

The Jewish

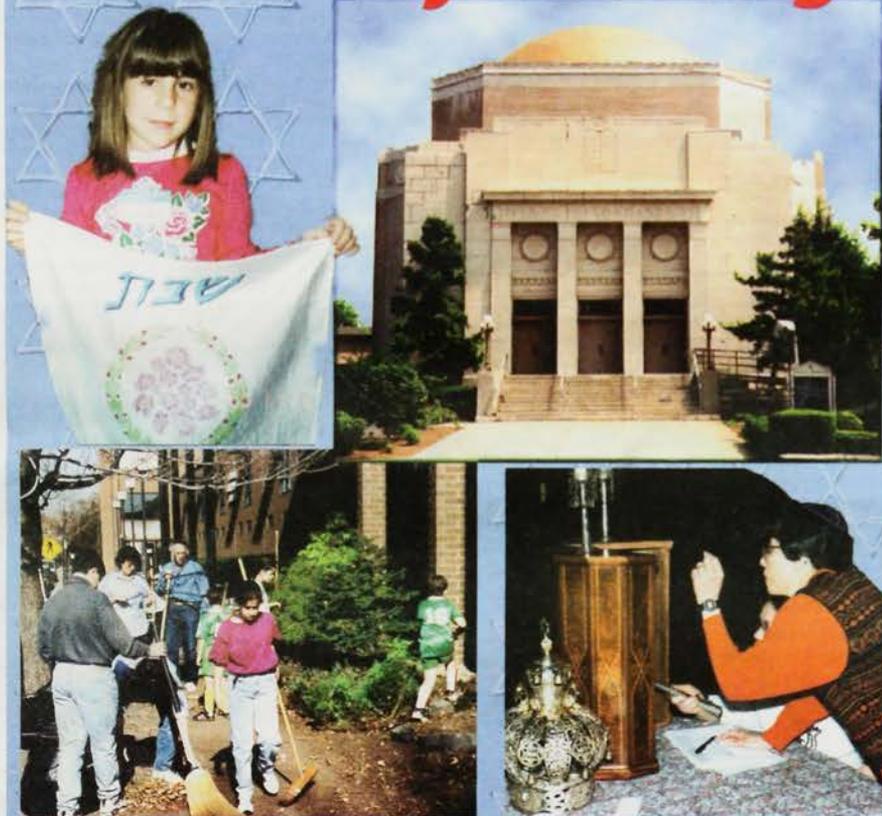
VOICE
OF RHODE ISLAND

Jewish Federation of Rhode Island

IYAR 5760

May 2000

75 Years of Teaching!



This composite of photographs represents some of the diverse programming at Temple Emanu-El, including children's learning activities, a Social Action Committee project and egalitarian participation in teaching and worship.

Another Gelade parody: The Jewish Theatre Ensemble opens an original play, "The Mystery of Sum Yum Soup" with two newly composed songs & 18 parodies on old favorites, on Thursday, May 11. See story page 27

Postmaster: Dated Material.
Please Expedite!

The Cranston Reform synagogue, Temple Sinai, becomes a sponsoring synagogue of the Harry Elkin Midrasha. See story page 20

Temple Emanu-El in Providence is about to conclude the celebration of its Diamond Jubilee year. One of the two largest synagogues in the state, Emanu-El still focuses on its three-pronged purpose: for study, for worship, for assembly.

See story on page 9



Jewish
Federation
of
Rhode
Island

Every year for 55 years, the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island has raised and distributed money to support local social services, and programs in Israel and Jewish communities the world over. This year, the Jews of Rhode Island will **distribute** more than **\$4.3 million**. See story page 3

The Jewish Voice of RI

The Jewish Voice of Rhode Island (465-710) is printed monthly, except Aug., in Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec., Jan., Feb., Mar., Apr., May, June and July by the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, 130 Sessions St., Providence, RI 02906. Telephone 401-421-4111; FAX 401-331-7961; e-mail JVoice@aol.com. ISSN number 1078-7232.

National and international news is gathered from Jewish Telegraphic Agency, World Zionist Press Office, general media, etc. Member: American Jewish Press Assoc., International Jewish Media Assoc.

Publisher: Jewish Federation of Rhode Island; Robert D. Mann, President; Steven Rakkitt, Executive Vice President; **Editor-in-chief:** Jane Sprague

Graphic Artist & Production Assistant: Leah Camara

Editorial Board: Joshua Stein, PhD Chairman; Eleanor Lewis, vice chair; Members: Stanley Aronson, MD, Alan Axelrod, Patricia Cohen, Mark Feinstein, Rabbi Alvan Kaufner, Toby London, Doris McGarry, Linn Freedman, Robert Riesman, Richard Shein, Gladys Sollosy, Judith Romney Wegner, Alan Zuckerman.

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Copy Deadlines: All news releases, photographs, etc. must be received by the 15th of the month. Letters to the Editor are due by the 20th. You may send them by e-mail to JVoice@aol.com.

By-lined articles reflect the opinions of the writers, not necessarily those of the Federation.

Visit the Federation's web site at www.jfri.org
Subscription price \$1.00. Periodicals postage paid at Providence, RI.
Postmaster: Send address changes to: Jewish Federation of RI 130 Sessions St., Providence, RI 02906.

Briefly.

Israel Items

Israel, US tossing China at one another

WASHINGTON: Washington and Jerusalem, which usually sit side by side at the international table, are glowering across it these days over the pending sale by Israel to China of weapons systems, including the Phalcon early warning radar system. The Phalcon, claims Washington, will give China a major advantage in pursuing a possible air campaign against Taiwan.

Israel claims that when the deal was first negotiated, in 1996, Washington raised no objections after being informed by Israel despite the fact that it involves no American technology. The Americans say that they have constantly voiced their opposition.

The first delivery of a Phalcon system is scheduled for next year and the Chinese have options on several more planes.

US Secretary of Defense William Cohen flew to Jerusalem recently to try to talk the Israelis out of going ahead with their plans and President Bill Clinton did likewise when he met last month in Washington with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak.

Representative Sonny Callahan (R-Ala), chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee, has said that he would block \$250 million in foreign aid to Israel if it goes ahead with the deal with China.

In Jerusalem, press reports say that Israel may go ahead with the sale of one aircraft and then cancel the rest of the order. This is not likely to placate Washington where fears have been expressed that the Chinese

will copy the one plane and produce all of the Phalcons it wants. As we went to press, the issues were still being argued and Jerusalem and Washington are seated, by astute hosts, at different tables.

If peace fails, is Canada to blame?

TORONTO: A talkative Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien, has, with eyes closed and mouth open, walked straight into the center of the Israeli-Palestinian dispute over the peace process. First he said

last month, in Gaza, that he would support a unilateral announcement of statehood by the Palestinian leadership if the peace talks fail. This got him into big trouble with the Israeli right wing and didn't help him much with the political center.

One day later he created another uproar, this time with Syria, when he said while visiting Israel, that Israel should retain control of the Sea of Galilee, a subject that is a major stumbling block to an Israeli-Syrian peace.

One Canadian newspaper, in an editorial titled "Clueless in Gaza" wrote that "the Middle East is not the place for a foreign affairs amateur."

Compiled by Yehuda Lev from Jewish Telegraphic Agency dispatches.

Amir Maimon, *charges d'affaires* at the Israeli embassy in Ottawa, was ready to forgive and forget. "As far as we are concerned, there's no change in the long-standing Canadian position regarding the Middle East peace process," he said.

It takes a woman. . .

JERUSALEM: In a deal that might only take place in Israel, an Israeli woman member of the Knesset has resigned a prestigious committee assignment in return for an ultra-Orthodox commitment to approve a "women's bill of rights" law. After adamantly opposing the law for a year, the ultra-Orthodox Shas party, with

17 Knesset seats, cast its votes in favor after Yael Dayan, an MK from One Labor, a sponsor of the bill, resigned her seat on the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee in favor of a Shas MK. The "deal" took place, according to Dayan, when she jokingly told a colleague that she would even give up her committee seat to get the bill passed. Shas denied any deal but did change its stand after the resignation.

Along with granting women equality in the workplace, the military and other spheres of society, the new law also lays out the rights of women over their bodies and protects women from violence and sexual exploitation.

Publishing Perils

Mein Kampf rises like Lazarus

PRAGUE: A Czech publishing house is printing 10,000 copies of Hitler's magnum opus, *Mein Kampf* despite protests by Jewish groups, human rights organizations and German authorities. The publisher is not including any footnotes or disclaimers, saying that it is a "historical document."

The Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic is considering a law suit to prevent distribution of the book. The German state of Bavaria, which owns the copyright, is trying to prevent its publication but under Czech law such rights expire after 50 years.

This is the third time Hitler's book has been published in Czech, but in an earlier edition, commentary by Jiri Hajek, a former foreign minister, was included.

Forward editor being fired

NEW YORK: Seth Lipsky, editor of the English-language *Forward* weekly newspaper, is being forced out of his position because of political differences with one of its owners, philanthropist Michael Steinhardt.

Lipsky, who has been the paper's editor since its founding in 1990, is an admirer of Vladimir Jabotinsky, ideological forefather of Menachem Begin and the Likud Party in Israel. The *Forward* is the literal descendant of the *Forvertz*, the Yiddish language daily that was the voice of Labor Zionism and Jewish socialism in this country. Steinhardt, who contributes generously to liberal causes in Israel and who is one of the major funders of Birthright Israel, which sends young Jews to Israel for 10-day visits, has



An Iranian man reads the last edition of the Farsi daily newspaper Azad (Free) at a newsstand in Tehran on April 24. By then, only five out of 17 pro-democracy publications had survived a crackdown which including jailing two prominent journalists.

long been dissatisfied with the paper's right wing views.

Observers point out that the *Forward* is losing \$2 million a year and has a circulation of only 30,000. Anger at the paper was also aroused by a recent headline that made fun of Steven Solender, president and CEO of the United Jewish Communities. A number of federations protested against the headline and the accompanying report.

AJ Committee takes on Amazon, Barnes & Nobel

Calling their use of the first amendment to defend selling *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* a "distortion of constitutional principles," the American Jewish Committee bought space on the op-ed page of the New York Times to urge all book dealers to stop selling the book which has been linked to horrendous anti-semitic activity for decades.

-- CORRECTION --

The company which prints *The Voice* extends its apologies for misspelling "Israel" in an advertisement in the April issue.

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Third generation traded misery for the personal touch

by Jane S. Sprague

Ben Bolusky used to tell customers who were short of cash, but whom he sized up as honest, to just go ahead and take the bed or linoleum rug home and pay him when they could.

Those were the days when you could plunk down \$1.00 for a sofa and pay it off at the rate of \$1.00 a week. A salesman would even stop by your house to collect that dollar, mark your payment book and, as you were getting close to paying off the sofa, inquire whether there wasn't something else you needed to make your home more comfortable — a lamp, a sidechair, a dining set, perhaps?

Today, Ben's grandson David doesn't go door-to-door collecting weekly payments nor does he send furniture out the door without at least a credit card to back up payment, but the service at Ben's Furniture on Thames Street in Newport is still friendly and personal.

"My Uncle Ben managed Mason's Furniture in Newport until that store closed," recalls Mervin Bolusky of Providence, a cousin of the Newport Boluskys. Mason's was headquartered in Fall River. "Uncle Ben opened his own store on Thames Street, across from where Ben's is now, just before World War II," Mervin said in an interview. "After the war, he and my dad opened Bolusky's Furniture in Fall River, and I worked there. We closed it in 1953 or '54 and Dad and I got out of the furniture business, but Ben's is still going."

The store had just had its walls painted when we stopped in and interviewed David and his mother, Geraldine (Gerry) Bolusky. We sat across from each other in a long double row of recliners. There is nothing fancy about Ben's Furniture store. No room set ups to consume precious floor space, just dinettes in one area, sofas or futons in another; mattresses and beds upstairs. Hardwood floors that squeak and a smile on everyone's face, with a hearty laugh at the ready.

The 12,000 square feet of display space is a far cry from the original cramped store. "That store was very small," Gerry says. "I never saw it, but my husband described how the mattresses were stacked on top of each other. Invariably, the one sold would be on the bottom."

Like so many kids who are raised in a family business, David had absolutely no intention of joining his Dad, Robert, at the store. No siree. He was going to be an accountant. Got that degree from Boston College and joined one of the big eight firms.

"It was the most miserable year of my life," he now says. "One morning I was driving to work and just didn't get there. I called my folks and said 'I hate what I'm doing; do you think

there's room for me there?'"

And we said, "Let's give it a try," recalls Gerry.

That was 1986. The "try" worked.

"People like our hometown touch," David says. "They come to us from the megastores and find we've got the same mid-range selection with the same or lower prices. They like our personal service. I like dealing with people who remember my father and grandfather."

Gerry says the mix of furniture has not changed much over the years, although the styles and fabrics are very different, and futons and computer centers are new.

You could wonder why a furniture store would stay smack in the middle of a busy tourist center where parking is limited and not much of the stock can be carried out in a shopping bag.

First, tradition. Ben's Furniture has always been on Thames Street and Robert bought the building it is now in some time ago. "We've had lots of offers to buy our building, not necessarily the business," David notes. "But we intend to stay right here." They've been in this spot 41 years.

Actually, Ben's does get business from tourists. "We've had people from the Cape, from towns in Pennsylvania who want to buy pieces here. But we don't deliver that far," David laughs. "Every now and then, though," he says, "someone from

This is the eighth in a series The Voice is writing during this publishing cycle on multi-generation, Jewish family-owned businesses in the Rhode Island area



David Bolusky and his mother, Gerry, continue the tradition of "hometown" service at the 3-generation business on Thames Street in Newport.

Connecticut will rent a van and pick up furniture they found here during a day trip to Newport."

Most of their business is local — Newport to Fall River and across the bridge to Jamestown.

Cyberspace doesn't seem to have changed business much at Ben's. The computer has made bookkeeping easier, and there is a website "under construction," but sales are not being made over the Internet. "We do get referrals from the manufacturers' websites. People find something they like and then look up the nearest dealer and here we are," David said.

And what about David's daughter, Lauren? Will she be the fourth generation of Boluskys to run Ben's? "We'll see," he smiles. "Right now she likes to come in and pretend to wait on customers."

Shirt-tail relatives

Music Box, etc., next door in its 2nd generation

Right next door to Ben's Furniture at 160 Thames Street, is a three-in-one business that has sprung up to meet the demands of the marketplace. And Charlie Lasky has put each of his three sons at the helm of one of them.

Founded in April, 1958, The Music Box now has "the annex" on its left and "Helly Hansen Associates" on its

right. "The poor annex doesn't even have its own name," Charlie laughs.

It is a mix of businesses that don't seem to have much connection to each other.

Lasky opened The Music Box when he got out of the Please turn to page 19

Rhode Island donors to distribute over \$4.3 million

Jewish social service organizations, educational agencies and their supporting offices will receive over \$4.3 million from the Jews of Rhode Island under an allocation plan approved April 10 by the Board of Directors of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island (JFRI).

Over \$1.6 million will be retained in the Rhode Island Jewish community for the support of the core agencies — the Hillels at Brown/RISD and URI, Bureau of Jewish Education (which includes grants to the two day schools and the South County Hebrew School), Jewish Community Center, Jewish Family Service, Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island and the Rhode Island Holocaust Memorial Museum. Twenty-one smaller local programs and organizations also will receive grants ranging from \$250 to \$29,340.

Another \$1.6+ million will be used for overseas programs run by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and social service programs in Israel which are funded through the Jewish Agency for Israel.

The balance will help fund national Jewish organizations, pay "fair share and dues" to national associations and cover the operating budget of JFRI.

Doris Feinberg, who chairs the planning and allocations

process for JFRI, told the members of the board that over 45 volunteers had worked on eight subcommittees for two months to examine the requests from local and national organizations and to make recommendations for funding.

Feinberg explained that during a meeting on March 22, the P&A Committee, which includes the chairs and vice-chairs of the allocations subcommittees, agreed that each of the eight subcommittees would reduce its recommended allocation by

one-half of one percent to compensate for a decrease in the amount of funds pledged to Campaign 2000. Campaign 2000 is projected to reach \$4.29 million by June 30, as opposed to \$4.33 million last year. An additional \$112,000 in restricted endowment funds is included in the total available for distribution, plus over \$11,000 that was not allocated last year.

A detailed chart of specific allocations will be published in Please go to page 14

As key national fundraising groups merge, local federation plays leading role

by Jane S. Sprague

The Jewish Federation of Rhode Island (JFRI) is a key player in recommending the policy decisions and governance structure of United Jewish Communities (UJC), the newly merged national fundraising organization that consolidates the former Council of Jewish Federations (CJF), United Jewish Appeal (UJA) and United Israel Appeal (UIA).

Through the active participation of Federation president

Robert D. Mann and its executive vice president Steven A. Rakitt, JFRI helps represent other federations in its category — large intermediate — on ONAD, the Overseas Needs Assessment and Distribution Committee. This 25-member UJC group will recommend how federation-raised funds will be distributed overseas for social service programs in Israel and other Jewish communities outside the North American continent. These programs mostly are overseen by the American Please turn to page 14

Jews bewildered as they enter theological dialogue with Vatican

by J.J. Goldberg

Senior Catholic Church officials are scheduled to meet in Washington in mid-June with a newly formed group of rabbis from three continents and representing all three major denominations, to begin what both sides envision as a new dialogue between Judaism and Catholicism.

The initiative is the latest twist — and perhaps the strangest — in a continuing Catholic-Jewish relationship that has gone through more flipflops than the NASDAQ in recent years.

Relations hit a low point about 14 months ago, when the Vatican suspended ties with its longtime Jewish negotiating partner, an international coalition of Jewish organizations led by the World Jewish Congress. The coalition, known as the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations, or IJCIC (rhymes with "nitpick"), had worked with the Vatican through 30 years of profound church reforms. Last year's freeze followed months of intense bickering over the church's behavior during World War II.

Then, in March, relations hit a high point with the visit of Pope John Paul II to Israel, where he prayed at the Western Wall and toured Yad Vashem, Israel's national Holocaust memorial. Jews in Israel and around the world proclaimed the visit dramatic evidence of a new Catholic attitude toward Jews.

The upcoming Washington dialogue is meant to raise the communication between the two faiths to a new level, say spokesmen on both sides. Discussions will focus on issues like the divine roots of human ethics.

Church leaders had pressed IJCIC for years to

move beyond discussions of historic anti-semitism and address the theological links between the two faiths. That's met with little success. IJCIC leaders cite a traditional Orthodox ban on interfaith theological "disputation."

