

Rhode Island Jewish HERALD

**ASDS
Zimriyah!**

PAGE 11

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News at a Glance

- Arab countries recently suspended the transfer of hundreds of millions of dollars, collected as donations for the Palestinian people, to the Palestinian Authority due to the fear that the money will end up in the wrong hands and encourage further corruption in the PA. Several Arab states decided at an October conference in Cairo to transfer some \$1 billion to the PA to alleviate Palestinian economic woes, but because of previous corruption scandals related to the transfer of money to the PA, the aid is being withheld. A large sum of money sent to the PA soon after its establishment, particularly from Europe, the United States and Japan, did not reach its intended destination. Through the collection of arbitration fees, monopolies and numerous other schemes, a large proportion of that money ended up in the bank accounts of PA officials, including that of Arafat, and his economic advisor, Muhammad Rashid. The contributing Arab countries and the banks demanded that PA Chairman Yasser Arafat show complete accountability in the funds transfers. The PA, however, has evaded the current demands made by the Arab donors.
- Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert on recently laid the cornerstone for Intel Corp.'s new research and development building at Har Hotzvim in Jerusalem. Intel invested NIS 40 million (approximately \$10 million) in the center, which will be completed by September 2001 and is expected to employ 300 new software and hardware engineers. Olmert stressed the extensive involvement of Intel's workers in the Jerusalem community, particularly at the Jerusalem College of Technology, which he hopes will become the Technion of Jerusalem. According to the manager of the Jerusalem R&D Center Michel Assayag, the ongoing involvement in the college is one means of helping to ensure a source of hardware engineers, who are in short supply in the Jerusalem area. The R&D center will help develop fast Internet connections based on existing cable infrastructure. The Jerusalem R&D center, which started in 1998 with only 80 workers, employs 200 engineers today.

American Victims of Gaza Bus Bombing Sue Arafat, PA, VIPs for \$250,000,000

Providence Lawyer David Strachman files suit under Flatow Precedent

by **Jon Rubin**
Assistant Editor

Two American women, one widowed and one seriously injured in the Nov. 20, 2000 terrorist bus bombing attack in the Gaza Strip, file suit this week in Federal Court against Chairman of the Palestinian Authority Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian Authority, the Palestinian Liberation Organization and a number of high-ranking PA officials. This civil suit, which asks for 250 million dollars in damages following the precedent of an earlier case involving terrorism, will be handled by Attorney David J. Strachman of Providence, Rhode Island, an attorney with the law firm Skolnik, McIntyre and Tate.

The bombing of an Israeli school bus occurred near the town of Kfar Darom in the Gaza Strip. It killed two adults and seriously wounded nine others, many of them children. The plaintiffs in the suit are Avigail Biton, whose husband Gabriel Biton was killed in the attack, and Rachel Asraf, who suffered burns and other injuries.

The suit charges that the Palestinian Authority, the Palestine Liberation Organization, Yasser Arafat, Muhammed Dahlan (Commander of Palestinian Preventive Security Service), and Rashid Abu Shabak (Deputy Commander of PPSS) are responsible for Gaza attack. The suit is based on the information gained by the Israeli government that linked the PPSS and the PA to the attack. Israeli officials announced days after the bombing that they had "hard

evidence" that the attack was masterminded and carried out under the supervision of Muhammed Dahlan and Rashid Abu Shabak.

"There has been an outpouring of support for the victims," Strachman said in a recent telephone interview with the *Herald*. He said that the Biton-Asraf suit is based on the Antiterrorism Act of 1991, which allows United States citizens who are harmed in overseas acts of terrorism to bring suit for their damages in U.S. federal courts. The sum of \$250,000,000 reflects a similar sum given for the wrongful death of New Jersey native Alisa Flatow, 20, who was killed in an April 9, 1995 suicide bus bombing in Kfar Darom in the Gaza Strip. The Islamic Jihad terrorist organization claimed responsibility for the attack. A U.S. judge found

the Islamic Republic of Iran guilty of giving financial support to the faction of the Islamic Jihad involved in the attack. The judge awarded the family of Alisa Flatow nearly 250 million dollars in damages.

The current Biton-Asraf suit claims that "A powerful roadside device built by defendants DAHLAN [and] ABU SHABAK... acting on behalf of and agents and/of employees of defendants PA, PLO and ARAFAT, exploded near the school bus... Among those killed in the bombing was Gabriel Biton, 34, the husband of plaintiff AVIGAIL LEWIS BITON. Among those wounded in the bombing was plaintiff RACHEL ASRAF." The suit charges that the defendants "repeatedly praised and lauded acts of terrorism and violence

(Continued on Page 8)

"You Could Feel Tension In The Air"

Justin Strauss Speaks About His Recent Israel Solidarity Mission

by **Jon Rubin**
Assistant Editor

Neither of Justin Strauss's trips to Israel have been very usual, to say the least. His first trip, in 1996, came after a recent wave of terrorist bombings. The after-effect of this had silenced the tourist industry to such a degree that he had to tour with a Christian touring group because international Jews weren't interested enough to come.

His current trip wasn't under the best circumstances either, but that it made it no less important for him. He went on the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island's Solidarity Mission to Israel, which lasted from Feb. 4 to 9. "The mood [of the Israelis] was very somber," he said. "There was no swagger in anyone's step." Strauss is currently semi-retired, and works part time as a marketing consultant. He was formerly president of Eagle Cornice Co., Inc., and is currently a member of Temple Sinai.

In Israel there was widespread apathy even despite the Feb. 6 elections. He described the attitude at the polling booths he visited with one word — "ambivalence." He spoke to many Israelis as they exited the polls; many of them felt let down by Barak, but were not particularly happy with Sharon as the alternative. "It was a very calm election," Strauss said.

"The turnout was disappointing."

He stayed at the Sheraton Plaza in Jerusalem, a relatively new hotel. Due to the overabundance of empty rooms in Israel, Strauss said that hotels in Israel worked out an agreement where most of them would close, and business would be funneled to a few select hotels. The King David Hotel, where members of the next Solidarity Trip will stay, was closed at the time of his visit.

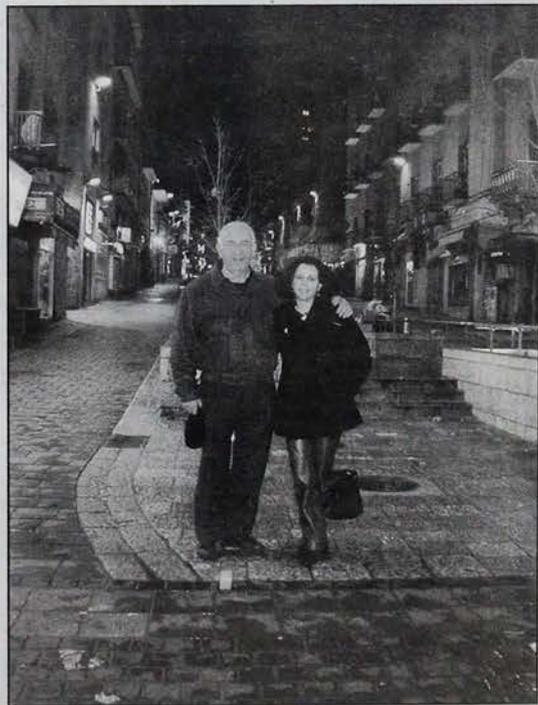
Like all of the sponsored solidarity missions, his trip contained a multitude of well-organized events, including meetings and interviews with Israeli leaders, military advisors, members of the international press, renowned economists and political analysts. He also visited the city of Afula to the north, which is one of the Jewish Federation's sister cities. There was a sizable Ethiopian Jewish community there, and Strauss was able to see the positive effect that Israel programs have had on their lives in terms of health, education and employment opportunities.

