource Center, call Adoption Options at 331-5437.

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Purim Story '50s Style

Come and relive the retelling of an ancient story of a brave woman who became Queen of Persia and saved her people from the evil Haman. The reading of the Megillah will take place in the Goldberg Center, Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence, at 7 p.m. on the night of 13 Adar, which is March 1. It will be followed by a costume parade.

Then, get ready for some rockin' and rollin' as the 20th annual Purim Spiel, *Schmaltz*, takes the stage. Come watch, as the guys and gals of Shushan High rock, prattle, and roll their way through the Megillah. *Schmaltz* is a guaranteed cure for the winter blues — come join in the fun.

Don't forget USY's annual Purim Carnival on Feb. 28 at 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Games, food, fun and prizes. All are welcome! There will be a special pre-school corner.

JEWISH COMMUNITY

A Purim Printout

by Mike Fink
Herald Contributing Reporter

There must be a smart ant colony hidden away in that magic box. I can't figure out how our, or, rather, their, computer works. I marvelled at radio and picture shows, too, in my boyhood. My son has spent his vacation week playing with, or on, the internet, and to prove it's worth the fee, he hunts for the file on "forgotten actresses."

On my pillow I find print-out pages with black and white or color portraits of Hedy Lamarr, Merle Oberon, Joan Crawford, not to mention Garbo and Dietrich. He roots out a spiderweb with info on French actresses and presses forth Simone Simon and Michele Morgan, beep, beep, buzz, buzz.

Jewish kids growing up across the ocean from hell saw a Purim on the walls of nearby cinemas. A Purim in which Haman was Hitler, Morgenthau



Hedy, alias Hadassah

was Mordechai, and your favorite movie star was Esther, sending a message to Americans and Allies everywhere—even to the axis—that the shining human soul was on the side of those who suffered, never on the side of the brutality of power and privilege.

They're nearly all gone now, the great beauties of the golden era, but their spirits dwell in the neverland of my boy's fancy alien saucer, the e.t. in his bedroom whose services we have to pay for. Does the check go directly into the wallet of Bill Gates?

Just a footnote on current cinema fare. What did you think of the portrait of the Jewish husband, Daniel Barenboim, in the bio of the musical sisters "Hilary and Jackie?" He is shown as an uptight, unfaithful, unsupportive fellow, who gets his *shiksa* to convert, in Jerusalem no less, and then lets her down. A villain, in brief. I'd like to find some Mordechais among my Esthers. All I can come up with at present include Edward G. Robinson, Monty Woolley, John Garfield, Claude Rains, in "Confessions of a Nazi Spy," "Pied Piper," "Mr. Skeffington," and I guess "Gentleman's Agreement."

Here's a *Y'chaim* to the fabulous Purim spiel of the Hollywood studios. Here's a thank you to the *megilla* in the computer that my boy is dragging out, with the help and support of the ants or the mice who do all the work in their tunnels behind the screen and the printer.

Silent Auction at Temple Torat Yisrael

Those attending Temple Torat Yisrael's first silent auction will have an opportunity to bid on merchandise ranging from a football autographed by Drew Bledsoe to a vacation for life on Cape Cod. The event, which is open to the public, will be held at 7:30 p.m. on March 6 at the temple, 330 Park Ave., Cranston, R.I.

Channel 10's Jim Taricani will be the guest auctioneer. Admission, which includes refreshments, is \$9 in advance, \$10 at the door.

Items will be bid on during a silent auction, and later at a live auction. Included among the items that will be auctioned, besides the Drew Bledsoe football, is ownership of a time-share on Cape Cod that will entitle the winning bidder to a week's vacation on the Cape each year for life. Other items range from dinner or lunch at various restaurants with celebrities; gift certificates to various restaurants, salons and elsewhere; other trips; scenic boat rides; limousine rides; a number of special items; and much more.

In all, more than 100 items will be auctioned during an evening that should prove extremely entertaining.

B'nai B'rith Project H.O.P.E. Helps Feed Hungry

B'nai B'rith's New England Region will again hold its Project H.O.P.E. (Help Our People Everywhere) project to supply kosher food to needy Jewish families during Passover.

The nationwide volunteer program distributes packages of kosher for Passover food to homebound elderly, recent Russian immigrants and other needy families and individuals. This region services greater Boston.

The packages are delivered by volunteers from B'nai B'rith lodges, members of the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization and area Hillel Foundations and other friends of B'nai B'rith.

Contributions are being accepted for the Adopt-A-Family program. A donation of \$36 (double chai) will provide food for one family. Send checks to B'nai B'rith Project H.O.P.E., 34 Washington St., Brighton, Mass. 02135.

If you would like to help in delivering packages in your area on March 21 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., call the B'nai B'rith office at (617) 731-5290. Volunteers are also needed for assembling the packages on March 14.

Purim Celebration Will Be Held at Temple Am David

Get out your costumes. It's Purim Spiel! Get your act together and sign up now.

Following a "creative" reading of the Megillat Esther, we will enjoy skits, songs, poems, dances, games, a costume contest and a special Hamantashen Feast.

The date is March 1 at 5:45 p.m. Call now to reserve your spot. Call Rabbi Abrami at 463-6045 or Cantor Rosenfeld at 463-0245. We invite all volunteers to make themselves known to Rabbi Abrami and Cantor Rosenfeld.

Temple Am David is located at 40 Gardiner St., Warwick.

Save The Date... Purim Carnival

New Bedford USY's annual Purim Carnival will be held March 7 at Tifereth Israel Synagogue from noon to 3 p.m.

There are new and exciting booths and prizes. A Beanie Baby raffle will be held. There will be penny candy and delicious food. It's fun for the whole family. See you there!

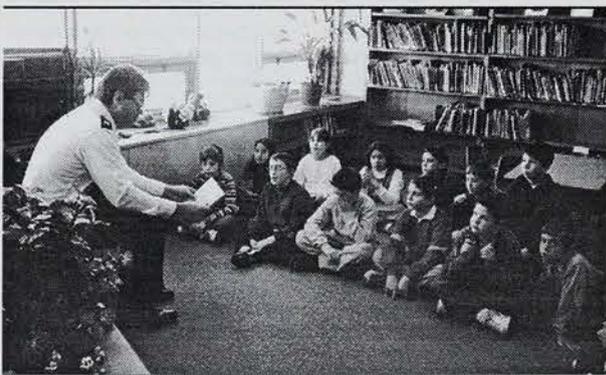
Hope High School To Hold 40th Reunion

Hope High School, Class of 1959 (January and June) will hold a 40-year reunion on Oct. 16. Members of the class of 1959 are requested to call Myra Schwartz Jerozal at 728-2764, Joyce Mooradian Yeremian at 354-8770 or e-mail <Sunshine985@juno.com> for details, or to provide information on other classmates. This is a first call, so please respond.

Celebrity Readers Visit the PHDS Library

The library at the Providence Hebrew Day School is the home of the school's "Celebrity Readers Series" established by Mary Ellen Coleman, the school librarian. Each year the school invites a variety of guests from the community to read a few stories to the children and relate some of their experiences to them. This year the library featured two such celebrities. Our first celebrity reader was Captain Robert Kells of the Providence Police Department. He read a detective story to grade four and then answered questions about his career and police work. The students were impressed when he told them he was in charge of security when Elvis came to Providence.

Our second reader was Col. Edmund Culhane, the head of the Rhode Island State Police, who read to the sixth grade. He read a "whodunit" and answered many, many questions from students and staff. This program is coordinated by Mary Ellen Coleman, the PHDS librarian.



CAPTIVE AUDIENCE — Captain Robert Kells, Providence Police Department, reads to PHDS students. Photo courtesy of PHDS

Prospective Adoptive Parents Invited to Informational Meetings

Adoption Options, the adoption program of Jewish Family Service, is now offering informational meetings about adoption for anyone interested in exploring the choices. The meetings will be held the first Wednesday of every month from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the offices of Jewish Family Service. The next meeting will be held on March 3.

The agency is located on the second floor of the United Way building at 229 Waterman St. in Providence. The meetings are free and open to anyone interested in pursuing an adoption. Call Adoption Options at 331-5437 for information or to arrange a confidential consultation.

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JEWISH COMMUNITY

New Board Book From UAHC Press Introduces Pre-Schoolers to Purim

Purim!, the new book for toddlers and pre-schoolers by critically acclaimed author/illustrator Camille Kress, has just been published by the UAHC Press. Through her vibrant watercolors and engaging prose, Kress captures the "light and gladness, happiness and honor" of Purim while explaining that it is a fun holiday celebrating when the Jewish people were saved.

Kress tells the story by showing children in a Purim play, with each illustration framed by a different stage and proscenium. At the end, when Esther and Mordecai prevail over the King and Haman, the children take off their play beards, spin groggers, and share hamentashen.