The new rabbinic group, the Rabbinic Committee for Interreligious Dialogue, includes several internationally respected Jewish theologians. Among them are Israeli philosopher David Hartman, incoming US Holocaust Memorial Council chief Irving "Yitz" Greenberg, University of Judaism provost Elliott Dorff, and former French chief rabbi Rene Sirat. Also included are two of America's best known pulpit rabbis, Harold Schulweis of Los Angeles and Ronald Sobel of New York's Temple Emanu-El.

Vatican officials are noncommittal on the significance of the new dialogue. "We are open to relating to any group of people that wants to share an agenda with us," says Father Remi Hoeckman, Belgian-born secretary-general of the Vatican Commission on Religious Relations with the Jews.

They haven't always been so open. For 30 years they've refused to recognize any formal partner but IJCIC. Indeed, IJCIC was first set up at Vatican request, after the Second Vatican Council in the mid-1960s ordered the church to begin a long-term dialogue with Judaism.

What emerged was a coalition that included Judaism's three main religious wings plus the World Jewish Congress and other defense agencies, representing Judaism's communal and religious aspects. The Vatican has rebuffed efforts by Jewish groups to open a second channel.

The decision to open a second channel now, with a Catholic-sponsored Jewish group, seems to show just how deeply frustrated the Vatican is with the petulant, one-note tone of its Jewish partners in recent years.

As for the new group's strange pedigree, Hoeckman dismisses it as a quibble. Ehrenkranz's center, he said, "is run by Jews, and the initiative came from Jews. If it could be hosted by a Jewish university, fine. We are still waiting for it. In the meantime, you go to those who welcome you."

Behind the complaint lies a fundamental imbalance in Vatican-Jewish relations. Catholicism, many argue, needs a dialogue with Judaism much more than Judaism needs a dialogue with the church. For the church, dialogue with Judaism is essential to understanding Christianity. "You can't know what it means to be a Christian without understanding your Jewish roots," says Eugene Fisher, ecumenical affairs director of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

But Judaism has no such need. Jews entered the dialogue 30 years ago to help rid the church of anti-Jewish biases. Now, that job is largely done. Many Jewish community leaders see little purpose to further dialogue, other than courtesy.

But that's begun to change. For growing numbers of Jewish thinkers and community leaders, the recent Catholic-Jewish war of words over the Holocaust has been a sobering lesson in Jewish oversensitivity. Some blame the traumas of the Holocaust. Some blame the consensus-driven, lowest-common-denominator structure of Jewish representative bodies.

Still others see a problem in Jewish education,

which teaches young Jews about enemies but rarely mentions friends. "This is a moral failing of the first order," Reform leader Eric Yoffie declared in a recent speech. Yoffie called for Reform and Conservative Judaism to seize the initiative and work to improve Vatican-Jewish relations.

Increasingly, Jewish leaders now argue that Judaism needs dialogue with Catholicism more than ever, to help Jews understand their new place in the world. For that to happen, though, the dialogue must include not just thinkers but community leaders who can be expected to bring the message back to their fellow Jews — as they have failed to do before.

That's what's oddest about the latest events: the Jewish community is finally ready. The Vatican is snubbing IJCIC, its traditional partner, just as IJCIC has completed a major facelift in response to church complaints. Since last fall it's named a new chairman, set up a program committee — headed by a rabbi well-trusted at the Vatican — and offered a new agenda for discussions, which church officials greeted enthusiastically. Though they won't use the word, IJCIC's leaders have decided to bite the bullet and move, hesitantly, toward discussing theology.

"If we're going to move from responding to the negative to building a deeper relationship, then we're going to need to look at the questions we face as a religious community," says New York attorney Seymour Reich, IJCIC's new chairman.

Under the circumstances, the Vatican's flirtation with the new rabbinic committee has some IJCIC leaders privately wondering what in heaven, so to speak, is going on in Rome.

A majority of one

Cultural, arts, academics all feel Holocaust's impact

by Yehuda Lev

In my life I have had two brushes with the Holocaust, the first in post-war Europe working with survivors and the second in Jerusalem as a journalist reporting on the Eichmann trial. Both helped me to understand an experience I had last month at Brandeis University where I attended a four-day conference entitled "The Impact of the Holocaust on Contemporary Society" or, in less formal phraseology, what the Holocaust means to you and me 55 years later.

Those of us with long memories will recall that for some years after World War II, the Holocaust was barely on the Jewish agenda. The survivors tried to repress their experiences and begin life anew: new marriages, new babies and, for most, new homes in Israel or in North America.

American Jews, driven by guilt at not having done more to help their fellow Jews or by simple disinterest, preferred to concentrate on the struggle for the creation of Israel, a much more positive aspect of Jewish history than the endless tales of cruelty and suffering related to the Holocaust.

The Nuremberg trials of the Nazi leadership did not emphasize the Holocaust. The defendants were charged with crimes against humanity, under which heading were subsumed all of the crimes committed by the Nazi killing machine, regardless of victim, circumstance or motive.

The 1961 trial of Adolf Eichmann in Jerusalem was, for most of the world, its first glimpse of the full nature, extent and horror of the Nazi persecution of the Jews. Eichmann was the technician — responsible for the efficient working of

the machinery of death. The Israelis could have quietly killed him in Argentina, but they had a better use for Eichmann: a new generation of Israelis, for whom the Holocaust was something out of history, was growing to maturity and the Sephardic half of Israel's Jewish population had, by and large, no experience with it. During the months between the announcement of Eichmann's capture and the opening of the trial, survivors, who had buried the Holocaust experience deep in their memories, suddenly were faced, day after day, with intense media coverage and constant discussion of its grim facts. By the end of the trial, which lasted for 114 sessions over four months, virtually no one in Israel was unacquainted with the experiences suffered by Hitler's victims, many of which were described in dreadful detail on the witness stand.

Yet even the trial did not create that strong an impression outside of Israel, although a series of related events did draw attention to the Holocaust including the TV mini-series by that name, several trials of Nazi collaborators in Europe, and the collapse of the Soviet Union, which released information about the Holocaust that the Communist regime had preferred to keep secret.

It was the passage of years and the increasingly old age of the survivors that finally put the Holocaust on the Jewish agenda. A flood of memoirs, a large number of Holocaust memorials and the brilliantly successful film, *Schindler's List*, have combined to plant the Holocaust squarely in the minds of most American Jews.

I draw now on my notes from the conference.

Was the Holocaust unique? No, said most, there have been massacres on a grand scale before and after it, but the Holocaust was different in several respects:

- The Nazis perfected the use of technology and careful planning to commit mass murder.
- The Nazis tried to eliminate an entire population numbering in the millions. Heretofore massacres had aimed at a special group within a population such as Russian kulaks or the males of an enemy tribe. Even the Armenian massacres of World War I involved only those Armenians who lived in Eastern Turkey.
- The Nazis pursued their aims without regard to their own needs; with the war almost lost the Germans still devoted needed resources and scarce manpower to the task of killing Jews.

The experience of the Holocaust gave rise to two messianic movements within Judaism, Gush Eminent, the movement behind the Jewish settlements in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, whose ideology is based on the teachings of Rav Abraham Isaac Kook, and the increasingly dominant messianic element within Chabad.

With some variations, both believe that the Holocaust occurred to prepare the Jewish people for redemption. In their thinking, the Holocaust was a purification, not a punishment for the past but a light for the future. One participant offered a psychological explanation for this belief: If I am being beaten, he said, it is more comforting to know that it is my father and not some enemy who is responsible for the beating.

The Holocaust has had a strong influence on international laws regarding human rights. Before the Holocaust, human rights covered only issues between states. Individuals had no fear that they would be called to account for genocidal actions carried out in accordance with the laws of their state. No longer. Thus, the detention of Pinochet, the trials of several Yugoslav butchers and the warrants out for the arrests of others.

We understand now that the wall of silence that protected human rights violations must be broken, that we have a duty to intervene. We have seen most recently how even the threat of a very right-wing political party in government has led to Austria's political isolation.

The Holocaust has had an effect on western popular culture, in art, music, literature and film. Streets are named after Holocaust figures. There is a category of honored people bearing the title of "Righteous Gentiles." The growing interest in Jewish studies, as evidenced by the creation of Jewish studies programs at universities large and small, is spectacular. This reflects the acceptance of Jews as a part of the American cultural scene, partly the result of the Holocaust, partly the creation of Israel and partly because of a generally more tolerant political and cultural climate.

Listening to the flow of ideas on how we are affected by the Holocaust, I suddenly remembered a third brush I almost had with it many years ago. My father came from Poland as a young man. Some of his siblings and a cousin or two also settled here. About the rest of his family, those who remained in Poland, he never spoke.

But then, I never asked.

Barak offers PA territorial continuity

by Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — In signaling his willingness to make concessions to the Palestinians, Prime Minister Ehud Barak is playing to two audiences.

On the one hand, he is preparing the Israeli public for the creation of a Palestinian entity that will include most of the West Bank. On the other, he sends a message to the Palestinian Authority that he is devoting far less attention to the Israeli-Syrian negotiations, which appear deadlocked.

In an interview with Israel Television before Passover, Barak repeated what he had told his Cabinet — that Israel is prepared to give the Palestinians territorial contiguity in the West Bank.

"It needs to be clear to us that what will emerge from an agreement is not a limited autonomy or protectorate," he said, broadly hinting that a final peace accord will result in the creation of a Palestinian state. "There will not be good neighborliness between the two countries if one of them is a collection of islands on a map."

Barak had offered further concessions at an April Cabinet meeting, when he said Israel is not interested in annexing Palestinian areas

surrounding Jerusalem. "We have always prayed toward Jerusalem and have never directed any prayer toward Azariya and Abu Dis," Barak said, referring to two Arab towns on the outskirts of Jerusalem.

Both during the Cabinet session and in the television interview, Barak said that most Jewish settlements in the West Bank would remain in blocs under Israeli sovereignty in a final peace accord.

The Cabinet met amid reports that Barak is considering handing over to the Palestinians up to 80% of the West Bank as part of a final peace deal. The reports alarmed Jewish settlement leaders, who are vowing to launch demonstrations against Barak's government and have called on him to hold a national referendum before he signs any deal with the Palestinians.

During the Cabinet meeting, Barak said he is willing to provide the Palestinians with an "advance" on an upcoming withdrawal from the West Bank to underscore Israel's seriousness about negotiations. His comments came after he met in mid-April in Washington with President Bill Clinton.

Following his meeting with Clinton, Barak approved an increased US presence in the Israeli-

Palestinian negotiations — something the Palestinians have long sought. With the Israeli-Syrian track deadlocked, Barak reportedly agreed on the need to accelerate the Palestinian track.

Reflecting the enhanced US involvement, US Middle East envoy Dennis Ross will participate in the next round of Israeli-Palestinian talks, which were to resume, after Passover, in Israel and the Palestinian self-rule areas, rather than in Washington.

US officials have been upbeat about those talks, but they provided no indication that the two sides had made substantive progress toward a final peace deal with its September deadline looming.

Sharansky can't promise mass aliyah for Falash Mura

by Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — A week before Passover, the Israeli interior minister was in Ethiopia to review the situation of thousands who seek an exodus to Israel.

Natan Sharansky said he empathizes with the suffering of the Ethiopians who have amassed at dusty transit camps, and he promised to streamline the process of applying for immigration to Israel. But the minister made clear he could not promise that all of the 26,000 Falash Mura — descendants of Ethiopian Jews who converted to Christianity — would be found eligible.

"To see the suffering up close is a difficult experience that is im-

A mother's grief



A mother grieves at a memorial to fallen soldiers of the Southern Lebanese Army (SLA). SLA members and their families are fearful of becoming refugees when Israel pulls out of the security zone by July 1.

possible to be indifferent to," said Sharansky, who spent nine years in Soviet prisons for trying to help Jews make aliyah.

At the same time, the interior minister said he does not intend to announce a mass immigration of the Falash Mura without a careful review of applicants' eligibility to immigrate under the Law of Return, under which any person with one Jewish parent or grandparent is entitled to make aliyah, or under the Law of Entry, which provides for family reunification.

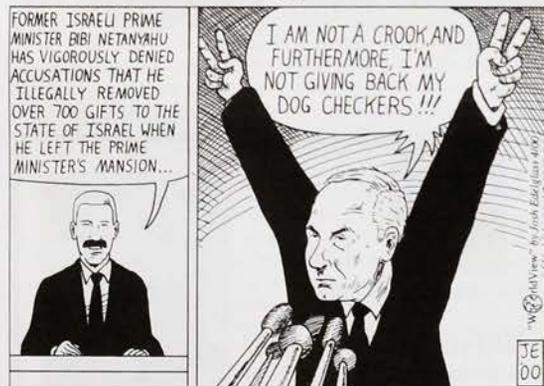
Prior to Sharansky's trip, two Israeli legislators returned from Ethiopia and warned that the Falash Mura are facing hunger and disease. Zevulun Orlev and Yuri

Shtern also warned that a drought is approaching the areas where the Falash Mura are waiting.

Sharansky noted the dire conditions and lauded humanitarian aid provided at the sites by such organizations as the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. At the same time, he said, the criteria for determining immigration eligibility cannot be altered.

"On the one hand we have a humanitarian problem, where we must ease the suffering of people," he said. "On the other hand, the Law of Return, as the basis for the state of Israel as the ingathering of exiles cannot be different for America, Russia, Morocco and Ethiopia."

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Letter from Rome

A Jew among Jews, yet a stranger among them

by Joshua Stein

At long last I attended services at the principal synagogue in Rome to mark my mother's yahrzeit. I had run out of excuses.

I showed up on Friday at 5:45, only to be told I was at the wrong door and services didn't begin until 7:15. Upon my return, people were milling around outside. I knew none of them and so stayed at a discreet distance, avoiding eye contact, alone in a crowd.

When the others started to enter the building I did, too. But as I walked through the gates I was politely stopped by a stern young man who asked who I was, where I was from, whether I came for a tour or for services, if I had a camera, cell phone, or torch (I think he said torch — whatever he meant, I didn't have it). Upon answering these questions I was asked to open my jacket and was politely but firmly frisked. All he found was a halachically dubious wallet, but security was his concern, not my flaunting of rabbinical injunction. I was permitted to enter.

The interior had been described to me by my friend Franco Pavoncello as Babylonian. It is essentially a series of three boxes — a ground floor with what I can only describe as a transept bisecting a Greek cross. The women's gallery is the second box, superimposed

very high up, and then there is a third, still higher, containing the dome. No surface is unadorned. There are marble columns with gilt, there are paintings on the white walls, scrollwork abounds. All in all the impression is of unselfconscious wealth.

I took a seat in the rear. The pews are wooden, as are the lockers in front of them in which the men keep their tallitot under lock and key. Services began without announcement. A young man in clerical garb went to the bimah and started singing. I couldn't understand a word.

Frantically, I searched the prayer book. It was all in Hebrew with only the occasional instruction in Italian. I thought I had a pretty good idea of how Friday night services go, but the tunes were all strange to me, the Hebrew intonation foreign. After a while the man in the clerical garb (a chazzan, a rabbi?) left the bimah and another voice was heard, louder and more powerful, but I couldn't see from where it came. I caught the occasional word or phrase (*La'ha'ido dee*) but never the tune. When should I say kaddish? Everyone but me seemed to know what to do and when to do it. Finally I decided just to say it.

On Saturday I showed up at the correct time, was interrogated

(and frisked) by a different guard and entered the synagogue again. Again, robust male voices, incomprehension, richly decorated interiors, young man being replaced by disembodied voice. A few things were different. The gabi came within 20 feet and said the only word addressed to me in either visit — "Cohen?" When I responded, "No, Yisrael," he walked off. Rome's Jews trace the origins of their peculiar rite (neither Ashkenazi nor Sephardic) to the ancient emissaries of the Macabbes who came to ask Rome's help in the struggle against the Selucids. They stayed in the city. Thus these Jews, while conceding some Spedardic influences dating from the 15th century, maintain that their way of doing things can be traced back to those men who arrived and stayed before the common era, making it the oldest form of continuously practiced Judaism in the world. So what do they do that's different from what I've seen all my life in America?

When the torah is removed from the 20-foot high ark (climb six steps to reach it, open the curtain, unlock the tall wooden doors, open another curtain, extract torah) the procession around the bimah is led by a boy carrying an upward pointing yad. The bimah is now repositioned so that the reader faces

the congregation. A wooden rod is placed over the scroll's bottom handles so that the columns to be read are always open and then the open torah is lifted and shown to the congregation which, as one, lifts the corner of their tallitot to shield their eyes. Then the reading begins, without anyone telling what page. As with all else, I was thoroughly unfamiliar with the chant. After the reading, the torah scroll is lifted again to the same response. The haftorah was read by the same man who read torah, but few people paid much attention.

There was a bar mitzvah that morning. The young man's father was called for an aliyah, then the boy. He was as inaudible as all the others who chanted the barujot that morning. When the section was finished he shook hands with the bimah group and the chief rabbi blessed him off to the side. Very low key. There was also a bat mitzvah, which surprised me. I didn't think an Orthodox synagogue would allow women on the bimah during services. The girl went up with her father; he said the barujot and the rabbi blessed her. When services were over the two youngsters went to the ark with the rabbi. I could not hear what they were saying.

During both the Amidah and the Musaf service there was a pause when the eldest man in each family blessed his sons and grandsons, covering them with his tallis and/or placing his arms around them. It was lovely. I looked to see if something similar was happening in the

women's gallery, mothers to daughters, but it was too high up and the grill was too densely intertwined for me to see through it.

At various times, when the torah was taken out and shown when the service was over, the men touched their foreheads and then their lips with their fingers. I don't know what that was all about; it almost looked as though they were crossing, or beginning to cross themselves, though obviously that was not the case.

Would a better educated Jew have understood more, caught on faster? Undoubtedly. I look at Hebrew letters as code to be deciphered; others look at them as words with meanings. They would have known where we were and what we were doing. But the tunes. I never realized how dependent I am on the tunes in my prayers. In fact, I never realized before that day that the tunes ARE my prayers. The strange (to me) chants of the Roman Jews made prayer, even if I'd been able to follow along, impossible to grasp.

We speak of Am Yisrael, we say "We are one" but in truth we are many. There are Jews of the American Conservative (and Reform and Orthodox) Jewish traditions, and there are the Jews of Italy and elsewhere in the galut who would probably feel as baffled in my shul as I was in theirs. I don't know how, other than by coming to some common agreement amongst Jewish leaders around the world (Ha, Ha, Ha, Ha, Ha), that Please go to next page.

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Brown's Watson Institute

Of depression and hot showers

by Yehuda Lev

If you are subject to bouts of depression, read no further.

For two days last month, the "finest authorities" on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that the Watson Institute for International Studies at Brown University could bring together, met to discuss "Oslo and Beyond: Israeli-Palestinian Relations in a New Era."

