

The Jewish

VOICE

OF RHODE ISLAND

Jewish Federation of Rhode Island

Heshvan/Kislev 5762

November 2001



Thousands of Rhode Island Jews came together as a strong community the last week of October to meet Hadassah Lieberman, celebrate Shabbat, experience a Jewish Renaissance and culminate the week by hearing Nobel Peace Prize Award winner, Elie Wiesel. See pages 10-14 for photos and articles.

As of November 1, the 2002 JFRI Community Campaign has raised **\$3,412,211** – or a 5.24% increase. If you have not yet pledged, please be generous when your neighbor calls later this month.

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Personal responsibilities...
Bar/Bat Mitzvah, second in
a 10-part series on Life
Cycle events. Series starts
on page 3.

Sivan Buchinsky at her very
special Bat Mitzvah.



The Jewish Voice of RI

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Briefs...

Nobel prize to "lemon" theorist

LOS ANGELES: Turning base metals into gold was an alchemist's trick in medieval times but George Akerlof has done them one better. He has turned "lemons" into a Nobel Prize in Economics. The UC Berkeley professor wrote an academic paper in 1970 in which he used the example of a faulty used car, a "lemon", sold to an unsuspecting customer, as a way of illustrating his concept of "asymmetric information".

According to the concept, the assumed supply and demand working of the market, in which buyer and seller arrive at an agreed-upon price after negotiating, fails when one of the two withholds information.

Akerlof, 61, is married to Janet Yellin, also a distinguished economist. He shares the award with two other economists. A Michael Spence of Stanford University and Joseph Stiglitz of Columbia University. Presumably, being economists, they will have little trouble dividing the award (\$943,000) into three equal parts.

Anti-Israel students organize in Russia

KURSK: Ultra-nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovsky's Liberal Democratic Party is sup-

porting a new group calling itself the Organization for the Liberation of Palestine. The group includes Palestinian students studying in Kursk and is allegedly carrying out "educational work" informing local residents why terror is necessary in the struggle against Israel. The report comes from the Union of Councils for Jews in the Former Soviet Union, which adds that Zhirinovsky regularly calls for closer ties between Russia and the Arab world.

Arab students ally with David Duke

NEW YORK: Another group of Arab students, this one at New York University, is distributing anti-Semitic literature written by David Duke, a former grand wizard of the Ku Klux Klan.

Arab Students United distributed the Duke piece under the heading "Educate yourself and others."

David A. Harris, executive director of the American Jewish Committee, said "At a time when Americans are especially sensitive to any attacks on particular ethnic or faith groups, it simply is deplorable that Arab Students United would openly endorse and disseminate the vile anti-Semitism and

conspiracy theories advanced by David Duke.

"His long-standing record of bigotry, racism and xenophobia, his targeting of African-Americans, Jews and other minorities, as well as immigrant groups, make him one of the country's most notorious purveyors of hate" said Harris.

Jewish leaders pledge support to Bush

NEW YORK: Seventy Jewish leaders, organized by the Israel Policy Forum, have signed a statement expressing their "steadfast support" for President George Bush in the fight against global terrorism and also commended his efforts to use the current situation to push for progress on Israeli-Palestinian peace.

The statement comes after other Jewish leaders and organizations had criticized the administration for talking in terms of a possible Palestinian state.

Meanwhile, officials at the Conference of Presidents issued a statement supporting Bush and Israel in the fight against terrorism and rejecting any attempt to picture the American Jewish community as divided on these matters

From the Editor:

In the Letter to the Editor section of this month's opinion pages (page 8) there are two letters which prompt discussion. Normally, we do not respond to letters, preferring to let them stand on their own, but these deal with editorial decisions and I think our readers deserve some comments.

First, the concern of Robert and Cynthia Weisbord on the placement of their letter in the October Voice. There was some discussion about whether we should run their letter since it was written before September 11. As I had discussed with them The Voice's willingness to print critical opinion pieces about Israel, I decided that we would run the letter as promised. It is unfortunate that some readers did not regard the Weisbord letter independently of the surrounding material. In news-oriented publications, articles on the same page often do not interrelate and that is especially true for Letters to the Editor. The headline was certainly not intended to blame Israel for the horror of September 11.

Secondly, a number of readers were unhappy that the Voice used a Reuters's photograph on the cover that depicted Palestinian children lighting candles in memory of those killed in the September 11 attacks. I am well aware that Reuters is criticized from time to time by CAMERA and others as carrying a pro-Palestinian bias in the slant of its stories and photos, but Reuters generally is a respected international news service. One assumption is that the scene was purely a propaganda ploy created by Yasir Arafat. Maybe it was. I do not know. If it was, it should not have been printed.

Over the years, The Voice, along with other Jewish papers around the country, has printed thousands of words and dozens of pictures highly supportive of Israel and critical of the Palestinian Authority. With all of our sources, it is important not to be gullible nor to be made tools of myth-makers.

It is part of the Voice's mission, as much as we can do so from afar, to try to bring to our readers information about matters that concern Israel in an open and fair fashion and to reflect the variety of opinions within our community. It is my belief that Israel and the United States are sophisticated enough to absorb, and even be strengthened by, a reporting of a broad spectrum of opinion.

Shalom,

Jane S. Sprague

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Life Cycle Events

Beginnings of personal responsibility — Becoming Bar Mitzvah

by Avis Gunther-Rosenberg

3:30 pm, Tuesday, September 11, 2001

Just hours ago, 13 year-old Zachary Kahan was sitting in his 8th grade classroom at Western Hills Middle School in Cranston as the news began to spread that four commercial airlines had been hijacked, that one had crashed into the Pentagon and two had destroyed the World Trade Center towers.

Now, he stands outside the sanctuary at Temple Beth-El, waiting for his last rehearsal with Cantor Judy Sepulwin. It's four days before his bar mitzvah ceremony, and suddenly he can't remember anything except the first word of the V'havta prayer.

"It's okay," she tells him gently, beckoning him inside. It will all come back once you start. And it does.

Zachary, a sweet-faced, bespeckled boy with a straight line of bangs across his forehead and a neat row of shiny braces, chants quickly, a tad too quickly.

"It's like you slid into home plate there," Cantor Sepulwin says. "You rushed the last line. Maybe it's excitement. Just take a deep breath now." He tries it again, slower this time. "Beautiful, Zach. Good job."

During the Torah reading, the cantor reminds him where to break, when to breathe and relax. He does well, then mispronounces a word.

"Oops," he says.

"It's okay," Cantor Sepulwin says encouragingly. "I don't want you to say 'oops' Saturday."

Under Jewish law, children are not obligated to observe the commandments, although they are encouraged to do so to the best of their abilities. At age 13 (and in some congregations 12 for girls), that changes, as the children become *bar or bat mitzvah*, sons or daughters of the commandments.

In ancient times, a 13-year-old boy not only had the

responsibility of fulfilling the commandments, but had the right to form binding contracts, to testify in front of religious courts and to marry. Today, a bar mitzvah ceremony marks the time a young man is able to lead a religious service and be counted in a minyan (quorum) of 10 adults. In Reform and many Conservative and Reconstructionist synagogues, girls are also counted as part of a minyan.

This new status accrues automatically, with or without a bar or bat mitzvah ceremony.

Zach has been studying his Torah and Haftarah portions as well as the service prayers he will lead since last spring, meeting with tutor Reini Silverman weekly, and more recently with the cantor and Rabbi Jonathan Blake, who has helped him prepare his speech or *d'var Torah*.

The six months have passed quickly for Zach, who is an honors student and wants to be a lawyer some day. Still, he's feeling edgy.

"You know what you have to do, but still, you're going in front of a large group of people and you just get scared," he says.

Becoming a bar mitzvah means the beginnings of personal responsibility. For Zach, that means "giving from the heart, not your parents telling you to give," as well as attending services regularly, and leading a Jewish life. "The Torah's going to be passed down when I have a kid, and it means there are whole generations passing down the Torah."

Bar mitzvah celebrations come at a time in a boy's or girl's life when they are juggling the need to be a child, and the desire to be an adult, a time when a young man's voice starts to crack, and a girl's body begins to change, when a suit fits perfectly one day, and is too short the next.

Zachary, a sweet-faced, bespeckled boy with a straight line of bangs across his forehead and a neat row of shiny braces, chants quickly, a tad too quickly.



At Touro Synagogue in Newport, an Orthodox shul, both bar and bat mitzvah are held off to around age 14.

"We try to postpone the program as long as we can," says Rabbi Mordechai Eskovitz. "The longer they stay in the program, the more prepared they are."

And prepared they are, indeed. By the time Rabbi Eskovitz's two bar mitzvah students will complete the program this spring, they will have read and studied seven *Haftarot*. Their

Please turn to page 25

Wiesel speech culminates community weekend

by O'Brian Kaufman

Speaking before an over-flow audience at Temple Beth-El in Providence, Elie Wiesel, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1986, called on the Jewish community of Rhode Island to stay focused on "community efforts" and "traditions."

"A Jew is a Jew when he or she is part of the community. A Jew is defined by his or her relationship with the community," Wiesel said. The author of a dozen books including the bestseller *Night*, Wiesel headlined the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island's main Community Campaign Event on



Elie Wiesel speaks of the need for community to come together in this time of crisis.

Sunday evening, October 28. It was the final in four nights of community events and activities—a long weekend focused on building community.

"We are the only people who have survived since antiquity. Why?" Wiesel asked. His answer again stressed community: "It has to do with our relationship with God. As Jews, we pray together."

Speaking of the terrorist attacks against the United States in September, Wiesel noted that "we are going through a rough period. A crisis on many levels. The threat to all of us is terrorism. Israel lives in terrorism, constant terrorism.

Jews in Israel are afraid to live as normal people. They are afraid to go to the shopping center, to go to a restaurant. Parents worry that their children might not come home at night. America now understands what Israelis fear. America now feels Israel's fear," he said.

When a reporter asked Wiesel if the events of September 11 shared similarities with the brutality of the Holocaust, the Nobel laureate answered, "There is no comparison. September 11 was a tragedy. But the Holocaust was the tragedy of tragedies. It was the greatest catastrophe of the 20th Century. There is no comparison."

More than 1,200 contributors to the JFRI campaign turned out to hear Wiesel speak. It was an impressive show of solidarity, according to Herb Stern, Co-Chair of the Pacesetters, an auxiliary group of the Community Campaign. "We live in a wonderful, feeling and compassionate community," Stern said. "This event shows that people want to be part of the community. Am I surprised by the success of this evening? It sounds like *hutzpah* to say 'no.' But

we brought in one of the giants of our time, a moral beacon, during a time of need. So it's not surprising to have such a show of community."

That thought was echoed by Robert Mann, president of the Federation. He said, "people are acting as a community. More than 600 turned out for the Women's Alliance event, 650 at the Renaissance evening, and more than 1,200 at Beth-El. The events were a success."

More important, according to Bob Starr, who chairs the campaign, were the funds raised to support needed community programs. "The community campaign thus far has raised \$3.3 million — a 5% increase on a card-for-card basis. The important thing is that everybody who has given in the past be able to make a pledge to the campaign this year."

During the past campaign, Jewish organizations collectively provided 960,000 food packages, made 1.6 million home visits and delivered 5.5 million hot meals to families, children and elderly through 121 Hessed centers in 1,320 locations in the former Soviet Union. "Literally millions of lives are being saved and enhanced because of the gifts we have given," Starr said.

The Wiesel event was the climax of the 4-day-long weekend of community building activities. The events began on Thursday evening, October 25, when the Women's Alliance of JFRI welcomed Hadassah Lieberman, the wife of Connecticut Senator and 2000 Vice-Presidential Candidate Joseph Lieberman. Friday evening was devoted to community Shabbat in synagogues throughout the state; and on Saturday evening, October 27, the Bureau of Jewish Education's "An Evening of Jewish Renaissance II" drew over 650 people to the Jewish Community Center in Providence for study sessions on prayer, Jewish cooking and art, mysticism, humor and film, and to gain other insights into Judaism.

"We have never felt more in need of community than since the tragedy last month," Mann said. "The gatherings have shown that we all feel a need to be together. The federation is a lifeline for supporting Jews, caring for Jews, and saving Jews."

turn to page 12

Assassination, calls for revenge, reactions to greater powers, who is a Jew?... issues that continue to face Israel

by Yehuda Lev

The issues that faced and perhaps fazed Israelis this past month all had familiar rings: assassinations, calls for revenge, questions of how to react to the demands of greater powers and still, after all these years, "Who is a Jew?"

Rehavam Ze'evi, a name not familiar to most American Jews but one to be reckoned with in Israel, was the latest victim of assassins' bullets, this time in the Hyatt Hotel in Jerusalem.

Ze'evi, better known as Gandhi because as a young man he had a lean, ascetic appearance, was the minister of tourism until two days before his death when he resigned because, he claimed, Ariel Sharon was too ready to compro-

mise with the Palestinian leadership and to give in to American pressure.

Which might tip you off to the fact that Ze'evi, despite his nickname, held a seat on the most extreme right wing of the Israeli cabinet and was the man credited with the invention of the word "transfer" to describe the enforced expulsion from Israel of its Arab citizens.

But the respect shown at his funeral and in the eulogies that even his political opponents gave him was due to something else. Ze'evi was almost the last remaining of the young men and women who had fought the good fight to found the state.

As a member of the Palmach,

the commando units of the Israel Defense Forces in the War of Independence, and for many years afterwards as a specialist in intelligence, he held a place of honor in the pantheon of Israeli heroes. Even the political extremism of his later years did not detract from his reputation. He was one of the "hevre" of the state's founders.

That was not how the Palestinians saw Ze'evi. His killers were members of the PFLP, a small, extremist faction of the Palestinian leadership whose own commander had been assassinated by Israelis some time before. The PFLP called Ze'evi's death revenge for the previous killing.

Israel, which claimed to know the identity of the killers, demanded

their arrest by the PA and that they be handed over to Israel for trial. Yasir Arafat did arrest some members of the PFLP but released them and refused to acquiesce in Israel's demands. This led in turn to the appearance of Israeli troops and tanks on the streets of a number of Palestinian cities and towns, some of them for the first time since Israel's withdrawal a few years ago.

The United States claimed that Israel was overreacting and the confrontation was dramatically worsened when Jerusalem heard reports that the Americans were about to call for the creation of a Palestinian state as part payment to the Arab world for supporting the war on terrorism. Sharon gave an angry speech in the Knesset, comparing President Bush to Neville Chamberlain, the British Prime Minister who, in 1938, surrendered Czechoslovakia to Hitler at Munich. The Americans in turn took umbrage and the crisis ended only when Sharon apologized for the analogy.

Amidst all of the *Sturm und Drang*, an old reliable conflict raised its head again in Jerusalem this month, the endless argument about who is a Jew?

It began when an American immigrant applied to the Chief Rabbinate for permission to marry her Israeli boyfriend. Veteran observers of the Israeli scene can already foretell what happened: the rabbinate refused on the grounds that the woman was not Jewish. She claimed that she was Jewish because her mother had a Reform Jewish

conversion before the woman was born. Not kosher, said the rabbinate, she would have to do it on her own and it would have to be an Orthodox conversion. There is no civil marriage in Israel. The religious authorities of whatever denomination conduct all marriages.

The couple could have gone to Cyprus or to Europe for a civil wedding but she decided to have an Orthodox conversion, which ordinarily would have settled the matter.

But nothing involving questions of conversion in Israel is that simple. Last month the Knesset Finance Committee turned down a request for the government to fund the Joint Conversion Institute which, with five Orthodox rabbis, one Conservative rabbi and one Reform rabbi, has been preparing non-Jewish Israelis, chiefly Russian immigrants, for conversions which are conducted by Orthodox rabbis.

There has been much opposition to the institute from Orthodox rabbis and political leaders. The refusal to provide government funding will greatly limit its effectiveness and may even force it to close down.

Both the Reform and Conservative movements in Israel regard the vote as a blow to their hopes for greater acceptance by the Israeli public and, on the other side, it was hailed by Orthodox political leaders as a rebuff of their attempts to provide alternatives to the Orthodox laws regarding family matters.

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Israel's tourism minister, Rehavam Ze'evi, is taken from an ambulance, background, at a Jerusalem hospital as security and medical personnel stand by, after being shot twice in the head in Jerusalem's Hyatt Hotel on Wednesday. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine claimed responsibility for the slaying. Credit: JTA

Deaths of Palestinian protesters provoke domestic crisis for Arafat

By Gil Sedan

(JTA) — Yasir Arafat is facing what may prove the most serious threat to his leadership since he returned from exile in 1994 to lead the Palestinian Authority.

A week after three Palestinians were killed following a Hamas-led demonstration in the Gaza Strip in support of suspected terror mastermind Osama bin Laden, Gaza remains tense.

On Sunday, the families of Palestinians killed during the demonstration threatened to organize mass street protests unless those responsible for the deaths were punished.

The threat was issued a day after a third Palestinian died from wounds suffered during the Oct. 8 clashes. Two died at the demonstration, during which 10 Palestinian police were injured.

The Palestinian Authority rejects accusations that police killed the three, saying "masked men" had opened fire.

Immediately after the demonstration, Palestinian police ordered the closure of several schools, briefly arrested at least one Palestinian journalist who had been critical of the Palestinian Authority, and kept foreign journalists from entering Gaza to prevent coverage of any future demonstrations.

Those restrictions were lifted in subsequent days. On Saturday, Palestinian officials allowed the reopening of two Hamas-run universities, Al-Azhar and the Islamic University.

Just the same, angry students warned that clashes with police would recur if the Palestinian Authority failed to punish those responsible for the three deaths.

Arafat has been in a bind since the Sept. 11 terror attacks against the United States. Referring to the 1948 incident when Israel's first prime minister, David Ben-Gurion, ordered the downing of a boat running weapons to dissident Jewish groups that threatened to undermine the central government, one Israeli security source called the current showdown "Arafat's Altalena."

Arafat has been forced to choose between President Bush and bin Laden — and despite bin Laden's popularity among some segments of Palestinian society, he chose Bush, at least initially.

He made the choice as a matter of survival, even if the decision ultimately pits him against Palestinian militants, who overwhelmingly support bin Laden.

Some analysts, however, question Arafat's sincerity, noting that he has done just enough to appear to be taking a stand against terror while leaving himself the option of allowing terror again if he concludes that the Bush administration is not serious about pressing its war against terror globally.

Arafat became the first Arab leader to condemn the attacks against the World Trade Center and Pentagon and express support for the international anti-terror coalition Bush began building. Bush responded by making two recent statements supporting the creation of a Palestinian state. The most recent came during a prime time news conference on Oct. 11, when Bush said he believes that if Israel and the Palestinian Authority could end violence and begin political negotiations, then "there ought to be a Palestinian state, the boundaries of which will be negotiated by the parties."

Bush also said the Palestinian State

would have to recognize Israel's right to exist and treat Israel with respect.

On Monday, after meeting with Arafat in London, British Prime Minister Tony Blair also gave his support for the creation of a "viable Palestinian state."

Referring to the Bush statements backing Palestinian statehood, Hanan Ashrawi, a member of the Palestinian legislature and spokeswoman for the Arab League, called them a "marked departure from standard operating procedure."

"This is the first time that it is not basically an Israeli document simply 'given an American seal of approval,' she said.

While Arafat and Bush are giving each other mutual support, there is a growing rift separating Arafat from radical Palestinian Islamists. "The present intifada has undergone a process of Islamization," wrote Danny Rubinstein of the Israeli daily Ha'aretz. "Not in vain is it called 'the Al-Aqsa Intifada,' he said, referring to the Jerusalem mosque where Palestinian violence erupted in September 2000.

Arafat rode the Islamic wave of anti-Israel sentiment from the outset of the intifada. The move both ensured his survival and deflected criticism of Palestinian Authority responsibility for the plight of the Palestinian-ruled territories.

In Israel, right-wingers — and even many former peaceniks — saw Arafat's support for the violent uprising and his tolerance of terror as proof that he never really intended to make peace with Israel.

But now, faced with American warnings that he could be considered part of the terrorist camp if he did not come out squarely against bin Laden, Palestinian police arrested several Islamic terrorists for the first time since the intifada began last fall.

But even this was done in typical Arafat fashion: Out of a list of 108 terrorists on Israel's most-wanted list that Israel had asked him to detain, Arafat had only six or eight put under "house arrest" — a comfy status that Israel says is designed to protect the men from possible Israeli reprisals.

At the same time, Palestinian authorities clamped down on media coverage of anti-American protests. Along with the newspaper editor who was arrested, a TV show criticizing a police crackdown of a pro-bin Laden rally was taken off the air.

In an effort to follow up on Bush administration requests to defuse Israeli-Palestinian violence, over the weekend Arafat reportedly reached an agreement with Hamas and Islamic Jihad that the two groups would refrain, at least temporarily, from carrying out terror attacks on Israeli targets.

Publicly, there was no sign that the groups had reached such an agreement. Quite the opposite: Over the weekend, the Islamic groups issued statements vowing to continue the struggle against Israel and again charging that Palestinian police were responsible for killing the three at last week's demonstration.

Maj. Gen. Amos Malka, head of intelligence for the Israel Defense Force, said at the Israeli government's weekly Cabinet meeting that any agreement between Arafat and the fundamentalists could well prove short-lived.

This opinion was shared by reserve Col. Yonni Fiegel, a former military governor in the West Bank and presently a senior lecturer



Palestinians wave Hamas flags at a pro-bin Laden demonstration in Ramallah

at the Inter-Disciplinary Academic Center in Herzliyah.

Indeed, Fiegel said, "if Islamic militants feel that they want to act inside Israel, they will. Two incidents in recent days could well spark renewed terror attacks against Israel.

On Sunday, Israeli soldiers shot and killed Abed-Rahman Hamad, a Hamas leader accused of dispatching the suicide bomber who carried out the June 1 attack outside a Tel Aviv disco that killed 21 Israeli youth.

Hamas vowed that "Israel will pay a very heavy price for this act." Hamad had been arrested by the Palestinian Authority in June, but was released in August.

Israel may allow visit by Italian politician

By Ruth E. Gruber

(JTA) — The door is opening for the leader of an Italian party with fascist roots to visit Israel. In an interview published Monday, Israel's new ambassador to Italy, Ehud Gol, implied that Israeli officials believe Gianfranco Fini, deputy prime minister in Italy's center-right government, has shaken off his neo-fascist roots and become a mainstream politician.

"We can see, from various signs, that he has retreated from the positions of his political past," Gol told the *Corriere della Sera* newspaper. Fini, the leader of the National Alliance Party, has sought to visit Israel since the mid-1990s, when he began converting the neo-fascist Italian Social Movement, into a mainstream right-wing force.

As part of this transformation, he has openly courted Jewish interests. He condemned anti-Semitism and even visited Auschwitz to commemorate the victims of the Holocaust.

In 1997, he condemned the anti-Semitic laws introduced in 1938 by the fascist government of Benito Mussolini. At that time, he also condemned the so-called Salò Republic, a diehard fascist-run enclave set up by Mussolini in Nazi-occupied northern Italy after the Allied invasion of Italy in 1943. Earlier this year, he laid a wreath during his first visit to San Saba in Trieste, the only Nazi

On Monday, an Islamic militant was killed in an explosion in the West Bank city of Nablus. Palestinian officials said Israel was behind the death of Hamas member Ahmed Marshoud, but Israel had no immediate comment.

It remains to be seen how far Arafat will go to stop any threats to his authority from Hamas or Islamic Jihad.

"The question is whether he is willing to risk a civil war to enforce his will," Fiegel said.

On the other hand, he added, Arafat might be more inclined to pursue a "shoot and talk" policy, which "he has long been accustomed to" when dealing with Israel.

death camp located in Italy.

A visit by Fini to the Jewish state and meetings with Israeli officials would be an important step in legitimizing this transition. For years, Italian Jewish leaders raised sharp objections to any such visit and expressed skepticism over the political evolution of Fini's party. Amos Luzzatto, the president of the Union of Italian Jewish Communities, has been particularly vocal in objecting to a visit by Fini to Israel unless Fini explicitly recognizes the moral and political responsibility of Italian fascism in the Holocaust.