Strauss remarked that he felt perfectly safe during his entire journey, but admitted that it is "not a pleasant time" to live in Israel. Although a great many Israelis are strong in their commitment to stay and fight for their country, many are still afraid for their children. Security was very tight everywhere he went, especially near the Western Wall, where it took about 30 minutes

to get through the checkpoint. He saw a great number of IDF troops brandishing machine guns at every turn, but felt more secure than anything by the armed presence. His tour guides were also armed, as were their escorts wherever they went.

Strauss said he believed that the negative media attention Israel is receiving is due to the tendency for people to support the "little guy" in a conflict. "The Palestinians are being

(Continued on Page 15)



NIGHT LIFE? Justin Strauss and his daughter Lori Smith in downtown Jerusalem.

Photo submitted by Lori Smith

HAPPENINGS

Entertainment for Children

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

February

- 23 **Paper Caper.** 1 to 3 p.m. Fold and crease your favorite flying machine. Kids ages 3 and up test how far or high their classic darts and whirligigs fly. (NOTE: There is no Preschool Friday Program today.)
- 24 **Mardi Gras.** 1 to 3 p.m. Ooh la la! Kids age 5 and up make Mardi Gras masks and necklaces. Parade through the museum with instruments!
- 25 **Hot Jazz.** 2:30 and 3:30 p.m. Join the band Dukes of Dixie for live New Orleans' jazz. Kids 5 and up play along to the happy beat with rhythm instruments.
- 26 **Museum Closed Normal Hours.**
- 26 **Parent Workshop: Who's in Charge?** 7 to 8:30 p.m. Parent educator Marsha Schlesinger of the Childcare Support Network presents the second of a two-part parent workshop centered around issues of discipline and behavior management in children. Parents share success stories and discuss continuing challenges. Appropriate for all caregivers of children ages 1 to 11. \$5 for museum members and \$10 for non-members. Pre-registration is required and seating is limited. Call 273-5437, ext. 234.
- 27 **Parent Talk.** 1 to 2:30 p.m. Preschoolers ages 2 to 4 play in Littlewoods while adults chat with a parenting expert.
- 28 **Animal Teeth.** 3 to 4:30 p.m. Celebrate Dental Health Month! Kids 5 and up examine animal skulls up close. Feel the teeth of wombats, tigers, horses and more. Can you tell what an animal eats by feeling its teeth?



March

- 1 **Time Travelers.** 3 to 4:30 p.m. In celebration of Women's of Rhode Island colonists. Help her prepare dinner for her family on the huge hearth of their cottage and discover what life was like for women and girls in the 1600s.

Calendar: February 23 Through March 1

- 23 **Wickford Art Association** holds Member All Media Show, Part I. 36 Beach St., N. Kingstown. Call 294-6840.
"Annie" at the Providence Performing Arts Center, Feb. 23 to 25. 220 Weybosset St., Providence. Call 421-ARTS for times and prices.
- Border's downtown at Providence Place** presents storytime every Friday morning from 10 to 11 a.m. with Miss Susan.
- 24 **Comedy Cabaret** at the Levanthal-Sidman Jewish Community Center, 333 Nahanton St., Newton Centre, Mass. Julie Barr and Jim Dunn, two veteran comedians from Boston will entertain you at 8 p.m. on Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 25. Tickets are \$20 general, \$18 JCC members. Seniors and students receive \$2 off. Call (617) 965-5226.
- Ninth annual Cajun and Zydeco Mardi Gras Ball**, 7:30 p.m. to midnight at the Rhodes-on-the-Pawtuxet, 60 Rhodes Place, Cranston, R.I. The event is a costume optional ball with a variety of prizes for "Best Costumes." Tickets are \$25, \$30 at the door. Call 783-3926.
- Shabbat lunch and learn**, sponsored by Perspectives. Enhance your Shabbat experience studying and learning with guest scholars at Temple Emanu-El in Providence. Free. Call 331-1616.
- 25 **"The Golden Age of Second Avenue"** will be shown at Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence on Feb. 25 at 2 p.m. This is the third film in the series sponsored by the Temple Beth-El Sisterhood. Free and open to the public. Discussion on the film led by Mike Fink.
- The R.I. Watercolor Society** will be exhibiting works of several New England artists from Feb. 25 through March 16. The exhibit will be a multi-media open juried show and will be held at the society's gallery in Slater Memorial Park in Pawtucket. Gallery hours are from Tuesday to Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sundays 1 to 5 p.m. Free. Call 726-1876.
- Rabbi Alan Flam** will be guest speaker at the Jewish Studies Brunch Series at Temple Emanu-El. Brunch is at 9:30 a.m., speaker at 10 a.m. Temple Emanu-El is located at 99 Taft Ave., Providence.
- Nathaniel Philbrick** reads from National Book Award Winner "In the Heart of the Seas: The Tragedy of the Whaleship Essex" at the Providence Athenaeum, 3 p.m. Call 421-6970.
- 26 **Readings in Medieval Jewish History** with Professor Joshua Stein, 10 a.m. as part of the Temple Emanu-El Leisure Club series, at Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence.
- Bach Cantatas** as part of the Evening Concert Series in the Emerson Majestic Theatre, Boston. Lorraine Hunt Lieberson, mezzo-soprano to perform in a Peter Sellars production. 8 p.m. on Feb. 26 and Feb. 28. Call (617) 824-8000.
- RIC Chamber Orchestra** presents music with conductor John Sumerlin, Alicia Ruggiero, violin, and Amy Clune, clarinet. 8 p.m. at Lila and John Sapinsley Hall. Call 456-8090.
- 27 **Novelist and poet Paul Beatty** will read from his work at 8 p.m. at the Piano Lounge at the Graduate Center at Charlesfield and Thayer Streets.
- 28 Feb 28 Excerpts from "The Sweater" will be shown at Temple Emanu-El in Providence, RI at 7:30 p.m. The play revolves around group therapy sessions for people who were Holocaust survivors.
- Free Dance Therapy Classes** at EPOCH on 353 Blackstone Boulevard. Certified dance therapist, Diane Thurston, will conduct this fun and educational program. Free. 2:15 to 3:15 p.m. Call 273-6565.
- The Home Show at the R.I. Convention Center** from Feb. 28 to March 4. Features nearly 300 exhibitors showcasing the latest in products, services and technology. Adults \$8 each, children 6 to 12, \$2 each, children 5 and under free. R.I. Convention Center, downtown Providence.
- Playreading at the Barrington Public Library** presents Talking Pictures by Horton Foot. The series is led by drama enthusiast Elsa Grieder, who will assign roles to be read aloud by participants. 281 County Road, Barrington, R.I. Call 247-1920.

