

The men and women who get to spend their days at the Adult Day Center discover their artistic side. The Center, in Providence, is run by the Jewish Seniors Agency for adults who should not be alone during the day. A variety of programs stimulate their minds and bodies, and may include health monitoring and personal care. To find out more about this service for elderly people, See page 3

Ethiopians in Israel are the focus of several JDC programs, and a couple from Warwick visited three Ethiopian communities in Israel and another in Addis Ababa.

See pages 7, 10,11

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**In Business** for 105 years, CJ Fox moves forward under the team of Bob and Josh Starr, and Jill Fox Tobak, the 3rd and 4th generations in the family company, who are mixing the tried and true with the latest technology.  
See page 3



**The Jewish Voice of RI**

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# Briefly . . .

briefs are compiled by the editor largely from dispatches from the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.



Supplies are being loaded from plane to truck at Caracas airport. The boxes were marked "from the people of Israel to the people of Venezuela," and were sent in the aftermath of recent floods.

To contribute to Venezuelan Relief write a check to JDC with note on memo line, Mail to: JDC • 711 3rd Ave. • NY, NY 10017.

## ~~CORRECTION~~

The January feature story on **Union Industries** noted that Haskell Frank and his brother together ran the business founded by their father, Moses. The brother's name was Casper Frank. He died at

age 54, and Haskell assumed the business.

The **Jewish Community Center** asked to clarify its change in income as reported in the January Voice. On page 28, the article said that in the early 90s, the base grant from the United Way dropped to \$106,000. In fact, it dropped by \$106,000 — from \$331,000 to \$225,000. Donor designation amounting to \$40,000 then brought the income from United Way to \$265,000, a loss of \$66,000.

By 1999, the total funds from United Way had diminished further to \$240,000. Combined with the \$337,000 allocated by the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, the Center received funds from the two sources totaling \$577,000 for FY 2000.

While that is more than the JCC received in 1986, Executive Director Vivian Wiseman says the Center suffers a loss in purchasing power when the grant income is factored for inflation.

## Holocaust Updates

### Museum founder relinquishes chair

WASHINGTON, DC — Miles Lerman, chair of the US Holocaust Memorial Museum these last six years and a driving force behind its creation, has stepped down five months after an independent report to Congress criticized him for interfering too much in the day-to-day operations of the Museum.

Lerman, nearly 80, said he will remain on the 55-member board, adding "This museum is my life." Lerman, who was born in Poland, was captured by the Nazis and imprisoned in a slave labor camp. In 1942, he escaped and formed a resistance group that spent the next two years fighting the Nazis in the forests of southeastern Poland.

Representative Ralph Regula, whose committee ordered the scrutiny, praised Lerman's service and said, "Without him there wouldn't be a museum."

### Where's Wallenberg?

Is now a good time to pressure the Russian government to resolve the longtime mystery of Raoul Wallenberg's disappearance during World War II?

The American Jewish Committee thinks so. William Korey, author of the AJCommittee-published, "The Wallenberg Mystery: Fifty-five Years Later," said that because Wallenberg was an employee of the United States at the time he vanished, America has a

"responsibility" to find out his fate.

Wallenberg, a Swedish diplomat employed by the US War Refugee Board, saved thousands of Hungarian Jews from the Nazis. He was last seen being taken into custody by the Soviet Union on January 17, 1945. It is possible that Wallenberg, then age 32, is still alive, but most believe he is dead. Why hasn't his fate been resolved? David Harris, head of the AJCommittee, commented, "This is not about nuclear weapons. It's about the fate of one man, but not just any man."

## National Notes

### Arab blasts Anti-Jewish cartoon

LOS ANGELES — James Zogby, who heads the Arab American Institute in Washington, DC, condemned an anti-Jewish cartoon that appeared alongside an essay of his in the official Palestinian Authority newspaper.

Appearing on December 28 in the daily Al-Hayat Al-Jadida, it depicted an old man, labeled "20th Century," and a young man, labeled "21st Century," and between them a short Jew with a hooked nose, skullcap and Star of David, labeled "The disease of the century."

Zogby wrote the editor, "Since such anti-semitic cartoons are harmful both to the Jewish people and also to the Palestinian and Arab people, I urge you to refrain from including such material in your paper in the future."

### Murder suspects admits arsons

LOS ANGELES — A man

charged with killing a gay couple in California has admitted to planning the arson attacks on three northern California synagogues last summer and to personally torching the largest one.

Benjamin Matthew Williams, 31, told reporters during a jailhouse interview that as many as eight other white supremacists joined in the June 18 arson spree in the Sacramento area.

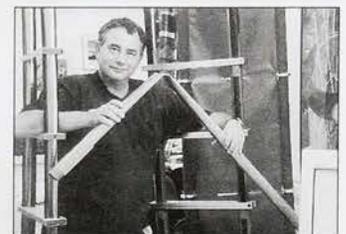
Williams told two reporters from the Sacramento Bee that the "success" of the firebombings emboldened him to slay the gay couple two weeks later in what he termed "homicides."

The arson spree evidently was some kind of initiation into a racist organization, which Williams refused to identify. He said that to "get into the organization you had to get involved in a group activity to do something of significance for the movement." He said he personally assembled the gasoline and oil firebombs, which he described as "Jewish cocktails." He personally set the library ablaze at Congregation

## Israeli Items

### Really going from strength to strength!

JERUSALEM — The Entrepreneurial Incubator at Israel's Technion University has developed Flexibeam, a mixture of rubber-like synthetic



materials, metals and metal composites that is ideal for paramedics' stretchers because it is collapsible, lightweight (only 8lbs) and yet strong enough to hold the weight of three or four grown men.

Because every mechanical structure is based on support beams, Flexibeam has very wide application for such items as firemen's ladders, folding beds, shelving, pergolas, oars, tents, yacht stanchions, scaffolding, antennae, electric poles, traffic signs, even solar panels.

The process "glues" fibers of glass, carbon or synthetic material into a frame or matrix of ceramic, metal or polymer. The result: tough, lightweight materials, far stronger than concrete or steel, able to sustain heavy structures, and to survive under extreme conditions.

### Inside . . .

Agencies	21-22	Federation	14	National	13
Briefly	2	International	9-11	Opinions	4-5
Community	15-17	Israel	6-7	Religious News	18-20
Cultural Arts	28	Holocaust	12	Seniors	29-31
Education	23-26	Medical Arts	27		

### Special Features

In Business		Synagogue Spotlight	
Labeling CJ Fox	3	Sturdy Little Shul	19
As we grow older		Ethiopian dilemma	
Give it up!	31	Perplexing	7, 10, 11

**SPARKS! 32**

# From pet rocks to designer pens, jewelry tags to glitzy labels, it's all in the packaging

by Jane S. Sprague

That long, lean red fox that winks at you as you drive south on Interstate 95, just across from the Providence Civic Center, is a lively representation of the family that runs a thriving business behind those old brick walls. For the second and third generation descendants of C. Joseph Fox are clever in just the right way—clever as in creative, as in customer-oriented, as in resourceful.

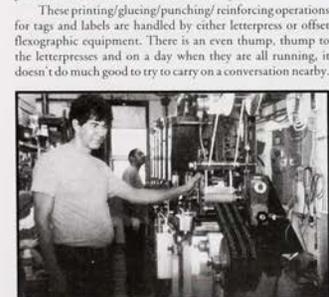
Every day that Jill Tobek, Bob Starr and his son, Josh, come to work at CJ Fox Company is a day in which they expect to meet the challenge of solving someone's problem.

But the kinds of problems they solve don't call for couches. These are the problems of people who create wealth, who take raw materials and turn them into products that you buy. To get your attention, and to deliver their products unscathed, entrepreneurs turn to the CJ Fox Company to manufacture their carefully designed packaging.

This kind of behind-the-scenes work has been going on at CJ Fox since its founding when the first "CJ," a German immigrant, probably named Fuchs, made his way from Virginia to Rhode Island and decided to make the tiny price tags that hang from jewelry. You know, those tiny white tags that in some stores have \$1.50 on them and in others are turned over, in locked cases, because if you have to ask what's written on the tag, you can't afford it.

Well, 105 years later, CJ's granddaughter and company vice president, Jill Tobek, stands beside a press, not the original one, that still cuts out and strings those white tags. Further down the room, another machine is adding wire ties to a red cardstock tag for someone's repair shop. On shelves behind the team running that stringer, are rows of spindles wound with colorful string that can dress up what might otherwise seem a bland form. Elsewhere in the building, a complex press is printing and marrying each layer of a small NCR form that will fit on a wider card stock, also printed, which will have a hole punched and reinforced before it is strung.

These printing/gluing/punching/reinforcing operations for tags and labels are handled by either letterpress or offset flexographic equipment. There is an even thump, thump to the letterpresses and on a day when they are all running, it doesn't do much good to try to carry on a conversation nearby.



These pressmen run thousands of glossy black tags, printed three up, on the smoothly flowing, quiet Flexographic presses.



Company founder C. Joseph Fox.

This is the fifth in a series The Voice is running during this publishing cycle on multi-generational, Jewish family-owned businesses in the Rhode Island area

The Flexographics, on the other hand, swoosh through their work, barely vibrating. Even on the floor below, one hardly notices their hum.

These two different kinds of equipment are symbolic of the philosophy of CJ Fox Company—hold on to what works well and efficiently (no change for the sake of change), whether that's equipment, products or customers—but get the latest and best when that's essential to stay competitive.

That is exactly what will be happening this month as a new, multi-million dollar Heidelberg, six-color press comes in to replace a 5-color web press that is merely 27 years old, but that simply is no longer as flexible or as fast as the company needs it if it is to meet customer demand.

This press and several smaller ones produce the complex boxes that feature sophisticated graphics designed to draw you to the product and make you want it. They turn out the bright and enticing counter cards and displays that hold product, putting it in your arm's reach.

"It is great fun to walk through a store and see our work



The ever-smiling Jill Tobek, vice president of CJ Fox Company, Inc. handles one of the firm's "bread and butter" products, the small white tags used profusely by jewelry retailers. They were the first item produced 105 years ago by her grandfather, C. Joseph Fox.

on display," Tobek says with her perpetual big smile. "Once you start doing this, you never shop the same way again. You are analyzing packaging."

Analyzing how to get something done is integral to the company's creativity. Bob Starr, who has been president of the company for 15 or 16 years (he can't remember which) is seeing us just two days before he heads to Australia to meet his wife, Joyce Fox Starr, for a nice, long vacation. His is a working office—papers piled and scattered, product boards leaning against a wall, every surface covered.

"This took us 10 months to create," he says as he nods toward a zesty sheet fresh off the press. "A long-time customer was developing a new product and wanted the packaging to be just so. We would design a box, and then their graphic designers would put the look to it. We went back and forth several times before we hit on just what they wanted," he explained. "Most jobs don't take so long."

Long or short, high volume or low, CJ Fox certainly must satisfy their customers. Some are familiar names: Apex, Cross, Quill, Citizen's Watch, Bulova, Spidell, GE. "Ninety percent of our business," Starr says, "comes from repeat customers."

Although some on the sales force are in direct sales, out seeking customers in the New England area, the bulk of the business turn to page 16

## A "favor" for seniors — the Adult Day Center

by Jane S. Sprague

For 25 years, Sharon Rice has been helping frail elderly members of the community stay in their own homes as long as possible.

As Director of the Adult Day Center, the only such facility in Providence and managed by the Jewish Seniors Agency (JSA, formerly The Home Corporation), Rice says that she and her staff extend the ability of families to help their elderly members live at home by five or six years, occasionally longer. One client has been coming for eight or nine years.

Suzette Rabinowitz, the executive director of JSA, is a strong advocate of adult day care, having depended on it for her late mother. "We would not have been able to maintain my mother's quality of life and her dignity for six years without day care," she says.

"Many people think they are doing their elderly family members a favor by arranging for a caretaker to come to their homes," Rabinowitz said. "They are not. Giving them the stimulation that a day care program provides is apt to prolong their lives and greatly enhance the quality of their lives."

"Surveys find that trips to emergency rooms and 'urgency' calls are considerably lower among frail seniors in day care programs," she added.

The Adult Day Center is on the lower level of 229 Waterman Street in cheerful rooms, brightly lit by large windows and good interior lighting. This is not a mere baby-sitting service by any means, even though a good percentage of

the clients are in early stage Alzheimer or dementia. Others have no significant mental problems, but may be frail or handicapped from stroke, arthritis or other causes.

The exercise programs helps with physical rehabilitation and cognitive acuity, the kosher meals and snacks ensure balanced nutrition, the hygiene plan promotes cleanliness and the Registered Nurses' attention helps prevent health crises by monitoring blood pressure, depression and other nuances of mental and physical health.

Rice says that age-appropriate formal and informal exercise is part of the daily routine, with a heavy focus on therapeutic work, especially important now that Medicare has cut short the time patients may reside in hospitals and rehabilitation facilities.

The Day Center's "protocols" are designed by the state's only board-certified, geriatric physical therapist and then implemented by her assistant, all done in consultation with each client's physician. The weekly Tai Chi sessions add physical and mental concentration to the overall program.

The weight-lifting is done in collaboration with the Jewish Community Center's movement therapist. Rice describes it as a holistic program that combines music and movement. "It gets people talking and relating to each other, too," she emphasizes.

Client Phil Watts, who has rolled his wheel chair to the library to see Rice, says the therapist "Works this crowd really. Please turn to page 29



## Letters

### Free Vanunu

Recently, Ran Cohen, Israel's Industry and Trade minister, said, "A great disgrace has been wiped from our face." Cohen's reference was to the dismantling of the shrine in Qiryat Arba on the West Bank to mass-murderer Baruch Goldstein. It is to the credit of the government of Israel that this so-called shrine to the murderer of 29 Muslims was eliminated. Unfortunately, a miscarriage of justice of parallel proportions still exists in Israel with the continued imprisonment of Mordechai Vanunu, a former Israel nuclear industry worker who has been jailed in Israel for 13 years, 11 of those years in solitary confinement.

Vanunu blew the whistle on Israel's nuclear weapon's industry that has an estimated 200 nuclear weapons in its arsenal. Vanunu's single crime was to tell the world that the country, founded in the shadow of the Holocaust, was producing doomsday weapons. He gave away no secrets of the workings of Israel's nuclear facilities. Yet, he has been held in conditions that Amnesty International has called "cruel, inhuman and degrading."

It is time for Israel to free Vanunu, and use the example of his case to reflect upon the production of weapons of mass destruction. Israel has an absolute right to self-defense, but that right does not include the readiness to use nuclear weapons, a "right" that Hiroshima, Nagasaki and the Holocaust have already rendered indefensible.

Howard Lisnoff  
Narragansett

### Light a candle

On a gloomy winter's day, I attended a Service of Worship and Thanksgiving for the Life of Martha Sharp Cogan at Manning Chapel, Brown University. Upon entering the chapel, I was offered a candle that at the conclusion of the service was lit as a soloist sang these words.

*Light a candle for the child who sleeps  
in the cold.*

*Light a candle; let our heart's com-  
passion unfold.*

*A light will make the darkness seem  
easier to bear.*

*Light a candle for the hope that we  
share.*

These words were symbolic of the kind of life this woman led. Her life began as a privileged person fulfilling the role assigned her in life by attending the best schools, marrying a minister and raising a family. This remarkable woman then took a dramatic turn off the beaten path.

She followed her conscience in leaving behind her comfortable life to embark on a rescue mission of saving children from Hitler's death camps. After accomplishing what others said was impossible, she went even further. She then worked closely with Hadassah to place lost children in Jewish Palestine. In doing so, Martha became a role model for Christians and Jews to work together to achieve common humanitarian goals.

One might be tempted to wonder why this woman of privilege risked her own life to save children of a different faith and then devoted

so much time in finding homes for them.

I listened closely as her children, grandchildren and friends offered examples of Martha being the kind, giving person who made the world a better place in her quiet yet purposeful ways. There was no definite answer as to why she chose to become a heroine. Perhaps it's just as well.

Life and death are full of mysteries that will never be solved. Instead each of us must search for our own paths of inspiration to bring meaning into our lives and hopefully leave behind a light for others to remember us by.

Cindy Halpern  
Providence

The Jewish Voice of Rhode Island welcomes letters from members of the Rhode Island and nearby Massachusetts Jewish communities. We are happy to have our pages used as a forum for the civil exchange of ideas and issues.

Please keep your letters to 300 words or less. If you are interested in submitting a longer, more in-depth opinion piece, please call the editor at 401-421-4111, ext. 168.

Letters should be submitted by the 20th of the month, essays by the 15th. Send them to Jewish Voice, 130 Session St., Providence, RI 02806, or e-mail to [JVoice@aol.com](mailto:JVoice@aol.com).

### Peace with Syria? A view from Lebanon

by Etienne Sacre  
*Guardians of the Cedars — National Lebanese Movement*

Ever since the Madrid Conference in 1990, western diplomatic circles, and in particular those of the United States, are exerting immense and sustained efforts to achieve a peace treaty between Damascus and Tel Aviv similar to the ones concluded with other countries of the region, in order to close the last remaining link in the peace process.

And despite these long years of effort, no appreciable results were obtained. Yet the diplomacy of the West still perseveres, believing that Syria is genuinely desirous to achieve peace and is sincere in its engagements and intentions.

We, however, are firmly convinced that the Syrian regime is not eager for peace, and that all its declarations in this respect are contrary to its real intentions. In line with its obvious covert policy, the positive ideas and proposals it emits every now and then, are nothing but political maneuvers aimed at conditioning national and international public opinion and to while the time away.

The following facts prove our contention:

- The Syrian regime still harbors and supports all the Palestinian organizations and the many terrorist groups openly opposed to peace. While it denounces all the organisms that support peace, it backs all the belligerent forces and bellows slanders against the Palestinian Authority every time it reaches a new deal with Israel.

- The Syrian regime still occupies Lebanon, not only in order to undermine Israel and eat up her resources, but also to wield his enormous assets to fight Israel on the political, security, diplomatic and propaganda levels. It has in effect turned Lebanon into a battle field against Israel by providing logistical and financial support to the terrorists.

- The Syrian regime is infuriated by the Israeli decision to withdraw unilaterally from South Lebanon. This decision causes it great embarrassment by eliminating the grounds for its continuous occupation of Lebanon, and subsequently the base to pursue its war of attrition against Israel down to the last Lebanese and from Lebanese territory. In other words, Syria does not want to leave Lebanon nor does it want the other forces to leave.

- The Syrian regime is ideologically opposed to Israel: not only does it not recognize it but aims to destroy it when and if conditions will allow. In the meantime, it endeavors to delay the conclusion of peace by stalling and double-dealing, in order to keep the present state of no peace, no war as long as possible. Indeed, the Syrians realize fully that this status serves them most and that all-out war and all-out peace will bring their end!

