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Rhode Island Jewish HERALD

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News at a Glance

Hadassah Grants \$100,000 to Israeli Programs Helping Children at Risk

For the second year in a row, Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, has announced a special allocation for institutions in Israel that provide services to children at risk. This new set of grants allows for services to deserving youth beyond the Youth Aliyah framework. The institutions were chosen to receive grants based on the need for the program, its uniqueness, credibility, geographic distribution and the number of children it services. "The work we do to help children at risk in Israel is really an extension of the lifesaving work we do for Youth Aliyah," said Bonnie Lipton, national president of Hadassah. "This provides us with an even greater opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of many more disadvantaged children." The following institutions are just a few of the grant recipients:

- Gilo Community Center will offer special programs to address the trauma suffered by children subjected to Palestinian sniping and shelling. While on Hadassah's solidarity mission to Israel in October, Bonnie Lipton pledged one year's membership in the center for each child directly affected by attacks on this Jerusalem neighborhood.
- Hadassah Israel Head Start in Rehovot is a highly acclaimed preschool enrichment program for Ethiopian children. Designed to reduce gaps on the educational level and to reinforce personal responsibility and self-image, it engages parents as partners in building a foundation for learning achievements.

Local Film Series

- On Feb. 18 the Beth-El Sisterhood Film Series presents "Yentel," along with a discussion of women in the Jewish community with Toby Rossner. In the Meeting Hall at Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence at 2 p.m. Free and open to the public.

Rabbi Steven Greenberg Speaks 'In Search of Jewish Pluralism' at CLAL Function at Beth-El

by Jon Rubin
Assistant Editor

Rabbi Steven Greenberg wishes that we could have a more unified Judaism. Sure, we would all like it if we could somehow reduce the bickering between the many branches of Judaism, but how? The challenge is, in the words of Rabbi Greenberg: How can we differ and still consider each other to be compatriots? Rabbi Greenberg, from the National Center for Learning and Leadership, spoke to a full house at Temple Beth-El on Feb. 1. The audience included members of Temple Emanu-El and Congregation Beth Shalom as well as members of Beth-El. With a sharp mind and a deep heart, Rabbi Greenberg, who is an ordained Orthodox rabbi, took the thorny issue of this religious disharmony.

Rabbi Greenberg engaged in an explanatory exercise to show the full extent of the divide between the Reform and the Orthodox movements, the polar opposites of the Jewish community. "I am now an Orthodox

Jew," he said embodying the role, and gave the following stereotyped criticism of the Reform movement: "They get off easy." They enjoy the privileges of Jewish life without taking to heart the rules that come with them, he said. Reform Jews, this Orthodox Jew exclaims, are motivated by self-interest and by their own material comforts. They thrive on "lust" rather than law, and they are "duped" to as what Judaism is all about.

Not wasting any time, Rabbi Greenberg then embodied the Reform Jewish standpoint on the Orthodox movement, which was no less scathing. "The Orthodox Jews ... are terrified of change! They want men in power [and] are afraid of women." The Orthodox Jew, he said, "is a neurotic!" The Reform Jews have the better grasp on what Judaism is all about; they are open to science and modern cultures, and can embrace the truth in all of its forms. The Orthodox Jew, on the other hand, is "motivated by fear."

Having set these hard-hitting viewpoints on the table, Rabbi

Greenberg set out to make these glaring contradictions less hostile in their appearance. A vital component to reconciliation can be found in being able to see how someone besides ourselves can also be "L'shem Shama'im" (in the name of heaven), or with holy intent.

When we think of which disagreements over time have lasted into the present day and which have faded into antiquity, we find that only the significant quarrels persist. Why have these arguments endured? "You can't resolve the good ones," Rabbi Greenberg said, echoing a member of the audience.

Rabbi Greenberg illustrated an example of a classic Jewish feud from the Babylonian Talmud. The quarrel was between the house of Rabbi Shammai and the house of Rabbi Hillel. Each group thought that the halacha agreed with their particular views and could not be convinced by the arguments of the other. They were deadlocked when the following happened: "Then a voice (bat kol)

(Continued on Page 7)



Rabbi Steven Greenberg

Juniors Meet Seniors for Tu B'Shevat Seder

by Jon Rubin
Assistant Editor

Everyone has had a Passover seder before, but how many of you have had a Tu B'Shevat seder? At the Jewish Community Center's Senior Adult Lounge, children from the Early Childhood Center met with seniors from the Jewish Senior Program to have a seder of their very own. Tu B'Shevat is the holiday that celebrates trees and environmentalism, and special seders for Tu B'Shevat have become a growing Jewish trend. The event was organized by Kathy Novick, curriculum specialist of the pre-school, and the

seder itself was led by Rabbi Jonathan Blake from Temple Beth-El.

The children learn a mitzvah every month, and last month's mitzvah was "respect the elderly." In honor of the seder, the children made the table centerpieces, the placemats and even little gift baskets for all of the seniors. The children, ages four and five, sat around a long table but were asked not to eat any of the ceremonial food just yet. The children sat with rapt interest in Rabbi Blake, who knew exactly how to keep their attention.

Like any true seder, the children and seniors were pre-



CHILDREN FROM the Early Childhood Center drink their first cup of grape juice.
Herald photos by Jon Rubin



Rabbi Jonathan Blake leading the Tu B'Shevat seder. To his left is Kathy Novick.

sented with four cups of grape juice, this time to represent the four seasons in Israel. They were also given a plate full of fruits that are grown in Israel, including raisins, olives, fig cookies, dates, oranges, and carob chips in place of chocolate.

Rabbi Blake asked the children what kinds of things grow on trees. There was no shortage of answers. "Apples!" "Bananas!" "Coconuts!" "And what else do trees give us?" Rabbi Blake asked them. "They give us oxygen!" one boy said. Other replies were paper, wood and chairs. "We couldn't live without trees," Rabbi Blake

said, and the kids certainly agreed.

Rabbi Blake led the prayers over the grape juice, for the different kinds of fruit, and a special Shehecheyanu for the new holiday. The kids dug into the fruit, even things like dates that many hadn't seen before. The olives, however, weren't for everybody.

In between blessings the children got up and performed songs and little skits about Tu B'Shevat. One song about Tu B'Shevat was sung to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star," while another celebrated all the different parts of a tree, from the roots to the leaves.

HAPPENINGS

Entertainment for Children

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

February

- 16 **Animals Alive.** 9:40 a.m. to 1:50 p.m. The museum's preschool Friday series continues as children, age 3 to 5, hear Jan Brett's story *The Mitten*, climb inside a giant mitten and meet a live owl. Presented by the Audubon Society of Rhode Island. Pre-registration is recommended for this popular series. Call 273-KIDS, ext. 234 for enrollment information. There may be space available for walk-in registration for individual sessions. There is a \$1 fee above the price of admission for walk-in registration. Check at the admissions desk.
- 17 **Be an Engineer.** 1 to 3 p.m. Celebrate National Engineering Week! Ever wonder what it would be like to be an engineer? Kids age 5 and up try programming a human robot, making sticky, stretchy "gluep," building towers, making lights light and experimenting with pulleys.
Beat the winter blahs during February school vacation week with exciting programs at Providence Children's Museum
- 18 **Confection Construction.** 1 to 3 p.m. Kids age 5 and up build sweet structures terrifically tall or short and stout with marshmallows and toothpicks.
- 19 **Enviro Art.** 1 to 3 p.m. February school vacation kicks off with kids age 3 and up creating unusual structures with environmentally friendly packing peanuts using water instead of glue.
- 20 **Theater Games.** 1, 1:45 and 2:30 p.m. Have you ever wanted to be an actor? Would you like to learn how to act? February school vacation fun continues as kids age 5 and up play some silly and fun theater games and learn about performing on the stage.
- 21 **Theater Games.** 1, 1:45 and 2:30 p.m. Have you ever wanted to be an actor? Would you like to learn how to act? February school vacation fun continues as kids age 5 and up play some silly and fun theater games and learn about performing on the stage.
- 22 **Circus School.** 1 and 2 p.m. Kids age 5 and up run away to the circus for a day! Try juggling, balancing on a rololaba and clowning with circus students who show you how.

Calendar: February 16 Through February 22

- 16 **Thirteenth annual Newport Winter Festival** runs from Feb. 16 to 25. Citywide festival featuring more than 150 individual events during 10 days of festivities. Highlights include scavenger hunt, ice and sand sculpture contest, chili cook-off and great musical performances. Call 847-7666 or visit <www.newportevents.com>.
"Perspective Images of Israel" by Lev Poplow, Providence photographer and educator, at the meeting of the Temple Sinai Seniors at 11:30 a.m. at Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston. He will show some of his slides of his visit to Israel. Call Balia at 461-6124.
Storytime at Border's Books at Providence Place mall every Friday from 10 to 11 a.m. with Miss Susan.
- 17 **A dance sponsored by the American Ballroom** will be at the Rumford Columbus Club, One New Road, East Providence, R.I., from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. Continuous ballroom, Latin and social dance music will be played all evening. Singles and couples welcome. All ages invited. \$9 pp. Reservations appreciated but not necessary. Call 353-4391.
"Dr. Zhivago" will be shown at the Stadium Theatre Performing Arts Center, Woonsocket, R.I. 7 p.m. Call 762-4545 for ticket information.
"The Little Foxes" by Lillian Hellman, presented by the Rhode Island College Theatre. Directed by James Taylor. 8 p.m. at the Helen Forman Theatre, Providence. \$11. Call 456-8090.
"Shakespeare" has been rescheduled to Feb. 17 at 7:30 p.m. due to "winter's furious rages." The original concert date of Jan. 21 was snowed out. Stirring, amusing and intelligent music from the Renaissance to Broadway with dramatic readings that celebrate the pathos, humanity and sheer entertainment of Shakespeare. \$15 general, \$5 children 12 and under. At the Secret Garden, 12 Southwest Ave., Jamestown. Call 423-3031.
- 18 **Hawaiian Tea Party** for all former Girl Scouts and all current Girl Scout adults. 2 to 3 p.m. at Room 557 at the Rhode Island Convention Center, Providence.
The Good Question Trio will perform their eclectic instrumental music in the Cafe' Espresso at Borders Books, Cranston. 1 p.m. Call 942-0430.
Perspectives presents Mezuzzah Making with polymer clay artist Dora Arsenault, who will teach how to make unique mezuzzah cases. 2 to 6 p.m. at 106 Angell St. \$15 covers all materials. Space is limited so R.S.V.P. at 728-7497.
Magical Marionettes at Books on the Square, Providence. Dusan Petran and his troop of hand carved marionettes will delight you with stories and tales of wonder and whimsy. 2 p.m. Call 331-9097.
- 19 **Mystery Buffs of Rhode Island** present "Murder in a Kibbutz," by Batya Gur, at the Jewish Community Center on Elmgrove Ave. in Providence. 7:30 p.m. Call Rena at 831-3459.
- 20 **Why Children Struggle in School** — a free public forum, 7 p.m. in Wheeler Hall at the Wheeler School in Providence. Dr. G. Reid Lyon, chief of the child development and behavior branch of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development at the National Institutes of Health, will be speaking. Free. 216 Hope St., Providence. Call Wendy at 421-8100, ext. 168.
Free Tai Chi class at EPOCH at 353 Blackstone Boulevard, Providence. Certified Tai Chi instructor Bob McManus will conduct class at 10 to 11 a.m. Call 273-6565.
- 21 **Lincoln School's 2001 open campus** will be on Feb. 21 to 22 from 9 a.m. until noon. Open campus offers girls and their families the opportunity to meet administrators, faculty and staff, observe classes in session, go on student-led tours and obtain information regarding tuition plans and financial assistance. Call 331-9696, ext. 3157.
Playreading of "The Real Thing" by Tom Stoppard at the Barrington Public Library. The series is led by drama enthusiast Elsa Grieder, who will assign roles to be read aloud by participants. 7 p.m. Call 247-1920, ext. 312.
- 22 **Winter Film Series**, 6 p.m. "The Winslow Boy," a costumed English period film about honor and the attitudes of the world in 1900. Rosecliff Mansion, Bellevue Avenue, Newport. 847-4911. <www.newportmansions.org>.
Corridor Gallery Talk by Olivia B. McCullough at noon at the University of Rhode Island Fine Arts Center, Kingston. Call 874-2775.

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Bring a Can to Home Show, Get \$2 Off Admission

Help to Stock the Shelves of the R.I. Food Bank

Bring a non-perishable food item to The Home Show at the Rhode Island Convention Center, sponsored by the Rhode Island Builders Association, and receive a \$2 discount toward your ticket. The Home Show will be held Feb. 28 to March 4.

The Rhode Island Builders Association's Women's Council is working with the Rhode Island Food Bank to help fill their shelves and feed needy families in the area. During the show, the Women's Council will be selling raffle tickets for a chance to win \$1,000. The winning ticket will be drawn on the final day of the show and proceeds will benefit the Rhode Island Food Bank.

In addition, the Women's Council plans to give out 2,000 tree saplings during The Home Show to reinforce the philosophy that for every tree cut down to build a house, five trees must be planted to take its place. It will also showcase the work it has performed building affordable housing during the past year on behalf of First Ladies Build, a Habitat for Humanity initiative.

If you have an event you would like featured on our Happenings Page, please send it to the Rhode Island Jewish Herald, P.O. Box 6063, Providence, R.I. 02940 or fax to 726-5820.

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Rhoda's Judaica, Hope St.
Touro Synagogue, Newport

Suddenly Sinai

by Eytan Kobre

Among the lessons lying in the recent Middle East unrest is the powerful connection between the Jewish past and current events. The prospects for peace have been torn asunder on the rocks of the Temple Mount, a piece of land former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak had refused to concede to his erstwhile peace partners. As part of their efforts to sway world opinion, the Palestinians have taken to denying the existence of any Jewish religious or national claim to the Temple Mount and, by extension, to Jerusalem as a whole.

The chorus of Arab revisionism includes the Palestinian Authority's top Moslem cleric, declaring that "the Wailing Wall is not a holy place of the Jews," as well as Yasser Arafat himself, who asserts that the status of Jerusalem "is a Palestinian, Arab, Islamic, and Christian issue," but not a Jewish one, be-

cause the First and Second Holy Temples are just so much myth. Indeed, Palestinian spokesmen have gone so far as to write off huge portions of early Jewish history — including the Patriarchal period and the Davidic dynasty — as mere legends.

These pronouncements are designed, of course, to underline Jewry's reliance on the Torah as a divine deed to the Land of Israel, an argument no less arch-scholar than Ben Gurion made before the United Nations. And so, as the question of the Torah's historical accuracy takes on a heightened importance, the revelation at Mount Sinai has suddenly been thrust into the spotlight.

Judging from surveys, however, the question of the Torah's veracity does not rank very high on most American Jews' list of important issues. It seems, at least to them, to lack the relevance of other concerns — like

(Continued on Page 15)

A Service of The Heart

by Velvel 'Wally' Spiegler

I have this siddur (Jewish prayer book) that sits atop the night table next to my bed. I pray from it frequently. It's written all in Hebrew and inside the front cover is this inscription: Presented to Wallace Spiegler, Feb. 22-1947 on his Bar Mitzvah.

This was a gift from the congregation. Its soft black leather binding, imprinted with gold leaf, now wrinkled with age, brings to mind memories compiled from more than two decades of thought on prayer.

In 1965, when Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel walked alongside the Rev. Martin Luther King in the voting rights march in Selma, Ala., he declared, "I felt my legs were praying." Prayer can assume several forms; at least three according to most accounts. Most of them start with our black leather lecturizing the words of prayer through responsive reading or seeking to understand the meaning behind the blessings. A few pray with joyful dance, an expression of some Hasidic communities or Rabbi Heschel's social action ministries.

Unfortunately, even fewer pray with their hearts, the preferred manner established by the rabbis of the Talmud who proclaimed prayer "a service of the heart." The heart is a multifunctioning organ. In one sense, it's the beating, physical heart that pumps life-sustaining fluid throughout the body. On another level, it's the seal of the positive emotions of love, compassion and mercy, like the heart that adorns the mitzvot. The rabbis had this meaning in mind when they delegated prayer to the heart.

I keep a collection of old siddurim on my bookshelves. Some are contemporary and some are so old that they don't have numbered pages. Years ago, people were so fluent with the prayer book that they didn't

need numbers; they knew the place by the sound of the chazzan's melody. There are lots of bittersweet memories buried in the pages of these prayer books. I envision generations of my ancestral grandparents fading into the history of their wanderings throughout Europe, always reciting the very same lines. I behold the ancient alphabet whose characters illuminated the light of Sinai, and were painstakingly taught by the cheder (schoolroom) rabbis.

Prayer is packaged in different wrappers. First, prayer can be celebratory. We pray to unite ourselves communally, and connection, as the congregation comes together to celebrate Shabbat, holidays and other life cycle events. Joy arises from a community celebrating together, as embodied by the hymn, "Hinei Ma Tov" — How good it is to pray in Hebrew, and how good it is to dwell in unity.

Prayer has an historical component; it brings us back 2,000 years to relive moments in the Holy Temple, right now. The chazzan (prayer leader) represents the priestly class who officiated the Temple service, in which the congregation answered with fixed responses: "Amen," "Blessed be He and blessed be His name" or "May it be Your Will," much the same way as we respond today. The contemporary Torah service is a vestige of the public reading of the Torah in the days of the Temple.

But more important was the role that prayer was assigned by the rabbis as the official substitute for sacrifice. This mitzvah that induced union with G-d, which was abolished in the aftermath of the destruction. The Hebrew term for sacrifice, the spiritual cornerstone of Judaism, is "korbanot" which simultaneously stems from the same three-letter Hebrew root meaning, "to draw nearer." It epitomizes the Jewish ideal of

coming closer to G-d. The Hebrew word designated for prayer is "tilla," derived from Hebrew's three-letter root meaning, "to judge oneself." Prayer, it turns out, is an act of self-judgment. True prayer takes place in the present moment; it doesn't necessarily require spoken words. We can also pray in loving silence. When we work in the present moment, we judge ourselves to the extent that we experience our being.

In the service of the heart, spiritual seekers are requested to divest themselves of all extraneous thoughts and focus their attention on the Holy One of Being. The liturgy is to be recited just audible enough to hear, and in doing so, they engage the body in prayer. Some sway, bow and bend, to deepen their involvement with the body. When we work in our bodies, and disengaged from our minds, we stand in the present moment, the gate of the Divine. Prayer is the heartfelt expression of our relationship to G-d and to all life.

Through the years, I've grown to understand most of the Hebrew in my old prayer book. Since I don't think in the language, it's nearly impossible, at the speed of davening, to extract the meanings verbatim. So, I prefer to pray in Hebrew, and I'm not distracted by the meanings; I can recite the liturgy as a mantra. In this manner I'm free to focus my entire attention on my feelings, open my heart, and become accessible to the love and awe of the Holy One of Being.

Velvel 'Wally' Spiegler lives in Rehoboth, Mass. He is a certified polarity therapist and a student and teacher of Jewish mysticism whose primary interest is in Jewish approaches to the healing of mind, body and spirit. He can be reached for comments or questions at his Web site at www.jewtics.com/jewishlink.



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Women For Israel's Tomorrow (Women in Green)
P.O. Box 7352, Jerusalem 91072
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HERALD EDITOR

LIKE O'NEILL

ASSISTANT EDITOR

JONATHAN RUBIN

CONTRIBUTING YOUTH REPORTER
STEPHANIE STEINGOLD

MAILING ADDRESS:

Box 6062, Providence, RI 02940

TELEPHONE: (401) 724-0200

PLANT:

Herald Way, off Webster Street

Providence, RI 02961

OFFICE:

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East Providence, RI 02914

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Candlelighting

February 16, 2001

5:01 p.m.



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

More Than Ever

Is it that we don't have the kind of miracles that are related in Torah? Or is it just the opposite — that miracles have become so rare, so much a part of our daily lives that we take them for granted?

In *Reshalach*, last week's portion, we read the story of Israel leaving Egypt and facing some of the most challenging events in their journey to the Promised Land. They question Moses at the Red Sea as the Pharaoh's army pursues. They survive this only to face possible starvation and dehydration in the desert. Yet each time the hand of the Lord saves them.

Today, what manna falls from heaven? What seas part for us?

Okay, here are a few examples. A man at his computer feels a pain in his chest. He is able to contact someone who summons help immediately. A devastating earthquake has

threatened thousands, but help from around the world is on the way in hours. A child is lost in a department store, but helpful people find the mother and reunite the family.

Wait a second, you may be saying. That last example is not a miracle. It's just a person's normal instinct to help someone in trouble. The other events depend on high-tech communications and transportation, but the third could have happened at any time in history.

Exactly the point. Miracles are not just what G-d does all by Himself. Miracles are much more frequently how He works through us. We are His representatives. We carry the souls He created, convey the messages He delivered, perform the mitzvot He blessed us with. The invention of the computer and Internet are the acts of people, no more or less miraculous than the urge of a single person to rescue a lost child.

Want a miracle? Make one. Submitted by Rabbi Yossi Laufer of Chai Center of Chabad of West Bay, Warwick.

Torah Today



JEWISH COMMUNITY

Mission Impossible? Mission Accomplished

Orthodox Union Solidarity Trip is Huge Success

More than 180 people, seven days, one message — the Orthodox Union and its constituents stand firmly behind the citizens of Israel and their government and support them politically, financially and emotionally.

It was a trip like no other. The group — comprised of families from around the country including New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Texas, Michigan, California, Colorado, Ohio, Florida, Maryland and Massachusetts — ranged in age from infant to 89 years old and ran the gamut of political and Orthodox religious affiliation. During the trip, the men, women and children who participated were able to see Israel through the watchful and wizened eyes of those living in the country, while gaining a deeper appreciation of the daily challenges confronted by many who live in Gilo, Chevron and the Gush.

The goal of the trip, organized by the OU's department of synagogue and community services, was to imbue a sense of camaraderie and support to those living in Israel, and to show the Israeli people, not just the government, that the American Orthodox Jewish community supports them and will continue to stand by them. The experience proved to be that and much more for those on the trip.

Based in the new Seymour J. Abrams OU Jerusalem World Center, the trip provided a flexible schedule that enabled participants to spend time on their own, yet also participate in the group events and trips. Some of the highlights included:

- Meetings with residents of Gush Etzion, Gilo, Chevron, Beit El and Pesagot;
- An OU organized solidarity rally attended by Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, Rabbi Nachman Kahane (Rabbi, Young Israel of the Old City)

and retired Brigadier General Effi Eitam;

- A meeting with the father of one of the two soldiers from Gush Katif who was killed in Lebanon.

- Shiva visit to Hila Pashkus, the widow of a recent victim of the violence.

For many, the trip did not end with the return to the United States. One participant, Los Angeles resident Abraham Shafran, explained, "Since I've returned, I feel more connected to our fellow Jews living in Israel. I experienced firsthand what they have to endure daily, living in Yerushalayim and adjacent communities." Other participants have taken what they witnessed back to their communities with the hope of spreading the idea of solidarity.

Rabbis and synagogue presidents who are interested in creating a customized community mission to Israel are urged to contact Frank Buchweitz at (212) 613-8188 or email <frank@ou.org>.

Reincarnation and Judaism on Public Access TV

Just in case you missed the very special lecture last week at the Chabad CHAI Center in Warwick, Rabbi DovBer Pinson's presentation "Reincarnation and Judaism" will be shown on Rhode Island public access television.

Channel 14 — Interconnect B:

Feb. 20 — 3 to 4 p.m.

Feb. 27 — 3 to 4 p.m.