March

- 1 **"Art, Design, Craft — What's the Difference?"** Panel discussion moderated by Judith Tannenbaum, curator of contemporary art at the RISD Museum. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the RISD Museum, 224 Benefit Street, Providence. Free. Call 454-6505.

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Events at Providence Public Library

- Open Playtime** — The Providence Public Library's Family Place program encourages parents to help their preschoolers learn through play in an informal atmosphere. Call 455-8035 for more information. Until March 30, Fridays, 9:30 to 11 a.m. — Providence Public Library Central Library, 225 Washington St.
- Cradle to Crayons** — A free workshop for parents and their preschoolers. Speak with community resource experts, meet other families and do learning activities with your child. At the following locations:
Feb. 26 to March 31: Mondays, 9:30 to 10:45 a.m., Providence Public Library, Rochambeau Branch, 708 Hope St.
Tuesdays, 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., Providence Public Library, Mount Pleasant Branch, 315 Academy Ave.
Wednesdays, 9:30 to 10:45 a.m., Providence Public Library, South Providence Branch, 441 Prairie Ave.
Thursdays, 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., Providence Public Library Central Library, 225 Washington St.
- Family Arts Day** — Parents and their preschoolers can enjoy a story hour, then make some crafts. Free. Call 455-8035 for information.

Directory to this week's Herald

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT	11-13
CLASSIFIEDS	15
FEATURE	9-10, 15
HAPPENINGS	2
JEWISH COMMUNITY	4-9
OBITUARIES	15
OPINION	3

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OPINION

Throwing Caution to the Wind?

by Ruth and Nadia Matar

Former Prime Minister Barak has reversed his prior decision to retire, and has accepted the position of defense minister in the Sharon government. The public has received this news with great trepidation. The fact that the foreign minister portfolio is to be given to Shimon Peres as a condition of the Labor Party entering into a unity government is no less a matter of grave concern. It is unfortunate, but true, that Labor and its Knesset members have heretofore not acted as a loyal opposition when they were voted out of power. It remains a serious test for them in the days ahead whether each of the Labor ministers will be able to put the interests of the nation first, and those of their party, and their individual respective careers, second.

Whether Barak, who failed in his role as his own defense minister, will be able to take orders from Sharon is a very real question. Barak has an even more serious problem: if Barak carries out Sharon's orders and they are successful, his own previous failures will be highlighted.

As to Shimon Peres, his track record is one of disloyalty and chicanery. In order to justify his own Oslo views, he can be

counted on to sabotage any efforts of Sharon to abandon the Oslo road. That the electorate thought Oslo was leading Israel to destruction, is attested to by its recent decisive vote.

The overwhelming vote in favor of Sharon, however, will not humble Barak, nor Peres, in any serious way. Why then did Sharon embark on this treacherous path of a unity government with the likes of Barak and Peres? The obvious reasons are not difficult to find. Among them are the exigencies of the Arab threat to our very survival, and that labor could not be trusted to act as a loyal opposition. If Labor would show such disunity under Sharon's leadership outside the government, it might be detrimental to gaining world support for the difficult actions Sharon may have to take.

Above all, a narrow government would not be sufficiently stable. Small parties would be able to extract harmful concessions by threatening to prevent Sharon from taking bold actions to extricate Israel from its present morass. Sharon thinks a unity government is the answer. Only time will tell!

Submitted by Women in Green
(www.womeningreen.org)

Faith-Based Organizations Need Help in The Fight Against Hunger

by Kathleen Gorman

It must come as a surprise to the faith-based communities and to the much larger non-profit advocacy groups that President Bush is charging them with the responsibility of solving social problems. In a recent discussion of his plans, Bush was quoted as saying "government should not fear funding programs that can change people's lives." We are pleased that the government is willing to fund programs that will help people in need, but it may be useful to explore whether the faith-based organizations are the most appropriate to spearhead this task.

In the case of hunger in America, the statistics are staggering. According to recent data (USDA, 1999), 15.5 percent of individuals in the United States are fed by 1.9 percent who are actually suffering from hunger. That means that 7,779,000 people miss meals and may go for entire days without eating because they don't have any money for food, or the money that they devote is used for rent, heat, or medical bills. In Rhode Island, 27,000 people (40 percent of whom are children) went hungry in 1998, the most recent year for which data are available.

More alarming is the fact that despite a strong economy over the past several years, the numbers of hungry and food insecure are on the rise. The U.S. Conference of Mayors reports that demands for emergency food banks increased annually every year since 1983 and 16 percent in just the past year. In Rhode Island, the Rhode Island Community Food Bank has noted a 23 percent increase in food distribution in only one year, and since 1996,

the amount of food distributed has increased from 3 million pounds to almost 6 million pounds.

Faith-based and non-profit organizations rely heavily on the good will of their volunteers. With this in mind, it seems somewhat ingenuous that President Bush is suggesting that our faith-based communities can do more. In a recent survey of 772 registered voters from across the country, we found that 86 percent of the respondents already donate food or money to hunger relief agencies. Janet Poppendieck, a sociologist from Hunter College, suggests that if we include the many opportunities that individuals have to contribute (i.e. food drives, donations, holiday baskets, church and temple benefits, etc.), that hunger relief may be the most effective supported volunteer effort in the United States. In other words, at least in relation to hunger relief, the advocacy, faith-based and charitable organizations are doing more than their fair share.

In response to our survey, a majority of respondents (67 percent) indicated that they felt that the government should be doing more to help hungry people. In fact, when asked about specific solutions, 82 percent of the respondents endorsed using money from the federal surplus to address the hunger problem.

Despite common misconceptions, many federal programs are already designed and operating. For anti-hunger advocates, one of the most important federal programs is the Food Stamp Program, a nutritional program for low-income families and the elderly. While the Food Stamp Program is not perfect, several

simple modifications could make a significant dent in the numbers of hungry people in the United States. Participation in the Food Stamp Program both nationally and statewide is down. In Rhode Island it is estimated that 33 percent of eligible Food Stamp recipients do not participate in the program.

Moreover, benefits for many participants often run out before the end of the month. Cuts to the Food Stamp Program in the 1980s, coupled with wages that have not kept up with inflation and astronomical housing costs have all contributed to fewer dollars available for food expenditures among low-income families and the elderly. And finally, there are many obstacles to assuring that those who need the program can access it in a responsible manner.

Thankfully, the Rhode Island Department of Human Services is working with an ad-hoc advisory committee to attempt to address specific concerns facing Rhode Island residents, but more than good will is needed. It is time for the federal and state governments to step up to the plate. Funding, both federal and state, is needed in order to improve services, increase accessibility and make sure that Food Stamp eligible individuals are able to access their benefits. So, let's agree to use funds for programs that work including programs such as Food Stamps that were designed specifically to decrease hunger in America.

Kathleen Gorman is director of the University of Rhode Island's Feinstein Center for a Hunger Free America.

Have An Opinion?

If you have an opinion about something in the Jewish community, why not express it in the Herald?

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Candlelighting
February 23, 2001
5:10 p.m.