In addition to reading the text of *Purim!* aloud to children, parents and teachers can add to this learning experience by pointing out the Hebrew words in the illustrations as well as the familiar images of groggers, hamentashen, crowns, and the Star of David.

"Everything I do now is inspired by my children," explained Kress, who has changed the focus of her professional work since the birth of her children Caleb and Molly. "And if you look closely on the last page, you'll see that I hid the letters 'M' and 'C' for them to find."

Kress is currently at work on a board book about Passover for the UAHC Press; it's scheduled for release next year.

The UAHC Press is part of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the central body of Reform Judaism in North America, uniting 1.5 million Reform Jews in 880 synagogues. UAHC services include camps, music and book publishing, outreach to unaffiliated and intermarried Jews, and educational programs.

Items from the UAHC Press can be ordered toll free at (888) 489-UAHC or through the website at <http://www.uahcpress.com>.

McGuire, Sousa, Vaughn and Griffey, Jr. on the Same Team?

Can you just imagine? What a team! What a season it would be if the baseball team that you manage included such baseball greats as Mark McGuire, Sammy Sosa, Mo Vaughn and Ken Griffey, Jr. This spring it is possible with the first annual Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island Fantasy Baseball League.

If you have ever wanted to manage your own baseball team, this is finally your chance. Draft your own team, choose your line up, make trades and follow your team's progress throughout the season. Monthly prizes will be awarded a grand prize will go to the winning manager at the end of the season.

For more information, call Cory Diamond at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island at 861-8800. Registration begins March 1 and the deadline for entries is April 7. This season — you make the team.

The Fantasy Baseball League is just one of the great line-up of sports and fitness events and opportunities at the JCCRI. Other programs include our ever-growing fitness center (which just added another new EFX Cross Trainer), our 75-foot swimming pool (always maintained at the perfect temperature) and activities in the gym — pick-up basketball and volleyball and now adult indoor soccer (fast-paced and exciting) every Thursday night at 7:30 p.m.

Camp JORI to Introduce Changes at Its Day Camp

Starting this summer, says Camp JORI director, Ronni Guttin, day campers can expect some changes which are "designed to give them a greater feeling of belonging to the entire camp family." One major change will be to hire a day-camp coordinator to oversee the integration of the day camp into the daily program enjoyed by JORI's overnight campers. "It is important for us to integrate both groups of campers," explains Guttin, "because we believe both groups benefit from it."

Another change will be to require day campers to participate for a two-week session. "We've been offering one-week sessions since we added the day camp in 1992. Now with greater experience we see that for day campers to fully participate in the JORI camping experience, they need more time," says Guttin. The age requirements have also been altered. Day campers will have to be 6- to 9-years of age whereas formerly the day camp accepted children up to the age of 13.

Guttin emphasizes that the JORI day camp will retain the van which it first introduced last year. "JORI's day camp was founded to serve the needs of children in the Narragansett area. Once we added the van, it became possible to expand our offer of camping to children in Kent, Newport and South Counties. The JORI van makes it easier for parents. So we are definitely going to continue using it."

Following the most successful camping season in its history, Camp JORI is currently enhancing its facilities and programs in preparation for next summer. Day and overnight campers alike can look forward to a new infirmary, an improved tennis court facility and enhanced instruction in JORI sports programs.

For more information about Camp JORI, call 521-2655.



Every Shabbat is Special at JFS Kosher Mealsite in Cranston

Myron Winoker lights the candles and Gladys Ross stands ready to say the blessing at a recent Shabbat meal at the Jewish Family Service Kosher Mealsite in Cranston. Rabbi Mark S. Bloom began the program with song accompanied by guitar.

Along with a hot kosher meal every weekday, there are a variety of activities and entertainment throughout the month, including bingo, dance therapy, Tai Chi, Heart Healthy Menu lunches, visits from the Bureau of Jewish Education Bookmobile, birthday parties with cake and musical entertainment, exercise class, blood pressure screenings with the Registered Nurses from Jewish Family Service, and men's/women's discussion groups. Holidays and other special occasions are celebrated with appropriate foods and entertainment. Programs usually begin at 11 a.m. and a nutritious, hot kosher lunch is served at noon.

The JFS Kosher Mealsite in Cranston is located at Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave. Transportation is available every day for residents of Cranston and areas of Warwick. For reservations and information, call Mealsite Coordinator Ronda French at 781-1771.

Photo courtesy of Roberta Segal and Associates

From Generation to Generation: A Passover Mosaic

The Jewish Theological Seminary's Sunday Lehrhaus Institute will present "From Generation to Generation: A Passover Mosaic," on March 7 from noon to 5 p.m. A broad discussion of the traditional rituals of the Passover seder, the event will bring together JTS faculty, accomplished authors and influential Jewish leaders who will also explore modern approaches to the most popular festival on the Jewish calendar. Among these contemporary expressions are the increasingly popular feminist rituals.

The institute will feature a seder roundtable, several workshops led by JTS faculty and other community leaders and an afternoon session with contemporary Jewish writers, including Anne Roiphe. Finally, what would an examination of Pesach be without a mock seder?

The day will conclude with a sampling of Passover treats along with a sale of haggadot and other Pesach-related items.

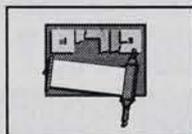
JTS's Franz Rosenzweig Lehrhaus is a unique forum for serious adult Jewish education that has spawned dozens of one-day institutes around the country, bringing JTS faculty to local communities for intensive study.

The cost to attend the Lehrhaus Institute is \$35 per person. Discounts for students and seniors are available. For information and reservations, call David Szonyi at (212) 870-3177.

The Jewish Theological Seminary, located at 3080 Broadway at 122nd St., is the spiritual and academic center of Conservative Judaism worldwide. Visit the JTS website at www.jtsa.edu.

PURIM IS THE TIME TO...

March 1 and March 2, 1999



LISTEN to the reading of the Megilla (Book of Esther) this year 1999 March 1 and again on March 2, thereby recounting and reliving in our own day the miracle of Purim.



SEND a gift of at least two kinds of prepared foods (pastry, fruit, beverage, etc) to at least one friend. (Each item of food should be at least one ounce or more, 3.5 ounces for liquids).



GIVE charity to two or more people. If you cannot find poor people, place at least two coins in the charity box. In the Megilla, this is called "Matonos L'evyonim".



EAT the festive Purim meal and rejoice in the Purim Spirit.

More Purim Information...

FAST OF ESTHER
The day before Purim we fast. This commemorates the day of prayer and fasting the Jews held before their victorious battle. It is also customary, before the mincha prayers on this day, to give 3 half-dollars to charity. This commemorates the yearly contribution by all Jews to the Holy Temple in the Hebrew month of Adar.

AL HANISSIM
Remember to add in the Amidah prayer, and also in the Grace After Meas, the special part for Purim, beginning with "Al Hanissim".

INVOLVE THE CHILDREN
As in all Mitzvos, encourage young children to fulfill the Purim Mitzvos. Boys and girls past Bar or Bat Mitzvah are obligated, as adults, in all Purim Mitzvos.

PURIM MITZVOS
The Purim Mitzvos (precepts) demonstrate the unity and togetherness of the Jewish people. The more charity and Purim presents one gives, the better.

Submitted by Rabbi Laufer of Chabad House, Providence

Rhoda's Judaica

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Beat the Winter Blues By Planning Your Spring Garden

Everything is coming up roses...and azaleas, and tulips, and daffodils...

by Kimberly Ann Orlandi
Herald Editor

Do you suffer from the mid-winter doldrums? Are you tired of wearing a winter coat and having to heat up your car in the morning before going to work? Then, turn your wintery thoughts to those of the warmth of spring! The Rhode Island weather of late has given us a sunny glimpse of what is yet to come—March 20 is the first day of Spring—but, until then, escape with thoughts of your beautiful garden of flowers, herbs and vegetables.

"People should use the winter months to plan their garden, what they'd like to plant, where and how much they're willing to spend—both in terms of money and time," said Marion Gold, of the University of Rhode Island Cooperative Extension Center, Kingston. "Some hearty plants may be planted in early spring [April] but the majority of heavy planting will begin Memorial Day Weekend."

Gold was recently on hand at the Rhode Island Convention Center for the Spring Flower & Garden Show answering horticultural questions and displaying the center's display "Landscaping By The Water's Edge," which won the American Horticultural Society Award. The theme of the display was to edu-

cate the public that there is a way to have a beautiful landscape without disturbing Mother Nature's natural surroundings—by using sustainable plants which thrive on minimum insecticides, pesticides, and fertilizers.

"The trend this year is landscaping for the environment," said Gold. "Using what is natural to the environment and enhancing it without altering it."