However, Italian Jews recently have become split on the issue. Several figures, including Cobi Benatoff, the former head of the Milan Jewish community who is now president of the European Council of Jewish Communities, have publicly expressed confidence in Fini.

Last month, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres also appeared to approve a visit by Fini to Israel. Asked by a reporter if Fini could visit, Peres responded, "Why not? It's not like before, and we will judge him for his official positions." In his interview — his first since arriving to take up his new post in Italy — Gol seconded this opinion. "I am not so sure" that a visit "will take place tomorrow, but Peres did indeed express Israel's point of view," he said.

Some Jews in Central Asia worry as war rages and Islam grows

By Lev Gorodetsky

The overwhelming support that Jews in Central Asia have for their countries' participation in the U.S.-led air strikes against Afghanistan is not creating any troubles with their Muslim countrymen, say Jewish leaders in the region.

But given the tenuous state of relations between Jews and Muslims in the region, this assessment could soon change.

"There have been no acts of anti-Semitism recently. The situation is stable," Roman Bensman of Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, told The Jewish Telegraphic Agency, praising Uzbek President Islam Karimov. Marek Fazilov, a leader of the Jewish community in Tashkent, added: "All local Jews side with President Karimov in his support of the U.S. action in Afghanistan and in his crackdown on the Islamic extremists inside the country."

Karimov does indeed appear committed to maintaining friendly relations with his country's Jews, and to his crackdown on Islamic fundamentalism.

But the reality for the estimated 50,000 to 60,000 Jews in the region split between Bukharan Jews, who have long been in the region, and Ashkenazic Jews, who settled here in the past 75 years — is, and long has been, far more complex.

"There has never been any real anti-Semitism here, probably because we have very close links with the locals and they perceive us as their own people, Boris Borukhov, a leader of the 2,000-person Jewish community in Tajikistan, told JTA.

Borukhov is mainly speaking about the attitude of the Tajik population toward Bukharan Jews. Bukharan Jews, who are descendants of the ancient Persian Jewish community and speak Farsi, are believed to have settled in what is now called Tajikistan as early as the fifth century B.C.E.

During the first few centuries of the common era, they moved north and eventually formed large communities in what is now Uzbekistan, southern Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan.

During the ensuing centuries, Bukharan Jews enjoyed a generally peaceful co-existence alongside their Muslim neighbors.

Manifestations of anti-Semitism, including forced conversions to Islam and even cases of blood libel, were not unknown in Central Asia, but they were far less frequent and less numerous than in the Slavic parts of the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union.

Bukharan Jews long made up the majority of Jews in the region, but after the mass emigration to Israel and the United States in the 1990s, they are now only an estimated one-third of Central Asia's 60,000 Jews.

Many of the remaining two-thirds are the Ashkenazic Jews who settled here during World War II after fleeing Poland and Western parts of the Soviet Union.

Many of these Jews were skilled professionals — in such fields as medicine, engineering, science and music — who formed after the war the backbone of the local intelligentsia and greatly enhanced the level of culture and

technology in the region.

As Mikhail Degtiar puts it, "There is no state anti-Semitism. But on the everyday level there is a permanent pressure. All Russian speakers live in a state of a constant fear. Besides the Islamic terror, there is the terror of the authorities against everybody."

Many fear that the latest hostilities could signal a return to the tense situation of last October, when a wave of arson and graffiti attacks against Jewish synagogues struck Paris and its suburbs.

Since then, leaders of the Jewish community have been criticized for not speaking out strongly enough against such violence — or against a French government that has been unwilling to punish the perpetrators and a French press that has been reluctant to report on the incidents.

Indeed, reports from provincial cities in Tajikistan say Islamic activists are distributing leaflets blaming the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on Zionists who wanted the United States to launch a war against Islam. These leaflets echo

a lie that has gained widespread currency in the Arab and Muslim worlds.

The unease that some Jews are feeling is not the only problem in the region, according to some human rights groups.

Though Uzbek President Karimov is viewed by the U.S. administration as the main guarantor of stability in the region and a crucial ally, some of these rights groups are not happy with his methods.

"We are very concerned about the situation for Jews in Central Asia as Islamic fundamentalism becomes increasingly strong," Nikolai Butkevich of the Washington-based Union of Councils for Jews in the Former Soviet Union told JTA.

"At the same time, Uzbekistan is a classic case study of how not to deal with radical Islam. By arresting and harassing people simply because they demonstrate Islamic piety by growing beards or wearing head scarfs, the government is pushing them into the arms of the fanatics."

Tensions between U.S. and Israel mount

By Matthew E. Berger

(JTA) — A long-planned parade of Israeli officials to the U.S. capital has taken on a sense of urgency in light of the recent assassination of an Israeli Cabinet member and Israeli incursions into the West Bank.

The meetings have been scheduled for weeks, but this week's call from President Bush and other top officials that Israel withdraw from Palestinian-controlled territory has raised the level of tension between the allies.

There is a growing feeling that the United States either does not understand Israel's domestic terrorist threat — or that it is ignoring it to garner Arab support for the coalition against terrorism that Bush is orchestrating to combat Osama bin Laden.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said after meeting with Bush and National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice that the president had reiterated the administration's position that Israel should withdraw its troops from Palestinian-ruled cities in the West Bank.

Peres said Bush had suggested that the continuing violence in the region made it harder for him to maintain the coalition against terror. "The United States feels that in order to organize the proper coalition, they need tranquility in the Middle East.

And we understand it. The problem is how to do it," Peres said. The Bush administration says it understands Israel's plight, but the empathy only goes so far.

"Our argument is that you are going beyond the immediate need," a State Department official said, referring to Israel's decision this week to launch its biggest military operation in areas under Palestinian control since the Oslo peace process was set in motion in 1993.

"It's a question of degree," Jewish and Israeli officials say that behind closed doors, State Department officials express an understanding for what Israel has to do to control violence in the region. Israel says it will stay stationed around six Palestinian-controlled cities in the West Bank until it is satisfied President Yasser Arafat is sufficiently cracking down on terrorists.

Dan Meridor, a minister without portfolio in the Israeli government, speaking to the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said that Israel should never be put in a situation where it is not allowed to protect its own citizens.

"Israel has to take action sometimes," he said, adding, "I think America does understand it." At the same time, administration officials are telling Israeli and Jewish leaders of their need to publicly condemn Israeli actions to please the Arab world.

After his meeting with Secretary of State Colin Powell, Peres said the secretary's private comments were not as sharp as the public rhetoric.

"The secretary gave me a full explanation of the American policy and intentions," Peres said. "I didn't

discover any contradiction in the American policy and the Israeli policy," Peres has said the Israelis intend to withdraw; it's just a matter of timing.

And in an effort to counterbalance the U.S. condemnation of Israel, White House officials are leaking details of a letter sent Monday to Arafat. "It's a very strong message, a personal message," said Sean McCormack, an NSC spokesman. "Our position is that the Palestinian Authority must act decisively."

The focus of Peres' Washington meetings, as well as those of Sharon foreign policy adviser, Zalman Shoval, and Meridor, has changed dramatically from the original goal.

Israel had wanted to seek clarification on Israel's role — or lack thereof — in the coalition against terror and find American empathy for Israel's own battle against terrorism.

But reports that the Bush administration was planning a new initiative to end the violence in the region led to a new agenda. Sharon's unity government wanted more information and more influence on the U.S. plan.

Last week's assassination of Israeli Tourism Minister Rehavam Ze'evi, and the Israeli incursions that followed, turned the agenda on its head once again. In light of recent events, the new U.S. initiative appears to have been shelved.

Now, the Israeli government is using the ministers to explain its rationale for its military actions



David Karp JTA

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, (third from left), meets with Jewish leaders Malcolm Hoenlein, (left), Ronald Lauder, (second from left), and Mortimer Zuckerman in New York.

at a time when the United States is pushing Israel toward negotiations.

Sources say that the dovish Peres and the hawkish Shoval are giving wildly different interpretations of Israel's climate and the situation it faces — even though Peres' public comments attacking Palestinian actions have been more forceful in recent days.

There is fear that the influx of Israelis will only serve to confuse, and possibly anger, administration officials. "The administration is getting at least three different points of view," said David Makovsky, senior fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

"The net effect is confusion." For their part, American Jewish

groups publicly criticized the administration's position on Israel's military activity this week.

The statements came after a month of more cautious activity aimed at expressing concern about Israel's exclusion from the war on terrorism while not undercutting the U.S. policy.

In a statement released Tuesday, the Conference of Presidents said the Bush administration, in asking Israel to withdraw immediately from all Palestinian-controlled areas, was asking Israel to "become a victim of terror."

The administration's statement was "inappropriate, intemperate and defies logic in the face of current U.S. efforts in the war against terrorism," the group said.

American Jews' concerns same as the non-Jewish public

by Yehuda Lev

American Jews counted, on their list of concerns this past month, anthrax, Islamic extremists, and the fighting in Afghanistan, duplicating at least in part the agenda of the non-Jewish public.

On anthrax we were united — the less of that around, the better. But Jewish organizations were not immune to the fears and threats regarding bioterrorism to which the nation was subjected. In New York, the offices of New York Governor George Pataki were evacuated because anthrax spores were found there. No fewer than six Jewish organizations are housed in the same building.

The organizations are the Reform movement's Union of American Hebrew Congregations and ARZA/World Union, the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, the Zionist Organization of America, the World Zionist Organization and the Jewish Agency for Israel. Among them they employ 325 people. While their employees were not ordered to evacuate the building, they were tested for anthrax.

Like organizations throughout the nation, Jewish groups have stopped distributing mail without screening it first for white powder. Brandeis University in Waltham, MA, closed two buildings for three hours after a white powdery substance was believed to have come in an envelope; and the leading pro-Israel lobby in Washington, the America-Israel Public Affairs Committee, stopped opening mail that lacked a return address.

The Jewish Telegraphic Agency reports that Jews are not overreacting but are mindful of history. There was a rash of letter bombs aimed at Jewish leaders in the 1970s and 1980s, the height of the movement to free Soviet Jews, said Myrna Shinbaum, spokeswoman for the Anti-Defamation League. "Everyone wants to be safe rather than sorry," she said. "It's more prudent to implement the safety protocols beforehand rather than wait until you get the threat."

The Washington Jewish Week reports that Jewish groups are worried about meetings that President George W. Bush has been holding with Muslim-American organizations. The president is attempting to make clear that America's war on terrorism is not a war against the Muslim world and he is speaking out against hate crimes on Muslims and people who could be mistaken for them.

But all of these groups and their leaders, while condemning the Sept. 11 attacks, have a long history of condoning and even supporting terrorism that takes place against Israel and the groups Hamas, Hezbollah and Islamic Jihad, that carry it out.

American Jewish leaders are concerned about the increased access of these organizations to the White House and they have expressed these concerns to the Bush administration. Among the Muslim-American groups are the Council on American-Islamic Relations, the American Muslim Council, and the Muslim Public Affairs Council.

In 1995, CAIR, AMC and MPAC protested the U.S. designation of Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Hezbollah as terrorist organizations. According to the Muslim World Monitor, the groups said that the characterization was wrong because "Palestinian resistance organizations such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad have never committed any act outside of occupied Palestine and have only fought forces

of the Israeli occupation."

MPAC, in a statement about the Aug. 8 Sbarro pizzeria bombing in Jerusalem that killed 15 Israelis, blamed Israel for the attack. Its executive director and a participant in the Bush meeting, Salam al-Maryati, said recently in Los Angeles that Israel should be considered a suspect in the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks.

While they worried about the

administration's connections with American Muslim leaders, Jewish community leaders felt better about a troublesome issue that arose quickly after Sept. 11, the problem of Israel's role, or lack thereof, in the international terrorist hunt. It had seemed, at first, that Bush, in his eagerness to attract Muslim and especially Arab countries to his coalition, was preparing to sacrifice Israel's interests. In fact, the

Please turn to page 18



GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL
MINISTRY OF TOURISM • NORTH AMERICA

October 12, 2001



Dear Reader:

The enclosed supplement inviting you to Israel was written, printed and published before the heinous attack on the United States on September 11...and I am writing firstly to express my personal horror, and the shock and dismay of the Government of Israel and the Ministry of Tourism, at the enormity, audacity and viciousness of this unprecedented crime against humanity. Our hearts and prayers go out to the families of the victims, and to the police, fire, military, medical and rescue workers who toiled with such dedication in the destruction's aftermath.

Clearly, the world will never be the same after this event. Here in the United States, there will inevitably be a dramatic increase in security measures of all sorts, particularly at airports and aboard airliners. Indeed, many of the new measures will, we assume, be modeled on those that have kept flights to, from and within Israel safe.

President Bush has eloquently stated and restated that life should and must go on. We know that in the wake of these dreadful events, Americans have had no alternative but to reexamine their priorities. But I am hopeful that for Jewish Americans in particular, traveling to Israel will now become an even greater priority. Our homeland is your homeland too, and the hearts of the people of Israel are with the people of America.

As we enter a New Year, may it be a year of Shalom.

Very truly yours,

Rami Levi
RAMI LEVI
CONSUL
TOURISM COMMISSIONER
FOR NORTH AMERICA
AND MEXICO

Ha'aretz on the root causes of the September 11 Attacks

One of the arguments in the debate following the September 11 attack focused on U. S. foreign policy. The argument was that the attacks were a consequence of American policy towards the Third World in general and the Middle East in particular, especially the United States' longstanding support of Israel (the argument was made even by Osama bin Laden himself a few weeks after the attacks) in an op-ed published in Ha'aretz, veteran Middle East and military analyst Ze'ev Schiff argues against this perception. Following are excerpts from Schiff's op-ed:

"It is not too difficult to understand [the argument] that the assistance of Arab and Muslim states must be enlisted for fighting fundamentalist Islamic terror. However, [the notion] that there is any connection between Islamic terror and the Palestinian-Israeli dispute is totally unacceptable."

"Using that kind of reasoning, one could argue that Islamic terror can be attributed to the dispute between India and Pakistan over Kashmir. The terror that is produced by the Arab and Muslim world is a disease unto itself – an infectious disease that is causing the anthrax of anti-Semitism to rear its ugly head in a number of European countries."

"One person who has made the connection between Islamic terror and the Palestinian-Israeli dispute is Saudi Prince Al-Waleed bin Talal bin Abd Al-Aziz, who wanted to make a \$10-million donation to the families of the victims of September 11. He claimed that one of the reasons for that attack was the Israeli and American attitude toward the Palestinians. The mayor of New York, Rudolph Giuliani, returned the check because he found in the

donor's remarks an indirect justification for this act of terrorism."

"There is, however, a prominent Saudi connection to the September 11 attacks. First of all, Saudi Arabia is very much interested in helping the world forget that Osama bin Laden is Saudi, as well as were 12 of the perpetrators of the terror attacks on September 11."

"Egyptian President Mubarak (who fights terrorism with methods that Israel would do well to avoid) similarly contends that 50 percent – on one occasion, he even said 80 percent – of the terrorist incidents in the world can be attributed to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Someone should ask President Mubarak whether the list of such terrorist attacks includes the attempt on his life in 1995 by fundamentalists associated with bin Laden. Was the Palestinian-Israeli dispute the cause of the massacre that was carried out by Islamic fundamentalists in 1997 in Luxor and which cost the lives of 58 Japanese and Swiss tourists?"

Those very same terrorists attacked the Egyptian embassy in Islamabad in 1995. It would also be useful to remind Mubarak that there was an Egyptian connection – in the form of Egyptian Sheikh Omar Abd Al-Rahman – in the



first attempt, in 1993, to blow up the World Trade Center."

"It was neither the situation of the Palestinians nor France's attitude toward them that drove a group of Islamic fundamentalist Algerians to try to crash a skyjacked Air France airliner into the Eiffel Tower in 1994. That attack would have taken place had it not been for the fact that French commandos seized control of the hijacked plane while it fueled up in Marseilles. Is the cruel Islamic terrorism in Algeria, which has caused the deaths of thousands of civilians – including women and children – linked to the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians?" "There are those who claim that, because Arabs and Muslims feel that they are discriminated against, they are led to carry out acts of terrorism. However, they are not the only ones in the world who sense that they are victims

of prejudice. No one has heard any reports of Hindus or Buddhists, who are discriminated against (and many of them are victims of prejudice), putting in motion an operation to blow up skyscrapers and major government facilities in the U.S."

"It is the responsibility of the Muslims themselves, especially Muslim religious leaders, to prove that these grave acts of terrorism are contrary to the tenets of Islam. The Muslims will not be able to justify such acts by attributing them to the Israeli-Palestinian dispute, which is what they tried to do at the conference of Islamic states in Qatar. Five of the twelve resolutions passed at that gathering concerned Israel and the terrorism it allegedly carries out. In one of the remaining seven resolutions, the delegates did not forget to propose donations to the Afghan people – that is, to the Taliban government."

~ Letters to the Editor ~

Dear Editor:

We must object most strenuously to the manner in which our letter on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict was published in your October issue.

Our letter, which never mentioned Bin Laden, the Taliban or Afghanistan, was surrounded by four articles and a cartoon about the barbaric attack on the World Trade Center. To our letter you added a ambiguous, misleading caption, "Israel Also At Fault", which suggested to some readers that we believe that Israel was responsible for the World Trade Center catastrophe.

We actually believe the horrible events of September 11 would have taken place even if Israel did not exist.

Our letter was intended as commen-

tary on the controversial occupation of the West Bank and Gaza and was written at the urging of a Jewish Voice official before September 11.

Sincerely,
Robert Weisbord
Cynthia Weisbord.

Dear Editor:

On September 11th, we were shocked to see the terror unleashed at America. As we were bombarded with pictures of the crumbling towers of the World Trade Center, we got a glimpse of Palestinians celebrating in the streets.

The Palestinian Authority warned the American media against airing further joyful reactions, and images of Pal-

estinians rejoicing were quickly replaced with phony, damage-control pictures, such as the one that graced the October issue of The Voice. I was extremely angry and outraged when I saw the picture of Palestinian children on the front page of the Voice. Israel has been under constant attack, not just by Arabs, but by the world media, who distort the facts of the Middle East. The job of the Voice should be to dispel the myths spread by the likes of CNN and to print the truth.

The truth about September 11th is that the Israelis mourned and the Palestinians rejoiced. This is what I expected to see on the front page. This is what our senators and congressmen should see, not some distorted version of the truth as defined by Yasir Arafat.

The biased reporting we see in the media today triggers a misunderstanding of the Arab-Israeli conflict exemplified by Robert and Cynthia Weisbord's letter to the editor. If Jews can be swayed by this warped reporting to the point of writing such an inflammatory letter, imagine what others think. Instead of printing such a letter, you should be educating its authors.

Jewish organizations should unite to correct misconceptions created by the media, not add to them. It is unconscionable that a paper, which claims to represent the Jewish Voice of Rhode Island, be so negligent in the way it portrays Israel and the Palestinians. Your actions endanger the welfare of the state of Israel.

Dina Mizrahi

A majority of one

Is our first casualty of war censorship?

by Yehuda Lev

Truth is the first casualty of war, as the cliché has it, and our "war" against Osama bin Laden has already drawn blood.

The Bush administration has asked the TV networks not to broadcast in full the fulfillments of bin Laden or his associates, because the American audience should be shielded from his propaganda and also because he might be sending coded messages to his followers in this country.

In less sophisticated times this was called censorship and one hopes that the networks will be sensible and consign the suggestion to the wastepaper basket where it belongs. Even today it can best be labeled stupidity verging on panic; only with difficulty can one imagine suicidal terrorists sitting in their Florida motel rooms awaiting the call to action coming from a cave in Afghanistan, a call muffled by simultaneous translations, poor reception and the klaxons of 16-wheelers passing by on the interstate. If this vision of Mr. bin Laden's communication system is accurate, we may have less to fear than we thought.

I have no ethical problem with censorship. There are times when censorship is necessary because it serves important national purposes. In the late 1950s the Romanian government agreed to permit the immigration of Jews to Israel, on condition that the decision not be made public. On the streets of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem one heard more

and more Romanian spoken, the government radio station started broadcasting a daily news summary in Romanian and a Romanian-language newspaper suddenly appeared on the kiosks, but of the physical presence of Romanian Jewish immigrants in Israel one heard or read not a word.

Along with the other journalists in the country I kept my knowledge to myself in deference to the greater needs of the nation. Of course I would have been subject to arrest if I had violated the ban on public discussion, but the threat was unnecessary; I understood the reason behind and agreed with the purpose of the government's ban.

The problem highlighted by the Bush administration's suggestion is not so much censorship as inexperience. For the general public, however, it serves as a warning. A government not yet fully organized, led by a president who has little knowledge about or ever exhibited much interest in the issues suddenly thrust upon him, fighting a shadowy, elusive movement hiding in the caves of a remote mountain fastness and dealing with ideologies that make little sense to it, is not a government whose responses will always make much sense.

At the moment of this writing the "war" is confined to air raids, commando raids and missiles and the military has little problem restricting the flow of information to the general public. But once large numbers of ground troops are involved, as they well may be by the time you read this, that degree of control vanishes. If past wars are

any guide, reporters will accompany the troops, pictures of the loading of body bags onto giant troop transports will appear on the front pages, and the sound of wailing at funerals will be heard throughout the land.

Keep in mind also that Afghanistan is not Iraq, where the opposing army was grouped in large masses offering suitable targets for our forces to strike, but akin to Viet Nam where the enemy was elusive and kept disappearing among the civilian population when the going got heavy. For how long can the administration retain the support of the citizenry for another Viet Nam?

Furthermore, as the media are already asking us, who succeeds the Taliban? Are we going to create a stable society and a democratic, functioning government out of the conflicting tribes, local interests, neighboring "stans", warlords, drug merchants and the others vying for power and money in the chaos that will follow an overthrow of Afghanistan's present rulers?

Americans, whose attention span for foreign politics is shockingly brief, are not likely to continue cheering from the sidelines when it becomes clear that the "good guys" are not all that good and the "bad guys" have a few points in their favor. That's the kind of information that often emerges in a democratic state from the media coverage of its wars; and it is a more important motive behind the instituting of censorship than is the possible sending of coded messages.

The main problem with censorship today, to the censor at least, is that it doesn't work in a world of instantaneous transmission of news events, e-mail, cheap and available travel and multicultural societies. News and information in quantity is available to all. Even in a poor, monocultural and totalitarian society such as China, where the official news is what the government wants it to be, events in the outside world quickly become known.

A few decades ago, whenever I filed a TV report from Israel for an American network, the film, with my notes, was rushed to Tel Aviv by taxi. From there it traveled by Italian or Yugoslav jet fighter (which-ever was renting its planes and pilots more cheaply that week) to Rome to catch the night plane to New York. One day after I filed, the report went on the air. Today, via satellite, we watch the bombing of Kabul in our living rooms even as it is happening and the enemy is quick to invite foreign journalists to film and report every time a bomb lands on some hapless civilians instead of its intended target.

Censorship is the weapon of governments which do not trust their populations, either to make proper evaluations or sound judgments. It has no place in this society; and the sooner the leaders of our government begin to feel confident in our evaluations and judgments, the sooner we will be able to complete the job at hand, which is to rid the earth of those people making the statements they prefer we didn't hear.

What are the U.S. war aims?

By Daniel Pipes

"The objectives are clear," President George W. Bush declared in his speech on October 7, announcing the US military strikes in Afghanistan.

Sorry, they are anything but clear. On the one hand, Mr. Bush defined the objectives as "the disruption and ... defeat of the global terror network." On the other, Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld countered that "the idea of eliminating (terrorism) from the face of the earth" is unrealistic.

Then Mr. Rumsfeld himself offered an alternative goal — preventing "people from adversely affecting our way of life." Americans being a freedom-loving people, he said, victory means establishing "an environment where we can in fact fulfill and live those freedoms." Well, as the newsletter "Inside the Pentagon" wryly noted, this is not exactly a specific military objective on the order of staking an American flag in Kabul's city center.

Why the lack of specificity? For one, this new conflict is shadowy, making the usual war goals (capture a territory, destroy an army) irrelevant. For another, the desire to include skittish Muslim states in the US-led coalition leads to a reticence about

goals. Finally, there's a need to keep open the possibility of taking care of business outside Afghanistan — especially in Iraq. Ambiguity permits flexibility.