I sat with them as an observer with high expectations. Two of the participants, Meron Benvenisti and Ian Lustick, have written books on the subject which I often consult. There were two professors from Damascus University, of special interest because of the breakdown in the negotiations with Syria. How would they present Assad's positions? There was one of the founders of the PLO, an old man now, but did he reflect the changes in Palestinian positions or did he cling to the old rhetoric? And there was an Israeli woman who was a peace activist opposed to the Lebanon incursion long before it became fashionable and whom I had interviewed years ago. She so impressed me then that I subscribed to the magazine she edits. In addition there were another half dozen authorities, some of whose names I recognized and all of whom appeared to have useful resumes.

At the end of the first day I approached Benvenisti, who was Teddy Kollek's deputy mayor responsible for the Arab areas of Jerusalem and whose book on the issues concerning Jerusalem is the best I have read, and asked him for his opinion of the proceedings. He looked at me with anger. "Couldn't they have found a single moderate Palestinian or Israeli?" he asked. He felt that he had been misled by the Institute into thinking that there would be an exchange of opinions. Instead, he found, as I did, that the opinions had been entirely along one track, that blame for the conflict lay entirely with Israel and that the responsibility for finding a solution also was entirely Israel's. I looked for Benvenisti for his comments at the end of the second day, but he had left.

Consider the following. One of the professors from Damascus said that Israel was wrong to ask for a "warm" peace with Syria. In order to become an accepted part of the region, he said, Israel would have to adjust to regional behavioral norms rather than expect the Arab states to adopt the norms of the West. Thus, he suggested, Israel should consider having relations with Syria such as Syria has with Iraq and Turkey, two neighbors with which it is in constant conflict. Such an arrangement, he said, would not exclude violence or terrorism. Well, I thought, that leaves us with a continual low-level war with Syria and two choices for a form of government common to the region, an absolutist monarchy or a military dictatorship. It doesn't seem a sensible trade for the Golan Heights.

The Israeli woman, Roni Ben Efrat, spoke as if the demise of the Soviet Union was the worst calamity of the departed century. She called for the replacement of the PLO leadership by anti-imperialists, describing Oslo as the fruit of Israel's need to enter the emerging world economy. She reasoned that since neither a bi-national state nor a two-state solution is feasible, and a Jewish state is by definition racist, the only recourse for the Palestinians is to join an international anti-imperialist front. I was pleased that I had let my subscription to her magazine lapse.

Ian Lustick, who chairs the University of Pennsylvania's Political Science Department, pointed out to the assembled authorities that the extreme right wing in Israel had brought a million Soviet Jews to Israel to assure that the Palestinians could not return, and that furthermore, "half of them aren't even Jewish." That startled me and I looked for someone to correct both his facts and figures. Benvenisti, in the only display of anger I saw during the conference, pointed out that by far the majority of Jews in Israel were adamant in their desire to

bring in Soviet Jews and that even by the strictest standards of Jewish law, only 30% were non-Jews. Lustick backed off, saying that he was referring only to the latest immigration from Russia and finally used the 30% figure himself.

(I told Benvenisti later that if he had not corrected Lustick I was going to say something and he laughed. "My wife was sitting next to me," he said, "and she is an official of the Central Bureau of Statistics. She told me to speak up or she was going to." I resolved to re-read Lustick's book on Israel's right wing with a more critical eye.)

Haider Abdul Shafi, one of the PLO founders, is now involved in issues of civil rights. While he was critical of Israel for refusing both the bi-national and two-state solutions, he did make the point that the Palestinian leadership must begin by encouraging democratic change among the Palestinians. Listening to him I had the feeling that, for all of his hard-line stance on Israel, he was the one Arab in the room with whom Israelis could have a meaningful conversation.

Was there nothing said during the two days that a supporter of Israel might take home for further consideration? One valid argument made by a number of speakers was an Arab fear that the Palestinians and the neighboring Arab states would become vassals of an economically powerful Israel. We see some of the problems already developing in the Israeli factories that have been relocated in Egypt and Jordan where labor is cheap and working conditions poorly supervised. (This, of course, is also a problem for the Israeli working force.)

Much was made of the second class status of Arabs within Israel, a charge that is all too true. And there was no sympathy at all for Israel's problems as a democracy, the need for a favorable vote on a referendum on peace with Syria among them. In fact, the idea that Israel is a democracy, however flawed, did not enter into the discussion.

The final speaker was one of the co-organizers of the conference, Stephen Shenfield of the Watson Institute. His field of expertise was Eastern Europe until the collapse of the Soviet Union, which made the region less inviting for grants and academic progress, so Shenfield switched to the Middle East and has organized a number of Watson Institute meetings on Middle East issues.

In his talk, Shenfield made it clear why the conference was so one-sided. He explained that he was always an anti-Zionist, ("not a small minority"), and feels that Israel "shamed the Jewish people." He concluded his remarks with a reference to the "Khazars" a tribe of nomads who, in the 6th century, converted to Judaism and then converted out. The Khazars have been used time and again by Arab propagandists as "evidence" that today's Jews are not actually descendants of those who originally lived in Palestine and, consequently any Jewish claim to Palestine based on a historical connection is invalid. I had not heard that argument, even from an Arab, in many years.

I went back home and took a hot shower.

Editor's Note: Although the program was open to the public, less than half a dozen people who were not on the agenda attended.

Stranger. . . from pg. 6

we ever can come up with a unifying prayer service — unified in word and tune and order.

So, I sat in the synagogue as an amateur anthropologist, watching the natives at prayer, observing, but not being part of them, a Jew amongst other Jews, yet a stranger. It will be nice to come home.

Joshua Stein, history professor at Roger Williams University and chairman of The Voice Editorial Board, is teaching in Rome this semester.

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Brothers Wilson charged in Sacramento arsons

by Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES (JTA) — Two brothers previously charged with murdering a gay couple were arraigned April 5 on charges of torching three synagogues and a building housing an abortion clinic near Sacramento, Calif.

Benjamin Matthew Williams, 31, and James Tyler Williams, 30, pleaded not guilty to last June's arson attacks, which caused more than \$1 million in damage.

Government prosecutors have said the two aimed "to intimidate, terrorize and harm Jews, providers of reproductive health services and other groups of persons whom the defendants regarded as inferior or undesirable."

A number of Jewish leaders attended the brothers' arraignment in a US District Court in Sacramento, among them Rabbis Brad Bloom of B'nai Israel and Matt Friedman of Beth Shalom, two of the synagogues that were set ablaze.

"This is the first time I've seen these guys in person," Friedman told the Sacramento Bee newspaper. He called Matthew Williams "arrogant," explaining that "he's got this defiant, triumphant tone in his voice. I expect him to request a jury trial. He wants to keep his 15 minutes of fame going."

In a related action, a California State Assembly committee approved a bill to increase prison sentences for criminals convicted of arson on a house of worship.

Number of anti-semitic acts continues decline

by Brianne Korn

NEW YORK (JTA) — Although high-profile violence against Jews grabbed headlines in 1999, overall anti-semitic incidents in the US declined by 4%, according to the Anti-Defamation League.

The group's Audit of Anti-Semitic Incidents, published annually since 1979, tracks anti-Jewish acts reported to the ADL and law enforcement agencies. While not a scientific measure of anti-semitism, last year's audit counted 1,547 incidents in 41 states and the District of Columbia, the lowest number recorded since 1989.

The numbers, however, do not tell the whole story. Last summer, Jews were targeted in shootings and synagogue arsons in Chicago, Sacramento and Los Angeles.

"While the drop in number of anti-semitic acts over the last five years is in one sense very encouraging; the horrific acts of violence and intimidation we have witnessed in the last year overwhelm the statistics," said Abraham Foxman, the ADL's national director.

The audit broke down anti-semitic incidents into 868 acts of harassment, down 3% from the previous year, and 679 acts of vandalism, down 5%. Continuing a nine-year trend, acts of harassment outnumbered those of vandalism.

States with highly concentrated Jewish populations — including New York, Massachusetts and California — reported the most incidents, with all three showing increases from the previous year.

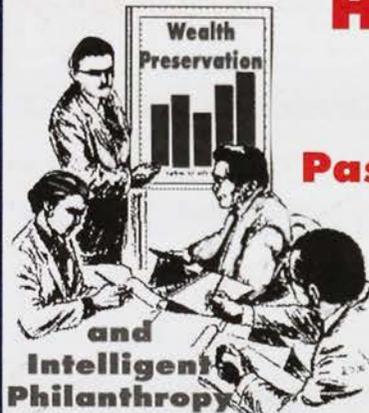
The audit referred to the overall decline as a reflection of "the continuation of a downward trend that has resulted in a 25% drop in anti-semitic incidents over the last five years." The ADL partly attributes the decline to improved security measures at high-risk locations like synagogues and Jewish community centers.

Additionally, a significant decline was noted on college campuses. Sixty incidents were documented, the lowest number reported since 1989 and a 30% drop from the previous year.

A growing forum for anti-semitism not easily combated or tracked is the Internet. "Extremists and hate groups are using the Internet to spread their anti-semitic message which can inspire others to violence," Foxman said.

Lists of e-mail addresses are increasingly easy to access, making more people vulnerable to hate mail, said Myrna Shinbaum, a spokeswoman for ADL.

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At 76, Emanu-El just gets younger

Editor's Note: This is the 8th in a series The Voice is writing that profiles all Jewish congregations in our area.

by Jane S. Sprague

Seventy-six years ago, on February 8, Philip C. Joslin, speaker of the Rhode Island House of Representatives, got an offer he could not refuse. If he would host a parlor meeting in his home, the executive director of the United Synagogue of America would travel to Providence to present the possibility of organizing a new conservative synagogue.

United Synagogue had been, Samuel M. Cohen wrote, "interested for some time in the Jewish situation in Providence. . . . We feel it is a great pity that hundreds and perhaps thousands of young people should be slowly estranged from the faith of their fathers because nothing is done to present that faith to them in a modern way. . . . This is all the more pitiful when one considers that there are so many splendid men and women in Providence who . . . would . . . band together to create the right institution."

In less than two weeks Speaker Joslin had 15 people in his home and "turned the tide in Providence Jewry from Jewish alienation to Jewish commitment," at least according to Rabbi Israel M. Goldman, who would play an influential role in the new synagogue — Temple Emanu-El.

Joslin's second meeting on April 15 drew 50 people who put their money forward immediately. Three and four weeks later, on May 7 and May 16, \$30,000 effected the transfer from Brown University of two lots on the corner of Sessions St. and Morris Ave.

Events moved with alacrity. Thirty-four men signed the charter and established a goal of 100 members. They were ready to build before the end of the year. They rented a hall for the High Holy Day services in 1925, hiring rabbinical student Israel Goldman to conduct services, little suspecting that he would become Emanu-El's first rabbi and stay 24 years. Joslin had an equally long

tenure as the congregation's first president.

In 1927, with an operating budget of \$24,000, family dues at \$75 a year and religious school tuition of \$50, Temple Emanu-El was dedicated on September 18. The central structure, with its dramatic gold dome and faced with Rabbi Goldman's chosen quote from Amos, "Seek Ye the Lord and Live," had cost \$198,583.53. The congregation carried a mortgage of \$120,000.

Today, 1,062 households are members of Rhode Island's largest Conservative synagogue, paying base dues of \$1,100 (adjusted so no one is turned away), which accounts for 50% of the nearly \$1.5 million operating budget, and the congregation is engaged in an extensive capital campaign that has generated, to date, nearly \$2.5 million to repair that same central structure, make the facility handicapped accessible, create a new entrance on Taft and replace and refresh some furnishings in the main synagogue.

Two major additions include the Alperin Hirsch Meeting House on the Morris Avenue side with its full kitchen, stage and banquet facilities, and the religious school/library/office wing along Taft Avenue features the Shirley Aronson Goldberg Center. The Alperin Schechter Day School (ASDS), organized by parents at Temple Emanu-El in 1978, rents the synagogue's school wing. (ASDS has grown beyond the space available and is considering moving.)

Although not every single inch of this extensive infrastructure is used all the time, or even once weekly, so much space facilitates offering a diverse range of programs that appeal to all ages and nearly all Conservative interest levels. (That programming also demands a large staff — two rabbis, a cantor, ritual director, executive director, school director, youth director, plus secretaries, maintenance and other support personnel.)

The classrooms are shared six hours a week by the afternoon and Sunday religious school. About half of the Schechter pupils — 130 — come from Emanu-El families. The religious school teaches Hebrew, text, traditions and moral values to another 135 children.

Regularly on Shabbat, although not weekly, children and parents gather in the vestry for special services while traditional davening continues upstairs. This is the same space retirees in the Leisure Club use for lectures and discussions several times weekly, and where synagogue and community groups meet for luncheons. Once a month, Kabbalat Shabbat dinner and services draw young families.

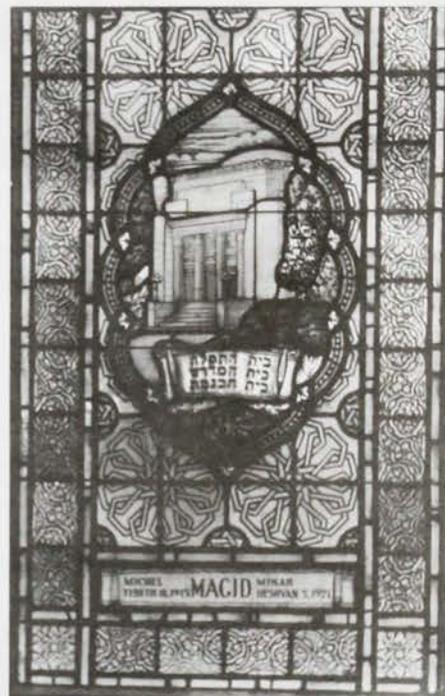
Dinners and plays, dances

and concerts, plus bar/bat mitzvah celebrations and after-service-lunches on Saturday afternoons are easily accommodated in the Meeting House where windows designed by Walter Feldman reflect eight key Jewish holidays and eight Biblical verses.

The library and the Sisterhood Lounge also double as places where weekly parasha classes meet. And on Tuesday nights, fall and winter, the Adult Institute, which began at Emanu-El in 1929, offers wide-ranging learning — Hebrew on several levels, Jewish and Israeli history, Talmud, cooking, Jewish literature (sometimes in Hebrew, often in English), Jewish film, the order of the service, adult bar/bat mitzvah class, singing, dancing and art. The list over the years seems endless.

Emanu-El has not come to its traditional yet modern and egalitarian posture without struggle. The 50-year history notes the debate over whether to go ahead and install the organ that the sanctuary was designed for. Eventually, it was done.

Giving women aliyot, inviting them to read from the Torah, to carry it, to sing, to give out honors was difficult for some, including some of the professional staff. The minyan in the chapel held out for many



The Magid stained glass window in the main sanctuary depicts the synagogue building and its three functions: worship, assembly and study.

years, but since the early 90s, has begun to accommodate.

And the change to counting memberships by "household" was recently "received by some with great difficulty," the Senior Please turn to page 11



Speaker Joslin breaks ground for Temple Emanu-El. Joslin was president of the congregation for 24 years.

Shades of things to come.

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At Ohawe Sholam

The birth of a Torah scroll

Jews in the Rhode Island area will have a chance to see a Torah born on Sunday May 7 when Congregation Ohawe Sholam-Young Israel of Pawtucket begins the step-by-step process of creating a new scroll.

The congregation's rabbi, Mordechai Torczyner, said the process will begin at 2:00 pm. "From the parchment to the pen to the human being bringing them together, we will learn about the procedure which has been preserved, and has preserved us, for millennia," he added. Rabbi Chaim Tzvi Pincus, of Tiferes Stam, will inscribe the opening letters of the new Torah.

The story of the Pawtucket Torah began a little over a year ago when the Torah reader halted in midreading of the portion. "The man who had been called to the Torah recited his closing blessing, as the men and women looked at the Hamashim in puzzlement," Rabbi Torczyner recalls.

"I asked Noah Hershey, 10 years old at the time, to come up to the Torah. Many in attendance knew what this meant, and understood the sudden stoppage. A letter in the Torah had become altered over time, so that it could be read as one letter or as another. Read one way, the letter would be kosher, read another it would invalidate the entire scroll. All the letters were covered save one. How would Noah read that letter? The answer was not long in coming — the letter was *Pasal* (invalid); it now resembled a different letter."

Rabbi Torczyner continues, "Ordinarily, a defective letter would not have been a big problem. Rabbi Peretz Gold has been repairing Ohawe Sholam's scrolls for years, and could easily have handled this repair, too. The true problem began with the realization that this flaw was 'strike three' for this Torah."

What does that mean? "Jewish law dictates that for a Torah to be complete no letter may be removed or added. This helps to ensure that the Torah we hold remains the same through the generations. If a defect is found, the Torah may not be used for public reading until it is mended. If there is a series of defects, the entire Torah must be checked. The Torah used in Pawtucket on that Shabbos was now due for such a check."

Actually, two of the five scrolls at the synagogue needed the beginning-to-end examination. The best source for doing the job was in Israel and would need the scrolls for several years. What to do? What if another scroll "went down" while those two were in Israel?

The solution came from a family long associated with Ohawe Sholam who offered a matching fund of up to \$25,000 for the creation of a brand new Torah scroll, which generally costs between \$25,000 and \$35,000. Any excess money would help establish a fund to maintain the synagogue's scrolls. The synagogue will begin its fund raising with the inscription of the first letters in the new Torah on May 7.

A variety of giving opportunities have been set up. Details are available from the synagogue. People who dedicate parts of the Torah will receive a limited edition print, customized to mention the part of the Torah which the donor dedicated, that is to be created by local artist Merav Minkin.

Ohawe Sholam hopes to celebrate the completion of the new Torah on Sunday, November 26.

For more information or to make a donation contact Rahmat Nootparvar at 401-728-5417 or call the synagogue at 401-722-3146. Ohawe Sholam is at 80 Glenwood Avenue, Pawtucket, RI 02860.

Emanu-El at 76. . . from pg. 9

Rabbi, Wayne Franklin, recalls, "Others were begging for it."

Identifying membership by household can mean traditional families, intermarrieds, adult child and parent(s), and same sex couples. Rules were also changed in the 90s so that the Jewish member of an intermarried household can sit on the Temple's board of directors. The rules for submissions to the "In Our Temple Family" feature of the Kol, the synagogue's monthly bulletin, were loosened to include announcements of intermarriages and of children born of those bonds.

The determination to satisfy the diversity within the congregation — from those with limited knowledge to the highly devoted — is evident at the High Holy Days when three services, each distinct from the other, draw over 3,000 Jews. In the main synagogue, with its rich organ accompaniment and choral group harmonies, services have a high level of formality. The family program in the Goldberg Center is lay led, and designed to make youth especially at ease. The davening in the Meeting House, while following the same order as upstairs, is more relaxed, sans instruments or chorus.