That seemed to be the underlying theme throughout all of the displays at this year's flower show—using what is indigenous to the environment without making drastic changes. That includes planting grass and those plants which don't require harmful insecticides as maintenance. The Rhode Island Wild Plant Society of Peace Dale featured a wonderful display, entitled "Why Mow?," winner of the People's Choice Award, which offered homeowners an alternative to the traditional green lawn. The display used native ground cover, ferns, and other plant life which require little or no water to survive. According to Gold, the gardening public has become more environmentally aware in recent years. "At least one-third of the gardening public," said Gold, "stays away from harmful chemicals, with the rest split between those who use it now and

then and those who depend upon it heavily." The URI Cooperative Extension assists those gardeners with answers to these and other questions concerning gardening—everything from "Why aren't my tomatoes growing 'to 'How do I rid my roses of insects?"

With the trends of landscaping leaning more towards being environmentally friendly, landscape design is also becoming less ornamental and more simplistic in design—using foliage, greens, waterfalls and small ponds where tropical plants and gold fish reside—in displays like those offered by Koi Villa and Ultimate Living of Foster and URI Cooperative Extension.

"The ponds are very popular this year," said Gold. "They offer landscaping which blends into the surroundings, but they are not low maintenance and they do attract mosquitoes." The tropical plants which thrive in the pond during the heat of summer have to be brought in during the winter months. Gold does say that the ponds are relatively easy to install if you have the time and artistic eye; she suggests using a small child's pool and digging it into the ground as a simple alternative to laying a plastic liner.

Also popular this spring is landscaping with nature's crea-



tures in mind—inviting humming birds, butterflies, and others of God's creatures into your garden. When attracting hummingbirds, for example, purchase flowers which excrete nectar and have a long, floral stem which they can insert their beaks into. Birds, in general, enjoy trees and bushes which provide both food and a nesting place. To introduce butterflies into the garden, there are several types of flowering trees and bushes available at the local garden center—but keep in mind you have to consider food and habitat for both the butterfly and their caterpillars. Generally, the Monarch butterfly is extremely attracted to milkweed.

When sitting down to plan your garden, it's a good idea to map out your yard or the area which will showcase your garden. Planting flowers, shrubs and trees in their correct place and in their proper climate will assure a beautiful garden. Rhode

Island may be the smallest state in terms of size, but what thrives in the soil of Lincoln may not survive in South County.

"The soil is different in every part of the state," said Gold. "We suggest taking a sample into us to be analyzed so you'll have a better idea of the plants you can purchase when you visit your garden center." For example, a cranberry bush enjoys a moist, acidic environment—so if you're soil is dry and non-acidic the plant will not survive. Winterberry and rosemary make a wonderful garden pairing, but again, know you're conditions. A bog rosemary survives best in a wet, acidic environment where as oregano, for example, grows best in dry warm conditions.

"The biggest challenge of gardening is knowing how to mix your palette," said Gold. "Talk with experts before planting—it will save both time and money."

It Was a Musical Reminiscent of a Time Gone By

by Kimberly Ann Orlandi
Herald Editor

Do you remember hanging out at the malt shop listening to "Yakety Yak" on the juke box? or cruising in your 1956 Ford Thunderbird with a pretty girl by your side and Ben E. King's smooth voice emanating from the radio singing "Stand By Me?" Those were just some of the memories which, for many, were relived during the opening night of "Smokey Joe's Cafe" at the Providence Performing Arts Center on Feb. 18.

The two-hour performance was a musical revue featuring the songs of Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller — songwriters who collaborated on some of the greatest music ever written and were privileged enough to have the biggest names in rock 'n' roll record their music, including a little known truck driver from Memphis, Tennessee, named Elvis Presley. Presley recorded "Jail house Rock," and "Hound Dog," two songs featured in "Smokey Joe's Cafe."

"Those songs belong to the King," quipped my date, reverently referring to Elvis. "No one else can sing them like the original."

"It's not about who sang them," I replied. "It's about the lyrics themselves." But as I pondered his observation a little more, I realized he was right. Performers like Elvis took the songs of Leiber and Stoller and made them their own. Only if you're an aficionado of music, as my date is, would you know

that Leiber and Stoller wrote the song.

The performance featured a cast of 12— 5 women and 7 men—the most outstanding of whom were four young gentlemen who could not only sing with the same intensity and passion as their original predecessors, but could move like The Temptations and glide like The Miracles.

T.C. Rogers, John Woodard III, Christopher Morgan and

Finley, another outstanding singer whose performance rivaled that of Aretha Franklin, belted out a version of "Kansas City" during the first act which got the audience—a mix of generations—grooving in their seats. Their male counterpart, however, left much to be desired in terms of his ability to compliment the female dynamic duo. Joey Matta's vocal range was too short and his accompaniment flat, especially during his version of "Jail house Rock." At times, you saw his mouth moving but wondered if anything was coming out.

Ashley Amber Haase was another part of the ensemble whose vocal abilities just didn't seem suited for such a powerful musical. She and Venise Eldridge, who, in her first national production, came out singing with the intensity and potency of a Broadway veteran, sang a rendition

of Leiber and Stoller's steamy and sexy "Trouble," which just wasn't suited for Haase's limited vocal ability. Even with amplification, Haase didn't seem to generate enough vocal power to fill the large theater. All in all, the performance was fun, exciting and well worth seeing—even for someone like myself who wasn't even born during the heyday of Leiber and Stoller,

their music proves to be timeless and ageless.

"There was no story to it," said my observant companion.

"It was a musical revue," I replied.

"I could have stayed home and listened to a CD of the music and that way it would have been sung by the originals."

"You're hopeless," I sighed and continued the drive home.



Kenneth Williams brought the house down with their soulful rendition of "Keep On Rollin'" (1961) and got the joint jumpin' with "Searchin'" (1957). This foursome was clearly the glue which held the otherwise flat ensemble together. But, one other performer proved you don't have to be big in stature to have a voice as full and electrifying as Judith Rose.

When Rose broke into "I Keep Forgettin'" (1962) the audience gazed in wonder that such a powerful voice was coming from such a petite woman. Her singing style closely resembled that of Bette Midler and even Janice Joplin, especially her performance of "Pearl's a Singer."

She, along with Francine

When Rodger Kamenetz chronicled a meeting with a group of rabbis and the Dalai Lama in India, he encountered the unexpected and his whole life changed.



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FEATURE

Jewish Chaplains Provide Passover Packages to U.S. Military Personnel

Mobility is the hallmark of today's Armed Forces. Yet, for significant numbers of Jewish military personnel on duty in Bosnia, the Mediterranean, and the Middle East, meeting their requirements for Passover this year will be a special challenge.

To meet that challenge, three Jewish chaplains — whose home bases are continents apart — will be deployed in these sensitive areas to conduct seders on land and sea. These chaplains are being provided ample quantities of Passover staples, and "Solo Seder Kits" shipped by the Jewish Welfare Board Jewish Chaplains Council. Chaplain Ben Romer, U.S. Army, whose home base is Heidelberg, Germany, will deploy to Bosnia; Chaplain Mitchell Schranz, U.S. Navy from Okinawa, will head for the Mediterranean, and Chaplain Joel D. Newman, U.S. Navy of San Diego Naval Base, will be serving troops aboard ships stationed in the Middle East.

"It is only because of the on-

going spirit of mutual concern and cooperation demonstrated by Jewish organizations representing all branches of Judaism — and the Jewish community at large — that it is possible for us to meet the needs of so many who serve our country both at home and abroad," said Rabbi Jacob J. Greenberg, chairman of the JWB Jewish Chaplains Council.

Along with the Hagaddah and Passover pamphlets, a variety of traditional Passover foods are being shipped around the world, including: chicken matzaball soup, matzahs, gefilte fish, tuna fish, macaroons, and matzahball mixes.

Thirty full-time active duty Jewish chaplains — including seven based overseas and one in Hawaii — supervise the distribution of these Passover supplies for U.S. military personnel. Six full-time Veterans Administration chaplains and one with HEW will serve

the needs of hospitalized veterans.

In the many locations where no Jewish chaplain is assigned, dedicated Jewish military lay leaders, certified by the JWB Jewish Chaplains Council, volunteer their energies to meet the Passover needs of Jewish personnel in their area.

In addition, many Jewish Community Centers near military bases plan to invite military personnel and their families to attend JCC Passover events. Active JCC Armed Services committees arrange home hospitality for Passover seders where possible.



Individuals can show their support for Jewish military personnel stationed around the world by helping to defray the cost of shipping the Solo Seder Kits. It costs \$12 to sponsor one Solo Seder Kit, and individuals can add a personalized note for a serviceman or woman that will be included with the parcel.

For further information about the work of the JWB Jewish Chaplain's Council, or to provide your support to its Passover project and Solo Seder Kits, contact Rabbi David Lapp, director, JWB Jewish Chaplains Council, 15 East 26th Street, New York, N.Y. 10010; (212) 532-4949, ext. 260; fax (212) 481-4174, e-mail: <info@jcca.org>. On the web site: <http://www.jcca.org>.