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

A book was written recently about Frieda Fromm-Reichmann, one of the early figures in psychiatry. Born to an Orthodox family in Germany, she eventually applied not only the teachings of Freud but her own Jewish background to the healing of her patients. The book notes that she saw serving people in her profession, as *tzedakah*, and that she held to the Talmudic ideal that to save one life is like saving an entire world. She was the embodiment her friends called her technique "Torahpeth."

It is interesting to note, though, what one reviewer in a major paper made of the meaning of this life. She wrote, "This kind of therapeutic conviction is not unlike faith: a belief that the world is ultimately good and just, despite excellent evidence to the contrary. The paradox of religion is that acceptance of that apparent falsehood does appear empirically to be good for your health."

"Excellent evidence to the contrary?" Paradox? "Apparent falsehood?" What seems most apparent is that the reviewer lost not only the mean-

ing of Fromm-Reichmann's life, but of religious teaching in general, and Jewish teaching in particular. This would not be worth discussion, though, if it were not a widely held attitude.

Let's start here: Jewish teaching does not portray the world merely as "ultimately good and just," it portrays Torah as good and just, and our ability to live the mitzvot as the greatest po-

ssibility to create goodness and justice. Whether we do that or not seriously influences the nature of these attributes in the world. This sphere we are in is neither good nor evil. It is a material place without the ability to exhibit those qualities.

Nevertheless, it contains many blessings which we are encouraged to use for good, and to understand as the raw material G-d gave us from which to create a better life. In Genesis Adam and Eve are clearly given "dominion" over the earth, which means only that they have the option to do good or evil with it.

It may be, as the reviewer suggests, that acceptance of the idea of ultimate goodness is healthy for you, but Judaism does not encourage us merely to hold ideas. What is much healthier is to act on those ideas.

In *Tvito*, which we read last week, there appears the seemingly sudden conversion of Moses' father-in-law, Jethro, who reacts to the deliverance from Egypt as proof that "the Lord is greater" than all other deities. He thereupon, apparently, becomes a monotheist.

Moses did not live in a world of ultimate good and justice. Putting aside the actions of Pharaoh, we see that even Moses' father-in-law was infected with the pagan beliefs of the time. What made him change — what "healed" him psychologically — was an encounter in righteousness, but the strong "evidence" that there was godness and justice, if you worked in the right way to achieve it. And that is the essence of Torahpethics.

Submitted by Rabbi Yossi Lauer of CHAI Center of Chabad of West Bay, Warwick.

Torahpethics

Torah Today

JEWISH COMMUNITY

Scenes From 'The Sweater' to Show at Emanu-El

"The Sweater" is a play about hope and recovery. It focuses on psychological recovery from massive trauma, and offers hope for all victims — as well as the necessity to remember — as the basis of recovery for the individual and the world. It looks at the Holocaust from a wholly original perspective. It will be shown at Temple Emanu-El on Feb. 28 at 7:30 p.m.

The play is set in the 1960s, which may seem strange for a Holocaust play, but it was in those 1960s during the troubling times of the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Kennedy assassination, the civil rights marches and church bombings that many Holocaust survivors were undergoing therapy. The turmoil of the early 60s was forcing the patients to relive old traumas. And "The Sweater" is about recovery and redemption, about moving forward,

and about how the past cannot be closed if the future is to be open before you.

"The Sweater" is based on the life and practice of Dr. Klaus Hoppe, a former UCLA professor of psychiatry and director of research of the famous Hacker Clinic of Beverly Hills. Hoppe previously 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 then became a Freudian psychoanalyst. Deeply impressed with the profound evil of the Nazi era, he has devoted the bulk of his professional life to healing the suffering of Holocaust survivors.

In addition to Hoppe, the other lead character in the play is Ruth, based on a real character in Hoppe's practice. During her therapy, Ruth had several large breakthroughs, enabling

her to move forward with her life. Riselle Bain will portray Ruth, and David Cooper will portray Hoppe in these scenes from the play. Interspersed with the dialogue will be music composed by Cantor Bain to set the context for the scenes before presenting four scenes from "The Sweater."

Bain is a graduate of Stetson University and holds a B.A. in music, magna cum laude. She is an associate member of the American Conference of Cantors and is currently serving as cantor for Temple Beth-El in Ormond Beach. Bain was commissioned to compose original music for "The Sweater," which she will sing during the program.

Cooper is a professional actor and an author of "The Sweater." He will introduce the program and lead the audience in a discussion of it after the performance.

Prospective Adoptive Parents Invited to Informational Meeting March 1

Anyone interested in exploring the possibilities of adoption is invited to attend informational meetings offered by Adoption Options, the adoption program of Jewish Family Service. The meetings take place on the first Thursday of every month from 6 to 7 p.m. at the offices of Jewish Family Service. The next meeting will be held on March 1.

The agency is located on the second floor of the United Way building at 229 Waterman St. in Providence. The meetings are free and open to anyone interested in pursuing an adoption. Call Adoption Options at 331-5437 or toll-free at (800) 337-6513 for information or to arrange a confidential

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חוזרים לשפיות!

אנו סטודנטים ערבים ויהודים במכון החוקים בינינו יום יום, אך סמל הלימודים, בשיח פנולה ובאחוה, מביעים תחושה קשה לנוכח גילוי האלימות במדינה.

עלינו להמשיך ולחיות בארץ הזאת בכבוד הדדי, בשלום ובביטחון. אנו קוראים לכל סטודנטים במכנינו להשמיץ את קולו כנגד אלימות ולכל אזרחי המדינה לבעול למען חיים בשכונות טובה.

אין שני לנאמם!

האנחנו, סטודנטים ערבים ויהודים, וביחד, ובעזרתם, נמשיך את מראותנו ונמשיך את האחדות והעזרה, נמשיך את מראותנו ונמשיך את האחדות והעזרה, נמשיך את מראותנו ונמשיך את האחדות והעזרה.

האנחנו נמשיך את האחדות והעזרה, נמשיך את מראותנו ונמשיך את האחדות והעזרה, נמשיך את מראותנו ונמשיך את האחדות והעזרה.

Israeli Technion Students Call For Peace and Cooperation

A sign posted around the campus of the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, signed by Israeli and Arab students — despite recent hostilities. A translation of the text speaks for itself: Return to Sanity!

We, the Arab and Jewish students of the Technion, who daily sit together in the same classrooms in cooperation and friendship, express our pain over the recent outbreaks of violence in our country.

It is up to us to continue living here in mutual dignity, peace and security. We call on every Technion student to speak out against violence, and on every citizen to work on behalf of good neighborly relations.

New England Rabbinical College to Host 14th Annual Dinner

On the evening of March 3, the New England Rabbinical College will host its 14th annual Melaveh Malka Dinner. Since opening its doors in 1984 as one of only two institutions of its kind in the New England region, the Rabbinical College has firmly established itself as an active and vibrant center for the study of Torah and advanced religious subjects. An institution such as the Rabbinical College invariably assumes the persona of its leaders. Each in their own inimitable style, Rabbi Eliezer Gibber and Rabbi Yosef Lipson have for years imbued their students with the practical skills necessary for analyzing the Talmud as well as an intense desire to further their awareness and appreciation of their rich Jewish heritage.