Channel 18 (Providence, East Greenwich, Warwick and Coventry only)

Feb. 18 — 4 to 5 p.m. and 11 p.m. to midnight

Feb. 19 — 10 to 11 a.m.

Feb. 20 — 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.



A LARGE CROWD gathered at the lecture on Reincarnation and Judaism at the Chabad Center, Feb. 7.

Tzitzit-Making Also Makes Family Fun

by Luke O'Neill
Herald Editor

An intimate and involved group of Temple Sinai sixth-graders and their parents spent part of a late Sunday morning fulfilling a mitzvah. A workshop called "Create Your Own Tallit," led by Rabbi David E. Lipman of Temple Sinai, was held Feb. 11 at the Cranston temple.

Students and parents spent more than an hour meticulously winding and knotting string to create tzitzit (fringes) for their own tallit, or prayer shawl. Rabbi Lipman handed out nine-page guide books on how to create the tzitzit.

The rabbi cited the specific commandment of wearing fringes on all four corners of clothes. Along with the fringes would be attached a cord of t'chelet (royal blue/purple). This commandment relates that Hebrew ancestors, 3,000 years ago, wore square garments with four corners, like that of large ponchos to keep themselves warm. These ponchos had a hole in the middle for the head to fit through and were also used as blankets called tallit.

Nowadays, said Rabbi Lipman, there may not be an abundance of four-cornered clothes, but some traditional Jews may have a tallit katan, which is akin to a little poncho worn as an undergarment but does not touch the skin.

Rabbi Lipman also mentioned the sheliach tziyyur, the leader of a service who wears the tallit. The tallitot used at this

second-year tallit workshop at Temple Sinai were plain and cream-colored, and had elegantly embroidered blessings on them in blue. This blessing, explained the rabbi, is said while putting on the tallit: "Blessed are You, Adonai our G-d, Ruler of the world, Who has made us holy with His commandments and commanded us to wrap ourselves in tzitzit (fringes)." The shawl is then draped over the shoulders.

The real work for the afternoon began when students and parents began to entwine their tzitzit—a process Rabbi Lipman described as "relatively simple," but does require time and two sets of hands. Essentially, he said, tzitzit-making can be described as a lesson in Jewish macramé.

"It's a process of putting it together through windings and knots to remind us of the 613 commandments." About 2,000 years ago, said Rabbi Lipman,

rabbis came up with specific rules on how to do the fringes for the four corners.

In this "quite specific pattern," each corner of the tallit gets a set of four strings looped through a hole in the corner, with one string (the shamash) being longer than the others. For each corner, a double knot is made, then seven windings, then a double knot, then eight windings, a double knot, 11 windings, a double knot, and 13 windings and one last double knot to keep it in place.

Students and their parents wound their tzitzit neatly and tightly with great success. After they finished one tzitzit, parents and children would exclaim "Mazel Tov!" and exchange hugs.

"The commandment is to wear tzitzit on the four corners," added Rabbi Lipman, "and look at them, remember and do the commandments."



BILL AND ALLISON Friedman help each other make tzitzit for their tallit at Temple Sinai on Sunday. Herald photos by Luke O'Neill

Mid-Winter Recess Purim Craft Program

In celebration of its 50th anniversary, the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island invites your children to participate in a special Purim holiday craft program to be held during the mid-winter recess, at Michael's Arts and Crafts, 1500C Bald Hill Road, Warwick. The program will be held on the following dates:

Feb. 22 at 2 to 3 p.m., and Feb. 25 at 2 to 3 p.m. and 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Participants will enjoy creating their own masks, listening to Purim spiel and eating hamentaschen treats. Limited space is available. We recommend that those interested pre-register by calling either Robin Kauffman at the BJE/RI (331-0956) or the craft coordinator at Michael's Arts and Crafts (828-1400).

Enwrap Yourself in 'The Sweater'

On Feb. 28 at 7:30 p.m. the University of Rhode Island, Temple Emanu-El, and the Rhode Island Holocaust Memorial Museum will present a special evening of theater and music at Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence, featuring Cantor Riselle Bain of Temple Beth El in Ormond Beach, Fla. The evening is centered around excerpts from a play called "The Sweater" which focuses on a therapy group for Holocaust survivors meeting in California in the 1960s. Admission to the performance is free.

The evening will start with a thematic introduction to the play given by David Cooper, one of the play's authors.

The second part of the program will be a presentation of four scenes from the play. In these scenes, Cooper will play Dr. Klaus Hoppe, a former UCLA professor of psychiatry and director of research of the famous Hacker Clinic in Beverly Hills.

It is interesting to note that Hoppe once wore the uniform of the German Wehrmacht. Drafted at age 18, and sent to the Russian front, he managed to survive. In the post-war rubble of Berlin, he finished his medical studies and became a Freudian psychoanalyst. Deeply impressed with the profound evil of the Nazi era, he has devoted his professional life to healing the suffering of Holocaust survivors.

Cantor Bain will play the role of Ruth, a member of the therapy group who experiences several large breakthroughs during the course of her treatment. Interspersed with the dialogue will be music composed by Cantor Bain to set the mood for each scene.

Following scenes from the play, performers will lead a discussion of the play.

For more information, contact the museum at 453-7860.

Temple Am David Holds Art Auction

An outstanding collection of art by a collection of outstanding artists will go on the auction block Feb. 24 at Temple Am David, 40 Gardiner St., Warwick, with proceeds benefiting the congregation.

The Art Auction is coordinated by Marlin Art, Inc., of New York and will bring to the congregation's social hall a collection of more than 160 pieces in all media and price ranges. They will include the new works of LeRoy Neiman, Wooster Scott, Chagall and Tarkay. Also featured will be the products of artists like Delacroix, Lena Lui, Norman Rockwell, Wyeth, Moses and many more.

May-Ronny Zeidman, the temple's chair of the event, said

the committee "was impressed with the scope of works offered by Marlin. It's an outstanding collection of art, including watercolors, oils, lithographs and serigraphs. And there will be something for just about everyone's taste and budget."

Immediately prior to the auction, there will be a wine tasting preview sponsored by I M Gan of Warwick. Coffee and pastry will be served during the auction.

The preview and wine tasting will begin at 7:30 p.m. The auction, which will be conducted by Marlin Art professionals, will start at 8:30 p.m.

Admission is \$10 per person. Tickets are available at the temple by calling Joyce Kelly at 463-7944.



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JEWISH COMMUNITY

Rabbi Alan Flam to Speak at Temple Emanu-El in Providence

Kulanu and the Koffler Bornstein Institute of Jewish Studies are pleased to co-sponsor a series of Brunch Programs for 2001. The featured speaker at the brunch on Feb. 25 will be Rabbi Alan Flam whose topic will be "Youth and the Future of Judaism."

Rabbi Flam has spent his entire professional career on the college campus. Following Rabbinic ordination in 1978 from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, Ohio, he served as Hillel director at SUNY Stony Brook. In 1982, Rabbi Flam assumed the position of associate university chaplain and executive director of the Brown-RISD Hillel Foundation which, subsequently, under his leadership gained national recognition as one of the premier Hillel Foundations. Brown-Hillel has twice won the prestigious William Haber Award in 1984 for creating a successful Black-Jewish Dialogue Project, and in 1990 for creating the first campus-based Community Relations Council. In 1996 the Elie Wiesel Award for cultural arts excellence was awarded for "Acts of Power" — the Jewish Women's Cultural Show. In addition to excellence in programming during Flam's tenure, Brown-RISD Hillel excelled as a training ground for Jewish leaders with many graduates pursuing careers in the rabbinate, cantorate, Jewish education and communal service. In 1995 he was recognized by his Hillel peers as an Exemplar of Professional Excellence.

In recent years, Rabbi Flam has worked to make community service a centerpiece of the Hillel program. In 1999, he was named by the International Hillel Center as senior advisor to Tzedek Hillel — a nationwide

effort to promote community service and *tikkun olam* (acts of charity) work on campuses throughout the country. The catalyst for this nationwide project was the Visions for Change Initiative started at Brown-RISD Hillel by Rabbi Flam seven years ago.

In addition to his responsibilities at Hillel, Rabbi Flam also served as senior associate university chaplain. In this capacity he worked as part of a multi-faith team providing pastoral care and programs for the entire university community. On campus he was active in bereavement counseling, multicultural education, public service, gay, lesbian, bisexual civil rights, Arab-Jewish dialogue, and academic advising. He was the co-founder and first director of the Brown University Mediation Project.

Rabbi Flam left his position at Hillel in June to lead a new collaborative project at Brown between the Swearer Center for Public Service and the Office of Chaplains and Religious Life that explores the intersection of religious and spiritual values with community work.

Rabbi Flam and his wife, Judy Semonoff, and their children, Lucy, Ezra, and Gabe, reside in Barrington and have been members of Temple Emanu-El since 1984.

In addition to this Feb. 25 program, other brunch programs are scheduled for March 18, and May 6 at Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence. Brunch will be served at 9:30 a.m. followed by the speaker at 10 a.m. The general topic this year is "Judaism at a Crossroads." The series is open to the public. Please call Temple Emanu-El at 331-1616 to register.

Andrew Reich Engaged to Sari Epstein

Dr. Mel and Barbara Ann Reich of Cranston, R.I., announce the engagement of their son, Andrew Glenn Reich, to Sari Jill Epstein of Brookline, Mass., daughter of Carol Ann and Armand Epstein of Framingham, Mass.

The bride-to-be graduated Framingham High School and received a bachelor of science in business administration from the University of Vermont. She is a C.P.A. with Deloitte and Touche LLP in Boston.

Her fiancé graduated from Tolland, Conn., High School and from Franklin Pierce College. He received a master of fine arts from UMASS at Amherst. He is a senior site builder at <agency.com> in Cambridge, Mass.

The bride's grandparents are the late Gloria and Leonard Rosendorf of Wayland, Mass., and Muriel Epstein of Weston, Fla., and the late Ehud Epstein.

The bridegroom's grandparents are Mildred and Sol Chaika of Cranston, R.I., and the late Ruth and Dr. Jerome Reich of New Jersey.

The wedding will be held in June 2001.



Andrew Reich and Sari Epstein

Philadelphia Mayor to Read George Washington Letter

Many will celebrate George Washington's Birthday and President's Day at the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia with a program culminating with Mayor John F. Street reading a letter written by President Washington to Historic Congregation Mikveh Israel, in which he affirmed the importance of religious freedom in the United States. The program also includes reenactors from the 11th Pennsylvania Regiment, the First Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry and the Olde City Fife & Drum Corps.

The celebration will be held Feb. 19 at the National Museum of American Jewish History, Philadelphia. The program is co-sponsored by Mikveh Israel, which shares its location with the museum.

President Washington's letter was sent to Mikveh Israel and congregations in Charleston, N.Y., and Richmond in 1790 after they wrote to congratulate Washington following his inauguration as president. In his reply, Washington wrote, "The liberality of sentiment towards each other, which marks every political and religious denomination of men in this country, stands unparalleled in the history of nations."

The letter is on display in the museum's permanent exhibition, "Creating American Jews." Each year, Touro Synagogue in Newport, R.I., has a similar George Washington letter reading which affirms religious freedom.

Professor Judith Kates Will Teach 'Esther' at Hebrew College

Going beyond the costumes and noisemakers associated with Purim, a special four-session lunchtime class will be taught by Judith Kates, professor of Jewish women's studies at Hebrew College. Offered by the college's Center for Adult Jewish Learning, "Esther: More Than Just a Pretty Face" will explore the complexity and depth of one of the Bible's most challenging books.

Students will connect the reading to the thinking of contemporary feminist scholars and learn about this unique biblical character, who overturns expectations and subverts conventional assumptions about heroism and leadership. No knowledge of Hebrew is required.

The course will take place on four consecutive Thursdays, beginning March 1 from noon to 1:30 p.m. at Hebrew College, 43 Hawes St., Brookline, Mass. Tuition is \$95. For further information, contact Lina Reznikov at (617) 278-4939.



Feinstein's Challenge Nets \$3.46 Million For Charity

Rhode Island philanthropist Alan Shawn Feinstein's offer to divide \$100,000 last Thanksgiving and Christmas between all regional agencies helping the needy, to use as a spur to help them raise more funds, has brought in a total of \$3.46 million added to his money.

The challenge offer was in effect from last Nov. 15 to Dec. 31. One hundred forty-two agencies throughout Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Connecticut participated, including Chabad of West Bay and the Alperin Schechter Day School.

Feinstein is now offering \$1 million to help all agencies throughout the country fighting hunger. This money will be divided up between all of them using his challenge as a spur to their own fund-raising during this coming March and April. This is the fourth year Feinstein has made this \$1 million offer. In the last three years, his challenge has helped to raise more than \$93 million.

All non-profit agencies fighting hunger and wanting to share in this challenge, just visit <www.feinsteinfoundation.com>.



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JEWISH COMMUNITY

Public Petition Unites Rabbis to Fight Violence Against Religious Institutions

Breaking new ground, the Chief Rabbis of Israel have signed their names to a public petition — alongside 150 rabbis from all streams of Judaism, and all areas of Israel, including Judea and Samaria — condemning violence against religious institutions in Israel. The petition was organized by activists from Merkaz Hamagshimim-Hadassah, the absorption/community center in Jerusalem, supported by Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America. The petition reads as follows:

"We, the undersigned, rabbis and Jewish leaders of Israel, though we may disagree about many aspects of our religious commitment, denounce violence against any place of worship or yeshiva. By signing this statement we declare that any such attack in any community will be considered to be an attack against us all. In response to any attack, we will denounce these crimes to our friends, colleagues, and congregants."

The signed petition was re-

cently presented to President of Israel Moshe Katzav, who has vowed to display it on the walls of the president's residence.

"I'm not a rabbi, but I would be glad to sign this petition," the president told the Merkaz Hamagshimim-Hadassah organizers, many of them immigrants and alumni of Young Judea, the Zionist youth movement sponsored by Hadassah. "This is an historic document. Never have we had the Chief Rabbis of Israel sign together with Conservative and Reform rabbis."

The activists were galvanized into action recently when they learned that the majority of violence against Jewish religious institutions in Israel is perpetrated by Jews. In their countries of origin, when synagogues are defaced, anti-Semites are generally to blame. Since the torching of a synagogue last fall in the Jerusalem neighborhood of Ramot, the newcomers discovered that this was not an isolated incident: 30 synagogues and *yeshivot* in Israel had been defaced in the past three years.

"Our experience abroad was that when terrible things like this happened, people turn to the leadership to denounce them," said American-born Paul Arberman, a Merkaz Hamagshimim-Hadassah activist. "We expect no less from our Jewish leaders, especially religious."

To that end, they drew up the petition and in short order had assembled 150 names, among them the Ashkenazi Chief Rabbis of Israel Yisrael Meir Lau and his Sephardic counterpart, Eliahu Bakshi-Doron.

"We see the issue of religious tolerance as a simmering issue in Israeli society that could turn into a time bomb," said Arberman. "We hope that through the petition and other social action we can strengthen our belief that we can live together in peace. 'Kol yisrael aravim ze be'ze.'"

Eitan Hersh Elected International USY President

by Stephanie Steingold
Contributing Youth Reporter

For some, Judaism is a religion, for Eitan Hersh, it is a lifestyle. Much of his extracurricular activities throughout his high school career pertain to Judaism. From volunteering at Temple Emanu-El to helping out at the Alperin Schechter Day School, Hersh says that his Judaism helps him make decisions and has made him what he is today, which is the new international president of United Synagogue Youth.

This December at the International USY convention, this senior of Classical High School in Providence was elected. As international president, Hersh will oversee the international board, help the regional boards, as well as serving as the liaison between the youth and the adult leaders. He will spend this summer traveling all over the country, and also to Israel visiting USY regions throughout the world.

As international president, Hersh's main goal is to increase membership for the organization. Hersh feels that "when you're through with USY, you have attained the attributes that the group exemplifies." According to Hersh, USY teaches youth to understand and involve Judaism in their community.

As previously stated, Hersh will be visiting Israel this summer. Many feel that Israel is a

dangerous place to be right now, but Hersh does not agree. "Now is a very exciting and historic time to visit Israel," he said. This is definitely the opinion of someone who feels strongly about politics, as well as his religion. Although the newly elected Ariel Sharon is not Hersh's politician of choice, he feels that everyone is hoping for peace and this is just a frustrating time for Israel.

Hersh, who resides in Providence with his parents Leah and Kenneth, hopes to graduate

from the college of his choice and perhaps enter a career of teaching or academics.

Next year, Hersh will attend a USY program in Israel called Nativ, where he will spend a semester in Jerusalem and then live on a kibbutz for a few months. "Someday," said Hersh, "maybe I will find myself living in Israel." But for now he will stay in Providence serving as the 2001 international USY president and enjoy his senior year of high school.

Congratulations, Eitan!



TWO HUNDRED New England Region USYers recently joined 1,200 USY teens from across the country at United Synagogue Youth's 50th international convention in Boston. A highlight for New England Region USY was the election of international officers. Eitan Hersh, at right, the current New England USY president from Temple Emanu-El, Providence, R.I., was elected international USY president Robert Spiro, left, the current New England Region USY communications vice president from Temple Beth El, Portland, Maine, was elected international USY communications vice president. For more information on USY programs, visit <www.nerusy.org> or call (617) 964-8210.

Photo courtesy of USY

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Logo Design Winners Chosen for JCC Kidspace/PTC Contest

It's a new year and there are some great things going on in Kidspace/PTC. In early January, the Kidspace/PTC counselors taught the children what a logo is and showed them many examples so they could see how words and symbols are used in a logo to tell a special message.

More than 30 children in Kidspace/PTC created original designs for a Kidspace/PTC logo which could be used on flyers and anything else connected with our program. Members of the JCCRI Children, Youth and Camp Committee, along with several JCCRI staff members, had the very tough job of narrowing down the choice to three designs.

The winning design was a team effort by third-graders Kalilah Darkstar and Liliana Gutman-McKenzie. Artists whose designs were finalists included Rashel Shneyder and Rachel Zurier. Committee member Melissa Labrecque did an

awesome job taking Kalilah's and Lili's design to the next level when she computerized it so that we could use it in the form that you see here. Kalilah and Liliana each received a framed copy of their design as a thank you for their efforts. All participants in the contest received a certificate of appreciation. The designs will be on display in the 2-3 room through the end of February.

Mazel Tov and Todah Rabah to all the children who made

the contest so much fun:

Hannah Zurier, Laura Gagnon, Nicholas Whittingham, Maya Gutman-McKenzie, Brandon Trevino, Craig Gorman, Katrina McClintock, Jason Riffkin, Max McGuigan, Leah Timberg, Courtney Allard, Maxie Formal, Josh Lentz, Sam Kartaoui, Miriam Timberg, Aaron Lentz, Lizzie Tilchin, Michael Ross, Gabi Labrecque, and Molly Katz. Counselor Jake Brier also entered a special logo design.



JEWISH COMMUNITY

Rabbi Greenberg Speaks

(Continued from Page 1)

announced, "Both these and those are the words of the living G-d, and the halacha is in accordance with the rulings of Bet Hillel." Why Hillel? Because "they were kindly and modest, they studied their own rulings and those of Bet Shammai, and they even would mention the opinion of Bet Shammai before their own."

The truth, then, can be found in the good intent of the questioning, Rabbi Greenberg said. One who argues with the pure intent to find the truth will admit if he is found wrong. He seeks only knowledge, not status or self-glorification. This mode of argument is preferable to arguing with the sole purpose to undermine the opinions of others and to further one's own self-interests. The more holy attitude is to "show respect for one's opponent," and to be open to their opinions.

But Rabbi Greenberg did not let the issue rest with this kind of simple moralizing. What if you meet someone and there is no room for accepting new perspectives? What if their fundamental beliefs are so concrete and specifically tied to a concept that there is no room for leeway? How can you bridge a gap that refuses to accept a bridge?

The answer, again, is L'shem Shama'im. When we talk to people, we must honestly believe that the people in front of us, no matter how different their opinions may be, are also work-

The Orthodox struggle is, "Can we stand unmoved while accepting that other people have different opinions," opinions that also may be true as well. The Reform struggle is to realize that in order to live Jewishly, you must first know the Torah before you can decide whether or not you want to embody its lessons.

ing in the name of heaven. We need to give them credit as human beings. "Otherwise, you [will] think that they are too sick or morally depraved to talk to," Rabbi Greenberg said. Otherwise, "there will be no conversation," only words dumped out into the open air. The key is respect, Rabbi Greenberg added. "If you want a conversation, this



THE AUDIENCE BROKE into study groups to discuss the strengths and weakness of their religious denominations. Herald photos by Jon Rubin

is where its gotta begin." And, if we are patient, we may find that "both sides can reflect pieces of a larger truth," and, even, that "truth can be multiple."

Each Jewish movement has its own struggle towards unity, Rabbi Greenberg said. The Orthodox struggle is, "Can we stand unmoved while accepting

that other people have different opinions," opinions that also may be true as well. The Reform struggle is to realize that in order to live Jewishly, you must first know the Torah before you can decide whether or not you want to embody its lessons. "Do you want to know from knowledge or from ignorance?" Rabbi Greenberg asked.

The way to overcome all these problems in one fell swoop is to practice what is called "holy envy." This term was originally coined by Bishop Krister Stendhal, and refers to, in Rabbi Greenberg's words, a "deep admiration for an idea or practice of another religious tradition while remaining centered in one's own."

Rabbi Greenberg presented the following questions, which split up the entire room into study groups:

1. What in your movement (or your upbringing as a Jew) makes you most proud? What did you receive from your movement that you appreciate?

What facet appeals to you most?

2. What in your movement (or your upbringing) makes you most ashamed? What didn't your movement give you what you needed? What most angers or upsets you about your own movement?

3. What "holy envy" do you have for another movement or about the way other Jews do things? What do you most admire about another movement?

4. What most disturbs you about another movement or the way other Jews do things? What most angers, frightens or alarms you about another movement?

The study groups, made up of people from different congregations, spoke on these topics for almost a half an hour.

In parting, Rabbi Greenberg quoted an old Jewish maxim: "Either companionship or death." We must live with ourselves and others, and learn from them and with them. Without this coexistence, existence is not possible.

Nobel Prize Winning Chemist, Doll-Maker and Preacher Recognized as 'Women of Valor'

The chemist who developed the first drugs effective against childhood leukemia; the founder of the Alexander Doll Company, which created the beloved "Madame Alexander" dolls; and the first Jewish woman to preach from a pulpit in the United States were recently named *Women of Valor* by the Jewish Women's Archive.

The fifth annual *Women of Valor* series spotlights entrepreneur and philanthropist "Madame" Beatrice Alexander; Nobel Prize-winning pharmaceutical researcher Gertrude Elion; and itinerant preacher Ray Frank. The three are the subjects of a powerful new poster series that is being distributed to schools, libraries and synagogues around the nation. They also will be featured at educational events around the country over the next year. In addition, JWA's award-winning Web site <www.jwa.org> displays elaborate, multimedia exhibits on these women's contributions and accomplishments.

"These were remarkable women who blazed trails for Jewish women and made lasting contributions to American society and to our world," said JWA Executive Director Gail Twersky Reimer. "Their work benefits us to this day, and yet their stories are largely untold. We hope and expect that their recognition as *Women of Valor* will help communicate their accomplishments to all Americans, and particularly to Jewish women."

Women of Valor is an educational outreach program de-

signed to celebrate the lives and accomplishments of Jewish women. In partnership with Ma'yan: The Jewish Women's Project in New York, each year JWA produces and disseminates posters and resource guides featuring three noteworthy Jewish women to thousands of institutions across North America. Now in its fifth year, the program has honored an impressive list of 15 women.