But it also contains dangers. As Carl von Clausewitz showed in his classic, *On War*, unless politicians give military officers precise goals, the war will almost certainly go awry. This simple but profound insight explains why a book published in German in 1832 remains, even today studied, at American war colleges.

Generals must have war goals, so here is one suggestion what to tell them: Contain radical anti-Westernism among Muslims — whether Osama bin Laden's militant Islam, Saddam Hussein's fascism, or other variants — so that its adherents no longer assault Americans or their allies.

Note the word *contain*, not *destroy* or *eliminate*. Radical anti-Westernism is so popular and widespread that it can only be fended off, not defeated.

Containment, it bears noting, was the successful US policy toward the Soviet Union during four decades of cold war. George Kennan wrote in "The Sources of Soviet Conduct," his deeply influential 1947 article, that "the main element of any United States policy toward the Soviet Union must

be that of long-term, patient but firm and vigilant containment of Russian expansive tendencies."

Likewise, we now need a "long-term, patient but firm and vigilant containment" of radical anti-Westernism's expansive tendencies. The goal must be to convince its adherents that the use of force against Americans is at best ineffectual and at worst counterproductive. Or as Charlotte Beers, the State Department's information chief, rightly puts it, the enemy should look at the United States and say, "I understand how you are, I want nothing to do with it, but I would not want to murder you as a result of it." That would indeed constitute victory.

Militant Islam and Saddam Hussein's Iraq are both totalitarian and both view the United States as the single greatest obstacle to attain their goals, so convincing them to desist will require more than logic and diplomacy. Containment of radical anti-Westernism will likely require taking active steps in a variety of countries. These could include closing media outlets, intimidating radical sheikhs, staunching financial flows, killing militia leaders, and even the uprooting of regimes.

Nor can one forget the brand-new Office

of Homeland Security and the domestic side of this war; the enemy within is no less dangerous than the one abroad. Law enforcement has already arrested or detained nearly 700 people in connection with the September 11 atrocities — a perhaps unprecedented number for a single operation — and prudence requires assuming this to be only a fraction of the enemy's operatives within the United States.

The domestic goal is also containment: to prevent radical anti-Westerners in the country who would do harm from doing so by expelling, jailing, or otherwise restraining them. The homeland dimension brings its own distasteful changes, from long lines at the airport to enhanced background checks for foreigners entering the country. The news media have already altered to the new and harsher circumstances; banks, universities, and many manufacturing companies must soon follow.

This, then, is the war goal: containment abroad and at home. It will be unpleasant to implement, difficult to achieve — but, then, what else can one expect from war?

The writer, director of the Philadelphia-based Middle East Forum and former professor of strategy at the US Naval War College, can be reached via www.DanielPipes.org.

What can one person do? *Tikkun 'Olam...* what community generosity does for Jews everywhere

By Elisa Silverstein-Heath

Over the past couple of months, we have been talking about the annual campaign and the endowment together, in the same articles and advertisements. Why? Because of the power and effectiveness of the community's annual campaign, and the opportunity that the Endowment Fund offers to perpetuate one's campaign gift.

Through the nearly \$4.5 million raised here every year, each of us who gives to the annual campaign ensures that Jews are cared for, wherever they may be. This includes Sarajevo, Jerusalem, New York and Providence. That's the power of each individual gift and the power of community.

The Endowment Fund offers people an opportunity to continue giving to the annual campaign even after they die. The Perpetual Annual Campaign Endowment – or PACE – endows one's annual gift and ensures that the ultimate goal is reached: that the community's needs will be met permanently.

There is a program within the endowment especially established for women. The Lion of Judah Endowment (LOJE) was created by women, guaranteeing that a woman's annual Lion of Judah commitment to the Federation annual campaign will continue to make a difference in the world, in perpetuity.

Barbara Levine has established a LOJE. She has always lived in Providence ("within a two-block area!"). She feels connected in a deep way. She remembers her father and mother giving their time and their hard-earned dollars. She also remembers going door-to-door as a child collecting for the UJA campaign. She believes in giving to the annual campaign and she supports it, not just today but forever.

When her father died, Barbara's mother

continued his gift to the Federation annual campaign. After her mother passed away, Barbara said that she "didn't want the Federation to lose out, so I kept up my mother's gift." Eventually, it became clear to Barbara that she should endow her gift, "so that our family tradition of giving would continue. I felt a moral obligation to support Jewish causes, and to perpetuate my family's history of giving," Barbara said.

Each gift to the annual campaign helped to provide 10,000 meals last year to home-bound seniors in Rhode Island, and 960,000 food packages to communities abroad. Each gift educated 2,200 local youngsters in Jewish schools. Eighty-three orphans were cared for in a Jewish home in Odessa because of each gift raised here. Real-life stories like these are happening in over 60 countries around the world, thanks to each gift to the annual Federation campaign.

It seems only natural that a gift that perpetuates itself would be very meaningful to Barbara Levine. The needs are great and varied, and people like Barbara remind us that any one person can help change the course of history.

Caring for Jews; Saving Jews; Raising Jews. This is the purpose of the annual campaign. To find out more about endowing your annual campaign gift, call Joshua Karlin or Meyer Goldstein at JFRI, 401-421-4111. They are waiting for your call.

Since 1945 the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island has been our community's central planning, fundraising and allocating organization – supporting agencies, synagogues and programs dedicated to addressing the issues, needs and challenges of the Jewish community here, in Israel and around the world.

Whether your interests are in serving the needs of the local Jewish community in greater Rhode Island, or they take you to the needs in Israel and abroad, the Jewish Federation with its partner agencies, both locally, nationally and internationally, works to meet the yearly needs of over one million people worldwide.

The JFRI Annual Campaign is not just a local effort, but a global effort reaching to the mother in need of a safe haven from abuse, a child with special educational needs, the infirmed in need of kosher food. Your contributions through gifts of money and time make the difference for some in not only the quality of life they live, but having a life to live.

In the article presented, you will read some highlights of the work of the United Jewish Communities (UJC), which represents a network of over 200 federations across North America. JFRI is proud to share with you what we can do through your generosity.

Where Your Money Goes: Social Action

The concept of *tikkun 'olam* (repairing the world) is central to the North American Jewish community's social activism. Federations have forged public and private partnerships with federal, state and local governments to care for the most vulnerable people in our society -- the homeless, the abused, the sick and the frail.

- Federations and more than 145 affiliated Jewish family service agencies sponsor programs that deal with domestic violence and provide crisis intervention to Jewish and non-Jewish families and mental health services to children, adolescents and families, according to the **Association of Jewish Family & Children's Agencies**. UJC, representing the federation system, speaks out forcefully when issues affecting government support for community social services are jeopardized. Funding, to support families and children, older adults and persons with disabilities, for example when Title XX was reduced UJC began vigorous lobbying to reinstate funding.

- UJC works to ensure that Jewish institutions throughout the country are safe and secure. UJC joined with the **Anti-Defamation League** to broadcast a security briefing to federation agencies and supply security handbooks to more than 1,500 institutions.

- UJC educates policy makers and communities about how "charitable choice" initiatives would violate the Constitutional doctrine of separation of church and state.

- Federation-supported **Jewish Community Centers** offer a primary outlet for seniors 60 to 90 and above to stay physically and mentally active and involved in traditional Jewish life.

- The federation system operates more than 100 low-income housing facilities and provides housing assistance and services to more than 12,000 low-income elderly people, primarily through the federal government Section 202 housing program, according to the

Association of Jewish Aging Services.

- Jewish federation-affiliated skilled nursing and senior housing facilities, hospitals, and other services provide kosher meals, counseling, religious services, Passover Seders, and other important religious and cultural practices to their residents and/or clients.

- Between 1999 and 2001, some 10,000 representatives of North American Jewish communities visited Israel via the **Jewish Agency for Israel Partnership 2000 (P2K)** program, which links 550 overseas communities with 30 regions in Israel to improve economic and community conditions. Through P2K, JAFI helps operate more than 600 socially relevant projects.

- With support from federations, **JDC** created Operation Social Development to cultivate philanthropy within the Israeli business sector. This initiative resulted in the distribution of almost 10,000 computers to disadvantaged Israeli families, benefiting more than 30,000 children.

- The Jewish Service Corps of **JDC**, supported by the federation system, provides volunteers with a one-year opportunity to take part in the life of a Jewish community abroad. Volunteers in Romania, Poland, India, and the former Soviet Union work primarily in the areas of formal and informal Jewish education and community development.

- With funds from the federation system, **JAFI** provides a warm, supportive residential home for 500 of Israel's most severely disadvantaged 12- to 15-year-olds. Within two to three years, 100% of the students are mainstreamed into regular high schools.

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Lieberman reminds community of JFRI's sacred mission

By O'Brian Kaufman

It was unlike any other political campaign stump when Hadassah Lieberman, wife of Connecticut Senator Joseph Lieberman, took the podium before more than 500 women at the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island's Women's Alliance Campaign Event on Thursday, October 25, 2001 at Temple Emanu-El.

At the event, sponsored by East Side Marketplace, Jake Kaplan Jaguar Land Rover of Warwick, and an anonymous contributor, Lieberman congratulated the gathering of Jewish Community members, noting that Rhode Island's "Federation is all about *tikkun 'Olam*—to repair the world. We need it now as never before."

Speaking about the terrorist attacks against the U.S. on September 11, she noted that the "focus must still be on our families and our communities. The Jewish community has showed its support for everything we care about — we have showed unwavering support." She added that "Federation's like yours are the backbone of the American Jewish Community" and said JFRI's "commitment to Jewish life inspires all of us."

The wife of the first Jewish candidate to represent a major presidential ticket, Lieberman was brought to speak at the Campaign Event to remind community members of JFRI's sacred mission.

"From the time we first envisioned inviting Hadassah Lieberman to RI, said Jeanie Charness, who co-chaired this year's Women's Alliance campaign event, we knew that this could be a tremendous opportunity to strengthen our community by bringing together hundreds of women from around the state. Our goal was to fill Temple Emanu-El. What an accomplishment!"

Sharon Gaines, the Women's Alliance Campaign Chair, speaking before Lieberman, commented on the make-up of the

women who are committed members of the Women's Alliance.

"Look and see who we are: we are 40 years old... we are 20... we are 60...we are 13... we are 90," Gaines said. "We are wives, sisters, mothers, daughters, grandmothers, granddaughters, and friends. We are lawyers, Rabbis, teachers, homemakers, doctors, and nurses. We live on the East Side... we live in Newport... we live in Cranston, Naragansett, North Smithfield, Lincoln, Sharon, and 20 other communities across Rhode Island and Southern Massachusetts. We are native Rhode Islanders, and we are newcomers. We are Jewish by birth, and we are Jews by choice."

Many life-serving programs are beneficiaries of the funds raised by the Women's Alliance and Federation campaigns. In every program, there are hundreds of people who receive support from the community. There is Dena, an 84-year-old woman living in an 8'x8' room in Kharkov, Ukraine, whose \$15 a month pension barely covers her rent. Campaign funds help provide Dena with proper nutrition, reasonable clothing and otherwise unaffordable needed medications. Funds also provides for Vera—a caseworker—so Dena does not feel so isolated. Vera is the one who brings Dena food, sheets, winter relief, and news of the world.

There's Lydia, now 73, who immigrated to Israel with her husband and son 20 years ago. Her son, who was a nurse, died of an aneurism several years ago and she lost her husband last year, leaving her alone. Now she is living in the JDC supported Katamon Center for the Elderly in Jerusalem. The Center is spacious, clean and sunny, the care is good and Lydia can enjoy weekly Shabbat celebrations.

And there's "Ruth" who lives alone in a small apartment in Providence. Born in Rhode Island, her family has long since

turn to page 27.



(L-R) Mitzi Berkelhammer, Sharon Gaines, Willa Perlman, Susan Froehlich, Hadassah Lieberman, Barbara Lavine, Jeanie Charness, Mindy Wachtenheim, Janet Engelhart, Lynn Brodsky



Hadassah Lieberman touches Lion of Judah pin worn by Lynn Brodsky and explains why she became a Lion.

community
It starts with you



L-R seated) At the Lion of Judah dinner Sheila Kaufman, Joyce Starr, Hope Hirsch, Audrey Licht. (Standing) Brenda Bedrick, Joyce Robinson, Hadassah Lieberman and Harriet Granoff. Lion of Judah Division now numbers 76.



Brown University Hillel women enjoy speaking with Hadassah Lieberman



After her presentation Hadassah Lieberman mingles and chats with Women's Alliance members in attendance.



Campaign 2002

Wiesel event culminates community week



Twelve hundred Rhode Islanders gather at Temple Beth-El to hear Elie Wiesel



(l-r) Gary and Audrey Licht, Elie Wiesel, Linda and Herb Stern



The Mann family, Max, Robert, Judy and Zachary with Elie Wiesel



Joyce and Russell Robinson with Elie Wiesel



Elie Wiesel with Lynn Brodsky



(l-r) Elaine Odessa, Elie Wiesel, Susan and John Froehlich

Campaign 2002

Pacesetter reception and record gathering for Wiesel talk



Susan Ross and son, Danny, with Elie Wiesel



Elie Wiesel with Harriet and Lloyd Granoff



Six of the one hundred Brown/RISD Hillel students come out to hear Elie Wiesel



Frances and David Friedmen, Diane and Bob Ducoff with Elie Wiesel



Sheila and Arnold Kaufman with Wiesel



community

it starts with you.

A Evening of Jewish Renaissance

This year's Evening of Jewish Renaissance was kicked off by Mayor Vincent "Buddy" Cianci, who praised the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island and the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island for "promoting learning and education for adults." Cianci, speaking at the Jewish Community Center in Providence, noted that "the greatest enemy to peace is ignorance and the best path to tolerance is education."

This year's event brought together more than 600 community members for study sessions on prayer, Jewish cooking, art, mysticism, humor and film, to name a few. The event included an "informational shuk" with booths displaying the works of 39 Jewish synagogues, agencies and organizations. Attendees enjoyed the sounds of Yarmulkazi, a Brown University-based klezmer band, while Espresso Dave's brewed nearly 400 cappuccinos and lattes. Among the highlights was a talk by author and "Mitzvah Guru" Danny Siegel who spoke about paths to becoming a Mitzvah Hero—"Anybody can do it, anybody can change the world."

The Bureau's role is to enrich Jewish life in greater Rhode Island by enhancing the quality of and promoting access to Jewish education. According to Minna Ellison, Executive Director of the BJE/RI, "We are proud to be a convener of our diverse community as part of campaign weekend. There is a growing thirst for Jewish learning. Tonight's gathering demonstrates Federation's responsiveness and its desire to build and strengthen community."



Janet Engelhart, Executive Vice President of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, thanks Mayor Vincent Cianci for his comments as she presents him with a T-shirt representing the community campaign weekend.



The *Havdalah* ceremony which preceded the evening's events was led by *Midrasha* students. Evi Steiglitz proudly displays the *Havdalah* candle to a packed audience.



commūnity
it starts with you.



At the Educational Shuk, Stevan Labush and Bob Miller of Touro Fraternal Association, show Molly Ann Blumenthal information about their organization's many philanthropic projects.



Ruth Ben-Yehuda Adler, whose family emigrated to Israel from Yemen, offers a fascinating glimpse into Yemenite Jewry.



Hundreds of Renaissance participants explore 39 exhibits set up by our community synagogues, agencies, and organizations.

Hanukkah stamp for 2001

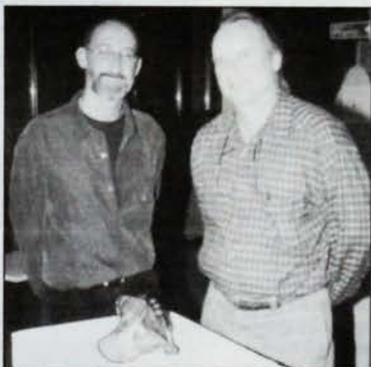
The original Hanukkah stamp, first issued in 1996 and revalued for the 34-cent postal rate, will be available again this year. It was to be shipped automatically to all post offices and to go on sale October 20th. If your post office is not aware of the stamp or believes it is an old issue have them check postal bulletin #22052, dated June 14, 2001, page 59.

People who would like to see a new Hanukkah stamp designed for each year should write suggestions to: Jack Potter, Postmaster General, United States Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW, Washington, DC 20260-0010



Gallery 401

(right) – Lev Poplow and Daniel Read display one of the many fine works presented at MAXimum Art, a silent auction to benefit the Max Dwares Foundation. The show was directed by Poplow and the glass work show was created by Read.



Ron Poplow (left) and Daniel Read

(below) – Bruce Lenore explains one of his latest ceramic works to patron Barbara Levine, a longtime collector of Lenore's work. The ceramic pieces and dozens of other works of art were part of MAXimum Art. The show was directed by Lev Poplow.



Bruce Lenore and Barbara Levine

Klezmer

Music from your *kishkes*

Fishel Bresler's Klezmer-Hassidic Ensemble will appear Saturday night of Thanksgiving weekend, November 24th at 8:00 pm, at the Stone Soup Coffee House in its new location at Slater Mill, 67 Roosevelt Avenue, Pawtucket. Refreshments are available and admission is \$8.00.

Hassidic *nigunim* (melodies) have grown out of the mystical movement created two centuries ago in the Carpathian Mountains by the great Baal Shem Tov. They range from spirited dance tunes to meditative songs of mystical union, and are one of the most powerful and original bodies of Jewish music.

Klezmer music is the laughing, crying, wailing, heartfelt instrumental music of Eastern European Jewish life. Sometimes erroneously described as "Jewish Jazz," it is

essentially ethnic functional music, each musical form being connected to one part or another of the traditional Jewish wedding. Having developed over many centuries, it incorporates influences from synagogue chant and from Romanian, Hungarian, Slavic and Middle Eastern music. All of the elements were slowly absorbed, changed and worked into a mix which expressed the rhythms and emotions of Jewish life, quite distinct from the lifestyles around it.

A regular feature of several area concert series, the ensemble has become known over nearly two decades for its passionate yet sensitive playing. Fishel says, "This is spiritual music – you have to play it from your *kishkes* (innards) and from your heart."



Fishel Bresler's Klezmer Ensemble

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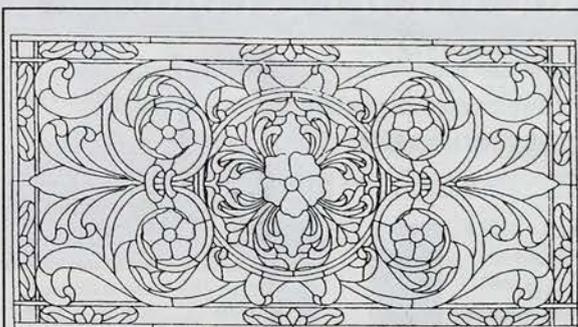


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Book review

Jews' rise in U.S. politics

by Sharon Sambert

WASHINGTON, Oct. 25 (JTA) — A woman who was the trusted adviser to the governor of New York in the 1920s. The ambassador to Turkey in 1889. The attorney general in the aftermath of the Watergate scandal. Belle Moskowitz, Solomon Hirsch and Edward Levi were all Jews involved in U.S. political life in different periods. Previously confined to the footnotes of political science course guides or familiar only to political junkies, these figures and others are part of a new book charting Jews' impact on American political life.

The book, "Jews in American Politics," is not simply a "locate the landsman" exercise but an attempt to address a number of issues — such as Jewish political behavior, Jewish advocacy and the relationship between politics and Jewish identity — along with important demographic information and over 400 biographical profiles.

Today, as politics is seen as just another profession toward which Jews gravitate, the changes in the level of Jewish political involvement through the decades are inter-

esting to follow. From hiding one's Judaism in order to enter politics all the way to last year's watershed event — when Sen. Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.) became the first Jewish vice-presidential candidate for a major party — the leaps make for good reading.

The story of Oscar Strauss, the first Jew chosen for a Cabinet position, illustrates the trajectory of Jewish political involvement in the 20th century. When Strauss was appointed by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906, he told how Roosevelt had said that Strauss had character, judgment and ability, but his appointment also would serve to show Russia that the United States "thinks of Jews."

At a public dinner several years later, however, Roosevelt claimed that Strauss was chosen on merit and ability alone. The next speaker, the prominent Jewish Republican Jacob Schiff, did not hear Roosevelt's remarks and told the audience how, years before, Roosevelt had sought his advice on a suitable Jew to appoint to his Cabinet.

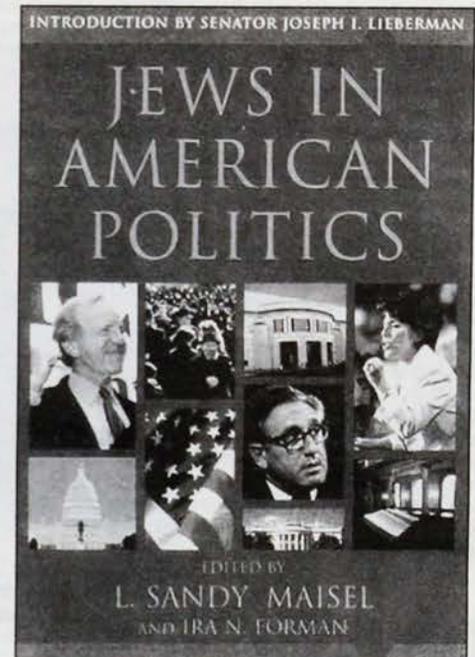
Some of the old challenges Jews faced in politics have not entirely disappeared. While it is possible today to balance one's Judaism with a political life — and it is much more legitimate for a candidate today to have a strong religious identity — having it all remains a conundrum.

Observant Jews such as Lieberman, Jack Lew — the former director of the Office of Management and Budget — and the former deputy treasury secretary, Stuart Eizenstat, are the models for today's young Jews, Forman said.

Lieberman said his experience in the 2000 presidential campaign only deepened his feelings about public service. "It has also convinced me as never before that American Jews have an important and special role to play in the civic life of this great country," he wrote in the book's introduction.

But American Jews still face a choice between ghettoizing or assimilating, says Ira Forman, co-editor of the book. The challenge is to create a different paradigm, said Forman, who also is the executive director of the National Jewish Democratic Council.

The Jews' future in American politics depends on "where as a community we are going to go," Forman believes, either toward



continued distinctiveness or greater assimilation. Forman hopes the book will inspire young Jews to get involved in American politics, much the way Lieberman believes involvement in public life is a Jewish responsibility.

The book's last chapter, entitled "Hosts, Not Visitors," sets forth an optimistic view of the Jewish future in American politics. "As part of the host community, Jews can be expected to play an important role in every aspect of human life — in sports, in entertainment, in letters, and in politics," writes David Shribman, Washington bureau chief for the Boston Globe.

But Shribman acknowledges that the future is unpredictable. If further assimilation produces a decline in Jewish identity, he writes, "the question of Jewish prospects in American politics could become one of survival, not merely of success."

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Touro Synagogue a jewel in historical architecture

by Jane S. Sprague

Touro Synagogue gained new luster when it became the 21st jewel in the collection of the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP).

In a ceremony on Wednesday, October 17, that Andrew W. Teitz likened to a marriage, representatives of America's oldest synagogue and William Harr, chairman of the NTHP Trustees, signed a 50-year contract for co-stewardship of the site. Then both men, with the synagogue's co-president Laura Pedrick offering encouragement, stomped on a wine glass as over 2000 delegates to the Trust's national convention applauded enthusiastically. Teitz is president of the Society of Friends of Touro Synagogue.

The delegates were gathered in the stunningly beautiful Providence Performing Arts Center for the opening plenary of their national convention. Hundreds of them, throughout the five-day meeting, made the trip to Newport to visit Touro, Peter Harrison's architectural gem.

The relationship with the Trust is advantageous for both parties. For the Trust, it expands their collection without having to assume ownership and makes the collection more reflective of the country. For the synagogue, it endorses the care its stewards have provided the building and the interpretation of its history to its thousands of annual visitors. Importantly, it also makes available the talent and expertise of the Trust's staff to augment that of the local staff.

Touro is the first sacred architecture in NTHP's collection. Trust officials note that all of their properties must be architecturally significant and be of historical importance. Touro Synagogue fulfills both qualifications admirably.

bly.