We hope — and so does the majority of the Lebanese, that the diplomacy of the West will grasp the reality of the Syrian position and recognize its evil designs and, thereafter, seek to free Lebanon from its claws, not only to relieve this abandoned country, but also to achieve peace.

by Mitchell Bard

Israeli-Syrian negotiations drag on, but the result is predictable: Israel will withdraw from some or all of the Golan Heights in exchange for a peace treaty that requires Syria to normalize relations with the Jewish State. An agreement to engage in trade and tourism, and to exchange ambassadors is a necessary condition for Israel to make territorial concessions, but the sine qua non is security guarantees. Thus, much of the discussion revolves around water rights, early warning stations and troop deployments.

The Clinton Administration is reportedly holding out the possibility of concluding a formal defense treaty with Israel as an incentive to take the risk of making peace with Syria. Many people in the United States and Israel will oppose a formal alliance; nevertheless, it is a move that is long overdue.

The idea is hardly new. In 1954, Israel requested membership in NATO and was turned down. Two decades later, Moshe Dayan proposed a defense treaty. The Carter Administration was amenable because it hoped a treaty would secure territorial concessions from Israel, but the idea was dropped.

In 1997, Clinton suggested an American troop deployment on the Golan. In deference to the opposition by some Americans,

Shimon Peres floated the idea of a treaty instead, which could accomplish the primary objective of deterring the Syrians without forcing President Clinton to place more GIs in a foreign, possibly dangerous, environment.

#### Early warning essential

At the time of Peres' proposal, then Foreign Minister Ehud Barak said Israel's goal in talks with Syria was to devise security arrangements that will "render a surprise attack practically impossible, significantly reduce the temptation to launch a full-scale war and prevent daily border clashes from deteriorating into full-scale collision." One of the keys to Israeli security after any withdrawal from the Golan will be early-warning. In addition to any arrangements Israel directly negotiates with Syria, as a treaty partner Jerusalem could count on American warnings of aggressive Syrian movements.

Incidentally, a treaty would be even more valuable for Israel if the negotiations fail. Israeli defense strategists have long feared that Syria might be tempted to make a lightning thrust to retake the Golan Heights and then sit on them expecting international

## Think defense pact

opposition to prevent Israel from mounting the war to recapture the territory. A US treaty commitment, however, would make such a move far more dangerous for Syria. A treaty would also be a powerful deterrent to the creation of any coalition of Arab armies against Israel. Thus, a treaty should encourage Assad to pursue negotiations as the one avenue to regain the Golan.

Critics argue a treaty would undermine Israel's tradition of defending itself. True, Israelis don't ask Americans to fight their battles for them, but, while Americans admire Israeli self-reliance, they don't believe Israelis really can go it alone. Furthermore, notions of Israeli self-reliance are greatly exaggerated.

#### Help only when asked

While American GIs have not fought for Israelis, US backing has played a critical role in most of Israel's wars. Throughout the Cold War, the threat of US intervention insured the Soviet Union would not directly intervene on the side of the Arabs. The US is Israel's principal arms supplier and the 1973 airlift helped prevent Israel from losing the Yom Kippur War. During the Gulf War, Israel accepted US-manned Patriot missile

batteries.

A treaty also would require the US to come to Israel's aid only if asked. The Israelis could take the position the US did in the Gulf, namely, that they can handle an attack on their own and don't need help. If Israel is willing and able to go it alone, despite a clear US treaty commitment, then its image would undoubtedly be enhanced.

Israel's capability would also be aided by a treaty. Israel already receives an impressive amount of US weaponry, regularly engages in joint exercises, shares intelligence, is involved in cooperative research and development of new weapons systems and has the status of a Major Non-NATO Ally. Still, as one former Pentagon official put it, being near the top of the pyramid is not the same as being at the top. As a full treaty partner, Israel should get the latest and greatest technology and participate in programs that are otherwise beyond its reach.

By extending our defense umbrella to cover Israel, we increase the risk of being drawn into a war. The US already assumes some risk of war in defending Israel and troops were put at risk during the Gulf War. Given the peace process, however, the threat of war is lower than it has ever been in the Middle East, and, given Israel's current strength, the probability of needing direct US assistance has significantly declined.

Another argument against a treaty is that it could impede Israel's ability to launch preemptive or retaliatory strikes against its enemies. From the American perspective, this could be a positive development. The United States has frequently opposed Israeli military actions and might use the treaty to try to insure it was at least informed of its partner's plans, if not given an outright veto. More important, the treaty would, in theory, improve coordination to protect the interests of both nations.

#### Treaty translates to flexibility

Even today, Israeli leaders know they risk the opprobrium of the United States if they act without consultation or in a manner viewed as harmful to American interests. Still, if the threat to Israel were deemed sufficiently serious, it is likely an Israeli Prime Minister would risk angering the United States, as Ben-Gurion did in 1956, Levi Eshkol did in 1967 and Begin did in 1981.

No treaty will be a substitute for defensible borders and security arrangements; however, the US commitment will give Israel more flexibility in the negotiations to take greater risks for peace.

*Mitchell G. Bard is a foreign policy analyst in Maryland and webmaster for the Jewish Student Online Research Center (<http://www.us-israel.org>). He has just published The Idiot's Complete Guide to the Middle East.*

### A majority of one

## Unsavory stew when religion, politics mix

by Yehuda Lev

Well, we certainly got the new millennium off to a terrible start, politically speaking. Just as it looked as though we might have a couple of presidential primary races devoted to serious issues (like who is raising the least soft money and who is the most underdog) someone had to spoil it all by asking the Republican contestants to name their favorite philosopher. It turns out that they are all born-again Christians, as are Clinton and Gore, which is very good if you are in the religion business but godawful (sorry) if you are into politics.

Whenever someone tells you that they know what God wants you to do, it's time to head for the hills. Religious belief serves many practical functions; it provides solace, artistic inspiration, a sense of purpose and a set of moral precepts, among other useful things. And short of slaughtering maidens on the hilltops under a full moon, believers have every right to their religious practices and even, if the spirit should move them, to try to convince the rest of us that God has provided instruction for all of us in the sacred book of their choice.

One problem with all this is that God appears to have written different things in different books. Our born-again politicians have the word direct from their Messiah.

And did you watch Yasser Arafat, a Muslim, in a Bethlehem church on Christmas Eve, sitting next to his wife, born a Christian and turned Muslim? He might have been wondering what the Koran has to say to believers about such goings on. Keep in mind that

Arafat is also running for office, a chairman hoping to become a president.

A second problem lies in the tendency of religious leaders, once they descend from their monasteries and mosques and yeshivas into the real world, to use political power to force their beliefs and practices upon the non-believers amongst the citizenry. This gave them no difficulty in millennia past when church and state were often one and the same. Examples survive in Afghanistan, Iran, Sudan even unto Millennium III. (If the ultra-Orthodox ever came to power in Israel, we would see more of the same. Jews may be chosen for some things, but we are not exempt from the follies that sometimes accompany faith.)

Which brings us to the most serious problem of all when it comes to mixing religion with politics. Our form of democratic politics depends for its success on compromise among competing ideas and factions. Religion, taken seriously, is absolutist and does not permit compromise. Of course most believers are not fanatics but the fact is that among the believers it is usually the extremists who set the pace and lead the way. No one wants to be seen as a shirker in the vineyards of the Lord and so we see, among Orthodox Jews, increased pressure to conform to more and more exacting standards.

B'nei Akiva is the youth movement of the Modern Orthodox movement. Forty years ago most B'nei Akiva youth movement programs allowed mixed dancing; today it is strictly forbidden. Forty years ago kosher food was kosher food as long as it received a

hekhsher from an approved rabbi. Today being just kosher is not enough; even the most informal of menus at Orthodox functions include nothing but glatt kosher food. Were the standards of four decades ago treyf?

This new level of observance is matched in—perhaps even inspired by—Israel. There the ultra-Orthodox parties, never very enthusiastic about a Jewish state founded not by the Messiah but by mostly secular Zionists, tended to refrain from political activity until they learned that in Jerusalem the source of most financial support is the government, without which there are few jobs for the boys (never girls). This lesson learned, they plunged into national politics with much enthusiasm and now control one fifth of the seats in the Knesset. No Israeli government can function effectively today without the cooperation of the Haredi or ultra-Orthodox parties, as Mr. Barak is learning to his discomfiture.

Except as a warning of what could happen if the Christian Right ever comes to power, none of this matters to our presidential aspirants. With the exception of Bill Bradley, who wisely told a reporter that his religious beliefs are his own business, their problem now is having to compete with one another in religious correctness. It promises to be a boring election.

It is almost enough to make one long for the excitement of an Israeli election campaign with its distribution of sacred amulets to the faithful, and its Shabbat stoning of automobiles of the faithless.

God save us, everyone.

**By-lined articles and cartoons in The Jewish Voice of Rhode Island reflect only the personal opinions of the author or the organization the author may represent.**

# Arafat recaptures spotlight

by Michael Shapiro

WASHINGTON (JTA) — With the United States devoting much energy in recent weeks to Israeli-Syrian peace talks, the Palestinians are trying to make sure they are not left out in the cold. Their effort was helped when the 2nd round of planned Israeli-Syrian negotiations, set for January 19, was canceled, enabling the Palestinians to retake center stage.

After meeting with President Clinton on January 20, Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat publicly endorsed peace talks on the Syrian front. But his top negotiator a day earlier, while also welcoming the Syrian talks, maintained that the Palestinian track, not the Syrian track, is the key to Middle East peace.

"The termination of the Arab-Israeli conflict cannot and will not be attained without a solution to the Palestinian question from all of its aspects," Saeb Erekat said Wednesday at the Center for Policy Analysis on Palestine.

## PA hires ex-consul general as lobbyist

The Palestinians have even hired Edward Abington, the former US consul general in Jerusalem, as a lobbyist to help buttress their image here as final-status talks with the Israelis continue.

"We're not here to damage anyone's interests," Erekat said. "We're not here to accuse anyone of anything as far as our public relations efforts are concerned. What we're trying to do now is introduce ourselves the way we are."

The Syrians appear to have a different opinion on what is key to a comprehensive peace in the Middle East. In his December 15 speech at the White House marking the initial resumption of Israeli-Syrian talks, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk al-Sharaa said a deal between Israel and Syria "is the only peace that shall open new horizons for totally new relations between people of the region."

Erekat rejected Sharaa's statement, saying that "denying facts doesn't mean that they don't exist" and warned any of the parties from trying to play the Syrian and Palestinian tracks off one another.

"We are parallel tracks and not competitive tracks," he said. "The moment any side decides to play a track against another it will be a major setback toward progress in the peace process."

During their meetings, both Clinton and US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright sought to reassure the Palestinians. "The resolution of the issues between Palestinians and Israelis is at the core of the comprehensive effort that we all want to make for peace throughout the Middle East, and we have to work through them," Clinton said with Arafat at his side at an Oval Office photo-op.

Israel and the Palestinians are working to reach a framework agreement by February 13 and a final peace deal by September 13.

For the Israelis, the jockeying by the Palestinians and Syrians could serve to strengthen their hand in the negotiations with both. Joel Singer, who was a key architect of the Oslo accords with the Palestinians and also negotiated with the Syrians during the earlier round of talks, compared the Palestinian-Syrian rivalry to that of competition between businesses.

"If commercial firms are competing, prices go down," said Singer, a Washington attorney. "It's good for the customer," meaning Israel.

One Israeli source said that it appears that the Palestinians "don't want to miss the train" and both sides have agreed to conduct intensive negotiations when Arafat returns from Washington.

Erekat said during his speech that the negotiations could lead to an invitation from Clinton for a trilateral summit in Washington to hammer out a framework deal.

## 300 American rabbis willing to share

And, as the Israelis and Palestinians grappled with the difficult final-status issues such as Jerusalem, 300 American rabbis called for the holy city to be shared by both sides.

The statement, which was spearheaded by Jerome Segal, the president of the Jewish Peace Lobby and a research scholar at the University of Maryland's Center of International and Security Studies, came after a year of reaching out to 1,200 Reform, Reconstructionist and Conservative rabbis. Segal said no Orthodox rabbis were asked to sign the statement.

The issue's sensitivity is evident in the number of rabbis who declined to sign. Some 1,200 were initially approached; of the more than 800 who backed off, many said they could not envision a practical way of sharing the city.

# Mossad builds new jon to monitor Assad

by Douglas Davis

LONDON (JTA) — Syrian President Hafez Assad may well have been impressed to discover that a toilet had been erected for his exclusive use when he visited Jordan last February for the funeral of King Hussein.

He would not have known, according to a report in the London Sunday Times in early January, that the toilet had been specially created by the Israeli intelligence agency Mossad and its Jordanian counterpart.

What made the toilet special, the report added, was that the outlet did not lead to a drain but rather to a specimen jar. Minutes after the Syrian leader had used the toilet, the specimen jar containing a sample of his urine was being sped to a hospital in Israel, where a team of pathologists and biochemists was waiting to analyze it.

According to the report, the medical analysts concluded that Assad, who has had a heart attack and now suffers from diabetes and cancer, does not have long to live. The sample confirmed the state of his diabetes, the presence of cancer, and revealed traces of whatever drugs Assad was then taking for his litany of ailments.

"The latest Israeli assessment," the paper reported, is that "Assad is living on borrowed time and that a potential partner for peace may be lost." The paper quoted an aide to Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak as saying: "We should do everything possible to reach an agreement while Assad is alive. Nobody knows what will happen after Assad. There are some gloomy assessments about a possible bloodbath in Syria. Assad is a man you can trust to stand by his word."

A medical file prepared for

Barak by the Mossad and by military intelligence analysts reportedly described Assad's condition as worsening and suggested he is now so incapacitated that he could work for no more than a few hours a day.

The report described how Assad suddenly canceled a trip to Moscow last year and missed the funeral of Morocco's King Hassan.

"The Israelis have learnt nothing since to convince them his condition can improve," the paper said.

It also quoted former head of military intelligence Danny Shoham as saying that "Assad is hospitalized every couple of months to replace his blood."

The Mossad sought to play down its role in the affair, describing the collection of the urine sample as a routine operation for a special agency unit known as Keshet.

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## JDC programs address Ethiopians' plight, FSU elders' poverty

by Jane S. Sprague

With unemployment at 8%, with 16% of the population (including 32,000 children, living below the poverty line) with one million immigrants in 12 years (70,000 of them Ethiopians), and with the social problems of substance abuse, family violence and school dropouts among some in the general population — the work in Israel of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) continues to be critical.

That was the picture that Michael Novak painted when he stopped in Rhode Island last month to make his power-point presentation to agency directors and Federation leaders and staff. Novak is the newly appointed director of resource development for JDC.

A feature story on page 10 covers the highlights of Sidney and Alice Goldstein's recent visit with Ethiopians in both Israel and Ethiopia.

The portrait he drew of the Ethiopian community was bleak. He described large, single-parent families and a parental illiteracy rate in their native tongue of 75%, higher in Hebrew. He talked of exceptionally high unemployment or unskilled laborers who produce little income. A pre-school enrollment of only 50% leaves most children from illiterate homes unprepared for first grade, and that leads to a high dropout and delinquency rate by high school. According to Novak, only 10% of Ethiopian youths pass the college matriculation examinations, as compared to 40% of the general population.

How can the JDC, affectionately known as "The Joint" the world over, make a dent in these massive problems?

Novak says, The Joint works by developing pilot programs that have been well designed and endorsed by the Israeli government at inception. "These social programs are made to succeed, and the government commits in the beginning to assume them after the pilot phase," he explained. If the program's evaluation is good, it should then be duplicated.

For instance, to address the pre-school problem, JDC started two programs. In Hataf, intervention in homes of newborns to 2-year-olds helps parents learn to stimulate their babies to help their cognitive development. In Etgar, another home-based curriculum for 3 to 5-year-olds offers more of the basics of pre-school education. The Joint also works with municipalities to ensure access to kindergarten for these children. Kindergarten, like pre-school, is optional in Israel and not government-funded.

The Joint's Shalom Project is a national service alternative for Orthodox girls ages 18 and 19 who will not join the army. Each morning, they serve as tutors to Ethiopians in schools and each afternoon they spend three hours doing more tutoring in the children's homes.

Other model JDC programs include deaf adults teaching deaf children, emphasizing hi-tech education for at-risk teenagers to help halt the drop-out rate, and joining with government agencies and large

corporations to supply computers to poor households — 30,000 in the first phase — in an effort to narrow the gaps in Israeli society.

JDC's other area of emphasis in Israel is more comprehensive services to the elderly. One man, who while living in Poland in 1924 received matzah at Passover from The Joint and 24 years later fought for Israel's independence, today is helped to stay in his own home in Israel through supportive services designed by JDC.

And it is in the area of aid to the elderly that JDC continues to shine in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe where The Joint provides food, clothing, medicines and medical services to elderly pensioners and Holocaust survivors. There, it also engages in helping to build community with a volunteer structure.

The Joint's services also extend to Latin America, Africa and Asia, based on the principle, Novak said, "That Jews take care of Jews everywhere."

To do that, JDC functions on a global budget of \$63 million, \$57 million of which comes from North American federation campaigns, including Rhode Island's. Seventeen million of the \$63 million is dedicated to Israel. But through cooperative and creative arrangements in all nations where it works, The Joint triples its effectiveness; by leveraging government dollars, its \$63 million becomes \$180 million.

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## German Jews' new leader seeks reconciliation

by Toby Axelrod

BERLIN (JTA) — German Jewry is entering a new era of leadership at a critical juncture for the community. Five months after the death of Ignatz Bubis, the Central Council of Jews in Germany has elected a Dusseldorf theatrical agent, Paul Spiegel, as its new president.

The January 9 election of the 62-year-old by the nine-member council is seen as a bridge between the aging generation of Holocaust survivors and the younger generation of German Jews who, to a great extent, want to put the past behind them. But his election also signifies a reluctance by Jewish leaders here to pass the leadership baton to the post-Holocaust generation.

Bubis, who had become a major public figure in Germany since serving as president from 1992 until his death in August, had reportedly wanted Spiegel, who was vice president, to succeed him as the head of the group that oversees religious, communal and financial matters for Germany's 80,000-member Jewish community.

Spiegel, head of Dusseldorf's Jewish community since 1984, was chosen by a 6-3 vote over Charlotte Knobloch, 67, head of Munich's Jewish community since 1985. Like Knobloch, Spiegel survived the Holocaust as a hidden child.

Attesting to the importance of the Jewish community in Germany, some 100 reporters attended a news conference called by Spiegel upon his election. At the news conference, Spiegel said his top priority would be the integration of the 50,000 Jewish emigres from the former Soviet Union who have come here during the past 10 years. As a result of their influx, Germany has Europe's fastest-growing Jewish community.