Israelis and Palestinians Work on Olive Branch

The olive branch, recognized internationally as a symbol of peace, has Palestinian and Israeli researchers working together. The two sides, known more for their conflicts, are cooperating in an effort to improve the yield of olive trees in both Israel and the Palestinian autonomous area.

The researchers have found that through the use of drip irrigation and fertilizers, it is possible not only to increase the yield of olives per tree but also to obtain a higher quality of oil than has been previously achieved.

Palestinians and Israelis working together on olive trees is a good example of the many cooperative efforts between the two groups which are ongoing under the auspices of The Hebrew University. Many of the programs offered at the university encourage diversity and the promotion of peace and understanding of other cultures.

The research is being conducted by Professor Ben-Ami Bravdo and Shimon Lavee of The Hebrew University Faculty of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Quality Sciences and a team headed by Professor Hassan Dweik at Al Quds University. The Palestinians carried out their research in Abu-Dis village olive groves on the out-

skirts of Jerusalem while The Hebrew University researchers have been experimenting the Dir Rafat Monastery groves near Kibbutz Tzora.

Laboratory tests of the fruit, the oil and the leaves of the experimental trees were evaluated at the Faculty of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Quality Sciences of the Hebrew University in Rehovot. The scientists developed special testing techniques for this purpose.

The research, supported by Belgian government funds, is continuing, with attempts to examine whether recycled waste water can be utilized to irrigate the experimental olive tree groves, using a drip irrigation system to be installed in the two groves.

The Hebrew University was founded by leading statesmen and scholars, including Chaim Weizmann, Sigmund Freud, Martin Buber and Albert Einstein. Its cornerstone was laid in 1918, and the university opened in 1925. The scholarship and research done at the university formed the basis for Israel's science, technology, medical systems, education, agriculture and economy. Today, more than 24,000 full-time students from Israel and more than 70 countries around the world attend classes at its four campuses.

Odyssey

(Continued from Page 3)

the conference with an illustrated lecture that described the travels of Portuguese Jewry.

Against images of the nation's stunning landscape complete with tiled buildings, wine grapes and rustic windmills, da Silva began to describe how Portugal's Jewish population had produced outstanding physicians and scientists before the Inquisition had spread from Spain to their country.

But after March 31, 1492, when King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain signed an edict expelling all Jews who had or would not convert to Catholicism, a wave of Spanish-Jewish refugees entered Portugal and raised the Jewish population to new heights that caused widespread discomfort. In 1497, Portugal's traditional Jewish community and its practices ended as King Manuel I forced the Jews to undergo baptisms or face imprisonment, torture and death.

By 1536, the Inquisition was underway in Portugal, and it produced vastly different reactions in the Jewish community that remained.

Some embraced Catholicism and became known as "New Christians," while others became the marranos or crypto-Jews who professed to be Catholic while practicing their Judaism in secret.

Because the Jewish sacred texts were outlawed, centuries of estrangement and isolation from their source rendered their faith a series of barely comprehended rituals and customs that countless numbers of people adhered to.

Speaker Robert Waxler, a

professor of English at U Mass/Dartmouth next described his experiences with such rituals in the Azores, where some Jews returned to start small communities in the 1800s.

In the Azores, Waxler explored a synagogue that is presently under restoration and also talked with the natives.

"I was in Sao Miguel, and the [Catholic] people were serving a special bread in connection with the Holy Ghost Festival," he recalled. "Perhaps through my imagination, it looked something like a Challah, and they were cutting it up and giving it out."

"When I asked what sort of decorations, they said that they had often seen Stars of David," he said.

Waxler also witnessed the careful washing of meat in a river, a ritual that struck him as reminiscent of *Kashruth*, and spoke to a woman who told him that her great grandmother had seen men praying together in a group of 10 or 15 that sounded to him like a minyan.

"I don't believe it's all just chance," he said. "I think that those who lived underground in the Azores between 1500 and 1800 tried to preserve some of their heritage."

Next, poet Ada Jill Schneider of Somerset, Mass., closed the program with a poem she had written for the occasion.

"How many of us, for fear of danger or betrayal, dare not explore our roots, nor venture to reveal secret seeds?" she read. "Cross-currents of cold-blooded political change submerged liberty... currents are designated by the direction towards which they are set."

The light will return. Spring will arrive.

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Passover is Approaching...

Chanukah begins March 31, 1999

The Rhode Island Jewish Herald will be publishing its annual Passover Greetings Issue on March 25, 1999

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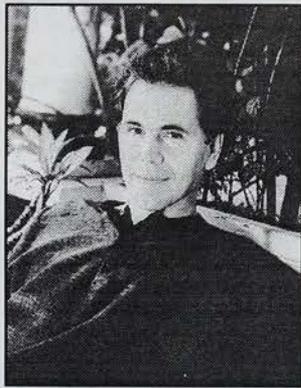
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Author Arthur Golden to Visit Providence Public Library

The author of the best-selling book *Memoirs of a Geisha*, Arthur Golden, will be appearing at the Providence Public Library on March 5 at 7 p.m.

Memoirs of a Geisha, which has spent 63 weeks (and counting) on the *New York Times* bestseller's list, is a brilliant debut novel told with seamless authenticity and exquisite lyricism as the true confessions of one of Japan's most celebrated geishas. The film rights to *Memoirs of a Geisha* has been recently sold to Stephen Spielberg and filming is set to begin in Japan early spring. *Memoirs of a Geisha* has just been released in paperback form.

Golden was born in Chattanooga, Tenn., and was educated at Harvard College, where he received a degree in history, specializing in Japanese art. In 1980 he earned an M.A. in Japanese history from Columbia University where he also learned Mandarin Chinese. Following a summer at Beijing University, he worked in Tokyo, and after returning to the United States, earned an M.A. in En-



Arthur Golden

glish from Boston University. He resides in Brookline, Mass., with his wife and children.

General admission tickets to the lecture are \$25. For preferred seating at the lecture, and admission to the private reception and book signing immediately following, tickets are \$50.

For more information, or to make reservations, contact the library's Special Events office at 455-8125.

'Falling Down Stairs' and 'The Argument' at The Wang Center

BankBoston Celebrity Series and The Wang Center for the Performing Arts, in association with Dance Umbrella, present the Mark Morris Dance Group and cellist Yo-Yo Ma in five performances at The Wang Theatre Feb. 25 to 28. Featured will be the Boston premiere of the much-heralded Morris and Ma collaborative work called "Falling Down Stairs" and the world premiere of Morris' new work "The Argument," with guest artist Mikhail Baryshnikov. Performance times are Thursday through Saturday evenings at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m., with a special one-hour family matinee of "Falling Down Stairs" on Feb. 27 at 2 p.m. A question-and-answer session with the artists will follow the family matinee. An opening night gala at The Wang Theatre on Feb. 25 will benefit the Celebrity Series, The Wang Center and Young Audiences of Massachusetts.

Yo-Yo Ma, in his quest to revisit Bach's Six Suites for Unaccompanied Cello with artists from six disciplines, selected Mark Morris to explore the cre-

ative process through interpretation of the Third Suite. The result is called "Falling Down Stairs" and it is the highlight of a series of films — one for each suite — entitled "Inspired by Bach," which premiered on PBS in 1998. "Falling Down Stairs" was choreographed for film in 1994 and had its stage premiere at Cal Performances in Berkeley, Calif., on March 6, 1997.

Mikhail Baryshnikov will be guest artist with the Mark Morris Dance Group in the world premiere of "The Argument," set to Robert Schumann's *Fünf Stücke im Volkston*. Baryshnikov and Morris have a distinguished history of collaboration including their co-founding in 1990 of the White Oak Dance Project. Also included on the program will be "Rhymes With Silver," a 13-part abundantly rich choreographic piece created by Morris in 1997 and set to a commissioned score by Lou Harrison for violin, viola, cello, percussion and piano. Yo-Yo Ma will play for each piece at all performances. Only "Falling Down Stairs" will be performed at the one-hour family matinee on Feb. 27 at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$65, \$60, \$55, and \$45 for the evening performances and Sunday matinee. Prices for the one-hour family matinee are \$40, \$35, \$30 and \$20. All tickets are available by calling TicketMaster at (617/508) 931-ARTS or at the Wang Theatre box office, 270 Tremont St., Boston.



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American Impressionists at the National Gallery of Art

by Marshall M. Cohen

The term "Impressionism" is almost automatically associated with the 19th-century French masters. The exhibition currently at the National Gallery of Art, "American Impressionism and Realism" generously loaned by Margaret and Raymond Horowitz, reminds us of the outstanding contributions of the American School of Impressionists. Included among the 49 works on loan to the gallery until May 9 are some of the best known American impressionists, including John Singer Sargeant, Robert Henri, George Bellows, Robert Blum, Maurice Prendergast, William Merritt Chase, and Childe Hassam. There are also the great figures in the impressionist and realist school who may not be household names — such as Hale Bunker, and Vonnoh — whose works are soulful renderings of the changing light and color on a variety of subjects favored by these "open air" artists.