The impact of the New England Rabbinical College on the Providence community, however, can be observed well beyond its four walls. Communal events and lectures, interactive learning sessions, the annual Providence Purim Parade and the Minaker Audio Tape Library are only several of the ways in which the Rabbinical College strives to promote a proper appreciation of the Torah and its ideals throughout the Greater Providence area.

The annual Melaveh Malka is an opportunity to reflect upon the accomplishments of the Rabbinical College as well as to continue striving to insure future growth. This year's dinner recognizes Gershom and Janine Kutliroff as its Pillars of Torah honorees. Through their unwavering commitment to the study and support of Torah, the Kutliroffs are truly emblematic of the Rabbinical College's vision. In addition, the gathering will be addressed by guest speaker Rabbi Nota Schiller. As a founder and dean of Ohr Somayach International in Jerusalem, Rabbi Schiller has achieved widespread acclaim as an inspiring orator whose uplifting words and penetrating insights have reached thousands of the world over. The Melaveh Malka is scheduled to begin at 8:30 p.m. For further information or to place a reservation, contact Miriam Lipson at 273-4907.

JEWISH COMMUNITY

'Mommy, Tell Me About Bubbe and Zayde'

by Elisa Silverstein-Heath

After gathering with our families over Thanksgiving and then Hanukkah, many of us have noticed the curiosity among our children about family history and family members who live far away or who have passed on about our family's legacy. When our children ask us about Bubbe, Zayde or even their great-grandparents, we may draw upon our personal recollections or a treasury of photographs, writings and various heirlooms — but this may be all we can offer.

Robert Riesman, who recently hosted the Rhode Island Endowment event in Florida with his wife, Marcia, recalls his parents' commitment to rescuing Jewish refugees from Nazi-controlled Europe in the early 1930s. "Mother never complained when we took in a strange, unrelated family of a mother, father and son," he said. His parents' pledge to give of themselves and their dollars to make a difference in the world — this is his inspiration for his own generosity of time and funds.

In addition to the numerous leadership positions they have held in the community (he is a past president of Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, she of Jewish Family Service), Bob and Marcia Riesman each give generously through the JFRI's annual campaign, and sustain an important fund through the JFRI Endowment. Their endowment is dedicated to sending emerging leaders in our community to the annual General Assembly of the United Jewish Communities. And among other things, the Riesmans are deeply committed to sustaining meaningful Jewish life on college campuses in Rhode Island

and around the country. Their generosity and foresight nourishes and builds the Rhode Island Jewish community of today and for tomorrow.

Creating an endowment fund at JFRI is a wonderful way to build an ongoing legacy for your family. Funds that are established with \$1,000 or more may be specifically named. Every year, loved ones will be reminded that Bubbe and Zayde — and you — care about our Jewish community. An endowment fund not only serves as a perennial source of income to our community, but it will also provide a continuing reminder that Bubbe and Zayde were people of generosity and good will.

Like many Rhode Island Jewish families with deep roots and history here, the Riesmans are "snow birds," spending much of the winter in Florida.

When we spoke, the Riesmans were preparing to host the Rhode Island Get-Together on Jan. 23. This special event brought together 140 Rhode Islanders at the Palm Beach Country Club who feel a deep connection to their Rhode Island roots, and who still maintain strong ties here. "It's only natural," said Riesman, "to feel excited and to look forward to seeing our dear friends here, in Florida. Rhode Island is our hometown. We've all sunk our roots there, raised our children there."

The Riesmans' children have been given an important and meaningful legacy for their families. Their children will always know and understand the commitment made to repair the world by their grandparents and great-grandparents.

The JFRI Endowment Fund enables individuals to create

endowments that focus on specific aspects of the community's mission, areas that may be especially important to the honoree. A donor's recommendations for distributing income from the fund also communicates something positive about one's family and establishing a philanthropic inheritance for future generations.

You will offer your loved ones a "living photograph" of at least one of the key areas of importance in your life. For more information on how you can establish an endowment, contact Joshua Karlin, JFRI director of Planned Giving and Endowments, or the Endowment's Associate Director, Irine Adler-Lustig, at 421-4111, ext. 173 and 174, respectively. They will be happy to show you what others in our community have done to leave their legacy and how practical and easily an endowment can be created.



A Computer in Every Classroom

Thanks to the extraordinary efforts of PHDS parents Brenda and Steven Abramovich, the day school now has a computer in every classroom. The computers were donated by Fidelity Investments. The monitors were donated by Elo-Touch Systems, Inc., the company for which Steve Abramovich works. In order to complete the computer systems, 40 PHDS families donated money to purchase printers. Now children can access both English and Hebrew computer programs in their own classroom. Aaron Schacht (left) and Jonathan Goldin (right) of the fourth-grade explore a new computer software package.

Photo courtesy of PHDS

*A pharmacist for 41 years,
Walter helped thousands
of people get back on their
feet. We're happy we could
return the favor.*

Relieving pain for others was a way of life for Walter Krochmal of Cumberland — until the osteoarthritis pain in his hips made standing all day unbearable.

This time the doctor's prescription was for Walter: Hip replacement surgery at The Miriam Hospital. With the excellence in medical care you'd expect from a

Brown University-affiliated hospital delivered in a community setting, The

Miriam team was exceptional. From the pre-admissions staff who walked

him through his questions to the

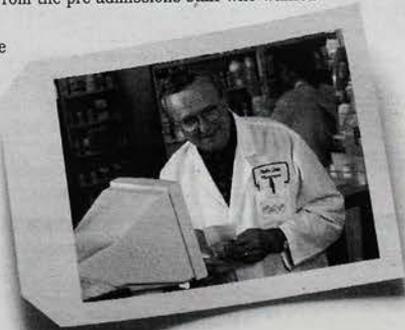
physical therapists who made

sure he walked out the door,

Walter says The Miriam

stands alone. We're glad to

see Walter do the same.



UJC Condemns Palestinian's Attack on Israelis

United Jewish Communities has condemned the attack by a Palestinian bus driver who drove his bus into a crowd of Israeli civilians and military personnel near Tel Aviv, killing at least eight and wounding as many as 20 others.

"This inhumane and cowardly attack, designed to inflict a terrible toll in death and injury upon innocent Israelis, is yet another compelling reason to demand that Chairman Arafat bring the escalation of violence to an end," said Charles R. Bronfman, UJC chairman of the board. "Our heartfelt condolences go out to the victims' families and to all Israel."

"We are outraged to report yet another incident of terror unleashed today against the Israeli people," said Joel D. Tauber, chairman of the UJC Executive Committee. "The entire North American Jewish community stands with Prime Minister Barak. Prime Minister-elect Sharon and the people of Israel in condemning "this abominable crime."

We are confident that Israel will bring the perpetrators, and those that sent them, to justice," he added. Bronfman and Tauber urged the North American Jewish community to continue to raise their voices in solidarity with the people and government of Israel.

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JEWISH COMMUNITY

Future Faces Going Future Places

by Luke O'Neill
Herald Editor

Five accomplished teens were honored last week for their contributions to Jewish life and values in the greater Rhode Island area through their participation in activities such as community service, leadership, social action, Jewish studies and religious activities. Yet, it still takes a village to raise a child.