The lives of this year's *Women of Valor* honorees span the last 140 years of American history.

"Madame" Beatrice Alexander (1895-1990) was one of the foremost female entrepreneurs of the 20th century. She founded the Alexander Doll Company at a time when the very presence of women in business was rare; the company then grew from its humble beginnings in the family kitchen into one of the largest doll-manufacturing enterprises in the United States. Believing strongly that dolls are more than simple playthings, Alexander aimed to create characters that would stimulate children's minds, emotions, and imaginations. Her "Madame Alexander" dolls — many of which have become collectors' items — have been beloved by generations of American children. Alexander used the wealth she accumulated from her business to become a prominent philanthropist, donating generously to a wide variety of Jewish and non-Jewish organizations.

Winner of the 1988 Nobel Prize in Medicine, chemist Gertrude Elion (1918-1999)

helped to revolutionize the way drugs are developed. Rather than the trial-and-error method that had been used in the past, Elion and her research partner actively designed drugs based on knowledge of how cells worked. The many treatments she developed include the first drugs effective against childhood leukemia, the first successful anti-viral medication, and a drug that made possible the first kidney transplant. Elion also devoted much time to conveying the fun and excitement of science to students of all ages, encouraging children — especially girls — to pursue scientific careers. Science was never an abstract enterprise for Elion, a true humanitarian who prized — even more than the Nobel medal — the letters she received from countless patients whose lives she saved.

In 1890, more than 80 years before the first female rabbi was ordained by a theological seminary, Ray Frank (1861-1948) became the first Jewish woman to preach from a pulpit in the United States. Quickly dubbed "the Girl Rabbi of the Golden West" and "the Maiden in the Temple," she spent a whirlwind decade giving sermons, writing and lecturing across the nation. Her career as an itinerant preacher forced many people to recognize Jewish women's skills and experiences. Although she was never ordained, her unprecedented presence at the pulpit and her persuasive arguments for women's increased participation in Jewish life helped to blaze new paths for women in Judaism.

Hadassah Congratulates Sharon

Encourages Voters to Always Exercise Their Choice at the Polls

Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, congratulates Ariel Sharon on his decisive victory as Israel's next prime minister. Bonnie Lipton, national president of Hadassah, an organization which stands firmly behind the democratically elected government of Israel and never takes a position on Israeli or American partisan politics, had this to say: "To rise to the top leadership position in any country which subscribes to a fully participatory democracy as Israel does is a great, great honor and responsibility. We offer Ariel Sharon our heartfelt congratulations and wish him much success as Israel's new leader.

"Today's press has been rife with analyses of Israel's election and the low voter turnout. We at Hadassah find it difficult to understand when voters in any

democracy vote with their feet and sit out an election. Because we believe that there are few more sacred privileges than expressing and exercising one's choice at the polls, Hadassah has long been active in getting out the vote in the United States. Moving forward, we strongly encourage citizens of all democracies to vote and find ways to work within the democratic system to effect change."

In the United States, during the past year, Hadassah chapters all over the country undertook Hadassah Voter Challenge 2000. Held every four years in the year of the presidential elections, the Hadassah Voter Challenge is a national, non-partisan voter registration and turnout campaign. The first time the drive was held in 1996, Hadassah registered 5,000 new voters.

JEWISH COMMUNITY

Temple Sinai Tu Bishvat Seder Celebrates Trees and Nature

by Luke O'Neill
Herald Editor

Outside, a light snow flurry began to dance in the southern New England air. As whimsical snow crystals fell on leafless tree branches and snow-en-crusted grass in Cranston on Feb. 8, a celebration of nature was taking place inside Temple Sinai.

Ninety-one students from the fourth to seventh grades of Temple Sinai's religious school held a Tu Bishvat seder last week in celebration of the new year for fruit trees and appreciation of nature.

Rabbi David E. Lipman planted the seed for the idea of this Tu Bishvat seder with help from Temple Sinai Education Director Leonore Sones. The seder started with students and some parents fill their plates from a buffet-style arrangement of various fruits. Students were encouraged to bring in the fruits from home so others could

sample from the many different kinds.

Led by Rabbi Lipman, the seder had several students head to the front of the room and read parts of an eight-page guide into two microphones—some in English and others in Hebrew. The rabbi later added that students practiced reading their parts at home and a few even memorized their excerpts. The seder had four goals: to learn about trees in the Torah and in Jewish tradition, discuss the importance of trees in Israel, ponder the different seasons of the year as they affect trees and simply taste various fruits.

The taste test part of the seder started with winter, a season that's remembered by drinking pale pineapple juice—since there is not a lot of color in winter.

Rabbi Lipman then explained that on Tu Bishvat, all trees become a year older no matter when the tree was



FOURTH- THROUGH seventh-graders, and some parents, took part in the fruit-filled seder.



TEMPLE SINAI students pick through plates of fruits at the school's Tu Bishvat seder Feb. 8. Herald photos by Luke O'Neill

planted. So the best time to plant a tree, he said, would be the day before Tu Bishvat because the next day it would already be a year old.

On Tu Bishvat, trees are usually planted in Israel. However, as Rabbi Lipman noted, 5761 is a shemittah year; so this year in Israel, "the whole land gets a Shabbat, it gets a rest every seven years," he said. In this, a seventh year, no trees will be planted in Israel, he added. The seder guide pointed out that since 1901, the Jewish National Fund has planted more than 90 billion trees.

In this taste test of healthy eating, the first plate of fruit sampled was those with shells or thick skins that have to be removed to enjoy the sweet insides. All the fruits mentioned were compared to people and personality traits. For the fruits with "thick skins," a student read: "We know people like that. They're hard to get to know, but once they've become your friend, they are the nicest, sweetest, most generous people." The shelled fruits included coconut, pine nuts, pecans, macadamia nuts, pomegranates, almonds, kiwis, mandarin oranges, walnuts, pine-

apples and bananas. Students were then quizzed as to which of these fruits is found in Israel—the pomegranate is.

Next, the season of spring was discussed when "everything looks bright and sunny," so students drank one of the "sunniest juices"—orange juice.

The second variety of fruit noshed on was those with pits in the middle such as plums, dates, peaches, olives, carobs and cherries. The date, olive and carob can be found in Israel. The fruits with pits were likened to sociable people who keep a small inner part of themselves private.

Apple juice was the third nectar drank in recognition of summer when "everything is sweet and juicy" and alive with color.

The third variety of fruit munched on has no pit or shell, but can be promptly popped into mouths and are "right there." These fruits included apple, pear, apricot, fig, grape

and raisin—the last three can be found in Israel. These fruits were compared with people who are open and "easy to get to know.... Let's try to be like these kinds of fruits," it was read.

Fall, the last season recognized, a time of harvest and thanksgiving, is also known as a season of grapes and wine, so students drank grape juice.

The fourth variety of fruit sampled was those with both a thick skin and big pit; people like this include shy people who "need lots of special love and care from us.... They need to be shown that we like them." The two fruits were the mango and avocado.

Rabbi Lipman then hustled around the room with a microphone to find out some students' and parents' favorite fruits and why. After an orderly clean-up, led by Sones, parents and students made their way outside into a blustery snowfall after the first annual Tu Bishvat seder at Temple Sinai.

Beat The Winter Blahs With a Little Humor, A Little Music

The Jewish Federation of Greater New Bedford Community Winter Programs, co-sponsored with Tifereth Israel Sisterhood, present the upcoming cultural events:

"Jewish Humor Thru The Ages" with Rabbi Marc S. Jagolinzer, spiritual leader of Temple Shalom, Middletown, R.I., on Feb. 21 at noon at Tifereth Israel Synagogue, New Bedford, Mass. Discussed will be anti-Semitism, struggle, dislocation, survival, food, fund-raising, mothers, business and wealth (or lack thereof). A luncheon will precede Rabbi Jagolinzer's talk. The cost is \$15 and includes luncheon.

Boston Symphony Open Rehearsal

Stravinsky's Symphony of Psalms with Tanglewood Festival Chorus on March 22. Chartered bus and admission is \$25. Ravel's diaphanous, shimmering "Daphnis et Chloe" was written in 1910 for a Diaghilev ballet first staged in 1912. "Symphony of Psalms" was commissioned by Serge Koussevitzky for the BSO, but Koussevitzky fell ill and was unable to conduct what was to be the world premiere. As a result, the piece was given its first performance by the Brussels Philharmonic Society under Ernest Ansermet in December 1930. Koussevitzky led the American premiere of the work in Symphony hall later that same month. Depart Tifereth Israel parking lot at 8:30 a.m.; depart theatre at 1 p.m. Registration is required. Call the Federation office at 997-7471.

If you have an event you would like featured on our Jewish Community Page, please send it to the Rhode Island Jewish Herald, P.O. Box 6063, Providence, R.I. 02940 or fax to 726-5820.

Special Programs Add Fun to School Vacation Days

During the days and times that school is not in session, the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island Kidspace and PreTeen Connection offers safe, supervised fun for children and peace of mind for working parents.

During Feb. 19 through 23, school vacation week, the fun will be non-stop. Monday, the Providence Circus School will have the children juggling, walking on stilts, doing acrobatics, and learning circus tricks. Tuesday, a trip to Resource Recovery

Corp. in Johnston provide a first-hand look at what happens to all those things that go into the curbside recycling buckets from all over Rhode Island.

On Wednesday, Yomega yo-yo expert Brett Outchunis will teach his entertaining yo-yo skills and all participants receive their own "professional" yo-yo. Maple "sugaring off" at Moosehill Sanctuary in Sharon, Mass., will provide some outdoor fun on Thursday, and Friday the program will include a trip to go bumper bowling, a

game in which there's no such thing as a gutter ball.

Children may attend any or all of the 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. vacation week days. There are options for early arrival, 8 to 9 a.m. and extended day hours are until 6 p.m. Participants should bring a dairy lunch, swimsuit and towel each day. Snacks will be provided.

For more information or to register, call Charli Lurie, JCCRI director of children, youth and camp, 861-8800, ext. 147.

Making a Call to Combat Domestic Violence

*JFRI Does Its Part
to Help Out*
by Luke O'Neill
Herald Editor

A Donate a Phone campaign officially came to an end last week with Rhode Island having one of the best collection drives in the country. In just two months, Rhode Islanders donated 3,450 wireless phones to help victims of domestic violence. Rhode Island's collection rate per capita is among one of the best in the country.

"We may be the smallest state in the union," said Deborah DeBare, executive director of the R.I. Coalition Against Domestic Violence, "but I can proudly say that we have the biggest heart." DeBare also thanked the venues that served as drop-off sites for the phones, including the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island at 130 Sessions St., Providence.

Officer Patrick Shea of the Newport Police Department noted that with the Donate a Phone program, a feeling of community has been emphasized, especially with such a high turnout of donations from all ages.

The announcement was made at a Feb. 8 press conference at the Federal Express building in Warwick. Law enforcement



JFRI REPRESENTED — John Redman, senior communications manager of Nextel; Amy Gross, community relations council director of JFRI; Snoopy of Metlife; Cheryl O'Brien, Federal Express managing director of operations; and Deborah DeBare, executive director of R.I. Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Herald photo by Luke O'Neill

officials, local high school students and many others attended the event and heard a group of speakers extol the success of the Donate a Phone program. Rhode Island's 3,450 tally nears that of the estimated 4,000 phones donated in Chicago—a city with a

larger population than that of Rhode Island.

Founded in 1999, the Donate a Phone campaign, sponsored by the Wireless Foundation, Motorola and the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, is a national initiative to

collect used wireless phones to be donated to help victims of abuse. During the two-month campaign, an average of 55 phones were collected a day statewide.

The phones have been shipped to a recycling center in

Ann Arbor, Mich., by Federal Express, which has collected, packaged and shipped the phones free of charge. After the phones are refurbished and recycled, they are then given to victims of domestic violence for use in an immediate emergency situation.

The goal of the Donate a Phone program was to collect as many phones as possible. More than 150,000 phones were collected nationally. For the months of December and January, local police departments and community sites across the state served as drop-off sites for donations—including JFRI.

According to Amy Gross, JFRI community relations council director, the federation collected more than 150 phones in the two-month span, starting in mid-December.

Although the Donate a Phone program officially ended last week, used phones can still be donated to the following locales: R.I. Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 422 Post Road—Suite 202, Warwick, R.I.; Metlife Auto & Home centers, 211 Quaker Lane, Warwick; 700 Quaker Lane, Warwick and 1600 Division Road, West Warwick; and Nextel Communications, 10 Dorrance St., Providence.

Newport Winter Festival Announces J.P. Serpa Creamery Chili Cook-Off

The 13th annual Newport Winter Festival is proud to announce the return of the extremely popular Chili Cook-Off. Presented by J.P. Serpa Creamery, the Chili Cook-Off will take place on Feb. 17 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Newport Harbor Hotel on America's Cup Avenue. This annual event has become one of the Winter Festival's most popular events and is full of non-stop family fun!

It may be necessary to skip breakfast, because this event is all you can eat! Challenging as it may be, it is virtually impossible not to taste-test each delicious concoction! Restaurants from around the state and Southeastern Massachusetts

will compete for the coveted title of "Best Overall Chili."

Bring your appetite, sharpen your taste buds, and join the fun as you choose your favorite chili. Every vote counts and each participant is encouraged to cast theirs for the grand prize winner who will receive two round-trip airline tickets to any U.S. destination from Continental Airlines/Continental Express and a \$250 gift certificate from J.P. Serpa Creamery! Additional prizes will be provided by J.P. Serpa Creamery, The Boston Beer Company, WSNE, and the Newport Winter Festival.

David Jones will be doing live remotes for Rhode Island's 93.3 WSNE from the Cook-Off while serving their own chili!

There will also be chili-eating music on site with Southwestern, Cajun and Zydeco music provided by Matrix Audio.

Be sure to sample chili from the Glass Onion as Maggie Wiggins returns to defend her title of "Best Overall Chili" after winning for the past two years. Other winners from the 2000 Chili Cook-Off include: Long Wharf Steakhouse for "Most Spirited," India for "Most Creative" and Lena's Lowdown Chili from Cape Cod for "Longest Distance."

Admission is \$5/\$4 with a festival button. Children 12 and under are \$3/\$2 with a festival button. Partial proceeds benefit the Academy of Travel and Tourism in Newport.

For a festival brochure, contact the festival office at 847-7666, the Newport County Convention and Visitor's Bureau at (800) 976-5122 or 845-9123 or visit online at <www.NewportEvents.com>.

Jared Ross Named Assistant Director at International Sport

Jared Ross has joined the Institute for International Sport as assistant director of development, with special emphasis on the Middle East/Mediterranean Scholar-Athlete Games.

Ross will coordinate United States fund-raising efforts for the second Middle East/Mediterranean Scholar-Athlete Games, scheduled for June 2002 in Tel Aviv, Israel. The inaugural games in the summer of 2000 brought together nearly 400 participants, ages 16 to 20, from 25 countries, for nine days of athletic competition and cultural pursuits with the goal of promoting understanding, acceptance and friendship. Tel Aviv University was the host site.

Ross received a B.B.A. in sports management from George Washington University in May 2000. He previously worked in internship positions at Sports America, Inc. (Rockville, Md.) and with the Boston Red Sox AAA affiliate in Pawtucket, R.I. Ross resides in Warwick, R.I., where he attended Toll Gate High School.



Jared Ross

JSA Provides Health Insurance Counseling For Seniors

The Jewish Seniors Agency provides health insurance counseling for seniors. Part of the state-sponsored Senior Health Insurance Program, JSA representatives are certified through the Rhode Island Department of Elderly Affairs to counsel seniors regarding their health insurance choices.

JSA SHIP counselors provide information regarding a wide range of health insurance topics including Medicare, supplemental insurance, managed care, over-insurance, free and reduced-cost medical care programs and long-term care insurance.

"Health insurance can be very confusing, especially for seniors," said Susette Rabinowitz, JSA executive director. "By helping seniors understand all the options available to them, they are able to pick the insurance package that best fits their individual needs."

All JSA counselors receive on-going training to update them on current state and private health insurance guidelines.

To set up an appointment for SHIP counseling, call Susan Adler at JSA at 621-5374.

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FEATURE

Jewish Seniors Agency Announces New Volunteer Initiative

CHAVER Program to Provide Spiritual Care Training For Volunteers

The Jewish Seniors Agency recently announced a new volunteer initiative through its Jewish ElderCare of Rhode Island program. Caring Helpers And Visitors Enliven Residents will provide volunteers with extensive training on how to become spiritual care visitors to Jewish residents of nursing homes. The program is designed to encourage long-term relationships between the CHAVER volunteers and the nursing home residents.

"With the CHAVER program, we hope to take some of the fear out of volunteering," said Susan Adler, JERI program director. "The training will provide the volunteers with the skills they need to really make a difference in someone's life."

CHAVER's volunteers will attend an eight-week training course, with on-going workshops and mentoring available to them as well. After the initial training sessions, the CHAVER volunteer will be assigned to a

nursing home near where they live, and visit the Jewish residents of the facility on a regular basis.

Research has shown that long-term relationships, such as those that the CHAVER program will provide, help nursing home residents to feel re-connected to the community and increases their self-worth. It also provides personal and spiritual satisfaction for the volunteer as well.

The program is being coordinated by Rabbi Andrea M. Gouze. A certified chaplain working at the Miriam Hospital, Rabbi Gouze has trained at the Interfaith Health Care Ministries.

"We are very excited to have Rabbi Gouze spearheading CHAVER," said Adler. "The combination of her professional expertise as a chaplain and rabbinic experience is ideal for this program."

For more information about CHAVER or to receive an information packet, call Susan at Jewish ElderCare of Rhode Island at 621-5374 or Joyce at Jewish Seniors Agency at 351-4750.

Haredi Medical Service Assists Israelis of All Stripes

by Sarah Dafner

Kav LaChaim, whose American affiliate is called United Lifeline, is a *haredi* organization founded in 1989 whose purpose is to provide medical and psychological assistance to gravely ill children and their families. Its founder, Tovia Levenstein, thought of the idea after his own daughter's successful struggle with cancer; his experiences in dealing with the Israeli medical bureaucracy convinced him of the need for a central organization to which families can turn. Unfortunately, Levinstein was right, and Kav LaChaim quickly grew to an international network with 12 branches in Israel and four more worldwide. Its purpose grew as well, and today Kav LaChaim serves children with cancer, cerebral palsy and muscular dystrophy, and provides a variety of services for people of all ages, regardless of religious or political affiliation.

"Kav LaChaim's services can be divided into three major categories," explains Yechiel Landman, who denies having a title. ("Tovia is the chairman," he said. "I just help him out."). "There are the youth programs, the medical referrals, and the hostel." The youth programs include activities ranging from field trips to performances. There have even been field maneuvers with combat troops and most anything else that can possibly bring some happiness and excitement to these children's lives."

"The crown jewel of the children's activities is our summer camp," Landman continues. Kav LaChaim actually runs three summer camps, one in Israel and two more abroad. "Each child is assigned a counselor — sometimes more than one — and there is a full-time medical staff. Between campers and staff members, there are about 750 people attending the camp here in Israel." The camp lasts for eight days, and within those eight days, "we give the children... everything... that can possibly be done for a child."

When a young participant named Lior came home, his parents asked him about the camp.

"Where did you go?" they asked.

"Paradise."

"And where did you stay?"

"In seventh heaven."

How much does "paradise" cost? For the children — nothing. The camp is free of charge. Kav LaChaim? A quarter of a million dollars for the eight-day program.

How does Kav LaChaim pay for all of their services? Landman answers with a wry smile. "Five percent of our budget comes from government funding. We try our best to use

it for salaries. The rest comes from donations. That way people who want to give know that at least 95 percent of their donation goes to whichever program they've given. They know that their money is going directly to the cause of their choice."

But although the children's programs account for a large portion of the organization's budget, they only represent about 30 percent of its services. The other 70 percent is taken up by the hostel and the medical referral center.

The hostel's purpose is to provide cancer victims living outside of the big cities with a warm, comfortable place to stay while they are undergoing chemotherapy or radiation treatment, and is especially geared to child victim's and their parents. The new, soon-to-be populated hostel has 36 apartments, in addition to offices and recreation centers, with a separate wing for families whose children have not recovered and need time and support in dealing with their tragedies. While the apartments are homey and inviting, intended to be as un-hospital like as possible, they are also outfit-

(Continued on Page 15)

Poems Sought in Contest

A \$1,000 grand prize is being offered in a new poetry contest sponsored by Celestial Arts, free to everyone. A whopping \$50,000 in prizes will be awarded during the coming year!

"Even if you have never entered a competition before," said Poetry Editor Michael Thomas, "this is your opportunity to win big. Even if you have written only one poem it deserves to be read and appreciated. Beginners are welcome!"

Enter online at <www.freecontest.com>. Pomes must be 21 lines or less.

Be sure your name and address appear on the page with your poem. The deadline for entering is March 10.

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Bush Slow to Adopt Middle East Policy

text and photo by Marshall H. Cohen, Photojournalist and Washington Correspondent

President George W. Bush danced quite smoothly with his wife Laura before thousands of supporters at the Texas-Wyoming Inaugural Ball at the Washington Convention Center following the official swearing-in ceremonies on Jan. 20. President George Bush's Middle East policy will likely be "on hold" until the results of Israel's recent election for a new prime minister settle down, and the direction of the present Israeli-Palestinian negotiations becomes more conclusive. It seems likely that the Bush administration will be less invasive in directing the course of these negotiations than the Clinton administration, letting the parties involved agree to the details on their own.



Ethiopian Children in Israel Receive Free Dental Care

About 40 children from Ethiopian families living in the Mevasseret Yerushalayim absorption center in Mevasseret Zion were recently given thorough examinations and treatment free of charge at the Hebrew University-Hadassah School of Dental Medicine in Ein Kerem.

The project is the result of a close relationship that has been established between volunteers from the faculty of the School of Dental Medicine and the community center in Mevasseret Zion.

A special bus brought the youngsters to the school in Ein Kerem, where they were welcomed by Dr. Gideon Holan, head of the dental clinics at the school, and other faculty members and students.

"This represents the continuation of a tradition of many years standing of our helping Ethiopian immigrants with their dental health, and we are hoping that this connection will continue," said Holan.

In addition to providing dental care for the Ethiopian youngsters, the Hebrew University-Hadassah School of Dental Medicine is carrying out research regarding the effects on their dental health of the Ethiopian immigrants' absorption into Israeli society.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Moritz Daniel Oppenheim: Jewish Identity in Nineteenth Century Art

Now Showing at Yeshiva University Museum

Yeshiva University Museum presents the exhibition Moritz Daniel Oppenheim: Jewish Identity in Nineteenth Century Art. This exhibition features the work of 19th century German artist Moritz Daniel Oppenheim (1800-1882), considered by many art historians to be the greatest Jewish genre painter of his time. This is the only U.S. presentation of this important exhibition.

The significant body of work produced by Moritz Daniel Oppenheim was a milestone in the history of Jewish art. Since the Middle Ages, Jewish artists had been confined by ghetto walls, unable to study in art schools or with master artists, and their work was restricted to their own Jewish communities. Oppenheim was the first Jewish artist to connect with the artistic currents of the modern era and the first Jewish painter to receive classical academic training. His success afforded him considerable official recognition throughout his life, not only in his own milieu, but also in the larger non-Jewish world.