As the oldest synagogue in the country, dedicated during Hanukkah, 1763, and the only one remaining from the Colonial era, the simple Georgian exterior is merely a precursor to the understated elegance of the sanctuary which soars three stories, lighted by clear multi-paned windows. Harrison had accepted the commission to design the synagogue very reluctantly. He was being praised for the two churches he had created in Boston and Cambridge, but questioned his qualifications to design a Jewish house of worship. Working closely with Congregation Jeshuat Israel's spiritual leader, the Rev. Isaac Touro, however, he ultimately created the plans. It became, Harrison wrote, a labor of love, so much so that he never sent the congregation a bill.

It also is rare to find a structure nearly 250 years old so intact. Chandeliers, candelabra, clock, ark, Torah, bimah and many other features in the sanctuary are original, and only minor modifications have been made to the building.

The historical significance, while a familiar story to most Rhode Island Jews, is an inspiring one that more and more Americans are discovering as Touro becomes America's synagogue, a primary symbol of religious freedom.

The Jews who settled in Newport in the mid-1600s and again starting in the early 1700s had found a haven in two senses: a superb port for their maritime activities, and a place where church and state were separate and people could worship as they wished. Thus, when it came time to build a house of worship, they could choose one of the highest spots in Newport, then unobstructed by surrounding buildings, clearly visible from all directions. Their European ancestors, on the other hand,

had had to search out their synagogues, most discretely tucked away in narrow side streets and alleyways.

Rev. Touro participated in significant interfaith activity and study, especially with the Rev. Ezra Stiles, whose diaries are a primary source of information about those days. Stiles, a Congregational Christian minister, later became President of Yale University and made Hebrew a requirement for Yale's students.

Although most Jews left Newport during the Revolutionary War, a handful stayed and a few returned after the war, enough to make a minyan periodically, but Newport had been eclipsed as a commercial maritime powerhouse, so the Jewish population again dwindled. Moses Seixas became warden of the congregation and, in August 1790, when President George Washington came to Newport on a circuit-riding trip to promote the Bill of Rights, Seixas presented him with a letter asking what the Jews might expect in the way of religious liberty under the new government.

Washington, lifting language from the Seixas letter, wrote back to "the Hebrew Congregation in Newport" that the new United States would "give to bigotry no sanction, no persecution no assistance," thus setting out the principle publicly, to a small minority population, that has become this country's standard. The letter is celebrated and read each August in ceremonies at the synagogue.

Today, there are three corporations intertwined with Touro Synagogue. When Moses Seixas left Newport, he turned the deed, the keys and precious sacred articles over to Congregation Shearith Israel in New York City which had sponsored the Newport con-

Please turn to page 18



Touro Synagogue sanctuary

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Jews' concerns from page 7

possibility so riled Israel's Prime Minister Ariel Sharon that Sharon accused the president of aping British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain in his sacrifice of Czechoslovakia to Hitler's Germany in 1938. Sharon quickly apologized for the unfortunate parallel and order was restored.

According to the JTA, Jewish leaders now believe they have off-the-record reassurances from Washington that the campaign against Osama bin Laden will be expanded to include other terrorist groups, such as those which have been sending suicide bombers into action against Israeli targets. "There is broad consensus and support for the administration, both for what it is doing right now and for going after the global terrorist infrastructure, to not make it a one-shot deal," said Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents.

From the Jewish left and right there were reservations. The Israel Policy Forum, while praising the administration's steps against terrorism, urged greater American involvement in settling the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. "It has, with few exceptions, only moved forward with help from 'Parties involved in deep conflict are almost never able to extricate themselves without third party involvement.'"

On the right side of the spectrum, Morton Klein, president of the Zionist Organization of America, said Bush had done "serious damage" to Israel's attempts to repel Palestinian violence. By saying he has a vision for a Palestinian state he is whetting the appetite of the Arabs to continue their terrorism." He added, "I remain confident that overall Bush's policies will be of benefit to both the U.S. and Israel."

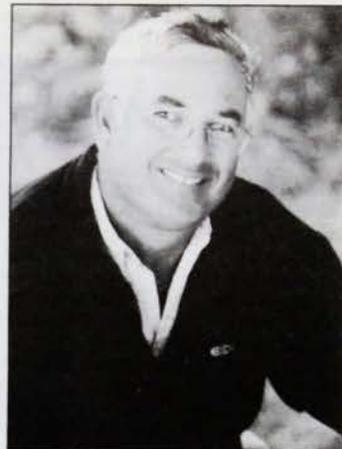
"Ancient Tiberias" subject of Hirshfeld lecture

Noted Israeli archeologist Yizhar Hirschfeld will present "Ancient Tiberias, an Archeologist's Dream," a lecture and slide presentation, on Wednesday, November 14 at 8:00 pm at Temple Emanu-El, Providence. Hirschfeld, a professor at the Institute of Archeology at Hebrew University of Jerusalem, has been actively involved in the Tiberias excavation since 1989.

Hirschfeld speaks passionately about the significant historical implications of the work going on at Tiberias. "The excavations at Tiberias will contribute to the confluence of the three major monotheistic religions — Judaism, Christianity, and Islam," he explains. "In the course of the first thousand years of its existence — from its founding in the first century by Herod Antipas until its destruction by the Crusaders at the end of the 11th century — the city contained a mixed population.

"As a Jewish city, it is here that the leadership figures of the Jewish people of Roman Palestine and the Diaspora resided and it is here that the Palestinian Talmud was compiled and edited. In the Byzantine period, Tiberias became an important Christian city that served as a focus for thousands of pilgrims visiting the city annually from across the Empire. In the seventh century, from the time of the Arab conquest, the Muslims chose Tiberias as the capital of the entire northern part of Palestine."

This lecture, free and open to the public, is sponsored by the Koffler-Bornstein Families Institute of Jewish Studies at Temple Emanu-El. For more information



Yizhar Hirschfeld, noted archeologist

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Touro Synagogue from page 17

gregation and contributed money for building the synagogue. That congregation still holds the deed. When Congregation Jeshuat Israel reformed after 1850, New York returned the keys and the sacred articles, but held the deed. The local congregation, however, fully manages the active religious life of the synagogue and maintains the building.

In 1948, two years after the synagogue was named a National

Historic Site, a third non-sectarian, non-denominational organization was formed, the Society of Friends of Touro Synagogue. Its purpose is to manage the educational and historical mission of Touro and to assist the congregation in maintaining the building.

For more information about Touro Synagogue, call 401-847-4794. Tours continue year round, although on a reduced schedule until Spring. Through the

winter, Monday-Friday, the tour is at 1:00 pm and on Sundays, 11:00 am to 2:30 pm, every half hour. To arrange a private tour for groups of 12 or more, call the above number and ask for Arlene Hicks.

Jane S. Sprague, consulting editor for *The Voice*, is executive director of the Society of Friends of Touro Synagogue.

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Jews' concerns from page 7

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Yizhar Hirschfeld, noted archeologist

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Touro Synagogue from page 17

gregation and contributed money for building the synagogue. That congregation still holds the deed. When Congregation Jeshuat Israel reformed after 1850, New York returned the keys and the sacred articles, but held the deed. The local congregation, however, fully manages the active religious life of the synagogue and maintains the building.

In 1948, two years after the synagogue was named a National

Historic Site, a third non-sectarian, non-denominational organization was formed, the Society of Friends of Touro Synagogue. Its purpose is to manage the educational and historical mission of Touro and to assist the congregation in maintaining the building.

For more information about Touro Synagogue, call 401-847-4794. Tours continue year round, although on a reduced schedule until Spring. Through the

winter, Monday-Friday, the tour is at 1:00 pm and on Sundays, 11:00 am to 2:30 pm, every half hour. To arrange a private tour for groups of 12 or more, call the above number and ask for Arlene Hicks.

Jane S. Sprague, consulting editor for The Voice, is executive director of the Society of Friends of Touro Synagogue.

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Potter Hill School: Sukkot and "Old Testament" in a Secular Third Grade

by Debbie Waldman

It may be a little surprising to find a *sukkah* in a sunny Kingston meadow, unattached to a Jewish home or synagogue, but the third grade class at the Potter Hill School joyfully and painstakingly built and decorated their own this year. Throughout the eight days of *Sukkot*, the children ate, sang and studied in their lovely *sukkah*. In Hebrew, they recited the traditional *Sukkot* blessings, waved the *lulav* and *etrog*, and learned about the historical context in which Jews celebrate the holiday.

Potter Hill, a non-sectarian Waldorf school, requires that the third grade history curriculum consist of the "Old Testament". The reason for this unorthodox (no pun intended) academic approach lies in the basic Waldorf philosophy: curricular themes parallel a child's developmental evolution, as conceived 80 years ago by Waldorf founder, Austrian educator-philosopher Rudolf Steiner (Steiner founded the discipline of anthropology, a holistic approach to education and human development).

So why a *sukkah* for third graders? Baer Collen, Potter Hill master teacher, explains: "At around nine years old, the children go through a developmental change

in consciousness. . . their world-view becomes more individualized, and they experience themselves as being separate from the living world around them. This is not unlike the fall from Paradise; they are no longer in Heaven, but on the Earth. So the "Old Testament" story of the fall from Paradise is an image which resonates perfectly with the child's personal experience".

"Through the story of the "Old Testament", and particularly of Moses and the development of the laws, and the Hebrews finding out how to make their way in the world, the children find examples for how they might find their own way in the world. At this age, what they find most useful are clear definitions of what they need to do, i.e., the commandments."

Throughout the year, themes from the "Old Testament" will continue to provide the basic orientation for the third grade's studies. *Sukkah*-building was applied in a section on practical studies, a unit on food, shelter and clothing (living on the earth).

As the year progresses, the children will study Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, the Judges, Kings, the Babylonian captivity and the Maccabees. These lessons will serve as pivotal points for the other academic requirements, so

that, for example, "Old Testament" themes will serve as the foundation for art projects, grammar lessons and math exercises (example: the cubits of the Noah story will serve as a jumping-off point for a math unit on measurement).

The year of Hebrew language study will fulfill the Waldorf mandate that students study a foreign language each year, beginning in the first grade. Hebrew vocabulary, culture and conversation are taught through songs, stories, games and dances, often using "Old Testament" themes, such as Adam and Eve naming the animals, counting, colors and holidays.

This is a vibrantly dynamic way to engage young minds!

Debbie Waldman is Potter Hill School's Hebrew teacher this year.



Master teacher Baer Collen and his third grade students in front of their Sukkah at the Potter Hill School, Kingston.

NOVEMBER COMMUNITY CALENDAR

November 6 Brown/RIISD Hillelthon Koffler Bornstein Institute of Jewish Studies	6:00 PM 8:00 PM	November 16 JFRI Young Women's Babies, Kids, Kibbitzing Friday School Temple Beth-El Scholar in Residence Shabbat RI Hadassah Book Study 1 Temple Emanu-El New Member Havdalah and Dinner	10:30 AM 3:30 PM All Day 10:00 AM 6:00 PM
November 7 NCJW Board Meeting Brown/RIISD Hillelthon BJE HEM Jazz, Blues & Country Concert w/ Ken Lyon & trio Touro Fraternal Assn. Board	9:30 AM 6:00 PM 6:30 PM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM	November 18 Temple Beth-El Scholar in Residence BJE/HEM Temple Shalom Congregational Meeting JCC Early Childhood Open House RIJHA Mid-Year Meeting Temple Emanu-El Leisure Club	9:30 AM 9:30 AM 10:00 AM 11:00 AM 2:00 PM 2:00 PM
November 8 NCJW Board JCC Gallery 401 Opening Brown/RIISD Hillelthon BAasket Making with Carolyn Spencer Jewish Theatre Ensemble RIHMM Kristallnacht Program with Claudia Stevens	10:00 AM 5:00 PM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM 7:30 PM	November 19 Minam Hospital Women's Assn Board JCC Early Childhood Open House Lecture on Mashantucket Pequot Indians (H.C.)	2:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM
November 9 UJC General Assembly, Wash. D.C. Nov. 9-14 Friday School Temple Beth-El Sisterhood Shabbat Dinner	All Day 3:30 PM 6:30 PM	November 20 Temple Beth-El Thanksgiving Ecumenical Svs. Koffler Bornstein Institute of Jewish Studies	7:00 PM 8:00 PM
November 10 Jewish Theatre Ensemble	8:00 PM	November 21 Mayflower Voyage & Thanksgiving Memories (H.C.)	7:00 PM
November 11 JCC Family Pool Day Jewish Theatre Ensemble	1:00 PM 2:00 PM	November 22 - Thanksgiving Day JCC Brown Bag Club	Noon
November 12 RI Hadassah Board War Stones & Memorabilia (Highland Ct.)	7:00 PM 7:00 PM	November 23 Temple Beth-El Shabbat Service with Rabbi Davis	7:45 PM
November 13 JFRI Endowment Professional Advisory Council Committee JCC Brown Bag Club Music Lecture by Prof Kaplan (Highland Ct.) BJE Workshop Series Temple Beth-El Board of Trustees "Germany's Holocaust Memorial Problem - & Mine" Brown University Annual Arthur & David Jacobson lecture Koffler Bornstein Institute of Jewish Studies	7:45 AM Noon 2:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM 8:00 PM 8:00 PM	November 26 BJE Principal's Council Skin Care & Makeover (Highland Ct.) Temple Emanu-El Board Na'Amat Dvora Dayan Club	9:30 AM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM 7:45 PM
November 14 RI Hadassah Jewish Study Group Temple Beth-El Garden Club JFRI/CRC Executive Committee BJE/HEM Jewelry display & sale (Highland Ct.) ASDS Board Providence Hebrew Day Free Loan	10:00 AM 1:00 PM 5:30 PM 6:30 PM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM 7:30 PM	November 27 JFRI/WA Lion of Judah Committee JCC Brown Bag Club BJE Workshop Series Koffler Bornstein Institute of Jewish Studies	10:30 AM Noon 7:00 PM 8:00 PM
November 15 JFRI Young Men's Night Out Program BJE Book Making Workshop Piano Concert with Bill Ferrara (Highland Ct.)	7:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM	November 28 Holiday Crafat Night (Highland Ct.) Providence Hebrew Free Loan Board	7:00 PM 7:30 PM
		November 29 JFRI Finance Committee JFRI Overseas Allocations Committee JFRI/CRC program dealing with terrorism Concert & Reception (Highland Ct.)	7:45 AM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM
		November 30 Friday School	3:30 PM

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November 2001 Candle Lighting Times

Nov. 2	Shabbat
Nov. 9	
Nov. 16	Shalom
Nov. 30	

RI Jewish educators attend 1st Kol Hana'ar conference

Two Rhode Island Jewish educators were in Oakland, Calif. for the first-ever Kol Hana'ar Conference, focusing on Jewish education for teenagers. Rich Walter, Director of Teen Education at the Bureau of Jewish Education of RI (BJE) and Miriam Abrams-Stark, Teen Education Consultant at the BJE and Youth Director at Temple Emanu-El, joined 110 other participants from throughout the United States and Canada at the four-day conference.

Sponsored by JESNA (Jewish Education Service of North America) and the Institute for Informal Jewish Education at Brandeis University, the sessions focused on the key issues affecting Jewish teen education, current research on teens, and strategies for outreach to unaffiliated youths. Conference presenters included leading experts in the fields of program evaluation, family education, professional development, and psychology. There were workshops on funding youth initiatives, youth leadership development, and collaboration between community institutions, as well as opportunities to share challenges and successes with colleagues from other communities.

RI Teens to meet homeless in America

The third annual winter trip to Philadelphia for Rhode Island Jewish teens is set for December 25-27. This learning project for Jewish teens in grades 8 through 12 includes community service, social activities, and learning about the connection between Jewish texts and tradition and the values of community service.

The highlight of the Philadelphia Trip is meeting Frank Ferrell and learning the story of how Frank's son, Trevor, created a nationally known organization for giving aid to the homeless when he was 13 years old. Together with Frank, participants on the Philadelphia Trip will meet homeless men and women on the streets where they live. They will give assistance to them, hear their stories and learn first hand what it means to be homeless in America.

For information on how to become a part of this experience, contact Rich Walter, Director of Teen Education at the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island at 401-331-0956 or e-mail him at rwalter@bjeri

We hope you can use these socks

ASDS students collected thousands of pairs of socks donated by their families for distribution to the rescue workers searching in the rubble of the World Trade Centers.

Attached to a package of socks was the following note from a 7th grader at ASDS:

Dear Police Officers and Fire Fighters and Volunteers,

For American Jews, Tuesday and Wednesday September 18th and 19th was our New Year. I'm sorry to say it's been a lousy start. But I just wanted to thank you all for digging all the metal and trying to find survivors and bodies of people. I hope you use the socks I bought.

Well, I have to go now, but keep up the good work.

A Fellow American,
Jason Hochman

PHDS welcomes sponsor of art and music center

In September of 1995 Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Chester dedicated the Art and Music Center at the Providence Hebrew Day School in memory of Louis and Goldie Chester, Mr. Chester's parents. The room is used for a variety of art classes and projects both during school hours and after school. Recently, Mr. Chester came to visit the school and was given a tour by Rabbi Nissel, the dean of PHDS. Mr. Chester visited an art class that was being given for 6th graders.

Pictured right from (l-r) Mr. Samuel Chester, Miriam Diamond and Rabbi Mordechai Nissel.

Golden Agers enjoy Sukkot luncheon

Eighth-graders at the Alperin Schechter Day School continued a community service tradition when they assisted at the Golden Agers Luncheon at Temple Emanu-El on Sukkot Friday, October 5th. Approximately 100 seniors from area nursing homes, retirement centers and assisted living facilities attended the free luncheon.

The students served the luncheon under the supervision and direction of event co-chairs Cindy Kaplan and Helene Sondler. Kaplan, a middle-school teacher at ASDS, has helped organize this event for many years. Students also helped some of the attendees visit the Temple Emanu-El sukkah.

Cantor Brian Mayer, accompanied on the piano by Bela Miller, treated seniors to entertainment, which included songs in Yiddish and Hebrew, and Broadway tunes.

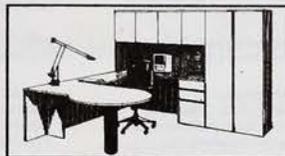


ASDS students serving lunch to Golden Agers participants. The students said they felt they were doing a real mitzvah.



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Conference Without Walls

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30–MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2001

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Our Jewish tradition teaches us how to take care of one another, and our world. It also teaches us that it is our responsibility to do so. Tzedakah in its truest definition, is the act of creating a just world, where all individuals are cared for. It is achieved through gemilut hasadim (acts of kindness), and mitzvot (commandments), which teach us how to behave.

Join us as we welcome into our community a number of "Mitzvah Heroes," ordinary individuals who have done extraordinary work in the areas of tzedakah and tikkun olam (repairing the world).

Come hear their remarkable stories and learn from them.

Come learn what our rich Jewish tradition teaches us about tzedakah.

Come be inspired and moved to engage in the work of tikkun olam.

Mitzvah Heroes are individuals such as Ranya Kelly, the "shoe woman from Denver," who went searching for a box and discovered 500 pairs of brand-new shoes in a local dumpster. She has since retrieved millions of dollars worth of goods and distributed them throughout this country and overseas.

Mitzvah Heroes Conference Without Walls is chaired by Susan and David Resnik. This BJE/RI project is funded by the Covenant Foundation, the Ziv Tzedakah Fund, Inc., and the Endowment Fund of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.

Additional Information

This conference is geared for "Adolescents through Zaides" – teens and adults of all ages.

- Teens and adults welcome at all events
- Lunch is available for purchase on Sunday at JCCRI for a nominal fee

Due to the generosity of the Ziv Tzedakah Fund, the Covenant Foundation, and the Endowment Fund of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, the conference will be offered free of charge. Kosher lunch, snacks and beverages will be available for purchase throughout the day.

In place of a registration fee, participants are encouraged to bring with them new or gently used goods to be donated after the conference. Suggested items include gloves, hats, scarves, backpacks, socks, eyeglasses, shoes, children's books, non-perishable canned or boxed food.

Maimonides' highest level of tzedakah is providing opportunities for people to become self sufficient. Recently, some of Ziv's projects have started to produce gorgeous items that provide critical income to their talented craftspeople. These products are not only beautiful gifts but also hold great meaning in that they offer the craftspeople a means to support themselves and their families. Some of these items will be on sale on Sunday at the JCCRI.

Schedule of Conference Events

Friday, November 30, 2001

Mitzvah Heroes will speak, as part of Shabbat services, with the following congregations and community groups:

- Temple Torat Yisrael, Cranston 7:30 pm
- Temple Habonim, Barrington 8 pm
- Brown-RISD Hillel, Providence 8:45 pm

Saturday, December 1

Mitzvah Heroes will speak, as part of Shabbat services, with the following congregations and community groups:

- Congregation Beth Shalom, Providence 9 am
- Temple Beth David, Narragansett 9:30 am
- Temple Shalom, Middletown 10 am
- Teen Minyan at Temple Emanu-El with Temple Emanu-El, Temple Torat Yisrael, and Temple Am David USY groups

Sunday, December 2

Mitzvah Heroes Workshops (registration required) Each workshop will include text study and three Mitzvah Hero presentations followed by break-out sessions.

- Temple Sinai, Cranston 9 am–12:30 pm
- JCCRI, Providence 9 am–12:30 pm
1:30–5 pm
- JCCRI, Providence Mitzvah Spotlight 7–9 pm
- Temple Beth-El, Providence 11 am–3 pm
Mitzvah Clowning, for 7th grade classes only.

Monday, December 3

Mitzvah Heroes will speak with the following groups:

- Hasbro Corporate/ Team Hasbro 9:30–10:30 am
- Students of the ASDS and PHDS 9:30–10:30 am
- Jewish Communal Professionals 11:45 am–1:30 pm
- Hasbro Hospital Caregivers 12:30–1:30 pm

For more information call Miriam Abrams-Stark or Ruth Page at the BJE/RI, 401 331-0956.

A person who runs to do tzedakah – just, good, and kind deeds – attains life, righteousness, and honor. Proverbs 21:21

Pre-registration

(Advised for Sunday workshops and special evening program)

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Come Friday and Saturday... and be inspired. Come Sunday... and learn how YOU can do it, too.

Please check all sessions you will be attending: The JCCRI is handicapped accessible from the rear parking lot.

- Sunday morning workshops
- JCCRI, Providence (9 am–12:30 pm)
- or
- Temple Sinai, Cranston (9 am–12:30 pm)

- Join us in Providence for additional workshops
- Sunday afternoon at JCCRI (1:30–5 pm)
- Fabulous Sunday evening program at JCCRI featuring Ranya Kelly and John Beltzer (7–9 pm)

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One mitzvah just leads to another



Left – The second grade class, under the direction of Sue Adler, has been learning about the concept of *mitzvah goreret mitzvah* that one mitzvah leads to another. They used the *Eetrogim* from Sukkot to create *b'samim*, spices to be used for *Havdalah*. Since school is not held on Saturday evenings, students will say *Havdalah* on Monday mornings as a way to begin their week. Shown are 2nd graders with their *b'samim*.

Letters to relief workers in NY



Shown are 4th graders at ASDS with the pictures they drew and the letters they wrote to relief workers in New York.

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Students at ASDS followed travels of Roger Williams

Right – On October 4, 2001, fourth graders had the opportunity to meet with a park ranger from the Roger Williams National Park. The students were studying explorers and early colonies and the impact the early settlers had on Native American people and their habitat. In this interactive program, students followed the travels of Roger Williams across the landscape of a giant floor map of Southeastern New England. Although the program was mainly historical, it also incorporated science, natural history, language, arts and a lot of geography. Shown is the park ranger with 4th grader Kyla More dressed as Roger Williams.



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It's never too early to register for Camp JORI

Would-be campers are urged to register early for Camp JORI's summer of 2002. Registration packets have been mailed and the camp fills quickly.

Camp Director Ronni Guttin says, "Last year we were already half full by January, and some of the popular sessions and age groups were filled in the autumn of 2000. Summer 2001 was so successful we had to add spaces to accommodate additional campers beyond our original capacity." Anyone who has not received a registration packet should call the camp office.