They need financial and spiritual sustenance, Spiegel said, adding, "They know they are Jews, but they don't know what Judaism is."

Spiegel told reporters he hopes to heal the rifts between observant and liberal Jews in Germany.

He also said he will attempt to bring German Jews

and non-Jews closer together — a task that Bubis, in an interview shortly before his death, said he had failed to accomplish.

At the news conference, Spiegel said the normalization of relations between German Jews and non-Jews "has yet to happen," but that he is hopeful that it will. At the same time, he added, "the situation has improved, and the fact that Jews are saying they want to live in Germany is not a bad sign for us."

Spiegel said that unlike Bubis, he was "relatively optimistic" about the future of the Jewish community in Germany, despite an increase in xenophobia in recent years. He expressed concern about the effect of "extreme right-wing and anti-semitic poison" freely available on the Internet.

On the other hand, he applauded youth exchange programs between Germany and Israel and said the interest of young Germans in learning about Judaism and the Holocaust has "never been as great as it is today."

Spiegel told reporters he would try to live up to Bubis' ideals, but that he would find his "own style" — including delegating tasks to other council members.

Spiegel's family comes from the village of Warendorf in the state of Westphalia. During World War II, he was hidden, along with his mother, Ruth, by Belgian farmers. His father, Hugo, and his older sister, Rosa, were discovered and deported by the Nazis. Rosa never returned. Spiegel's father survived Buchenwald and Auschwitz and was liberated from Dachau.

In a recent interview, Spiegel recalled how during the war years "people had told me that Germans were giants who killed little children." After the war, the family was reunited in Warendorf and decided to stay in Germany. Spiegel's father renovated the town's tiny Jewish chapel and led the first services there.

He has been described politically as a centrist. He is also said to have close contacts with German President Johannes Rau.

## Terrorists' funding source nabbed

by Douglas Davis

LONDON (JTA) — Abu Nidal's terrorist network has suffered a crippling financial blow with the arrest of a senior member, according to a journalist familiar with the organization.

Patrick Seale, a biographer of Abu Nidal and a close confidant of Syrian President Hafez Assad, wrote in mid-January in the London-based Arabic daily Al-Hayat that Palestinian Halima Nimr, who was said to have been using a fake Jordanian passport, had been arrested in Vienna when she attempted to withdraw some \$7.4 million from an Austrian bank.

Seale quotes intelligence sources as saying the loss of the Vienna account will greatly curtail the freedom of Abu Nidal — the *nom de guerre* of Jaffa-born Sabri al-Banna.

Abu Nidal was the PLO's chief representative in Iraq when he broke with Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement in 1974 to protest the PLO's flirtation with diplomacy rather than violence. His Fatah Revolutionary Council, which carried out a series of attacks in European capitals during the 1970s and 1980s, claimed hundreds of lives and was regarded as one of the most dangerous international terrorist organizations.

Among Abu Nidal's most high-profile attacks were the simultaneous gun-and-grenade attacks on the El Al passenger counters at Rome and Vienna airports in 1985 in which 17 people were killed, and the assassination of the PLO's intelligence chief in 1991. His group has tried several times to kill Arafat.

Abu Nidal had been struggling to regroup his organization after a series of damaging splits and defections, as well as the expulsion of both himself and members of his organization from Libya and Egypt.

Nimr, now in custody in Austria, is the wife of Samir Najmeddeen, who was largely responsible for managing Abu Nidal's overseas assets during the 1980s, Seale writes.

From a base in Warsaw, Najmeddeen ran the "SAS Foreign Trade and Investment Company" as a front for Abu Nidal's arms dealing. In the late 1980s, however, he was stripped of his powers and recalled to Libya, then Abu Nidal's main base. Little has been heard of him since, and he is thought to be either still in Libya or to have moved to Iraq.

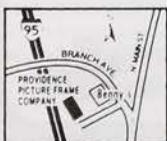
Senior members of the Abu Nidal organization, such as Nimr, travel on Jordanian passports that were forged in the past with the help of the Beirut cell of the Japanese Red Army. This cooperation came to an end when five members of the Japanese Red Army were arrested by the Lebanese authorities in March, 1997. However, the leader of the cell, a woman code-named "Mariam," escaped from Beirut and is believed to be in Belgrade, Yugoslavia.

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## Few bright spots in some Ethiopians' lives dimmed by overall conditions

by Jane S. Sprague

The Ethiopian Jewish population continues to perplex Israel, both at home and in their native country.

Sidney and Alice Goldstein, Warwick, recently met with and observed both populations. The Goldsteins are preeminent demographers and sociologists from Brown University and both have encountered this population, especially in Ethiopia, on several trips.

This time, their first stop was Israel where Sid, considered the dean of American demographers, was lecturing at Hebrew University as part of an award he received from the former Council of Jewish Federations (now United Jewish Communities) for the extensive role he played in developing Jewish demography.

In their personal time, the Goldsteins arranged to visit several areas where Ethiopians are now living. What they saw were three distinct populations with three distinct life styles.

In Afula, which is in the lower Galilee and is part of Rhode Island's Partnership 2000 community, life for the Ethiopian population may be about the best in all of Israel. Of the three groups the Goldsteins visited, these Ethiopians have been in Israel the longest, having come as part of Operation Solomon in



The Ethiopian Jews who live in Afula in the lower Galilee may be among the most fortunate as they comprise 10% of the city's population. Here, Alice (third from left, standing) and Sid (far right) Goldstein interact with children in a pre-school.

1990. Ever the demographer, Goldstein notes that "In Afula, 35% of the population of 40,000 are recent immigrants, and 4,000, or 10% of the total population in Afula, are Ethiopians."

Alice Goldstein describes an array of impressive facilities and services for pre-schoolers to seniors. "It is clear," she said, "that the elderly will never be completely assimilated." For two years now, the community has had its own synagogue, which also serves as a social center.

The pre-school programs allow mothers to work, although admittedly at low-paying service jobs such as house cleaning. But Alice Goldstein points to computers in the pre-school that are available to older siblings and parents in the evenings. She describes an evening of program that engages parents, most them illiterate, and gives them a sense of contributing to their children's education. Sitting beside their middle school child, a parent relates the family's oral history while the child enters it into the computer.

Although some of the children in Afula are in religious schools, most are in the secular schools which try to limit the total immigrant enrollment in each school to 50%, but it may edge up to 60%.

From Afula, the Goldsteins visited the Quara Jews — the most

recent Ethiopian immigrants. Sid notes that there is "no question about the Jewish identity of these Ethiopians," but they were left behind in Operation Solomon (there may even be a couple of hundred still there). These 3,000 to 4,000 Jews spend 12 to 18 months in absorption centers outside Jerusalem where they learn urban skills, language and culture before moving into the general community. Most are illiterate, even in their native language, Goldstein said.

These two communities contrasted with the caravan camp of Giv'at ha-Matos, near Jerusalem. This community of Falas Mora lives in a dry and nearly barren area. The Falas Mora either have a Jewish ancestor or a first-degree relative who came to Israel before them. Goldstein said that the Jerusalem municipality supplies them with social workers and health services, and the Orthodox community is facilitating their conversions.

Even though the lives of the Ethiopians in Israel are not as bright as one would wish, most of those still in Ethiopia are in dire condi-

tions, the Goldsteins reported.

Between them, this was the Goldstein's fourth visit to Ethiopia for work on a demography project for the United Nations. Once again, on their own, they spent time with Ethiopians who are hoping to immigrate to Israel.

Unlike past populations which have gathered in Addis Ababa to wait for clearance to Israel, this Falas Mora population of 8,000 receives considerably less in the way of support services from Israel or Jewish agencies, and none from the Ethiopian government.

The exceptions are some basic medical services from the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, which has reopened a scaled-down clinic that it had closed in 1998 when officials thought the last of the Falas Mora population had been flown to Israel, and the North American Committee for Ethiopian Jewry, which operates a school and an embroidery shop. The school, which includes a lunch program, is inside the compound near the Israeli embassy. The compound Please go to next page.



The JDC-run health clinic in Addis Ababa.

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## Looking for facts

## Were there pogroms in Ethiopia?

The plight of the Falas Mora in Ethiopia is very emotive, an easy target for exaggeration and exploitation, even among the most well-meaning of their supporters. The accusation of "pogroms" a bit over 18 months ago, may be an example. Were there pogroms?

Chaim Motzen, the 1998-99 Ralph Goldman Fellow at the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, researched the conditions of the Falas Mora still in Ethiopia, including an extensive first-hand investigation of the incidents that led to charge of "pogroms."

The June, 1998 alleged incidents were in Bukhara. Barbara Ribakove Gordon of the North American Conference on Ethiopian Jewry, said she "witnessed an Ethiopian version of a pogrom or, more accurately, the aftermath of a pogrom. I stood awestruck and frightened in a ring of twelve charred black circles, where, days before, twelve Falas Mora huts had stood. The huts, I was told, had been burned down in the night to force the terrified inhabitants to flee the village forever."

Motzen adds that in August, 1998 Yosef Abramowitz, a free-lance journalist who has written detailed articles on Ethiopians waiting to immigrate and who is the on-line publisher of Jewish Family and Life, visited Bukhara, accompanied by Agaru, a former Falas Mora from Bukhara now living in Israel, who translated for him.

Motzen writes, "Abramowitz reported that he saw about a dozen burned tukuls (huts) and 'found that the level of fear and violence is the highest of any Jewish community anywhere. Absolutely horrendous.'"

Here is what Motzen found on his visit to Bukhara.

Most of the Falas Mora had left the village in 1991, with another exodus in the months before June, 1998 because "they were called by their relatives" (confirmed by several sources). Three, not 12, tukuls were burned — one apparently in January, 1998 and the other two in June.

The first burning was the result of a widow refusing to allow one of her children to be taken as a concubine by a compatriot of the village bandit (who was the widow's abusive lover). In retribution, the bandit burned her home. He was arrested and jailed. Because life in Bukhara was now unsafe, the woman took her children and fled to Addis Ababa.

The second incident was between a tukul owner, who was selling his hut to finance his trip to Addis Ababa to await immigration, and the would-be buyer, who may have felt he was being cheated. The hut was burned. It is not clear whether the man's sister's hut was set on fire or whether winds carried the sparks that lit it. Motzen says the incident has been verified in its broad terms by reliable sources who are sympathetic to Falas Mora.

Twenty-two Falas Mora were still in Bukhara a year ago when Motzen conducted his investigation. According to Motzen "they were upset by the number of 'farenges' visiting Bukhara. In a village which had rarely seen foreigners before, villagers cannot comprehend why so many foreigners have come to look at the charred circle." JSS

## Bright spots dimmed. . . from pg. 10

pound also is used for community activities and includes a mikveh and synagogue built by previous communities waiting to immigrate. Today there are no housing subsidies and the only work is embroidery. Some relatives in Israel send waiting families money.

As the JDC clinic copes with routine illnesses as well as those intrinsic to unsanitary conditions, the doctors and staff must also deal with some cases of HIV and HIV prevention services.

In addition to those languishing in Addis, there are 8,000 waiting in Gondar and another 10,000 scattered among numerous villages. Many claim first-degree relatives in Israel and/or Jewish ancestry. Based on a recent, detailed census, officials believe these 26,000 represent the last of the Falas Mora.

Reports from the JDC indicate that the Falas Mora in Gondar live much as their peers in Addis — abysmally. The 10,000 who are waiting in their villages probably

are better off as they can continue their livelihoods, live in their own huts and avoid the abject poverty of Gondar and Addis. Teams of two, one Israeli, the other fluent in Amharic, visit these villages to gather the information that would enable them to emigrate.

One of the perplexities among people who work with the Falas Mora, the Goldsteins say, is why so many gave up their village lives and migrated to the two cities when Israeli, JDC and other officials advised them to wait where they were. Of course, they have the example and encouragement of relatives who ignored those same pleas several years ago and are now in Israel.

"The Israeli government is processing their applications, but tracing ancestry and verifying relations living in Israel is a slow process, resulting in only 10 to 20 people flying to Israel each week," Sid Goldstein said.

It is a perplexing and depressing situation.

## Chechnians release Israeli teen

by Lev Gorodetsky

MOSCOW (JTA) — Free after six months in captivity in Chechnya, Laura Lichtman sounded happy — but her relatives say she looked swollen and sick.

Lichtman, 18, an Israeli citizen born in Russia, was freed by her Chechen kidnappers December 25 and brought to her relatives in the city of Nalchik in the Caucasus Mountains.

"Three days before the release they brought me from the village where I had been held, to some canyon in the mountains. They kept me there in a tent; then they brought me to some village, where an unknown man picked me up and brought me to Nalchik," she told JTA from her home in Israel.

Officials connected to a "special police unit" operating in the Caucasus region who obtained her release wouldn't disclose any details, but according to officials involved in the operation, her release was part of an exchange deal.

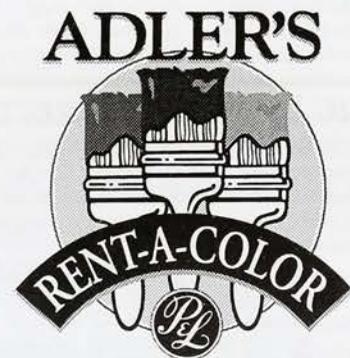
Lichtman, according to speculation, was either exchanged for a Chechen mobster who had been detained in Russia, or a Chechen military commander, disturbed by the imminent advance of Russian troops, wanted to get "security guarantees" by helping to free an important hostage.

An estimated 300 to 350 non-Chechen hostages, including several Israelis, are being held in Chechnya, where Russian troops have been engaged in heavy fighting with rebel Chechen fighters.

Lichtman came to Nalchik in July to spend a month with her grandmother. Her ordeal began when she was picked up in a car by someone named Bulat, a boyfriend

of one of her former classmates. Demands for ransoms exceeding \$1 million followed, as well as threats. At one point, investigators believed she had been killed.

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## Standing under a canopy, in silk from a floating canopy

by Peter Ephross

NEW YORK (JTA) — Lily Friedman wanted to wear a white gown at her wedding in 1946, but there was one problem: There weren't any gowns at her displaced persons camp. Her fiancé, a cook at the Celle camp in Germany, solved the problem. He traded two pounds of coffee to a German pilot for a large, off-white parachute.

A seamstress friend made a dress out of the parachute, and with extra material, a shirt for the groom. With the help of a suit borrowed from a British major, the couple's outfits were complete. On Jan. 27, 1946, they were married in a makeshift synagogue near the camp in front of more than 400 guests, most of them survivors.

"That was the first occasion where people danced and were happy," remembers Friedman, who

now lives in Brooklyn.

Despite all the information available about the Holocaust, relatively little is known about the roughly 90 displaced persons camps that housed some 250,000 Jews between 1945 and 1951, when all but one of the camps closed.

"I can't tell you how many people have come by and said I didn't know anything about this history," Steven Luckert, curator of the permanent exhibition at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, says, talking of an exhibit about DP camps, "Life Reborn: Jewish Displaced Persons, 1945-1951."

Part of the reason for this, says Menachem Rosensaft, who was born in the Bergen-Belsen DP camp in 1948, is that the Jewish experience in the camps — in which individuals barely removed from their horrific wartime experiences

demonstrated a remarkable vibrancy — don't fit victimization stereotypes.

People have two images of survivors — wearing concentration camp uniforms staring off into the distance on liberation day and as grey-haired people lighting candles at Holocaust commemorations — says Rosensaft, who, as a member of the 2nd Generation Advisory Project, was one of the organizers of a conference on the camps.

Exhibits on the topic are open at other museums and institutions in the Washington area, including the B'nai B'rith Klutznick Museum and the National Museum of American Jewish Military History.

Friedman wasn't the only bride in the camps. By 1947, the 90 camps that housed Jews in Germany, Austria and Italy had one of the highest birth rates in the world. "You needed to form these bonds because you had nobody," says Regina Speigel, who married her husband, Sam, in the Fohrenwald camp in Germany. "People can't live by themselves."

The surviving remnant of European Jewry, or *she'erit hapletah*, as it is called, quickly began to rebuild a semblance of normalcy. The United Nations, the American and British governments, and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee ran the camps. But "just days or weeks after the liberation, Jews began to organize," Luckert says. In other words, survivors did more than just survive.

Teetering, as one of them said, "between hope and depression,"



Lily Friedman wore a gown made from a silk parachute for her wedding in a displaced persons camp in 1946. The dress was recycled 17 times as Europe's surviving Jews renewed their lives by falling in love and marrying.

they coped with their situation by recreating the life and communal structure they had known before the Holocaust, cobbling together an impressive array of religious institutions and schools, political organizations and sports clubs, and theater troupes and newspapers.

An overwhelming number of people initially wanted to immigrate to Palestine, but the British restrictions on immigration there, coupled with reports about the tough life in the Middle East, dampened enthusiasm.

Still, in the end, 142,000 of the camp residents moved to pre-state Israel, according to Rosen-

saft, a member of the US Holocaust Memorial Council. At least 75,000 moved to the United States after legislation in 1948 opened up slots to displaced persons, and about 16,000 went to Canada, he says.

Jews weren't the only ones housed as displaced persons after the war. Britain and the US also set up camps for other war refugees. In initially organizing the camps, the US and British governments, hesitant to use the same racial classifications as the Nazis, housed all displaced persons, including Jews, by their country of origin. As a result, Jews occasionally lived in

Please go to next page.

### SEEKING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Rhode Island Holocaust Memorial Museum and Resource Center (RIHMM) is dedicated to educating the RI community about the Holocaust, providing outreach programming and serving as a community resource. We are a living memorial...an energetic program actively fighting intolerance and bigotry.

The RIHMM is currently seeking an Executive Director for a full-time position. Outstanding interpersonal and organizational skills required. Additional experience: fund-raising and grant-writing experience, knowledge of Holocaust history, an understanding of Jewish heritage and educational processes. Competitive salary and benefits. Please send a confidential resume and references to:

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### News from the Museum

## Deadlines approach for student, teacher contests

Deadlines are approaching for submissions to two contests, one for schoolchildren and the other for their teachers, sponsored by the Rhode Island Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Using a quote from the Diary of Anne Frank — "How wonderful it is that nobody needs to wait a single moment before starting to improve the world" — pupils in local public, private and parochial schools may submit writing, poetry and art work on the theme, not on the author.

The awards, to be presented on Student Awareness Day, May 10, range from \$100 for first place to a set of books on the Holocaust to a special certificate and a book. The cash award is from the Morris Gastfreund Family Holocaust Memorial Fund.