Drawn from private and public collections in Germany, Switzerland, Israel, France, England, and the United States, the exhibition presents more than 90 paintings, 14 works on paper, and a silver and bronze presentation cup designed by Oppenheim. Many of the paintings and drawings were lost during World War II; in 1941, the Nazis confiscated all of the works from Oppenheim's estate. Today his works are scattered in collections and museums the world over. Many works in this exhibition have never been shown in the United States. Some have only recently been discovered and will be exhibited at the Yeshiva University Museum for the first time anywhere.

Moritz Daniel Oppenheim — A Brief History

Oppenheim was born in 1800 in the Jewish ghetto of the city of Hanau. From 1825 on, he lived in Frankfurt, where he died at the age of 82, a respected citizen and renowned artist.

Oppenheim's meteoric career developed out of a solid foundation of traditional academic art training, generally unattainable by Jews at that time. As a student at the drawing academy in Hanau, his exceptional talent was evident from the beginning. By the early age of 14, Oppenheim was already receiving commissions from the government and from the Grand Duchy of Frankfurt. He was just 27 years of age when, at the recommendation of Goethe, the famous poet/dramatist, he was awarded the coveted title of professor by the Weimar Academy.

Oppenheim traveled to Munich, Paris, and finally, to Rome, where he joined the Nazarenes, a circle of artists led by Johann Friedrich Overbeck (1789-1869), a proponent of the

color-intensive "Raphaelite" style of romantic painting. During Oppenheim's sojourn in Italy, he openly affirmed his Jewishness — and an unusual level of self-confidence — by painting religious subjects based on themes from the Old Testament.

Called the "Painter of the Rothschilds and the Rothschild of Painters," Oppenheim's im-



Moritz Daniel Oppenheim, *Goblet for Adolphe Crémieux*, 1842. Silver and bronze, parcel-gilt

pressive portraits of the Jewish personalities of his day documented the Jewish bourgeoisie and their efforts to attain emancipation. The Rothschild family, in particular the Frankfurt branch, were his primary patrons. He painted portraits of many Rothschild family members spanning three generations, and recorded important events in the family's history. Charlotte, wife of Anselm von Rothschild, even became his pupil.

Oppenheim was a well-educated literary man, and his academic paintings cover a variety of subjects from history to literature, as well as the Bible and the famous portraits. The series of Jewish genre paintings entitled *Scenes from Traditional Jewish Family Life* [Bilder aus dem Altjüdischen Familienleben] is among Oppenheim's best-known work. The cycle depicts 19th-century German Jewish family rituals. Painted during the last 20 years of his life, the series drew on memories of his youth in Hanau and the old Judengasse [Jewish ghetto] in Frankfurt.

Scenes from *Traditional Jewish Family Life* was also published in numerous editions as an album of lithographs. Images included Sabbath and holiday scenes focusing on the importance of family in celebrating and transmitting Judaism. While they provide us today with a glimpse of daily life in that era, scholars suggest that

viewers look at them in the context of the political and social upheavals experienced by 19th-century German Jews. These extraordinarily popular images are, historians maintain, more than nostalgic idealizations of intact, traditional Jewish life. They also depict broader themes such as the tension between the responsibilities of newly won citizenship and the demands of religious life.

Yeshiva University Museum is located at 15 West 16th St. in the Center for Jewish History. Museum hours are: Tuesday, Wednesday and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. The museum is closed Mondays and Fridays. General admission is \$6 for adults, \$4 for seniors and students. Museum members and children 5 and under are admitted free. This exhibit runs through the end of August. Call (212) 294-8330.



Moritz Daniel Oppenheim, *Sabbath Eve*, 1867. Oil on Canvas. Photos courtesy of Yeshiva University Museum

Nationally Acclaimed Duo Jackson and Palter to Perform at Brown

'A Celebration of the Great American Songbook'

Although they have been based in New England since returning from Los Angeles in 1986, Lynne Jackson and Mike Palter will be performing in Providence for the first time on Feb. 24 and 25, invited by the music department of Brown University.

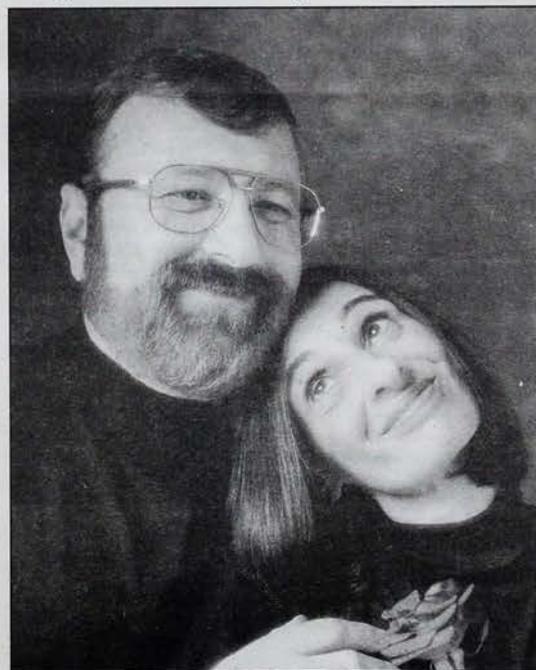
Although Mike's great aunt, the late Rose Coppersmith, was a long-time resident of Providence, you may never have heard of this cabaret/jazz duo. And you may have never heard one of their CDs. This is not unusual, for although Lynne and Mike have been appreciated by audiences and critics throughout America, they are perhaps least known close to home!

Lynne and Mike have performed to standing ovations at Carnegie Hall, have received "national top 10 CD" acclaim by some of the most prestigious critics in the United States, and are known by the completely unique arrangements of the songs of "the great American songbook."

As you probably are aware, "the great American songbook" is substantially "the great Jewish-American songbook." Indeed, just recently Lynne and Mike were the featured artists at "Catskills Cabaret," presented by Temple Emanu-El of Marblehead, Mass., a performance acclaimed by Rabbi Myer and an overflow audience. Coincidentally, Lynne and Mike had just returned from concerts in Boise, Idaho, where they offered an emotional performance for many congregants of Rabbi Myers' rabbinical school classmate, Rabbi Daniel Fink. In April, they will present their acclaimed Gershwin concert for the Merrimac Valley Jewish Federation in Andover, Mass.

Visit their Web site <lynndanmike.com>.

As you might guess, Lynne Jackson and Mike Palter's per-



LYNNE JACKSON and Mike Palter perform Feb. 24 and 25 at Brown University.

formances are very special, celebrating a vital part of our musical heritage. And they are offering their workshop, featuring world-class accompanist Paul Schmeling, head of piano at Berklee College of Music and brilliant actor/director Robb Dimmick, at no charge for both participants and audience.

Lynne Jackson and Mike Palter will perform "A Celebration of the Great American Songbook," George Gershwin, Irving Berlin, Jerome Kern, and other masters, Feb. 24 at 8 p.m., Grant Hall, Brown University. Tickets are \$10 and students, \$5.

A vocal/performance workshop with Lynne, Mike,

Schmeling and Dimmick will take place on Feb. 25 at 3 p.m., Grant Hall, Brown University — free admission. Participants can sign up with Rebecca Low by calling 867-4513, or just be part of the audience!

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

'Piano Lesson' Plays Long, Spirited Note

by Luke O'Neill
Herald Editor

Some may say "The Piano Lesson" (currently playing at the Trinity Repertory Company) is too long; others might say it needs to be long to carry the message that it does. The fact is, both views are right. But length should not be a factor if you're willing to experience this rich lesson of American family heritage and relationships.

The three-hour performance, with one intermission, is the brilliant work of August Wilson. While the story ultimately clings to the past, it eventually moves forward—albeit it takes a long time to do so.

Set in 1937 Pittsburgh, "The Piano Lesson" starts with the character Boy Willie arriving at the home of his sister, Berniece, and uncle Doaker. Willie has come back to claim his share of the family's heirloom—a piano. Willie wants to sell the piano and his truck-load of watermelons so he can buy land in the South on which his ancestors worked as slaves. But Berniece wants to keep the piano that she and Willie both inherited—and so enters our long and simple conflicts of brother versus sister, self-gain versus family legacy and past versus present versus future. But the history (in order to understand the present) is anything but simple.

Sutter, a Mississippi plantation owner, was a white man who owned Doaker's family in slavery days. Sutter traded the piano for Doaker's father and grandmother. Sutter's ghost haunts Doaker's home and the family's history with his lingering grasp.

The family's stories of a tumultuous past are reiterated more than a few times, which adds to the play's length. Yet the reiterated stories of past struggles are essential to blend with the play's ending and story's future. The back and forth family fighting sometimes leaves the viewer blindly guessing at what really happened.

This play of a Depression-era

Black family, with a focus on Black history and the lingering shackles of slavery, possesses larger familial themes that can be applied to and treasured by a more universal understanding—incorporating the plight of the human spirit. It's ultimately an honest story of Black history, so, hence, part of American history.

The almost silent piano perhaps serves as the story and stage's irreproachable centerpiece with its elaborately carved designs of the Charles' family ancestors—including Willie's great grandmother and grandfather.

The family's history is carved on the piano and constantly fought about throughout the play. Yet the piano (and music) does on occasion bring the family together in song, strengthening the play's expressive rhythm. Still, we sense that Boy Willie, superbly played by Keskhemnu, does not want to admit the piano's ability to bring the extended family together.

A determined Willie is trying to work his own way onto the piano with a carving of himself; one way he sees this happening is the purchase of land, putting himself in good standing in society and exorcising a haunted past. You have to wonder if images of Willie and Berniece will indeed be carved on the piano as brother and sister fight over what to do with the family legacy.

Berniece says about her brother: "He don't wanna do nothin' unless he do it his way."

The passionate acting from the talented cast is almost exhausted in this slow-mover of a production, chugging to closure.

Wining Boy, Doaker's brother, smoothly and gangly played by Abdul Salaam El Razzac, is a likable character. A beleaguered man with a soft spot for whiskey, Wining Boy serves as a relic of the past, perhaps beaten with too much knowledge and experience.

Doaker, a railroad cook, played by Ricardo Pitts-Wiley, brings a level of civility and constancy. Doaker does not seem to want to fight over what's right or wrong, only what's real.



KESKHEMNU, Abdul Salaam El Razzac, Kevin Maurice Jackson and Ricardo Pitts-Wiley in the Pulitzer Prize-winning "The Piano Lesson" by August Wilson at the Trinity Repertory Company through March 11.
Photo by T. Charles Erickson

An emotionally and physically herky-jerky Berniece is played fluidly by Trinity veteran Rose Weaver. Berniece refuses to play the piano (until the end), because she feels it will awaken the spirit-infested house.

Lymon, Willie's buddy and a lovably refined fool is played by Kevin Maurice Jackson.

Injecting another religious theme in recent local plays, "The Piano Lesson" has an inspiring minister named Avery, played by Robert Jason Jackson, with good intentions but a somewhat meek dignity.

Maretha, Berniece's daughter, played by Brianna McBride, exudes a sweet innocence of youth and hope for the future.

Without a doubt, "The Piano Lesson" is a great story that should be heard, accompanied with a powerful cast of Trinity newcomers who bring added flavor to the stage. On the play's packed surface, "The Piano Lesson" flirts with black and white relations and proximity that's like... well, that's like the keys on a piano. At one point, Wining Boy says, "Ain't no difference how white and black men suppose to be treated."

At times funny, "The Piano Lesson" performance I saw had a feel that the funny scenes could have been even more funny with a stronger delivery. Other scenes are vaguely funny, bordering on dramatic and humorous, but still had the audi-

ence laughing. The tender (yet predictable) and spirited ending could have attained the same special, sentimental feeling with a shorter play.

The set, like the play, is pretty wide open. The intricately designed set of Doaker's house with kitchen, living room, stairs and a back bedroom was designed by Michael McGarty. "The Piano Lesson" is directed by Edris Cooper-Anifowoshe. Wilson's other plays at Trinity include "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom," "Joe Turner's Come and Gone," and "Fences."

With its laden and resonant dialogue, "The Piano Lesson" is just that—a lesson, a lesson to be heard, cherished and seen at Trinity through March 11.

WhoDunnit's Newest Production Hailed

WhoDunnit's third show, "Murder in the Court," is being hailed as one of the most intriguing and entertaining mysteries ever to run locally. The show will run for at least three weeks at the Riviera Inn Restaurant in East Providence and at the Riviera Restaurant in Bristol. Preview audiences have described the show as a must-see, full of plot twists and an outstanding performance by the WhoDunnit players. "Murder in the Court" follows a very successful run of WhoDunnit's "Murder at Lenny's Cabaret," and "Murders & Acquisitions" which held a sold-out show this past weekend. The price for tickets is \$29.95 and includes a buffet dinner. Group discounts are available, and performances can be scheduled for private parties.

"We're delighted with the response we've been getting, both from audiences and from reviewers," said WhoDunnit's director Joel Hellmann. "And because we do real mysteries in such an entertaining fashion, the fans keep coming back."

Tickets must be purchased in advance. For tickets or more information, call 828-8318 or 245-2375, or visit <www.aswaterman.com/whodunnit>.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Benjamin Gross's Exciting Expressionist Exhibit at JCC's Gallery 401

by Jon Rubin
Assistant Editor

If you are like me, you can only take so many art shows full of still-lives, sunsets and shady ponds before you start to crave something that does more than just sit there. You want art that's exciting and that speaks to you on different levels, art that says more than just "boat," "tree," or "lighthouse."

That's why I highly recommend Benjamin Gross's new exhibit of prints and paintings, now showing at the Jewish Community Center's Gallery 401 in Providence until the end of the month. Rather than simply presenting a specific intended image, Gross's work contains both his own vision and also space which the viewer fills with his or her own experiences. Said Gross in his written statement: "I aim to present a study of human behavior which can help alleviate a 'one-sided' perspective between viewer and creator."

The exhibit contains 12 of Gross's mixed-media works made over the last six years. Initially, Gross worked primarily with "universal subjects...from my memory rolodex," or just things he had run across in his everyday life. His current work has moved into the more personal, and contains many depictions of family members taken from old photographs.

Gross's sense of color and composition form intriguing, unspoken narratives, hinted at through the faces, postures, and kaleidoscopic moods of his subjects; rage, complacency, patience and warmth are all present. With his work, "the narrative is pretty key," Gross said, but you don't need to search for it to find it. There isn't any specific thing to "get," and the prints and paintings spin a different tale through every viewer, which is what makes Gross's exhibit particularly enjoyable.

Bold and emotionally charged, Gross's work contains various portraits of figures outlined by striking chromatic backgrounds. Hard lines are

generally absent and the different shades of color lean gently upon one other. "It's expressionist in its nature," Gross said, while also admitting it brought to mind more recent neo-expressionist works as well.

The serigraph "Ikeinaki-mono" has an elderly man standing on a swirling but subdued background, wearing a white Japanese robe. There is a vital strength that emanates from this odd-looking man, but also a sort of well-earned fatigue as well. Gross describes this as an "inspirational print" taken from the back of a photograph his grandfather sent him from Japan when he was younger. Bright green knee-socks stick oddly out from the

a position of power and influence, but he is surrounded by the negative influences of strife, anger and temptation. His face is even a bit twisted, as if the unfortunate reality of his position is making him uncomfortable.

All of Gross's works contain a universal trademark — the eyes of his subjects are two different colors; one black and one white; one small and beady and one larger and more relaxed. This signature touch points to a duality in Gross's work: the positive and the negative working together to form a series of stories. "Beyond all the color is the black and the white," Gross said, and in each of his works this is true.

I found his older work to be



"Me" by David Gross

bottom of the robe into some very non-Oriental sandals. His eyes peer quizzically out of the frame at you.

Another of his serigraphs, "Propaganda, All for One and One for All," subtly speaks volumes. It contains in the center a head of a man colored stark white. Surrounding him on both sides are cropped images of men who are yelling and cheering, their arms strong and severing portions of the picture into violent triangles. This Semitic-looking center face is in

darker and more of closed reality, reminiscent of 1940s crime movies. The figures were clad in dark tones and were somewhat scarier. Most of his newer work is brighter, lighter, and contains the essence of family. They each spoke to me in different ways, and conveyed a different mes-



DAVID GROSS'S artwork is now on display at the JCC's Gallery 401.

Herald photos by Jon Rubin

sage every time I gave them another look.

Gross received his BFA in printmaking from the University of Delaware, and his master of fine arts degree in printmaking from the Carbrook Academy of Art. Gross is currently assistant professor at Salem State College at the Art

Department of Print-making and Interactive Multi-Media Design. He has had numerous showings in New England and in other locations across the United States. He and his wife Susanna live in Salem, Mass.

Gallery 401 is located at 401 Elm Grove Ave, Providence. For hours, call 861-8800.

Blue Moon Gala

The Courthouse Center for the Arts will present their first annual gala on March 3. The theme for the evening is a Blue Moon Gala with dinner, dancing, auction and a dress code defined by "creative blue attire." The evening will begin at 7 p.m. with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. Dinner at 8 p.m. will feature several dinner stations with "Blue Plate Specials." Music for the gala will be provided by The Moonlighters Big Band Orchestra which will play several songs with a blue theme. Creative blue attire can include anything from a smurf costume to a denim tuxedo, from blue satin to a blue attitude.

The auction will be both silent and live. Among the auction items will be: dinner theatre packages, unique and unusual furniture, round-trip air fare for two anywhere in the U.S., two nights on Block Island, dinner for 12 catered in your home, assorted services, portrait sittings, health club memberships, a kayaking package and original artwork.

The Art Center's home is in the historic Washington County Courthouse on Route 138.

Reservations for the Blue Moon Gala must be made by Feb. 23. Attendance is limited. Tickets are \$100 per person and \$175 for two. For further information call the Arts Center at 782-1018 or mail reservations to Courthouse Center for the Arts, Box 186, W. Kingston, R.I. 02892.

Annie's Back at PPAC With Five Shows

Leapin' Lizards! America's most beloved musical, "Annie," is coming to the Providence Performing Arts Center for five performances from Feb. 23 to 25. Opening night, Feb. 23 is "Kids Night on Broadway." Ticket prices range from \$27 to \$42 and are available online at <www.ppaci.org> and at the box office — call 421-ARTS for more information.

After a hugely successful revival on Broadway and similarly acclaimed London production and UK tour, "Annie" will play more than 100 cities in the United States and Canada during its national tour. "Annie" is produced by NET-works, with music by Charles Strouse and book by Thomas Meehan. This production is directed by its lyricist, Martin Charnin, who brought the original "Annie" to Broadway in 1977. Since that time, he has directed five national tours and two London productions.

Boasting one of Broadway's most memorable scores, including "It's The Hard Knock Life," "Easy Street," "N.Y.C." and the ever optimistic "Tomorrow," Annie is "as welcome as a spring daffodil!" (Pat Collins, WWOR-TV Channel 9) and was recently hailed as "The most enchanting musical I have ever seen" (John Peters, *London Sunday Times*). "Two decades later, Annie still trumpets..." (*New York Times*).

"Annie" will capture the hearts of audiences. Performance times are Feb. 23 at 8 p.m., Feb. 24 at 2 and 8 p.m., and Feb. 25 at 1 and 6:30 p.m. Tickets are available now online at <www.ppaci.org> and at the box office — call 421-ARTS for more information.



Photo courtesy of PPAC



THEN
1974

Then & Now: Circa 1975/MMI

On exhibit is past and current work of Bridgewater State College art professors who have been members of the art department since before the inception of the art major program in 1975. From left to right are John Heller, Joan Hausrath, William Kendall, Dorothy Pulsifer, Stephen Smalley, and John Droege. The exhibit runs until March 2. A reception will be on Feb. 21, 4 to 7 p.m. at the Wallace Anderson Gallery Art Center, Bridgewater State College, Bridgewater, Mass. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Photo courtesy of BSC

OBITUARIES

GODA GOMELSKAIA
PROVIDENCE — Goda Gomelskaia, 89, of Sixth Street, a retired medical doctor, died Feb. 12 at Miriam Hospital.

She was the wife of the late Victor Berezin. Born in Russia, the daughter of the late Solomon and Chasa Gomelskiy, she moved to Rhode Island seven years ago.

She practiced medicine in Moscow, until her retirement.

She leaves two sons, Alexander and Felix Berezin, both of Providence, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

A graveside funeral service was held Feb. 14 at Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. The family was assisted with the arrangements by Sugarman-Sinai Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

ELEANOR GREENSTEIN
CRANSTON — Eleanor (Spitz) Greenstein, 92, of Caporal Street, died Feb. 10 at home.

She was the wife of the late Max Greenstein. Born in Sag Harbor, N.Y., a daughter of the late Jacob and Malvina Spitz, she lived in Providence and Cranston most of her life.

Many years ago, she was active in the League of Women Voters. She was an avid gardener and reader, and was very interested in literary arts, especially poetry, the theater and Shakespeare. She was a member of the Hamilton House, Providence.

She leaves three sons, Howard Greenstein of Cranston, David Greenstein of Hope and Neil D. Greenstein of West Warwick; a brother, Lawrence Spitz of Sun City, Ariz.; and four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. She was the sister of the late Milton Spitz.

A graveside service was held Feb. 12 in Swan Point Cemetery, Providence. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Hamilton House, 276 Angell St., Providence, R.I. The family was assisted with the arrangements by Sugarman-Sinai Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

ESTHER LECHT
PROVIDENCE — Esther Lecht, 85, of Highland Avenue, a teacher with the Johnston School Department for 40 years, retiring in 1986, died Feb. 11 at Miriam Hospital.

A lifelong Providence resident, she was a daughter of the late Harry and Sara (Finkel) Lecht.

A 1938 graduate of the former Rhode Island College of Education, with a bachelor's degree in education, and a 1946 cum laude graduate of Brown University's former Pembroke College, with a bachelor of arts, she also performed graduate work in psychology at Boston University.

She was a member of the Rhode Island State Poetry Society, where she served as the Round Robin secretary, and had published several poems.

She was a member of Temple Emanu-El and its Leisure Club.

She leaves a sister, Goldie Marinsky of Providence; a brother, Dr. Leonard Lecht of Taos, N.M.; seven nephews; three nieces; several grandnieces and grandnephews; and three great-grandnieces and great-grandnephews. She was the sister of the late Morris and Samuel Lecht, Sophie Golin, Blanch Licht and Alice Koret.

The funeral will be held Feb. 16 in the Sugarman-Sinai Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence. Burial will be in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to your favorite charity. The family was assisted with the arrangements by Sugarman-Sinai Memorial Chapel.

LILLIAN OSTROW
LONDON

PROVIDENCE — Lillian Ostrow London, 90, of Huxley Avenue, proprietor for many years of the former Lillian's Kiddie Shop of West Warwick, died Feb. 6 at Miriam Hospital.

She was the wife of the late David London, and of the late Max Ostrow. Born in New York City, a daughter of the late Harry and Rose (Dashoffsky)

Lisnoff, she had lived in West Warwick most of her life, before returning to Providence.

She also had worked at the former Gladding's Department Store in downtown Providence for many years.

She was a Bryant College graduate. She was an avid reader.

She leaves a daughter, Rhoda Ride of Rochester, N.Y.; a son, Frank Ostrow of Foster; three stepsons, Jerome, Howard and Melvin London; two grandchildren; several step-grandchildren; and a great-grandchild. She was the sister of the late Irving Lisnoff and Pauline Kortick.

The funeral service was held Feb. 7 at Sugarman-Sinai Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Meals on Wheels, 70 Bath St., Providence, R.I. 02908. The family was assisted with the arrangements by Sugarman-Sinai Memorial Chapel.