Guttin says that almost all of the camp's administrative staff will

be returning again for 2002, providing continuity with the expansions and improvements that were made this year. She adds, "2001 we had our first sailors on our expanded waterfront, and we had a very exciting show put on by our performance arts program." In October, the camp broke ground for its new facility, which will allow further growth and expansion in years to come.

The only Jewish overnight camp in Rhode Island, JORI offers a full sports program; performance arts; arts and crafts including ceramics and instrumental music; nature programs; special events

and field trips. The Narragansett-based camp also offers the selective LIT (Leadership in Training) program for 14- and 15-year-olds to develop leadership skills. LIT activities include as mountain climbing overnights, kayaking, canoeing, professional sporting events and excursions.

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.

The 2002 summer schedule is:

Overnight Camp: Trip I: Monday, June 24 to Sunday, July 21

Trip II: Monday, July 22 to Sunday, August 18

The four-week fee is \$1450 per Trip.

Two-Week Overnight (for first time campers only)

Trip IA: Monday, June 24 to Sunday, July 7

Trip IB: Sunday, July 7 to Sunday, July 21

Trip IIA: Monday, July 22 to Sunday, August 4

Trip IIB: Sunday, August 4 to Sunday, August 18

The two-week fee is \$950 and may be applied to the cost of a full, four-week trip if the child's stay is extended.

Day Camp is available:

Session I: June 24 to July 5

Session II: July 8 to 19

Session III: July 22 to August 2

Session IV: August 5 to 16

The fee for day camp is \$435 for each two-week session.

For registration forms or more information, call the camp office at 401-521-2655.



The crowd gathered for the new Camp JORI groundbreaking on Sunday, October 21 in South Kingstown.



JFS executive director, Paul Segal, with Dorothy Nelson, Rabbi Leslie Gutterman, Gloria Winston and daughter, Laurie

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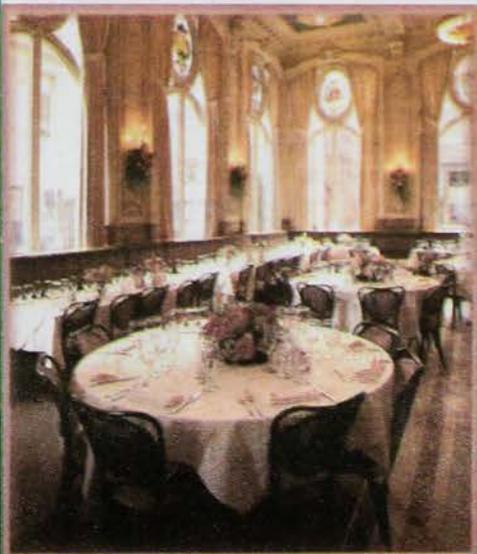
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Be an important partner in the *power of community*. Give generously to the 2002 JFRI campaign and invest in our future. You can give directly and immediately through a gift to the campaign, or you can ensure that the returns on your investment in the community do not stop after you are gone through an annual campaign endowment that funds your annual campaign pledge in perpetuity.

This is our community; this is our Federation.

To volunteer or learn about community programs, visit our website at www.jfri.org or call 401.421.4111.



Life Cycle Events

Becoming Bar Mitzvah

from page 3

studies began around age 9 with *Haftarah* readings in the synagogue from age 11 on.

In most Orthodox synagogues, only boys read from the Torah, though girls do have bat mitzvah celebrations. At Touro, for example, girls have a private ceremony for family and friends on either a Sunday morning or a Saturday evening Havdalah service. They read a *Haftarah* and give a speech on the topic of their choice.

At Congregation Ohave Shalom in Pawtucket, the girls (most of whom attend Providence Hebrew Day School for their education) don't read from the Torah or lead any of the prayers, but they do present a d'var Torah on the weekly Torah portion. Their bat mitzvah observance usually occurs at Shabbat services.

It is not that boys and girls are not equally important, Chabad Rabbi Yossi Laufer says. It is that they have different roles, but each significant.

3 pm Thursday, September 13

Many parents get nervous as their child's bar mitzvah day approaches. Zach's parents have even more reason to worry. With tightened military security after the terrorist attacks, no civilians are being allowed on the Newport Naval base, the site Zach's mother, Lori, a nurse at Women & Infants Hospital, booked a year ago for the reception.

Zach's father, Steve, a computer programmer who also teaches religious school at Beth-El, begins making phone calls. The hall at the Touro fraternal organization is available, if need be, but where are they going to get a caterer on such short notice.

With less than three days to go before the big day, the Kahan phone rings. It's the reception coordinator at the Naval Base. They've booked the Hyatt Regency Newport on Goat Island for the family, and they hope that's okay. Neither Lori or Steve have ever been there, but, yes, of course it's okay.

Now, they only need to worry if out-of-town guests will make it, and if anyone will really want to celebrate in this time of national mourning.

Friday afternoon, September 14

Lori visits the Hyatt for the first time, bringing with her the sports-themed centerpieces her friend Rhonda Labush has made, the place cards with pictures of Zach in various team uniforms, and the candy bars that have Zachary's name printed on the wrapper as well as an ingredient list that includes "laughter, love and kindness, topped with a loving family and many friends."

Her meeting with the party planner coincides with the telecast of a national memorial service, Lori finds out when a Hyatt bar patron asks her to be quiet so he can listen. The contrast in the joy of her upcoming simchah and the depth of the country's sadness does not escape her. She and the party planner quietly step aside to talk.

Saturday, September 15, 11 am

Zach and his family arrived at temple early. There were pictures to take, and a rehearsal on the bimah before the guests arrived. About 15 minutes ago, Rabbi Leslie Y. Gutterman escorted Zach, his parents and grandparents and sister behind the bimah for a combination of quiet reflection, emotional

bonding and pep rally. Zach put on a tallit for the first time. The family held hands in a circle and prayed.

Now, as quiet organ music plays in the background, the clergy and family reassemble on the bimah in front of 90 relatives and friends.

"During a week of darkness and desolation, we meet at a time of hope and joy," Rabbi Gutterman begins. As if in unison, the congregation seems to nod.

Zach's moment arrives.

"Va-hav-ta," he sings, clearly, tunefully, and with confidence. Sitting behind him, Steve nods, and Lori beams with pride.

Lori grew up in a Catholic home. When she and Steve married, they agreed to raise and educate their children as Jews.

"I'm very glad that Zachary has chosen to stay with his Jewish heritage," Lori says. Paying tribute to both sides of the family is a challenge at the ceremony, since there are parts of the service that can only be carried out by Jews. Steve's sister has an *aliyah*, saying the blessing before and after the Torah reading, and his cousins dress the Torah. Lori's parents close the ark.

Both Steve and Lori bless their son, and she gives a speech she wrote telling everyone about Zach's "generous heart," how the boy who was "incapable of washing dishes" around the house willingly volunteered his time to bathe animals at a local shelter. She also told how he and his 10-year-old sister Sydney anonymously left their used toys and videos on the doorsteps of neighbors with younger children, how they did so without even telling her, and how she found out when a neighbor, who'd seen them, dropped off thank-you cupcakes.

1:30 pm

Invited guests drift into the Hyatt Regency's ballroom, pausing to jot a personal note to Zach on a poster board he's left in the entryway, and picking up their seating cards. The color-coded cards have photos of Zach playing football, basketball, baseball and hockey, running track, practicing karate and swimming. Each sport corresponds to a table with themed centerpieces.

On the golf table there's a miniature putting green, scuba equipment on the swim table, and a tiny court on the basketball table.

At the rear of the room is an open bar. Waiters tour the room with platters of Buffalo-chicken fingers, beef teriyaki and lox-and-cucumber rounds.

Lori takes a seat at the head table, joined by Steve, her aunts, and her parents, Nancy and Bob Proulx.

"Little did you know, someday you'd be at your grandson's bar mitzvah," she tells her father. (Who passed away three weeks later.)

Steve's cousin, David, who drove up from New Jersey, makes a blessing over the hallah and wine, assisted by Sydney. David wears a red-white-and-blue American flag necktie. Flashbulbs go off.

2:30 pm

Zach's still in his conservative gray suit and gold necktie, but his friends have begun to toss their jackets and ties



Zach and his mother, Lori

aside, and almost all of the girls have kicked off their shoes. Disc jockey Uptown Sound is playing a limbo, making the heels they teetered on earlier a disadvantage.

The guests are mostly temple "family," members of the havurah and Sunday-morning coffee-and-bagel group the Kahans have come to think of as closer than friends.

They are honored along with a slew of aunts, uncles, great aunts and grandparents who are invited up to light the 13 candles on Zach's cake.

3:00 pm

The adults chow down on chicken marsala, herbed carrots and oven-roasted potatoes, while the kids dine on pizza and nachos. Steve puts down his fork as the first strains of "Butterfly Kisses" play, and he gets up to dance with his daughter.

Soon the dance floor is rocking with "YMCA," "Celebrate," and "Locomotion."

Steve wipes the perspiration from his forehead and calls the adults, who are more interested in their cake and ice cream, "stick-in-the-mud."

The kids are playing blow-up guitars and passing a beach ball around the dance floor. A conga line starts. The grandparents look on and smile.

4:30 pm

The reception begins to wind to a close, but not before the Hora, a wild, energetic rendition where Zach and his parents are hoisted high into the air on chairs, Steve swearing he'll fall to the ground at any moment. Everyone is on their feet, clapping, singing, spinning round in joy, the joy of the simcha.

For Zach, the day is over, but his learning is not. He plans on continuing on through confirmation, a ceremony held at the end of 10th grade in Reform congregations, and perhaps to high school graduation.



Zach put on a Tallit for the first time.

Torah Tutors

At Temple Emanu-El, post bar and bat mitzvah students have the opportunity to become Torah Tutors after completing a course in Torah trope with the cantor, says Steve Jablow, bar and bat mitzvah coordinator for the synagogue and Judaic studies teacher at Alperin Schecter Day School.

Torah Tutors are given a written and oral exam before being certified and assigned their own b'nei mitzvah students to work with. They then meet with the students once a week to study the Torah and Haftarah portions.

The relationships that develop are often so close that many Torah Tutors are invited to have an *aliyah* at their student's service.

Currently, there are 47 Torah Tutors at Temple Emanu-El. Graduating Torah Tutors are honored at a Shabbat service in the spring.

In addition to becoming a Torah Tutor, post bar and bat mitzvah students are encouraged to attend Midrasha, a Jewish after-school high school program that meets on Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings.

Life Cycle Events

A special child has a special ceremony...Bat Mitzvah



There's no doubt about it, 14-year-old Sivan Buchinsky is special. She's bright, articulate, warm, funny and beautiful. She also happens to have Down's Syndrome. It does not stop her from having a bevy of friends, from being a student in the Lincoln Middle School, nor from attending Saturday morning services at Temple Emanu-El wrapped in the tallit she made.

It also did not get in the way of her having a bat mitzvah celebration last April.

"Her older sister became a bat mitzvah," Sivan's mother Claudia says. "We were not going to make an exception for Sivan."

Unlike many parents who get an early warning through prenatal testing, Claudia and her husband Moshe, a Brown University economics professor, didn't know that there was anything wrong until Sivan's birth.

"They pulled her out, and suddenly there was dead silence in the room," Moshe remembers. "I looked at her and asked, 'Does she have Down's Syndrome?'" Sivan was taken for medical tests. It was awhile before either parent got to hold their baby.

Years later, Claudia sat with Sivan in the back of the sanctuary, as Sivan joined enthusiastically in Shabbat prayers. They were watched by a pregnant woman who had just found out the baby boy she was carrying would be born with Down's Syndrome. Claudia and the woman soon became friends.

"She told me that when she received the diagnosis, she knew that some of her dreams would have to change, that there would be no bar mitzvah," Claudia recalls. After seeing Sivan that morning, she had renewed hope.

Barbara Zenofsky, director of special needs at the Bureau of Jewish Education, works with children with learning disabilities, auditory and visual processing problems, reading disabilities, Attention Deficit Disorder, developmental delays and Down's Syndrome so that they may become bar or bat mitzvah.

In the 21 years Zenofsky has worked with children with special needs, "There have never been any that haven't had a bar mitzvah if they wanted to. We've always been able to make some accommodations. We've never had to say no."

Accommodations might mean one-on-one teaching for a year or more, adjusting the work load, color-coding parts of the lessons or working with an audio tape to reinforce what is being learned.

"It depends on the kids and their capabilities, what can be accomplished," Zenofsky says. "We have been surprised in

some cases, and totally blown away in others at the amount of work they can accomplish. Many have read directly from the Torah very similar to other populations of kids. One boy who was quite severely developmentally delayed learned a couple of small prayers, and learned about the synagogue and symbols. We made a special bar mitzvah for him and the boy became bar mitzvah."

Sivan was in the Bureau's program briefly but continued on her own with weekly tutoring from the cantor and a teacher and daily help from her mother.

"We started preparing 10 months before the bat mitzvah because we knew it would be a challenge," Claudia Buchinsky says. "The cantor usually assigns a teenage Torah Tutor. For kids who have extra concerns, a teacher works with them instead. I taught her how to read her sections. The teacher and cantor worked with her on the melodies."

"We skipped a few steps. We didn't have her learn the trope. Instead, the cantor gave me the musical notes, and I blew them up and pasted them onto her copy of the portion. She's a very visual learner, and the notes helped her know whether to make her voice go up or down."

Instead of doing a *d'var Torah*, Sivan spoke about her favorite holiday—Passover.

Claudia, who had been calm for the months preceding Sivan's bat mitzvah, realized during one of the last rehearsals how her role as a parent was changing. "It hit me when she was up on the stage. I was down below. I couldn't point out the words for her. I couldn't do anything. All of a sudden, she was on her own."

Sivan took it all in stride, walking to the bimah proudly. She faltered only once, found her place, and kept on going. When she stepped down from the bimah, her hands were shaking, and she burst into relieved

tears. The entire congregation cried with her, she says, "happy tears."

"I worked hard," Sivan says proudly. "I was very impressed with the Hebrew I did."

So were the 150-or-so guests who came from all over the United States and as far away as Israel (where Moshe was born and raised).

"I think other parents expect perfection, and worry if there's something else," Claudia says. "For us, Sivan surpassed what we'd expected anyway."

History of first bat mitzvah

The first bat mitzvah service was in 1937 at the Society for the Advancement of Judaism in Manhattan. The celebrant, Judith Kaplan, was the daughter of Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan, who founded the Reconstructionist movement.

Rabbi Kaplan challenged his four daughters to excel in their religious education and to question Orthodox views of the role of women in the synagogue. He thought up the idea of Judith's bat mitzvah only a day before it took place, and helped her practice her Torah portion the night before. Judith's bat mitzvah marked the first time that a Jewish female stood before the congregation as a Torah-reader.

Judith Kaplan Eisenstein later went on to earn a master's degree in music from Columbia University and a doctorate from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion's School of Sacred Music. She taught music education at the Jewish Theological Seminary, and published a book of children's music, *Gateway to Jewish Song* and a book for adults, *Heritage of Jewish Music*, as well as seven cantatas in collaboration with her husband, Rabbi Ira Eisenstein.

The Eisensteins had two daughters. Judith Kaplan Eisenstein died in 1996 at the age of 86.

Her memory lives on in the bat mitzvah practice which continues to be celebrated in a variety of ways throughout all branches of Judaism.



Sivan with mother, Claudia, and father, Moshe

Life Cycle Events

Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah, a fulfilling experience

While most Jews become b'nei mitzvah around age 13, this is not always the case. There are adult Jews who chose not to go through the process when they were teens, others who came from a country where they were not free to do so, and those who were not Jews when they were teens.

And others, like Trudy Trudell, did not have the opportunity because it was less common for women at that time. Trudell, a grandmother of three, was brought up in New Jersey in a family that celebrated Jewish tradition but wasn't particularly religious, she says. A bat mitzvah ceremony was not even considered for her.

It wasn't anything she missed either, that is, until about five years ago, when she began attending weekly Shabbat morning services and Torah study at Temple Beth-El.

"A friend of mine from Beth-El and a cousin from Boston were talking about the feeling they got from attending services, a feeling of community and closeness," Trudell, a Warwick resident who works in the executive offices at Brown University, says. "I don't envy people often, but listening to them, I realized it was a feeling that I never had."

The first time Trudell attended services she realized she was lost with all the Hebrew. Soon, she enrolled in an evening Hebrew class at temple, taking basic Hebrew for the first year, and intermediate Hebrew the next. By then, it seemed a natural progression to join the adult b'nei mitzvah class.

On a Friday night two years ago, Trudell stood up with 15 other adults, mostly women like herself, and read her Torah portion in front of the congregation for the first time.

"It was an exhilarating, wonderful feeling," she remembers. "I even impressed my kids that night. I didn't have the knowledge at my son's bar mitzvah years ago, but I was connected at mine."

Like Trudell, Temple Emanu-El school principal Susan Rodrigues did not have a bat mitzvah. Brought up in the Bronx, NY, Rodrigues received no formal Hebrew training. She moved to Rhode Island at the age of 11, too late to prepare for a bat mitzvah, her rabbi told her. Still, her Jewish roots were important to her and she continued to be involved in Jewish youth groups, later becoming president of her B'nai Brith chapter.

Several years ago, she became a bat mitzvah along with 12 others as part of an adult b'nei mitzvah class. She did not read from the Torah, and felt that the Hebrew prayers she read were learned by rote.

"My bat mitzvah wasn't fulfilling," Rodrigues says.

A year ago, she began studying Hebrew in earnest with "Mr. Adler," Edward O. Adler, Emanu-El's ritual director.

"I learned the alphabet, then went on to vowels, then baby grammar books," Rodrigues says proudly. "I can read just about anything now, slowly."

This coming December, Rodrigues will fulfill her dream of reading from the Torah at her oldest son's bar mitzvah. Jay, who is in the 7th grade at the Alperin Schechter Day School, will read six of the seven Torah *aliyot*. He has reserved the last for his mother.

"I feel that this is the only other thing that is going to make Jay proud," Susan Rodrigues says. "Mom is reaching her goal."

The two study together nightly, with Jay gently correcting his 46-year-old mother when she makes a mistake. Recently, they sat cross-legged on her bed, as they read through the Shabbat morning service together.

From the moment he was born, Jay's father, Michael, (who converted to Judaism) knew he wanted him to "get the best education there is, to know who he is and where he came from."

The Rodrigues bar mitzvah will be filled with tradition. There'll be a party, yes — a kiddush for the congregation after the ceremony and a party with dancing and dinner that night for over 200 family and friends — but the bottom line is "remembering how we got here and what this celebration is about."

"It's not about disco dancers," Susan Rodrigues says. "It's not about giving away 25 items to each kid. It's not black tie. It's not about the biggest and the best. It's about us all being alive and well. It's going to be a celebration."

In many congregations, there is a special moment in the service when the Torah scroll is taken from the ark and passed down through the hands of the grandparents to the b'nai mitzvah, from generation to generation. At Jay's bar mitzvah ceremony, mother and son will stand side by side.

And that is truly something to celebrate.

Lieberman from page 11

moved away. At 87, she still likes to take care of herself despite her extremely high blood pressure. Two years ago she started slowing down and was feeling extremely depressed. Now a driver picks her up daily and brings her to the Jewish Community Center for a meal and some social interaction. A social worker from Jewish Family Services checks up on her a few times a week, and with the life-line monitor the community provided for her, she is no longer afraid to be home alone at night.

"On September 11, we as Americans all changed. Our world became less secure, and the future more unknown," Gaines said. "We know that we must stay strong for our children." Gaines added that a strong community will keep families and children secure, and for that reason "we cannot allow ourselves to forget Dena, Lydia, and Ruth, because they are part of our family and our community."

When Lieberman spoke, she shared personal stories of last year's presidential campaign. She noted that the Secret Service agents protecting her family at Shabbat services came to learn the meanings of traditional Hebrew words; and how people from all faiths embraced her husband, "an observant, traditional Jew."

"We felt the power of our own traditions," Lieberman said. "We felt Judaism in Prime Time as never before."

In fact, Lieberman said that while on the campaign trail the vice presidential candidate and his family "met with no anti-Semitism. Our traditional observances became our greatest asset."

The daughter of Holocaust survivors and an immigrant, Lieberman noted that her "whole life was about survival. The campaign allowed me to represent the universality of immigrants and refugees." She added that people she met at every campaign stop showed her that the nation "truly was America the beautiful, America the tolerant."

Gaines commented after the event that in Lieberman's words "there was such a warm, inclusive feeling. I heard from so many women afterward who said they felt inspired by her talk."

During the past campaign, funds raised by the Women's Alliance along with other Jewish organizations have provided 960,000 food packages, made 1.6 million home visits and delivered 5.5 million hot meals to families, children and elderly through 121 Hased centers in 1,320 FSU locations. In Rhode Island alone, over 10,000 kosher lunches provided sustenance and an opportunity for social gathering for seniors. Over 2,200 Jewish students, pre-school through high school, were able to study Hebrew and Jewish studies in Rhode Island. More than 1500 individuals have received family, couple or individual counseling. And, over 3,000 Jewish youth participated in community supported informal educational opportunities, social gatherings and recreational activities.

Campaign contributions also support a resource center and library at the Bureau of Jewish Education (BJE), which serves over 250 educators. The BJE also has expanded the Harry Elkin Midrasha Community High School which provides a post-bar/bat mitzvah Jewish educational opportunity for 185 students. Despite escalating tensions in the Middle East, the BJE continues to organize Israel trips for High School and college students as well as for educators. Programs at the RI Holocaust Memorial Museum educated over 4000 students from all over RI. In addition, funds raised directly impact both the Brown/RISD and URI Hillels, which help to keep young college-age adults connected to Judaism.

The Women's Alliance of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island to date has raised \$833,596 from 1365 donors, and the overall Campaign has raised \$3,269,242 from 2446 donors.

Avis Gunther-Rosenberg is a free lance writer and a teacher at Temple Beth-El, and lives with her family in Warwick.

She has researched and written this collection of articles in The Voice's second installment of the 10 part series on contemporary celebration of Jewish life cycle events.



Susan Rodrigues and son Jay, who will become Bar Mitzvah in December. He will read six of the seven Torah *aliyot*, he has saved the last for his mother to read.

Jewish camps can create lifetime memories



Peter Petrik works on a traditional Native-American style clay coil pot at Camp Haverim JCC 2000

There's nothing like attending a Jewish summer camp to give you a sense of Jewish identity and belonging, says Charlotte "Charli" Lurie, director of children, youth and camp at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island (JCC) and arts-and-crafts specialist at Temple Beth-El.

Lurie attended the Reform movement's Camp Eisner in Great Barrington, Mass., as a teen — first as a camper, then a counselor-in-training and finally as a camp counselor.

"They were the best summers of my life," Lurie says. "Everyone was accepted unconditionally for who they were and their special talents. You get a sense of how special it is to be part of the Jewish community, and you take part of that identity back with you to your own little world that may not be so rich. I believe those summers pointed me in the direction of where I am in my career."

There are a variety of Jewish day- and overnight- camps in the area.

The JCC runs a nine-week summer day camp called Camp Haverim for children entering first through sixth grade. Arts and crafts, field trips, games, Jewish cultural events including music and Shabbat celebrations all are part of Camp Haverim. Last year, themes included "Mitzvah Magic," "Israel, Land of Milk and Honey," "Hurray for the Red, White and Blue," "Native American Adventures" and "Water, Water Everywhere."

JCC specialty camps, running concurrently, include soccer, tennis, theater and arts camps.

Prices range from \$165 to \$215 a week.

Camp JORI is a co-ed residential camp located near the shore in Narragansett. Over 150 campers, ages 7 to 15, enroll at each of two four-week sessions. (Two-week sessions are

available for first-time campers and there is a day camp program for the youngest children.) Activities include soccer, arts and crafts, swimming, ceramics, tennis, archery, basketball, canoeing and sailing. Food is kosher, Shabbat is celebrated. Children return year after year, bemoaning when they reach 13 and the regular program ends. Thus, the LIT (Leaders in Training) component was created especially for 14- and 15-year-olds and may include field trips such as mountain climbing. Many of these youths become junior counselors.