That endowment also funds the \$500 grant that will be awarded to a teacher who proposes a winning Holocaust education program. It, too, will be presented on May 10. Student Awareness Day will be in the Providence Atrium on Smith Street, across from the State House.

For a full set of rules for both contests, contact RIHMM at 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence, RI 02906, 401-453-7860.

### Upcoming: book, film and meeting

**Book Discussion:** *The Nazi Officer's Wife* by Beer and Dworkin, Tuesday, February 22, 7:00 pm, at Borders Books in Garden City, Cranston, RI

**2nd & 3rd Generations of RI Holocaust Survivors meeting,** Wednesday, February 23, 7:00 pm at the Museum, and, on March 8, Romana Primus of the CT 2nd Generation will speak at the Museum, 7:00 pm.

**Film:** On Tuesday, March 7, *The Last Days*, an award-winning documentary about five Holocaust survivors and their families, to be screened at the Museum at 10:00 am.

# Shoval ends his "second coming" to US; Irvy Israel's new ambassador

by Michael Shapiro

WASHINGTON (JTA) — During early January, Zalman Shoval put the finishing touches on what he describes as his "second coming" as Israel's ambassador to the United States. He delivered a speech at the National Press Club, hosted a party at his official residence for more than 400 Beltway types and was feted by Jewish leaders in the posh New York home of cosmetics heir Ronald Lauder.

This time, however, Shoval believes his farewells are for good. He does not think he will become the first Israeli to serve as ambassador to Washington three times.

"When I left the last time, although I never rationalized it, I had a good sense that I might come back," Shoval said in an interview before heading back to Israel. "I had a feeling and I guess that was one reason that I never wrote a book of my first term, although I had all the material for it, because I didn't want to burn any bridges."

While Shoval has yet to decide if he is going to burn those bridges, he said he is planning to spend time

with his family and return to his business ventures. He also may head the board of trustees of a new academic institution.

"I will try to remain involved, but you can be involved in different ways," he said. Shoval, who has said he was bitten by the political bug early on in life, said he is not sure if he would run again for the Knesset, where he served some 13 years, mostly for the Likud Party.

"I still have it, but even bugs get older," said Shoval, 69, who left his post January 15 and was immediately replaced by Israel's new ambassador, David Irvy, a former general who commanded Israel's air force and has headed the Jewish state's strategic relationship with the United States since 1986.

Shoval's second stint as ambassador ended just like his first — the Likud prime minister who had sent him to Washington was defeated by the opposition candidate.

Observers say Shoval could serve four prime ministers of two different parties because of his professionalism and moderation.

Shoval is "one of the most

interesting Likud politicians in my mind because he comes from a background and an ideology of moderation and compromise which reflects his Dayanist and Ben-Gurionist roots but he has also been a very effective spokesman for Likud," said Samuel Lewis, the former US ambassador to Israel.

"He is not an ideologue but a man of great wisdom, moderation, stature and very wise counsel which he has provided prime ministers with over the last 30 years," Lewis added.

Shoval said it has not been hard to serve prime ministers of both parties. "The moment I became an ambassador I stopped being a politician," he said. "Both my friends and my political opponents knew that."

But Shoval said it goes deeper than that. Beyond what he calls "the more ideologically inclined fringes on both sides of the political spectrum," Shoval said there is consensus in Israel on certain issues such as Jerusalem and not going back to the pre-1967 borders.

"It didn't make much differ-

ence who was in power," he said, adding that Netanyahu and Barak have been less ideological and more pragmatic than Shamir and Rabin. "In our case security must precede anything else."

While Shoval says an agreement with Syria would contribute to that security, he has been warning that a peace deal with Syria and Lebanon will not lead to the "comprehensive peace" many in Washington, including President Clinton, have been talking about.

"Syria no longer holds a stranglehold in this respect, and in any case, comprehensive peace is not all that comprehensive, looking at Iran or Iraq in the not-too-distant neighborhood," he said during a January 11 speech at the National Press Club.

Contrary to what he called "rather half-baked theories that

peace between Israel and Syria would automatically bring about the lessening of Iran's anti-peace and anti-Israel stance," he said, "the opposite may actually be true."

During the interview, Shoval stressed several times that a peace deal between Israel and Syria is not only important for the Jewish state but for the United States, which will be expected to support the deal with billions of dollars in aid.

Since the deal will help "cement" the US position in the region, Shoval warned against a repeat of the Wye aid battle, where the money became a political football between the White House and Congress. "There is a lesson to learn from that and that lesson should be learned less perhaps by Israel and more by the administration," Shoval said.

## Wedding... from pg. 12

the same camps as refugees who had collaborated with the Nazis.

This changed after August 1945, when the US issued the so-called Harrison report which referred to the camps as "concentration camps" in which some wore striped pajamas similar to the Nazi camp uniforms and lived mostly on bread and coffee.

The report made two recommendations adopted by President Truman, the most important of which was that Jews should be segregated in their own camps, because "this was done for so long by the Nazis that a group has been created that has special needs."

The camps were difficult for people because even though Jews were no longer subject to the Nazi

atrocities, they were still highly regimented.

"You can do this, you can't do that. You depend on them to give you ration cards to get food. You resent it," says Spiegel.

For Lily Friedman, the camps provided an opportunity for some-

thing that, more than 50 years later, she describes as "magical." After her wedding, she loaned her gown to her sister and other would-be brides — and it eventually took part in more than 17 marriages.

"It was a miracle that we wanted to go on with life.

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## Watch those ties

Many face questions of business etiquette every day. At the first Nosh at Noon: a Young Men's Lunch Club sponsored by the Jewish Federation, Agnes Doody, PhD, used humorous stories and demonstrations to suggest foods to avoid at business meetings, how to deal with difficult foods when there's no choice, and general respect for business colleagues. The men may never ruin another tie while eating soup. More Nosh at Noon programs are planned. To ask questions or offer suggestions contact Elissa Mirkin, Director of Young Leadership at 401-421-4111, ext. 172 or e-mail her at emirkin@jfri.org.



## Women's endowment funds several programs

The Women's Alliance Endowment Committee distributed \$2,700 to various community programs: two camperships at the Jewish Community Center, a course on "Making Your Own Documentary" for the Bureau of Jewish Education's high school, and a teacher workshop for the RI Holocaust Memorial Museum.

The Endowment Fund was created in 1993 by the former Business and Professional Women's Affiliate and now has a corpus of \$35,000. When the Women's Alliance was formed last year, the fund was renamed the Women's Alliance Endowment Fund. Twenty-three women have made the minimum gift of \$1,000.

The newest contributors are Doris Feinberg, Ellie Frank, Herta Hoffman, Linda Miller, Elaine Odessa, Joyce Starr and Cheryl Teverow. For more information on participating in this endowment fund, call Joshua Karlin, Director of Gift Planning, at the Jewish Federation at 401-421-4111, x. 173.

## Endowment makes one more grant

The Endowment Grants Committee of the Jewish Federation was able to make one more grant when funds appropriated last year, but not spent, became available at the end of 1999.

"The Future is Now," a technology project at the Alperin Schechter Day School, received \$9,132 to upgrade audio-visual equipment, and computer programs and hardware so students and teachers can work with state-of-the-art materials.

This brings the total number of grants awarded in this cycle to 18 and the total funds distributed to \$567,057.

## CRC announces emphasis for its social justice agenda

The Jewish Federation's Community Relations Council, in addition to its literacy and public education-oriented programs that were discussed in the January Voice, will focus research and action in the following areas:

**AIDS Task Force:** Based in Jewish values of *bikkur holim* (visiting the sick) and *pikkuah nefesh* (saving a life), the AIDS Task Force serves as a resource for AIDS awareness and support services in the Jewish community, and sponsors an annual healing service and a Seder of Hope near Passover.

**Hunger and Homelessness:** Two of the CRC's areas of concerns are hunger and homelessness. In May, people from various Jewish organizations will participate in assisting members of the Episcopal churches in building a house for Habitat for Humanity.

The CRC also is studying the Jewish community's involvement in hunger-related programs. Once the scope of programs is known, the CRC may suggest more ways for the Jewish community to address the problem.

**Health:** The Government Affairs Task Force is planning a forum on health and long-term care for the aging. The CRC realizes that health issues are on the minds of many in RI and will provide this public service featuring those officials who create and administer Rhode Island's health policies.

**Gun Control, Hate Crimes Legislation, Separation of Church and State:** The CRC is speaking to RI Congressmen on these issues. As always, the Jewish community is vigilant in ensuring the separation of church and state and communicating this priority to our elected officials. This past session, gun control and hate crimes legislation were controversial topics in the Congress and remain priorities for the CRC to see enacted.

**Intergroup Relations:** The CRC works with other minority communities to achieve social justice. Through the Latino-Jewish Alliance and cooperation with RI State Council of Churches, National Conference of Community and Justice, RI Civil Rights Roundtable and others, the CRC is more effective in making a difference on social issues.

### COMING

Women are invited to join the Arab-Jewish Women's Dance Group, co-sponsored by the CRC, for dancing, dessert and discussion with local Arab women at 7:30 pm, March 15, in the JCC Social Hall. Call Amy Gross, CRC director, at 401-421-4111, ext. 171, for more information.



At the Maimonides Brunch on January 9, doctors and their spouses heard a presentation on the history of The Miriam Hospital. Here, chairman Alan Gaines talks about the group's gala scheduled for February 12.

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# Ummm, . . . now why is it there are two Adars?

by Rabbi Alvan Kaunfer

Why do we have two months of Adar in some years, as we do this year? The answer lies in the fact that the Jewish calendar was, from Biblical times, essentially a lunar calendar.

If you recall your elementary school science course, the moon takes about 29 1/2 days to travel around the earth each lunar month. Thus in a "lunar year" there are only 354 (29 1/2 X 12) days as opposed to 365 days in a solar year. That means that each year the Jewish holidays keep moving "back" by 11 days. (Hence, the frequent comment, "the holidays are early this year!")

In order to correct the lunar calendar to bring it in sync with the solar calendar, we have to "make

up" those 11 days. So every two or three years we add a whole extra Hebrew month of 30 days — Adar II — to the calendar. Actually, we add 7 leap months in a cycle of 19 years (if you do the math, there are as many days in 19 solar years as in 19 lunar years of 354 days plus seven, 30-day leap months.)

So, if you were born on Rosh Hashanah, theoretically your Hebrew and English birthdates coincide every 19 years. If you are born in Adar II though, you might only have 7 birthdays every 19 years, and that would be just fine for many of us!

Happy Jewish and secular leap year!

*Rabbi Kaunfer, Temple Emanu-El, is a member of The Voice editorial board.*

## Coming in March: Torat Yisrael annual silent auction

Mark your calendars for the March 25, 2000 Second Annual Silent Auction at Temple Torat Yisrael in Cranston.

Organizers plan an evening of relaxation, laughter and refreshments, all in a setting away from cold, snow or rain.

A celebrity guest auctioneer will lead the bidding for both the silent and live auctions.

Co-chairs Susan Adler and Joyce Wacks are telling people to "come for the bargains or for the excitement, for the laughter or for the treats, or just come knowing you'll have a great night."

Tickets are \$9.00 in advance; \$10.00 at the door. The auction will begin at 7:30 pm. Temple Torat Yisrael is at 330 Park Avenue.

## Why is spirituality politically correct? Rabbi Klein will try to explain

Rabbi Dov Hillel Klein will discuss why spirituality is so politically correct, at the CHAI Center of Chabad West Bay on Tuesday, February 15 at 7:30 pm.

Rabbi Klein is described as a counselor, police chaplain, scholar and hate-crimes expert. As part of his discussion, he will explain why Jews should look to Judaism to fill a spiritual void. In addition, he will talk about relationships and offer advice on how to let not only God into one's life, but also one's spouse and friends.

For more information call 401-732-6559, or visit the website at [www.chabadcenters.com/warwick](http://www.chabadcenters.com/warwick). The CHAI Center is at 15 Centerville Road, Warwick.

## JNF calling on February 13

On February 13, the Jewish National Fund's Green Sunday phonathon for the New England region will raise money to help Israel meet its critical water needs.

Since its founding in 1901, the Jewish National Fund has planted over 202 million trees in Israel. Today, JNF concentrates on land development, environmental conservation and water resource management.

To volunteer, call 617-423-0999.

In other JNF news, Hadassah has made a \$3 million emergency grant toward construction of another reservoir in an effort to ease Israel's persistent water shortage problem.

This marks the first time an American Jewish organization had made such a sizeable gift for what many see as the Middle East's most critical problem.

## Community

### Mountain rat at Emanu-El

Phil Brown, a professor in the Brown University sociology department, will speak at Temple Emanu-El's Kulanu and Adult Institute's "Meet the Author" series on Sunday, February 27.

Brown is the author of *Catskill Culture: A Mountain Rat's Memories of the Great Jewish Resort Area*. The book is based on his own memories as well as over 100 interviews.

The program is open to the community. It will begin at 9:30 am, 99 Taft Avenue, Providence.



# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

<b>February 6</b>	JFRI Young Women's Craft Project	3:00 PM	ASDS Zimriyah	7:00 PM
<b>February 7</b>	Temple Sinai Talmud Study	9:45 AM	BJE Melton Class	7:00 PM
	Miriam Hospital Women's Association Board Mtg.	10:00 AM	<b>February 18</b>	Temple Sinai Talmud Study
	Leisure Club	10:00 AM	<b>February 19</b>	Temple Sinai Talmud Study
	RI Board of Rabbis	Noon	<b>February 20</b>	Temple Beth-EI Service of Comfort
	JFRI Planning & Allocations/JERI Review Com.	7:00 PM	<b>February 21</b>	Temple Sinai Talmud Study
	BJE Judaica Course	7:00 PM		JFRI Planning & Allocations Community
	Temple Shalom Board Meeting	7:15 PM		Beneficiaries Review Committee
<b>February 8</b>	JFRI Women's Alliance Nominating Committee Mtg.	9:15 AM		NA AMAT Davorah Dayan
	Temple Sinai Talmud Study	9:45 AM	<b>February 22</b>	Temple Sinai Talmud Study
	JFRI Women's Alliance Study Series	Noon		JFRI Endowment Securities Subcommittee
	JFRI Endowment Gift Acceptance Committee	4:15 PM		JFRI Planning & Allocations Hillels Review Com.
	ASDS Executive Board	7:00 PM		Temple Emanu-El Adult Institute
	Temple Emanu-El Adult Institute	7:30 PM	<b>February 23</b>	Temple Sinai Talmud Study
	Temple Beth-EI Board of Trustees	7:30 PM		Temple Beth-EI's Sisterhood Board
<b>February 9</b>	Temple Sinai Talmud Study	9:45 AM		JFRI Board Meeting
	Leisure Club Board	10:00 AM		Touro Fraternal Association Lodge Meeting
	CRC Coalition for Literacy Mtg. for all Tutors	4:00 PM		JFRI Planning & Allocation JERI/Review Com.
	JFRI Endowment Investment Committee Mtg.	4:30 PM		RIHMM Program for Children of Survivors
	JFRI Young Leadership Council	7:00 PM	<b>February 24</b>	JFRI Finance Committee
	BJE Workshop Series	7:00 PM		Temple Sinai Talmud Study
	Touro Fraternal Assn. Board Meeting	7:30 PM		BJE Melton Class
	JFS Board Meeting	7:30 PM	<b>February 25</b>	Temple Sinai Talmud Study
<b>February 10</b>	Jewish Voice Theme Meeting	8:00 AM	<b>February 26</b>	Temple Beth-EI B'nei Mitzvah Class
	Temple Sinai Talmud Study	9:45 AM		Temple Sinai Torah Study
	Leisure Club	10:00 AM		JCPA Plenum
	Agency Executives Meeting	Noon	<b>February 27</b>	JCPA 2/27-3/1
	BJE Melton Class	7:00 PM		Temple Emanu-El's Hamentashen Baking
<b>February 11</b>	Temple Sinai Talmud Study	9:45 AM		Temple Emanu-El Kulanu Brunch
<b>February 12</b>	Temple Sinai Torah Study	9:30 AM	<b>February 28</b>	Temple Sinai Talmud Study
	JFRI Maimonides Society invites members to an evening of "Klezmer Music"	7:00 PM		Leisure Club
<b>February 13</b>	RI Hadassah Executive Board Meeting	9:30 AM		BJE Judaica Course
	RI Hadassah Board Meeting	10:30 AM		Temple Emanu-El Executive Committee
	Leisure Club Sunday Program	2:00 PM		BJE Executive Committee
<b>February 14</b>	Temple Sinai Talmud Study	9:45 AM	<b>February 29</b>	Temple Sinai Talmud Study
	Leisure Club	10:00 AM		JFRI Women's Alliance Leadership Development
	BJE Judaica Course	7:00 PM		JFRI Young Women's Committee Mtg.
	BJE Code Revisions Committee	7:30 PM		Temple Emanu-El Adult Institute
<b>February 15</b>	JFRI CRC Government Affairs Task Force	8:00 AM	<b>March 1</b>	Temple Sinai Talmud Study
	Temple Sinai Talmud Study	9:45 AM		RI Board of Rabbis
	JFRI Women's Alliance Executive Committee Mtg.	4:00 PM		BJE Workshop Series
	JFRI Endowment Securities Subcommittee	6:30 PM		JCC Board Meeting
	Temple Beth-EI Sisterhood Pot Luck Dinner	7:00 PM	<b>March 2</b>	Temple Sinai Talmud Study
	JFRI LEADERS Session	7:30 PM		Leisure Club
	BJE/PHDS Liaison Committee	7:30 PM		BJE MORIM
	Temple Emanu-El Adult Institute	7:30 PM	<b>March 3</b>	BJE Melton Class
<b>February 16</b>	NCJW Board	9:30 AM		Temple Sinai Talmud Study
	Temple Sinai Talmud Study	9:45 AM	<b>March 4</b>	Temple Sinai Torah Study
	BJE Purim Workshop	9:45 AM		Temple Beth-EI School Board Meeting
	RI Hadassah Open Meeting - Crypto Jews:	7:00 PM		Temple Emanu-El Hamentashen Baking
	The Iberian Kosher Kitchen	7:30 PM		RI Hadassah Lunch & Learn Education Day
<b>February 17</b>	Jewish Voice Copy Review	8:00 AM	<b>March 5</b>	
	Planned Giving Council of RI	8:00 AM		
	Temple Sinai Talmud Study	9:45 AM		
	Eden Garden Club	1:00 PM		
	JFRI Endowment Securities Subcommittee Mtg.	4:00 PM		

### February Candle Lighting Times

Feb. 4	4:44	Feb. 18	5:02
Feb. 11	4:53	Feb. 25	5:11

## Shabbat Shalom



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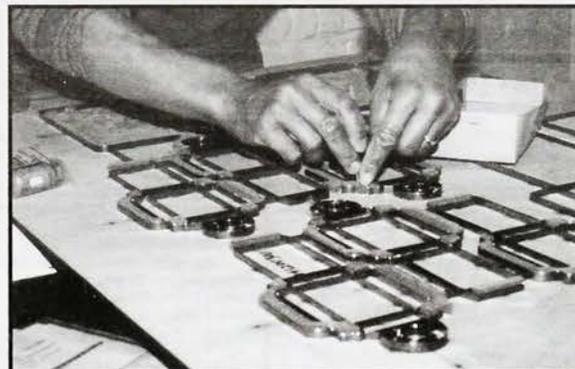
Jon Weiss

## CJ Fox Company. . . from pg. 3

business comes through brokers who work worldwide. Occasionally, it comes in from "off the wall" places.