THELMA MAZUR

NEW BEDFORD, Mass. — Thelma T. Mazur, 87, of Arnold Street, a retired teacher, died Feb. 9 at home. She was the wife of the late Abraham Mazur. Born in Chelsea, Mass., a daughter of the late Nathan and Sarah (Shubitz) Cushner, she had lived in New Bedford for 22 years. She was a 1936 graduate of Simmons College, where she earned her bachelor's degree and received her master's in education from Lesley College. She was a teacher in Malden, Mass., for 25 years, retiring 22 years ago. Prior to her teaching, she was a dietitian in several Boston nursing homes.

She was a member of Ahavath Achim Synagogue and Tifereth Israel Congregation and their Sisterhoods, Hadasah, the Council of Jewish Women and the Retired Teachers Association.

She leaves a daughter, Saralee Salk, with whom she lived and two granddaughters. She was the sister of the late Benjamin, Jacob and Louis Cushner.

Funeral services were held Feb. 11 in Ahavath Achim Synagogue, County Street at Hawthorne, New Bedford. Burial was in Montefiore Cemetery, Woburn, Mass. In lieu of

flowers, contributions in her memory may be made to the American Heart Fund or your favorite charity. Arrangements were made by Shalom Memorial Chapel, 1100 New London Ave., Cranston, R.I.

REUBEN SALK
CRANSTON — Reuben Salk, 96, of Scituate Avenue, a retired warehouse manager, died Feb. 5 at Cedar Crest Nursing Home.

He was the husband of the late Stella (Matzner) Salk. Born in Providence, a son of the late Max and Ida (Berson) Salk, he had lived in Providence most of his life, before moving to the Shalom Apartments, in Warwick, and then to Cedar Crest.

He worked at the former City Hall Hardware Store for more than 50 years, before retiring as the warehouse manager. After retiring, he worked for Levitt Colson Wholesale Electrical Supply Co.

He was a member of the Providence Fraternal Association, the Rhode Island Jewish Workman's Association, and the Doric Lodge of the Masons.

He leaves his daughter-in-law and caregiver, Thelma M. Salk of Bradford, Mass.; a brother, Harry Salk of Albany, N.Y.; a sister, Betty Widrow of Randolph, Mass.; three grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. He was the father of the late Kenneth Salk.

A graveside service was held Feb. 7 in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to your favorite charity. The family was assisted with the arrangements by the Sugarman-Sinai Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

LILLIAN WEINER
PROVIDENCE — Lillian (Chusmir) Weiner, 83, of Blackstone Boulevard, died Feb. 5 at her winter home in North Miami Beach, Fla.

She was the wife of the late Harold Weiner. Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Morris and Alice (Diamond) Chusmir, she was a lifelong resident of Rhode Island.

She was a founding member of the Ledgemont Country Club. She was a member of Temple Emanu-El and of Kulanu. She was a life member

of Hadasah, B'nai B'rith, and the Miriam Hospital Women's Association, and a supporter of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island and the Jewish Community Center.

She leaves three daughters, Beverly Cohen of Pawtucket, Linda Mittleman of Providence and Ronni Hodosh of Short Hills, N.J.; seven grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren. She was the sister of the late Leonard H. and Joseph Chusmir.

The funeral service was held Feb. 7 at Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Lillian & Harold Weiner Endowment Fund, c/o Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence, R.I. 02906. The family was assisted with the arrangements by Sugarman-Sinai Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

HARRY E. YOKEN
FALL RIVER — Harry E. Yoken, 86, of Reading Street, an examining officer for the Internal Revenue Service before retiring in 1978, died Feb. 4 at Brigham & Women's Hospital, Boston.

He was the husband of the late Ruth (Pansey) Yoken. Born in Fall River, he was a son of the late Samuel and Celia (Mintz) Yoken.

A graduate of Bryant College, he was a certified public accountant.

An Army veteran of World War II, he served as a master sergeant at Gen. Douglas MacArthur's headquarters.

He was a member of Temple Beth-El and its Brotherhood.

He was a member of the Wapupa Lodge of Masons, and a past chairman of the Wapupa Foundation.

He leaves a son, Stephen Yoken of Las Vegas; a daughter, Carol Yoken of Oak Park, Ill.; three sisters, Shirley Handler of Dartmouth and Belle Lubin and Jessie Gisherman, both in Florida; and three grandchildren. He was the brother of the late Louis and Sidney Yoken.

The funeral was held Feb. 6 at Temple Beth-El, 385 High St., Fall River. Burial was in Beth-El Cemetery. The family was assisted with the arrangements by Sugarman-Sinai Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

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FEATURE

Suddenly Sinai

(Continued from Page 3)

Jewish cooking, which ranked first in a recent Jewish Theological Seminary survey of American Jews' study interests.

The relative disinterest in the issue of the Torah's authenticity extends even to some who profess to live the life of the mind. In the introduction to his book *Permission To Receive: Four Rational Approaches to the Torah's Divine Origin*, Lawrence Kelemen writes that he had sent a review copy of his work for critique to a colleague, a brilliant academician with wide-ranging intellectual interests. To his surprise, the colleague declined to read the manuscript, because he "was never bothered by the question" of the Torah's authorship. How was it possible, Kelemen wondered aloud, "that such an inquisitive scholar could approach the origin of humankind's most read, most published, and once most influential text with such unabashed apathy?"

In truth, most of the prosaic practicalities that fill our lives are actually based on abstract concepts from theoretical realms like physics, chemistry and physiology. While we may not always be fully conscious of or knowledgeable about these natural laws, we certainly acknowledge their relevance.

Yet the question of whether the Jewish people possess an accurate record of G-d's will for humanity is consigned by many to the same mental compartment that houses ruminations about pinhead-dancing angels. In truth, though, the facts of the Torah's origins hold the most profound sort of relevance imaginable for every area of human experience.

A letter writer to *Reform Judaism* magazine, writing to support that movement's recent turn towards tradition, succinctly described what's at

stake: "It all comes down to this: Either G-d gave us the Torah on Mount Sinai or He didn't. If He did, then we need to accept it and study it in order to gain meaning in our lives, not just dismiss it as myth or drone on about the J, E, P, or D editors. If G-d did not give us the Torah on Mount Sinai, then who cares what it says?" Or, as the writer David Klinghoffer put it: "It's hard to see why anyone would embrace a religion if it comes down to us ultimately not from G-d but from some long-dead Middle Eastern guys."

There are, of course, some who do recognize the far-reaching ramifications of the Torah's origins but automatically dismiss the issue as a non-starter, having, in Kelemen's words, "internalized [the 18th century Enlightenment's] secular creed that revelation is necessarily irrational." Yet, as the late Professor Leo Strauss trenchantly observed, the savants of the Enlightenment, in their onslaught against religion and biblical historicity, never truly engaged the entire concept of revelation. They merely posited its non-existence, elevated that assumption to the status of fact and proceeded from there.

The point, in essence, is elementary: irrespective of how one, after careful investigation, may ultimately conclude on the question of whether the Jewish people experienced a national revelation at Sinai, common sense dictates that it be pondered and studied rather than dismissed as irrelevant or irrational. After all, there are only a very few questions with powerful implications for every aspect of our lives — and this is certainly one of them.

It is a crucial question because truth matters. It is a crucial question because so many contemporary Jews are faced with a competition for their loyalties between Judaism and the enticements of a fiercely secular and pluralistic American society.

And it is a crucial question because Israel's very claim to legitimacy depends upon it.

Am Echad Resources. Eytan Kobre is a lawyer residing in Queens and part of Am Echad's pool of writers.



Tztzit Tying

Rabbi David E. Lipman of Temple Sinai in Cranston helps a Temple Sinai sixth-grader wind and knot a tztzit (fringe) for her tallit this past weekend. See page 4 for the complete story.

Herald photo by Luke O'Neill

Heritage and Romance on Exhibit at The Village at Elmhurst

The Village at Elmhurst invites you to join them in celebrating the joy and beauty of weddings. Beginning on Valentine's Day, in collaboration with several local photographers, The Village will be hosting a wedding photo exhibit. Wedding portraits contributed by both Village residents and professional photographers will be on display for public viewing. Also on display will be other matrimonial memorabilia including vintage wedding gowns and more.

"We are really excited about this exhibit," said Courtney Giroux, activities director at The Village at Elmhurst. "There is so much history behind each one of the portraits contributed by our residents. Many of them have lived in the Elmhurst area their entire lives, bringing a real local flair to this exhibit."

Several portraits which have been donated by Village residents are black and white originals dating back almost six decades.

The public is welcome to explore the beauty and magic of this exhibit through Feb. 28. A formal reception will be held on Feb. 23 from 2 to 4 p.m. This event is free and open to the public. For details or directions, call 521-0090.

Haredi Medical

(Continued from Page 10)

ted with advanced technological features that provide around-the-clock contact with the on-grounds medical team, as well as a computer connection to a 24-hour emergency hotline. The hostel provides meals for the children, offering them a chance to socialize, but the parents cook for themselves. Kav LaChaim's only request is that dairy or non-meat foodstuffs be used, in order to maintain the hostel's strict standards of kashrut.

"We help everyone," Landman stresses proudly. "Our services are extended regardless of race or religious-political convictions." Indeed, 60 to 70 percent of those assisted by Kav LaChaim are not religiously affiliated. The organization treats Arabs as well, doing its utmost to help anyone and everyone who might need them.

In the words of young Lior's parents: "Kav LaChaim has given us a lifeline of happiness and encouragement with love... hearts there are filled with goodness and love."

Further information about Kav LaChaim can be obtained from United Lifeline's American representative, Hillel Weiner, at (718) 758-1336.

Sarah Dafner is a freelance writer living in Beitar, Israel.

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Free 19th-Century Painting Slide Show at EPOCH

EPOCH Assisted Living located at 353 Blackstone Boulevard, Providence, is hosting a free 19th-century painting and slide show, in honor of American History Month, on Feb. 20 from 2 to 3 p.m. at the residence. This event is free and open to the public. For details, call 273-6565.

Free Stained Glass Making Demonstration at EPOCH

EPOCH Assisted Living on Blackstone Boulevard is hosting a free Stained Glass Making Demonstration on Feb. 22 from 2 to 3 p.m. at the residence.

Join artist Cindy Joseph who will demonstrate the art of stained-glass making. This event is free and open to the public. For details, call 273-6565.

EPOCH Assisted Living on Blackstone Boulevard, formerly Beechwood, offers a full continuum of health care services including assisted living, skilled nursing and Alzheimer's care. Community tours are available by appointment.

If you are an advertiser who needs a little space like this one-eighth page, call your *Rhode Island Jewish Herald* sales representative today. You'll find out you don't have to spend a lot to reach the people who *do* spend a lot.

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'291' Where Stieglitz Brought Modern Art to the United States

by Marshall H. Cohen
Photojournalist and Washington
Correspondent

The current exhibition at the National Gallery of Art in Washington is about history, change and revolution in the arts. The primary moving force towards bringing new directions in modern art to the United States was Alfred Stieglitz (1864-1946), the world-renowned photographer, publisher, and principal entrepreneur of galleries in New York City. Stieglitz's galleries stimulated public awareness of America and Europe's great modern artists, sculptors, and photographers during the early decades of the 20th century. This exhibition fills 14 galleries and comprises 191 of the actual works which were selected and exhibited by Stieglitz and his group. The exhibition, "Alfred Stieglitz and His New York Galleries," will hang until April 22.

The first decades of the 20th century were periods of intense individualism and freedom of expression. America was redefining itself — socially and economically. There was a new and explosive emphasis on innovation and freedom of expression — jazz and modern art became first cousins, and Stieglitz was the Paul Revere who spread the message about the burgeoning developments in modern art.

Stieglitz founded the renowned "Photo Secession" group along with his colleague the eminent photographer Edward Steichen in 1902. Through meetings and exhibitions, this group brought a new and radical aesthetic to the arts. In 1903 Stieglitz began to publish his journal *Camera Work*, and in 1905, with Steichen's encouragement, Stieglitz opened his first gallery called "291."

The first section of the National Gallery show focuses on the works exhibited at "291" during the 1908-1917 period. It was Stieglitz's intention to introduce modern art by European artists to the United States, and "291" hung works by such grand masters as Cezanne, Matisse, and Picasso, who were not well-known in the States, as well as the sculptures and figure drawings of Rodin. This section includes works which were exhibited for the first time in the United States by Matisse ("Nude in the Forest," 1906) as well as several of his sculptures, which were exciting and innovative figures such as "The Serpentine" (1909) and a bronze Female Torso (1906). Works by Cezanne, whose first one-man exhibition in the United States was at "291" are heavily represented in the exhibition.

Stieglitz also mounted the first exhibition of African Art

in the United States. Stieglitz was among the first exhibitors recognizing the important influence of African art on the modern art movement — masks and wooden figures by African artists from Gabon and the Ivory Coast are hung near the works of Picasso, and the Romanian sculptor Constantin Brancusi. One can see the sense of composition inherited from African art embedded in works by these and other artists in the show.

John Marin's Woolworth Building series, which one critic described as "one of the most precocious achievements by an American modernist to date," is a notable inclusion to the show. Also, Francis Picabia, a French painter and a close friend to Stieglitz, is well-represented in his cubist-like abstractions of New York City. These photographs are among Stieglitz's most recognizable images, included "The Flatiron" (1902), "The Steerage" (1907), and "The City of Ambition" (1910).

Although this exhibition speaks to us about the decades of the flowering of Modern Art which includes photography as well as painting and sculpting, those whose primary interest is only photography will not be disappointed. Of the 191 pieces in the show, there are 42 photographs by Stieglitz, and an entire gallery containing images by Paul Strand. One crown jewel of photography is Edward Steichen's immortal portrait of Rodin, "The Thinker and Victor Hugo," (1902) a com-

posite of two negatives showing Rodin posed in silhouette in front of his two masterpieces of sculptured art.

The museum catalogue, *Modern Art and America: Alfred Stieglitz, and his New York Galleries*, may be ordered from the National Gallery of Art for \$55. The soft cover edition contains 611 pages and is available via the gallery Web site <www.nga.gov> or by calling (202) 842-6176. It contains essays by Sarah Greenough, curator of the exhibition, and experts on the most up-to-date scholarship on the artists and the Modern Art Movement. The National Gallery is located on the National Mall, and is opened Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is free.



NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART — Modern Art and America: Alfred Stieglitz and his New York Galleries through April 22. Alfred Stieglitz, American, 1864-1946. "The City of Ambition," 1910, photogravure on Japanese tissue mounted on paperboard, image: 34 x 26 cm; mount: 43.3 x 32 cm. Photo courtesy of National Gallery of Art, Washington, Alfred Stieglitz Collection, 1949.

Religious Poems Sought From Providence-Area Poets

Good news for sincere poets! The Bards of Burbank is offering a \$1,000 grand prize in their Poetry Competition, free to everyone. The deadline for entering is March 17.

To enter, send one poem 21 lines or less to: Free Poetry Contest, PMB250, 2219 W. Olive Ave., Burbank, Calif., 91506, or you may enter online at <www.friendlypoets.com>.

"We think religious poems can invite achievement," said Dr. John Scribner, the organization's contest director. "We're especially keen on inspiring amateur poets and we think this competition will achieve that. Rhode Island has made many wonderful poets over the years and I'd like to discover new ones from among the Providence-area grassroots poets."

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All Children's Theatre Presents 'Boundless Grace'

ACT's "Boundless Grace" is a vibrant musical adaptation of the best-selling book by Mary Hoffman. Shows are at the Vartan Gregorian School Theatre, 455 Wickenden St., Providence (theatre entrance is on East Street), on Feb. 23, 24 at 7 p.m.; Feb. 25 at 2 p.m.; \$6 children, \$8 adults, group discounts are available. The play is for ages 6 and older. Call 435-5300.

"Boundless Grace," the magical sequel to "Amazing Grace," explores issues of divorce, the acceptance of a second family, and when love and family are separated by a long distance, all cloaked in a vibrant musical, set in Gambia, West Africa. In this enchanting production, audiences will learn that a family is what you make it.

Dear Readers... Help!

We at the *Rhode Island Jewish Herald* received the following letter from Valencia Elementary, a small middle-high school in Laguna Hills, Calif. It was written by a fifth-grade student, Lili Sowlati, who was given an assignment to find out more about Rhode Island. We encourage anyone who wants to do so to respond to her letter and share a little bit of the East Coast with the West Coast. The letter follows:

Hello, my name is Lili Sowlati. I am in the fifth grade at Valencia Elementary in Laguna Hills, Calif. I am doing a project with my class called Discovering America.

I am trying to discover what life is like in other parts of our great nation. I will be giving an oral report about Rhode Island and specifically what life is like in Providence. There are not many books written about Providence so I need your help to be successful.

Please write and describe by telling: what kids do for fun, what does the town look like, how many people live there, what the schools are like, any town history, and why people enjoy living there. It does not matter if you are 6 or 106, I would love to hear from you.

I thank you for reading this and taking the time and effort to explain why Providence is such a great place to live.

Sincerely,
Lili Sowlati
25661 Paseo de Valencia
Laguna Hills, Calif., 92653



THE RHODE ISLAND JEWISH HERALD



Bridal
ISSUE
2001

FEBRUARY 15, 2001

e-Invite Takes Hassle Out of Ordering Announcements

INVITATIONS FOR JEWISH LIFECYCLE EVENTS

New parents preparing for a *brit milah* or *zeved babat*, harried parents of bar/bat mitzvah teens, couples who are marrying, and anyone planning a celebration can now order custom announcements, cards, and invitations at their convenience, complete with Hebrew lettering, through <e-Invite.com>.

The only online invitation site to offer Hebrew lettering, e-Invite is the ideal solution for those who need unique Jewish cards or invitations or who may want to involve far-flung family in the decision-making process.

The site's unique "CheckMate™" technology allows customers to choose paper stock and fonts while a wizard helps with wording etiquette. Once the invitation has been designed, completely online, it can be sent via email to family members — allowing Bubbie and Zadie the chance to kabitz over style and color choices.

Unlike ordering cards in a shop where delays and mistakes can happen through faxed proofs and manual typesetting, ordering through <e-Invite.com> is fast and relatively fool-proof. All proofing and ordering takes place online: once the "SEND" button is hit, the order goes directly to pre-press and is generally com-

plete and ready for shipping in less than 48 hours.

"<e-Invite.com> removes all the risk and inconvenience out of ordering a personalized product," said Micah Chase, president of <e-Invite.com> and developer of the company's CheckMate technology. "Previously, people had to wait for faxed proofs to come back from the store — now everything can be completed in a few hours online. We'll also send out paper samples, and if the customer isn't happy with the final product, we'll re-do it, at no charge."

One can also fulfill a *mitzvat* when ordering bar/bat mitzvah invitations — the site prompts users to give \$5 per invitation to the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous <www.fjr.org>, an organization which provides monthly financial support to almost 1,700 surviving Righteous Gentiles and educates generations to come about their extraordinary acts of courage.

<e-Invite.com> is an extension of Checkerboard, a long-established, highly experienced printing business run by the Chase family and based in West Boylston, Mass. The Chases, as active members of the Jewish community in central Massachusetts, have been serving that community and the nation as a whole by providing specialty printing services since 1948.

Fairy Tales Come True ... Create Your Dream Wedding

As a bride and groom, you want your wedding to be perfect. From the ceremony to the reception, you'll need to consider all the details. Whether a garden reception, an ultra-formal ceremony or a wedding/honeymoon combination, each wedding shares common characteristics upon which a couple must agree.

Once you've agreed to tie the knot, the days up until your wedding will be a whirlwind of activity. By knowing what tasks you should tackle now and which are better reserved for later, you'll have plenty of time to plan the wedding of your dreams.

This basic checklist can get you started on your way to a beautiful wedding day.

• **Set the date** — As soon as possible after getting engaged, you should select a wedding date and decide on the type of wedding you would like to have. From a traditional ceremony to a surprise wedding, where guests are invited to a "party" that turns out to be a wedding, you can personalize the event and plan a wedding that reflects your lifestyles and interests.

• **Reserve a location** — Reserve the location of the ceremony soon after setting the date to ensure you can get married on the day you've chosen. Then, you need to reserve a reception location. Most party houses and reception halls have party planners and catering directors who can assist you in planning your dream wedding.

• **Select a photographer** — Every photographer has a different style. You should choose one who will accommodate your wishes, like taking the types and number of shots you want, attending both the ceremony and reception, and offering the album design you would like. The photographer's personality is very important — you will be spending an entire day with this person, so you should choose someone who will make you feel comfortable.

• **Book reception entertainment** — Select a band or disc jockey who will cater to everyone at the reception — both the younger and older generations. The musical selections should be diverse, and requests from the guests should be taken.

• **Arrange wedding transportation** — Whether it's a Rolls-Royce, stretch limo, horse and buggy, or double-decker bus, you should plan for transportation to and from the ceremony and to the reception for yourself and your attendants. Make reservations early, especially if you want a white car.

• **Order dresses** — Shopping for a wedding dress, headpiece and bridesmaid dresses is one of the most fun parts of the planning process. Choose a wedding dress that reflects your style and personality — and makes you look beautiful. When considering dresses for your attendants, you should opt for a style that complements

your dress, as well as the women in your party.

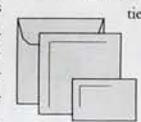
• **Choose a florist** — Flowers can add an elegant touch to the wedding day, and every florist has a unique style. Select one whose arrangements you like and who can offer helpful, creative ideas about bouquets, corsages and centerpieces.

• **Decide on a bakery** — Select a bakery based on the varieties of the cakes offered and the look of previous work. Ask for a taste of the different types of cake offered, and check if the bakery will be able to create the design that you want.

• **Select formalwear** — Whether it's a basic tuxedo or a top hat and tail coat, formalwear completes the look of the wedding party. Select a formalwear provider who offers the style you want, has a variety of sizes available to fit all of the male attendants, and offers a large selection of bow ties and cummerbunds or vests.

• **Order invitations** — Invitations come in many different styles, so you will have a number of books to look through. Decide on a design that best suits the wedding, based on its formality, the time of day and the wedding colors. A stationery professional can help them with this decision.

With these important decisions made, you only have a few things left to do, like selecting favors, writing a wedding bulletin and buying thank-you gifts for your attendants. You are now well on your way to the wedding of your dreams.



Bridal Registry Dos and Don'ts: Get Smart Before You Shop

- Do register at least six months before your wedding or, if that's not possible, as soon as you can, that way guests can choose gifts from your registry for pre-wedding events, like an engagement party or shower.
- Don't try to register during your lunch hour (too short) or on a Saturday (too crowded). Weekday evenings are often the best times to get individualized attention.
- Do call each store ahead of time to see if you need an appointment. The registry process usually takes one to two hours per store, maybe longer, especially if you're registering for items from several departments. If you run out of time — or concentration — just schedule another appointment.
- Don't register with your mom — or your sister, or your best friend — only your fiancé will do. Because the two of you will be sharing a home, it only makes sense that he be the one to accompany you to the store and share in the registry decisions. Assure him that, yes, real men do register.

Tips provided courtesy of *Bridal Guide* magazine.



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Matchmaker, Matchmaker, Make Me a Match...

During the summer of 1998, I had the opportunity to take a temple-planned trip to Israel with my oldest daughter, Jennifer, and my youngest daughter, Jessica.

Ken and Gail Webman, who were also members of Temple Emanu-El (Waterford, Conn.), were on this trip. Ken repeatedly told Jennifer that it was a shame she lived in Florida because he had a son that would be perfect for her. We heard the phrases "You're two peas in a pod" or "You're just like my son," or "It's a shame you live in Florida," over and over for the two weeks we traveled together.