On Feb. 12, the Jewish Outreach and Leadership Training, a program of the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island, sponsored the annual Future Faces Teen Recognition awards at the Donal L. Saunders Family Inn on the Brown University campus. Future Faces awardees and nominees are Jewish high school students in grades 11 and 12 who possess outstanding abilities and have demonstrated an understanding of and exemplify Jewish teachings.

This year, JOLT recognized five young men and women as Future Faces award recipients: Adam Deitch of Lincoln, Danielle Ostrowsky of Warwick, James Ross of Newport, Alexander Schoenfeld of Providence and Stephanie Steingold of Cranston.

Irving J. Waldman, JOLT committee chair, launched the evening with some opening remarks, saying the students' contributions have indeed been "ping" for the benefit of their children. Richard S. Walter, BJE director of teen education, served as the event's emcee.

Keynote speaker Janet Engelhart, executive vice-president of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, echoed Waldman's sentiments, noting that the students' hard work and

widespread activities are remarkable and could not have been done without the support of an entire community.

The award presentations had the awardees' adult nominators introduce the young men and women who have made such a difference. Nominators said kind words and lauded the students' accomplishments. Awardees also said a few words.

Bev Ehrich, a family friend and nominator of the first recipient, Alexander Schoenfeld, extolled Alex's public speaking skills and his ability to positively impact others. Alex, who has been accepted to Connecticut College, gives back a lot, said Ehrich, but he does it quietly. "Helping people—Tikkun Olam," said Ehrich, "has been the theme of Alex's activities in his high school, but he has taken his responsibility to another level.... Others see in him the steady work of a mensch."

In his brief (and articulate) remarks, Alex, a Wheeler School senior, said he has always appreciated being surrounded by Jewish friends and his parents' friends. He also said he values the underlying feeling of community he has experienced.

Alex has been a teacher's aide at Temple Beth-El, senior editor of the Wheeler School yearbook, volunteer teacher's North American Federation of Temple Youth, took part in the Washington Institute for Jewish Leadership and Values and a 1999 NFTY Summer Israel program. His grandmother from Philadelphia attended the award ceremony.

Maureen K. Floor, a guidance counselor at Lincoln High

School, introduced the second awardee, Adam Deitch, noting Adam's committed work at the high school. According to Floor, Adam, a Feinstein scholar, has helped his fellow students log more than 1,600 hours of community service, sparking positive change in others.

"His awards are numerous," said Floor. "They come in daily." "What is most impressive about Adam is his commitment to his religion and community service." Floor likened Adam to a pebble thrown in a pond with a widespread ripple effect.

Adam, president of his class in high school, underscored the beneficial programs that have been set up for students to learn positive values such as the Washington Institute for Leadership and Values. Adam is a Temple Emanu-El Torah tutor, the temple's Social Action award winner and on the board of the R.I. Youth in Philanthropy. A member of the National Honor Society, Adam founded his school's community service program, CAST—Community Action and Service Team, which offers opportunities for students to perform community

service. Leonard Jones, Temple Sinai educational director, introduced the third awardee, Danielle Ostrowsky, as a person with great cause, making a difference through social action. "Danielle exemplifies the Jewish value that one person can make a difference," said Sones. "Danielle is committed to living the Jewish ethics she was taught and to inspiring others to do the same. She is a Jewish role model for the children in our school, for her peers and for us, her teachers."

Danielle thanked her brother for always challenging her to achieve. She cited a Jewish summer camp and BBYO as places where she was able to acquire lifelong Jewish lessons. Danielle, a tutor, has been a student teacher with the first and second grades at Temple Sinai, a student of the Harry Elkin Midrasa Community High School and a member of the Cohen Foundation Dor l'Dor Israel program, Spanish National Honor Society, and Washington Institute for Jewish Leadership and Values. She has also served as chapter president of the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization.

The fourth recipient, James Ross of Newport, was nominated by his Eagle Scout advisor and assistant scout master, John J.B. Silvia, Jr., advanced chairman, Boy Scouts, Troop 1, Portsmouth, R.I. Silvia described James as an "enthusiastic and dedicated" young man who is a "solid leader," working with diverse groups.

This respected teacher and leader, said Silvia, takes his good deeds beyond Scouting by volunteering time at the Salvation Army and at the Newport

Hospital during Christmas so Christian employees can be with their families during the holiday.

"Jay has a deep pride for his Jewish heritage and background and shares his perspective with others in a very positive and uplifting way," Silvia said. He added that James is a "remarkable young man... who possesses the wonderful characteristic" of teaching non-Jews about Judaism. James has lit the menorah with his Scout pack, explained the story of the Maccabees to his fellow Scouts, brought in dreidels and gelt during Chanukah and apples

woman who exemplifies these virtues—Stephanie Steingold," said Sones. "Only a person of such character could do what she does to help others, especially children."

Asked by Sones why she gives so much to children, Stephanie said that since she has had a good childhood, she feels others should too and then they can give back to others.

In her comments, Stephanie said her work with BBYO is what started her journey and involvement in Judaism, which she feels now makes her who she is. Stephanie participated in the BBYO international study in



FUTURE FACES awardees are, from left to right: Alexander Schoenfeld, Adam Deitch, Stephanie Steingold, Danielle Ostrowsky, and James Ross.
Herald photo by Luke O'Neill

and money for Rosh Hashanah — all for his Scouts to better understand Judaism.

"His ability to foster brotherhood and tolerance while maintaining his Jewish identity is remarkable and something I have always admired him for," Silvia said.

James, a Feinstein scholar, mentioned that he was as honored to receive the award as he is to be part of his community. He also said education and mitzvot are key ways in which to eliminate prejudices.

James recently started the Federation of Jewish Athletes at Rogers High School, where he is a senior, is an assistant to Rabbi Mordechai Eskovitz at Touro Synagogue Hebrew School, received the Jewish Committee on Scouting Ner Tamid Award, on the National Honor Society and on the board of the R.I. Youth in Philanthropy.

Sones nominated and introduced the fifth awardee—Stephanie Steingold, the *Rhode Island Jewish Herald's* contributing youth reporter. Sones underscored Stephanie's love for children as the Cranston West senior is a student teacher at Temple Sinai and math peer tutor.

Stephanie helped head Temple Sinai's first grade class in the school's project called Mitzvot for the Millennium. The first grade, with Stephanie's leadership, donated baked goods to the Ronald McDonald House to brighten the days and lives of sick children.

"If I were to look at measures which determine a person's character, selflessness, kindness, honesty, dedication and holiness would come to mind, and immediately I see a young

Israel and served as the New England regional president of BBYO. She has been a member of the Harry Elkin Midrasa Community High School, National Honor Society, Washington Institute for Jewish Leadership and Values, Cranston West High School Future Problem Solving and participated in a BJERI Philadelphia trip.

All awardees humbly accepted their awards and thanked family members and their supporting cast of loved ones. A few of the students noted that they had a solid Jewish upbringing, but it was in a Jewish event they experienced for themselves, namely the NFTY trip, where they started more actively pursuing their Judaism.

The framed award reads "On three things the world stands—on the Torah, on service and on deeds of loving kindness." The common underlying theme for the night was turning beliefs and thoughts into action.

In some parting comments, Walter said, "Judaism is religion of doing. A life of thinking needs to be combined with a life of doing." He urged both awardees and nominees to continue their committed work in the community and help those less fortunate.