Interestingly, Temple Emanu-El, still celebrating its 75th birthday, is getting younger, according to executive director Sandy

Mahoney. In the past five years, 40% of the membership has turned over, the average age has diminished, and 75% more new households join as leave each year.

Rabbi Alvan Kaunfer, who joined the staff in 1975 as assistant rabbi, then headed the Schechter School for nine years before returning to the pulpit in 1991, said the staff wants "to convince the younger generation that quality, traditional Judaism is a plus, instead of just accommodating what is new and trendy."

Visitors at Emanu-El should not expect to hear loud electronic music and see people clapping and dancing in the aisles (except on Simchat Torah, of course). That will probably be left to New York City shuls.

"Yet, there is a small corps of people who are on an inner spiritual quest," Rabbi Kaunfer notes. "They meet to meditate regularly." He also talks of the various havurot, including those that began as gatherings of young couples and that now have more children among them than adults.

Rabbi Franklin, now at Emanu-El for 19 years and only the 4th senior rabbi in 75 years, says the professional staff makes a concerted effort "to connect people with classic Jewish sources, to open texts and present them so our mem-

bers can wrestle with them. The laity is quite capable of understanding and making sense out of texts."

Rabbi Kaunfer agrees, emphasizing that "Jewish sources can be an open book to everyone."

As part of this effort, both rabbis have largely abandoned the Shabbat sermon. Although they may make prefatory comments, the prepared talk has given way to text studies that engage members of the congregation in a dialogue.

Not all education, text study and leadership is left to the two rabbis. Cantor Brian Mayer, with a decade at the synagogue, teaches trope, leads choral groups, introduces the congregation to variations on the "tunes" and teaches in the Adult Institutes. He initiated a Torah Tutor program in which youths who have become bar or bat mitzvah teach those preparing for Jewish adulthood.

And part of the glue that binds at Emanu-El is in the person of Edward O. Adler, "Mister" Adler to one and all, the respected and admired ritual director for over 35 years. Through his efforts, Temple Emanu-El always has a morning and evening minyan, the pace and order of Shabbat davening does not waver, congregants are reminded of yahrzeits and the children always know which pocket holds a bit of a sweet.



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	Historical Video	6:00 p.m.
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	Classic Late Service	8:10 p.m.
Saturday, June 3	Shabbat Services	9:30 a.m.
	Lunch & Schmooze	Noon
Sunday, June 4	Windows Tour	10:00 a.m.
	Gala Concert	7:00 p.m.

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Rabbis may say yea or nay to commitment ceremonies

by Julie Wiener

NEW YORK (JTA) — Modification or compromise!

Whatever you want to call it, the Reform rabbis' final decision on Jewish same-sex commitment ceremonies is being touted as "groundbreaking" and a major step forward for gay and lesbian Jews.

After years of often heated debate, Reform rabbis overwhelmingly passed a resolution March 29 affirming that "the relationship of a Jewish, same-gender couple is worthy of affirmation through appropriate Jewish ritual."

The resolution is the first time a "major religious body has indicated its support for any of its clergy who decide to officiate at same-gender ceremonies," said Rabbi Paul Meniotoff, executive director of the Reform movement's Central Conference of American Rabbis.

Rabbi Denise Eger of West Hollywood, Calif., a co-chair of the CCAR's Gay and Lesbian Rabbinic Network, said the resolution will "create the opportunity for spiritual fullness for gay couples." Eger, who underwent a Jewish commitment ceremony with her lesbian partner under a chupah several years ago, also said the vote would "send a message of hope" to Jewish gays and lesbians, their friends and families.

However, the resolution — which passed almost unanimously in a voice vote at the rabbis' annual convention in Greensboro, NC — is not the wholesale endorsement of gay marriage that some proponents originally had hoped for, or that Reform's critics will likely characterize it as.

The resolution does not use the words "marriage" or "wedding," and was modified shortly before the vote to say not only that "we support the decision of those who choose to officiate at rituals of union for same-gender couples," but also "and we support the decision of those who do not."

It is unclear whether the resolution will influence the practices of Reform rabbis or lead to an increase in the number of gay couples gathering under the chupah. Even before the resolution, many Reform rabbis, as well as Reconstructionist ones — who went on record in support of same-

sex ceremonies in 1993 — were officiating at such ceremonies.

The resolution means that the CCAR can now distribute liturgy, wedding contracts and other resources for people officiating at same-sex commitment ceremonies.

According to the handful of rabbis who voted against the resolution and even some who voted in favor, the move may harm Reform Judaism's credibility among more traditional streams of Judaism and, possibly, Israelis.

In response to concerns from rabbis hesitant about endorsing religious officiation at gay ceremonies, the resolution was modified in the week preceding the vote to add support for rabbis who do not choose to officiate. Under their influence, the rabbis also omitted from the body of the resolution a quotation stating that "kedushah," Hebrew for holiness, "may be present in committed same gender relationships between two Jews."

In addition, the rabbis added a background statement outlining the CCAR's positions over the years on the rights of homosexuals, including a 1995 Responsa committee that, by a vote of 7-2, concluded that gay relationships "cannot be called kiddushin," the Hebrew term for marriage.

Those rabbis who had pushed for these changes, among them

Conservative, Orthodox disagree with Reform resolution

NEW YORK (JTA) — It's bad for Jewish unity, but not as bad as the decision to recognize the children of Jewish fathers and non-Jewish mothers as Jews.

That's how Orthodox and Conservative rabbis are viewing the Reform movement's recent decision to affirm the right of its rabbis to officiate at gay and lesbian commitment ceremonies.

Even though leaders of Judaism's more traditional movements say the Reform rabbis' decision is less divisive as the 1984 move on patrilineal descent, Orthodox leaders harshly condemn the vote. The criticism by Conservative leaders is more subdued.

The executive vice president of the Rabbinical Assembly, which represents 1,500 Conservative rab-

bi Rabbi Jeffrey Salkin of Port Washington, NY, said they were pleased with the final version, which they described as a "compromise."

But proponents of the original resolution insisted the changes were only "modifications" and that the final resolution still sends a strong message.

"The essential nature of the resolution remained," said Rabbi Shira Stern of West River, NJ, adding that the final resolution "affirms the sacred relationship between two Jews who are gay and lesbian and says that we are going to create materials to reflect that affirmation."

Stern, who is co-president of the CCAR's Women's Rabbinic Network, which introduced the resolution, was one of many who insisted that they were pleased with the outcome.

The debate leading up to the convention was long and heated — at times even "McCarthyist" according to those who initially opposed the resolution and felt they were unfairly labeled as homophobes and bigots.

However, reflecting the mutual satisfaction with the last-minute changes, the actual floor discussion lasted only an hour, with few people speaking against it.

bis, said that while his movement supports civil rights for gays, it does not approve of its rabbis officiating at same-sex ceremonies.

Rabbi Joel Meyers acknowledged that despite this position, some Conservative rabbis officiate at same-sex ceremonies and — unlike Conservative rabbis who officiate at intermarriages — they are allowed to remain in the Rabbinical Assembly.

The Rabbinical Council of America, the organization representing 1,100 Orthodox rabbis, issued a statement that said, "Conferring legitimacy upon relationships which our Torah and tradition specifically prohibit is beyond the pale of acceptable Jewish teaching and practice."

"It's another step of fragmentation. Please go to next page

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Emanu-El to wrap up Diamond Jubilee with gala weekend

Temple Emanu-El will conclude its Diamond Jubilee with special commemorative events May 31 through June 4. A wide variety of activities will recall and celebrate significant milestones and leaders in Emanu-El's 75-year history.

"The founders of Temple Emanu-El were men and women of optimism and action," said Linda Shamoon, who chairs the celebration with Ivy Marwil. "They worked tirelessly to create a modern American-Jewish synagogue community. During our Diamond Jubilee celebration we will 'meet' these men and women, experience their work and legacy through images, displays and tours, and share our own synagogue histories and stories with each other."

The celebration begins with the 75th Annual Business Meeting, Wednesday, May 31 at 7:30 pm. Pictures and agendas from past meetings will be featured as this year's slate of officers and board members are installed. In addition, outstanding Temple volunteers, youth leaders and past presidents will be honored.

Festivities continue Friday evening June 2 with a Shabbat Gala, "History, Ceremony, Food and Fanfare." Cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and Roaring 20s attire will help set the mood for a History Fair Exhibition and an original video, "Building Temple Emanu-El." This fascinating look back is sponsored by the Dr. Joseph C. and Beatrice Fishbein Family Cultural Fund.

Following candlelighting, the

Peter J. and Anna C. Wolf Fund will sponsor a traditional Shabbat Dinner and a unique interactive program which will relive some of the most memorable events of the congregation's past, including "visits" from major religious and lay leaders. Supervised children's activities will also be offered. Beginning at 8:10 pm, Rabbi Wayne Franklin and Alvan Kaunfer and Cantor Brian Mayer will be joined by Cantor Emeritus Ivan Perlman in leading a traditional Emanu-El Friday night service including choir and organ.

Shabbat morning services will start at 9:30 am. The Rabbi Morris G. and Rebbitzen Diana Silk Memorial Lecture will be delivered by Professor Calvin Goldscheider of Brown University, speaking on "Sociology and 'Numbers': Reflections on the Past 75 Years and the Next 75 Years at Temple Emanu-El." Cantor Perlman will also participate as he celebrates his 75th birthday and the anniversary of his becoming a bar mitzvah.

After services a special buffet luncheon will include "Schmooze Across Generations," encouraging

members young and old to share memories of Hebrew School, Bar/Bat Mitzvah and other synagogue experiences.

Sunday morning June 4 offers a special look at Temple Emanu-El's "Best Kept Secrets" beginning at 10:00 am. There will be guided tours of the stained glass windows of the main sanctuary and of the Abraham and Natalie Perceley Museum, plus a video interview with artist Walter Feldman giving his perspective on the Meeting House windows which he created.

The Diamond Jubilee Cel-

ebration will conclude Sunday evening at 7:00 pm with the Benton A. Odessa Memorial Concert, "Jews In America: A Musical Journey," an original production directed by Cantor Brian Mayer (see box).

All members and friends of Temple Emanu-El are invited to participate in this celebration. For more information call the Temple office at 401-331-1616.

Disagree... from pg. 12

tion and disunification of the Jewish community," said Rabbi Steven Dworkin, the RCA's executive vice president. "First they did it with patrilineal descent, and now this."

Meanwhile, Reform and Conservative leaders say they will continue to work together, despite their differences on the same-sex issue.

The leader of Israel's Conservative counterpart, Rabbi Ehud Bandel, said he does not agree with the resolution, which he thinks will undermine both movements' efforts in Israel, but said it will not affect his willingness to work with the Reform movement in efforts to gain recognition for non-Orthodox streams of Judaism.

"It will make our position hard — we're always associated with Reform, and Israelis don't always differentiate between Masorti and Reform. But I think it will create more understanding to the fact that these are distinct movements."

Odessa Concert celebrates American Jewish music

The finale to Temple Emanu-El's 75th anniversary celebration will be the Benton A. Odessa Memorial Concert on Sunday June 4 at 7:00 pm. "Jews In America: A Musical Journey" is an original production conceived and directed by Cantor Brian Mayer and featuring appearances by Oskar Eustis and Rose Weaver.

"This concert will tell the story of the Jewish-American experience," says Cantor Mayer, "through the music of its major Jewish composers."

The narration, written by Gershon Levine and presented by Eustis, begins during the 1920s. The bittersweet period of immigration and resettlement is captured in the klezmer and Yiddish music so popular at the time. Rare video footage of Yossele Rosenblatt, the most famous cantor of the 20th century, and the voice of Temple Emanu-El's Cantor Emeritus Ivan Perlman complete this reminiscence of those early years.

The story moves ahead to period of assimilation when cantors like Richard Tucker and Jan Peerce became opera stars, and composers like George Gershwin made it big on Broadway. These

musical giants will be recalled by Cantor Mayer ("E Lucevan Le Stelle" from *Tosca*) and the unmistakable style of Rose Weaver ("Summertime" from *Porgy and Bess*).

More recently, a spirit of renewal has revitalized the Jewish-American community. The modern musical tone is set by Barbra Streisand's "Avinu Malkeinu," the voice of soloist Janet Penn ("The Way We Were"), and the energy of the Temple Emanu-El/Harry Elkin Midrasha teen choir. This musical journey reaches its climactic finale as a 45-voice choir and a 10-piece orchestra present Leonard Bernstein's inspiring "Chichester Psalms."

"I think that Bernstein's piece is the perfect finale," Cantor Mayer says. "The message behind this production is one of optimism. Despite the enormous pressure on Jews to shed their Jewishness, we have discovered that we can advance in American society while still affirming a strong Jewish identity."

The Benton A. Odessa Concert is free and open to the public. Call the Temple Emanu-El office at 401-331-1616 for more information.

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JFRI leader in UJC. . . from pg. 3

Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) and the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI).

ONAD also will make recommendations on whether UJC will ask each of the 189 federations to dedicate a precise percentage of funds raised to the overseas work, commit to maintaining a specific dollar amount or give a wholly voluntary contribution that may fluctuate from year to year. The latter is how the old system operated, but is unpredictable and destabilizing for a new organization.

In their deliberations, the ONAD members also have worked to prioritize the categories of programs to be funded, and to establish a means for each federation to be able to designate a small percentage of its overseas allocation to specific programs that may be outside the JDC/JAFI management.

But ONAD is only a part of what Mann and Rakitt have deliberated. On April 9 and 10, the two meet in Washington, DC with about 300 other Jewish leaders, representing 105 federations and key national organizations, to debate the overall governance structure of the new organization.

The agenda was four issues: Principles, Organizational Role and Decision Making, Proposals for Funding UJC and Overseas Needs for the next two years, and funding the same over the long haul.

Throughout this process, which has been going on for well over a year, Mann and Rakitt have reported regularly to the JFRI executive committee and to the board of directors on the issues and recommendations under discussion. And on April 6 they had called a special board meeting to seek consensus on some of the agenda items for the Washington gathering, dubbed "the owners' retreat."

Of paramount concern to the two was to go to Washington with a sense of the kind of organization the local board members thought UJC should be — a trade association, alliance, franchiser or strong central organization. The consensus favored an alliance with the ability to impose limited binding decisions, but with a governance

RI donors. . .

from pg. 3

the July issue of *The Jewish Voice* after the campaign has officially closed.

The number of pledges made to the annual community fund drive was 3,533 to date, and repeat donors averaged a pledge increase of .07%. However, that was not enough to make up the loss of several major gifts that were between \$10,000 and \$100,000.



JFRI president Robby Mann (left) and executive vice president Steve Rakitt are members of ONAD, the committee that will recommend how North American funds should be spent overseas.



structure that was responsive to the members, rather than top-down in decision making.

The merger that created UJC was built on a 60-year partnership among organizations raising money for Israel and other needy Jewish communities.

The sense among the federations in the mid-90s was that by having one instead of three organizations, the North American Jewish community would eliminate duplication of effort, be more cost-effective, improve coordination and make better use of the funds raised.

There was also a strong desire to make the new organization more accountable to the federations which are the primary sources of funding. Together, these 189 federations raised \$882 million last year for domestic and overseas needs — everything from day schools to rescuing and resettling refugees. (The Rhode Island community established a formula several years ago that allocates the same amount of money from the annual campaign for local and overseas needs.)

To achieve "ownership," the new UJC voting power in the Delegate Assembly is entirely with the federation members. Representatives of the network of independent communities, the national beneficiary organizations, JDC, JAFI and the national religious organizations are ex-officio.

There also is a board of trustees of 120 people to establish overall policy, personnel policies and budgets. The trustees will operate in five committees: Campaign and Financial Resource Development, Israel & Overseas, Jewish Renaissance & Renewal, Human Services & Social Policy, and Regional & Community Services. There will be an executive committee of 25.

Back in Rhode Island in time for a regular board meeting Monday, April 10, Mann said that "the owners' retreat" was a good exchange. Smaller federations in particular aired their issues and the

large federations listened, getting a real appreciation for how different the problems and viewpoints are among the smaller members."

The fear of being overrun by the "big boys" has been a problem for the smaller federations all along. At the same time, since the 19 large federations raise about 80% of the money nationally, they do not want to be dominated by the 170 less populous ones. Striking a fair and equitable balance reminds participants of the struggle to create the United States Congress.

Following the retreat, the Board of Trustees approved

- A two-year non-binding stabilization plan for federations to maintain at least their current contributions to the UJC and to overseas needs. They agreed to create by December 31, 2001, a fair-share formula for future contributions.

- A decision to work with federations and JAFI to become partners of Birthright Israel, a program initiated by philanthropists Michael Steinhart and Charles Bronfman which sends unaffiliated Jewish college students on a free trip to Israel. (This winter, 40 students from local colleges and universities, and about a dozen Rhode Islanders at out-of-state schools went on the Birthright program.)

The board asked that the federations and JAFI contribute about \$15 million over three years to the Birthright program. The JFRI board voted to take Rhode Island fair share — a little over \$14,000 a year — from the federation's annual mission budget.

Leaders at the retreat also concurred on three top priorities for the new organization: coordinate overseas needs, help with training for lay and professional leaders, and assist with fund raising.

Still to be resolved are issues of the balance of influence for the small and intermediate federations; obligation and enforcement mechanisms, especially on financial commitments; and where to trim the \$40 million UJC budget.

Keeping a vigil for the "Iran 13"

While wives and mothers of the 13 Jews held in Iran on trumped-up charges of spying for Israel and the US waited for their husbands and sons (below), students in the Harry Elkin Midrasha, in cooperation with the JFRI Community Relations Council, met for a vigil the night before the trial was to begin. At Temple Torat Yisrael in Cranston, they were joined by their teachers and community members as they prayed and lit a candle for each of 13, Linn Freedman, who chairs the CRC, and Rabbi Mark Bloom of Torat Yisrael, both spoke before Isaac Mamaysky, right, explained the plight of the 13 Iranians. The next day, the trial was postponed until May 1. RI Governor Lincoln Almond signed a letter from US governors to Iranian President Mohammad Khatami on behalf of the Iran 13.



Women's Endowment grows by one-third with 14 new donors

The Endowment Committee of the Federation's Women's Alliance has made three grants this year totaling \$2,700.

Created in 1993 by several members of the Business & Professional Women's Affiliate, which now is incorporated into the Women's Alliance, the fund has since grown to a corpus nearing \$40,000. This year, 14 women made the minimum gift to the Fund of \$1,000, in addition to their annual campaign gift.

The Women's Alliance distributed the income of the fund for the year 2000 to two summer camperships at the Jewish Community Center, to the Bureau of Jewish Education's high school Midrasha for a course on "Making your own documentary," and to the RI Holocaust Memorial Museum to plan a teachers' workshop with a presenter from "Facing History and Ourselves."