Several weeks after we returned home and Jennifer resumed her life in Florida, she made a decision to return to Rhode Island and continue her education. Her first weekend home, she attended services and met with the rabbi. As fate would have it, the Webmans were also at services that evening. They were very surprised and delighted to see Jennifer and learn about her move home. Ken immediately telephoned his son and told him to come to the temple. That was the first meeting.

The rest is history. Jennifer and Ben were married this past June 24.

Ben is working on his Ph.D. in cognitive psychology, and Jennifer received her master's degree and is substitute teaching. They are residing in Manchester, Conn.

Oh, and Ken — what a matchmaker!

Photo and story submitted by Elly Hoffman



Jennifer (Hoffman) Webman and Ben Webman, June 24, 2000



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Fine Jewelry Adds Sparkle to a Joyous Day

How does one add the perfect touch to a day often called the happiest of one's life?

On her wedding day, the bride is surrounded by friends and family, wearing a beautiful gown, glowing with joy and anticipation and joining her life companion in marriage. The giving and donning of sparkling gemstones, precious metals and lustrous pearls are the ideal way to enhance this most special of occasions.

Of course, the festivities all begin with an engagement ring—usually a diamond—and for an uninformed bride and groom, shopping for a ring can be a daunting experience. However, nervous couples can find out everything they need to know by visiting the Gemological Institute of America online at <www.gia.org>, and checking out the "How To Buy A Diamond" section.

An interactive tutorial that's a "dress rehearsal" for the real diamond shopping experience, the site is hosted by a virtual character named Lucy—as in the Beatles song "Lucy In the Sky With Diamonds." It encourages potential diamond ring buyers to jump in and learn about the 4Cs—

cut, color, clarity, and carat weight—in a way that is fun and easy to understand.

Smart brides and grooms can shop for jewelry with confidence at a professional jeweler who is a member of a professional trade association, like Jewelers of America. JA requires high ethical standards of its members and provides them with ongoing education.

Once the engagement ring has been purchased, there are still many other opportunities for fine jewelry to bring joy to the celebration.

"Cultured pearls enhance a bride's radiance, and are a traditional way for a bride to adorn herself," says Elizabeth Florence, spokesperson for the Jewelry Information Center, a nonprofit trade association based in New York City. "There are so many options from which to choose, whether a bride likes the traditional look of a pearl choker or an elegant multi-strand collar, or something more modern, like shoulder sweeping earrings or a pearl lariat." The great news is that a bride need not break the bank to wear beautiful cultured pearls. Freshwater cultured pearls are both abundant and reasonably priced these days.

Once the bride's look is in place, she will want to think about gifts for her attendants. "Colored gemstones are a wonderful way to add a bit of sparkle to the bridesmaids' outfits," says Florence. "A pair of earrings, a simple pendant, or even jeweled hair clips are a lovely gift, and will always be a special reminder of the day. Think about matching gemstones to the color of bridesmaids' dresses, or presenting them with their birthstones." Brides on a budget will be glad to know that there are beautiful colored gemstones that are relatively inexpensive, like blue topaz and amethyst.

For the groomsmen, watches or sterling silver cuff links are a wonderful remembrance. "Consider a piece of jewelry that can be engraved with the date, your friends' initials or a special message," suggests Florence. "This not only makes the present an instant heirloom, but also much more personal."

For more information about fine jewelry and watches, visit the Jewelry Information Center's Web site at <www.jewelryinfo.org>.

Wedding Essentials: Makeup Tips for the Blushing Bride

There is no mistaking a bride's desire to look her best on her wedding day. She'll primp and preen to make sure every detail is exactly how she imagined.

Makeup is an important tool in the beauty regimen. It can hide flaws, accent the positive and give you a glamorous makeover. Proper makeup application techniques should be employed so that you will photograph well and the makeup will not wear off after several hours.

Though you may want to rely on a professional to apply your wedding makeup, you can achieve similar results by studying tips from professionals, like those offered in *Ultimate Makeup & Beauty*, by Mary Quant.

There are several steps to creating flawless wedding makeup results.

- Foundation — Cake foundations give a smooth, matte finish that prevents the skin from looking shiny and oily. Some can be applied using a dry sponge instead of a damp one and many contain powder particles, so that you only need to apply a face powder on top if you have very oily skin. Liquid foundation produces a more lightweight finish than the cake variety and tends to be easier to use on dry skin. However, some people find it harder to apply; the trick is not to overload the sponge, which creates a streaky, unnatural effect. To finish, always brush over with a translucent powder to help the foundation stay in place longer.
- Color correcting — They may seem like the last thing that you would want to put on your face, but liquid color correctors can hide a multitude of flaws. They

work by using opposing colors to counteract specific complexion problems. For example, green will tone down redness; blue will make a flushed complexion look paler; white will help cover up dark under-eye circles and improve dullness and purple will give an olive complexion a healthier glow.

• Blusher — A subtle sweep of blusher will lift the cheekbones and enhance your face. It is applied after foundation, although if you have clear skin you could wear it on its own. Blusher must be blended perfectly to ensure there are no harsh edges — using a good brush will make it easier. Choose color carefully: The right shade will make you look healthy, while the wrong one will drain color from your face.

• Eyeshadow — Dark and dramatic, light and pearly, frosted and fresh — a wide variety of effects can be achieved with eyeshadows. However, the general rule is to use four different-colored shadows; a neutral-toned base, a main color, a darker shade for emphasizing and a lighter shade for highlighting. It is also important to use a magnifying mirror so you can see exactly what you are doing, and to keep a good range of different-sized brushes and applicators on hand.

• Lipstick and Lipliner — Lipstick adds the finishing touch to makeup. It should help unite the other colors you have used and really bring your face to life. However, if it is applied incorrectly, it will look clumsy and unsubtle. The answer is to use a lip liner to give lips a neat, defined edge and to build up color using a lip brush.

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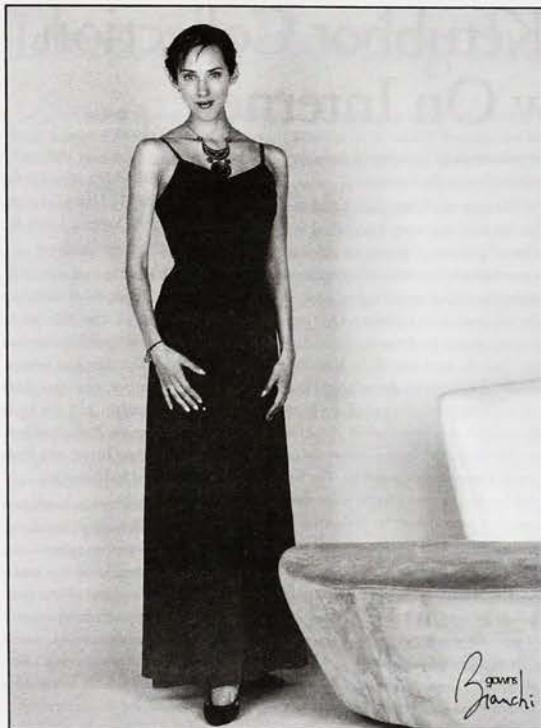
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Keep Your Wedding Running Smoothly

You're engaged. A sparkling gem sits atop your finger and you are humming the familiar tune of "dom, dom, da, dom" as you browse through a bridal magazine. A wedding is a momentous event that requires a lot of planning — but you needn't get frazzled about the work involved. Staying organized and taking advantage of timesavers will help your day go by without a hitch.

Here are a few organizational tips to make sure you'll be all smiles on your wedding day.

• **'Slow and Steady Wins the Race'** — Don't try to do everything at once. Many bridal magazines and books give realistic countdowns to the wedding and tell you what things you should be concerned with at what time. These checklists often advise that planning should begin at least six to 12 months in advance of your wedding date. Booking caterers, reception and ceremony sites, and popular DJs or bands are some of your first concerns.

• **Plan the 'Write' Way** — Purchase a wedding planner book or create one of your own to keep track of everything from guest lists to fabric samples to vendor ad-

resses. You certainly can't remember every small detail — a written list stored in one location will keep important information at your fingertips.

• **Round Up Helping Hands** — Family members and friends may be eager to help you with wedding details. Enlist these thoughtful individuals to take over some of the work, like addressing thank-you notes or picking up rental items and accessories for the bridal party.

• **Keep Guests Well Informed** — A multitude of wedding stationery items will make things easier for your guests and for you too. William Arthur Inc., manufacturer of fine stationery products for weddings and other special occasions, offers a wide variety of wedding stationery components that will graciously facilitate your special day.

Keep your R.S.V.P.s organized by sending reply cards along with your invitations. You might even print them with meal options, giving both you and the caterer a heads-up before the event regarding the

number of guests who will be attending.

Including pew cards or "within the ribbon" cards will direct close friends and relatives to specific, special rows for the ceremony. Keepsake wedding programs are more than a treasured memento of the day — they also serve as a useful tool for orienting guests to the order of activities during the ceremony and they provide a who's who of the attendants and participants. Table cards and place cards will help your guests find their seats at the reception without difficulty. And beautifully printed menus add a touch of class, offering a list of the different appetizers, main courses, wines and desserts.

Staying calm on your wedding day is easy if you start getting organized early. The extensive selection of products offered by William Arthur stationers will help maintain gracious orderliness both prior to and during your special day. Visit <www.williamarthur.com> to find an authorized retailer near you, then sit back and relax ... your day is sure to be magical.

Honeymoon Hints

From crystal blue seascapes to romantic dinners by candlelight, a honeymoon gives the newlyweds a chance to finally sit back and relax after the wedding. All-inclusive honeymoon packages from top resorts take all of the work out of the honeymoon preparation. One simple price covers everything, including your accommodations and meals. Some resorts may also include recreational activities like scuba diving or sailing. Visit your local travel agent or an online travel service to find out about honeymoon packages.

Something New and Blue

The day you've been waiting for all your life is finally here. The day on which you are the center of attention; the details for which you've planned carefully and exhaustively.

You've thought of everything: flowers, food, music, dress, hair, and makeup. But, have you given thought to the fragrance you will wear? For such a tender occasion, fragrances that are too spicy or too strong wouldn't be fitting. You certainly don't want to blend in with your bouquet. In fact, on this most special of days, you want

a fragrance that is unique and meaningful. Perhaps, even one that invokes a sense of calm.

When all eyes are on you, you should feel confident that you are beautiful. Ming Shu is a fresh floral fragrance that lingers gently throughout the day. Elegant, yet delicately sensual, it is perfect for the woman in search of serenity — a special place. It's ideal for you, a bride on her wedding day.

Ming Shu brings together the serenity of a woman and the purity of a rare flower.

The two are blossoming as one with the promise of romance lingering in your heart on your wedding day and forever.

Presented in a transparent blue bottle symbolizing equilibrium, harmony and serenity, the fragrance is available as Eau de Parfum, 1 fl. oz. \$29.50; Eau de Toilette, 1.7 fl. oz. \$21.50 or 1 fl. oz. \$16; and Eau de Toilette Spray, 1.7 fl. oz. \$23.50 from Yves Rocher at (888) 909-2887 or <www.yvesrocherusa.com>. Ask about the company's special introductory offer.



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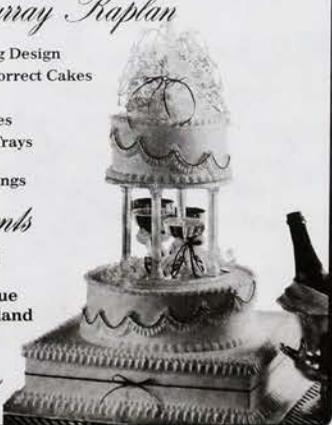
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Andrea Miller To Wed Stephen Hasegawa

Ann Messier of Warwick, R.I., announces the engagement of her daughter, Andrea Miller, of Los Angeles, Calif., to Stephen Hasegawa, of Los Angeles, Calif., son of Nancy Butler Tulare of Seattle, Wash., and Tsuyoshi Hasegawa and Deborah Steinhoff of Santa Barbara, Calif.

The bride-to-be is the granddaughter of Evelyn and Edward Wasser of Warwick, R.I., and Estelle Miller of West Warwick, R.I., and the late Saul Miller. Her fiancé is the grandson of Dallas Butler and the late Inez Butler.

The bride-to-be graduated from Tulane University in New Orleans, La. She also graduated from the University of Chicago School of Law and is currently an associate with the law firm of Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton in Los Angeles, Calif.

Her fiancé graduated from Yale University in New Haven, Conn. He also graduated from the University of Chicago School of Law and is currently an associate with the law firm of Irell & Manella in Los Angeles, Calif. They plan to wed this October.

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Extensive Ketubbot Collection Now On Internet

The collection of beautifully illustrated ketubbot (marriage contracts) belonging to the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Jewish National and University Library — one of the largest and most valuable such collections in the world — now appears on the Internet site of the library. The library site can be accessed at <<http://jnul.huji.ac.il>>.

The collection includes more than 1,200 original ketubbot from 60 different countries, covering a time period of more than 900 years, and is a major resource for research in Jewish history, law and art. Each ketubbah (singular of ketubbot) in the collection is depicted on the Internet site in three different sizes in order to permit detailed examination. Details about each ketubbah are also presented, including the names of the married couple. Searches for particular ketubbot can be made according to various parameters, including country, city, date and names.

The library hopes to add ketubbot owned by other public and private bodies

in order to create a true world depository of ketubbot on the Internet.

For more than 2,000 years, Jewish law has required that every husband, at the time of his marriage, present his wife with a marriage contract or ketubbah, guaranteeing the wife's financial rights in case of the husband's death or divorce. Over generations, various local customs found their way into the legal text of the ketubbah. Ketubbah decorations also reflect the Jewish art of the particular period and locality in which they were drafted. Ketubbot are therefore a rich source of material on Jewish history, customs and art. The fact that ketubbot always contain exact dates and place names allows for their absolute identification with specific communities and periods.

The oldest ketubbah in the collection is from the year 1024, written in the land of Israel. Of special interest is a segment of a ketubbah from Spain preceding the exile of the Jews from that country in 1492. There are also ketubbot of famous people, including the ketubbah presented by Alfred

Dreyfus to his wife, Lucy, in 1890 and a ketubbah from Philadelphia written in the year 1782, witnessed by Haym Salomon, the most famous Jew associated with the American struggle for independence.

Many of the ketubbot are written on parchment and hundreds of them are beautifully illustrated. The decorations reflect the tastes of each particular age and of the region in which they were written. In the Italian ketubbah, one often finds depictions of Jerusalem and the Holy Temple of Jerusalem, the Zodiac and family emblems. In the Orient, one finds ketubbah influenced by Islamic art.

One can also find various conditions in these documents reflecting a Jewish way of life at a particular time and place — for example, a commitment by the bridegroom not to take a second wife in those communities where such a thing was possible, or a commitment to leave a conditional certificate of divorce in cases where the husband would have to undertake a long trip.

Veil Styles That Complement Every Gown

You may ponder over reception meal choices or honeymoon destinations, but perhaps the wedding gown is perhaps one of the most important purchases a bride will have to make. The most often asked

question concerning a wedding is: "What type of dress did the bride wear?" From princess cuts to ballroom skirts there are many styles that are available. However, the bridal ensemble doesn't end there. The

item that truly sets the bride apart from everyone else in the wedding party is the bridal veil.

A traditional symbol of purity, the veil can embellish a plain dress or add a definitive spark of style. It is important to choose a veil that complements your gown and the theme of your wedding.



THE FOLLOWING EIGHT BASIC VEIL STYLES ARE ONES TO CONSIDER.

1. Birdcage or Madonna: This veil falls just below the chin and is worn at informal weddings.
2. Flyaway: This veil has multiple layers that just touch the shoulder and are the perfect addition to informal ankle-length gowns.
3. Elbow-length: This veil gives a delicate look for informal and semiformal weddings. It is a particularly flattering length for petite brides.
4. Fingertip-length: This is one of the most popular styles of veil. It works well with many styles of dresses and flatters all heights.
5. Chapel-length: This veil is seven feet long and works with a dress that is floor-length or with a sweep train.
6. Cathedral: A 10-foot-long veil which is worn with cathedral length gowns. It is reserved for ultra-formal wedding ceremonies.
7. Blusher: Worn in conjunction with other veils, it shades the face as the bride walks down the aisle.
8. Mantilla: A large, Spanish-inspired circular veil made of lace or lace-trimmed tulle.

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Ideas For Hosting the Perfect Bridal Party

Back in the white-glove days, the bride hosted a formal luncheon at her home for her attendants. "This custom continues today, but the event can now be formal or casual, held anytime of the day or anywhere, and not limited only to the bridesmaids, sometimes groomsmen also join in the celebration," says Maria McBride-Mellinger, author of the new book, *The Perfect Wedding Reception: Stylish Ideas for Every Season*.

An attendant party is a perfect opportunity to thank close friends and family for sharing in the big wedding day. It is also a good time to give them a thoughtful gift of appreciation. Mellinger suggests personal, luxury gifts like sterling silver jewelry that can be worn at the wedding, a picture frame, holiday ornament, desk or vanity accessories that can be monogrammed or engraved. She also recommends coordinating gifts with the party's theme that can also serve as table tools. For example, at a garden luncheon, fill silver tankards or china creamers with flowers to serve as individual, take-home centerpieces. A bangle or personalized charm bracelet makes a stylish napkin ring at a "Glamour Girl" tea. Small, silver frames engraved with bridesmaids' names and filled with pictures of the bride-to-be and each of her guests serves as a perfect place card.

Whether the attendant party is at home or at an outside location, use this opportunity to try out ideas, the wedding caterer, florist, even the photographer, recommends Mellinger. This way you're likely to be able to negotiate a better price for services used for the wedding as well as make any last-minute changes.

Mellinger suggests starting with a theme around a season, color scheme, activity or interest. Carry through the idea to the location, menu, table setting, flowers and gifts. Here are some easy ideas for hosting the perfect bridal attendant party:

- Plan a casually elegant, garden luncheon outdoors or create a lush, botanical setting indoors. Set tables with spring-colored, chintz cloths or green checked place mats. Mix and match floral, leaf and fruit motif china or use everyday stoneware, complemented by colored glasses and floral patterned silver flatware and servers. Carry through the botanical theme with a light, garden-fresh menu. Freeze edible flowers into ice cubes for a refreshing surprise. Seat guests on wrought iron garden or green slatted bistro chairs.

- Fill pitchers with many daisies or plant wooden flats with flower bulbs for a colorful, seasonal centerpiece. Tuck seed packets for spring and summer flowers into sterling mint julep cups for take-

home, mini-planters. Script each guest's name on a seed packet that can also double as a place card. Flower and butterfly motif pins, pendants or holiday ornaments attached to a napkin will not only enhance the table but serve as charming party favors as well.

- Invite bridesmaids to an oh-so-girly tea party dressed in pastel or bright pink, lavender and soft greens. For a playful mood, set the table with a mix of feminine touches like fun, kitschy china, a grand silver tea service and vintage, embroidered or lace-trimmed hankies for napkins. Serve a variety of special floral

and herbal teas and sweets like miniature wedding cakes, petit fours and cookies in shapes of tea pots, hearts, bows and flowers.

- A grouping of individual, engraved bud vases filled with flowers on a silver tray makes an elegant centerpiece, and each guest can take home a vase as a gift. To carry through the glamour mood, indulge attendants with a monogrammed, sterling silver compact, perfume flacon, purse mirror or makeup brush tucked into a cosmetic pouch with a new shade of lipstick and nail polish to wear on the wedding day.

- "In lieu of separate bachelor and bridesmaids' parties, combined attendant events are becoming popular," says Mellinger. Plan an informal or ritzy wine tasting or cocktail party at home, a hotel or favorite restaurant. Create a special drink to commemorate the event as well as a gift like a sterling wine stopper, set of hor d'oeuvre or olive picks, cheese spreader, cocktail stirrers or engraved jigger.

For more attendant party and gift ideas, visit www.silverinfo.com.

Wise Wedding Advice

A trip down the aisle requires planning to ensure the event goes without a hitch. Whether formal or informal, large or small, a first-time adventure or a remarriage, any wedding is a bit of a production. To keep the entire event in perspective, the MetLife Consumer Education center has collaborated with nationally recognized authorities on marriage to offer couples two free brochures titled, "Getting Married" and "Getting Remarried."

The brochures offer tips on how to stay calm and wisely use your wedding dollars. A few points discussed include:

- Researching wedding gown choices because there is a wide range of styles and prices that can fit virtually any budget.
- Developing a wedding budget, complete with handy worksheets that list many possible expenses leading up to the big day.
- Tips on how to cut costs, which range

from buffet-style dinners to marriage/honeymoon packages.

- Combining assets, especially if this is a second marriage.
- How to make a stepfamily work.

For more information on how to avoid stress when planning your big day, call (800) 638-5433 for the free Life Advice® brochure on "Getting Married" or "Getting Remarried."

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Great Wedding Gifts Under \$50

To your friend is getting married and you're looking for a gift with a little bit of creative flair. But you don't have much time and you don't want to spend more than \$50. What can you do?

Think practical. Brides and bridegrooms will want something they need and if it's not on their registry, they'll want something that's original. No one wants four of the same kitchen gadget or, more importantly, something useless. Instead, try for something thoughtful and sentimental. Here are some gift ideas that keep this in mind:

- **A wedding ring quilt and shams.** The bride and bridegroom will be in marital bliss sleeping under this symbol of their love—wedding rings entwined. For a sentimental flare, have their names and wedding date embroidered on it. You can find this online for under \$50 on sale at <domestications.com>.

- **A gourmet wedding gift basket.** There are a variety of them. Some have baked goods, while others have tea and coffee sets or wine and cheese. But for the Italian lovers, why not give them a gourmet gift basket containing an Italian cookbook, pasta, marinara and wine sauce, spaghetti forks, 100 percent pure olive oil,

balsamic vinegar, and garlic bread. A cappuccino coffee and cheesecake for extra flair. No time to make it yourself? Buy it already packaged online at The Gift Basketer, Inc., for \$40.

- **An Internet domain name.** There's nothing more personal or creative than a Web site. Register the bride and bridegroom their own domain name for \$3 at <Registrars.com>, one of the top Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers-accredited registrars. Once they have their domain name, they'll be able to create a Web site together to preserve their wedding, honeymoon and future memories. To learn more about Internet domain registration, log on to <www.registrars.com>.

- **An outdoor grill.** The way to people's hearts is through food. And if your bride and bridegroom like to cook out, they'll love the Weber Smokey Joe Tuck-N-Carry Grill, available at <Amazon.com> for \$35.

- **A wine tool set.** There's nothing more romantic than wine. But you can't drink it if you can't open it. The bride and bridegroom will appreciate the Skagen Designs Contemporary Black Wine Tool Set available at <wine.com> for \$40.

A 'Picture Perfect' Honeymoon Cruise

By Victoria Rivers*

An ideal adventure for newlyweds is a honeymoon in the illustrious Greek Isles. Picture distinctive bell towers and chalk-white homes etched into cliffs above the sparkling Aegean. With a simple stroke, the imaginary paintbrush adds the white, billowy sails of a tall ship gliding majestically along the coast—completing this portrait of idyllic Greece.

Windstar Cruises makes this depiction of fantasy a reality, possessing the only tall ships in the industry (aside from private yachts) that feature seven-night cruises through the Greek Islands. Windstar's 440-foot sailboats, Wind Spirit and Wind Song both offer itineraries through the Eastern Mediterranean out of Istanbul, Turkey stopping at the Turkish ports of Kusadasi and Bodrum, as well as the heralded Greek ports of Rhodes, Santorini, Mykonos and Piraeus (the port of Athens).