Camp JORI is preparing to relocate from its cramped 13-acre site to over 70 acres on the shores of Worden Pond. The move will facilitate a significant expansion of its camping programs and all of its facilities — cabins, theater, dining hall, sports fields, pools, outdoor gathering spaces, waterfront facilities — will be new.

Although not a Jewish camp, Camp Yawgoo offers a strong Jewish component for Jewish Boy Scouts. A Jewish chaplain lives on site and will even help boys prepare to become bar mitzvah, and there are various badges they may earn.

There are many other Jewish camps in New England which are affiliated with the various denominations. For a complete list of Jewish camps and contact numbers, visit the American Camping Association online at www.acancamps.org or the Association of Jewish-Sponsored Camps at www.jewishcamps.org. Other camp listings can be found at www.campstaff.com.

For information on JCC programs, call Lurie at 861-8800, ext. 147 or email clurie@jccri.org. For information on Camp JORI, call the winter office, 401-331-1244. Camp Yawgoo's director is Tom Sisson, 401-351-8700, ext. 333.

The Gift of Israel... an opportunity for all students to visit Israel

The Gift of Israel program was designed so that all youths could have an educational trip to Israel in their high school or college years without cost being a major factor. Bureau of Jewish Education-Israel Desk director Ruth "Duffy" Page says the program strengthens Jewish identity and fosters the relationship between Israel and the Diaspora as well as encouraging students to continue their Jewish education beyond the b'nei mitzvah years.

Children in grades 3 to 8 of a Jewish day or religious school may enroll in the program. Funding combines yearly contributions from parents of \$150, the participating synagogues \$50, and matching funds from the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island for a total of \$400 a year. (Most Rhode Island synagogues do participate. For those that do not, families contribute an additional \$50 a year.) Catch up plans are available for children who enroll after grade 3.

By the end of 10th grade, students have \$3,200 to use toward a four-week or longer trip to Israel. Grants and financial aid are available to cover any remaining costs, Page says.

Family contributions are placed into an account at Bank Leumi in New York. If, for any reason, the child decides not to take an approved Israel trip by age 23, the money, plus interest, remains the property of the family.

The Gift of Israel program began seven years ago with funds from the Charles R. Bronfman Foundation, a philanthropic family in Canada. There are over 40 such

programs in the United States, many called Passport to Israel.

In Rhode Island, 345 students are enrolled in the program, and more than two dozen have already taken trips.

Students have hundreds of trips to choose from with a wide variety of choices that range from summer trips with peers to college semesters.

Unfortunately, the fate of this summer's programs is unclear. Last summer, the national Reform movement canceled all of its summer youth trips to Israel because of safety issues. "The other movements felt that they could provide a secure environment and a significant experience,"

Page said. "They revised their itineraries based on daily security advisories."

"Students who graduate from day schools and yeshivas will still go to Israel as part of their high school experience. We'll just have to see on everyone else. The Bureau is planning on taking a group of principals in February. I'm still getting calls for next summer. People are making plans. I

can't say to anyone you absolutely should go. I can say for myself, I really feel safe."

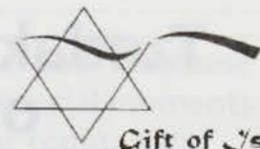
For more information and tips on how to select the best trip for your child, visit www.birthingisrael.com. Other programs are listed at www.isralexperience.com. For information on the Gift of Israel program, call Page at the BJE, 401-331-0956 or email rpage@bjeri.org.



Gift of Israel



Gift of Israel participants



Formal research and personal testimony demonstrates that a summer visit to Israel profoundly influences how young people relate to Israel and their Jewish identity. In recognition of the potential positive impact that the Israel experience can have, our community is working to sharply increase the number of young Jews who visit Israel on study/travel programs.

The **Gift of Israel** Program is a partnership among families, synagogues, the Jewish Federation Rhode Island and the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island. The JFRI's generosity has enabled this program to begin, and to continue. For information on **Gift of Israel**, call Ruth Page, Israel Desk Director at the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island, 331-0956.

Gift of Israel registration for the current academic year began on September 3, 2001 and continues until March 1, 2002 – so enroll now!

Eric Abbott	Miriam Diamond	David Goldgaber	Jamie Kaye-Phillips	Arielle Miles	Ethan Rosenberg	Robert Streicker
Aaron Abrams	Jennifer Dinerman	Max Goldin	Erik Kerzer	Jessica Miles	Rebecca Rosenberg	Amelia Suher
Jeffrey Adler	Rebecca Dinerman	J. Jason Goldman	Evan Kerzer	Samuel Miles	Michael Rosenstein	David Suher
Jonathan Adler	Jacob Dwares	Adam Goldstein	Jason Kerzer	David Miller	James Ross	Eli Sullivan
Rachel Adler	Max Dwares	Ilana Goldstein	Rachel Kerzer	Michaela Miller	David Rotenberg	Benjamin Swift
Stephanie Adler	Chloe Edmonds	Sydney Goldstein	Rebecca Kerzer	Shoshana Miller	James Rotenberg	Joshua Swift
Emily Ammerman	Maxwell Edmonds	Sarah Goliger	Brahma Kessler	Abigail Mintz	Mary Rothermich	Rachel Tauber
Rachel Ammerman	Ana Estes	Michael Goodwin	Hannah Kessler	Michael Mintz	Aaron Rudnick	Erica Teverow
Noah Bassel	Emily Estes	Molly Goodwin	Jenny Kessler	Orli Mintz	Adam Salk	Jill Teverow
Craig Bazarsky	Michael Feinstein	Alexandra Gordon	Robert Kessler	Gabriel Mitchell	Benjamin Salk	Miriam Tinberg
Jason Bazarsky	Jacob Felder	Charles Gordon	Elana Kieffer	Ilan Mitchell	Avi Salloway	Jenny Travis
Zachary Bazarsky	Sonia Felder	Adam Greenberg	Sophie Kieffer	Naomi Mitchell	Rachel Salloway	Ari Vieira
Eliza Bell	Sophie Felder	Aaron Greenspan	Joshua Kirschner	Kyla Mor	Mirah Sand	Jennifer Vieira
Esther Bell	Sara Fichman-Klein	Julia Greenspan	Seth Kirschner	Max Mor	Justin Schneider	Jacob Vogenberg
Zoe Bell	Zachary Fichman-Klein	Benjamin Halper	Lilia Kirtley	Benjamin Moskoff	Lindsay Schneider	Arielle Wachtenheim
Jacob Benesch	Gabriel Fine	Sam Halper	Rachel Kirley	Micah Moskoff	Alexander Schoenfeld	Denille Wachtenheim
Adam Beraha	Ezra Flam	Brent Hammin	Corina Klibanoff	Limor Nevel	Micah Schwartz	Marlene Wachtenheim
Benjamin Beraha	Gabriel Flam	Brittany Hammin	Rachel Klibanoff	Noga Nevel	Talia Schwartz	Adam Wallick
Joshua Beraha	Ryan Forman	Jacob Haworth	Bari Krauss	Chloe Newman	Chloe Johnson Serinsky	Julie Wallick
Hannah Bergman	David Foster	Kate Haworth	Sloane Krauss	Daniel Newman	Leah Johnson Serinsky	Leah Wallick
Rachel Bergman	Berkman Frank	Amiel Hersh	Spencer Kurn	Eli Nissel	Joshua Wang	Joshua Wang
Edward Bernstein	Adam Freedman	Brian Laferriere	Brian Kurn	Joseph Nissel	Matthew Sherman	Rachael Wang
Jeffrey Bernstein	Adam Freedman	Laura Landau	Brian Kurn	Shira Nissel	Mya Sherman	Jessica Weaver
Abigail Berren	Ben Freedman	Susan Landau	Brian Kurn	Clare Orenstein	Phillip Sherman	Aaron Weininger
Rebecca Berren	Joshua Freedman	Bethany Larivec	Brian Kurn	Matthew Orenstein	Stephen Sherman	Andrew Weiss
Emily Boksenbaum	Nathan Freedman	William Hirsch	Benjamin LeBlanc	Joshua Orson	Gregory Sherwin	Leah Weissburg
Martha Stokes Boksenbaum	Samantha Freedman	Samuel LeBlanc	Samuel LeBlanc	Rebekah Page	Jason Sherwin	Nathan Weissburg
Samantha Bowen	Allison Friedman	Melissa Leibowitz	Samuel LeBlanc	Benjamin Pedrick	Jeffrey Sherwin	Jennifer Wells
Brandon Braverman	Lauren Friedman	Aaron Lentz	Samuel LeBlanc	Geoffrey Pedrick	Ilana Shushansky	Lauren Wells
David Braverman	Deborah Furman	Joshua Lentz	Samuel LeBlanc	Daniel Pious	Nathan Shushansky	Dena White
Rebecca Braverman	Michael Furman	Eva Jablow	Samuel LeBlanc	Jordan Pious	Michael Shuster	Hannah White
David Brenman	Rachel Furman	Nathan Jablow	Samuel LeBlanc	Aryeh Pliskin	Misty Sidell	Aaron Wolff
Eve Broffman	Ruth Furman	Noah Jablow	Samuel LeBlanc	Sarah Pliskin	Emma Siegel-Reamer	Jeremy Wolff
Samuel Bromberg	Jonah Gabry	Daniel Jacobson	Samuel LeBlanc	Marisa Podbros	Mark Sikov	Reuven Yanver
Halee Brown	Raya Gabry	Judah Jacobson	Samuel LeBlanc	Nathan Podbros	Nathaniel Haspel Silver	Yisroel Yanver
Joel Buff	Eli Gafen	Miriam Jacobson	Samuel LeBlanc	Daniel Poses	Elizabeth Sinel	Matthew Yopak
Noah Buff	Alexander Gaines	Azriel Jakubowicz	Samuel LeBlanc	Andrew Quackenbush	Michelle Smoller	Alexander Zwetckhenbaum
Adam Cable	Benjamin Gaines	Miriam Jakubowicz	Samuel LeBlanc	David Radparvar	Elana Snow	
Anna Cable	Zachary Gaines	Yisrael Meir Jakubowicz	Samuel LeBlanc	Michael Radparvar	Arielle Spellun	Participating Synagogues
Benjamin Clark	Sara Gerstenblatt	Beth Japhet	Samuel LeBlanc	Aryeh Raskin	Jessica Spellun	Congregation B'nai Israel
Seth Clark	Melissa Ginsberg	Nathan Japhet	Samuel LeBlanc	Miriam Raskin	Elisheva Stark	Congregation Mikhkon Tfiloh
Shane Collins	Sarah Ginsberg	Sarah Kahn	Samuel LeBlanc	Moshe Raskin	Tova Stark	Congregation Ohave Shalom
Daniel Combs	Alex Glashow	Adam Kaplan	Samuel LeBlanc	Natanyia Raskin	Benjamin Steele	Temple Am David
Matthew Combs	Ethan Gnepp	Cara Kaplan	Samuel LeBlanc	Yehudis Shifra Raskin	Sarah Steele	Temple Beth-El
Rochelle Cotton	David F. Gold	Jacklyn Katz	Samuel LeBlanc	Yisroel Meir Raskin	Jolie Steiman	Temple Emanu-El
Madison Cunha	Emily Gold	Jacob Katz	Samuel LeBlanc	Phillip Raskin	Sara Steiman	Temple Habonim
Maximillian Cunha	Rebecca H. Gold	Marc Katz	Samuel LeBlanc	Maxwell Rich	Sam Stein	Temple Sinai
Spencer Davis	Zachary Gold	Sharon Katz	Samuel LeBlanc	Eli Rodrigues	Jonathan Steingold	Temple Torat Yisrael
Lucas DeForest	Eric Goldberg	Martin Katzoff	Samuel LeBlanc	Jay Rodrigues	Lauren Steingold	Touro Synagogue
Avraham Diamond	Jesse Goldberg	Bruce Kaufman	Samuel LeBlanc	Abby Rogol	Stephanie Steingold	Congregation Agudas Achim
Chana Diamond	Rebekah Goldberg	Abby Kaye-Phillips	Samuel LeBlanc	Joshua Rogol	Abigail Stauber	
Elisheva Diamond	Zachary Goldberg	Dena Kaye-Phillips	Samuel LeBlanc	Sara Rosen	Eve Streicker	

Tzedakah teaches families true meaning of children's Bar/Bat Mitzvah

When Scarsdale, NY native Alex Rosenthal became a bar mitzvah two years ago, he and his mother were frustrated with the lack of information about how to incorporate *tzedakah* and acts of loving kindness into the ceremony and reception.

His mother spent months researching charities that made *kipot*. Rosenthal visited local social-service agencies and chose homeless shelters and Head Start to be recipients of the books he collected and made into centerpieces for the dinner tables at his party.

Still, he felt that wasn't enough.

Three months after his bar mitzvah, during "spare time between school and camp," he researched national charities and created a website to help other students add giving into their b'nai mitzvah celebrations.

Some examples from his site, <http://members.aol.com/mitzvah99/mypage/index4.htm>, include: Mitzvot you can do before the b'nai mitzvah:

- On the invitation, ask guests to bring clothing, canned food, sports equipment, baby items or loose change to be donated to a needy organization.

- Include an envelope with the invitation addressed to a favorite charity. Ask guests to donate to the charity in lieu of a gift.

Mitzvot you can do at the service:

- Donate bimah flowers to a shelter or hospital.
- Invite elderly residents of a local retirement home to come and enjoy the service, and provide transportation for them.

Mitzvot you can do at the reception:

- Have a tree planted in Israel in honor of each of your guests or table of guests.
- Donate a portion of the meal to Mazon (a national Jewish organization that provides food for the hungry) or a local soup kitchen.
- Incorporate mitzvot into any games being played. For example, have guests bring clothing to donate which-

they can match together and have relay races with.

Mitzvot you can do once your b'nei mitzvah celebration is over:

- Donate a portion of your gift money to a favorite charity.

- Research local charities and prepare a website with suggestions for future b'nai mitzvot.

Clinical psychologist Lesley B. Landau says that celebrating the spirituality of the *simchah* needs to be "a conscious effort from the start." She uses Rabbi Jeffrey K. Salkin's book, *Putting God on Your Guest List*, to teach families how to focus on the true meaning of their children's bar/bat mitzvah celebration.

When Landau's oldest daughter became a bat mitzvah last January, the two discussed which mitzvot she would like to work harder on. Her daughter decided she wanted to attend synagogue and read Torah more regularly. At the reception following her bat mitzvah ceremony, the centerpieces were made of books that Landau later donated to Hasbro Children's Hospital.

Landau suggests that b'nei mitzvah open separate "tzedakah fund" savings accounts with the money they receive as gifts, donating the interest each year to a charity of their choice. That way, the mitzvah is ongoing.

She also suggests talking with parents and grandparents about the significance of b'nai mitzvah in their generations,



Leslie Landau, using Rabbi Jeffrey Salkin's book, *Putting God On Your Guest List*, at BJE's Renaissance night, teaches parents how to focus on the true meaning of their child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

linking the children more strongly with their traditions and their past. Other ideas include blessing your child with a personalized prayer during the service or asking guests to write their own blessings on the response card, and tying the theme to a particularly meaningful quote from the Torah or Haftarah portion.

As for planning the reception, Landau offers this guideline: "Ask yourself if a stranger entering the party would be able to identify the event being marked as somehow different from a prom, dinner-dance or sweet-16 party." If it isn't, look for ways to cut excess and add spirituality.

Candle lighting, cup of life, traditional but not significant

What is the significance of the candle-lighting ceremony so popular at b'nei mitzvah receptions? According to Rabbi Jeffrey Salkin, author of *Putting God on Your Guest List*, there is none.

The tradition, though beautiful, was created by American kosher caterers in the 1950s. The ceremony combines a birthday cake with 13 candles. Often, the bar/bat mitzvah calls up 13 relatives, teachers or

friends who have made an impact in their lives to light the candles. Once they are all lit, everyone sings "Happy Birthday," and the guest of honor blows the candles out.

Another alternative is the "cup of life" ceremony in which honored guests are each given a small kid-dush cup of wine that they pour into a larger wine glass. The bar/bat mitzvah then drinks from the cup after making a blessing.

For suggestions on party themes and a guide for creating a guest list and seating arrangements, visit <http://www.party411.com>. The creative website offers ideas for setting up the welcome area, the cocktail area and tables, as well as designing seating cards and centerpieces and planning activities. Some suggested themes include "Garden of Eden," "Rock 'n Roll," "Harry Potter Saves the Day".



Zach and 13 significant people in his life light the 13 candles on his cake.



Zach participating in the "cup of life" ceremony

Early Childhood Open House at the JCC

It seems as though the new school year has just begun, yet the days and weeks are quickly slipping away. Before you know it, the school year will be over, summer will be upon us and we will be planning what to do for the 2002-2003. Now is the time to begin your journey to find a quality early childhood program for your child.

The JCC Early Childhood Center presents a comprehensive, Jewish developmental program that is committed to creating a sense of community for our families. For Jewish and non-Jewish families alike, the programs focus on community, sensitivity to individual needs and sound early childhood programming. The goal is to create and maintain a warm, caring environment that will foster positive Jewish identity and values while respecting the diversity of background of our Center families.

The curriculum blends secular and Judaic programming, providing a wide range of hands-on learning experiences to enhance the social, emotional, physical and cognitive growth. Developmentally appropriate individual and group experiences enable each child to grow and progress individually.

The Early Childhood Center offers programs for children ages three months through five years, of all backgrounds and religions, as well as children with special needs.

Parents may learn more at an Open Houses where teachers, parents and staff will discuss programs and to answer questions.

Sunday, November 18	2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Monday, November 19	7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Tuesday, January 8	7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Sunday, January 27	2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Wednesday, January 30	7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

For further information, contact Sue Connor, Early Childhood Director at 401-861-8800, ext. 142.

JCC is the place to be when school is out

Children registered in the JCC's Kidspace and Pre-Teen Connection (PTC) Afterschool program are automatically eligible to participate in a variety of special Vacation Day events. Whether it's a parent-teacher conference day, teachers' professional day, or holiday break, there are always well-supervised games, arts and crafts, and swimming.

On Monday, November 12 a special Veteran's Day theme will be woven into the day's activities. Although the Kidspace/PTC program does not offer supervision the day after Thanksgiving, there are lots of surprises being planned for December vacation week.

The JCC's Kidspace/PTC Afterschool program is facilitated by a staff of counselors who offer a variety of backgrounds and talents. Kathy Rubien has almost 10 years experience in the Kidspace/PTC program, while Michele Avissar has returned for her second year as a counselor.

David Paley, who has also been a JCC lifeguard, is joined by Keri Harris, Ella Dolgoplov, and Laura Labosco as the newest additions to the Kidspace/PTC "family."

In addition, Gal Ben-Ami, an Israeli high school graduate, has joined the staff as part of the Partnership 2000 Young Emissaries Program. His involvement will provide numerous opportunities for the children and fellow counselors to learn about the Israeli culture and way of life.

For more information, call Charli Lurie, Director of Children, Youth and Camp, in the Kidspace/PTC office, 401-861-8800, ext. 147.

Slam-dunk at the "J"!

Youth Basketball Season Has Arrived

Can you hear it? Listen closely... "Pass the ball... shoot it... YES!"

It's basketball season again and the ball is dribbling down the court of the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island. As children begin to follow the wins and losses of their favorite basketball teams, the JCC offers a direct way to get involved with the game: the Youth Basketball Program.

The Youth Basketball has three different leagues, scaled to the age of the child: ages 6-7, 8-9, and 10-13. There are two coaches per team, with each league typically having four teams. The first 4 to 5 weeks will focus on developing fundamental skills, then the weekly games begin. Games are played on Sundays, beginning November 18th and continuing through March 3rd.

All leagues will play at the newly refurbished JCC gym. Volunteer coaches are still needed for 6-7 year olds and 10-13 year olds. For information on registering for the Youth Basketball Program, call Lisa Mongeau, Health and Physical Education Director, or Darlene Desroches at 401-861-8800, ext. 149.

Agencies

Books for all ages

Books, books and more books will be offered at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island's Annual Bookfair which runs from Sunday, December 2nd through Monday, December 17. The Bookfair will feature a wide selection of new books for children, adults and families. As in previous years, gift items for adults and children, including menorahs, candles, wrapping paper, decorations and other paper goods will be on sale.

Hanukkah Stories for All Ages

As part of our Bookfair program, Mark Binder will present Hanukkah stories for all ages on December 4th at 6:30 pm. A book signing and reception will follow the storytelling. Binder has published hundreds of short stories throughout the US and Canada. He is an internationally known writer and storyteller and a former editor of the Rhode Island Jewish Herald.

Binder is currently writing a serialized novel of Chelm called *The Brothers Schlemiel*, which is told in weekly installments. Described as "an Audio Book for the whole Family," *The Brothers Schlemiel* tells the story from birth to bar mitzvah of Abraham and Adam, identical twins growing up confused in the Village of Chelm.

For the Bookfair schedule, information, or to volunteer, contact Linda Singer-Berk, JCC assistant director, at 401-861-8800, ext. 110.

Earlybirds can workout at JCC

The JCCRI will introduce 5:00 a.m. work-out hours beginning the week of November 15th, Monday through Thursday (the pool continues to open at 6:00 am).

New Aerobic Classes

Two new classes are being offered as part of our Group Exercise program.

Knock Out Plus is an intense cardiovascular and strength conditioning class that incorporates movements from boxing, Tai Kwondo, and Karate. Utilizing gloves and wraps, soft part glove to glove sparring is combined with punches and kicks. This class is offered on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.

Latin Groove is a class that incorporates elements of Latin dance and music. Join Agosto in this class with a special Latin flavor. Learn typical Latin dance. Class meets on Thursdays at 5:30 pm.

For more information about the JCC Aerobics and group exercise program, contact Allie Terreault at 401-861-8800, ext. 210 or Lisa Mangeau at ext. 149.

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That's Life:

Coping with Alzheimer's: caring for the caregiver

by Daniel Kane JFS Social Worker

"Help! Help! Help!" The sound of fear from the mouth of a parent. What do you do when that fear is caused by a visitor your parent did not recognize? How do you cope when that visitor is you?

For many middle-aged adults, caring for children while holding down a job is considered a fulltime responsibility. Today, many people find that they are also caring for their parents. That, too, frequently can become a full-time job. The stresses associated with all of these roles can tear apart marriages, make people put their careers on hold, or lead to feelings of depression.

Alzheimer's disease. There are very few illnesses that are so frightening to so many people. The fears of lost independence, forgetfulness and becoming dependent on others to carry out one's most basic functions can be a source of great anxiety for the parent. Although very little that can be done to prevent Alzheimer's disease, help is available for the caregivers.

An early diagnosis can be critical, as advances in drug therapies can help stave off progress of the disease. Parents who were particularly social may be able to con doctors into believing that there are no problems. Therefore, communication with your parent's physician can be helpful.

It is imperative that legal and financial documents be prepared early. Help your parents, while they are still healthy, to get all

financial and legal papers organized, and in a place that is easily accessible. If your parents do not have one yet, they should consider writing a will, and obtaining an advanced directive or durable power of attorney. Never assume that you can take care of these concerns at a later date. In the absence of these written preparations, caregivers might find themselves going through a court process to seek guardianship, an expensive and time-consuming proposition.

It is important, not only for yourself, but for your parent as well, to stay relaxed. When they forget something very important right after you remind them, do not chastise them, argue or blame them. This will only agitate or shame your loved one. Memory loss is not something over which they have control.

Sometimes, to maintain safety in the home, structural changes are in order, such as: removing throw rugs that someone could slip or trip on; installing handrails in the bath and shower; making a bedroom on the first floor; removing knobs from stoves to prevent them from accidentally starting fires.

It is important to know your limits. It is usually recommended that people with Alzheimer's stay in their own homes until this is no longer a safe option. If you are considering having your loved one move in with you, discuss

this choice with your parent, spouse and children. Hear what they have to say. Allow them to voice their thoughts and concerns. Come up with a schedule of who will provide what care, and when.

Sometimes, caring for the one you love in your own home might prove to be too much. Ask friends and community agencies for recommendations on facilities that can provide care for people with Alzheimer's disease. Find, or inquire about support groups for people caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's disease.