The women who have donated to this fund during the last seven years are: *Ruth Alperin, Eleanor Elbaum, *Doris Feinberg, Gloria Feibish, Cindy Feinstein, *Ellie Frank, Linn Freedman, Susan Froehlich, Elaine Hoffman, *Herta Hoffman, Susan Kaplan, *Barbara Fields Karlin, *Glenda Labush, Barbara Lavine, Judy Mann, Maxine Marks, Sandy Messing, *Linda Miller, *Elaine Odessa, Jane Perel, Karen Rakitt, *Karen Labush Rasnick, Esther Resnik, *Myrna Rosen, Ruth Sauber, *Hinda Semonoff, Selma Stanzler, *Joyce Starr, *Cheryl Teverow, Jill Tobak, *Mindy Wachtenheim and Janet Zurier. (*New in 1999-2000).

Ingall closes Rosh Chodesh with lessons of Miriam

When Carol Ingall, EdD, Associate Professor of Jewish Education at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, spoke at the last Women's Alliance Rosh Chodesh program on April 4, she presented Miriam as an important yet flawed woman of the Torah.

Using texts, Ingall and the participants explored the identity and character of Miriam, sister of Moses and Aaron. The texts indicate that Miriam was one of the Hebrew midwives who defied

Pharaoh's order to kill all the male Hebrew children at birth. She was also a prophetess who foresaw the destiny of Moses and alerted her parents about his importance to the fate of the Jewish people.

However, Miriam was not without flaws. God punished her several times for gossiping, even though her words were not always meant to be malicious. We are warned, Ingall said, that if Miriam, who did not mean to disparage, was "stricken with snow-white

scales," people who speak evil deliberately are committing an even greater sin and may be punished accordingly, as the text says, "remember what the Lord thy God did unto Miriam" (Deut. 24:9).

The consensus from the group was that the moral lesson to take from Miriam is that gossip, even among people who mean no harm, can be hurtful and destructive. It is considered a great sin in Jewish law, and has serious consequences.

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Young adults' fare goes from stove to stage

by Lisa Davis

In April, Jewish young adults gathered for two very different but equally elegant evenings in Providence. One Monday night, 25 women gathered in Cindy Feinstein's home to watch chef Walter Potenza whip up a fabulous meal. Following his own Passover recipes that were published in April's edition of *La Cucina Italiana*, Potenza assembled a delicious meal of polenta drizzled with olive oil and blue cheese, a casserole of sautéed matzo and vegetables and a light almond sponge cake with raspberry sauce.

The most intriguing part of the evening was not just watching Potenza create the dishes and offer cooking tips, but listening to his stories of growing up in Italy. His family's experiences in and around Italy kept us all enthralled and asking for more details. Bringing a lot more to the table than just good food, Potenza entertained us and made sure we were well fed.

With a name like "Meshugah" people weren't sure what to expect at Trinity Repertory Theatre where they met to see the play based on a novel by Isaac Bashevis Singer, but



Barnet and Loryn Cohen took time out for a picture during the reception after "Meshugah." They had co-chaired the evening of theater for young Jewish adults.

the 63 young adults who attended were surprised and challenged.

The work, set in the 1940s, was Singer's attempt to convey the impact the Holocaust had on survivors in Europe and America. There were many humorous scenes, but many more were wrenching and difficult to watch.

Following the performance, everyone attended a dessert reception. Several cast members mingled among us, answering questions and talking about different aspects of the production.

It was a wonderful opportunity to meet new people and enjoy a well produced show.

Annual AIDS Seder draws over 120

Cantor Ida Rae Cahana and Debbie Waldman (right) sing duets at the AIDS Seder on April 9 in the Social Hall of the Jewish Community Center. Cantor Cahana and her husband, Rabbi Michael Cahana, who are leaving Rhode Island, were honored for their support of the AIDS Task Force, which is sponsored by the JFRI Community Relations Council. Below, the Task Force chairs, Louise Grund and Andrew Katzen, greet guests.



Seen on the Washington scene



Nineteen young Jewish Rhode Islanders were in Washington, DC in March for the United Jewish Communities' Washington 12 Conference. They joined 3,000 other young Jewish adults from the US, Canada, Israel and England for two days of learning, fun, celebrating Purim, lobbying on Capitol Hill (photo taken with US Senator Lincoln Chafee) and meeting their counterparts. Rhode Island traditionally sends a sizeable group to the biennial gathering.

Israel Bonds to honor Harris & Myrna Rosen



Honorees Hershey and Myrna Rosen, longtime community leaders.

Harris (Hershey) and Myrna Rosen will receive the Israel Unity Award from State of Israel Bonds at a reception in their honor on Tues., May 23 at Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence.

Gerald Cohen, who chairs the Israel Bonds campaign in Rhode Island, said that Michael Bar-Zohar, an Israeli author and former Knesset member, will be the guest speaker at the tribute.

Myrna Rosen, an honorary vice president of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island (JFRI), chaired the JFRI campaign after serving as president of its Women's Division for three years. She also was a Federation vice president and she chaired the statewide celebration of Israel's 50th anniversary.

Nationally, Myrna-Rosen has been a director of the Women's Board of the United Jewish Appeal. She has been a director of the RI Holocaust Memorial Museum, Temple Emanu-El and the Greater Providence Board of Realtors. Currently, she is on the boards of

Brown/RISD Hillel and Trinity Repertory Theater. She is a consultant to Trends Collections, Ltd.

Hershey Rosen, a past president of the Federation, also chaired its general campaign and Endowment Committee. He was one of the original members of the Young Leadership cabinet at the National UJA. Rosen chaired the board of Moses Brown School in Providence and has been an officer at The Miriam Hospital and the Jewish Family and Children's Service.

Currently, Rosen serves on the boards of Temple Emanu-El and Women and Infants Hospital. He was president of E. Rosen Company until 1998, and now serves as a Special Assistant to the Dean of the College of Business Administration at the University of Rhode Island. He is a mediator in labor, municipal and small claims disputes and a consultant with the Executive Service Corps.

For information on Israel Bonds and to make reservations for the reception, call 800-752-5651.

From the Sisterhoods

Beth-El's sponsors house tours

The Sisterhood of Temple Beth-El offers community members another first on Thursday, May 11: "Celebration: A Showcase of Homes for the Holidays," to benefit the synagogue's William G. Braude Library.

The eight houses on the tour all are on the East Side of Providence and "each one bespeaks one-of-a-kind décor and architectural achievement," according to organizers.

From 2:00 to 7:00 pm, the eight homeowners will open their doors to visitors and offer their

unique interpretation of a specific Jewish holiday: Shabbat, Rosh Hashannah, Yom Kippur, Passover, Purim, Hanukkah and Sukkot.

There is a range of ticket categories from \$25 to \$100, and for an additional \$10.00 a boxed selection of fine hors d'oeuvres.

Maps, descriptive booklets and hors d'oeuvres will be at Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard, Providence, on May 11. Reservations are required and must be made by April 25 by calling the synagogue at 401-331-6070, or stopping by the Temple Beth-El office.

Sinai's offers first cookbook

The Sisterhood at Temple Sinai in Cranston has published its first cookbook, "Look What's Cooking," a compilation of recipes from soup to nuts, and everything in between, that were contributed by Sisterhood members, friends and family.

To order a copy of the \$12.00 book, call Sandy Maldavir at 401-944-1121 or the synagogue office at 401-942-8350.

MAY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MAY 7	ASDS Playground Construction Temple Beth-El Mitzvah Day Northeast Hadassah Co-op Spring Conference RI Hadassah Special Gifts Luncheon & Program Cong. Orahn Sholam Sefer Torah Campaign Kickoff Temple Beth-El Service of Comfort	8:00 AM 9:00 AM 9:00 AM 12 noon 12:30 PM 5:00 PM	May 19	Temple Sinai's Talmud Study RI Holocaust Museum Fundraising Cocktail Party Temple Emanu-El Board Meeting Temple Beth-El 67th High School Graduation	9:45 AM 5:00 PM 5:45 PM 8:00 PM
May 8	Northeast Hadassah Co-op Spring Conference Temple Sinai's Talmud Study Leisure Club Israel Bonds Phonathon Brown/RISD Hillel Annual Meeting BJE Judaica Course BJE HEM Committee Meeting	9:00 AM 9:45 AM 10:00 AM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM	May 20	Temple Sinai's Talmud Study Jewish Theatre Ensemble	9:45 AM 8:00 PM
May 9	Temple Sinai's Talmud Study JFRI CRC Executive Committee Meeting Temple Beth-El Board of Trustees Meeting	9:45 AM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM	May 21	ASDS Family Bike Hike Temple Emanu-El's Kulanu Brunch Temple Beth-El's Annual Meeting Jewish Theatre Ensemble BJE H. E. Midrasha Graduation	10:00 AM 10:30 AM 4:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM
May 10	Temple Sinai's Talmud Study Leisure Club Board Meeting RI Board of Rabbis Meeting NGJW Community Service Luncheon JFRI Annual Meeting Touro Fraternal Association Board Meeting	9:45 AM 10:00 AM 10:00 AM 11:30 AM 7:00 AM 7:30 PM	May 22	Temple Sinai's Talmud Study Wealth Preservation & Philanthropy Seminar BJE Judaica Course ASDS/PHDS Collaborative - Day Schools with Carol Ingall guest speaker Temple Shalom Annual Meeting NAAMAT Davorah Dayan	9:45 AM 4:30 PM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM 7:30 PM 7:45 PM
May 11	Planned Giving Council of RI Temple Sinai's Talmud Study Leisure Club Temple Beth-El's Sisterhood Spring Donor Event National Conference for Community Justice Annual Fundraiser & Awards Night BJE Curriculum Practicum BJE Melton Class JCC Jewish Theatre Ensemble	8:00 AM 9:45 AM 10:00 AM 10:00 AM 10:00 AM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM	May 23	Temple Sinai's Talmud Study Temple Sinai's Talmud Study Israel Bonds Reception BJE Israel Orientation RI Hadassah Executive Board Meeting	9:45 AM 9:45 AM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM
May 12	Temple Sinai's Talmud Study	9:45 AM	May 24	Temple Sinai's Talmud Study JFRI Special Needs Consultant for BJE, PHDS & ASDS JFRI Endowment Committee Providence Hebrew Free Loan Annual Meeting Touro Fraternal Association Annual Dinner and Installation of Officers RI Hadassah Executive Board Meeting JFRI Women's Alliance Annual Meeting	9:45 AM 11:15 AM 4:30 PM 6:00 PM 6:30 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM
May 13	Temple Sinai's Torah Study JCC Jewish Theatre Ensemble	9:30 AM 8:00 PM	May 25	JFRI Finance Committee Temple Sinai's Talmud Study BJE Melton Graduation	8:00 AM 9:45 AM 7:00 PM
May 14	JCC Jewish Theatre Ensemble Temple Beth-El's Cantorial Event	2:00 PM 4:00 PM	May 26	Temple Sinai's Talmud Study	9:45 AM
MAY 15	Temple Sinai's Talmud Study Leisure Club BJE Judaica Course JFRI LEADERS Session	9:45 AM 10:00 AM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM	May 27	Temple Sinai's Torah Study	9:30 AM
May 16	Temple Sinai's Talmud Study Weight Watchers (JFRI Board Room) BJE Annual Meeting Temple Beth-El's School Board Meeting	9:45 AM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM	May 29	Temple Sinai's Talmud Study	9:45 AM
May 17	Temple Sinai's Talmud Study Miriam Hospital Women's Assn. Annual Meeting JFRI CRC RIJCL Volunteer Appreciation Event JCC Annual Meeting	9:45 AM 11:30 AM 4:00 PM 7:45 PM	May 30	Temple Sinai's Talmud Study	9:45 AM
May 18	Voice Copy Review Meeting Temple Sinai's Talmud Study Leisure Club Eden Garden Club Meeting Women's Alliance Marketing Committee BJE Melton Class Jewish Theatre Ensemble	8:00 AM 9:45 AM 10:00 AM 1:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM	May 31	Temple Sinai's Talmud Study Endowment Grants RFP Planning Temple Beth-El Sisterhood Annual Meeting BJE Israel Orientation for Students Temple Emanu-El's Annual Business Meeting and 75th Anniversary Kickoff BJE Parents Orientation	9:45 AM 9:40 PM 6:30 PM 6:30 PM 7:30 PM 8:15 PM
			JUNE 1	Temple Sinai's Talmud Study JFRI Executive Committee Meeting Camp JORI Annual Meeting BJE Code Committee	9:45 AM 4:30 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM
			June 2	Temple Sinai's Talmud Study Temple Emanu-El Educational & Musical week end	9:45 AM 6:00 PM

AN ISRAEL BIRTHDAY PARTY AT BETH-EL
Rabbi Aaron D. Panken, Dean of Hebrew Union College's New York campus, will be at Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence, on Wednesday, May 10 for a 7:30 pm lecture, "Israel: An Ancient Dream Renewed." The program, open to the community, celebrates Israel's 52nd birthday.

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Norm Jagolinzer at Leisure Club

Radio personality Norm Jagolinzer will be the guest speaker at the Leisure Club's annual meeting and installation of officers on Sunday, May 7 at 2:00 pm.

On Mondays, May 8 and 15, Sam Shamoan will continue his presentation (10:00 am) on "What's so Renaissance about today's Providence?" At 11:10 am those same days, Alison Rose, a Jewish historian, will talk about "Jewish culture and identity in turn-of-the-century Vienna: Freud, Herzl and Schoenberg."

On Thursday, May 11 and 18 at 10:00 am, Michael Sheff, MD, will tell seniors "Why you look like your grandmother." And at 11:10 am Ken Sacks will discuss "Jews in the Classical World."

Leisure Club is open to any senior in the Rhode Island Jewish community. It meets at Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence.

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Schneiderman to install NCJW officers

Jan Schneiderman, national president of the Council of Jewish Women, will install the organization's Rhode Island officers on Wednesday, June 7, in ceremonies in the meeting hall of Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence at 11:30 am.

Schneiderman, of Omaha, Nebraska, became national president last year after serving as a volunteer for NCJW for over 40 years. She has chaired numerous projects and represented NCJW at the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. She also has served on the Allocations Committee of the local United Way campaign and has been a board member of Friends of Planned Parenthood and the Omaha Hearing School.

The following slate is expected to be installed on June 7: Co-presidents Eleanor Elbaum and Eunice Greenfield; vice presidents Linda Kushner (advocacy/public affairs), Cheryl Blazar and Rosalind Bolusky

(membership), Gertrude Gordon (fund raising development), Nan Levine and Judith Lichtman (program); treasurer Zeld Horvits, assistant treasurer/budget Betty Jaffe; recording secretary Betty Korlen; corresponding secretaries Leona Sherman and Doris Zaidman; financial secretary Charlotte Primack, and mailing secretaries Herta Hoffman and Esther Swartz.

Directors for 2000-01: Audrey Bieder, Karen Dannin, Sylvia Denhoff, Seena Dittelman, Claire Ernstof, Betsy Holland, Judith Robbins, Ruth Rotenberg and Jan Ziegler; Directors 2000-02: Selvia Brown, Lillian Golden, Doris Hirsch, Vivienne Laskey, Barbara Lavine, Gertrude Max, Susan Resnik, Maxine Richman and Roberta Segal.

Members of the nominating committee: Phyllis Berry, chair; Estelle Fradin, Korlen, Elaine Kroll, Litchman, Charlotte Penn and Hinda Semonoff. Immediate past presidents are Carol Brooklyn, Nan



Jan Schneiderman

Levine and Litchman. Retiring from the board are Claire Bell, Glenda Labush, Helene Nemtsov, Harriett Traugott, Semonoff and Tovia Siegel.

Jewish scouts' reunion

Jewish Scouts and Scouters will have a chance to look over memorabilia and renew friendships during their second annual reunion on Sunday, May 21 at Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence.

Jules Cohen, who chairs the Jewish Committee on Scouting, says this "will be another opportunity to recall our days as Scouts at troop events and at Yawgoog. We're especially looking forward to seeing recent and long-time Eagle Scouts at our reunion breakfast."

The 9:30 am breakfast will be prepared by the Brotherhood of Temple Beth-El, and the gathering is sponsored by the Jewish Committee on Scouting of the Narragansett Council, Boy Scouts of American.

In recent years, the Jewish Committee on Scouting has overseen the expansion of the Temple of Ten Commandments, the Jewish chapel at Camp Yawgoog, and the construction of a chaplain's cabin at the camp.

For reservations, call Cohen at 401-294-6617 or e-mail him at jcohen@efortress.com.

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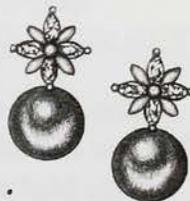
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The Miriam's Women Assoc. to honor Zwetchkenbaum

Rissy Zwetchkenbaum will receive The Miriam Hospital Women's Association Annual Recognition Award for the year 2000 at a luncheon on Wednesday, May 17, at Ledgemont Country Club.

In her years of volunteering with the Women's Association, which she says has been "forever," Zwetchkenbaum has served on the board and the Miriam Gala Committee, chaired the Annual Equipment Event and the nominating committee, and was co-president from 1995-98. Most recently, she has focused her energies on bringing a new generation of women to the association.

She says it is her hope that more members will be involved at the hospital in a "hands on" manner, as they were when The Miriam first opened in 1925.

Her and her husband Joe's, interest in The Miriam is further enhanced as one of their four children. John, is a doctor on staff.

For reservations to the annual meeting and awards luncheon, call the Association office at 401-793-2520.



Rissy Zwetchkenbaum

The Music Box. . . from pg. 3

service. Records and phonographs have given way to videos, CDs, tapes, walkmen. "We have an extensive collection of jazz and lots of 'oldies,'" Charlie says, "as well as rock and new age, a full range of music." Then, there are also sunglasses and watches. "In retail today," this entrepreneur says, "You can't have a narrow product line."

Lasky bought his building, right next door to his good friend Bobby Bolusky, in the late 70s. The brisk upswing in the tourist traffic, especially after the redevelopment that created America's Cup Avenue and Brick Market Place, led him to expand.

Twelve years ago he opened "the annex," which has both its own Thames Street entrance and a walk-through from The Music Box. "We've got clothing and posters, a little bit of foul weather gear, some accessories. We carry upscale novelty clothing by Caribbean Soul, the Jimmy Buffet line. There's gear for sports, embroidered jackets, sweatshirts, that sort of thing."

Son Rob oversees "the annex," Marc manages The Music Box, and over on the other side Jay keeps tabs on the Helly Hansen line. "That's the entire line of sailing gear, ski wear and foul weather gear that Hansen manufacturers," Lasky explains.