"We did the packaging for pet rocks and mood rings," Starr laughs. Pet rocks were a man's brainstorm close to the holidays and in order to get them in the stores for Christmas, the gift box had to be simple and produced fast. "The life of those kinds of products is very short, so we have to turn around the packaging quickly," Starr explains.

For that job, the company used a standard die and set some type to decorate it, but that is about as far as the company goes with graphic design services. Complex graphics are done by designers who send the art work to CJ Fox for printing. For many jobs, though, the creation of the die that will form the box is an



Although computers have eased stress and reduced the time necessary to design the dies integral to nearly every job on the CJ Fox presses, assembling the dies is still an exacting job done by hand engineering design feat.

Ken Irons says he was nearly burned out designing and drawing dies by hand. Fortunately, the computer and design software came along and revived him. "What used to take days, now takes hours." That same increased productivity is evident in making negatives for the one, two or six-color jobs. The staff there says that computerization means that what once took five or six hours, now takes 10 minutes. They joke as Josh Starr walks through the plant, "What we used to mess up after hours, we can mess up in 10 minutes."

There is an easy and close camaraderie between the 100-person production and sales staff and the managers. Right outside of the "executive" offices someone is filling up a whole bunch of baskets with fruit, following a tradition. "About once a month we put fruit out in all the departments," Josh says.

At age 29, Josh is the youngest of the family members to be in the business, the first of the fourth generation. As chief information officer, he is installing new software throughout the company's departments. It will be used for estimating, order entry, product tracking, inventory, shipping and billing. "Everyone in this company can use a computer," he says of his training program. "Everyone knows how to use a keyboard and a mouse. We set up a training room so each employee could practice. It created a great team spirit. They are very proud of themselves."

Doing things together is a theme of the company. There is no job that is completely independent. All are intertwined and in recent years employees have learned how others depend on their work and vice versa. If they don't have a direct customer outside the company, they've got one inside.

And they appreciate each other. That is a lesson learned from the second "CJ," Tobek's father, Bob Starr's father-in-law and Josh's grandfather, who died in 1996 after 55 years with the company. He was known for walking around the production floors and personally thanking each employee for their good work as he handed out the paychecks. Fox, although ailing

for some time, had signed 150 checks just hours before he died.

Perhaps that is one of the reasons that when workers join CJ Fox, a non-union shop, they tend to stay for years and in some cases encourage their siblings or children to work there, too. Management does not hover over them. Employees know their jobs and how to do them. If there's a problem, they come knocking on the boss's door and resolve it together.

Bob Starr leans back in his chair and talks about his father-in-law. "CJ was an exceptionally good person to work for. He never took the easy way out. You had to earn your way. He had firm ideas and held to them. He kept this business at a controllable size, successful but not too big. He was a wonderful delegator and gave me enough rope to do what I needed to do."

Buyers come courting constantly, but these two generations have no intention of selling the company. "We don't want to work for anyone else," Bob says. "What happens after someone buys you? What are you gonna do?" he asks.

Owning your own business also gives one certain latitude. For the Fox and Starr families it has been easy to make time to participate in Jewish community activities. CJ Jr. was a president of the Jewish Community Center and was active at Temple Beth-El. Bob Starr performs cantorial duties at Temple Emanu-El for High Holy Days and other occasions, and he, son Josh

and Jill Tobek all are active volunteers at the Jewish Federation.

It was CJ Jr. who decided one day in the early 70s that the outside of the company's elevator shaft would be a good spot for some sort of display that would get folks' attention. Although vexed by very poor eyesight, he was an artist with the camera and had a great knack for visualization.

He decided that shaft was the perfect spot for the company's long and lanky logo, and there it is for you today, a Fox winking at you.



## Touro Fraternal awards first scholarship grant



Robert Miller, vice chairman of Touro Fraternal Association and chair of its student aid committee, gives Sarah Hodosh, Cranston, a sophomore at the University of Rhode Island, the fraternity's first scholarship grant. Touro, the northeast's largest independent Jewish fraternal order, has made interest-free student loans to children of its members for many years. This is the first outright grant for which members or their children are eligible. Sarah's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Peter Hodosh.

## Davidson, Gitlitz to drizzle some honey on Hadassah

URI professors and spouses David Gitlitz and Linda Kay Davidson will bring a taste of Sephardic Spanish cooking to the Rhode Island Chapter of Hadassah on Wednesday, February 17, when they present modernized recipes from their book, *A Drizzle of Honey*.

The 100 recipes in the book were derived from specific references to foods eaten by crypto-Jews who, in the late Middle Ages in Spain and Portugal, converted to Catholicism to save themselves

from persecution and death, but then retained many of their Jewish religious and cultural practices inside their homes.

One of the ways the Inquisitors used to identify these "conversos" was to spy on their household habits, including the foods they ate, especially at the time of the Jewish holy days.

While writing *A Drizzle of Honey*, the professors adapted and taste-tested all the recipes in the book in their own kitchen.

Davidson and Gitlitz are experts in both medieval history and that age's special cuisine. Gitlitz's book, *Secrecy and Deceit: The religion of the crypto-Jews* (1996), won both the Jewish Book Council's Book Award in Sephardic Studies and The Forward's Lucy B. Dawidowicz Prize for History.

Their presentation to Hadassah begins at 7:00 pm in the Cranston Public Library on Sockanosset Cross Road.

## Lunch to raise funds for medical equipment at Hadassah Hospital

Hadassah's Bat Mitzvah Special Gifts Luncheon on May 7 at the Squantum Club in East Providence will celebrate the 12th year of this \$150 per member fund raiser that was originated by the Cranston-Warwick Hadassah. Now that there is only one statewide Hadassah organization, the program has been adopted by the Rhode Island Chapter.

Qualifying members and their

husbands are invited to the noon-time event. Proceeds will help buy equipment and technology and support research at the Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem.

To make reservations call Helen Abrams, 401-785-1486, Phyllis Berry, 401-331-9832, or Shirley Schreiber, 401-783-0934. Members also may call the Hadassah office at 401-463-3697. The office is in Cranston at 1150 New London Ave., 02920.

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## Anonymous grant, Feinstein stipend fund mitzvot program for youths at Temple Sinai

by Jane S. Sprague

Mitzvot for the Millennium are at the top of the agenda in the religious school at Temple Sinai in Cranston. And the prospect of becoming philanthropists has the children abuzz.

A gift of \$5,800 from an anonymous donor has sparked a program that has grown to incorporate additional funding from the Alan Shawn Feinstein Foundation, plus the possibility of more money from the anonymous donor. All of the money is to be given away.

On January 9, the children and some of their parents gathered in the Sinai sanctuary, and while they waited for their speaker, Alan Shawn Feinstein, they exuded a palpable excitement which they directed into spirited singing.

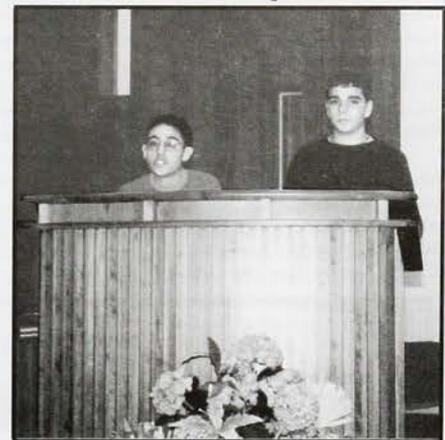
Their principal, Lenore Sones, told them in her introduction of Feinstein, that the Mitzvot for the Millennium program should give the children a chance to join him as "mitzvah heroes."

Mitzvot, Sones said, "Above all are commandments from God to the community to help one another." The Torah, she said, "commands you to open your door to the needy in your lands." That, she added, is what Feinstein has been doing through his programs to address hunger and the needs of the homeless.

In addition to making collective decisions on how to allocate the anonymous donor's funds, each class in the school will make recommendations for the distribution of \$500 from the Feinstein Foundation. All awards will be to non-profit organizations, with final decisions being made toward the end of the school year.

There may even be some fund-raising involved, as the anonymous donor has agreed that if the children conduct programs that raise at least half of the grant, or \$2,900, the donor will match the funds, for a total of \$11,600 to distribute.

The Feinstein Foundation contribution to the mitzvot program may total \$9,000 this year, with the possibility of a similar grant in the next school year.



Alex Hirsch and Justin Connor described what it was like to meet and interact with homeless people in Philadelphia. They were among 31 Rhode Island youths who did community service there at Trevor's Place during their winter vacation.

Feinstein, who has named many programs in memory of his late parents and sister, has added another element to his part of the mitzvot program. The school will create a Tree of Life with a branch for each charitable organization. The children each will name a leaf on the tree in memory of a deceased member of their family.

"It is we who can make a difference," Feinstein said, "we who can change the world." He told the familiar story of the boy on a beach throwing starfish back to the sea even though, as an adult pointed out to him, there were so many that what he was doing wouldn't make a difference, but the boy replied as he threw one back on an outgoing wave, "It made a difference to that one."

"The good deeds you are doing," Feinstein said, "make the world a little better place. That makes you a very special person."

He must have considered two junior high school boys especially special as they followed him to the podium to propose a plan to help the homeless. Justin Connor and Alex Hirsch had been among 31 youths from Rhode Island whom the Bureau of Jewish Education took to Philadelphia in December to work at Trevor's Place, a project that takes food and clothing to the city's homeless.

The boys described assembling personal hygiene products for brown bags, and then taking them to the street. Justin related how it "shocked me. These homeless people were so real," including one man, now in his 30s, who graduated from Johnson & Wales University but later squandered his assets on drugs.

The boys propose developing a similar program to Trevor's Place in Rhode Island.



After the formal program, Alan Shawn Feinstein talked with many children and their parents about their mitzvot plans. Later, he met with the religious school teachers.

### March Voice Deadlines

**Copy:** Articles for the March issue of The Voice due no later than Monday, February 14.

**Letters:** Letters must be in The Voice office no later than Wednesday, February 16.

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# Beth David sturdy shul after 40 years of challenge and change

by Jane S. Sprague

For a synagogue that is less than 40 years old, Congregation Beth David in Narragansett has seen a lot of changes. More are on the way.

Growth in recent years is part of that change.

Stanley Barnett, a professor of chemical engineering at the University of Rhode Island, and a president of the shul for several years in the 80s, says that when he took the reins, member families numbered only 50. By 1988 there were 80 families, 100 by 1997 and a 10% annual growth since then. Today there are 130 full memberships, exclusive of those who are seasonal members.

"We have had to deny memberships," Barnett said, "simply because we can't seat them all during the High Holy Days. In fact, we're looking for a hall for next fall," he added. Barnett reports that the synagogue is also overflowing on Simhat Torah and Purim when children flock to services. And, there are 10 or 12 Bar/Bat Mitzvah each year now.

Trying to keep the congregation truly "South County," membership regulations stipulate that full members must live between East Greenwich and Westerly, west to Hopkinton/ Hope Valley and east to Jamestown. Family dues are \$225 a year, \$90 for singles.

"The South County Hebrew School feeds us members and young Jewish families are moving into the area," notes the shul's current president, Sheldon Slomowitz, a retired Navy scientist.

The Hebrew school was organized by parents some 30 years ago and remains independent of any synagogue or affiliation. Its principal, Ethan Adler, also serves as the spiritual leader of Congregation Beth David.

Rick Perlman, whose father was cantor for many years at Temple Emanu-El in Providence, performs cantorial duties. Long time member, Robert Curran, MD, a kohen, is also a mohel, available to perform the rite of circumcision for male infants born to area families.

Adler and Perlman also help prepare 12- and 13-year-olds to become Bar/Bat Mitzvah, as do members Brenda Levin and Margolit Aharon, an Israeli, "whose inflection and accent we hear in her students' Hebrew," Slomowitz says.

Although not chartered as a congregation until 1961, Jews who summered in the Narragansett area had been gathering a minyan on Friday evenings in someone's summer

Editor's Note: This article is the 5th in a series The Voice is writing that profiles all Jewish congregations in our area.



At the dedication of the new Torah in 1966, congregants paraded the holy scroll from Caswell Street to the shul. From left, Goldie Stone, congregation president Shlomo Kofler and Chaim Stone walk with Benton Odessa, treasurer, under the huppa.

home since at least 1946.

These vacationing Jews, who mostly lived and worked in Providence, eventually decided they needed a summer synagogue, and in 1961 spent \$15,000 to erect a small ranch-style building on a corner lot at Kingston and Watson Roads. They chartered the synagogue as an Orthodox Congregation, although nearly 75% of the members belonged to Conservative synagogues elsewhere.

On July 4, 1962 they dedicated the building as Congregation Beth David in memory of David Frank, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Frank, who had died the previous year. His parents had frequently hosted minyanim in their home during the years before the synagogue was built.

Three years later, with 200 members on the books — and 300 squeezing into the little shul for the High Holy Day services — the congregation burned its mortgage. The next summer, August 14, 1966 the officers took turns carrying a new Torah scroll under a huppa from Caswell Street to its new home in the Beth David ark. It had been donated by Martin M. Zucker, in honor of his mother, Mary.

The outside of the modest little synagogue was basically unadorned until August 15, 1976 when a Magen David which had once been on the walls of Sons of Zion, in Providence, was hung above the Beth David front door and dedicated. Sons of Zion had been demolished years before to make way for Route 95.

By this time, the summer Jewish population had dwindled significantly, due largely to the burning of the Massasoit Hotel, where many had stayed. Yet, by 1978 there were enough Jewish families permanently residing in the "South County" area to convert the synagogue to year-round use. After board member Harold Perlow agreed to underwrite the heating bill, the transition was made at 11:00 am on November 26. Up to this time, a very small group of dedicated members had managed the affairs of the synagogue. Shlomo Kofler had been its only president and Benton Odessa its sole treasurer.

Benton's widow, Elaine Odessa, remembers carting kosher food from Davis's on the Providence East Side down to Narragansett for Sunday breakfasts, and their daughter, Susan Odessa Froehlich, recalls

stuffing envelopes with membership dues notices.

Ron Salavon, a longtime resident in the South County area and a former board member of the synagogue, also remembers the diligent work of Bruce Jacober, now a resident of Florida. "In the summer, Bruce would walk up and down the beach at Narragansett collecting \$5 and \$10 summer memberships until he had enough to pay the insurance bill," Salavon recollects with a laugh.

The change away from being solely a summer shul, plus the influx to the area of "liberal" Jewish families as year-round residents, led to a tense time in the life of the little congregation as new members sought another transition — to a Conservative affiliation.

The original by-laws were stacked against them. Any such change, Salavon said, had to be approved by 95% of the membership, and that was interpreted to mean the whole membership, not just the majority of a quorum that might showed up at a meeting to take a vote.

Salavon remembers that "We just wanted to be able to sit with our families during services," but the prospects were bleak. Ingenuity came forth, as Salavon tells it. "We stacked the deck."

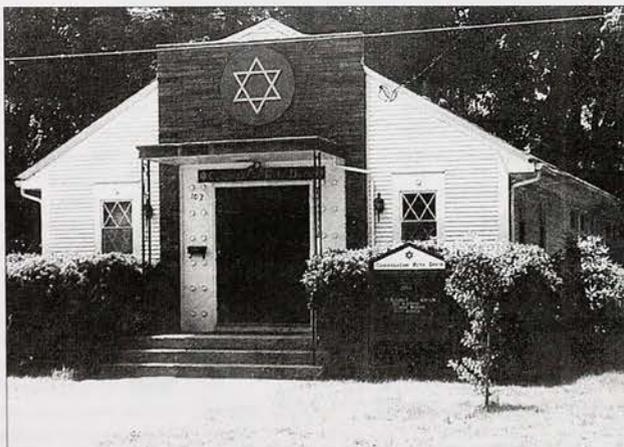
Members eager for the change began recruiting everyone they knew to join Congregation Beth David, with its minuscule dues, so they could vote for the change. "I think we got about 400 members," Salavon said. "But when the vote was taken, we were one vote short — 94.6% in favor — and could not persuade anyone among the Orthodox to change or withdraw. So we went to court."

Z. Hershel Smith, an attorney whose Orthodox family had been associated with the synagogue, would not budge in his insistence that 94.6% was not close enough. What to do?

Enter a judge with the wisdom of Solomon. Salavon recalls the ruling as stipulating that for five years Conservative services would be on Friday evenings and Orthodox on Saturday mornings — with the caveat that a special Conservative service such as a Bar/Bat Mitzvah could pre-empt the Orthodox on Saturdays.

"The Orthodox members did not take advantage of their allotted use," Salavon recalls, "probably because they could not get a minyan. So, after about three years, it officially became a Conservative congregation. All we did was take down the mehitzah. We kept the same prayer book and service, and many of the Orthodox joined us."

Congregation Beth David also maintains a small kosher dairy kitchen for occasional Sunday morning repasts and the Please turn to page 20.



The modest little shul has been the scene of services, a few weddings and numerous bar/bat mitzvah over the years. The Magen David over the door originally was on the Sons of Zion synagogue in Providence.

## Touro Synagogue, an American Treasure, makes it to the Red Room

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A \$25,000 grant to the Society of Friends of Touro Synagogue in Newport will be applied toward the restoration expenses.

The award came from the Save America's Treasures Preservation Planning Fund of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Touro was one of 37 recipients. The grants are funded by the J. Paul Getty Trust.

Touro Synagogue had been designated an "American Treasure" in the partnership project between the White House Millennium Council and the National Trust. In an effort to highlight the Treasures, a model of each was on display at the White House during the recent holidays.

Dedicated in 1763, Touro is the oldest synagogue in the United States and the only one to survive from the colonial era. The congregation was founded in 1658 by the descendants of Marranos who fled



Look closely and you'll see a model of Touro Synagogue between the women's heads. Gathered in the Red Room at the White House were (l to r) Melvin Prostkiff, vice president of the Society of Friends of Touro Synagogue, Society executive director Bea Ross, and Carol and David Bazarsky. David is president of the congregation.

the Inquisitions in Spain and Portugal, and who were, themselves, seeking a haven from further religious persecution in the Caribbean.