Most important, learn to take care of yourself. Caregiving can be a rewarding experience, but it also takes its toll on people. For example, research shows that people who care for a loved one perceive that they are in poorer health compared with peers who are not caregivers, and are also more likely to be clinically depressed.

Do not take nasty comments, arguments or accusations personally. This is not a reflection on you as a child, spouse or caregiver. Some situations are out of your and your loved one's control. Every so often, allow yourself a good cry. Venting can be therapeutic, and can make you a more compassionate caregiver. Some people will seek counseling to help them cope with this difficult time in their lives.

Jewish Family Service is available to help you and your loved one whenever a crisis occurs. For help, call 401-331-1244. We're here.

JFS selects family of the year



One of two families selected for the 2001 Jewish Family Service Family of the Year Award, the Bromberg/Rosenstein family. Back row: (l-r) Arnold, Jane, Sam, Matthew and Scott Bromberg. Nominator Irving Waldman, Shira, Michael, Jay and Avi Rosenstein. Seated (l-r) Howard, Susan, Malcom, Ruth Bromberg and Judy Rosenstein.



(l-r) Nominators Lois and Robert Kemp with one of two Jewish Family Service Family of the Year Award recipients: Sara, Harold, Adam and David Foster.

The many faces of adoption

When considering adoption, there are so many kinds, plus a plethora of resources. Where do you begin?

It can be very valuable to hear the perspectives of families who have already adopted. What choices worked best for them? How did they proceed? What challenges did they face? What joys did they experience?

Just such an opportunity presents itself at "The Many Faces of Adoption: Families Tell Their Stories," a panel discussion hosted by Adoption Options' Adoption Resource Center on Wednesday, November 14 at 6:30 pm. RSVP by Monday, November 12.

Several families from Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts will discuss their experiences and a question and answer period will follow the discussion.

The Adoption Resource Center will be open during the program for use of potential adop-

tive parents, birth parents, people who have been adopted and professionals working with members of the adoptive community. The center houses books, periodicals, videos and internet connections covering all aspects of adoption.

The event celebrates November, National Adoption Month, and kicks off National Family Week which begins November 18. The program will be in the Conference Center at the United Way building, 229 Waterman Street, Providence.

Adoption Options has received a grant for the "Many Faces of Adoption" from the Alliance for Children and Families as part of the National Family Week: Connections Count, an initiative funded through the Alliance's support from The Annie E. Casey Foundation.

Adoption Options, a non-sectarian, non-profit, comprehensive adoption program of Jewish

Family Service is licensed in both Rhode Island and Massachusetts. The Rhode Island office is on the second floor of 229 Waterman Street, Providence. The Massachusetts office is in the Community Counseling building at 366 Winthrop Street in Rehoboth.

Regular Informational

Adoption Options' informational meetings, which are free and open to anyone interested in pursuing an adoption, convene on the following schedule:

- In Providence, the first Thursday of every month, 6:00 to 7:00 pm, at the JFS offices. Next meeting December 6.

- At the Massachusetts office, call 1-800-337-6513 for information on the next meeting.

To attend any of the events, or to arrange a confidential consultation, call 401-331-5437 or toll-free at 1-800-337-6513. Or visit the web site at www.adoptionoptions.org.

All About Adoption:

Understanding trans-racial adoption

by Betsy Alper, Adoption Options Adoption Coordinator

The decision to adopt involves, as any decision to start a family, the choice to be a parent. All parents who make this choice face the challenge of helping their children become stable, healthy and happy individuals. The choice to adopt trans-racially involves additional challenges.

Trans-racial adoption is the joining of racially different parents and children in an adoptive family. In this country this usually refers to the placement of non-Caucasian children with Caucasian parents. Parents who are considering adopting trans-racially must realize that this challenge includes providing the child with a healthy sense of his or her cultural and racial identity. There are questions they must ask themselves.

- Why are we considering trans-racial adoption?
- Are we ready to become a non-white family in a white society?
- Are we prepared to help our child deal with discrimination and racism as a family?
- What do we know about the race and culture of the child we want to adopt?
- How will we teach our child about his or her birth culture and race?

Greetings from JFRI to JFS at annual meeting



Executive Vice President Janet Engelhart brings greetings from the Jewish Federation of RI to Jewish Family Service at its annual meeting on October 18.

USY teens ship out to George's Island



Amanda Werber, from left, Michelle Levinson, Shoshana Miller, Lymor Ringer, Lisa Pelcovits and Rachel Bedick shake to the music on the dance floor of a harbor cruise ship enroute to George's Island. They were part of a joint NERUSY and Kadima annual fall trip which brings together hundreds of USY youth from all over New England. The trip was held as a reunion for teens who met over the summer in camp and as a kick-off for the new year's upcoming activities. More than three dozen teens from Providence and Cranston took part.

Understanding Trans-racial Adoption

From page 32

Families choose to adopt trans-racially for a variety of reasons. Sometimes parents feel connected to a particular race or culture because of personal experiences. Sometimes they view trans-racial adoption as a way to enrich their family. Others feel that becoming parents is the primary goal and that for them it makes sense to adopt a child who needs a family the most, regardless of background.

There are a variety of ways that families who have adopted trans-racially support their children's development of identity with birth culture. Living in multi-ethnic neighborhoods, allowing children to attend integrated schools, joining multi-ethnic cultural institutions and other cultural institutions are just a few.

Families routinely provide books, toys and music that reflect the child's birth culture. In this manner all family members who face the challenges associated with trans-racial adoption also have the benefits of growing and learning about each other in new and creative ways throughout the life cycle.

Bereavement support group meets monthly

Crossroads is a unique bereavement support group, an opportunity to discuss and share feelings with others in similar circumstances. It is especially for widows or widowers, those divorced, or who are currently experiencing some kind of loss.

Monthly meetings of this new support group will begin on Monday, November 5 at 1:00 pm at the JCC, 401 Elm Grove Avenue, Providence, 02906. Subsequent meetings will continue the 1st Monday of every month at 1:00 pm.

Lois Guise, Director of Bereavement with Hospice Care of RI will be the facilitator.

For more information, contact Sue Robbio Senior Adult Coordinator at 401-861-8800 ex 107.

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National family week: connections count

Jewish Family Service (JFS) joins with organizations across the country during Thanksgiving week to celebrate the 31st annual National Family Week: Connections Count, November 18-24.

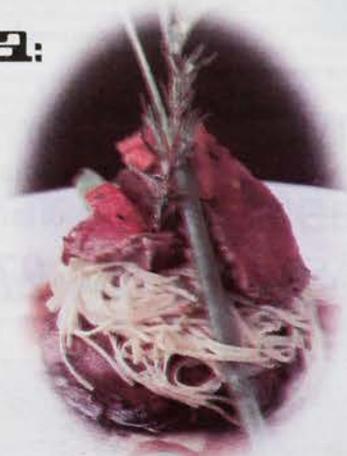
National Family Week embraces the premise that children live better lives when their families are strong, and when they live in communities that connect them to economic opportunities, social networks, and services. These "connections" include everyday access to high-quality transportation, employment opportunities, education and child care – as well as positive relationships within and among family members.

Sam Wiley, who was a teacher and administrator in Indianapolis, founded National Family Week in 1968. The Alliance for Children and Families, based in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, of which JFS is a member, has directed National Family Week efforts across the country for more than 30 years. The Alliance encourages activities and events that celebrate families, and offers information about National Family Week through a web site, www.nationalfamilyweek.org or a toll-free number, 1-800-221-2681.

In addition to its year-round services to strengthen families with counseling services, services to the elderly and their families, Home Care, Lifeline/RI, the JFS Kosher Mealsite in Cranston, Kosher Meals on Wheels, resettlement and Adoption Options comprehensive adoption services, Jewish Family Service honors families every fall with its Family of the Year Awards. The awards are presented to families nominated by community members as exemplifying the strengths to which families aspire. Jewish Family Service's Adoption Options is hosting a panel discussion on November 15 called "The Faces of Adoption: Families Tell Their Stories," sponsored in part by the Alliance through a grant from the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

In the event of child abuse...

The teenage years can be stressful for parents and children. If you need help dealing with these issues, or know someone who does, contact Jewish Family Service at 401-331-1244. If you know of a child who is being abused, call the Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-RI-CHILD.



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Designing Events From Home To Home

JFS Lifeline RI – not only for the elderly

People often think of personal emergency response systems such as Lifeline/RI as a service for the frail elderly. In fact, the program serves a variety of people, young and old. There are many reasons people subscribe. Some want the reassurance of knowing help is available quickly, or the ability to use the phone from across the room, and the freedom from worrying about having a medical crisis.

A young person who uses a wheelchair... a woman who is vision-impaired... a man with diabetes... a woman recovering from surgery who lives alone... a middle-aged man who recently had a heart attack... a young mother whose baby has a medical condition – these are all people who benefit from the Lifeline/RI program, in addition to elderly people.

Jewish Family Service's Lifeline/RI was created to answer the needs of people who have limited mobility or conditions where immediate assistance is crucial. These individuals appreciate the extra security that comes from knowing help can be summoned instantaneously. A 24-hour emergency personal response system, Lifeline/RI provides access to assistance at the touch of a button.

Subscribers receive a "Personal Help button" which is worn as a pendant and a small home-installed unit. In the event of an emergency, the user simply pushes the button and a signal is immediately transmitted via telephone to a response center staffed by trained professionals. The subscriber's medical history and any pertinent information, such as phone numbers for relatives, neighbors and medical services appear on a screen, allowing a dispatcher to send appropriate help.

For more information, call JFS at 401-331-1244, ext. 19.

JSA Chaver training is off the ground

Jewish Seniors Agency second CHAVER (Caring Helpers And Visitors Empower Residents) training started on October 11, 2001.

During the eight-week training, which ends on December 13, 2001 individuals will receive extensive training on how to become spiritual care visitors to Jewish residents who are currently living in nursing homes. The volunteers will learn about the Jewish Mitzvah of bikkur cholim (visiting the sick), as well as gaining the necessary skills on how to listen and be a spiritual visitor. Other topics that will be discussed are Alzheimer's disease, working with different population groups and use of prayer while visiting. At the conclusion of the course, volunteers will be assigned to a nursing home that is close to where they live. They will visit the Jewish residents who live there on a regular basis, under the supervision of CHAVER coordinator, Rabbi Andrea M. Gouze and Susan Adler, director of Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island.

This is an exciting opportunity to become more involved and gain the gratification of knowing that you are making a difference in somebody's life. For more information or if you are interested in becoming a CHAVER volunteer and sign up for the spring session, please call Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island at 621-6374.

Graduates from the last training have been visiting residents in nursing homes across the state.

Artists at Epoch



Epoch on the East Side activity programmer Michele Keir hand-painting yarmulkes with residents. Each kippah is an original design. Yarmulkes donated by members of Temple Sinai

Outcome measurement: planning tool for JFS

While many funding sources require outcome measurement, at Jewish Family Service (JFS) this assessment process is standard procedure, because it is an invaluable tool for evaluating programming and planning for future services.

Director of Professional Services Erin Gisherman Minior says, "It helps us look more objectively at what we are doing and provides information on the effectiveness of our programs." For example, counseling clients, with their therapists, identify at least three goals and, at the end of the sessions, determine whether these have been accomplished. When appropriate, additional goals may be set.

Minior says, "We evaluate on an ongoing basis to work with more measurable goals, with the added benefit of reinforcing progress and allowing quicker response when changes are needed."

The Resettlement program tracks progress in the areas of health, health insurance, education and employment, making sure the agency is able to connect or reconnect people with the resources they need to meet their goals and overcome obstacles.

Home Care, aiming to help people remain at home and delay or prevent institutionalization, can be analyzed effectively by studying the impact of the registered nurses. Several parameters are measured, including how often they are called for medical intervention, how much they interface with doctors and facilitate lab work.

The emergency assistance program follows up each intervention after two weeks with a visit from the case manager. The goal is to make sure the person is connected to the social services necessary to prevent future crises once the initial situation has been resolved.

The results of the measurements are used for planning, staffing and evaluation of services.

For more information about outcome measurement and the programs of Jewish Family Service, call 401-331-1244.

Zurier to lecture at RIJHA

The Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association will join forces with the Rhode Island Historical Society to sponsor a lecture on December 2 by RIJHA member Mel Zurier. Zurier's talk, "Early Jewish Legal Cases in Rhode Island," is part of the Rhode Island Historical Society's lecture series *Crime and Punishment*.

The lecture will be at RIHS headquarters, Aldrich House, at 110 Benevolent Street, Providence at 2:00 pm. The lecture is open to the public, free of charge. Call 401-331-8575 to reserve a space.

Do you know Minnie?

YIVO News (Summer 2001) is looking for information on former Providence resident **Minnie Goldstein**. In 1942, Minnie wrote her autobiography and entered it in a contest sponsored by YIVO, which now wants to publish the autobiography, but needs permission from the family.

Here is the only information they have:

Minnie moved to Providence between 1905-1910. YIVO does not have the first name of her husband or her sons. There were three sons, one of whom suffered polio. Minnie nursed him back to health on a farm in Connecticut. The oldest son became a lawyer; the other two were chemists. She was active in Workmen's Circle and in Pioneer Women.

If you have any information that could help YIVO, contact Anne Sherman at the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association, 401-331-1360.



Minnie Goldstein

Midwinter RIJHA meeting

Philip E. Miller, PhD, director of the Klau Library at Hebrew Union College in New York, will be the keynote speaker for the Midwinter Meeting of the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association on Sunday, November 18 at 2:00 pm. at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island.

Miller's, *From Providence to the Vatican: Journeys of a Jewish Bibliophile*, will feature the extensive research he conducted on the Hebrew manuscripts in the Vatican Library. In addition to being a professional librarian he is interested in the Karaites (a sect originating in the Middle Ages that rejects the authority of rabbinic tradition), the Arabic language, and the *Qur'an*. He is the author of *Karaite Separatism in Nineteenth Century Russia*, published by Hebrew Union College Press.

Miller, a native of Providence, where he attended Classical High School, is the son of Jacob Miller, who taught Italian, Spanish, and French at Classical High School, Mount Pleasant High School, and at Warren and Cranston High Schools.

The meeting is free and open to the public.



Dr. Phillip E. Miller

Community invited to dedication

The public is invited to the Jewish War Veterans of the United States, Rhode Island department, dedication of its stunning new Memorial Wall of Honor on November 18 at 10:30 am at Lincoln Park Cemetery, 1489 Post Road, Warwick.

Richard Holland, son of General Leonard Holland, former Commander of the Rhode Island National Guard, will place a wreath at the special memorial for his father.

A national representative will be the keynote speaker, and US Senator Jack Reed, other dignitaries of Congress, Governor Lincoln Almond and Lt. Governor Charles Fogerty all will participate.

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JEWISH WAR VETERANS
OF RHODE ISLAND
WALL OF HONOR

NCJW awards scholarships

The RI section of the National Council of Jewish Women awarded \$4,500 in scholarships for the 2001-2002 academic year.

Requiring high academic achievement and service to the greater community, the following six students were awarded scholarships:

Shelby Freedman, Warwick. A graduate of Brown University, *Magna Cum Laude*, attending graduate school at Yeshiva University in Psychology. She intends to become a Doctor of Clinical Psychology.

Ellina Khaykin, Cranston. Ellina is presently entering her third year in the Doctor of Pharmacy program at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy at the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia.

Shayna Kulick, Cranston. A Sylvia Rossman Galkin Scholar, given by Robert and Warren Galkin. Shayna enters her junior year at George Washington University as a design student.

Steven Laferriere, Rehoboth, MA. A Sylvia Rossman Galkin Scholar, given by Anne Krause. Steven enters Brandeis University this fall, armed with fine academic preparation at Dighton-Rehoboth Regional HS. He has a reputation as a leader in both classroom projects, extracurricular intellectual pursuits and athletic goals as well as in religious activities.

James Ross, Newport. A Maurice J. Shore Scholar, given by Fannie Shore. James is a graduate of Rogers HS and enters Williams College, Williamstown, MA. He has been a volunteer over the past four years for the Salvation Army, Boy Scouts and Newport Hospital. In addition, he assisted his Rabbi in teaching Sunday school classes. Because of his versatility and outstanding academic record, James was chosen to be a Feinstein Scholar. He is also an Eagle Scout.

Lauren Wier, West Warwick. Awarded the Stephanie Zaidman Scholarship, given by Doris and Irving Zaidman. As Lauren enters her second year at Brown University, she continues to perform myriad community services, including educating middle and high school students about sex, decision making and relationships through BRUSHE (Brown Undergraduate Sex and Health Educators), and volunteers in a Providence Special Needs classroom. Lauren has been selected by Brown to be a Meiklejohn peer-advisor for this fall's freshman class.

Shalom names board



Maurice Glicksman president of Jewish Seniors Agency and Shalom signs papers at Shalom annual meeting.



Carol Feibleman, Dr. Robert Ducoff, and Howard Ostrowsky have been members of the Shalom board for many years.

The Shalom I and II apartments are managed by Jewish Seniors Agency.

Bonnie & Donald Dwares invite you to A Rhode Island Get-Together

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Amnesty Int'l at RI Holocaust Museum Seminar

By O'Brian Kaufman

Ask most anyone to name something memorable of the Holocaust and the answers are common: gas chambers, graves of stacked bodies, Anne Frank. Few people would say the Soviet Union, the country in which some 1.5 million Jews lost their lives at the hands of Nazi forces.

"There were no gas chambers. People were killed in open air massacres," said Joshua Rubenstein, Northeast regional director of Amnesty International. "People might remember Babi Yar—but there were hundreds of Babi Yars."

Rubenstein was a special guest at a 2-day conference on the Holocaust designed for educators, which was sponsored by the Rhode Island Holocaust Museum and Moses Brown School.

The Amnesty director is considered an expert on the Holocaust. He has published two books: *Stalin's Secret Pogrom, The Postwar Inquisition of the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee*, and *Tangled Lives, The Life and Times of Ilya Ehrenburg*. The first and latest book is based on the trial transcripts of 15 prominent Soviet Jews in 1952, who were executed for being "anti-socialist" based on their activities against the Nazis and on behalf of Stalin's government. The second is the story of the most renowned Jewish journalist in the Soviet Union, a supporter of Stalin. After Stalin's death, Ehrenburg wrote of the massacres in the Soviet Union, challenging Soviet censorship.

Asked if the publication of *Stalin's Secret Pogrom* sparked any controversy, Rubenstein remarked that the "secret nature of the trial created myths that lasted for decades" and "because little was known about what happened, all the victims have been portrayed as martyrs."

Gorbachev's *glasnost* policies allowed the release of the actual court transcripts which Rubenstein said showed a "portrait of the defendants" that "is far darker" than the favorable myths.

Rubenstein was brought to the Holocaust Museum's fall education workshop on October 11-12 to discuss anti-Semitism in the aftermath of World War II. At the workshops, which were endowed through a grant from Alan Shawn Feinstein, Jewish and non-Jewish educators gathered for give-and-take sessions that focused on human rights.

RIPAE — pharmaceutical assistance for the elderly

The RI Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Elderly (RIPAE) program pays a portion of the cost of prescriptions used to treat Alzheimer's disease, arthritis, diabetes (including insulin and syringes for insulin injections), heart problems, depression, anti-infective, Parkinson's disease, high blood pressure, cancer, urinary incontinence, circulatory insufficiency, high cholesterol, asthma and chronic respiratory conditions, glaucoma, and prescriptive vitamins and mineral supplements for renal patients for eligible RI residents 65 and older.

Income limits are as follows:

- | | |
|---|--|
| Level I receives a 60% discount | Level III receives a 15% discount |
| Single 0-\$16,490 | Single \$20,700 - \$36,225 |
| Couple 0-\$20,613 | Couple \$25,875 - \$41,400 |
| Level II receives a 30% discount | |
| Single \$16,490 - \$20,700 | |
| Couple \$20,613 - \$25,875 | |

This program is beneficial and helps defray the cost of medication and assists with managing finances and concerns about paying for prescriptions.

Anyone eligible for RIPAE and who would like to fill out an application, should call Susan Adler, Director of Jewish Eldercare of RI, a program of Jewish Seniors Agency, at 401-621-5374.

While not Holocaust-related, workshop participants used the opportunity to discuss protecting people during the hysteria and the rise of patriotism following the September 11 terrorist attacks.

"People did not want the experience of Japanese Americans during World War II to happen to Muslims," said RI Holocaust President Selma Stanzler. "People want the US to get involved, but many see US involvement in many conflicts to be based on economics and politics under the guise of human rights."

Pleased with the results of the 2-day seminar, Stanzler said the Museum's second series in Spring 2002 will continue to inform teachers about ways Holocaust events can be used to promote understanding and human rights.

"We teach people how to be a mensch. It's about people learning from history," Stanzler said.



Amnesty International Northeast Regional Director Joshua Rubenstein educates a group of educators about post-Holocaust Soviet Union during an event sponsored by the Rhode Island Jewish Holocaust Memorial Museum.

The Women's Alliance of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island
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NOVEMBER *Heshvan*

Date: Thursday, November 8, 2001
Time: 12:00 - 1:30 pm
Location: Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave, Cranston;
Cost: \$10, lunch included
Presenter: Rabbi Elyse Wechterman,
Congregation Agudas Achim, Attleboro, MA

Topic: "Eve and Lilith: What Happens When First and Second Wives Get Together in the Garden of Eden"
You've met Eve, but did you know that Adam had a first wife? Lilith, created as Adam's equal, may have been his first love. We'll look at rabbinic and modern texts that tell the story of this unsuccessful first marriage and imagine what Lilith and Eve would say to each other - and to us - about love, marriage, career and sisterhood.

JANUARY *Shevat*

Date: Thursday, January 31, 2002
Time: 12:00 - 1:30 pm
Location: Temple Emanu-El, Meeting House,
99 Taft Ave., Providence
Cost: \$10, lunch included
Presenter: Marcia Lapidus Kaunfer,
Educator, Alperin Schechter Day School

Topic: "Esther and Vashti:
Of Wine and Women in the Persian Court"
We will try to evaluate the actions of these two famous women. Was either one of these queens independent and/or heroic? Are they role models for women today? We will carefully examine sections from the Book of Esther as well as related commentaries as we focus on these women.

APRIL *Iyar*

Date: Monday, April 22, 2002
Time: 7:00 - 9:00 pm
Location: Touro Synagogue, Touro Street, Newport
Cost: \$5, dessert included
Presenter: Leonore Sones R.J.E.,
Educational Director, Temple Sinai, Cranston.

Topic: "Ruth and Naomi:
Love Beyond Eden - The Love Relationship in the Bible"
Can there be a love relationship between a mother-in-law and a daughter-in-law? Did Naomi and Ruth have a love relationship? We will share their words and their actions throughout the text as we try and answer these questions.

For more information contact Sylvia Berman Peck, 421-4111, E-mail sbermanpeck@jfri.org

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Bikkur holim turns a dream into reality...Miriam Hospital

by O'Brian Kaufman

More than 100 years ago a group of Jewish women in Providence decided to make *bikkur holim*—the duty of visiting the sick—their chief priority. Their dedication grew into a dream of establishing a Jewish hospital, a dream realized in 1926 when Miriam Hospital opened its doors.

For 75 years Miriam Hospital, Rhode Island's Jewish-based medical center has been concerned with the sick—with making patients comfortable. In the early days that meant kosher food and providing services on Shabbat and holidays.

Today that means more catering to patient needs. It means better food, food service and special attention—a hostess cart travels from room to room during mealtimes to provide patients with condiments, drinks and additional food items.

And, it means paying attention to what patients have to say about the care they receive. A recent patient survey, in fact, showed that families of patients were often left in the dark when it came to finding out what was happening with their loved ones who were being treated in the emergency room (ER).

In response, Administrator Sally Irons created an Emergency Room Family Liaison Program. "Our primary goal is to relieve the stress felt by family members waiting," Arlene Orcutt, Volunteer Coordinator for the Family Liaison Program. "When people don't know what's going on—that's when they get nervous."

ERs use triage methods to determine which patients receive priority care. The most serious cases get treated first—that's the kind of information families want. "They just need to know what's going on with their loved ones," Orcutt said. "When you're sitting around a waiting room for two or three hours, it can be a nightmare."