How is it to work with "my three sons"? "Everyone asks that," Lasky laughs. "Surprisingly good. We're all different personalities. If a problem develops between us we usually settle it in 15 minutes," says the past president of Touro Synagogue, who also did a stint as chairman of its Hebrew School.

So the Laskys' two-generation business is next door to their good friends, the Boluskys, a third-generation business. But there is more to this story, a sort of "only in Rhode Island" twist. Stay with us.

Rosalind and Mervin Bolusky of Pawtucket (who are to be honored on May 10 by the National Council of Jewish Women for their extensive volunteer work in the Rhode Island Jewish community) have made these two families shirt-tail relatives to each other. Mervin is first cousin to the late Robert, the middle generation to run Ben's Furniture, and Roz is first cousin to Charles Lasky, the founder of The Music Box.

Jewish Book Award winner Carol Ingall to headline Emanu-El's Kulanu "Meet the Author" series

Award winning author Carol Ingall, EdD, will headline the 4th in the "Meet the Author Series," sponsored by Kulanu and the Adult Institute at Temple Emanu-El, on Sunday, May 21.

Ingall's book, *Transmission & Transformation: A Jewish Perspective on Moral Education*, published by the Melton Institute, won the 1999 National Jewish Book Award in the education category. She is an assistant professor in the William Davidson Graduate School of Jewish Education at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York City, and a past executive director of the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island.

Her presentation, open to the community, will begin at 9:30 am. Temple Emanu-El is at 99 Taft Avenue, Providence.



Carol Ingall

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BJE reviews 10 projects for Teacher Creativity Awards

The Bureau of Jewish Education has received 10 projects which are being reviewed for the Teacher Creativity Awards. These awards have been established to recognize outstanding teachers in Bureau-affiliated schools for creative and innovative educational projects.

The Edward and Florence W. Goldberg Memorial Endowment Fund of the Jewish Federation awards exemplary classroom projects, lessons and teaching materials. The Perelman Family Award rewards the creation of curricular teaching units and materials. Both are granted by the Professional Development Committee of the Bureau. Rabbi Alvan Kaunfer chairs the full committee; Sue Suls chairs the sub-committee that decides the recipients of the awards.

The submissions represent a variety of subjects, grade levels and

approaches. The applicants are:

Cantor Rennie Brown of Temple Sinai, for Cantor's Tefillin Workshop;

Bruce Lenore, also of Temple Sinai for Temple Sinai Mural Project;

Toby Liebowitz of Temple Emanuel for A Picture is Worth a Thousand (Hebrew) Words;

Charli Lurie of Temple Beth-El for Making the Connection: Bringing the Israel Experience into the Classroom;

Pnina Pressburger of Congregation B'nai Israel for both Hebrew Alef-Taf and for Jewish Holidays Memory Book: Follow the Moon;

Martha Sholes of Torat Yisrael for Reach for the Stars — Torat Yisrael's Galaxy;

Miriam Esther Weiner of Providence Hebrew Day School for Shabbos and the Five Senses;

Nachama Weisenberg of Congregation Agudas Achim for Purim Presentation, a play: Haman's Complaint; and

Miri Zeman of Alperin Schechter Day School for Moshe Montefiore and Mishkenot Shecananim.

The recipients of these awards will be announced at the Annual Meeting of the BJE, on May 16th at 7:00 pm in the JCC Social Hall. The public is invited.

Sinai joins Midrasha as sponsoring synagogue

In a move that will both promote community and expand learning opportunities for Rhode Island's Jewish teens, Temple Sinai will become a participating synagogue in the Harry Elkin Midrasha (HEM) Community High School of the Bureau of Jewish Education beginning next fall.

Rich Walter, the BJE's secondary education coordinator, says, "This development is the result of the hard work of lay leaders and professionals from both institutions and this partnership is sure to benefit the entire community."

Lenore Sones, director of education for Temple Sinai, calls the affiliation "an amazing opportunity for our students. They will be able to learn with an outstanding group of educators, to make new Jewish friends from around the state and to engage in a wider variety of educational experiences."

Currently, 145 teens — 8th-12th grades — participate in HEM classes which meet on Sunday mornings in Providence at Temple Emanuel and on Wednesday evenings at Temple Torat Yisrael in Cranston. Beginning next year, one semester of Wednesday classes will meet at Sinai and the other at Torat Yisrael. Transportation will be provided from Providence to Cranston on Wednesdays and from Cranston to Providence on Sunday mornings.

The added Sinai participation may increase enrollment as much as one-third, Walters projected.

"The partnership between Temple Sinai and HEM is one that will greatly benefit the entire community," Walters said.

He explained that Temple Sinai teens will now have access to

a wider variety of courses such as Holocaust/Genocide (a college credit course), Documentary Filmmaking, the HEM youth choir, and a diverse Hebrew language program which offers four levels of instruction. In addition, Sinai students will be able to expand their involvement in special programs such as the Jewish Civics Initiative, the Philadelphia Trip and other community service projects.

For HEM, the involvement of Temple Sinai exposes its students to a greater Jewish community, expands their social horizon and opens them up to greater religious diversity, since Sinai is the only Reform congregation participating. Furthermore, as HEM continues to expand, it will be able to increase and improve both its course offerings and special events.

"The addition of Temple Sinai to the Midrasha is one that will help to transform the way that we can involve and service the Jewish teenage community," Walters adds.

In her research on Jewish programs, Amy Sales, PhD, writes, "Judaism commands us to teach our children. Marketing experts advise us to think as large as possible and aim high. Once we understand, we can act. Our action should be based on fact and driven by a grand vision of a Jewish teen scene so vibrant and appealing that our children cannot resist it."

Sales's challenge, Walter says, is one that the Rhode Island community needs to heed. He said the BJE is working toward the creation of a "Jewish teen scene." "The partnership of Temple Sinai and the HEM puts us all one step closer to that goal," he said.

FORTY-NINTH ANNUAL MEETING

BUREAU OF
JEWISH EDUCATION
OF RHODE ISLAND

MAY 16, 2000 • 25 IYAR 5760
7:00PM

AT THE JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER
OF RHODE ISLAND

Ronald Salavon, *Annual Meeting Chair*
Selma Stanzler, *Annual Meeting Chair*
Robert P. Landau, *President*
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Rachel Lenore	ראקעל לענאָרע
Abigail Levine	אביגיל לעווין
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Joshua Resnik	יושוע רעסניק
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Lauren M. Wier	לארען מ. ווער
Zachary Witman	זאַכאַרי וויטמאַן



Rabbi Flam to leave Hillel

Looks to return to direct services

Rabbi Alan Flam, executive director of the Brown-RISD Hillel Foundation for the past 18 years has announced his intention to leave his position on June 3.

In a letter to the Hillel Board of Trustees, Rabbi Flam wrote, "This has been a difficult conclusion for me to reach, but I do feel it is the right decision for me, both personally and professionally... My work at Brown-RISD Hillel over the past 18 years has provided me with an unparalleled opportunity for growth and satisfaction. Without a doubt, the most meaningful part of my work has been and continues to be my work with students, as a teacher, rabbi, mentor, counselor and friend. It is a precious opportunity to work in the world of the university and especially with young adults at this formative stage of their lives."

In accepting Flam's resignation, John M. Blacher, president of the Hillel, said, "Rabbi Flam's ability to create a vibrant pluralistic setting where Jewish students can explore, enrich and celebrate their Judaism will be his legacy. We will always be grateful for Rabbi Flam's exceptional dedication and sensitivity to the needs of Jewish campus life. While we respect Rabbi Flam's decision to seek new professional challenges, we will certainly miss him."

Under the leadership of Rabbi Flam, Brown-RISD Hillel has been recognized as one of the premier Hillel Foundations in the country. In 1984, Brown-RISD Hillel won the prestigious William Haber Award for creating a successful Black-Jewish Dialogue Project. In 1991, Brown-RISD Hillel again garnered a Haber Award for establishing the first campus based Community Relations Council. In 1996 "Acts of Power" — Jewish



Rabbi Alan Flam

Women's Cultural Show, was recognized for cultural arts excellence with the Elie Wiesel Award.

In addition to excellence in programming, Brown-RISD Hillel has gained a reputation as a training ground for Jewish leaders. Dozens of Brown and RISD students have gone on to pursue careers in the rabbinate, cantorate, Jewish education and communal service.

Flam also has served as Senior Associate University Chaplain. In this capacity he has worked as part of a multifaith team providing pastoral care and programs for the entire university community. On campus he was active in bereavement counseling, multicultural education, public service, gay, lesbian, bisexual civil rights, Arab-Jewish dialogue, and academic advising. He was the co-founder and

first director of the Brown University Mediation Project.

Rabbi Flam has been connected to the Hillel movement his entire professional career. Prior to his appointment at Brown, he served as Hillel Director at SUNY Stony Brook. Earlier this year, he was named by the International Hillel Center as Senior Advisor to Tzedek Hillel — a nationwide effort to promote community service and tikkun olam work on campuses throughout the country. The catalyst for this nationwide project was the Visions for Change Initiative started by Flam six years ago, and supported by a JFRI Endowment Fund Continuity Grant.

In 1994 he was recognized by his Hillel peers as an Exemplar of Professional Excellence. In presenting that award, Richard Joel, International President of Hillel called Rabbi Flam the consummate Hillel professional. "Alan embodies all that is noble in a Hillel professional — he inspires students, presides over a model Hillel Foundation, passionately engages a university community, gives generously of his time to colleagues, and always acts with integrity and *menschlichkeit*."

Rabbi Flam told The Voice that he expects to remain in Rhode Island and hopes to continue his work with students and to be an active participant in the Jewish community. A planning team headed by Hillel Vice President, Danny Warshay, will be overseeing the transition and search for a new Hillel Executive Director.

Why day schools are "hot" topic of open forum May 22

In a program open to the community and sponsored by the collaboration of the two Rhode Island day schools, Carol Ingall, EdD, will speak on "Why Day Schools Are 'Hot'" in the Board Room of the Jewish Federation of RI, 130 Sessions Street, Providence on Monday, May 22 at 7:30 pm.

There is a national trend of increased enrollment at day schools as parents make their selection of private schools. Locally, in an unprecedented effort, the Alperin Schechter Day School and the Providence Hebrew Day School have been working together to promote the value of a day school education. The collaboration has been funded by a grant of the JFRI Endowment Fund, which is co-sponsoring Ingall's appearance.

Ingall, Coordinator for Training of Day School Educators at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, has written several books on the teaching of values and moral education. Her most recent publication, "Transmission and Transformation: A Jewish Perspective on Moral Education" recently won the National Jewish Book Award in the education division. Ingall holds the Dr. Bernard Heller Chair in Jewish Education. She is a proponent of the integrated approach to teaching moral education, emphasizing that it should be central to any school and taught across the curriculum.

In a recent mailing, the two schools asked the question, "How

Please go to page 22

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PHDS taps Diamond, Gottesman for Amudim Award

A couple of physicians, who are also a couple, will be the honorees at the Amudim Award Dinner on Sunday evening, June 18 at the Providence Hebrew Day School (PHDS).

This year, PHDS has selected Marc Diamond and Cheryl Gottesman for the award in recognition of "their example in Torah learning, chesed (acts of loving kindness) and service to the school and the community at large."

Both medical doctors — Diamond a pediatrician practicing in Johnston, and Gottesman in family practice in Attleboro, Mass. — are known to reach out to students and newcomers.

The couple met at Brown University medical school where they both developed an interest in becoming more observant. Married while medical students, they stayed in Providence for their residencies and to begin their family. Diamond says he survived the challenge of trying to switch hospital duty away from Shabbat by "learning Rashi on the chumash, Kehati on the mishna and gemara at the Wednesday night shiur at the Beit Midrash."

That was about the same time the couple became active at PHDS. Diamond is now vice-president of education for the second time, and has served in other board positions. Gottesman has chaired the nominating committee twice and has served on various committees.

Diamond also is president of the Providence Eruv Corporation, checking weekly to make sure the East Side enclosure is kosher. The couple also has been honored by the New England Rabbinical College "for their outstanding dedication to the yeshiva and to Torah learning."

In addition to their five children, ages 4 to 15; Chana Barasova, a graduate of New England Academy of Torah, who emigrated from Russia, has become one of their family.

For information on dinner tickets, call the school at 401-331-5327.

Short but vigorous elections for PHDS student council

The campaign season at PHDS was a bit shorter than that for US President — one week only — yet it was none-the-less vigorous as 7th and 8th grade pupils ran for student council and class officers.

Candidates were allowed to make and hang posters throughout the school and, at a special assembly for 4th through 8th graders, each candidate gave a campaign speech complete with promises of reviving popular programs, such as the Rosh Chodesh breakfast and color war.

Those who ran for student council from the 7th grade were Avraham Diamond, William Hirshon, Jenny Kessler, Josh Kirschner and Elan Noorparvar; 8th grade candidates included Elisheva Klausner, Irina Kratik, Aryeh Raskin and Yosef Weiner.



Doctors Cheryl Gottesman and Marc Diamond with their children.

Littlest ones gets new playground



A grant from the Jewish Federation's Endowment Fund helped PHDS buy new playground equipment, install a new safety surface and surround it with new protective fencing. The school's Parents-Teachers and Friends organization added equipment, a storage shed and sand toys for the school's youngest learners.

Academic Fair integrates Judaic, secular studies

The Academic Fair at PHDS took on a "new look" this year as all of the classes worked to integrate Judaic and secular studies, calling forth creative thinking and collaboration.

For example, the 3rd grade class, learning about the history of Rhode Island, toured the State House where they found a plaque donated by the Jews of Rhode Island in recognition of and appreciation of 300 years of religious freedom. (They also learned that the State House dome is the 4th largest unsupported dome in the world.)

When the children traveled to Touro Synagogue in Newport, Rabbi Mordechai Eskovitz fielded questions they had prepared about the Synagogue and the colonial Jewish community in



The Feinstein Chronicles

April 2000

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Those submitting the most impressive reports will receive a \$1,000 savings bond and a \$1,000 donation to any anti-hunger charity of their choice. Some reports will be selected for national publication.

RI Borders Books and Music have joined us in this project, giving gift certificates of \$50 to \$100 to all winners. Winners will be announced at a reception at their new Providence Place store in the fall.

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For further details visit: www.feinsteinfoundation.com

Alan Swann Feinstein

"Hot" schools... from pg. 21

do we teach the next generation about values and ethical decision-making?" They go on to say that in addition to a secular curriculum, athletics, art and technology, the day schools offer lessons in ethical

decision-making that are inherent to the Jewish tradition.

Ingall, a resident of Providence, was the executive director of the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island from 1985 to 1990.

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Barbara Dwares, Torat Yisrael - 943-1532

A PROGRAM OF PROJECT OREN AND THE KIBBUTZ PROGRAM CENTER

Alperin Schechter 2nd graders become globe trotters

Second Grade pupils at the Alperin Schechter Day School (ASDS) are "traveling" around the world to explore and understand different cultures. They have tapped many resources within the community in their search for information, and recently requested the expertise of staff member Harshita Lakhiani when studying India.

A native of Bombay, India, Harshita and her husband have been in the United States for close to four years and residents of Rhode Island for the past 2 1/2 years. The customs and traditions of her native country remain a significant part of her life.

Starting with festivals, Harshita described a number of the most popular celebrations of the Hindu religion, including Divali, which is the Indian Hindu celebration of the New Year, roughly coinciding with November's full moon. During the festival of colors, "Holi," Hindus take great joy in throwing colored powders over their friends, while the RakshaBandhan festival commemorates the special relationship between brothers and sisters, when sisters tie wristbands on their brothers to signal the bond between them. This ritual, once started, is a lifetime commitment. By allowing the wristband to be secured the brother acknowledges his lifetime pledge to safeguard his sister. The brother bestows a gift upon his sister in recognition of his devotion.

Harshita brought Indian rupees and postage stamps for the children to examine. The class discussed the relative value of the rupee vs. the dollar and just what can be bought with the rupee? Harshita also talked of the culinary arts practiced in India, with special emphasis on the variety of spices used.

Dressed in the traditional daytime outfit, "salwar kurta" worn by Hindu women, Harshita brought different examples of dresses or "Sarees" and selected a few students to model them. She also explained the Bindi located on her forehead. Tradition calls for all married women to wear the bindi, the mark or



Wearing the traditional day-time outfit, a salwar kurta, Harshita Lakhiani, a staff member at ASDS, talked about her native India with 2nd grade pupils. India was a stop on the children's world "tour" this year.

patterned sticker representing her stature in the Hindu religion. Modern Hindus wear bindis that coordinate with the color of their outfits and are like a sticker to be used several times, but more traditionalists will opt for the red or maroon colored marking.

No, this is not River City, but trombones make a hit

There may not have been 76 trombones at ASDS, but the key elements in a brass band were on hand. In the Music Sampler Class for Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd Grade pupils at ASDS, children are introduced to the trumpet, bugle and trombone. Catherine Gagnon, Music School instructor, discusses each instrument, how they produce sound and then gives every child a chance to try them out. Here, she holds the trombone for Allison Robbio who produced a wonderful blast from what seemed an outsized instrument for someone Allison's size.



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27 named to ASDS honor roll

Sixth Grade

Abraham Aron
Elan Cohen
Susan Landau
Nathaniel Levine
Julia Link
Nathan Weissburg

Ruth Furman
Bruce Kaufman
Miriam Klein
Chloe Licht
Maia Masuda
Hannah Mellion
James Rotenberg
Jessica Spellun

Rebecca Chaika
Kendra Kobrin
Spencer Kurn
David Levinson
Richard Maidman
Alina Neganova
Benjamin Savitzky
Denille Wachtenheim
Leah Weissburg
Michael Wolpert

Seventh Grade

Aaron Abrams
Shira Adler

Eighth Grade
Adam Cable

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JCC kicks off Diamond Jubilee at annual meeting

Leach slated for re-election

The 75th Annual Meeting of the Jewish Community Center, chaired by Cheri and David Moss on Wednesday, May 17, at 7:30 pm will celebrate 75 years of building community.

The slate proposed by the Nominations Committee—Cindy Feinstein, Chair, Rebecca Brenner, Donna Frank, Steven Katzoff, Karen Rasnick, Sam Suls—is:

Officers for 2000-2001

President	Bruce A. Leach
1st Vice Pres.	Jenny Klein
Vice Pres.	Doug Emanuel
Vice Pres.	Paul Formal
Treasurer	Cindy Feinstein
Secretary	Rose Mossberg
	Malkin

Directors — 3 year term

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	Ellie Elbaum
	Lori Glazer
	Herra Hoffman
	Stephen Litwin
	David Moss
	Jeffrey Padwa
	Margie Rubin
	David Stern
	Marjorie Thompson
	Jeffrey Vogel
	Dan Zussman

Director — 2 year term

2000-2002	
-----------	--

Bonnie Steinberg

Directors — 1 year term

2000-2001	
	Beth Briar
	Karen Rasnick

The program will feature awards for volunteers of the year and a recognition and presentation to all JCC past Presidents. The entire community is invited to join in the anniversary and the kick-off of the celebration year.