The synagogue was designed by colonial architect Peter Harrison and is considered one of the finest

examples of 18th century Georgian architecture in America.

The Society of Friends of Touro Synagogue maintains and preserves the synagogue, the Colonial Jewish Cemetery and Patriots Park, and promotes the cause of religious freedom in America.

## Sturdy Beth David... from pg. 19

annual paid-up members deli dinner.

Today, women participate freely in services, "and are some of our best readers," Slomowitz says. For the last seven years, there has

been an annual service run completely by women, and the local Hadassah members also organize an annual service.

With a growing population and Jewish residents now with long-

time ties to the area, some members decided to provide for Jewish burials within the community. They bought and consecrated 130 plots in the non-sectarian Fernwood Cemetery on Route 138 on the southwestern edge of the URI campus. The cemetery is open to all Jews, not just synagogue members. "We also have made provision for intermarried spouses," Barnett said, adding that he estimates that about 25% of the congregation's families are intermarried.

Occasionally, a non-Jewish spouse will convert, he said. Those who are interested in exploring conversion are directed to the Gerim Institute at Temple Emanu-El in Providence.

The explosion in Beth David's membership and the general growth of the Jewish population — there are more than 580 Jewish families living in their geographic area — encouraged the synagogue to join forces with the Hebrew School, the South County Jewish Community Council and Hadassah to incorporate the South County Jewish Collaborative.

The Collaborative has purchased an 11-acre site with a sizable house, a pond and nature trails which the members hope to transform into a center for vibrant Jewish activity. Plans are being drawn for a new structure that will accommodate the Hebrew School (which now floats among available URI classrooms), a 300-seat synagogue, cultural programming and offices.

Beth David's officers have not officially voted to move to the new campus, but the biggest contributors to the Collaborative are its members. It is likely that the sturdy little shul will see more change.



Congregation president Sheldon Slomovitz and one of his predecessors, board member Stan Barnett, on the bimah of Beth David. The congregation is likely to move to new quarters if fundraising for the South County Jewish Collaborative's building is successful.

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Youths ages 15 to 19 should apply now to be in the Mideast Scholar-Athlete Games which will open for nine days in Tel Aviv, Israel on June 25.

Competition will be in basketball, beach volleyball, soccer, swimming, tennis, track and field, volleyball and chess, as well as art, cinema, dance, symphony, theater, writing and poetry.

Unlike most international competitions, there will be no national teams. For example, 10 players on a basketball court could come from 10 different countries. In addition, youths will engage in a variety of discussions and seminars.

"The goal of the Scholar-Athlete Games concept is to use sport and the arts as mediums to bridge cultural, religious and ethnic boundaries," said Daniel E. Doyle, the founder and executive director

of the Institute for International Sport, based at URI (which hosted games in 1993 and 1997 that drew 3,600 youths from 158 countries), which created and organizes the Games. He added, "We are confident that the Mideast Games will be an important building block to understanding and communication between youth of the region." The program is chaired by Alan Hassenfeld, CEO of Hasbro Toys.

Only 75 American scholar-athletes will attend the games. Applicants will be accepted on a rolling basis. The cost, which includes two days of touring, is \$2,450. For an application and information write the Institute for International Sport, PO Box 104, University of RI, Kingston, RI 02881; e-mail to info@internationalsport.com, or call Steve Spiegel at 800-843-9724 or 401-874-5088.

## HIAS SCHOLARSHIPS

HIAS-assisted refugees who emigrated to the United States during or after 1985, and their children, should apply for \$1,500 college scholarships by March 15.

The awards are for high school seniors who will pursue post-secondary education and for those already enrolled in such programs. Applicants must have spent at least one year in an American high school, college or graduate school.

For an application, write to HIAS Scholarship Awards, 333 Seventh Ave., NY, NY 10001-5004. Enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

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The state-of-the-art Cybox strength-ure Faces may identify nev

The ease of learning makes it a pe feel the difference; now I understa Director) wanted to switch to Cybox, Health and Fitness Education Com members identifying muscle groups Cournoyer, who raised funds for this Montreal last August.

The JCC fitness center also incber of Temple Emanu-El. Rachel studio, which now offer Pilates on tis a student at HEM and she serves aerobics studio is home to step, cardas a Torah Tutor at Emanu-El. variety of additional aerobic group e>Last year, Rachel spent a semester studying in Israel as a student in the Alexander Muss High School. She is an active member of the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization and she

side with Weizmann scientists and graduate students.

Highly competitive, this Dr. Bessie F. Lawrence International Summer Science Institute from July 3-28, brings approximately 75 pre-university youths to Israel from Europe, Asia, the Americas and Israel.

The final week of the program is spent at a field school in the

Scholar. Natanya volunteers as a library teacher for 1st graders and an aide to the 3rd grade teacher. In addition, she coordinates Shabbar activities for a group of young girls at the school, and organized a group of youths to visit an elderly couple weekly.

Rachel Suls is a senior at Charles E. Shea High School and a member of Temple Emanu-El. Rachel Last year, Rachel spent a semester studying in Israel as a student in the Alexander Muss High School. She is an active member of the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization and she Please turn to page 24.

## JCC accepting pre-school enrollments



Esta Yavner (left photo) reads a Shabbat story to her class of 3-year-olds as the 4-year olds welcome Shabbat with members of the JCC Senior Center at the Traditions on Wheels cart. Applications for Fall 2000 Early Childhood programs are available now. For further information and tours, contact Sue Connor, Early Childhood Director, or Shirley Moskaluk, Administrative Assistant, at 401-861-8800, ext. 130/131.

## ADD camp in PA

Round Lake Camp, which is sponsored by the New Jersey Federation of YM/YWHA Camps, is accepting enrollment applications for the summer of 2000. The camp, a sleep-away facility in Wayne County, Penn., specializes in serving children who have been identified as having ADD/ADHD or other mild handicapping conditions.

For details on the camp and its programming, contact David Friedman at the camp office by calling 973-575-3333, ext. 122, or e-mail to ric@njcamp.org.

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## Tour Birthday party on tap at an American Cranston seniors' mealsite makes it to the top

The Cranston Meal site will celebrate February birthdays on the 17th, with a party for everyone with a birthday this month and featuring musical entertainment by Michael Flynn.

Mah Jong has been added to the Mealsite's regular activities, which also include Tai Chi, dance therapy and exercise classes, writing class, Bingo and visits from the Bureau of Jewish Education Bookmobile. Participants can get their blood pressure checked or ask health-related questions during the periodic visits of the Registered Nurses from the Home Care program of Jewish Family Service.

The activities and programs accompany a hot kosher meal at noon every weekday throughout the month. The Mealsite will be closed on Monday, February 21 for President's Day. The February schedule includes:

- Tai Chi: Tuesday, Feb. 22
- Bingo: Feb. 7, 15, 29
- Exercise: Wednesdays, Feb. 9, 16, 23
- BJE Bookmobile: Wed., February 9, 23
- Dance Therapy: Mon., February 14, 28
- Nutrition Meeting: Tues., February 8
- Birthday party: Thursday, Feb. 17
- JERI Program: Thurs., Feb. 10
- Mah Jong: Tues., February 8 and Mon., Feb. 28, 12:45 to 2:30pm
- Discussion Groups: every Friday
- Shabbat Meal: every Friday

Programs begin at 11:00 am unless, otherwise stated, every weekday, except holidays. Every Friday, there is a special Shabbat meal, complete with candles, challah and kiddush.

The JFS K kosher Mealsite in Cranston is at Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Avenue. Transportation is available for residents of Cranston and some areas of Warwick. For reservations and information, call Mealsite Coordinator Ronda French at 401-781-1771.

## Rainbows on cheeks, smiles aplenty at Adoptions Options party

A child sitting patiently while a rainbow is painted on his face...a

celebration of the joys associated with adoption and an opportunity for

little girl playing a whimsical game of "balloon catch" with her mother... preschoolers concentrating intently at the arts and crafts table... adoptive parents chatting about their kids, the adoption experience, schools, activities, play groups... This will be the scene at the 2nd annual Adoption Options Birthday Party on Sunday, February 13 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. Those who have adopted recently are invited to attend.

The next meeting of Adoption Options, the adoption program of Jewish Family Service (JFS) will be March 1 from 6:00 to 7:30 pm. The meetings are the first Wednesday of every month at the JFS offices, 229 Waterman St., 2nd floor, Providence. The meetings are free and open to anyone interested in pursuing an adoption. Call Adoption Options at 401-331-5437 or toll-free at 1-800-337-6513 for information or to arrange a confidential consultation. Or visit the web site at [www.adoptionoptions.org](http://www.adoptionoptions.org).

parents to meet others who have had similar experiences. The party will be in the Adoptions Options conference room at 229 Waterman Street, 2nd floor, Providence. Last year, nearly 60 people attended the celebration.

Adoption Options is a non-sectarian, comprehensive adoption program under the auspices of Jewish Family Service. To RSVP, call Adoption Options at 401-331-5437; toll-free at 1-800-337-6513.

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### Voice Deadline

All agencies and organizations should have articles for the March Jewish Voice in the editorial office by Mon., Feb. 14. 130 Sessions St., Prov., RI 02906; [JVoice@aol.com](mailto:JVoice@aol.com)

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## BJE offers teachers professional development

"Jewish Educators' Guide to the Internet" is the topic of a workshop series that the Bureau of Jewish Education is offering this month to help teachers learn about various possibilities for using the Internet — as background resources, as instructional aids and as student activities.

This is not just a guide to websites and search engines. Through critical reflection, teachers will deal with the issues of reliability, educational validity and educational structures. This mini-series of workshops began February 1 and continues on Wednesday, February 8 and March 1, from 7:00-9:00 pm in the Resource Center of the BJE, 130 Sessions St., Providence. Lawrence Katz will be the facilitator.

"Masks: A Purim Workshop," will meet on Wednesday, February 16th, from 7:00-9:00 pm in the BJE's Resource Center. Teachers will learn what's behind masks and why we wear them. They will study techniques for making masks, find out how they can be utilized as an educational tool and how they can add a new dimension to understanding the Purim story. Sharyn Yanku Wilk will be the facilitator.

The Bureau has also begun "The Rabbis said: An Introduction to Rabbinic Literature," a course presented by various rabbis and instructors in the Rhode Island area on Mondays through May, from 7:00-9:00 pm. Rabbinic literature continues to speak to human beings and human societies throughout the ages. It is constantly referred to in our texts and from the pulpit. Participants will discuss selections from the entire range of post-Biblical literature attributed to "The Rabbis." The nature and authors of each type will be examined.

Any teachers interested in these workshops may register by calling Diana at the BJE, 331-0956. Her e-mail is bjeri@aol.com.

## Kick up your heels with Yarmulkazi at HEM fund raiser in March

Yarmulkazi??? It's Brown University's Klezmer Band, and they'll be playing for sing alongs and dancing at the annual fundraiser for the Harry Elkin Midrasha Community High School (HEM) on March 11 at 7:30 pm at Temple Emanu-El in Providence.

Yarmulkazi is an energetic group of students with widely ranging musical backgrounds. The group boasts diverse instrumentation including the violin, clarinet, trumpet, flute, accordion, piano, electric bass and percussion. Yarmulkazi, a favorite in the Brown community, is known for presentations of traditional Klezmer favorites, Israeli dances and "Klezmerized" popular music.

This year's event also will feature the HEM Youth Choir, 30 area teens under the direction of Cantor Brian J. Mayer. The Youth Choir has sung at many local celebrations and concerts.

Tickets for the HEM fundraiser are \$18 for adults and \$9 for students and seniors. HEM students are invited at no cost.

For more information about the HEM fundraiser or other teen programs offered by the Bureau of Jewish Education, contact Rich Walter at 331-0956 x 178 or by e-mail at rsw178@aol.com.

## Research supports value of Israel trips

Ruth Page, Israel Desk Director at the BJE, says that "Formal research and personal testimony demonstrate convincingly that a summer visit to Israel profoundly influences how young people relate to Israel and their Jewish identity. In recognition of the potential positive impact the Israel experience can have, the Rhode Island Jewish community is working to sharply increase the number of young Jews who visit Israel."

The Gift of Israel Program is a partnership among families, synagogues, the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island and the BJE. "JFRI's generosity has enabled this program to begin," Page adds.

Students in grades 3-8 may enroll, as long as they are in a Jewish educational program and remain there for the duration of the Gift program (10th grade). The trip to Israel may be taken anytime after the 10th grade until age 23. Each year the child's family contributes \$150, the participating synagogue adds \$50, and Federation matches with \$200.

Now in its 5th year, Gift of Israel has over 200 enrolled and 12 synagogues are participating. Students from non-participating synagogues may enroll as long as they are attending approved Jewish educational programs and their parents contribute the the synagogue's share. Registration for this year closes on March 1, 2000. To enroll a child or to find out which synagogues are participating, contact Page at 401-331-0956.

## JOLT honors 5 as Future Faces

Five young high school women have been honored with the Future Faces Teen Recognition awards given by JOLT — Jewish Outreach and Leadership Training — a program of the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island (BJE).

Future Faces recognizes Jewish students in grades 11 and 12 who exhibit outstanding abilities and make contributions to Jewish life and values by their leadership and their participation in community service, social action, Jewish studies and religious activities.

Rich Walter, BJE secondary education coordinator, says that "The Future Faces nominees and awardees have demonstrated an understanding of and internalization of primary Jewish teachings such as Klal Yisrael — the unity of the Jewish people; Ahavat Yisrael — the love of one Jew for another; Tikkun olam — making the world a better place for all humankind, and Kol Yisrael arevim zeh b'zeh — every Jew is responsible one for the other."

This year's recipients, all active in myriad extracurricular activities, are Sarah Gross, Lakeville, Mass., Rochel Jakobowicz and Natanya Raskin, both of Providence; Rachel Suls of Pawtucket, and Lauren Wier, West Warwick.

Nominees who also were recognized at the ceremony are Joshua

Beraha, Abby Berkelhammer, Rachael Blackman, Jessica Goldberg, Dena Gromet, Eitan Hersh, Judah Jacobson, Emily Krauss, Rachel Lenore, Stephanie Markoff, Rachel Sockut, and Stephanie Steingold.

Sarah Gross, junior at Apponequet Regional High School and a member of Tifereth Israel Congregation of New Bedford. She is active in her USY chapter, currently serving as president, and she is a student in the Harry Elkin Midrasha Community School (HEM). She is a student in the UMASS Dartmouth Dual Enrollment Program. Last year, Sarah spent her summer at the Technion University in Haifa studying math, science and Israel.

Rochel Jakobowicz, a senior at the New England Academy of Torah (NEAT). Rochel is a member of National Honor Society. She has worked as a camp counselor and has assisted in a 2nd grade classroom as an aide. Her deep love and concern for those in need is evidenced by her regular visits to elderly members of the community who live in nursing homes or who are homebound.

Natanya Raskin, a senior at NEAT, a member of National Honor Society and a National Merit Scholar. Commended

Scholar. Natanya volunteers as a library teacher for 1st graders and an aide to the 3rd grade teacher. In addition, she coordinates Shabbat activities for a group of young girls at the school, and organized a group of youths to visit an elderly couple weekly.

Rachel Suls is a senior at Charles E. Shea High School and a member of Temple Emanu-El. Rachel is a student at HEM and she serves as a Torah Tutor at Emanu-El. Last year, Rachel spent a semester studying in Israel as a student in the Alexander Muss High School. She is an active member of the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization and she Please turn to page 24.



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## From ASDS Schechter hoopsters take key rivals

The boys' basketball team at ASDS opened its season by trouncing the Rocky Hill School 26 to 13, and then romped over Moses Brown 50 to 22. The third game was a loss, 38 to 32, to Providence Country Day.

Lead scorers in the opening game were Ben Odessa with 8 points in the first half and David Levinson with 6 points overall. Spencer Kurn and Michael Wolpert each threw in a three-pointer to boost the score, while Ben Savitzky pulled down numerous rebounds.

The Schechter girls' team lost to Rocky Hill, 21 to 10. Marlene Wacks led the team's scoring with 6 points, made in two consecutive three-pointers. Hope Sholes and Shayna Hersh helped the offense with two points each, while Leah Weissburg captured numerous rebounds. The girls had a closer game with Providence Country Day, coming within six points. High scorers were Leah Weissburg (8) and Shayna Hersh (6).

Unfortunately, neither team came out overall winners in the "Shoot Out" Tournament among Schechter schools that was in Stoughton, Mass., on January 23. The ASDS boys' team placed 4th overall. The girls won their first round but lost out in the second.

## ASDS hires development director

Susan A. Freel is the new Director of Development, responsible for the annual campaign, general donations and endowment at the Alperin Schechter Day School.

Freel's career has included organizing and managing health and trade fairs, serving as a director of volunteers, coordinating advertising and exhibit sales and conducting telemarketing, direct mail and account management. She holds a BA from Syracuse University and an MA and MSW from Boston College.

She says her goals include "developing a long term strategy of fund raising to strengthen the mission of ASDS" and "cultivating a long-term relationship with volunteers, community leaders and ASDS families."

Freel and her husband, Mark, live in Rumford, RI.

## Sir Hillary???



Sarah Goliger, a 4th grade student at Schechter, transformed herself into Sir Edmund Hillary for a recent Explorers Unit in Language Arts class. Sarah introduced her classmates to the famous explorer from New Zealand. In 1953, Hillary and Tenzing Norgay became the first men known to reach the summit of Mount Everest.



Susan Freel

## Come to annual Zimriyah

The annual Zimriyah, or Songfest, at ASDS will help break "the dull gloom of a long Rhode Island winter," on Thursday, February 17 at 7:00 pm.

Students, faculty, staff and family members present touching, funny and memorable songs to an audience which comes to this event year after year. This year's program will feature "Shabbat Around the World," including songs from Old World countries, Israel and the United States.

The program, open to the community, will be in the Alperin Meeting House at Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence.

Alperin Schechter Day School's annual fund campaign offers supporters several avenues for giving, for example:

- \$18 buys a library book or some recess equipment
- \$25 provides a child with milk for a month
- \$50 pays for Shabbat parties for one grade
- \$100 sponsors a class trip
- \$200 underwrites a cultural enrichment program.

## Under their own tallit



Rabbis David Lipman (left) and Wayne Franklin (right) hold a tallit over the ASDS 3rd graders during their Humash ceremony. It is the same tallit that the children's parents had made for their 1st grade Siddur Ceremony.

## Future Faces... from pg. 23

serves as both chapter president and also as vice president of the New England region.