A family liaison volunteer can spend hours shuttling between waiting rooms, the coffee shop and the unit where care is being administered. "We don't want people bothering the doctors and nurses. So our job is to greet the patient's family, calm them down,

and then explain the process," said volunteer Manny Nunes Sr. "We let them know that we will keep them informed on what's happening. The process keeps interruptions out of the ER. It gives our doctors and nurses more time to administer medical treatment."

The volunteer's job is to provide personal attention to families waiting but not to provide too many details. "We always respect patient confidentiality," said Orcutt. That means that the ER volunteers cannot tell family members the condition or medical status of their loved ones. "But we can keep them informed about activities. Has the patient been in X-ray? Have they seen the doctor? We can answer those questions. And that information is so important."

It seems simple—and it is—but it also works. After nearly five months, the program was expanded to assist families in waiting rooms for the operating room, cath lab, endoscopy and intensive care units. "We know that the program increases patient satisfaction," White said. "That's what it was designed to do."

Volunteer Nunes echoed that sentiment, noting that he has had patients' family members tell me that it was the first time they've been to the ER and left feeling good."

Miriam's Emergency Room Family Liaison Program has been requested to be used by several other hospitals and won its creator Sally Lyons a national award for innovative medical care.

It's no surprise that Miriam found a way to improve patient—and family—care. The hospital has been at the forefront of providing needed services to people in the state since it was incorporated as a not-for-profit institution in 1926.

Miriam was the first hospital to perform open heart surgery; first to perform a kidney transplant; first in New England to conduct a trial for a human AIDS vaccine (in partnership with Boston's Memorial Hospital and Fenway Community Health Center); and was the first hospital in the world to place automated external defibrillators (AEDs) throughout its facilities. (AEDs shock stopped hearts into beating and can be used by anyone, including hospital visitors.)

Not just your ordinary hospital gift shop



Sandy Simon, Miriam Hospital Gift Shop proprietor, prepares a Hanukkah display.

by O'Brian Kaufman

With Hanukkah a few weeks away, it might be time to purchase a new *hanukkiyah* to add to the household collection. Then, it might be time to visit Miriam Hospital's gift shop.

It's not the kind of gift shop found in most hospitals which feature get well cards, flowers, balloons, toys and teddy bears. Miriam Hospital's gift shop has all of that, of course, but it also features an impressive selection of Judaica.

Lined up on the store's shelves are menorahs in all shapes and sizes—some glass works of art and others depicting comic motifs—a Noah's Ark or steam-engine train set for example. In fact, the store is fully stocked for each Jewish holiday as well as secular celebrations.

On a recent visit, one section of the store was decked out with Halloween decorations while another section featured collectible dreidels, kiddush cups, mezuzot and more.

"We cover all the major holidays," said proprietor Sandy Simon, "and we have beautiful gifts for weddings, births and every special occasion."

The gift shop is run as a separate business apart from the hospital, but the proceeds from its sales directly benefit the medical facility's patients. Funds generated from last year paid for the remodeling of the east side of the fourth floor. "This year our profits will help pay for the west side," Simon said.

While the majority of gift shop customers are hospital employees, word of the attractive gift selection and lower-than-expected prices have raised the shop's community profile.

"More and more people are shopping here for birthdays and weddings," Simon said. "People are even coming in off the street to shop here. Now that's exciting."

The Miriam Hospital gift shop is open Monday-Friday from 7:00 AM-8:00 PM, and Saturday and Sunday, noon to 7:00 PM



Arlene Orcutt, Volunteer Coordinator of Miriam Hospital's Family Liaison program, and Manny Nunes, Sr., volunteer, wait to greet the families of patients receiving care.



Miriam Hospital Gift Shop offers a wide variety of Judaica as well as traditional gift shop items.

Medical Commentaries

A Neglected Commandment

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

Its words are part of a sacred Decalogue, widely and reverently quoted; and though this solemn declaration is visibly enshrined on countless walls it sometimes goes unheeded: "Honor thy father and thy mother," [Exodus 20.12.]

The withholding of honor that should have been accorded to parents (and, by inference, to all elderly persons) may take many forms ranging from mild indifference to neglect to exploitation or, at worst, even physical abuse and abandonment. Until recently, this shameful act had no name; but in its most flagrant form, we now call it elder abuse, a phrase whispered rather than shouted since its very existence bespeaks of profound, moral lapse in responsibility.

How common is elder abuse? It is a crime that is neither readily nor easily documented; nor is it a subject that arises spontaneously or willingly in conversations at social gatherings. Some will even deny its existence, saying that elder abuse is unknown in their neighborhood while admitting, begrudgingly, that it may possibly be found in other communities. Police and social scientists, on the other hand, will readily verify its existence in all cultures and ethnic groups.

According to available statistics, and probably representing a substantial under-reporting, about one person in 10 older than 65 years is the victim of some form of elder abuse every year. Translating this to the RI community, would mean that there are about about 7,500 instances of reportable elder abuse in this state annually, and in about 3,000 of these instances, the abuse is sufficiently grave to require medical intervention or emergency room visit.

Most instances of elder abuse, perhaps the great majority, go unreported by the victim for a variety of reasons: fear of not being believed; fear of being "put away," institutionalized; fear of retaliation by the abuser; fear of being ostracized by the remaining members of the family. And, of course, many elderly do not understand either the dynamics or the extent to which they are abused, and they may avoid asking for help because they conclude that they are in some way personally at blame for their abuse.

Elder abuse did not suddenly start when the amendments to the Older Americans Act were approved by Congress in 1987. It has been part of communal life for millennia; and it must have been a visible element in the lives of ancient communities for its prohibition to have been cited repeatedly in the Torah. Elder abuse may be personal: carried out by someone known to the elder person, usually a close member of the family; or

elder abuse may be institutional: a nursing home, perhaps, with the fiduciary responsibility for the continuing care of the elder person. In less common circumstances, it may be a pathological self-neglect, the behavior of an elderly person indifferent to his or her welfare or safety.

Elder abuse may assume many forms:

1. Physical Abuse: defined as the use of physical force causing bodily injury, physical pain or actions leading to impairment of function. This may include acts of violence (pushing, beating, shaking, slapping) but physical abuse also includes the inappropriate use of physical restraints or medications (particularly sedative agents).

2. Sexual abuse: defined as non-consensual sexual contact of any kind with an elderly individual. This category includes unwanted touching.

3. Emotional abuse: Through verbal or nonverbal means, the infliction of distress, anxiety, anguish, pain or fear upon an elderly person. This form of abuse, perhaps the most commonly practiced type of abuse and certainly the most difficult to verify, includes intimidation, humiliation, harassment, infantilization or isolating the elderly person; and in its most subtle form, treating the vulnerable elderly as though they were incapable of intelligent conversation.

4. Neglect: Defined as the failure to fulfill a person's (or an institution's) fiduciary responsibility for the care and welfare of the elderly person. Specifically, it includes neglect of such essentials as water, food, clothing, shelter, adequate hygiene, prescribed medications, and such measures as are needed for the physical safety of the elder person.

5. Financial exploitation: Defined as the illegal use of an elder's financial resources, property or other tangible assets. The forging of an elder's signature is considered a part of this category.

6. Abandonment: Defined as the willful desertion of an elderly individual by a person or institution bearing the continuing responsibility of that elderly person.

Who are the abusers? The overwhelming majority are family members (spouse, child, etc.) serving as the designated caregivers.

Physicians may sometimes be the first to suspect the existence of elder abuse when encountering an elderly patient in the home with inappropriate cachexia, (a generally weakened, emaciated condition of the body) poor personal hygiene, excessive anxiety and evidence of bruises.

Institutional abuse is to be considered when such complications as repeated bed sores are encountered.

On the day that this column was being assembled, the *Provi-*

dence Journal carried a front-page story with the headline, "National report finds abuse rising in nursing homes." The story went on to give details of a Congressional investigation which noted that nearly one-third of all registered nursing homes, some 5,283 of a national total of about 17,000, had been cited for elder abuse violations in the past two years. It should be remembered that about 1.5 million Americans are longterm residents of nursing homes.

Is it possible, is it even conceivable, that an elderly Jewish person might be abused by a close relative in this day and age? A moment's reflection tells us that elder abuse can also be a subtle event that leaves neither visible bruises nor fractured bones: it might be an impatience or the treating of grandma who has a memory problem as though she were an infant rather than a person deserving of compassion.

And have elderly Jews sometimes been abused, neglected, even abandoned in millenia past? Psalm 71 carries these words: "Cast me not off in the time of old age; forsake me not when my strength fails." And in more recent years, read those anguished letters published in the *Bintel Brief* (Bundle of Letters) section of *The Jewish Daily Forward*. It was rare, admittedly; but it was there in the 1920s and '30s. And today?

Stephen F. Schiff, M.D., F.A.C.S.

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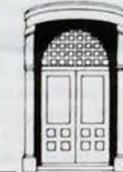
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Roza Belskaya, 70, Providence. She immigrated to the US in 1991, settling in Pawtucket, and was a member of Temple Emanu-El. She was the wife of Shika Rakiyer and was the daughter of the late Velvel and Rivka Belski. She leaves two sons, Vladimir Rakiyer and Yefim Rakiyer, both of Pawtucket, and a sister, Bluma Kanterman of Seekonk, MA.

Sanford Blum, 80, September 29. He was the husband of Ann Myra Blum. Born in Providence, a son of the late Leo and Rose Blum, he had lived in Cranston for almost 40 years. He was an Army veteran of WW II. He leaves a daughter, Carolyn Blum of Lincoln, a brother, Joseph Blum of Central Falls, and two grandchildren. He was the brother of the late Murray Blum.

Irma C. Finberg, 84, October 24, Providence. She was the wife of the late Burton A. Finberg. Born in Providence and a lifelong resident, she was the daughter of the late Joseph and Minnie Coplan. She was a member of Temple Emanu-El and active in its Garden Club, and was president of the Sisterhood. She was an original member of Ledgemont Country Club. She leaves two daughters, Jane Mandell of Pawtucket and Lois Finberg-Rasch in Denmark and four grandchildren. She was the sister of the late Miriam Coplan Towvime and Seymour Coplan.

Saul Geffner, 89, October 3, Providence. He was the husband of Frances Geffner. They were married for 63 years. Born in NY City, he was the son of the late Samuel and Sophie Geffner. He

had been a teacher since 1934, and chairman of physical science at Forest Hills High School and adjunct professor at NYU and City College. He was the author of eight books on secondary school science, the science editor for AMSCO Publishing Co. Besides his wife he leaves a son, Dr. Mitchell Geffner of Encino, CA, a daughter, Marsha Rice of Barrington, a sister, Lillian Reisman of Sherman Oaks, CA and six grandchildren. He was the brother of the late Sally Leitner and Molly Milowe.

David Glazer, 86, October 13, Providence. He was the husband of Thelma Glazer. Born in Providence, a son of the late Samuel and Ida Glazer. Mr. Glazer worked as an investigator for the State of RI and in the Dept. of Family Support. He was an Army Air Force veteran of WW II. He leaves two daughters, Barbara Arnold and Sheila Perreault, both of Warwick, a brother, Sydney Glazer of Providence, a sister, Harriet Landesberg of Cranston, and seven grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. He was the brother of the late Morris and Sadie Glazer and Betty Levy.

Edwin B. Krause, 85, Boca Raton & Providence. A retired manufacturer and civic leader. Mr. Krause retired as CO and principal owner of Madison Industries, Inc. A firm he transformed into an international engineering tool company. He was the husband of Anne Berkelhammer Krause and previously of the late Eunice F. Krause. He was a son of the late David and Clara Krause. In 1964 he achievements were recognized by Sports Illustrated magazine. He was

recruited from retirement to straighten out the RI's scandal-ridden housing agency. The RI Housing & Mortgage Finance Corp. (RIHMFC). He is survived by a son, Robert D. Krause, a RI Superior Court Judge, a daughter, Nancy Krause Hymes of San Diego, CA., a sister Bernice K. Ginsberg of New Castle, PA, his wife's two sons, Robert Berkelhammer of Providence and Larry Berkelhammer of San Rafael, CA. And several grandchildren. He was the father of the late Jane Krause Nathan of Brookline, MA.

Sofia Levin, 83, Providence. She was the wife of the late Yacov Levin. Born in Latvia, she came to RI in 1979. She was a member of Congregation Mishkon Tfiloh. She leaves a son, Oscar Levin, and a granddaughter. She was predeceased by five sisters.

Faina Petranovskaya, 98, Providence. She was the wife of the late Arkadiy Petranovskiy. Born in Ukraine, a daughter of the late Shmaria and Basya Nudelman. She came to RI in 1999 having previously lived in Moscow. She was a member of Temple Emanu-El. She is survived by a daughter, Genrietta Snigireva of Providence and a son, Semen Petranovskiy of Moscow. She was the mother of the late Michael and Meriam Nudelman, Guenysa Glozman and Eva Katsman. She leaves four grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

William N. Pockar, 67, September 25. Born in Providence, he was the former husband of Ina Pockar. He was the son of the late Nathan and Augusta Pockar. He had

worked at Electric Boat and was the former owner of Nearby TV Service. He was a graduate of URI and an Army veteran. Mr. Pockar was a Mason. He leaves two sons, Fred and Michael Pockar, both of East Providence.

Elaine Ruth Rakatansky, 57, September 26. A resident of Providence, she was the daughter of the late Elliot and Blanche Revkin. A partner in Progressive Financial Strategies, she was vice president and director of marketing, and an NASD registered representative. She was previously artistic director of the former Bright Lights Theatre Co. She received a Bachelor's degree from Brown University. She was a life master in tournament bridge. She leaves two daughters, Sharon Lee Waldman of Providence and Alexis J. Brochu of East Greenwich, a sister, Barbara Revkin of Cambridge, MA, and a grandchild. She was the former stepmother of Ellen and Carol Rakatansky.

Abraham Rubinstein, 87, October 13, Providence. Husband of the late Jeanette Rubinstein. He was the son of the late Harry and Bertha Rubinstein. He lived in Warwick since 1977. He was a member of Touro Fraternal Assn. He leaves two sisters, Marian Dressler of Cranston and Jean Greene of Wilmington, NC and many nieces and nephews.

Gabriel Samdperil, 92, October 5. He was the husband of the late Anna Samdperil. Born in Providence, a son of the late Charles and Molly Samdperil. He was the proprietor of Gabriel Samdperil Co. He was a member of Temple Emanu-El. He leaves a daughter, Marcia

Meyers of Fairfield, CT, five grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren. He was the father of the late Charles Samdperil and brother of the late George and Isadore Samdperil, Edith Granoff, Ida Glantz and Toby Bomes.

Mildred Shuster, 89, Cranston. She was the wife of the late Samuel Shuster. Born in Warren, a daughter of the late Maurice and Anna Phillips. She leaves a granddaughter, Lisa Carter of Hamden, CT. She was the mother of the late Leslie Carter and sister of the late Edith Fishman.

Lewis M. Tanner, 82, October 1. He was the husband of Eleanor Tanner. Born in Pawtucket, he was the son of the late Max and Freda Tarnapol. He was a graduate of the University of Illinois. He served as the president of the Medical-Dental Hospital Bureau of America. He was an Army veteran of WW II. He was a member and past treasurer of Temple Beth-El. He leaves a son, Ronald H. Tanner, NY, a sister, Ruth Glasbert, FL, and three grandchildren. He was the father of the late Marjorie Harrington, and a grandfather of the late Scott Harrington.

Mary Rose Volpe, 88, Coventry. The wife of the late Irwin Volpe. Born in Providence, the daughter of the late Charles and Rebecca Brotman. and a former member of Sons of Abraham Congregation. She leaves two sisters, Ida Goldstein of Warwick and Pearl Jacobson of Laguna Beach, CA and four grandchildren and a great-grandchild. She was the mother of the late Lynwood Volpe and Arnold Volpe and the sister of the late Paul Brotman.

JSA staff visits Hillside Health Center



Hillside resident Charlotte Swartz (left), and Martha Wexler, programmer for Jewish Seniors Agency's JERI program, visit together

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Brown Bag-It with Jackie at JFK exhibition

On Tuesday, November 13 the Brown Bag Club will travel to the JFK Museum in Boston to see the exhibit, "Jackie Kennedy, The White House Years." This special exhibition opened to rave reviews last spring and took New York's metropolitan Museum of Art by storm. The exhibit features the original clothing and accessories worn by Mrs. John F. Kennedy at state events in and abroad and marks the 40th anniversary of her emergence as America's first lady.

While the exhibition focuses on Jacqueline Kennedy's influence on fashion and style, it also features original documents, photographs, film and objects associated with her historical role in the restoration of the White House, her contribution to its collection of art and historical furnishings, and her support of the arts.

The non-refundable ticket includes transportation, admission to the museum and the exhibit, and driver's tip. The bus will leave from the JCC at 9:30 am and depart the museum at 3:00. Reservations are on a first-come first-served basis and with payment. Members \$30/Non-members \$35. For further information call Sue Robbio at 401-861-8800 ext. 107.

Swing into Fall

Tuesday, November 27, is a good opportunity to "dance off" those Thanksgiving calories. The JCC's own Susan Greenhalgh will teach basic swing dance steps.

Seniors build strength in shoulders, biceps

Darlene Desroches stands in front of the room and leads the dozen or so people surrounding her through a set of shoulder exercises. After a set of 10, Desroches shouts "It's time for a set of bicep exercises."

Desroches isn't an instructor at a gym or health club. Her clients aren't athletes in training or body builders. They are senior citizens, including several that are upwards of 80 years-old.

But the senior citizens that take part in Desroches' weight program have the same goals of those half their age that exercise by lifting weights. They are getting stronger day by day.

Desroches, an exercise physiologist, works with seniors twice a week at the Jewish Seniors Agency's Comprehensive Adult Day Care Center. "It's a great program. The people are great and we have a lot of fun. All seniors should be exercising. It definitely helps them in the long run," she said.

Desroches has seen a noticeable change in seniors who have joined her program. We use one and two pound weights and do normal workouts - shoulders, biceps, triceps, abs" said Desroches. "By exercising the seniors are gaining more muscle. They are getting stronger. They are not just sitting around. They are staying active and by staying active, they don't age as quickly. They are stronger and able to do more and to do things longer."

"The program is wonderful," said Susette Rabinowitz, executive director of the Jewish Seniors Agency. "Not only do the Seniors enjoy the exercise and one on one attention, the results have been miraculous. The perseverance and motivation of our participants is inspiring to all of us."

In addition to the weight program, Desroches comes to the JSA's Comprehensive Adult Day Care Center four times a week to work one on one with seniors who need individual attention.

"If someone has had a stroke, we will work on movement. If they need help walking, we will work on that. It's an individualized program depending on what the person needs," explained Desroches.

"We had one woman who could only walk five feet and then stop. I worked with her and now she can walk 36 feet," said Desroches. "Another woman had a stroke. When she first started she couldn't move her hand away from her body. Now, we are modifying a needle for her so she can crochet."

The Jewish Seniors Agency has evolved from a home for the aged into one of the leading providers of Jewish senior services in RI, offering a network of care for those the organization serves through a wide range of programs, including adult day care, outreach programs, recreations and social activities and affordable elderly housing. For more information contact the Jewish Seniors Agency at 401-351-4750.

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As we grow older

"Senior moments", if only they would vanish

by Tema Gouse

The first time I heard the phrase "senior moment" describing an inability to recall a word or a name or an event, I marveled at how definitively it described this experience. It now has such common usage that it no longer needs to be translated, even to younger people. However, as I have grown older, I no longer delight in its expressiveness and wish it would go away, the phrase as well as the experience.

Amongst my many vanities has been pride in my memory. I remember all my phone numbers going back to the 1930s. Minutiae stay with me and I can even answer a goodly portion of the questions on "Jeopardy". Names and places are recalled even after long absences. Well—most of the time. And I am no spring chicken.

But then there are those times when someone greets me warmly, calling me by my first name. And if I ever knew that person, I certainly do not recall them now. If they are kind enough to acknowledge that it has been a long time since last we met and gives some clue as to our past relationship, the name and the nature of the acquaintance will probably kick in. But not always.

The zinger in all these lapses is when, in the middle of a sentence, a word eludes me. And eludes me. And eludes me. Embarrassment and frustration are maddening. Being a nudnik, I can't drop the sentence but must struggle to resurface the word. And it doesn't always surface. Oh, later, maybe 10 minutes, or in an hour, or in the middle of the night, the lost word pops out. But the person I was talking to is no longer present.

Once, in another life, while I still had a more respectable amount of retentive ability, I studied the operation of the brain. Since acquisition of scientific knowledge was never amongst my greater skills, it does not surprise me that I have not retained one bit of that data.

What I do remember from those boring classrooms is that memory dims with aging and no one has found a way to stop that normal regression.

When the 50-year old forgets something, he or she will joke about having early Alzheimer's disease. The 60-year-old "forgetter" makes the same mistake but isn't smiling. The 70-year-old shivers and whispers apprehensions when memory plays dirty tricks. And 80-year-olds just don't mention memory loss. Or if they do, they seek reassurance that everyone shares the problem.

One of today's blessings for seniors is that there is an increased candor about memory regression. Scientists are finally investing time and experience and money in research to learn why this degenerative process is occurring, hoping that their findings will result in a slowing down of that process. Cures are not mentioned. Senile dementia no longer bears a stigma but it remains a heartbreak for the afflicted and their caregivers.

Since miracles have not arrived and Alzheimer's research is still in its infancy, we must explore how we can adjust and what tools we have to help ourselves.

Health maintenance is vital to sustaining existing grey matter. Quality medical care is vital, too, but we must support that with our own healthy ways of life. Physical and mental health mandate physical activity and healthy diet.

In our declining years it is difficult to change old ways and become more physically active. Reading is more satisfying than walking a treadmill. Watching television is easier than walking around the block. Elevators are less demanding than staircases. But if the treadmill and the staircase will help me remember names, I must opt for them. (Who said old age was going to be easier?)

Reading, playing competitive games, doing crossword puzzles are just a few of the mental stimulants available. More passive activities such as TV and movies are pleasurable but do not keep the mind working. Undertaking the study of a new subject can really contribute to mental alertness.

Rather than becoming a couch potato, it is important for seniors to find stimulation in social interaction. It really helps and may even revitalize memory. Healthy sleep patterns also contribute to well-being.

Isn't it ironic that the oldest generation, which has the most experience and knowledge must struggle so hard to retain and reproduce it? I used to joke that I could not recall some things because I suffered from information overload. If that was how it worked we could perhaps find a way to drain off the non-essential data.

So, as in the case of sagging bones and organs, we must make do with what we have been blessed to retain, which for most of us is a goodly amount. Don't get hung up on the occasional goof or void.

JFS Kosher Mealsite to celebrate 20 years with Hanukkah Party

Seniors are invited to a gala Hanukkah party to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Jewish Family Service Kosher Mealsite in Cranston. Party time is 11:00 am on Friday, December 7. Musical entertainment will be provided by Fascinating Rhythm and many special guests will be on hand to commemorate the mealsite's longevity.

Since 1981, the Jewish Family Service mealsite has been providing seniors in the Cranston and Warwick areas with hot, nutritious and delicious kosher meals, activities, entertainment, socialization, learning and fun. Participants have shared joys and sorrows, laughter and friendship, lively conversation and caring about one another. People have met new friends and renewed old acquaintances.

Regular activities include: bingo, writing class, dance therapy, exercise class, Yiddish group, a birthday party with cake and entertainment, visits from the Bureau of Jewish Education Bookmobile, blood pressure check-ups with the JFS Registered Nurses, nutrition/menu meetings, men's and women's discussion groups and a weekly Friday Shabbat meal. Programs begin at 11:00 am and lunch is served at noon. All Jewish holidays are observed.

Those who wish to attend the Hanukkah/Twentieth Anniversary party should make their paid reservations early, as a large turnout is expected. For reservations and information, call Mealsite Coordinator Ronda French at 401-781-1771 during Mealsite hours, or at 401-331-1244, ext. 42 any time to leave a message. The JFS Kosher Mealsite in Cranston is at Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Avenue. Transportation is available every day for residents of Cranston and areas of Warwick.



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