Many of the American Impressionists gravitated to New England, and many works feature seascapes, portraits, and domestic scenes completed here. Bellows, one of America's finest portrait artists did two paintings of his wife, Emma, while summering in Middletown, R.I., in 1919. The public bathing beach in Revere, Mass., is the subject of a delicious watercolor by Maurice Prendergast. Prendergast, who moved to Boston in 1894, after living in Paris from 1891 to 1893, did about 25 watercolors of Revere Beach. John Twachtman captured the September sunshine falling on his farm in Greenwich, Conn., and a somber "Waterfront Scene — Gloucester" while Dennis Bunker offers the viewer a sen-



PAINTING AT THE National Gallery of Art in exhibit, "American Impressionism and Realism" Photo courtesy of Marshall H. Cohen

sitive sun-dappled view of his white cottage in Medfield, Mass. Other New England themes include a seascape by Theodore Robinson, "Low Tide Riverside Yacht Club," an 1894 oil composition influenced by Japanese art. J. Aldon Weir brings a rare, and poetic vision to an industrial subject, the "U.S. Thread Co. Mills" (1893 to 1897) along the Shetucket River in Willimantic, Conn. In contrast, there is an important oil painting by Frank Benson, showing his two daughters enjoying a sailboat race in Maine's Penobscot Bay.

Impressionism, in the late 19th and early 20th century was an international phenomenon, and nearly all the American Impressionists lived in Europe, studied in Paris, and well connected with the studios of Monet and Manet. A major retrospective of 113 works by Sargent will be at the National Gallery of Art from Feb. 21 until May 31. He was one of the world's greatest portraitists,

but also known for his genre scenes of Spain and Venice. Included in the Horowitz collection on view is Sargent's "Under the Willows" (1888) and "Gondoliers' Siesta" (1905). Sargent made many trips to the United States during his career and New Englanders may take pride in his biblical murals for the Boston Public Library.

One of my favorite works in the show is Everett Shinn's "Matinee, Outdoor Stage, Paris" (1902). It has elements of both Renoir and Lautrec, capturing the mood of a Parisian crowd enjoying a late summer evening theater. Although Shinn specialized in theatrical subjects, at one point in his career he was a member of the so-called "Ash Can School" along with Bellows, Glackens, and Robert Henri, the founder of the movement. This group of young artists were employed by the *Philadelphia Post* in the early 1920s and made rapid sketches of news events for the paper.

Schola Cantorum Sings Sacred Works by Josquin Desprez

The Schola Cantorum of Boston (Frederick Jodry, director) continues its 16th anniversary season with a program featuring sacred works by the great Renaissance master of polyphony, Josquin Desprez, on Feb. 28 at 4 p.m. at Grace Church, Westminster and Mathewson streets in Providence, R.I. Josquin Desprez, the most important composer of the early Renaissance, was famed for not only the beauty of his voice (for which he was supposedly kidnapped several times as a youth), but also for the elegance of his compositions. He was compared to Michelangelo: "Both one and the other have opened the eyes of all those who delight in these arts." Schola Cantorum has sung his music to great acclaim and will present not only the ethereal sounds of the "Missa Malheur me bat," but a selection of motets for men's voices.

Schola Cantorum, acclaimed for performances of a capella Renaissance sacred polyphony under founder/director Frederick Jodry, brings a vitality and elegance rarely achieved

in live performance to this spectacular repertoire. Schola Cantorum have been heard in distinguished concert series throughout New England. In collaboration with Joel Cohen and Boston Camerata, Schola Cantorum has performed at Tanglewood and Merkin Hall (New York). Together they have recorded Renaissance music

from Mexico and the New World, masterpieces of the French Baroque, and music from the American traditions of shape-note and Shaker music.

Admission to this concert is \$15 (\$7 for students/seniors); for further information on this concert or other Schola Cantorum performances this season, call 274-5073.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

'Bar Mitzvah: A Collaboration by David Mamet and Donald Sultan'

"Bar Mitzvah: A Collaboration by David Mamet and Donald Sultan," an exhibition of 20 original drawings by Donald Sultan and text by David Mamet from the new book, *Bar Mitzvah—Story by David Mamet, Drawings by Donald Sultan*, will be on view at The Jewish Museum from Feb. 14 to June 6. The book is being published in both a trade edition (Bullfinch Press/Little Brown and Company) and a fine arts edition (Marco Fine Arts) this spring.

In the rich tradition of artists' books, playwright David Mamet and artist Donald Sultan have collaborated on *Bar Mitzvah*, an enigmatic new work that explores themes of time and history, memory and meaning. On the eve of his bar mitzvah, a boy learns about life from an old man in whose hands an antique watch reveals something of man's relation to G-d. This brief tale, written in the cadences of the best Mamet dialogue, moves on a mysterious journey from the intricacies of watchmaking to Europe in the Holocaust, as the old man shares his understanding of life's struggles, the lessons of the past, and what it means to "be a good Jew."

Sultan's drawings, often using charcoal and golf leaf, provide a counterpoint to Mamet's story, with images of gilded clocks and elaborate timepieces yielding to blank watch faces, barbed wire, empty windows, and stark architectural renderings. About his drawings for *Bar Mitzvah*, Sultan wrote, "I chose gold for concrete reasons, and charcoal for symbolic reasons. Gold is the thread that binds together most of the drawings; their progression, a line leading the viewer from the age of the guilds to the modern day."

Mamet and Sultan, longtime friends and occasional collaborators, worked independently on *Bar Mitzvah*. Instead of creating literal illustrations for Mamet's text, Sultan made a series of drawings which present a separate but parallel story. "In his depiction of singular handmade creations, repetitive motifs, and objects of mass production, Sultan charts a stylistic and historical trajectory from the Baroque to the postmodern," said Fred Wasserman, director of curatorial administration, the Jewish Museum, and curator of the exhibition.

Bar Mitzvah's two "texts," one

in words and the other in images, present a vital dialogue between two significant artistic voices of our time.

Mamet is one of America's most highly acclaimed playwrights, screenwriters, and novelists. He received the Pulitzer Prize in drama in 1984 for his play "Glengarry Glen Ross." His latest novel is *The Old Religion*. Sultan is a major contemporary artist who has had solo exhibitions at New York's Museum of Modern Art and Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art. The authors previously collaborated on *Donald Sultan: Playing Cards and Warm and Cold*, a children's book.

The Jewish Museum is located at 1109 Fifth Ave. at 92nd Street, Manhattan. Museum hours are Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 11 a.m. to 5:45 p.m.; Tuesday, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.; closed Friday and Saturday. Museum admission is \$8 adults; \$5.50 students and senior citizens; free admission for children under 12. On Tuesday evenings from 5 to 8 p.m. admission is free for all. For general admission, the public may call (212) 423-3200, or visit The Jewish Museum's Web site at <www.thejewishmuseum.org>.

Audubon Offers Chance to Learn About Local Birding

On March 6 the Audubon Society of Rhode Island and the Rhode Island Ornithological Club offer a day of talks and slide programs to be held at the Rocky Hill School in East Greenwich. A registration fee of \$25 covers lunch, materials and program. For registration information, call Audubon headquarters at 949-5454.

The program of talks and slide presentations about birds in New England will begin at 8:30 a.m. and will include Robert Askins, professor of ecology at Connecticut College and spe-

cialist in migratory songbirds, and Trevor Lloyd-Evans, principle biologist for the Manomet Bird Observatory and researcher on birds that winter in Central America. Peter Paton, professor in Natural Resources Science at URI and Steven Reinert, birder and statistician from Barrington, will provide unique information from Rhode Island, as they present trends in bird migration from the 40-year banding record of Doug Kraus of Kingston and the long-

term Block Island record of Elise Lapham.

The program continues with pictorial closeups of rare and common birds seen in Little Compton, R.I., and Monhegan Island, Maine. In addition, local veteran naturalist Mike Tucker will lead a mid-day field walk on the grounds of Rocky Hill School at Potowomut Cove.

Kraus, retired professor of chemistry at the University of Rhode Island, has been banding birds through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service program, at his station in Kingston since the 1950s. Kraus has been active in the Audubon Society of Rhode Island since the 1930s and has served as an officer and board member for more than 20 years. He was one of the founders of the Rhode Island Ornithological Club.

Lapham has maintained a banding station on Block Island for 28 years during the breeding and migratory seasons. Her singular dedication has produced important information about the movement and feeding habits of songbirds migrating between New England and Latin America.