**Lauren Wier**, a senior at Moses Brown and a member of Temple Torat Yisrael. She has received numerous awards including being a Louis Feinstein Memorial Scholar, awarded for community service. She is a student in HEM and an active member of her USY chapter, serving as its president. Lauren is involved in a multitude of service programs and she has

volunteered her time as big sister, reading tutor, youth softball coach, and as a Spanish speaking day-care worker. Lauren is also a member of the Youth in Philanthropy Board, a program of the Rhode Island Foundation and the Alan Shawn Feinstein Foundation.

JOLT is funded through a Continuity Grant from the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island. For more information about these or other BJE teen programs, contact Walter at 331-0956, ext. 178 or by e-mail at rsw178@aol.com.

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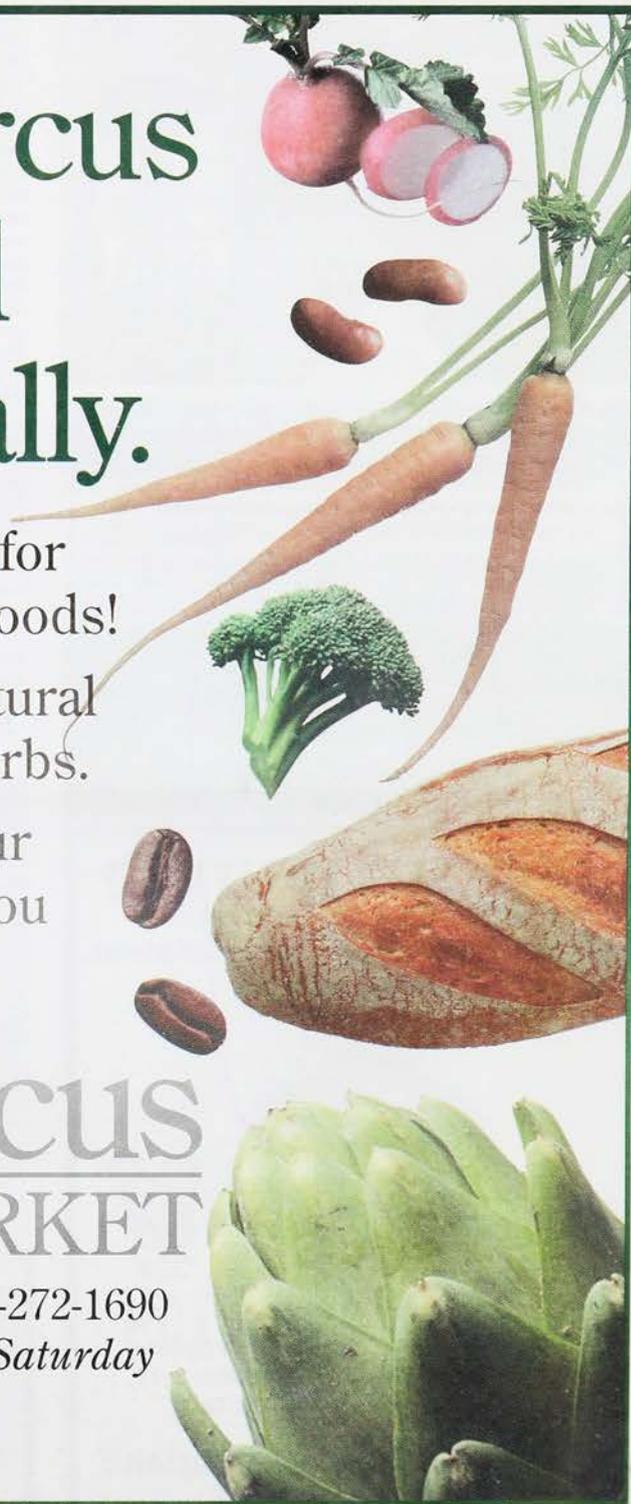
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## PHDS pupils develop marine education center



As part of the special enrichment program at Providence Hebrew Day School, 4th, 5th and 6th graders are developing their own small-scale "marine education center." (above picture)

Enrichment teacher Beverly Hall said the goal is to adapt a salt water, marine life exhibit into a "hands-on" educational experience.

The first unit being developed by the children will be based on the Eric Carle book "A House for Hermit Crab." Students will set up and care for a salt-water tank, which will hold the marine plant life and animals represented in the book.

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## Suburban parents choose day school education

by Susan and Elliot Waterman

WEST WARWICK — When we got married we settled in West Warwick which was equidistant from our places of employment. At that time, the quality of the town's educational program was not an issue to us, nor was the need to live within a Jewish community, as we happily observed Jewish customs within our home and spent our weekends driving up to temple, and visiting our Jewish friends in Providence.

Our daughter, Jessica, was born in 1991. We wanted her, as well as our son Daniel, born two years later, to know the pride we felt in being Jewish. We filled our house with Jewish music, books and art. We observed holidays, big and small, and each year proudly erected a sukkah in our backyard (perhaps the only one in town). Despite the fact that we knew no one in our area who was Jewish, our children were made to feel comfortable about their identity.

We were concerned, as the kids grew, about what kind of education they should have, and for us the best option was a Hebrew day school. This was the logical choice for many reasons: the nurturing, safe environment; the comfortable size of the classes; the strong academic program, and, most important to us, the mission of the school — to prepare children to be inquisitive learners, committed Jews, caring human beings and responsible citizens. We did not expect this level of character-building from the local public schools.

We have been impressed with the school's emphasis on building self-confidence and solving problems, as well as the amount of experience the students get



Susan and Elliot Waterman with Jessica and Daniel.

speaking in front of people. Individual attention by the teachers has been exceptional. Academically, our children are light years ahead of where we were at their age. Their Jewish education has already enabled them, at the 1st and 3rd grade levels, to understand and participate in Shabbat and holiday temple services.

We have been totally happy with our decision. Our children are thriving in this environment, and we are sure that the values they learn here will stick with them for the rest of their lives.

*This article is one in a series that offers information about the day school experience, brought to you by a collaboration of The Alperin Schechter Day School and The Providence Hebrew Day School.*

## Brown, RISD students win Jewish lottery

JERUSALEM — Rhode Island School of Design student Juli Schwartz, 21, of Sudbury, Mass., admits that the Jewish part of her identity has never been a top priority. "I celebrated the cultural sides of Hanukkah and Passover, but I never really got involved. It was more going through the motions. I'm dating a guy who is Jewish. I didn't think religion would matter. But since coming to Israel, I've been thinking that if we get married and decide to have kids, it will be nice to pass the Jewish tradition on together."

Schwartz is one of 40 Providence students who won the lottery and got a free ticket to Israel, as part of the Birthright Israel program. Her words are music to the

ears of Charles R. Bronfman, co-chairman of the Seagram Company, and fellow philanthropist Michael Steinhardt, a former Wall Street financier, who initiated the project because of concern over high rates of intermarriage and assimilation. Each gave \$9 million.

Aiming at Jews like Schwartz who are not active Jewishly, the free trips were designed to awaken Jewish feeling that will boost their communities at home. The rest of the \$210 million price tag, will be borne by Israel, the private philanthropists, organizations like Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, and Jewish communities.

The free trips are "a gift from our generation to yours," Bronfman

told the 5,000 students from 16 countries in Jerusalem's Convention Hall. "This is as good as it gets," he said. Later, he coached the students to say aloud: "I'm American, I'm Jewish and I love it."

Steinhardt, in a speech borrowing from Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, said that the Jewish people were engaged in "a great internal battle, testing whether this people can persist in freedom." He called on them to consecrate themselves to the task of renewing Jewry.

Josh Segall, 20, of Montgomery, Ala., a Brown student, says that the trip's cost wasn't its only attractive feature. "Sure, it feels good to win a free trip, but money isn't totally the issue. Some of us have traveled abroad before. Coming on Birthright has to do with the desire to see what Israel is all about. Going with a large group of students made the trip particularly attractive and exciting."

In the midst of Israel's first heavy rain of the season, 10-days of intensive touring to significant Israeli sites like Massada, Rabin Square and the Golan Heights were integrated with studies.

An Educational Expo in Jerusalem offered open classes in subjects as varied as Jewish Meditation, combating anti-semitism, sex in the Talmud, and Dinosaurs or Destiny. On a day in the Old City, students walked on rooftops and in

Please turn to page 28.

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Medical Commentaries

# The dubious legacy of wine

by Stanley M. Aronson, MD and Betty E. Aronson, MD

Long before history was recorded, some nameless ancestor allowed the grapejuice from his vinyard to languish, and thus, exposed to the air, it fermented. This prehistoric human then made a remarkable discovery: The banal fruit juice became magically transformed into a sprightly drink capable of loosening the tongue, elevating the spirits and abolishing the insistent cares of the day.

Wine, along with fire and bread, came to be regarded as one of the fundamental gifts bestowed by the gods. Its preparation and storage became a priestly function, and wine was readily incorporated into religious ceremonies.

Wine is mentioned in the Holy Scriptures over 200 times. Sometimes it is described as a divine gift to mankind, sometimes as a necessary element in some ceremony, sometimes as a means by which well-deserved relaxation may be achieved, and sometimes as a vehicle to lessen grief and alienation.

"Wine maketh glad the heart of man," says the psalmist. And Amos, a sheepbreeder during the reign of King Uzziah of Judah, declares, "I will restore my people Israel . . . They shall plant vineyards and drink their wine." But most Biblical references cast wine as an evil, addictive burden. In the words of Hosea, "whoredom and wine take away the heart."

Given the joyous, sacramental role of wine in so many faiths, current and past, it is intriguing to note the many Biblical tragedies ascribed to wine. Indeed, the first mention of wine in Genesis says that Noah, "tiller of soil, was the first to plant a vineyard. He drank of the wine and became drunk, and uncovered himself within his tent." Thus, the first biblical reference to fermented grape juice, the fruit of the vines, speaks neither of joy nor of conviviality nor even participation in some sacred ritual; rather, it talks of drunkenness and resultant shame.

Later in Genesis is the story of Abraham's nephew Lot, a widower, who escaped from Sodom seeking refuge in a remote cave. Then, besotted by wine, Lot slept with his two daughters, impregnating them. Thus, the second reference to wine describes it as a drug facilitating incest.

During the stressful, nomadic years in the Sinai desert, the Israelites had little access to wine. Moses spoke the words of the Lord, saying, "I led you through the wilderness 40 years . . . you had no bread to eat, no wine or other intoxicant

to drink . . . that you might know that I the Lord am your God." This text suggests that only with the clarity of a head free of wine can there be true communion with the divine Spirit.

Also in the Sinai wilderness, the Lord speaks to Aaron, saying, "Drink no wine or other intoxicants, you or your sons, when you enter the tabernacle, that you may not die." This passage has been interpreted to mean that Israelite priests were forbidden to consume wine during sacred services.

It is sometimes said that the drinking of much wine frees the mind to experience awesome, prophetic visions. Yet when Daniel observes three weeks of mourning, during which time he drinks no wine, he then, and only then, sees "great visions seen by no one else." Later he realizes that the achievement of deeper wisdom can only be attained after a lengthy abstinence.

Each of the prophets has condemned the drinking of intoxicants. Ezekiel talks of the abhorrent deeds undertaken by the people of Israel, practicing deeds of depravity while influenced by wine. On another occasion, Ezekiel berates the Israelites for their blasphemous, wanton harlotries. "You shall be filled with drunkenness and woe," he says, when referring to wine and its "cup of desolation and horror." Isaiah condemns those who begin drinking binges in the morning, continuing through the night "till wine inflame them." Habakkuk rebukes those who compel still others to drink. Jeremiah censures the Israelites on the use of wine, particularly on the evils of selling wine on the Sabbath. And Obadiah berates those who, "drink till their speech grows thick, and they become as though they had never been."

The Book of Proverbs, that remarkable Scriptural collection of

brief reflections, adages and wise insights, contains numerous references to wine, almost all of them unfavorable. "Wine is not for kings . . . lest they drink and forget what has been ordained and infringe on the rights of the poor." When talking of red wine, Proverbs declares: "In the end it bites like a snake, it spits like a basilisk; . . . your eyes will see strange sights; your heart will speak distorted things." Proverbs suggests, "Do not be of those who guzzle wine or glut themselves on meat; for guzzlers and gluttons will be impoverished, and drowsing will clothe you in tatters." Wine, says the Proverbs, is the drink of futility, for those who are hapless, impoverished, lost and embittered.

There is a wealth of secular poetry alluding to wine as an uplifting, inspiring, gleeful and relaxing fluid, encouraging friendship, diminishing pain and banishing the harsh woes of the world. But wine — and other alcoholic intoxicants — has its shadowed side: the destructive world of chronic alcoholism, the carnage of auto accidents, the homes broken by excessive drinking, the many lives shortened.

There is a curious myth that alcoholism is not found amongst Jews. But the many Biblical warnings against drinking suggest that excessive consumption of wine was a problem even in ancient days. And while chronic alcoholism is indeed more frequent in non-Jews, it is a grave error to ignore its existence among us. A person's character, says the Talmud, is recognized by three things: how well he tempers his anger, how generous he is, and how much he drinks.

The Bible is history, genealogies, moral allegories, divine poetry, prophetic vision, philosophic reflection, wise instruction. It also seems to be the earliest known text defining the hazards of alcoholism.

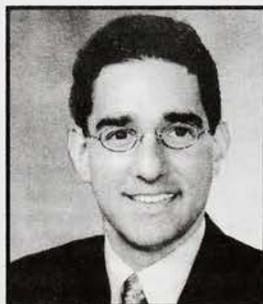
## Aronofsky heads Miriam's foundation

Jeffrey A. Aronofsky, Newport, has been named president of The Miriam Hospital Foundation. He will manage and direct the annual fundraising campaign and lead the hospital's philanthropic projects.

Aronofsky comes to The Miriam after serving as a loan officer with Chase Manhattan Mortgage Corporation. He succeeds Myles Weisenberg.

In Newport, Aronofsky is treasurer of Touro Synagogue. He attended the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, did postgraduate Hebrew studies at Oxford University and earned an MBA in general management from the University of Massachusetts.

He is married to Myra Ellen Edelstein, PhD.



Jeffrey Aronofsky

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Lottery... from pg. 26

tunnels to get a sense of the three religions and where the conflicts lie.

After a full day of touring, they talked into the wee hours of the morning to absorb the impressions, ideas and emotions that accumulated quickly.

"I like the time we have to talk with each other on key issues: what it means to be Jewish and if we believe in God. We stay up late talking. There's surprisingly little idle chatter," said Brown student Adam Elias, 18, of Rye Brook, NY.

Intermarriage per se isn't on the agenda, but it frequently comes up in conversation. "My family very much wants me to marry a Jew, and I care what my family thinks," said Segall. "But I'd never thought of limiting my dating to Jews."

Elias adds, "If the underlying message is, 'Hey, marry a Jew,' then this is a limiting perspective of Birthright. I'm confident that if I marry a non-Jew, I can influence her to appreciate my culture and my family's Jewishness won't end with me."

But statistics show that intermarried Jews are far less likely to identify with their Jewish communities, something the students had

never considered, but one that worries those who initiated Birthright, hoping the project is not too little, too late. "It's a matter of taking Jewish kids whose Jewish background is poor, and before they go on to adulthood, and maybe intermarry and disappear, to give them a Jewish opportunity they might not have," said Steinhardt.

Brown student Josh Lessing, 18, of Staten Island, NY, was drawn to the Old City of Jerusalem. "I like the idea of walking in the Old City and knowing that both my ancestors and other very important people on a world-scale came through here. I know some of the students from campus, but many had never attended any campus Jewish activities," said Brown University Hillel director Rabbi Alan Flam. "We hope they'll continue their interest in Israel and Judaism when they return."

Even lottery "losers" received vouchers for future trips. Birthright organizers hope to bring 120,000 young Jews to Israel. The Brown and RISD delegation was coordinated by campus Hillel organizations. "I know some of the students from campus, but many had never attended any campus Jewish activities," said Brown University Hillel director Rabbi Alan Flam. "We hope they'll continue their interest in Israel and Judaism when they return."

The agony of breaking family silence becomes essential for author to know herself

*After Long Silence, a Memoir*  
By Helen Fremont  
Dell Publishing/Random House  
PB \$12.95/352 pp  
Review by Elly Lewis

It was more than a long silence that characterized the family life of Helen Fremont, her sister and her parents. It was deliberate deception and self-delusion that the parents embraced to cope with the trauma of their Holocaust experience and its aftermath.

As Helen says, "My father suffered from the realization that his life had been unbearable. My mother, on the other hand, suffered from the illusion that hers was not so bad as it really was."

It was only as adults, after secret and elaborate exploration, that the two sisters uncovered the hidden aspects of their parents' lives in Europe. The discovery that they were Jews rather than Roman Catholics, was only part of the story. (The girls had been baptized and raised as Catholics, but theirs was an odd kind of Catholicism. For example, they always left

church before communion, because their mother said it wasn't an important part of the Mass. Their nightly ritual was to say the Lord's Prayer in six different languages, so they could prove their Catholicism wherever on earth they went.)

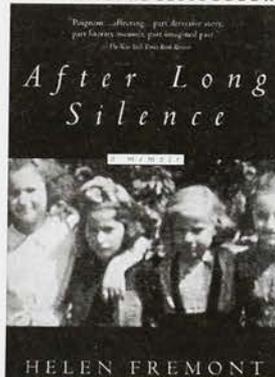
The writer was consumed with finding out what her parents were doing to protect themselves in the present and to forget the past, a past which involved hair-raising experiences over years and years — before, during and after The War.

The traumas kept this reader turning the pages and reading late into the night. The mother's escapes were from the Nazis; the father's were from death in the Soviet gulag

where he spent six years, not because he was Jewish, but because he was suspected of anti-Soviet thinking or activity. This was an aspect of a Holocaust memoir, which I had not expected.

The pages were peopled with relatives, especially the flamboyant

THE NATIONAL BESTSELLER



Aunt Zoysia, neighbors and fellow prisoners in Siberia. The stories themselves belong in the movies.

Notwithstanding the intriguing narrative, Helen Fremont's interest lay in breaking through the secrecy. It was secrecy and deception that she always somehow knew was there, never understood, and felt was the cause of her family's profound dysfunction. I wish the author had described the "dysfunction" more fully. She does write that she felt she had been robbed of her own self because her parents didn't acknowledge their own selves, never dealing with their own emotions.

For example, it was only after beginning to research her family history, that Helen became aware of the anger that her mother had against her grandmother. Helen's mother resented the fact that her own mother had insisted that she escape rather than join her on a deportation train. This is not the only example of such feelings in Holocaust literature. It is reminiscent of the feelings of the main character in the play "Kindertransport."

Helen's need to break the silence had yet another layer of meaning and urgency. She needed to break her own secrecy to tell her family that she was a lesbian. Her parents' silence paralleled her own and she felt she could not tell her secret without attacking the family culture of secrecy first.