Honors due at national convention

The Jewish Community Center of RI is to receive special recognition from the Jewish Community Centers of North American Biennial 2000 Convention on Tuesday, May 9th for 75 years of building community.

More than 1,000 leaders from Jewish communities in the United States, Canada, Europe, Israel and South America will be in Boston from May 7 to 10 to examine the

myriad ways that people are "Building Meaningful Jewish Community."

Local delegates are Bruce A. Leach, President of the JCC, Douglas Emanuel, Treasurer and incoming Vice President, and Vivian G. Weisman, Executive Director.

The convention will also serve as a platform for unveiling the long-anticipated "Standards for JCCs" which have been in development over the past two years. These voluntary standards have been written and tested with the extensive support of JCC professionals and lay leaders in communities across North America. It is expected that these new standards, once put into practice, will elevate the caliber of service and programs at JCCs.

Delegates will hear from several prominent speakers, including Dr. Michael Hammer, president of Hammer and Company, who is one of the world's foremost business thinkers.

Leonard Fein, PhD, the founder of both "Moment" magazine and Mazon: A Jewish Response to Hunger, will speak about the "Meaningful Jewish Community" initiative that was developed by the JCCs of Greater Boston. The MJC initiative proposes a redefining of the primary role of the JCC in community-building, and suggests an increased openness to change and innovation.

JCC to open 29th summer camp

With 29 years

of camping experience, the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island (JCC) offers summer programs for children 18 months to 12 years old. Assistant executive director Linda Singer-Berk says, "With a low staff to camper ratio and a philosophy anchored by providing a caring, nurturing and safe environment, the JCC offers both air-conditioned indoor accommodations for a wealth of activities as well as outdoor ball fields, picnic areas and playgrounds.

"Our goal," she continues, is



Learning about Israel is part of the JCC summer camp experience.

to help create memories that last a lifetime, while building self-esteem, exploring new interests, developing new skills, and simply having a wonderful time."

The pre-summer transition Please go to next page.

Softball team still taking players

The JCC's first Adult Co-Ed Softball League got underway on Sunday, April 30. JCC Board Member Josh Starr and Cory Diamond, Health and PE Director, say players need not be expert ball players to join the group!

A series of organized games begins Sunday, May 7th and continues Sundays through June 4th.

The organizers say players

should not be discouraged if they cannot attend all sessions—it is perfectly all right to miss a date; players should just come to as many of the sessions as possible!

And, don't come to the games alone. Bring another player or some spectators.

For more information and to check future starting times, call Diamond at 861-8800 X149.

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College students may become summer members

There is a special JCC membership for college students home for the summer!

1. Students can join the JCC from May 15th through Labor Day for \$100 — no extra registration fee!

2. The Fitness Center offers a wide-range of shape-up equipment including Cyber weight/strengthening equipment that complements the cardio machines.

3. The JCCRI offers an orientation to all of the equipment plus a personalized workout program for each member.

4. Membership also includes swimming in the 75' pool, basketball in the gym, racquetball and lots of exercise and aerobics classes.

5. The JCCRI is open 7 days a week.

Students may stop in for a tour, or call JCC membership director Lyn Schaffer at 861-8800, Ext. 117 for more information.

JCC 29th camp... from pg. 24

camp begins June 19th with a special field trip each day. Camp starts June 26, with weekly sessions that run through August 25. The nine-week program gives parents maximum flexibility, as families can register for as many weeks as desired. Post-summer transition camp meets August 27 through September 1 and will also include daily field trips to local sites. Camp hours are from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, with early arrival and extended day programs to accommodate working parents. Registration for 2000 Summer Camp, which features a new Arts Exploration Camp is underway.

Singer-Berk says the strength of the Center's day camp program is in its full time staff. "Head and junior counselors, specialists, teachers, are all selected based on their ability to work with children. It's their energy, maturity and skill that make the camp a really special summer experience," she said. All staff receive more than 30 hours of additional staff training specific to the needs of the JCC community.

Summer camp features Shabbat celebrations and other Jewish experiences, water play or instructional swim, story time, walks, various arts and crafts activities and cooking projects, as well as plenty of time to play and make friends. Older children have cookouts, special guests, field trips, electives.

Camps available this summer:
Young Toddler Program (18 months to 3 years) 5, 3, and 2 Day Full and Half Day Options available

Morning Toddler Camp Option, for children 18 months to 3 years of age, 9 - 11 am only

Activities include nature walks, stories, music, arts and crafts, dips in splash pools, creative indoor and outdoor play, and more. Early childhood staff encourages each child to develop new cognitive and social skills while developing a positive self-image.

Camp Yeladim for 3 to 5 years old including children entering Kindergarten. Full and Half Day Option available

Children learn about the world and express themselves creatively. Activities revolve around one-week themes, and include painting, music, swimming, nature, creative movement and more. Campers participate in weekly all camp Shabbat celebrations. Swim instruction included.

Camp Haverim for children entering 1st through 4th grade as of September 2000 (Camp Haverim Sports Track option available)

Campers learn the value of teamwork and cooperation through age-appropriate activities and Jewish tradition and culture. Programs are designed to encourage campers to pursue their interest, learn new skills and develop friendships and social ties with respect and security. Includes weekly field trips to local areas of interest, daily swim instruction and/or sports.

Art Exploration: Cultural and Creative Arts Camp (Children entering 2nd through 6th grade)

New: "creative arts" track for children in grades 2 through 6. Children will be provided with a variety of means of expressing themselves through the arts. The hallmark of the camp is our staff — art specialists, teachers, working artisans, and craftspeople with unique talents and experience. The program will be offered in 3 two-week sessions in June, July and August.

The JCC campus features a gym, aerobics/dance studio, arts and crafts room, social hall, and a newly renovated 75-foot swimming pool. The air-conditioned building gives the greatest flexibility during "rainy" and "steamy" days of summer. Outdoors, children enjoy the use of adjacent ball fields, picnic areas and playgrounds.

For information or to receive a camp brochure, call Singer-Berk at 861-8800, ext. 147.

Staff training a priority at JORI, the overnight camp

Staff training has been a priority for Camp JORI, and major funders have been supportive of that objective. The Jewish Federation of Rhode Island awarded the camp a grant to help with the costs for key staff to attend an educational conference, and Director Ronni Guttin received a leadership grant from the Rhode Island Foundation to attend training sessions.

Guttin and a board member recently attended a conference sponsored by the North American Alliance of Informal Jewish Educators given for camp directors and lay leaders. The program focused on national trends, marketing, focusing on policy issues for Jewish camps. Guttin says, "It was a great opportunity to learn from one another and to share ideas with a group that had many issues in common." Camp JORI is the only Jewish overnight camp in Rhode Island and networking with camps throughout North America gave participants a broad perspective.

Guttin, along with one of her assistant directors, three counselors and the camp nurse attended a program in New York given by the

American Camping Association, which provided practical workshops for all camp staff positions. Guttin attended programs on management issues, legal issues and risk management. Seminars on behavior management, supervising staff and overseeing a creative arts program were attended by the assistant director.

Guttin adds, "It was gratifying to have reinforcement for all the things we are already doing, and it was wonderful to pick up new ideas and to network with our peers. This can only enhance the staff's performance." According to Guttin, Camp JORI will continue to offer and encourage staff to participate in learning opportunities that will have a positive impact on the camp.

This summer, the camp's waterfront director, who is a certified Red Cross trainer, will train the entire staff in CPR. "We only need a certain percentage of staff to be CPR trained to meet legal requirements, but we feel it adds so much to the safety, it is worth the time and effort to have everyone trained," says Guttin. In addition

to the certified lifeguards in the camp's waterfront program, several other counselors have lifesaving certificates as well. Several staff, in addition to those already qualified, will be certified as archery instructors. Many incentives are in place for the counselors to achieve certifications beyond what might be required for a given position.

The camp offers a full sports program, including tennis, boating, water polo, swimming, softball, karate, soccer, miniature golf, basketball and sports workshops. The Narragansett-based camp also offers arts and crafts including ceramics, instrumental music and theatre; nature programs; aerobics; special events and field trips.

For ages 7-13, there is an overnight camp with two four-week sessions, and for first-time campers only there are four two-week sessions. JORI also offers a day camp with two-week sessions for children 6-9 years of age. Camp JORI observes the dietary laws of kashruth.

Openings are still available. For registration packets and information, please call Camp JORI at 401-521-2655.



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Free Delivery to East Side and Vicinity

by Jane Haynes

At Adoption Options, the role of a foster parent is considered pivotal. It is they who provide a loving home for the child through the legal waiting period before placement with an adoptive family.

Adoption Coordinator Betsy Alper has high praise for foster mother Debra Bettez. Bettez is trained as a Registered Nurse who worked in pediatrics before retiring. The mother of a grown son and a young daughter who is adopted, she has cared for 10 foster babies during her two-and-a-half years as a foster parent for the Adoption Options program. She says, "Every baby deserves to be loved."

Typically, she cares for a baby for three to six weeks until the adoptive placement is made. She did have one child three months. "I do get attached," she says, "but I know firsthand what it's like for adoptive families who are waiting. It's a good feeling, knowing the babies are going to loving homes."

She creates a calm, regular routine for each baby, catering to his or her needs. Some babies respond better to having their bath in the morning; some seem happier later in the day. I just take care of them like they're my babies," she says. She has received many compliments from health professionals on how happy and well-adjusted the babies are. There is always plenty of love in evidence when she holds them. "I think I will be doing this for a long time. I love it," she says.

Alper says, "Debbie provides an amazingly wonderful home, and she has cared for some infants where her nurse's training was helpful." Often, nurses need special care. For one baby who had had surgery, she was able to offer her expertise during his recuperation.

Another baby had a hearing impairment. Bettez coordinated visits with a speech therapist, fittings for hearing aids, appointments with physical and occupational therapists and social workers from the School for the Deaf. Learning sign language, she incorporated it into her interactions with the baby so he could be exposed to the communication tools he would learn to use as he grew.

Bettez says the Adoption Options program, "has been supportive and available whenever a question comes up."

For information about foster parenting or adoption, contact Adoption Options at 401-331-5437, toll-free at 1-800-337-6513 or visit the web site at www.adoptionoptions.org.

Those interested in adoption also may attend informational meetings the first Wednesday of every month, 6:00 to 7:00 pm, 229 Waterman St., Providence, 2nd floor. The next meeting is June 7.

First Gutterman lecture brings national expert Cloé Madanes



Cloé Madanes will deliver the first Julie Claire Gutterman Memorial Lecture as part of a continuing education program for mental health professionals that is sponsored by Jewish Family Service (JFS). The seminar is from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm June 2 at the Providence Marriott. "Brief Strategic Therapy In Addressing Family Violence" will be the topic of Madanes's presentation.

According to JFS executive director Paul Segal, family violence is one of the most significant problems confronting our society. Increasing acts of violence in America affect all age groups and account for at least one-third of the nation's fatalities.

Madanes, acclaimed as an innovator in both family and brief therapy, is the director of the Family Therapy Institute of Washington, DC. Her books include: *Strategic Family Therapy*; *Behind the One-Way Mirror*; *Sex, Love and Violence*; *The Secret Meaning of Money* and *The Violence of Men*. At the lecture, Madanes will discuss the types of situations where violence occurs in families with an emphasis on providing an intervention model and treatment techniques that therapists can use in their clinical practices. Step-by-step methods for preventing future violence will be presented.

Open to social workers and other mental health professionals, the program will offer Continuing Education Credits for professional development for social workers, certified counselors, psychologists and nurses in Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

The Julie Claire Gutterman Memorial Lecture has been established to honor the memory of Julie Gutterman, who served as Director of Professional Services at the agency for six and a half years before her death in the spring of 1999. The lecture is funded through donations made in her memory to a designated fund.

"Julie cared deeply about maintaining the highest levels of professionalism and felt that continuous learning was essential," Segal said. "She would be proud to know that her name was connected to this ongoing process."

Call JFS at 401-331-1244 for registration information.

600 subscribe to JFS Lifeline

There are currently more than 600 subscribers using Jewish Family Service's Lifeline/RI, throughout Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts.

Lifeline/RI is a personal emergency response system which enables the user to summon help immediately. It is on call seven days a week, 24 hours a day.

The device attaches to regular phone lines, and the speaker feature makes it possible to call for

help or answer the phone from across the room. A push of a button, worn or carried by the user, activates the system, instantly giving professionals in the response center the user's medical history, special instructions for emergencies and a list of contacts.

The help button is waterproof and can be worn in the bath or shower.

For more information, call Jewish Family Service at 401-331-1244, extension 19.

Schaff's dark and controversial art now on display at Gallery 401

by Yehuda Lev

Shades are drawn to prevent passersby from peering in and a warning notice against bringing children inside is posted on the door, but otherwise it is business as usual at the Jewish Community Center's Gallery 401 now through June 2.

On exhibit are works by a young local artist, William Schaff, a tattooed 26-year-old man who seems obsessed with the Holocaust and whose collaged images and narratives (his description) feature violence and nudity, the latter not so much erotic as horrifying.

Boston-born Schaff, who is not Jewish, says that he first became aware of the Holocaust through watching images on television and that by the time he was 18 "I found myself debating whether or not the Holocaust ever really happened." When he moved to Baltimore, "the Holocaust memory really took over... Voices of people I have heard but never met. Tears I have watched shed but can do nothing to console them. I hoped that in learning more about

the Holocaust, I would get a better handle on my feelings and what is now becoming the main topic of my art."

In an interview, Schaff was asked how the Jewish community has responded to his work. "The same way the rest of the community has. There has been very positive feedback as well as very negative. . . My experience has been limited mostly to Jewish Community Centers. Several have invited me to show them my work, having heard of it and wanting to consider it for their own galleries. In one case it was flatly rejected with the feeling that it was inappropriate. In another case it was agreed that it would be a strong show to have, but that is the nature of strong art."

Schaff is a graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design. His most recent showing was at the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado.

Those wanting to visit his exhibit should call Sue Suls at 861-8800 for appointments and gallery hours. The exhibit is free and open to all but children.

THEATRE BY THE SEA AUDITIONS FOR JOSEPH'S TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT

Theatre by the Sea will audition children for roles in its summer production of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" on May 13 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at Sam's Studios, 450 Woodruff Avenue, Wakefield.

Director Lennie Watts is looking for children between the ages of 6 and 12 who would like to sing in the chorus. Rehearsals and performances will be from July 11 through August 20.

Auditioners should bring a headshot and a resume and be prepared to sing a short selection that will be taught to them at the audition.

JEWISH THEATRE ENSEMBLE PRESENTS THE M?ystery of sum Yum Soup A MUSICAL PARODY BY JULES GELADE

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Thursday, May 18-7:30 pm
Saturday, May 20-8:30 pm
Sunday, May 21-4:00 pm

For tickets & info call 861-8800



Gelade's "Sum Yum Soup" to open at JCC on May 11

There is dancing and singing on the stage of the Jewish Community Center as the Jewish Theatre Ensemble rehearses its way to presenting Jules Gelade's latest original biblical parody musical, "The Mystery of Sum Yum Soup."

Under the production leadership of Toby Marwil and Pat LaVornia, "The Mystery of Sum Yum Soup" features the musical direction and arrangements of Shelly Katsh and the original choreography of Karen Arenburg, a newcomer to the Ensemble.

Gelade, a Rhode Island attorney, who wrote last season's "Forty Years of Bad Road," is known for his clever and unique musical parodies which give a new and funny perspective to biblical events. His Purim Spiels at Temple Emanu-El have packed the place for years.

"The Mystery of Sum Yum Soup" centers around an ancient urn found in an abandoned warehouse in Monsey, New York. On the urn is Hebrew lettering which simply reads "Sum Yum Soup," and inside are hundreds of small parchment strips which carbon date back 3,000 years, to the time of King Solomon. When the strips are pieced together they reveal two biblical stories—the story of Adam and Eve and the story of King David—with a twist.

Gelade says he is especially excited about this production because of the professional level of performances that several actors, new to the Ensemble, are bringing to the musical. "The Mystery of Sum Yum Soup" features two new songs with score and lyrics both written by Gelade.

But it is Gelade's wonderful sense of humor that draws sell-out



crowds to his musicals. "Forty Years of Bad Road" put laughter and pathos into the 40-year trek from Egypt to Canaan that the Children of Israel made in the Sinai desert. It was so popular that the JTE brought it back for a second successful run at the JCC and performed it at First Night Providence where it garnered standing ovations.

Featuring the talents of Jason and Karen Arenburg, Carl Desimone, Sonny Dufault, Diane Palmisciano and an ensemble of 15 more men, women and children, "The Mystery of Sum Yum Soup" is an eclectic mix of 20 musical

numbers—hilarious song, dazzling dance and lively dialogue that miraculously ties the story of Adam and Eve to that of David.

"The Mystery of Sum Yum Soup" will be staged May 11, 13, 14, 18, 20 and 21. Thursday curtain times at 7:30 pm, Saturdays 8:30 pm and Sundays at 4:00 pm. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 for children and seniors. JCC members receive a \$1.00 discount. Opening night, Thursday, May 11, offers a special 2 for 1 discount.

For tickets call 401-861-8800. The Jewish Community Center is at 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence.

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Channel 36 to air 3 programs underwritten by JFRI

The Jewish Federation of Rhode Island is underwriting three programs that will run on PBS Channel 36 in May and June.

Two of the films both air on May 21 and 28. *Tak for Alt: Survival of a Human Spirit* is a documentary about the life of Holocaust survivor Judy Meisel. The program relates how Meisel uses her personal experience of hatred and bigotry to educate children and adults and to promote respect for all people. Produced by Danish filmmaker Laura Bialis, *Tak for Alt* means "thanks for all." It airs Sunday, May 21 at 10:00 pm and Sunday, the 28th at 9:00 am.

Isaac Stern: Life's Virtuoso is an American Masters special that profiles Stern's life as one of the 20th century's most celebrated violinists. The film incorporates rarely seen archival footage of Stern performances and interviews with various musical and political luminaries. The first showing is Sunday, May 21 at 9:00 pm, and again Sunday, May 28 at 10:00 am.

The third program, airing Sundays, June 11 at 9:00 pm and 18 at 9:00 am, is *In Our Own Hands*, a 90-minute documentary about His Majesty's Jewish Brigade, the only all-Jewish fighting unit in World War II. After facing the Germans in combat during the final Allied offensive in the north of Italy, these volunteers from Palestine, many of whom had lost relatives in the Holocaust, masterminded clandestine operations to assassinate Nazi officers in hiding, smuggle arms to for Israel's impending war for independence, and rescue and move survivors to Palestine.