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JTNE Presents 'The Orphan Queen'

The Jewish Theatre of New England's 16th season continues with the spectacular new musical, "The Orphan Queen," running four weeks, beginning Feb. 25 to March 21. Blending the magic of theater with a rich contemporary score, "The Orphan Queen" is a wild carnival ride of excitement, intrigue and celebration. Tickets are \$25, \$23 for seniors and students. The JTNE is located at the Leventhal-Sidman Jewish Community Center, 333 Nahant St. in Newton Centre. For information and tickets, call the JTNE box office at (617) 965-5226.

The largest, most ambitious production ever undertaken by the JTNE, "The Orphan Queen" boasts over 20 outstanding performers singing, dancing and carousing as they dramatize a fascinating and surprisingly timely biblical story. The ancient Scroll of Esther, read every year during the Jewish holiday of Purim, is the take-off point of this remarkable play. The heroine is the every-woman Esther, a young girl who wins a beauty contest and is literally crowned Queen of Persia as the prize. Her new husband is the seemingly slow-witted King Ahashverosh, whose first appearance on stage is as a drunken reveler singing "Everybody Loves a Party."

The king falls prey to the evil machinations of the chief minister, Haman, who ultimately counsels him to exterminate all the Jews in his land. The king



Esther, Queen of Persia

agrees, not realizing that his beloved queen is herself a Jew. As the story unfolds Esther finds herself at a historic crossroad and bravely risks her own life to save her people.

Show dates are Thursdays, Feb. 25, March 4, 11, 18; Saturdays, Feb. 27, March 6, 13, 20; and Sundays, Feb. 28, March 7, 14, and 21.

Call the JCC box office at (617) 965-5226 for tickets and information.

YMCA Offers an Introduction to Yoga

The Pawtucket Family YMCA will offer a six-week Introduction to Yoga course for ages 16 and up starting the week of March 1. The class will be held on Mondays at 7 p.m. or Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.

There are many health benefits of yoga. Practicing yoga can help increase your strength and agility, tone your muscles and joints, improve your over-all health, gain a sense of calm as you let go of stress and bring balance, poise and self-confidence into your life.

The cost for one class per week is \$40 for full members, \$55 for activity members, \$70 for non-members and \$60 for senior citizens who are non-members.

Yoga's simple and relaxing techniques can help create a healthy body and a wonderful sense of well-being.

For more information on this class, or any other fitness class, contact fitness director, Sue Jack, at the Pawtucket Family YMCA, 20 Summer St., Pawtucket, R.I., 727-7900.

'Mill Girls' Commemorates Women's History Month

"Mill Girls," an original play by Rhode Island playwright, Eliza Anderson, was commissioned by the All Children's Theatre to commemorate Women's History Month. Directed by ACT artistic director and founder, Wrenn Goodrum, "Mill Girls" explores the importance of children (particularly young women) to the growth of the New England textile industry in the 1840s and the impact of working in the mills on the children's lives. Public performances are March 5, 6, 12 and 13 at 7 p.m. and March 7 and 14 at 2 p.m. at the Silver Spring Mill, 389 Charles St. in Providence. The building entrance is from outside stairway to the right of Anjoorian Oriental Rug Warehouse. Tickets are \$5 for children, \$8 for adults.

This project also includes 10 educational performances for students in grades five, six and seven from around the state. These educational performances, at 9:30 a.m. and noon on March 9, 11, 15, 17 and 18, are open to schools on a first come, first serve basis with schools providing transportation services to and from the Silver Spring Mill venue. Prior to the performance, participating schools will receive a study guide, which discusses all pertinent topics and provides important background information for students.

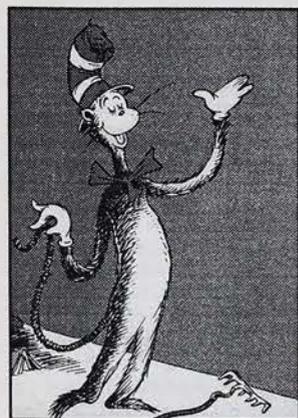
For reservations or more information, call 331-7174. Contact ACT by e-mail at <ACTinProv@aol.com>. Group rates and educational packages are available.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Happy Birthday, Dr. Suess

March 2 has special significance for millions of children nationwide — it is the birthday of the beloved children's author, Dr. Suess. This year, March 2 will mark a unique celebration of reading across the country — Read Across America. On that



day, and the days leading up to it, the National Education Association Rhode Island will join thousands of its local and state affiliates in calling for every child to be in the company of a book.

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

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

On Feb. 24, Gov. Lincoln Almond kicked off Read Across America at the State House. The Rhode Island House and Senate offered resolutions in support of

the event, and many officeholders donated children's books to be given away during a week-end celebration at Warwick Mall.

There, on Feb. 27 and 28, NEA Rhode Island will celebrate Read Across America on center stage. Children of all ages will be invited to hear Rhode Island's own celebrities read their favorite books, and pose with the Cat in the Hat for parents to take their photographs. Hours will be 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 2 to 4:30 p.m. on Feb. 27, and 1 to 4 p.m. on Feb. 28.

On March 2, the Cat will take to the road, visiting Hasbrouck Children's Hospital, Barnes & Noble Booksellers, and several area schools.

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

Have You Heard What's at The Met?

American Folk Art in The Metropolitan Museum of Art, March 2 to Sept. 5. (Paintings remain on view through Jan. 2, 2000) This exhibition of oil paintings, drawings, watercolors, and portrait miniatures presents the museum's distinguished collection of folk art, featuring works by Rufus Hathaway, Edward Hicks, Joshua Johnson, Ammi Phillips, and others working within naive and provincial traditions in the United States during the 18th and 19th centuries. The selection of works covers the full range of subject matter and themes delineated by these artists, including portraiture, landscapes, mourning scenes, and historical and religious works.

The Practice of Japanese Art: An August and Accomplished Heritage, March 2 to Jan. 30, 2000. Customs and crafts that underlie major forms, themes, and styles in Japanese art are the focus of this installation of Buddhist and decorative painting and calligraphy, along with ceramics, lacquers, metalwork, and woodblock prints. Works in the museum's collection are enhanced by selected loans, which include calligraphy by monks and aristocrats of the 8th to the 19th century, a newly discovered set of screens by Kano Sansetsu (1590-1651), and a rare work in Chinese style by

Maruyama Okyo (1733-95). A newly restored 17th-century scroll depicting an imperial funeral is shown for the first time since its acquisition in 1912. The annual exhibition of the 14th-century painting "Nirvana of the Buddha Sakyamuni" begins on Feb. 15, the anniversary of his death, and continues through May 1999. From Sept. 14, through Jan. 30, 2000, the exhibition continues in a second rotation that will display recent gifts to the collection.

Picasso: Painter and Sculptor in Clay, March 3 to June 6. Although Picasso is the most documented artist of our time, this is the first large-scale examination of his works in clay. Picasso's oeuvre in ceramic was considerable; he created several thousand pieces and each is unique. This exhibition includes 175 of these three-dimensional sculptures, mostly created from 1947 to 1962, whose subjects range from still lifes to bullfights and include a lively cast of characters — dancers and lovers, nudes, fauns, fish, and birds. The exhibition is made possible by the Iris & B. Gerald Cantor Foundation. The exhibition was organized by the Royal Academy of Arts, London. Accompanied by a catalogue.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1000 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y. Call (212) 570-3951.

Mandala Folk Dance Ensemble to Perform

The South County Center for the Arts will present Mandala Folk Dance Ensemble on Feb. 27. The performance is at 8 p.m. at the South Kingstown High School Auditorium in Wakefield.

Mandala is a Boston-based company of 30 dancers, singers and musicians who perform folk dance and music from 15 countries. Mandala's world tour takes audiences from the spiraling Chinese ribbon dance to the spectacular leaps and intricate footwork accompanied by rousing Russian melodies. Since their founding in 1965, they have been everywhere from Carnegie Hall to Jacob's Pillow, all to critical acclaim. Their annual weekend at Boston's John Hancock Hall is always a sellout.

Audience members can look forward to dances of the Calusarii of Romania, the bouncy steps of the drmes of northern Yugoslavia, the Scottish Highland Dance, the Spanish Jota, Rumba Flemeuca (complete with castanets) and Sevillanas, the Israeli hora, the Canadian clog and contra, Appalachian big circle dancing, and even the lively Charleston, Blackbottom and Shimmy from the American 1920s. These dances plus many more will all be performed with intricate choreography, elaborate costumes and authentic, live

music. Characterized by fans as a world tour, the performance promises to be a thrill for culture lovers of all ages.

As part of their presence in the South County community, members of Mandala will conduct two days of special workshops with students at South



Mandala Folk Dance Ensemble

Kingstown High School. This residency and performance is made possible, in part, by grants from Washington Trust Company, The New England Foundation for the Arts with additional support from the six New England State Arts Agencies and the National Endowment for the Arts as well as a grant from the Rhode Island State legislature. Admission to the perfor-

mance is \$15, senior citizens \$13, Arts Center members, 12; students and children \$7. Tickets can be purchased from the Arts Center by calling 782-1018.