"We have a lot to hope for for the future," Walter added, "and I think we have a lot to be proud of with these fine young men and women."

Ten Future Faces nominees were also recognized with certificates, they are: Abby Berkelhammer, Anna Cable, Rochelle Cotton, Ari Davies, Max Dwares, Eliana Gutman, Ilana Guttin, Andrew Hale, Rachel Lieberman and Elyssa Monzack.

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JEWISH COMMUNITY

New Leadership For UJC Overseas Supplemental Giving/IEF

Terry M. Rubenstein Named President

United Jewish Communities National Campaign Chairman Robert M. Schrayner announced recently the appointment of Terry M. Rubenstein as incoming president of UJC Overseas Supplemental Giving/Israel Education Fund. Rubenstein will replace outgoing President Jane F. Sherman.

"We have just completed a record-breaking year for Overseas Supplemental Giving/IEF," Schrayner said. "In fiscal 2000, the department sent \$36 million in additional funding, beyond the UJA Federation Campaign of UJC, for unmet needs in Israel and overseas, primarily in Eastern Europe. Terry Rubenstein will bring the vision, creativity and expertise necessary to guide this department as it expands to meet the continued growth in donor-directed overseas funding."

Currently, Rubenstein chairs development activities for the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and St. Mary's College, Maryland, and is leading the effort to build Hillel at Johns Hopkins University. Rubenstein, the granddaughter of the late Joseph Meyerhoff, serves as the executive director of The Joseph Meyerhoff Family Charitable Funds. A Baltimore resident, she was a real estate developer and builder for most of her career, and was also a reporter for the *Baltimore Sun*.

There are more than 100 Meyerhoff funded projects throughout Israel today, including libraries, vocational training schools and numerous cultural and education centers.

"In all of our endeavors in Israel, IEF has been an essential vehicle for us," Rubenstein said. "It has been our Israel office. I am enormously excited at the prospect of assuming this lead-

ership position in Overseas Supplemental Giving/IEF, especially because I will be representing the third generation of my family to support IEF in this capacity. My grandfather, Joseph, as one of the founders of IEF over 35 years ago, served as its first president. Subsequently, my uncle Herbert Katz served as president. This continuum of commitment and the incredible growth Overseas Supplemental Giving/IEF continues to experience is a testament to the invaluable role it plays in creating a personal platform for donors in North America to become directly involved in meeting overseas needs. It has the expertise and relationships to leverage funds to maximize projects."

Yitzchak Shavit, vice-president of UJC Overseas Supplemental Giving/IEF, recently announced a \$2 million pledge from the Meyerhoff Fund that has enabled the launch of a new, \$20 million performing arts center in Beersheva.

"The Joseph Meyerhoff Fund under Terry Rubenstein's direction has become a leader in creatively leveraging their funding to maximize the impact of every dollar," Shavit said. "They have worked with us to utilize their recent \$1.5 million pledge for a new \$5 million Melitz center for Jewish Zionist education to be developed on the Kiryat Moriah complex. An additional \$1.5 million Meyerhoff commitment has launched a \$4.5 million major renovation of the performing arts center in Haifa."

The donor-centered mission of UJC Overseas Supplemental Giving/IEF is to provide personalized, named opportunities that directly align with specific philanthropic objectives of donors in the UJC family.

Jewish Spirituality and Meditation Workshop Series Begins March 4

Hebrew College's Center for Adult Jewish Learning, in collaboration with ALEPH: Alliance for Jewish Renewal, is offering a Sunday series of intensive daylong text study and practicum workshops with leading teachers of Jewish meditation to be held at Temple Beth Zion in Brookline.

Many Jews are on a journey to deepen their lives spiritually. Some are exploring mystical practices elsewhere, thinking Judaism has nothing to offer. But profound mystical and meditation practices are hidden among Judaism's own vast body of texts and rituals.

Rabbi Miles Krassen will begin the series on March 4 with "Opening the Heart: A Contemporary Approach to Jewish Meditation," an exploration of the classical teachings of Chabad Hasidism as a method of contemplation that arouses the heart and invites reflection.

The workshop will include text study and practical techniques in meditation.

The series continues on April 1, when Rabbi Shefa Gold will facilitate "Preparation for Passover: The Purification of the Heart." Finally, on May 20, Rabbi Sheila Peltz Weinberg will lead "Words and Silence: Mindfulness and Meditation."

Five-week follow-up classes will complement the Sunday workshops by exploring additional texts and practices. On Wednesdays, beginning April 18, poet, singer and spiritual leader Matia Rania Angelou will offer "The Mikvah of Sound: Vocalization in Jewish Meditation," and on Thursdays, beginning May 17, Rabbi Moshe Waldoks will lead "Ascent of the Soul: The Meditative Experience in Jewish Mysticism." For registration information, contact Lina Reznikov at (617) 278-4939.

Judaic Culture Series to Begin February 28

A series of three programs addressing various aspects of Judaic culture in contemporary America will be presented both at the University of Rhode Island and in Providence, as part of the university's Judaic Culture Series. The principal speaker and performer in all the programs is Cantor Riselle Bain, an acclaimed musician, performer, and composer.

Free and open to the public, the series runs Feb. 28 through March 2. It is funded through a grant from the Feinstein Foundation and is co-sponsored by the Rhode Island Memorial Holocaust Museum, the URI Hillel Foundation, The URI Chaplains and the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.

The first program takes place on Feb. 28 at 7:30 p.m. at Temple Emanu-El in Providence. It is a Holocaust presentation structured around excerpts from a play called "The Sweater," by David Cooper. The play is based upon the experiences of Dr. Klaus Hoppe, former UCLA professor of psychiatry and director of research for the famous Hacker Clinic of Beverly Hills. Set in the 1960s, the play deals with Hoppe's group therapy session for Holocaust survivors. Bain plays the main character Ruth, which is based upon one

of Hoppe's real patients. Musical interludes composed by Bain will be performed throughout the play and a question and answer period will follow.

The second program, on March 1 at 3:30 p.m. in URI's Multicultural Center, is a visiting scholars lecture on the topic of "The Jewish Influence on American Musical Theater." The lecture, given by Bain, will explore the Jewish roots of American popular music, emphasizing the Klezmer musical tradition. Bain will present, comment on, and provide educational anecdotes on some of the most influential songs in today's culture. Among the composers and performers she will discuss are Gershwin, Irving Berlin, Harold Arlen, Rodgers and Hart and Al Jolson. The Multicultural Center is located on the University's Kingston Campus.

The third program takes place March 2 at 6:30 p.m. in the URI Library's Galanti Lounge. The program will focus on current Jewish liturgical music, emphasizing the music found in the reform tradition. Bain will perform ancient chants, discuss

their evolution throughout the centuries, and perform prayers for which she has composed music. The URI Hillel Foundation will also offer a kosher meal at 7:15 p.m. for \$8.

Bain has acted in the motion picture industry, including in the role of Miriam in Cecil B. DeMille's "The Ten Commandments." Her theatrical experience

includes playing the title role of Evita Peron in the First National Company of "Evita" and Hodel in "Fiddler on the Roof." She has written, directed, and performed in her own original revue, "Tops from Flops," which had successful runs in both Philadelphia and Florida. Riselle has recorded music for Columbia and has composed original music for the play "The Sweater."