The book reveals the effects of these various revelations and the changes they made in the lives of each of the participants. It also suggests a question for discussion — whose right is it to break the silence?

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by Jonathan Kellerman

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# Jewish Seniors Agency works for continuum of care

by Jane S. Sprague

The Jewish Seniors Agency (JSA) is The Home Corporation remade and looking forward.

Now under the direction of Suzette Rabinowitz, who formerly developed senior services for the City of Cranston, JSA operates three substantial programs:

- **Adult Day Center** at 229 Waterman St. (feature begins on page 3), the 25-year-old non-sectarian program for seniors who live in the community but need stimulation and supervision during the day;
- **Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island** — the innovative visitation, programming and advocacy project that brings a Jewish presence to elderly Jews living in nursing homes and assisted living centers, and
- **Shalom Apartments**, the non-sectarian Section 8 housing for the independent elderly on Route 5 in Warwick, that also organizes activities for residents, some with a Jewish component, and serves as a seniors mealsite for the City of Warwick. (The Apartments have a waiting list.)

In addition, in the several months since Rabinowitz succeeded Adelaide Luber as the JSA executive director, the agency has begun a partnership with the Jewish Community Center to enhance the JCC's programming for seniors. "We hope to help the Center broaden its senior client base by expanding its programming."

To help achieve that, Rabinowitz has hired one of her former staff members, Sue Adler, to work with the JCC's coordinator of senior activities, Sue Robbio. Together, the women will look at education and health-related programs, and will meet with various groups to

find out what kinds of events would draw them to the JCC. Rabinowitz says that a health fair for seniors at the JCC is under discussion.

### Telephone Safari terminated

But what really has Rabinowitz excited is Infoquest, a telephone referral system which she hopes to have up and running by March 1, and which will also be the responsibility of Adler. Although managed and funded by JSA, Infoquest is being designed in coordination with Jewish Family Service and other agencies which, together, offer myriad programs for elderly Jews.

Long talked about in the Rhode Island Jewish community, Infoquest will be answered by Adler, who is trained as an information specialist.

Seniors or their family members who are looking for services and information, will be able to call Infoquest with questions. The jewel of the system, Rabinowitz says, will be when the operator can transfer the caller immediately to the agency that provides the service being sought. No need to give out a phone number and tell the client to make another call, just connect them — the end of what she calls the frustrating "telephone safari."

### Assisted living or not?

Still alive and under assessment by the board of JSA is whether to build and fund a kosher assisted living facility in Rhode Island. Although the board had hoped to develop an appropriate program at the

Please turn to pg. 31

## Adult Day Center. . . from pg. 3

well." Watts, a former builder, is a stroke victim who has increased his arm and leg movements since he started coming to the Day Center three days a week.

The gem of the exercise program is the brand new NuStep, a recumbent stepper that gives a total body workout without the high-impact stress of other kinds of aerobic equipment. This \$2,000 piece of equipment has been funded through memorial donations and a gift from the JSA Women's Association.

But all is not physical. The cultural and ethnic programs, often built around theme days, keep minds active and often spark recognition in clients who have trouble making connections.

Those kinds of connections are one of the advantages of the work done by art therapist Maurice Turcotte. One of his "students" even took first prize in the statewide seniors' art show.

Ten times a year, the registered nurses (two share a full-time position) offer special health education or screening programs that may focus on glaucoma, podiatry, breast self-examination, depression and other topics important to the good health of seniors. In cooperation with URI, seniors may "brown bag" medicines for an analysis by pharmacists of whether any medicines are in conflict with others.

There are horticulture programs, intergenerational days every other week with children from a nearby Montessori school and, very important, personal care which dresses hair and polishes nails and even helps clients shower. And there are things which are just plain fun — puzzles, bowling, and cooking — calzones, french fries, hamantashen, cookies, latkes, matzah balls, pop corn. On occasion there even are field trips to parks, plays, JERI programs and to restaurants, and, regularly, visits by the librarian from the Bureau of Jewish Education's Bookmobile.

The clients' primary care-givers also are not ne-



The recumbent NuStep gives clients at the Adult Day Center a full body workout without putting excessive stress on legs and feet.

glected. The Day Center arranges seminars for spouses, children and grandchildren of their clients to help them learn more about caring for their elderly loved one, or simply want to exchange ideas and experiences with each other.

Rabinowitz advises families to investigate the advantages of adult day care before it is actually needed so they will have a plan when the time comes and will not be engaging the service on a crisis basis.

Fees are based on a sliding scale and there are several openings at this writing. For information call Rice at 401-351-2440.

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## That's Life

## "Home Alone" can be a difficult decision

by Erin Gisherman Minior, JFS Director of Professional Services

"When is it no longer safe for an elder to live at home?" This question is posed frequently to Jewish Family Service by caregivers, particularly as they witness the gradual, functional decline of a loved one. They often wonder, "When is it time?"

Watching functional deterioration in an elderly parent or spouse takes an emotional toll on the caregiver, who is often ready to make a placement decision before the elder is.

There is no simple formula to determine this answer. Questions to consider include:

1. **Nutrition:** Can the person get three meals a day? Does the person need prompting or reminding to eat? Will he or she decide not to eat if alone?
2. **Mobility:** Is the elder able to walk independently or with the assistance of a device? Could he or she independently leave the house in the case of an emergency such as fire, get in and out of a chair and on and off the toilet?

Can the person manage other activities of daily living, such as housework, shopping and laundry? While less critical on a day-to-day basis, these should be considered when looking at the person's needs.

3. **Mental Status and Safety:** Is short-term memory intact? Will the

individual remember to turn the stove or the faucet off?

Will the person remember how to call for help should it be urgently needed?

Is there a problem remembering when and how to take prescribed medications?

Does the person wander?

4. **Emotional Considerations:** Does the person show signs of depression, dementia or other conditions which might benefit from professional help? Sometimes the emotional condition of the elderly person warrants additional care.

Is the caregiver stretched to emotional limits? Caregivers who are balancing multiple responsibilities without adequate support systems may experience stress that can be ameliorated by getting additional help in caring for the elder.

5. **Helping the Person Remain at Home:** Depending on the person's needs, there may be appropriate services available in the community. Issues to consider include:

Does the program being considered safely meet all of the critical needs listed above? Does the elder require more than one worker at a time? (For example, it may require two people to assist safely with lifting.)

Are workers available on a consistent basis to provide the service?

What if a worker calls in sick and the agency can not offer a substitute?

Are family members readily available to step in and provide coverage?

Are caregivers willing to remain actively involved in coordinating the person's care?

6. **Financial Concerns:** Finances are often a driving force in the decision making. Options may be available in theory, but their affordability may determine one's ability to choose.

Are services affordable? Can some services be provided through a state program? Does the elder qualify for assistance? Are needed services covered by Long Term Care insurance?

The case managers and clinical social workers at JFS have a depth of expertise in the field of elder care and can provide families with assistance in evaluating these and other related issues. We provide a comprehensive array of services to the elderly and their families, including Case Management, Counseling, Family Life Education, Home Care, Lifeline, the JFS Kosher Mealsite in Cranston and Kosher Meals on Wheels. We can also help families identify additional resources. Call 401-331-1244 for information or an assessment.

## Distraught daughter reassured by JERI's range of services

by Bonnie Ryvicker

JERI Director of Volunteers

Late one cold winter afternoon our phone rang. The caller was distraught because she had just placed her mother in a nursing home, something she had promised she would never do. Having cared for her mother for more than 25 years at home, our caller was exhausted and needed to turn the physical care over to professionals in a nursing facility.

That, of course, does not mean that she will not continue to provide the emotional support that every nursing home resident needs. Her visits, and that of other family members, are incredibly important — necessary — for "mom's" sustenance.

By calling Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island, she found people who could listen and provide needed reassurance. We were able to offer some suggestions on how to help her mom adjust to her new home. By reassuring her that

both our lay staff and one of our rabbis would visit her mother regularly, her burden was shared and lightened. Learning that a Shabbat service and Jewish cultural programs are also provided contributed to her level of comfort.

JERI is an outreach program for residents in both assisted living and nursing facilities throughout the state. Services include Jewish cultural programming, religious services, pastoral and lay visits, a monthly newsletter and referrals.

In order to serve all our frail elderly community members who live in assisted living or nursing facilities, it is important for family members to notify us when a relative moves to such a facility, or moves between facilities. We are just a phone call away: 401-621-5374, or visit our web sight: [www.internetjump.com/JERI](http://www.internetjump.com/JERI).

JERI is a program of the Jewish Seniors Agency (JSA), and is funded by JSA and the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.

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## As we grow older Have a great giveaway

by Tema Gouse

Most senior citizens are wise enough to prepare wills or trusts that legally allocate their major assets. It is a relief to know that those assets will be distributed according to our wishes. It also ensures a minimum of hassles for the executors of our estate.

However, few of us specify how we want our less valuable but highly cherished treasures distributed. It is important to do because we usually have strong preferences for who shall get them. And, secondly, unless those preferences are firmly assigned, conflict can arise after you are gone. Many a family solidity has been destroyed by squabbles over inherited trivia. Valuable jewelry, cars and real estate usually become part of the overall estate, where division or disposition is usually specific.

The "divvying up" becomes more clouded when objects of lesser but more sentimental value are not clearly designated for inheritance. An oft-repeated in our extended family was, "But Aunt May promised that to me!" The truth of the matter is that Aunt May promised everything to everybody.

But there are lessons to be learned from Aunt May's efforts to endear herself to everyone. Each item can only go to one person, no matter who is most deserving. We are talking about a wide diversity of possessions. Everything from a favored silk scarf to a slightly rusty golf club to an antique silver sugar spoon. Value is often based on some experience associated with the item. Our heirs may not comprehend why they have value to us.

There are many things we prize that have no cash value. Our children's report cards. My wedding invitation. Old picture of relatives in Russia whom we have never identified but cannot throw out. My mother's cameo — not the current jewelry rage. My husband's college textbooks, all totally obsolete but prized by him.

The easier disposition is of the items that have a monetary value. Do not ask your daughters or granddaughters which ring they want. Each one could want the same thing. In fact, most such legacies rest unused in a drawer or are foisted off on another relative or sold. Instead follow your heart and give each item to whomever you would like to have it. That is your prerogative. (Note of warning — be fairly equitable. You do not wish to start family battles.) So make the decisions. **AND PUT THEM IN WRITING.**

If specific loved ones have specific needs that your possessions can meet, make them heir to those objects. **AND PUT THAT IN WRITING.** Or give it to them now, when they need it. Our books and paintings have special meaning to specific loved ones. Pass them on now. You will get much pleasure from witnessing their enjoyment of your treasures.

We have difficulty parting with some of our deteriorating household objects and clothing that we associate with happy nostalgia. Sequins are out of style but were lovely on the dress you wore to your son's wedding. It would certainly never fit again but remains in your closet. Twin sweater sets were all the rage when I was in college and if you have one that has eluded the moths, give it to a college student; they are fashionable again. Men's fedoras in every color were mandatory for every man's wardrobe. Now, they are a symbol of an old man. Pack them up with your miniskirts and Dad's leisure suits and take them to the Goodwill or Salvation Army. Someone may enjoy them.

Now to the memorabilia, useless to everyone but you — and, hopefully, some other emotional slob in your circle of friends and relatives. Grandchildren may prize their father's 4th grade report card showing that he got A in Math and C-minus in Department. They may even enjoy displaying ancient unidentified family portraits. Your doctor grandson may proudly display Grandpa's old physics text. Much of it is as pertinent today as when Grandpa studied it. And the needlepoint that took you forever to finish and has been banished to the attic may adorn an otherwise drab dorm room. These bequests must be made while you are around, otherwise they are destined for the trash.

If the antique spoon is not relished, sell it to an antique dealer and give the proceeds to your favorite charity. And finally, do yourself and your loved ones a big favor and throw out all the stuff that they are likely to throw out on receiving it. Be realistic in your goals for your "sentimental" legacy. Our heirs may love us but they are not obliged to share our enthusiasms.

Would anyone like my old Persian Lamb coat?

## JSA services. . . from pg. 29

new Richmond Place, on the East Side of Providence, the parties could not agree on key criteria, so JSA is again considering developing its own facility.

The board's committee for the project is chaired by Martin Dittelman. Working with him are Sidney Goldstein, doing the demographic analysis, Arthur Robbins leading the site committee and Maurice Glicksman heading the finance committee. (Glicksman is to succeed Barbara Sokoloff as chair of the JSA board in June.)

Rabinowitz says the committee "has worked arduously garnering information, meeting with management companies, looking at marketing and finance issues, and making trips to other kosher assisted living facilities.

Their goal, she said, is to have some positive updates on location and size by the end of February.

Although there is some question whether more assisted living is

needed here, Rabinowitz said that overall concern does not address niche facilities. "The study conducted by the Home Corporation in 1995 showed that an affordable kosher facility would be successful," she says.

Despite the wide range of ser-

vices available to Jewish seniors in this area, Rabinowitz says that it is important, over the next several years, for JSA "to look at all our programs and those of other agencies to be sure that we have a true continuum of services and care for our elderly."

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Lewis J. Bosler



"Speak to the children of Israel, that they bring Me gifts; You shall accept gifts for Me from every [person] whose heart is so moved. . . . And let them make me a sanctuary that I may dwell among them." **Exodus 25:2, 8**

Why do you think our ancestors were asked to make God a sanctuary? Can a building contain the Creator of heaven and earth? I DON'T THINK SO-O-O! That means the **mishkan**, the desert sanctuary, was symbolic. It reminded folks that God was in their midst. **How 'bout us?** What's our reminder? Sometimes it can get so **wild** and crazy (hurricanes, floods, urban violence, school shootings) that it doesn't seem like God pays us any mind at all. The answer's right here in the words of the Torah. The gifts that built the sanctuary had to come from the heart. The selfless act of giving makes space for God in the world.



Giving of yourself leads to infinite possibilities. Share your talents with others; teach someone something; volunteer your services! Make a list of several activities that **move your heart** and share them with your family.

## SITTIN' - WALKIN' AND LAYIN' DOWN



We Jews never get a break. After all, the Torah commands us to speak of the laws that guide our lives when we: sit in our house, walk by the way, lie down, rise up – **man, hardly time for TV.** And if we're not busy enough, we're supposed to write 'em on the doorposts of our house. Maybe you tried to do that when you were a baby and got spanked! Hey...live and learn...that's why we have **mezuzot**, you know, the beautiful little cases that contain the first two paragraphs of the **Sh'ma**. It's traditional to put them on the doorpost of every room in the house, except the bathroom...DUH!! When we breeze thru our door after a hard day at school, we see the **mezuzah** and are reminded how we should act at home. Likewise, when we stroll out into the big bad world, we see the **mezuzah** and are reminded of how to act around our friends. It's a pretty cool system...and it **sure beats neon post-its.**

# SPARKS! KIDPAGE



On what side of a house does a desert tree grow?

On the outside.



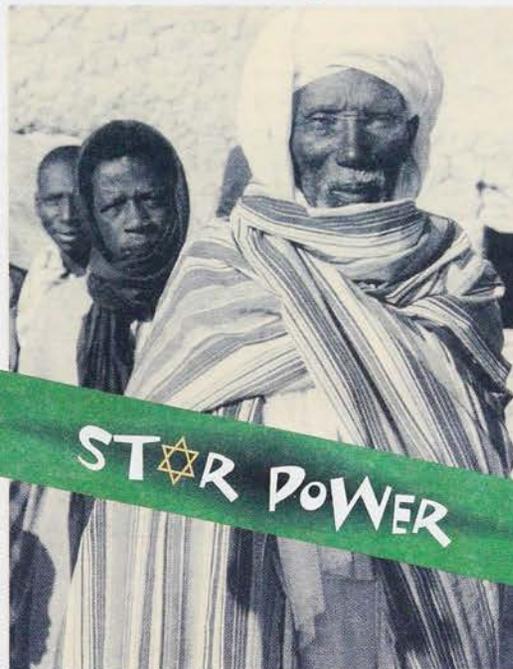
When is a person most likely to enter the house?

When the door is open.



What invention lets you look right through a wall?

A window



## STAR POWER

Are you brave enough to climb into a **leaky canoe** and travel along the Niger River in **western Africa** looking for practicing Jews in the lost Jewish community of Timbuktu? That's what **Samantha Klein** and her brother **Joshua** did a few years ago. While she was working in Mali (a very poor country in Africa) with the Peace Corps, she learned about a community of **Moslems** in Timbuktu that had traced its ancestry back to Judaism. It seems that some Jews who were fleeing Spanish persecution in 1492 were **welcomed in Mali**. Unfortunately, like many of our ancestors, this small community was forced to convert to Islam soon after it arrived. While none of their descendants practice Judaism today, there are several clues that hint at the true identity of the lost **Jews of Timbuktu**: many families have always given Jewish names to newborns; some members sign their names with a Star of David; and some Hebrew songs are still sung. It's amazin' that after 500 years, this lost community has recognized its heritage and is interested in learning about its roots. Check out [www.ubalt.edu/www/kulanu](http://www.ubalt.edu/www/kulanu) for more info about Jews in remote places.

Hey! Join the fun online @ [Sparksmag.com](http://Sparksmag.com)

## LENDING A HAND LENDING A HEART



Bisar... Rezart... Marel... Strange sounding names, like the sound of Jewish names when we first came to America. But these names belong to **homeless refugees and immigrants from Kosovo and El Salvador**. Many families from all over the world

**come to this country** seeking freedom and a better life. They often need help. Sharon Newman Murphy, and her husband, Bill, of Washington, D.C., give it to them! In 1978 they established **Mary House**, a **homeless shelter** that has since grown to eighteen residences. We spoke to Sharon on a sunny afternoon.

**Sparks:** What is Mary House all about?

**Sharon:** "Mary House gives people back their names."

**Sparks:** What do you mean?

**Sharon:** "A name is an identity. Throughout history, particularly during the **Holocaust**, people's names were taken away. They were made strangers, people to fear. Our culture does not encourage **giving a name to the stranger**. But when you learn a person's name, you begin to know them. At Mary House, we give back their name. Then we **listen to their story**. That's how you build trust."

**Sparks:** Thanks Sharon. Keep up the awesome work!

## DID YOU KNOW THAT

The largest residence in the world that isn't a palace of a king or queen is **St. Emmeram Castle** in **Regensburg, Germany**. It has 517 rooms. Of course the family now only uses 95 rooms... Now where did I leave my keys???

The Swiss Family Robinson tree house in **Disneyland** has 300,000 fake leaves on it that are changed twice a year to reflect the seasons.

The Paper House at **Pigeon Cove** is made of 215 thicknesses of newspaper.