They are also available at Wakefield Music and at Saywells, both on Main Street in Wakefield.

Now Playing — 'The Jew in the Lotus'

Perspectives is co-sponsoring the Avon Cinema's screening of Laurel Chiten's documentary film "The Jew in the Lotus." In 1990, when eight Jewish delegates traveled to Dharamsala, India, to meet with the Dalai Lama of Tibet and share the Jewish "secret of spiritual survival in exile," writer Rodger Kamenetz was invited to go along. As he watched this "dreamteam" of Jewish delegates share their secrets, Rodger began to feel the power of a spiritual tradition.

The *Jewish Advocate* writes: "Kamenetz's awakening in Chiten's film becomes a universal lesson about human validation as much as a poetic record of East-West understanding and Tibetan-Jewish dialogue..."

Many filmgoers may find direction for their own pilgrimages in this stirring film. Karen Silverstein's short film "Gefilte Fish," a light-hearted look at the different cooking methods of three generations of gefilte fish makers, will also be shown. If

you are in your 20s or 30s, join the Perspectives community for a screening of the film on Feb. 27 (R.S.V.P. by Feb. 26, so Perspectives can buy the tickets in advance). For more information, call Perspectives at 863-9357 or the Avon Cinema, 421-3315.

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OBITUARIES

BELLA ASKINS

COVENTRY — Bella Askins, 85, of the Coventry Health Center, died Feb. 15 at home. She was the wife of the late Isador Askins.

Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Hyman and Witchner Sherman, she had lived in Warwick for 15 years, moving to Coventry in 1993.

She leaves a daughter, Irene Askins of Warwick; a brother, Louis Sherman of Rancho Mirage, Calif.; and a sister, Ruth Gorman of Warwick.

A graveside funeral service was held Feb. 17 in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. The service was coordinated by Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence.

SELMA GOLDBERG

PROVIDENCE — Selma Goldberg, 80, of the Elmhurst Extended Care Facility, died Feb. 15 at home. She was the wife of the late Dr. A. Alfred Goldberg.

Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Max and Mary Blum, she lived in Pawtucket most of her life before returning to Providence in 1986.

She was a graduate of the Forsythe Dental School in Boston and worked as a dental hygienist in Providence for four years. She was a former member of Temple Emanu-El for many years.

She leaves two sons, Marshall Goldberg of Barrington and Robert A. Goldberg of Boston, and two grandchildren. She was the sister of the late Hannah Roy and Ira Blum.

The funeral service was held Feb. 16 in Mount Sinai Memorial

Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

MILDRED HORVITZ

FALL RIVER — Mildred Horvitz, 85, of the Fall River Jewish Home, died Feb. 17 at the home. She was the wife of the late Abram Horvitz.

Born in Woburn, Mass., a daughter of the late David and Ida (Ablow) Fine, she had lived in Fall River for the past two years, previously living in New Bedford.

She had been a bookkeeper for the former Empire Clothing Company of New Bedford. She was a member of Tifereth Israel Congregation for more than 50 years, and a member of its Senior Guild, New Bedford Jewish Convalescent Home and Hadassah.

She is survived by a son, Lewis Horvitz of South Easton; two sisters, Helen Bedrick of Boynton Beach, Fla., and Beatrice Bedrick of Columbia, Mo.; and two grandchildren. She was also the mother of the late Alan Horvitz, and sister of the late Dr. Jacob Fine and Esther Cullen.

Funeral services were held on Feb. 19 at Tifereth Israel Congregation, 145 Brownell Ave., New Bedford. Burial was in Plainville Cemetery, New Bedford. Arrangements were by Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

ISIDORE KIRSHENBAUM

SARASOTA, Fla. — Isidore Kirshenbaum, 87, of Sarasota, Fla., passed away Feb. 9.

Born in Providence, R.I., he

attended Northeastern University School of Law from 1929 to 1933. On Dec. 7, at age 22 he became the youngest attorney in Providence to be admitted to the Rhode Island Bar. He founded the law firm of Kirshenbaum and Kirshenbaum and practiced law in Rhode Island for 44 years before retiring to Sarasota in 1977. He, at that time, was appointed as a special master to handle reciprocal support cases. He heard cases on a gratis basis until he reentered private practice and was sworn in as a member of the Florida Bar in October of 1980. At the invitation of Northeastern University he filed an application with the United States Supreme Court for admittance and on May 23, 1988, he was sworn in as a member of the nation's highest court. He was a member of Temple Beth Israel of Longboat Key and a member of the temple's Men's Club.

He was the husband of the late Sylvia (Davis) Kirshenbaum. He is survived by his wife, Renate, of Sarasota; his children, Dr. Gerald Kirshenbaum and his wife, Joan, of Denver, Colo.; Barbara Shapiro and her husband, Herbert, of Chestnut Hill, Mass.; and his grandchildren, Susan and Steven Kirshenbaum, of Denver, Colo.

Interment was Feb. 11 at the Beth Shalom Cemetery in Sarasota, Fla.

SIDNEY S. LECHAN

FALL RIVER — Sidney S. Lechan, of 1000 Highland Ave., owner and director of Lechan and Associates Advertising Agency, died Feb. 15 after an illness. He was the husband of

Tobie (Kaufman) Lechan.

Born in Fall River, a son of the late Samuel and Fannie (Segal) Lechan, he was active in sales and management with several local radio stations.

He was a leader and neighborhood commissioner with the Boy Scouts of America, was a charter member of the Rotary Club of Somerset, a past master of Watuppa Lodge of Masons, 32nd degree mason and Scottish Rite. He was active in Azab Grotto Glee Club and a member of Crestwood Country Club.

Besides his wife, he leaves two daughters, Cheryl and Norma Jean Lechan, both of Fall River; two brothers, Dr. Harry and Dr. Leonard Lechan, both of Fall River; three grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

The funeral service was held Feb. 16 at Temple Bel El, High and Locust Streets. Interment was in the Hebrew Cemetery, McMahon Road. Arrangements were by Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

IDA L. LIPMAN

ROSLINDALE, Mass. — Ida L. Lipman, 88, of 1200 Centre St., Roslindale, Mass., died Feb. 18 at Beth Israel Hospital, Boston. She was the wife of David Lipman.

Born in New York City, a daughter of the late Isaac and Rose (Lefkowitz) Lipman, she had previously lived in New Bedford.

She was an intake clerk for the department of employment security in New Bedford before retiring in 1979.

She was a graduate of the Linyon School in New Bedford, a member of Tifereth Israel Congregation and its Sisterhood, Hadassah, Eastern Star and Jewish Senior Citizens of New Bedford.

Besides her husband, she is survived by two daughters; Gail Hootstein and husband, Alan, of Lexington, Mass.; and Deena Klayton and husband, Ronald, of Nashua, N.H.; three sisters, Gertrude Nevins, Kate Hurwitz and Florence Katz, all of New

Bedford; three grandchildren and one great grandchild. She was also the sister of the late Samuel Lipman and Eva Meyers.

Funeral services were held on Feb. 19 at Tifereth Israel Congregation, 145 Brownell Ave., New Bedford. Arrangements were by Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

SAMUEL M. SHLEVIN

PAWTUCKET — Samuel M. Shlevin, 81, of 224 Raleigh Ave., the owner, president and treasurer of the former Presco's Department Store until 1977, died Feb. 17 at the Oak Hill Rehabilitation Center. He was the husband of Irene F. (Labush) Shlevin.

Born in Central Falls, a son of the late David and Frances (Buckler) Shlevin, he lived in Pawtucket for most of his life. He was an Army veteran of World War II. After retiring, he became executive director of the Providence Hebrew Day School.

He was a member of B'nai B'rith, and founder of Henry Friedman Lodge 899, serving as past president and president emeritus, and was past president of the Central New England Council.

He chaired the Blackstone Valley Cancer Society, and was the first chairman of the Pawtucket Community Action Program. He was chairman of the Downtown Pawtucket Merchants Association, and served on the boards of the YMCA, the Jewish Family Service, and Scouting. He was vice president of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island from 1970 to 1977, chairman of the Pawtucket Board of Appeals and Zoning, and past president of the Hebrew Free Loan Association of Providence, and served as honorary president.

He received many awards, including the Jefferson Award in 1982, the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce Community Recognition Award in 1983, and the Rhode Island Jew-

(Continued on Page 15)

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The Smith Family Tradition

The Smith name has been known and respected by Jewish families for many years. Rev. Meyer E. Smith was Rhode Island's revered mohel for generations. Cantor Jacob "Jack" Smith prepared countless children for Bar and Bat Mitzvah and later sang at their weddings. As Executive Director of the Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, Michael Smith for many years assisted hundreds of Jewish families in their times of need.

Now, in the true spirit of his late grandfather and father, Michael Smith renews his dedication to the Smith Family tradition of service to the Jewish Community. Those personal services again are available to the area's Jewish Community exclusively at his own new Chapel . . .