This is the second time that JFRI has underwritten programs on Channel 36. Last year, the Federation helped bring Joan Nathan's cooking program to Rhode Island viewers.

"Our cultural heritage is an important component to maintaining a vibrant Jewish community," Steven A. Rakitt, JFRI executive vice president said about why the Federation is underwriting the programs, "and we also think it important to sponsor programs that relate Jewish history and contributions to the general community."

Rose's "Hiding Places" reveals conflicted feelings of Jewish ID

Hiding Places: A Father and His Sons Retrace Their Family's Escape from the Holocaust

by Daniel Asa Rose

Simon & Schuster

380 pgs; \$25.00

Reviewed by Yehuda Lev

As Tolstoy might have written, "All Holocaust survivor's stories resemble one another, but those of their children are different each in its own way."

Daniel Asa Rose, a resident of Rehoboth, a travel writer and the son of Jews who fled from Hitler's Europe, has written a Second Generation memoir. His book, *Hiding Places: A Father and His Sons Retrace Their Family's Escape from the Holocaust*, has just arrived in bookstores. On one level the story is familiar: Rose wants his sons to learn about their family history. On another, which is more difficult, he wants to understand why he feels so conflicted about being Jewish.

The roots of his conflict are easily traced. His parents, professional and intellectual, have all but rejected Judaism in the wake of their war-time experiences. They think of it as an embarrassment; not to be denied but certainly unworthy of involvement. They raised their children in Rowayton, CT, a bastion of WASP propriety. Rose married a midwestern Christian who converted to Judaism but the marriage ended in what appears to be a hostile divorce, both parents sharing custody of the boys. Rose, who did have a Bar Mitzvah and visited Israel at age 15, does not find anything attractive about being Jewish although he developed an interest in what happened to his mother's family, diamond merchants from Antwerp.

Rose's sons, Alex age 12 and Marshall seven at the time they made their journey to Belgium and France, are funny, observant and surprisingly introspective. The interaction between the boys and their father as they struggle to comprehend the incomprehensible, namely the cruelty and the vastness of the Holocaust, is easily the best part of Rose's memoir. He has an ear for how children use language and he has a deep love for his sons which comes across in his observations about them and in every conversation they have.

The story line is a simple one. The hiding places in the title refer to the places in Europe where one particular uncle hid and to Rose's attempts to hide from his Jewish antecedents. The narrative shifts back and forth, in alternating chapters, between the European journey of father and sons and Rose's autobiography, as chapter by chapter, the hiding places in Europe are located and, chapter by chapter, the father describes and evaluates his experiences growing up that fashioned the way he feels about being Jewish.

There are several textual problems that Rose, a professional writer, has trouble with, one being that many of the European characters speak in idiomatic English although few of them are described as speaking the language at all. It is a minor irritant; Leon Uris has gotten away with it for years. Another problem is that some of the clues that lead the trio along the 50-year-old trail that ends with the discovery of their uncle's last hiding place, appear in the most unlikely forms and places and conditions: a diary of sorts, remarks by total strangers and other hints that miraculously produce the information they need. Rose also is surprisingly unaware of basic Jewish practice. He describes a visit to a Reform synagogue in which he sees two Hassidic Jews as well as boys wearing knitted skullcaps. In an interview, he suggested that it might have been a Conservative synagogue. The difference didn't appear to have

any significance for him. (The presence of Hassidim and knitted skullcaps suggests that it was, in fact, an Orthodox shul.)

Which leads us to the most serious issue involving Rose's always interesting writing. He doesn't seem to like Jews very much. His physical descriptions of Jews and of their surroundings are almost always negative — they are pushy, not too clean, argumentative, loud, fearful; Jewish stereotypes right out of *Der Sturmer*. This might be understandable in light of his upbringing but the memoir was written when he was an adult and after his journey. The experience, which he says left a deep impression, does not seem to have given him a very positive image of Jews.

In the interview he seemed surprised that his book had left such an impression. He said that he had written about Jews from a basis of affection and that his descriptions reflected a measure of their exuberance.

It is difficult to fault Rose for failing to find out why he is conflicted about being Jewish because the issue doesn't really seem to concern him. He sees himself, he said, as a "non-participant" in Jewish life, as one who "broods and mulls a lot about Jewish issues" but who does not care to join the community to deal with those issues. It is significant, certainly, that a travel writer whose sons join him in some of his assignments, has never requested an assignment to Israel and that they have never visited the country.

Hiding Places is a good read and a textbook of sorts in how to bond with children. It serves also, unfortunately, as a textbook in how to avoid both the pleasures and the pains of being Jewish. One hopes that in his next book, which, Rose says, will be an autobiographical continuation of this one, he will come to grips with this aspect of his life. Now remarried and with two more young children, perhaps also, he will find more positive Jewish feelings to transmit to them.

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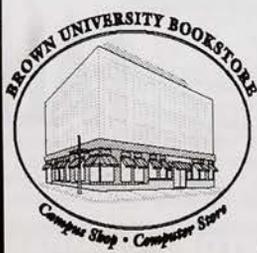
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LAND STORY NOVEL AT BOOKS ON SQUARE

Local author Jon Land will sign his latest thriller, "A Walk in the Darkness," at Books on the Square in Providence from 11:00 am on May 6. Land has written 21 books, nine of which have been national bestsellers. He is published in over 50 countries and six different languages.

"A Walk in the Darkness" is the third in a series of suspense thrillers to feature Palestinian-American detective Ken Kamal and his Israeli counterpart, Danielle Barnea. This time, there even are scenes in Providence at Waterfire.

Land's new novel is being released at the same time as the paperback edition of "The Pillars of Solomon," which also features the detective duo.

Books on the Square is on Angell Street in Wayland Square.

Commentaries on Medicine

The madonna of the clinic

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

The year was 1916. A courageous and determined nurse named Margaret Higgins Sanger searched tirelessly for a site to establish a facility where uneducated mothers might be taught that birth control rather than illegal abortion was the more rational approach to family planning.

The Comstock Laws of 1873 made illegal the manufacture, sale or distribution of contraceptive devices, and the advocacy of, or instruction in, family planning procedures either directly or via the postal system, was similarly a punishable offense. Sanger, therefore, sought a neighborhood where such a clinic was desperately needed and a community where, despite its illegal nature, family planning instruction would be congenially received. She chose the predominantly Jewish neighborhood of Brownsville in Brooklyn to establish, in October of 1916, the first birth control clinic in the United States.

After renting a two-room apartment in a tenement at 46 Amboy Street, just off Pitkin Avenue, she distributed handbills in Yiddish, English and Italian, saying: "Mothers: Can you afford to have a large family? Do you want any more children? If not, why do you have them? Do not kill. Do not take life, but prevent. Safe, harmless information can be obtained from trained nurses. Tell your neighbors and friends. All mothers welcome. A registration fee of ten cents entitles any mother to this information."

The clinic was besieged by women. On its first day of operation, 140 women were counselled. Within 12 days, though, the police raided the facility, destroyed the records and arrested Sanger and her colleagues on charges of obscenity.

The destruction of the clinic and the imprisonment of its personnel convinced Sanger that a viable clinic

dispensing birth-control paraphernalia could be sustained only if the Comstock Laws were abolished; or, alternatively, if government intervention were shown to subvert the sanctity of the patient-physician relationship. Overturning these antediluvian laws, in 1916, seemed to be too daunting a task. Similarly, proving in court that these laws invaded the privacy of the physician's consultation room could not be accomplished unless a physician were actively involved. Accordingly, Sanger's next task was to recruit a licensed physician. This proved to be no easy matter since many of the New York hospitals were opposed to any form of birth control and would remove the staff privileges of any doctor knowingly engaged in birth control medicine.

Sanger's answer came in the form of a diminutive Jewish physician from Brooklyn. Her name was Hannah Mayer Stone, MD.

Hannah Mayer was born in New York in 1893, the daughter of educated parents (her father was the neighborhood pharmacist.) Hannah studied pharmacy at Brooklyn College. In 1912 she was employed by Bellevue Hospital as a bacteriologist; and there she met Abraham Stone, a young medical intern. They married and while her new husband was in the army, Hannah herself attended medical school receiving her MD degree in 1920. The couple then established a joint practice in Manhattan.

Hannah Stone first heard Margaret Sanger in 1921 during the plenary sessions of the first American Birth Control Conference. Indeed, Stone witnessed Sanger being arrested in Town Hall when delivering a speech advocating birth control. An outraged Stone then joined the advisory board of the clinic and in 1923 accepted Sanger's invitation to manage, without salary, a private family planning clinic in lower Manhattan.

From then until her untimely death in 1941, Dr. Hannah Stone directed this clinic with dedication. Sanger later wrote, "Her gaze was clear and straight, her hair was black, her mouth gentle and sweet. She had a sympathetic response to mothers in distress and a broad attitude towards life's many problems. She came to be known as the madonna of the clinic." Hannah Stone did not keep a diary so it is not known whether she was bemused by this non-Jewish sobriquet.

Because Stone maintained careful records on over 100,000 patients she was able to determine the degree of success of various birth control modalities. In the course of her 18 years as the director of the clinic, she devised a number of successful contraceptive chemicals, devices and procedures. Her many articles, textbooks and lectures educated a generation of physicians in marital counseling and family planning. In 1936 the American Medical Association declared family planning to be a necessary component of the practice of medicine.

During the next decade Stone was repeatedly harassed by police interventions and on one occasion was arrested on charges of indecency (as defined in Section 1142 of the Penal Code which declared that the dissemination of contraceptive information was a form of pornography.) The National Council of Jewish Women then expressed their support for Dr. Stone and officially endorsed birth control as a worthy undertaking.

In 1931 the Central Conference of American Rabbis as well as central bodies representing the Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregationalist faiths also advocated family planning clinics. They affirmed that morality should be based upon knowledge and freedom, not ignorance.

In 1936 Stone ordered a box of medical pessaries from Japan. She then informed the US Customs Service of its imminent arrival. The package was promptly seized and Stone then sued the government to recover



Senowa Mize-Fox, a pupil at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School in Providence, averts her eyes from an injection being administered by Marleen Abder-Rahim, LPN. Fellow pupils Tyrone Taylor, rear, and Alex Rios, front, look on and wait their turn. These three were among several children, parents and teachers who received vaccinations against foreign diseases donated by The Miriam Hospital's Travel Medicine Service. The group is going to the Amazon next month and needed protection against yellow fever and hepatitis A & B. The donations saved the travelers hundreds of dollars.

the package based upon her contention that a licensed physician may freely import medical equipment for legitimate therapies designed to protect or enhance the health of the patient. In December of 1936 the federal Circuit Court of Appeals of the Second Circuit Court ruled in favor of Stone. Morris Ernst, one of Stone's lawyers, commented: "Nowhere in its opinion did the court specifically state under what circumstances a doctor was free to prescribe a contraceptive. The inference was clear that the medical profession was to be the sole judge of the propriety of prescription in a given case, and that as long as a physician exercised his discretion in good faith, the legality of his action was not to be questioned."

In 1941, at age 48, Hannah Stone died of a heart attack. At memorial services, Sanger declared: "Thousands of mothers owed their peace of mind, marital harmony, health, and yes, in many instances, life itself to Hannah Stone." Stone's work was continued by her husband, Abraham. During the decades that the Stones managed this country's first and foremost birth control clinic, thousands of young medical students (including these authors) climbed the steps of the Manhattan brownstone to learn the rudiments of marital counseling and the importance of giving to those who bear children the right to freely choose each pregnancy.

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That's Life

When you parent a parent, avoid crossing the line

by Erin Gisherman Minior
JFS Director of Professional Services

So often adult children, family members and professionals who are involved in the lives of seniors take on the decision-making role. The reasons for this surrogate decision-making vary from case to case. I often wrestle with the appropriateness of this role, as the line,

which gets crossed in the process, is not always clear.

Sometimes it is easier for the caregiver to make the decisions instead of spending time with the elder to reason through the many options. Because time is not always available to spend on such discussions, the caregiver is often responsible for the actual implementation

of the decision or plan, and knows that his or her option may be the safest and most attainable.

While the caregiver is always trying to work in the best interest of the elder, this approach fails to recognize the basic rights of the elder—to make decisions, regardless of what may be perceived as less optimum outcomes. It is sometimes difficult to accept decisions that we don't agree with, particularly when there appears to be a more reasonable option available.

It is difficult to see loved ones living in a home they are unable to maintain, struggling to walk, and skipping meals because they lack the strength to navigate through the kitchen. Elders may opt for those choices for many reasons. Making major changes can be difficult and may signify to them a dramatic loss of independence. Sometimes a more gradual change is less intrusive and more acceptable. Elders, like everyone else, should remain in control of their lives. Their decision-making environment. Please go to next page

JERI takes seder to where elderly live



Elderly who live in nursing homes and assisted living centers with five or more Jewish residents count on JERI — Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island — to bring a seder to them each year. Here, Rabbi Natan Shafer leads these seniors at Hillside Health Center in their first sip of wine for Pesach 5760.



JFS Kosher mealsite draws 100

On Friday, April 14, the JFS Kosher Mealsite in Cranston celebrated Passover with a traditional seder meal led by Rabbi Mark Bloom of Temple Torat Yisrael, Rabbi David Lipman from Temple Sinai and Rabbi George Astrachan, recently retired from Temple Sinai.

Almost 100 participants gathered to commemorate the journey of the Jews from slavery to freedom under the leadership of Moses. The questions were asked, the seder plates were passed, a plentiful meal was eaten and songs were sung. Conversations were animated, smiles broad and hugs frequent.

Annually, the seder provides an opportunity to be part of a larger group to observe the holiday. It is especially meaningful for those seniors who are alone.

Regular activities at the Mealsite usually begin at 11:00 am and a hot kosher lunch is served at noon. Every Friday, there is a Shabbat meal, complete with candles, challah and kiddush.

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

MODEL VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

For the 6th year in a row, Jewish Eldercare of RI (JERI), a program of the Jewish Seniors Agency (formerly The Home Corp.), has received the Model Volunteer Program award from the Volunteer Center of RI.

JERI is an outreach program to Jewish elderly living in nursing homes and assisted living centers throughout the state.

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As we grow older

A "Crazy Old Lady's" unfulfilled dreams

by Tema Gouse

I am making a list. It will be grandiose and not very realistic. It will justify the "Crazy Old Lady" label I have suffered for years. But join me on this undertaking and if it makes any sense, you may consider starting your own list.

I am itemizing unfulfilled dreams. Everybody has some. Despite having been privileged with wonderful and diverse life experiences, like most people, there are dreams that never came to fruition. Three quarters of a century have not given enough time to allow me to pursue those many things that I wanted to try, accomplish or own.

It should come as no surprise to anyone who knows me that I always wanted to write the great American novel. No one encouraged me to pursue this enterprise. And if they had, taking care of an old house, two kids, a husband who liked dinner every night, and working a fulltime demanding job, would have made the effort impossible and the frustration greater.

A more secret aspiration was to learn how to ski. It looks like such a wonderful experience. Height phobia and distinct abhorrence of cold and snow did nothing to suggest that I should even consider the kiddy slopes. The fear of broken bones kept me quite close to home and the away from the ski trails. But doesn't it look exciting!

The first time I landed on a foreign shore where English was a second language, I wondered how much my travels could be enhanced if I could communicate with the natives in their native tongue. I studied Spanish in high school and German in college and can understand some parts of spoken Spanish and German and can recognize some foreign signs. But my usual oververbosity fails me when I try to respond to any foreign word. Determination to master another language leaves me when I get home and everyone speaks English.

My academic excellence ended in 10th grade when I was lucky to get a C in geometry and I confronted the fact that I do not have one bit of mathematical ability beyond adding and subtracting. Living with sons and husband mathematically proficient did not rub off and I remain a C-level number person. I would like to upgrade.

I have always wished I could make a good yeast dough. I have never taken a picture that didn't look like my hands had moved in the process. I think being height phobic represents some inadequacy.

These are deficiencies I would really like to overcome.

I was a 92 pound bride. I refuse to share the secret of my present weight. Neither sight is to be recommended. But I do aspire to a weight somewhere between the old weight and today's weight. If I could conquer my obsession with sweet and salty foods, I could meet two goals at once.

My unfulfilled travel plans include a visit to the Hermitage in St. Petersburg and some places I can never see enough of such as Florence, anywhere in Holland, and San Francisco. And I want to go to Jerusalem one more time.

I want to see pictures of my granddaughters wearing mortar boards and then wedding gowns. (In that order, please). I want the good health to continue doing the things I still enjoy. I want to live to be very old and I want to predecease everyone I love. I also want more closet space.

Is my whole list too ambitious? Let's look at probability of success. Or let's consider modifications that might give my dreams a chance.

Forget the skiing. I'll watch it on TV and not feel cold. I am unlikely to master Russian or Japanese but maybe a crash course on conversational Spanish on the Internet would suffice. Total mastery of Computereze is a fantasy and an unattainable goal but conversational Spanish has possibilities. And as to the math aspirations, I think that I could happily settle for steady hands so I could do better when using my calculator.

Lacking health insurance coverage that deals with height phobia I will settle for holding someone's hand and closing my eyes when venturing above third floor level. Why should I labor on improving my slide photography. Everyone uses camcorders today and digital tomorrow. And as to the yeast dough, well maybe I'll try one more time.

My aching back hasn't kept me home for the last 30 years so travel seems likely. And as to those weddings and graduations, well, you know how that gets determined.

The New York Times bestseller seems like a long shot but maybe if I get to work on it I could enter the Journal's Short Story contest. And if I don't make out there, maybe the Editor will allow me to continue writing about life "As we grow older."

Shirim headlines SAGE concert

"Shirim" will perform a repertoire of musical favorites at a Spring Concert presented by Senior Adult Group Educators (SAGE) on Wednesday, June 14. The concert, at 12:30 pm at Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence, is open to all seniors. Admission is \$3.

SAGE is a collaboration of Rhode Island professionals who work with the elderly from the Bureau of Jewish Education, the programs of the Jewish Seniors Agency and of Jewish Family Service (JFS), the Jewish Community Center and the Leisure Club at Temple Emanu-El. The Sage program is funded by a special grant from the Jewish Federation of RI.

For tickets and information, call JFS at 401-331-1244. Reservations are required.

That's Life. . .

from pg. 30

ables them to maintain control and not feel like they are ready to pass the torch to the next generation.

Legally, all adults have the right to make their own decisions. It is the courts, in consultation with mental health professionals, who ultimately decide who is not capable of safely maintaining this right. Until that time, professionals and caregivers alike must walk the fine line in trying to achieve the best outcomes for elders in what may not be optimum situations.

If you are struggling with the decision-making process and would like to sift through the many implications in your particular situation, call JFS at 331-1244.

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