Hosting fewer than 150 passengers, the cruise provides guests with the privi-

lege of privacy and personalized attention. While the atmosphere is casual and far from pretentious, Windstar boasts some of the finest social pleasures. Renowned Chef Joachim Splichal of Los Angeles works side by side with the fleet's professional onboard executive chefs to create sophisticated and savory gourmet menus and provide guests with pure culinary perfection. There's also an open-air sports platform extending from the aft, offering everything from complimentary snorkeling equipment, kayaks and sailboards to water skiing and scuba diving. Best of all, Windstar averages 12 hours in port, giving passengers even more time to explore all that makes Greece the "picture-perfect" honeymoon destination.

Call 1-87-STAR-SAIL for a free brochure.

*Victoria Rivers is a professional freelance travel writer residing in the Pacific Northwest. To contact: e-mail lexvic@yahoo.com.



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Navy, Crepe Mystique two-piece gown, with stylized cap sleeves and slim skirt with slight flare at knees.

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(ABOVE RIGHT)

Navy, Princess Regal Satin gown. Sheath silhouette with slit at back hem.



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Wedding Words of Wisdom

The following are excerpts of words spoken by Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach to couples during their weddings. They were submitted by Rabbi Natan Schafer, who assisted in the translation.

The Greatest Fixing

"Chosson (groom) and Kallah (bride), I want you to know, in the most unbelievable way, I opened a *sefer* (holy book) today and I found something I didn't know before. And I'd like to give it over to you. And I don't know the name of the Rebbe anymore, but this is what he says: Whenever people get married, whenever husband and wife are together with great holiness, at that moment the holy Temple is rebuilt. At that moment, heaven and earth are complete and rejoicing. At that moment, we are not in exile. At that moment, it is after the Mashiach has (the Messiah) arrived."

The Voice of the Bride

"And our holy Rabbis tell us the Chosson says a few words under the *chuppah*: "Be holy unto me." And why doesn't the bride say anything? If she would open her mouth, she would reveal the deepest secrets of the world. And the world isn't ready. And you know, Kallah, when Mashiach is coming, the bride will also say a few words under the *chuppah*, because Yishayahu says: "*Od yishama be'arrei yehuda... kol chosson vekol kallah*" [It will be heard in the cities of Yehuda... the voice of the groom and the voice of the bride]. And all our holy Rabbis are asking, "The voice of the bride, the voice of the groom? But the bride doesn't say anything." So it's unbelievable, when Mashiach is coming, the bride will also say something under the *chuppah*."



Photo-Taking Tips

Though a professional photographer is often hired to capture special wedding moments on film, amateurs are also invited to snap away and share their treasures with the happy couple.

For the beginner, here are certain tips, courtesy of <www.betterphotos.com> that will help ensure your photos of the wedding guests turn out well.

- Show them busily engaged in something that they are doing, and that is really characteristic of them.
- Include some pictures of them just smiling at the camera if this is what you want. Instead of just telling them to smile, though, do something that will make them smile naturally.
- Choose a camera position that lets you see their faces really clearly.
- Avoid distracting backgrounds — and particularly any objects that look as though they are growing out of people's heads. If available, arrange for the background to be out of focus.
- Arrange for your subject to lean towards you. This often produces a more lively result.

Praying Has to Be Infinite

"And you know, Chosson, why do we pray under the *tallis*? Because the praying has to be infinite. You know, G-d forbid, G-d forbid somebody is sick, and I say to G-d, maybe according to the finiteness of the world, this person is sick. G-d, can you make a miracle? A miracle is infinite. So the *tallis* connects you to all the miracles in the world which G-d did, and which G-d wants you to do. And I want to bless you, Chosson and Kallah, you should always be a married couple, and whoever sees you just walking in the street should say, "OY! *Ribbono Shel Olam*, you are performing miracles every second." Gevalt! Can you imagine Avraham and Sarah just walking in the street? What would people think? They would say, "Ribbono Shel Olam, it's true, there is one G-d, there is someone who can do everything in the world."

Nothing adds elegance and class to an event like fine wine. Weddings are no exception, and the Royal Wine Corporation has a new assortment of international offerings from Chile, Australia and France. Royal Wine Corporation is the leading producer and importer of kosher wines.

From Chile, Alfasi introduces its new Sauvignon Blanc. Produced at the Carta Vieja winery in the Maule Valley, the sunny climate, tempered by cool ocean breezes creates the essential balance necessary for fine winemaking. The Sauvignon Blanc will be the seventh Alfasi wine Royal distributes, in addition to the Cabernet, Merlot, Chardonnay, and Flora, a semi-dry red, which Royal has been distributing for several years.

The new Australian wine is Teal Lake's Pinot Noir. Teal Lake, which debuted last year with a Shiraz and a Chardonnay, continues to produce bold, fruit forward wines exhibited by this 2000 Pinot Noir. With vibrant spice and subtle hints of vanilla,

the Point Noir is a terrific addition to its predecessors. Made at Norman's winery in South Australia, one of the 10 largest producers in Australia, these wines exhibit the exciting potential coming from this region.

The first kosher wines from Burgundy, '99 Bourgogne red and '99 Bourgogne white, will be released along with the '98 Barons de Rothschild Haute Medoc Bordeaux. Although young, these wines exhibit good potential. The '99 Bourgogne Cuvee Deslar white Burgundy is tight with a clean, dry palate. The '99 Bourgogne red Burgundy is light with subtle earthy characteristics and light tannins that suggest immediate accessibility. From the Medoc region in France, world famous for producing fine red wines, Barons de Rothschild makes a light fragrant red Bordeaux with good structure and style.

"Our aim is to provide kosher wine that can be enjoyed from around the world. In only a few years working with Alfasi and Teal Lake, we have seen great kosher wines from these two emerging wine regions," states Nathan Herzog, vice president of sales for Royal Wine Corporation.

"In addition, it is nice to offer new kosher varieties from the more traditional regions of France."

Alfasi now offers seven different wines: The Cabernet Sauvignon (\$6.99), the Merlot (\$6.99), the Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (\$9.99), the Reserve Merlot (\$9.99), and the Sauvignon Blanc (\$5.99). Teal Lake offers three wines: a Shiraz (\$12), a Chardonnay (\$12), and the new Pinot Noir (\$16). The Bourgogne is a new kosher wine, offering a red Burgundy (\$24) and a white Burgundy (\$24). Barons de Rothschild Haute Medoc red Bordeaux sells for \$26.



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White Farrelli Satin strapless gown with beading at neckline and full A-line skirt.
Organza stole with beading at edges to match gown.

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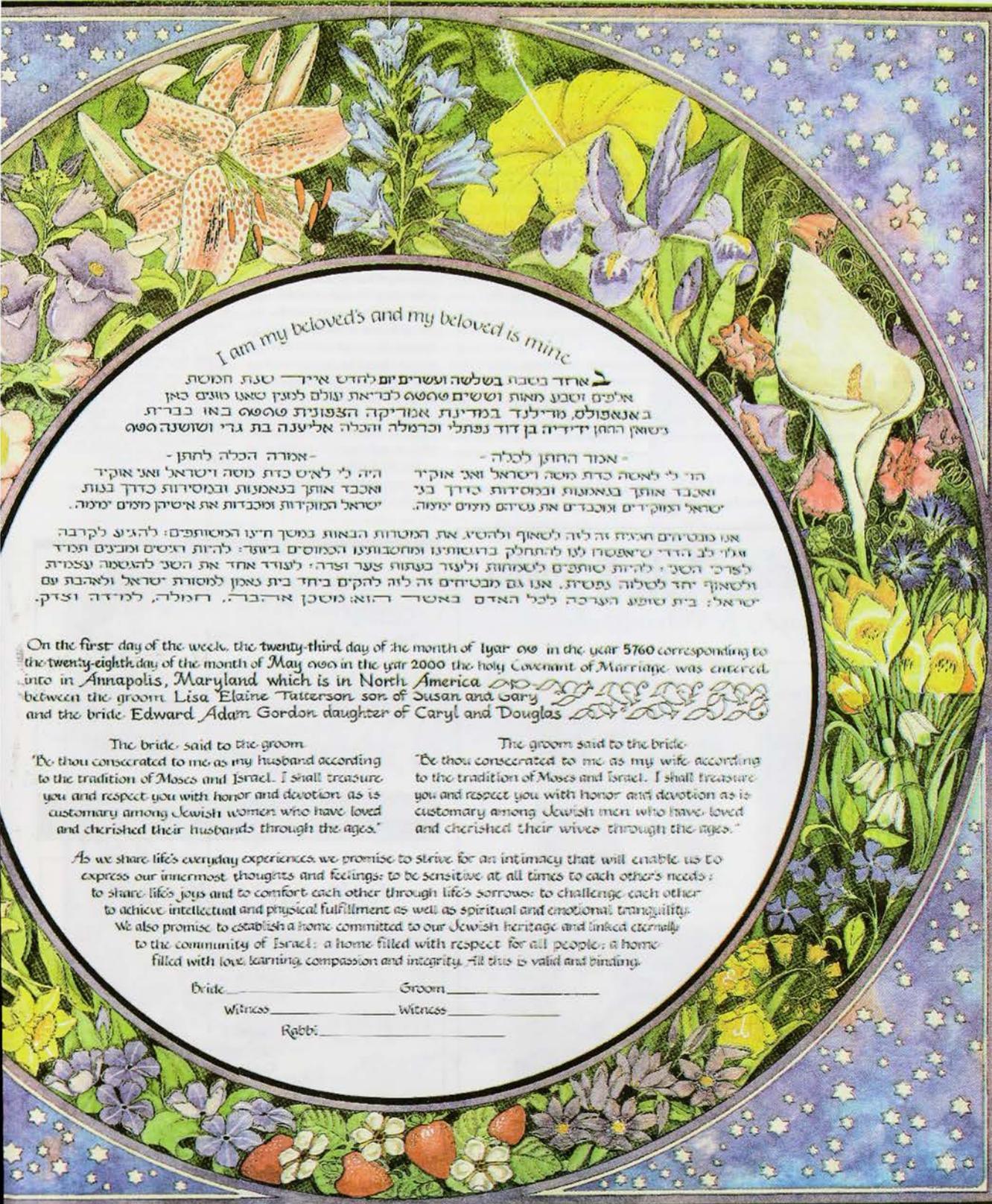
COVER

Ivory strapless Tuscany satin gown with twin bands of beaded trim at empire line. Detachable pleated Cathedral train.

BACK COVER

White strapless Alencon lace bodice, drooped waist. Full tulle skirt with wide Alencon lace border.





I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine

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ישראל המוקידות ומכבדות את אישן ממים יממה.

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On the first day of the week, the twenty-third day of the month of Iyar 5760 corresponding to the twenty-eighth day of the month of May 2000 the holy Covenant of Marriage was entered into in Annapolis, Maryland which is in North America between the groom Lisa Elaine Tatterson son of Susan and Gary and the bride Edward Adam Gordon daughter of Caryl and Douglas

The bride said to the groom

"Be thou consecrated to me as my husband according to the tradition of Moses and Israel. I shall treasure you and respect you with honor and devotion as is customary among Jewish women who have loved and cherished their husbands through the ages."

The groom said to the bride

"Be thou consecrated to me as my wife according to the tradition of Moses and Israel. I shall treasure you and respect you with honor and devotion as is customary among Jewish men who have loved and cherished their wives through the ages."

As we share life's everyday experiences we promise to strive for an intimacy that will enable us to express our innermost thoughts and feelings; to be sensitive at all times to each other's needs; to share life's joys and to comfort each other through life's sorrows; to challenge each other to achieve intellectual and physical fulfillment as well as spiritual and emotional tranquility.

We also promise to establish a home committed to our Jewish heritage and linked eternally to the community of Israel; a home filled with respect for all people; a home filled with love, learning, compassion and integrity. All this is valid and binding.

Bride _____ Groom _____
Witness _____ Witness _____
Rabbi _____

Jewish Wedding Customs Unveiled

by Jon Rubin
Assistant Editor

Judaism values family almost above all else. Why else would it have so many laws, traditions and stories involving birthrights, patriarchs, family lineage and so many holidays where you are supposed to cook large meals and invite over lots of people? The structure and sanctity of family is of vital importance to Jewish tradition, and that is why weddings are so important as well. A marriage signifies the union of two entire bloodlines, the erasing of family boundaries and then having them re-drawn around an entirely new family. Jewish tradition concerning marriage is long and wonderfully complex. Many of the laws and customs relating to the wedding ceremony date back to the time of the Patriarchs and the receiving of the Torah at Sinai.

Traditionally, a Jewish marriage is known as a "kiddushin," or a "sanctification." The wedding is not just any event or agreement between two parties — it is a spiritual bonding and a fulfillment of a holy mitzvah. Kiddushin can also mean

"dedication," in that the two are totally dedicated to each other, to the extent of actually becoming a single, unified soul. An unmarried person in Judaism is often considered to be half a person, and through marriage that person is made gloriously whole.

In the blessed union of marriage, both the bride and groom forge new bodies for themselves that will live for one another, and they are considered cleansed of all sins on their wedding day. For this reason, many couples choose to fast on their wedding day until they are under the huppah (wedding canopy), similar to the fast of Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement.

The groom is traditionally dressed in a white robe called a Kittel, which is normally worn on Yom Kippur. Both bride and groom are dressed in white to symbolize purity and protection from sin. Although Jewish weddings can be held anywhere, they are usually inside the synagogue.

KETUBBAH & HUPPAH

The ketubbah (from the root "katav,"

or to write) is the marriage contract signed by both bride and groom, by witnesses and by the officiating rabbi. The ketubbah is a contract that binds the two newlyweds together, as well as expressing the groom's intention to provide for his wife in the event of death or divorce. Originally, the ketubbah only contained a man's obligation to marry, a symbolic gesture done in remembrance of when Jacob was tricked into marrying Leah instead of Rachel, his true love.

After the ketubbah is signed, the groom approaches his bride and lifts her veil and looks upon her face. This is to confirm that she is the woman he intends to marry, a symbolic gesture done in remembrance of when Jacob was tricked into marrying Leah instead of Rachel, his true love.

In ancient times, the huppah was the wedding chamber that the couple sojourned to after the wedding. Today, the word huppah now refers to the wedding canopy under which the couple stands along with their parents. The huppah is

usually made of cloth or velvet with decorative embroidery and fringes, representing a symbolic home for the married couple. Sometimes, a floral canopy is used in outdoor ceremonies. The huppah is supported by four poles which are held by various members of the wedding party. Sometimes a Talis from the Temple is used as a huppah. Under the huppah, a table is placed with two glasses and a bottle of wine, which the bride and groom drink from during the ceremony.

In many communities, the bride may dance around her husband in seven circles before taking her place at his side under the huppah. The number seven has special significance in the Jewish tradition; Shabbat is the seventh day and there were seven days in creation. In this spirit of creation, the woman is celebrating the new world that is being created through their marriage. Seven is also used in reference to the sheva berachot (seven blessings), which are read later. Other explanations are that the Tefillin straps are wrapped seven times around a man's arm, and now his bride is being bound to him as well.

THE WEDDING

By custom, all of the immediate relatives are automatically part of the wedding party. The bride and groom are escorted towards the huppah by their parents. After a few words from the rabbi, the groom recites his wedding vow in the presence of two witnesses: "Behold you are sanctified (betrothed) to me with this ring, according to the Law of Moses and Israel." After this, he gives the ring to the bride. Modern weddings often have the bride give a similar pledge and present the groom with a ring as well. The ring is traditionally a plain gold band without engravings or ornamentation. The ring is placed on the right index finger, that being the "finger of intelligence" that points towards the words of the Torah. The ring has been used since the Middle Ages to symbolize the husband's encompassing, surrounding and protecting his wife. The ketubbah is now read aloud, usually by another member of the family, and is then given to the bride to keep.

(Continued on Page 13)

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Jewish Wedding Customs

(Continued from Page 12)

Next, the seven blessings are recited, either by the rabbi or by honored family members. The core meaning of the blessings is: To praise G-d for His blessed creations, for fashioning the human being, for making us in "two parts" (i.e. man and woman), to pray that the couple is as happy as Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden, to pray for the restoration of Zion, which creates joy through which the groom and bride are made brighter, and the standard blessing over wine.

When the reading is done, the couple then drinks from the cup of wine, and the groom then breaks his glass by crushing it with his foot. There are multiple explanations for this ritual. One is that it dates back to when Rabbi Mar de-Rabina felt that his son's marriage was being taken too lightly by his guests. He took an expensive glass and threw it to the floor, as the sound of it breaking would put a shock of reverence into his guests.

Breaking the glass also symbolizes the destruction of the Temple by the Romans. Even in the happiest moment of their lives, the married couple shows recognition of one of the most sorrowful moments in Jewish history. It may also act as a reminder

that life is never without tragedy, and that existence itself is a fragile creation. Upon breaking the glass, the band strikes up and the wedding party explodes into cheers and cries.

AFTERWARDS

The wedding party then proceeds down the aisle, led by the bride and groom. At this point, the couple may perform a traditional ritual known as yihud (union). For this, they will go to a private room where they will briefly eat some food to break their fast, after which they consummate their marriage. They will then go to the reception area to rejoin the other members of the party for the joyous festivities.

There is no typical wedding celebration; they are all equally momentous in their own special way. Circles are formed in which the bride and groom are lifted high above it. In some Orthodox weddings, where dancing with the opposite sex is not permitted, the bride and groom will dance holding opposite ends of a scarf. If either the bride or groom is the last of their family to be married, another special dance is performed to honor the parents' success in marrying off all of their children.

TIAMO

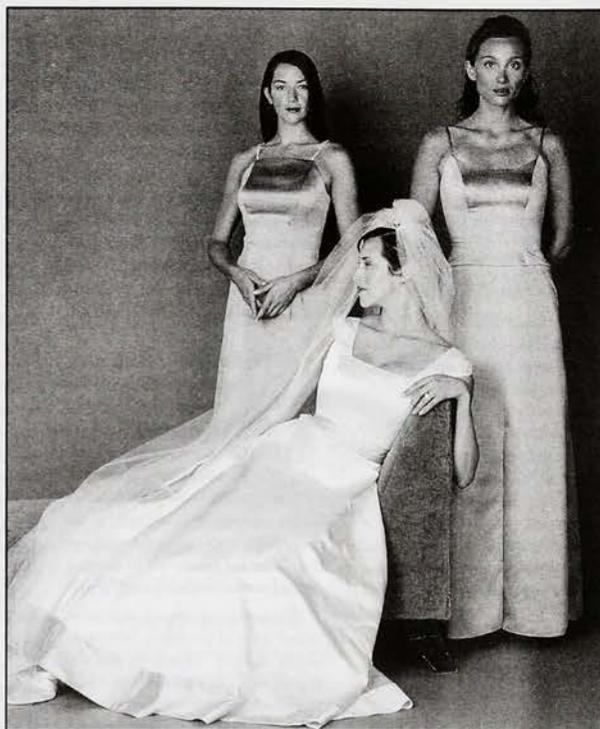
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TIAMO MAID

PLATINUM, PRINCESS REGAL SATIN GOWN WITH SLIGHT DROPPED WAIST. BODICE HAS PRINCESS SEAMS AND A SLIGHT SCOOP NECKLINE WITH SPAGHETTI STRAPS. SKIRT IS A-LINE AND HAS SLIT AT CENTER FRONT SEAM.



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WITH THIS RING, I THEE WED

According to a March 2000 survey by Platinum Guild International USA and *Modern Bride* magazine, 85 percent of engagement rings, 89 percent of women's wedding rings and 89 percent of men's wedding rings were platinum. "Because platinum is the purest, rarest and most precious of all metals, it is most fitting for an emotional milestone like a wedding — the ultimate symbol of forever," says Laurie Hudson, president of PGI-USA.

A NEW LIFE TOGETHER

Platinum has come from being a curiosity to being the metal of choice for fashion-forward designers and consumers, enchanting a whole new generation of brides and grooms around the world. Its rich, white luster — which actually grows more beautiful with time — enhances the brilliance and depth of diamonds and col-

ored gemstones, making it the perfect accompaniment to an engagement ring. Platinum also secures a gemstone unlike any other.

"Because of its strength and durability, prongs made from platinum have long been the preferred way to hold important stones," Hudson says. "The world's most famous diamonds, including the Hope diamond, are secured in a platinum setting."



The latest designs feature an array of new finishes, from satin to highly polished. Engraved and vintage accents are enjoying new popularity as classic jewelry-making techniques are revived. In addition to the classic elegance of a platinum engagement ring, brides and grooms will be choosing detailed platinum wedding bands as well.

The rate of platinum ring sales has increased from 24 percent in 1998 to 40 percent in 2000. "During the next two years we expect the platinum market share to exceed 60 percent," Hudson says.

For more information about platinum bridal jewelry and a free "Platinum Buyer's Guide," write to PGI-USA, 620 Newport Center Drive, Suite 800, Newport Beach, Calif. 92660, or visit <www.preciousplatinum.com>.

Something Old: Memories ... Something New: Muffins

"My father adored my mother," one baby-boomer woman said. "But it's a family legend that six days after the honeymoon, he enrolled her in a cooking school." That was in the 1940s.

Today's new couples may just bite the bullet, or the bullet-textured chicken morsels they've concocted for dinner, and hope for a miracle. Therefore, wise is the wedding guest who gives a cookbook that solves all the problems. Betty Crocker has developed a cookbook with which kitchen catastrophes can be solved, and even better, avoided. Also, it can be presented as even more than one of the best basic cookbooks ever.

"Betty Crocker's Cookbook Bridal Edition" offers all of the great features of the recently released ninth edition, (nearly 1,000 recipes, tons of cooking lore tips ...), plus a 32-page special section to collect

treasured memories and share unique "just-us-two" newlywed experiences, like the first meal she cooked, the first meal he cooked and who won.

One section features, "your first kitchen catastrophe together — what happened?" There's a "the in-laws are coming" total menu plan as well as other full plans for a host of special occasions. There is also room for both sides of the families' favorite recipes which could become recipes future generations will love. Ideas for small, personal special occasions round out the list of benefits this cookbook offers.

One idea is to celebrate weekends with your spouse. Read the Sunday paper together over muffins, fresh fruit and coffee. And if the muffins are made by the bride or groom and the entire room is enveloped with the savory aroma of fresh-baked muffins, the news in the paper looks

better, the sports scores improve and the weekend hits a high level. Another tip: Come home early to make his/her favorite meal. Be sure not to do it everyday or every week, because the planning and extra effort that goes into creating the meal makes the evening a gift of love.

The cookbook is full of many other ideas, and one of the nicest touches is the section for the gift-giver, the one who chose this gift. The dedication area is found in the beginning of the book and it states, "... has the honor to present this cookbook to ... to celebrate their marriage on ..."

Offer this cookbook as a cherished memento that will do more than just exult a wedding. It will give the sense that there will be a loving marriage to look forward to long after the honeymoon is over. And that is something to celebrate ... especially over muffins!

Simplify Wedding Gift Shopping With Catalogs

There's nothing more joyous than a wedding, but shopping for the perfect gift can sometimes be a hassle. Unless, of course, you've found a perfect match of your own — with your favorite catalog.

"Catalogs are ideal for wedding shop-

ping," said Amy Blankenship, director of the Shop-At-Home Information Center of the Direct Marketing Association. "Without leaving your home, you can select from a huge assortment of housewares, linens and other traditional gifts, as well

as personalized or unique items you'd never find locally."