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Obits

(Continued from Page 14)

ish Man of the Year Award. He was a member of the Kiwanis Club, Redwood Lodge of Masonry, Temple Emanu-El and its Men's Club, and various veterans groups.

Besides his wife, he leaves two sons, Harold H. Shlevin of Atlanta, and Arthur Shlevin of Pawtucket; a daughter, Karen Fink of Providence; two sisters, Rose Cohen of Pawtucket and Charlotte Weinbaum of Cranston; and three grandchildren.

The funeral service was held in Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence. Burial was Feb. 21 in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

NELLIE SILVERMAN

PROVIDENCE — Nellie Silverman, 88, of the Charlesgate Nursing Home, a bookkeeper for Silverman Brothers Mfg. Co., a jewelry manufacturer, for 30 years, retiring 20 years ago, died Feb. 20 at the nursing home.

A lifelong resident of Providence, she was a daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Sigmund Silverman.

She attended Brown University, and was a member of the Congregation Shaare Zedek and its Sisterhood.

She leaves a brother, David Silverman of Framingham, Mass.

A graveside funeral service was held Feb. 21 in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. Arrangements were by Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

MAURICE STERNBACH

BOCA RATON, Fla. — Maurice Sternbach, 87, of Del Ray Beach, Fla., formerly of Providence and West Warwick, the proprietor of the former Sternbach's Inc., retiring in 1986, died Feb. 20 in Boca Raton, Fla.

He is survived by his Florence (Buchwald) Sternbach.

Born in New York City, a son of the late Abraham and Minnie (Markel) Sternbach, he had lived in Providence and West Warwick until he moved to Florida in 1993.

He was a founder and past president of the former Congregation Ahavath Achim of West Warwick. He was a member of Congregation Shaare Zedek Sons of Abraham and a supporter of the Providence Hebrew Day School.

Besides his wife, Florence, he leaves three daughters, Hinda Hoffman of Jerusalem, Dina Berger of Westport, Conn., and Marna Sternbach of Philadelphia, Pa.; a sister, Florence Fattersak of Warwick; nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. He was the brother of the late Raymond, Harold and Marvin Sternbach.

The funeral service was held Feb. 22 in Lincoln Park Cemetery, 1496 Post Road, Warwick. Arrangements were by Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence.

Change of Life

(Continued from Page 4)

nates. This method is ultimately what psychotherapy has in mind, to enable us to focus on our feelings to change our behavior and unproductive thoughts.

Jewish healing begins with *T'shuvah*, a Hebrew word with a dual meaning. It translates in English as repentance suggesting that we did something wrongful or hurtful and vow not to do it again. It's like making a New Year's resolution, which as we all know from our own experience how quickly we tire of the resolve. This kind of repentance doesn't work because the cause of the wrongdoing is hidden or repressed in our psyches. It's another way of saying, "We are emotionally compelled to do it again. The other side of *T'shuvah* is closer to the Hebrew meaning of turning from our concern with outer existence (money, possessions, people) to depths of our inner world of feeling and spirit. Outside is illusion; inside is reality. The deeper you go in the more real it gets.

Judaism has everything we need for our emotional and spiri-

tual development. This may sound strange in a world dominated by scientific evidence, yet our tradition has kept us alive and well throughout the millennia. This is not to discredit doctors and therapists, but a plea to take responsibility, shifting the accountability from the professional to ourselves; tacitly implied in the Torah. It takes determination to enter into a serious and genuine Jewish spiritual practice. This cannot be a mediocre obligation to *mitzvot*, believing we are doing G-d's will; it must be a spirituality that focuses inward directing the power of Torah and the meaning of prayer inward and upwards towards Heaven. The Talmud calls it "directing the heart"; call it study and prayer from the right side of the brain.

Velvel "Wally" Spiegler lives in Rehoboth, Mass. He is a Certified Polarity Therapist and a student and teacher of Jewish Mysticism whose primary interest is in Jewish approaches to the healing of mind, body, and spirit. He can be reached for comments or questions by calling (508) 252-4302 or e-mail to <DSpieg5411@aol.com>.

Modern Orthodox

(Continued from Page 1)

institutions, like the Orthodox Union and Rabbinical Council of America, and a growing number of their constituents, have withdrawn from such endeavors on national and local levels.

It has left those who remain committed to such cooperation feeling isolated.

Sonnenschein sits down monthly with one Reform and two Conservative rabbis in Springfield for a regular dialogue. He said he is the only one of three Orthodox rabbis in town willing to do so.

Out of those meetings, he said, has emerged a plan to jointly promote "Shabbat Across America," a March 12 program of the National Jewish Outreach Project, and to conclude it with a joint *Havdalah* service at the local Jewish Community Center.

"Being at a conference like this helps me to not shy away from doing things like this," Sonnenschein said. "I came to network with other communities and see what they're doing."

The feeling of delegitimization is played out not only on the institutional and leadership level, said some of those attending the conference, but also in a personal way.

Dassi Rutman, one of about 200 university students who attended the conference, said she came from Ontario, Canada, hoping that she would "feel more secure with my identity" as a modern Orthodox Jew.

"I'm modern Orthodox, but I

feel the pressures from people around me, friends who are moving to the right," said Rutman, who studies biology at York University and says she is one of the only people in her community who wears pants.

"It's hard keeping your ideals when people around you feel it's wrong," she said.

In his keynote address kicking off the conference, Berman, Edah's director, said that modern Orthodoxy is a religious path defined by "maximum integration with society" whose adherents "simultaneously affirm a passionate total commitment to *halacha*," or Jewish law.

"We have chosen the more difficult path" than those on the right-wing side of Orthodoxy, who choose "maximum withdrawal and maximum isolation" from general society, he said.

But it is in the dialectic between two seemingly antagonistic value systems that modern Orthodoxy can make a contribution to both personal and communal life, he said.

The unique role of the modern Orthodox is that they are religious Jews who view working in the world as a positive religious value.

"Being engaged in building and in healing, in manufacturing and in helping, in raising children and in mediating conflicts, is a vital aspect of fulfillment of the *mitzvah* of *Imitatio Dei*," or acting in the way G-d wants, he said.

"We have a message to bring to American society — that in work there can be holiness. If you bring the right *kavanah* (intent), we can transform the mundane into the sacred."

"We need to invite all of Jewry to join with us in this quest for holiness in the secular world," he said, as his listeners stood in an ovation.

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Shalom

(Continued from Page 3)

Smith is also well aware that his establishment, which he operates privately and independently with his wife, is entering a rapidly changing industry that is becoming increasingly dominated by large corporations even within Rhode Island's small Jewish circles.

In 1998, the Sugarman family sold their Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel to Service Corporation International, the world's largest funeral chain.

Although staff members at

Max Sugarman confirmed that the business is still owned by longtime proprietor Lewis Bosler, the *Providence Journal Bulletin* has reported that SCI is attempting to acquire it.

"I know that it's unusual to open an independent funeral home today because of the way that corporations are taking over the business," Smith said. "Still, I believe that families feel more comfortable working with someone that they know."

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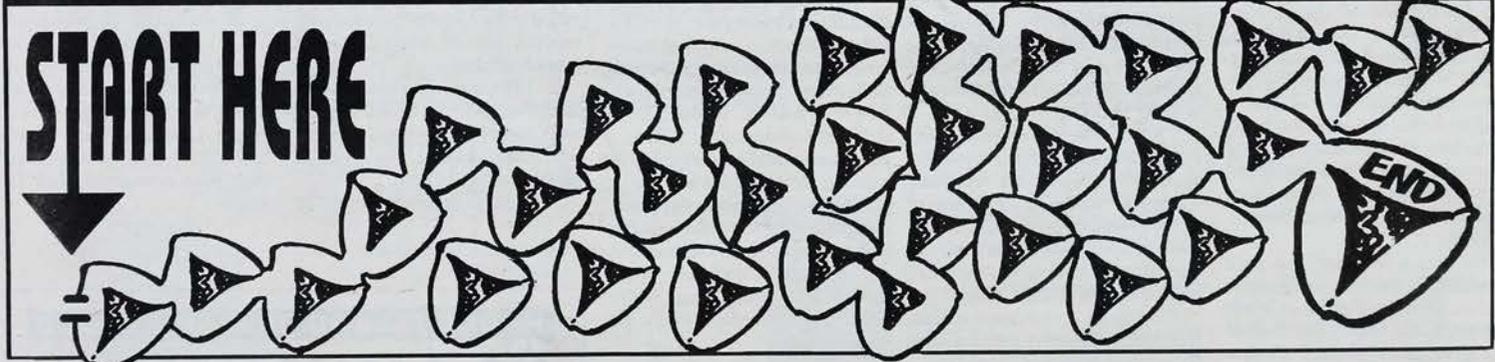
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