The DMA's consumer Web site, <www.shopthenet.org>, offers tips on smart shopping, and links to Web sites of favorite catalog and online retailers. Consumers who shop from companies listed on <www.shopthenet.org> have the assurance that the companies adhere to the ethical guidelines of The DMA, including the posting of policies regarding the use of consumer information.

Turn to the Articles catalog, <www.articles.com>, for unusual decorative items. Many of its candles, picture frames and sconces feature Far Eastern motifs. Oriental "man" and "woman" symbol wall hangings make a thoughtful gift.

International Wine Accessories, <www.iwawine.com>, has everything wine-lovers could hope for, including crystal stemware, decanters, corkscrews, cabinets, racks and accessories. Its Crystal Care Starter Pack includes special brushes and towels to keep glasses clean.

Bloomingdale's by Mail, <www.bloomingdales.com>, offers a wide assortment of items for the home, from practical cookware and dinnerware, to magnificent Murano glass sculptures and exclusive Limoges egg boxes.

Noted for its fine linens, Garnet Hill <www.garnethill.com> carries percale and knit bedding, as well as exquisite lamps, rugs and accessories.

Bombay Company, <www.bombayco.com>, features an exclusive assortment of silver-accented blue-and-white tile patterned porcelain. Choose tea or coffee pots, cups and saucers, sugar bowls, creamers and mugs.

The Art of the Paperweight, <www.paperweight.com>, has imaginative, museum-quality paperweights crafted by some of the world's finest artisans. Its Entwined hearts paperweight, ideal for newlyweds, is an elegant swirl of color and crystal.

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For Your Wedding

The following was submitted by Jacqueline Philip Salon, 461 Angell St., Providence, R.I., 02906; phone 521-7773.

Your hair and make-up are an important part of your wedding day. Most women picture their dress, flowers and hair a certain way. The first thing you need to do is find a salon that is accustomed to assisting weddings and bridal parties. Not all stylists enjoy doing "up-dos" and working with headpieces. Find out if your stylist is comfortable doing your hair for your wedding. If he or she isn't, then ask for a referral.

There are many things that need to be done before your big day. Making your hair and make-up appointments should be one of them. It is best to secure a stylist and make-up artist four to five months prior to the wedding. The bride should discuss and know the plans for her bridal parties' hair as well. Appointments should be made well in advance in order to secure the times needed.

The Jacqueline Philip Salon recommends that brides avoid experimenting

with their haircut, color or wave pattern within three to four months of the wedding date. If there is a body wave needed, we suggest having it done three to four weeks before the wedding. In addition to your cut, color or highlights can be done one to two weeks prior to the wedding.

The bride needs to have at least one trial run for both hair and make-up. It is very helpful if you bring both your headpiece and a picture of your gown in for the trial run. This helps the stylist to create the perfect look for your wedding day. Everything should flow: your hair, headpiece and gown should all complement each other.

Make-up is a big concern for most brides. We suggest one of our professional make-up artists for your wedding day make-up. A professional make-up artist is trained to consider the special lighting used in professional wedding photography. Brides who usually don't wear make-up might need some for that special day; even if it is simply to even out their skin tone or enhance their features.

The trial run is the ideal time to pick

the colors for your make-up and order what you'll need. We also suggest that you bring your wedding day jewelry with you to your trial runs in order to provide yourself with a more complete picture of how you'll look on that day.

Your nails are important that day too. Our nail technician can recommend a variety of options for you and your bridal party. If you plan to have your own nails, you should start a manicure regimen two to three months prior to the wedding day. If you play to use tips and acrylic or other types of artificial nails, you should have them applied four to six weeks prior so that your own nails can take shape underneath and you feel comfortable with the length, shape and color.

One of the newest trends for weddings is to give facials, body treatments, pedicures and manicures as gifts to the bridal party. Arranging this for the day before the wedding provides the ideal opportunity for friends to get together and relax before the big day.

HELPFUL HINTS

1. Don't ask too many people for their opinions. Yours is the only one that really matters. If you like it, go with it.

2. It's less stressful when the bride gets her hair and make-up done and leaves the salon. Don't hang around waiting for the others.

3. Plan to be finished at the salon and home one hour before the photographer is due to arrive. This will give you a little time to relax and get dressed.

4. Most of all, enjoy yourself... it's your day.

3 MONTHS BEFORE

- Begin facial treatment program — every four weeks
- Secure all appointments needed

6 TO 8 WEEKS BEFORE

- Begin nail care regimen — artificial or natural

ONE MONTH BEFORE

- Have trial run with hair* and make-up
- Order make-up colors
- Get a perm if needed

TWO WEEKS BEFORE

- Get haircut, also have hair color and/or highlights done if necessary
- Purchase products needed for honeymoon and wedding day

- Purchase gift certificates for bridal party
- Have the bridegroom get a haircut

ONE WEEK BEFORE

- Have pedicure and any waxing done
- Have eyelash tinting done
- Have facial (complimentary re-conditioning and blow-dry included)
- Have exfoliating body treatment with self-tanner applied

1 TO 2 DAYS BEFORE

- Have manicure (Bride and Bridegroom)
- Have bridegroom get side burns and neck cleaned up
- Have nail fills (if artificial)

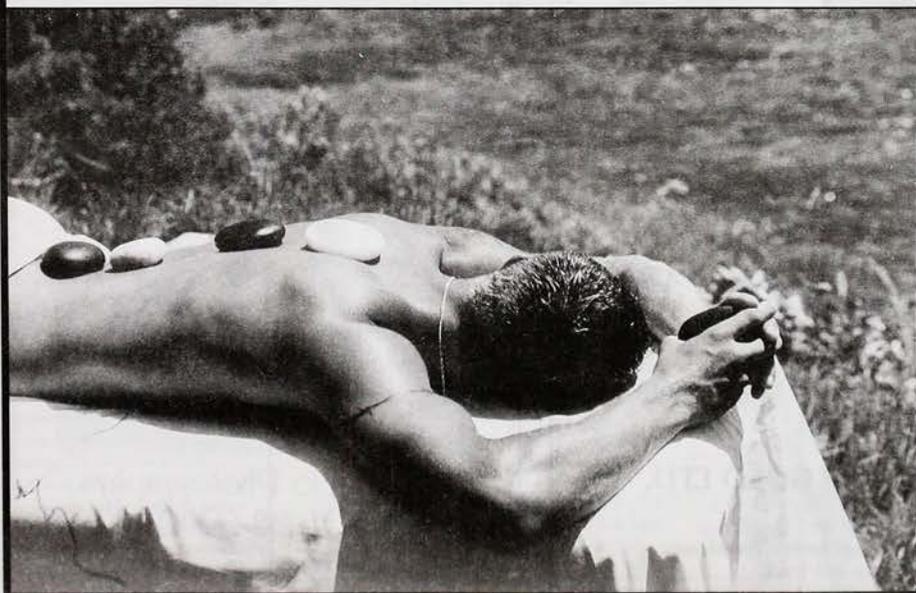
WEDDING DAY

- Hair and make-up for the bride and bridal party
- We want to provide you with the best service possible. If you are very indecisive about your hairstyle, we ask that you book an additional hour for your trial run. It is impossible to create three or more hairstyles in one hour. Come in with hair washed and dried. Trial run: Two styles per hour.

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'Shall We Dance?'

You've picked out the dress, secured the reception site and have even agreed upon the seating arrangements. However, you've yet to decide on that memorable song to signify your new lives as newlyweds.

Whether you're searching for a classic or would rather a current hit, the right song sets the mood for the entire evening. Browse through this list, courtesy of WeddingTips.com for the song that will stage that memorable first dance as well as perfectly showcase your newly learned two-step.

CLASSICS AND POP STANDARDS

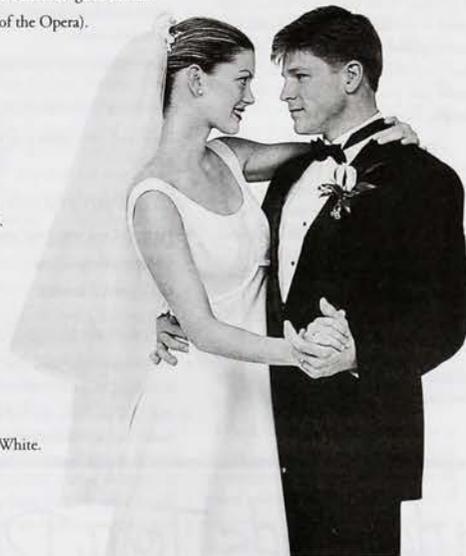
Nothing stands the test of time better than a classic love song. Guaranteed to remain in style through the years, your song will be enjoyed by many of the guests at your reception who span different generations.

- "All I Ask of You," Michael Crawford (Phantom of the Opera).
- "Always and Forever," Luther Vandross.
- "Crazy," Patsy Cline.
- "Have I Told You Lately," Rod Stewart.
- "Just the Way You Are," Billy Joel.
- "Love and Marriage," Frank Sinatra.
- "Only You," The Platters.
- "The Way You Look Tonight," Sinatra or Bennet.
- "Unchained Melody," Righteous Brothers.
- "Wonderful Tonight," Eric Clapton.

CURRENT HITS

Perhaps a song that is a little more recent is what you are looking for. Following are some selections that were favorites for year-2000 weddings.

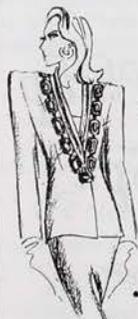
- "Amazed," Lonestar.
- "From This Moment," Shania Twain and Bryan White.
- "Could Not Ask For More," Edwin McCain.
- "Truly, Madly, Deeply," Savage Garden.
- "It's Your Love," Tim McGraw and Faith Hill.
- "I Do, Cherish You," 98 Degrees.
- "I Finally Found Someone," Barbra Streisand and Bryan Adams.
- "I Knew I Loved You Before I Met You," Savage Garden.
- "I Swear," John Michael Montgomery.
- "Valentine," Martina McBride and Jim Brickman.



A LITTLE DIFFERENT

- "Hawaiian Wedding Song," Elvis Presley.
- "I Got You Babe," Sonny and Cher.
- "I'll Grow Old With You," Adam Sandler ("The Wedding Singer").
- "Two Less Lonely People in the World," Air Supply.
- "You're My Best Friend," Queen.

"the added touch"

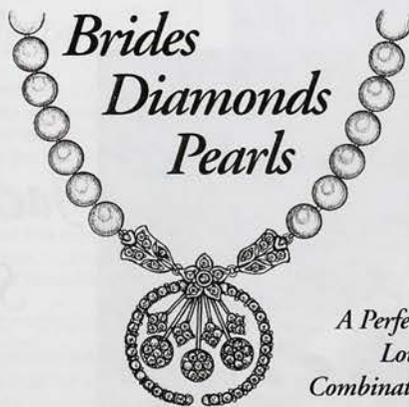


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<WWW.CHAIRCOVERS.NET>

Make your wedding reception go from ordinary to extraordinary with decorative chair covers and linens that complement your colors.

<WWW.WEDDINGSTUFF.COM>

WeddingStuff.com is designed to help you plan your special day. Helpful tips and easy links to the products you'll need are a click away.

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Find the perfect ring to express your affections. Browse through engagement rings, anniversary bands and wedding bands.

<WWW.KITCHENAID.COM>

The latest and the greatest appliances and accessories to include on your bridal registry. Make sure your kitchen is stocked!

<WWW.HEART-THOUGHTS.COM>

Provides unusual, sophisticated wedding stationery. Special invitations not found in every print shop or wedding book.

Do register at least six months before your wedding or, if that's not possible, as soon as you can. That way guests can choose gifts from your registry for pre-wedding events, like an engagement party or shower.

Do call each store ahead of time to see if you need an appointment. The registry process usually takes one to two hours per store, maybe longer, especially if you're registering for items from several departments.



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Shira Beth Lieberman Weds Gadi Tzvi Goldress

Shira Beth Lieberman and Gadi Tzvi Goldress were married Jan. 21 at Marina Del Ray in Queens, N.Y. The bride is the daughter of Dr. Michael and Andrea Kaplan Lieberman of North Bellmore, Long Island. The bridegroom is the son of Irwin and Leslie Goldress of Monsey, N.Y. Rabbi Philip Kaplan of Pawtucket, R.I., grandfather of the bride and Rabbi Aaron Slonim officiated at the marriage ceremony.

Bloomberg L.P. in Manhattan. He also is a volunteer emergency medical technician for Hatzolah Volunteer Ambulance Corps in Manhattan. His father is the television and radio studio supervisor for the East Ramapo Central School District in Spring Valley, N.Y. His mother is the educational director at the New City Jewish Center.

The couple will make their home in Riverdale, N.Y.



Mr. and Mrs. Goldress

The bride's grandmother is the former Esther Koffler, daughter of the late Charles and Sarah Koffler of Providence, R.I. The bride is the niece of Rabbi Abraham Chill, 90, who flew in from Israel with his wife Libby for the wedding.

The bride graduated from the Sy Syms School of Business at Yeshiva University with a degree in accounting. She is a senior accountant for American Express Tax and Business Services in Manhattan. Her father is an ophthalmologist in Farmingdale, Long Island, where her mother is an office manager.

The bridegroom graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from SUNY Binghamton with a degree in philosophy, politics and law and Judaica studies. He is a financial software developer at

Say 'I Do' to a Whiter Smile for Your Wedding

It's one of the most important days of your life. Your wedding day is your time to shine, and the details matter — from your sparkling engagement ring to your dazzling smile. Now, brides and grooms can say "I do" to a whiter smile and make their weddings picture-perfect.

Crest Whitestrips is an effective at-home tooth whitening system that affordably provides truly noticeable results. The system uses clear, flexible strips coated with hydrogen peroxide whitening gel on one side that adhere directly to the "smile" teeth — those visible to others when smiling. The strips are designed to keep the peroxide in direct contact with the teeth long enough to get at stains beneath the surface.

This product uses the same enamel-safe whitening ingredient that dentists have used for years to treat stains beneath the surface of the teeth. They are worn twice a day for 30-minute periods for two weeks, and the whitening benefits last for at least six months.

"People naturally want to have whiter teeth, which can help them feel more self-confident and happier with their overall appearance. I'm excited to be able to offer my patients another whitening option that is both effective and safe when used as directed," says Dr. Cheryl Sheets, an expert on tooth whitening, a professor of

clinical dentistry at the School of Dentistry at the University of Southern California and a former president of the American Academy of Esthetic Dentistry.

In a recent survey, more than 50 percent of both men and women wished they had whiter teeth. Yet, reportedly, less than five percent of all people actually have their teeth whitened.

Evaluated extensively in clinical studies and consumer trials, Crest Whitestrips do not harm tooth enamel during the whitening process. The strips can be placed on the teeth in a matter of seconds and can be worn while doing everyday activities like talking on the phone or checking your guest list or gift registry. They form to comfortably fit the shape of the teeth and provide a controlled dose of hydrogen peroxide. The peroxide in the gel dissipates considerably within 30 minutes from the time of application.

Even if a bride and groom have whitened their teeth professionally, Crest Whitestrips offer a convenient touch-up for the two weeks prior to the big day. Additionally, whitening toothpaste can be used to help polish away surface stains daily, so pack a tube for the honeymoon.

Crest Whitestrips can be ordered online at <www.whitestrips.com> or by calling 888-CrestWS (273-7897). The system is also available in many dentists' offices nationwide. The 14-day supply is priced at \$44, plus shipping and handling, and will be available in stores in 2001.

Couples want their wedding day to be perfect, as they smile for endless photos, greet friends in receiving lines and dance into the sunset. And, thanks to new technology, achieving a bright, white smile can be an easy, convenient and affordable part of the preparation for a "white wedding."

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Did You Know?

It can be difficult to determine whether to hire a band or a DJ for your wedding reception. Remember, a band needs to take breaks, so they actually play only a few 15- to 20-minute sets. DJs can play music continuously. However, don't rush too quickly to pick your DJ. Interview several because they all have different personalities and styles, and one may be better for your reception than another. Also, the synergy between the DJ and catering manager is what keeps your function running smoothly.

Weddings and Memories of the Past

Information submitted by Sylvia Ziman

Sylvia (Rubin) Ziman, a senior citizen now living in Providence, was married during World War II on Feb. 25, 1944 to Jordan Ziman. Sylvia's sister Rosalyn was maid of honor and Jordan's brother Fred was best man. The couple had only a few ushers because most of the men were in service at the time. Unfortunately, Jordan passed away in May of 1980.

Sylvia remembers the Arcadia Ballroom and Clancy's. The Jewish Community Center used to be on Benefit Street in Providence. She met her husband Jordan at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet where she remembers quite a few servicemen attended dances with famous band music including the jitterbug, waltz, rumba, etc.

When the couple married, Sylvia lived at 94 Gordon Ave. on the third floor of an apartment house where rent



was \$23 a month. Sylvia remembers installing a Vulcan heater — into which coal had to be shoveled. Sylvia recalls there were four rooms in the apartment with one large room.

Later, Sylvia and Jordan moved to 44 Lexington Ave. in Providence where they lived for \$50 a month. Across from Lexington Avenue there was a school and instead of going home for lunch, Sylvia remembers that the schoolchildren would come over for a snack.

(top) Sylvia (Rubin) Ziman and her husband Jordan Ziman married Feb. 25, 1944.

(left) Maid of honor at the Ziman wedding was Rosalyn, left, the bride's sister and best man was Fred Ziman, far left, brother of the groom.

Photos courtesy of Sylvia Ziman



A Beautiful Tandem



Mollie Stanzler Richter Fisch, above left, at her wedding to Leonard Richter in 1936. Mollie's daughter Barbara Richter Bolan at her wedding 29 years later in 1965 to Henry Bolan.

Photos submitted by Mollie Fisch, East Providence

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ENID (GREGERMAN) COHEN



SUE (GREENBERG) GREGERMAN

SUE & ABBOTT GREGERMAN



TERRI (SPISSO) & DATEN COHEN



In February 1921, Sarah Bernstein married Abraham Gregerman. From the day of the wedding until Abe's death in August 1943, the couple made their home in Providence on Lippitt Street, which is now University Heights.

Esther Malachowsky married Morris Kuperman on March 5, 1921. Esther and Morris's daughter, Ida, married Paul Gregerman, the son of Abraham and Sarah. Ida and Paul, who both graduated from Hope High School in 1943, married Sept. 3, 1944, at Howell Street Synagogue. Rabbi Morris G. Silk officiated. Ida wore a gown of eggshell brocade, princess model, finished with a long train. The bodice had a square neckline. Her fingertip veil was arranged with a wreath of orange blossoms and she carried white blossoms with an orchid in the center. Paul and Ida retired and later moved to Florida in 1992 from Providence. They have enjoyed and celebrated more than 50 years of marriage.

The couple's daughter, Enid Gregerman Cohen, married Robert S. Cohen on her parents' 23rd wedding anniversary — Sept. 3, 1967. Enid and Robert married at Temple Emanu-El with Rabbi Joel Zaiman officiating.

Paul and Ida's son, Abbott Gregerman, married Susan Greenberg on June 20, 1976, at an outdoor wedding at the Gregerman's home in Barrington. The couple will celebrate 25 years of marriage this June.

The son of Enid and Robert, Daten B. Cohen, also had an outdoor wedding, on Block Island, when he married Terri Spisso on Oct. 13, 1996. Daten and Terri will celebrate five years of marriage this October with their 2-year-old son Zeke.

Photos and information courtesy of Ida Gregerman, Boynton Beach, Fla.

Why We Get Married

A wedding ceremony is indeed a joyous occasion. We see family members and old friends, we eat and drink, we dance and rejoice. We share in the happiness of the man and the woman who are committing their lives to each other. But why are they getting married in the first place?

Some might answer that a marriage is a contract that binds two people. But we know that if two people don't love each other, no contract is strong enough to hold them together. The real question comes one step before marriage: Why is there such a powerful attraction between man and woman? Because G-d created them as one entity and then divided them into two.

As it is written in the Bible, "G-d created man in His image... male and female He created them," as the sages explain, "a single individual with two faces." As an independent individual, a person would be left without companionship, without challenge, without the potential for growth. Neither man nor woman would be able to transcend the individuality into which they were born. So G-d created them as one and clove them into two, two who can join with each other to become one. Man and woman are drawn to each other because individu-

ally, we feel incomplete; we are searching for our other half, through which we reunite with G-d.

So the key to a successful marriage is appreciating its sanctity. Beyond just uniting man and woman, marriage must introduce a third dimension: G-d. The Hebrew words for *man* and *woman* both contain the world fire. They also each contain other letters that, when combined, make up G-d's name. Man and woman without G-d are like two fires that will consume each other. When they rise above their own self-contained limitations and introduce the G-dly and holy into their lives, they can become one, with an unseen hidden bond that makes their unity, their marriage, far greater than the sum of its parts.

Two people may love and care for each other, but without a divine force, what is to bond temporal human beings eternally? Such a bond is necessary, for, besides being two strangers with different personalities and backgrounds, a man and a woman differ biologically, emotionally, and psychologically and will undergo many transitions in their lives.

The single most important ingredient in creating this lifetime bond is the commitment of husband and wife to G-d and

His timeless laws. Just as a home needs a foundation to stand on, a marriage needs to be built on an eternal foundation. Husband and wife need to invite G-d into their union by dedicating their lives to eternal values and connecting to a presence higher than their own, by acknowledging G-d who created them as two halves of one soul. This instills each spouse with a commitment to each other, to their families, to the world around them.

The unity created by marriage — the bond between man, woman, and G-d — enhances the unity and love in a family's

home. It will determine how each child grows up and continues to love. And this unity is necessary for the well-being of each spouse, enabling them to grow both independently and together. Above all, our marriage — the way a man and woman unite with each other — reflects the way we unite with G-d.

A great scholar was studying the concept of marriage and realized that because a successful marriage requires a divine energy that unites two opposites, this energy must constantly be renewed in order to

keep the two together. When he shared this thought with a colleague, the other scholar said, "Congratulations!"

"Why are you congratulating me?" the scholar asked his friend.

"Because, according to what you just explained, your marriage is being renewed every moment. So mazel tov! You just got married anew!"

Based on the works of the Chabad-Lubavitch Rebbe, by Rabbi Simon Jacobson of the Meaningful Life Center. <www.meaningfullife.com>. Submitted by Rabbi Yossi Laufer, Chabad CHAI Center.

Walking to the Chuppah

Everybody knows, everybody knows that the bride is walking with our four mothers. Our mother Sarah, our mother Rivkah, our mother Rachel, and our mother Leah. And do you know, Kallah, why your four mothers walk with you? Because everybody knows that all the children that will come through you, your children, grandchildren, until Mashiach (the Messiah) is coming, all walk behind you. And how can G-d let little children walk alone, from heaven to earth? It's a far away place. And G-d's best baby sitters are the four holy mothers.

You know a little bit how it feels to have one little baby on your hands. I want to bless you, that you should feel hundreds of little hands on your holy hands, hanging onto your holy dress. *Gevalt*, it must feel so holy, so beautiful. Kallah, you know we all envy you, we envy you so much. Because I never walked one inch with our holy mothers. And you have that privilege right now. They love you, and I'm sure they won't leave you. You know what a good Jewish mother is? She doesn't let you alone, right? So we bless you, we bless you that our four mothers should always walk with you and your children, wherever you go.

Spoken by Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach to a couple during their wedding. Submitted by Rabbi Natan Schafer, who assisted in the translation.