Riselle currently serves as cantor for Temple Beth-El, a Reform synagogue in Ormond Beach, Fla. She is a graduate of Stetson University and holds a bachelor's degree in music, magna cum laude. She is an associate of the American Conference of Cantors.



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playwright and actor



◆ A HOLOCAUST PRESENTATION: "THE SWEATER"

A provocative play dealing with psychotherapy for Holocaust survivors

February 28, 2001

7:30 p.m.

Temple Emanu-El, Providence

◆ THE JEWISH INFLUENCE ON AMERICAN MUSICAL THEATER

A program exploring the Jewish musical roots in and impact on American music

March 1, 2001

3:30 p.m.

Multicultural Center, URI Kingston Campus

◆ SHABBAT CELEBRATION OF 20TH CENTURY JEWISH LITURGICAL MUSIC

Featuring Cantor Bain's own compositions

March 2, 2001

6:30 p.m. Shabbat Service, led by Cantor Bain

7:15 p.m. Kosher Shabbat meal

8:00 p.m. Lecture and performance

Galanti Lounge, Main Library, URI Kingston Campus

All programs are open to the community and free of charge, with the exception of an \$8 per person cost for the Kosher Shabbat meal. For more information, please call Professor Albert Silverstein at 727-2414.

For reservations for the Shabbat meal, please contact Guy Bernel, Executive Director of URI Hillel, 874-2740 by February 26.

JEWISH COMMUNITY



Holocaust Museums Grant

Rep. David N. Cicilline (D-Dist. 4) of Providence and Pawtucket, left, presents a \$5,000 check to Marla R. Dansky, center, executive director of the Rhode Island Holocaust Memorial Museum, and Selma Stanzler, president of the museum board of directors. The check, a legislative grant that resulted from an appropriation request sponsored by Representative Cicilline, will be used to help support the regular programming of the museum. The Rhode Island Holocaust Memorial Museum was founded a decade ago with the purpose of educating children and adults in Rhode Island and Southeastern New England about the importance of the Holocaust, the loss of 6 million Jewish lives, and genocide. The museum is able to educate more than 4,000 students throughout the year and more than 200 teachers.

American Victims

(Continued from Page 1)

against Jewish civilians and Israeli targets; praised, advocated, encouraged, solicited and incited for such terrorist acts; and threatened the further occurrence of such terrorist acts if their political demands were not met." The suit charges the defendants with International Terrorism, Wrongful Death, Negligence, Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress and Battery. "The point of the suit," Strachman said, "is not only to compensate the families for the tremendous loss, but also, as Sen. Grassley said, 'Civil lawsuits of this type...serve as a deterrent against terrorism.'" Strachman was chosen to represent the plaintiffs based on his

experience representing other American victims of terrorism, most notably the case *Ungar vs. PLO*. Yaron Ungar, 25, was working in Israel as a school-teacher. Efrat (Ellie) Ungar was a talented cartoonist whose work was serialized in the *HaTzofeh* newspaper. Both Yaron and Efrat were shot to death by Palestinian terrorists near the town of Beit Shemesh on June 9, 1996. The case *Ungar vs. PLO* has former U.S. Attorney-General Ramsey Clark representing the PLO. The case is still in trial. Strachman recommended the Web site <stopterror.org>, which aims to educate the public on international terrorism and to help eradicate it.

UJC Statement on Bush Administration's Faith-Based Initiative

United Jewish Communities welcomes the Bush Administration's announcement recently of its intention to pursue a national effort to strengthen faith-based and other community organizations in meeting social needs in American communities.

Addressing President Bush's affirmative commitment to working with the charitable, not-for-profit sector to meet the needs of America's most vulnerable, UJC President and CEO Stephen D. Solender said: "We are very pleased with President Bush's recognition that charities — both sectarian and non-sectarian — are such vital partners with the public sector in our common desire to help and empower those in need in our society.

"President Bush went out of his way to note that sectarian and non-sectarian charities cannot replace the vital work being undertaken by government," he added. "Like many faith-based organizations, the local Jewish Federations' capacity to provide social services at the level that we do is made possible by our

fruitful relationship with government. Public funding makes it possible for us to raise additional dollars and to meet greater levels of need."

UJC has worked with previous administrations faith-based offices and looks forward to working closely with the federal agencies that house such initiatives, as well as the new White House office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives.

UJC believes it is essential for the administration to fund oversight activities ensuring that individuals seeking social services will have truly viable alternatives to services from religious providers. This is particularly important when the providers expressed beliefs are not compatible with those of the service recipient.

"As the major provider and facilitator of Jewish health and human services in our community, we want to be sure that those seeking assistance from publicly funded programs are able to obtain help without having to participate in any religious activity associated with the service," said Joel D. Tauber,

chairman of the UJC Executive Committee.

"For sectarian institutions receiving public dollars, the challenge will be to provide non-sectarian and non-discriminatory service and be open to the same standards of accountability as those offered by other non-sectarian providers," said Steve Selig, chairman of UJC's Human Services and Social Policy Pillar. "We have long supported the work of synagogues and churches in helping those in need," he added. "We note, however, that once they receive public funds, religious institutions face a different challenge of public scrutiny regarding non-discrimination in the provision of service and separating out the religious content of their program activity.

UJC, formed from the recent merger of United Jewish Appeal, the council of Jewish Federations and United Israel Appeal, is the dominant fund-raising arm for North American Jewry, and represents 189 Jewish Federations and 400 independent communities across the continent.

JFS Mealsite Activities For March

On March 8, Jewish Family Service's Jennifer Modisette will be on hand to answer questions about the SHIP Senior Health Insurance Program. Modisette has received training from the state on this program and will be available to speak with individuals.

Seniors are invited to a klezmer coffee hour on March 22. Rollicking taped klezmer music will be provided along with coffee and refreshments. Seniors are encouraged to bring a friend and be ready to tap their feet.

March 29 promises something special with a play written, produced and performed by members of the women's discussion group.

Programs begin at 11 a.m. and lunch is served at noon. Every Friday, there is a special Shabbat meal, complete with candles, challah and kiddush. All Jewish holidays are observed.

The JFS Kosher Mealsite in Cranston is located at Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave. Transportation is available every day for residents of Cranston and areas of Warwick. A small donation is requested for the meal. For reservations and information, call Mealsite Coordinator Ronda French at 781-1771 during Mealsite hours, or at 331-1244, ext. 41 any time to leave a message.

PHDS Scholarship Fund Campaign Begins

The annual Providence Hebrew Day School Scholarship Fund Campaign is now underway. Each year at this time, volunteers from the school organize a campaign to raise funds for the school's scholarship program. This year's chairman, Dr. Steven Schechter, has been involved with the campaign for a number of years and is very optimistic that the campaign committee will surpass last year's total. The campaign is broken down into two major components. First of all there are personal, face-to-face solicitations done by a small group of parent volunteers. These workers will visit with school parents and community members who make major gifts to the campaign.

Included in this group of volunteers are Marty Saklad, the school's president; David Yavner, the vice-president of fund-raising; Russell Raskin and Schechter. Secondly, there is a campaign telethon, which will take place over a couple of weeknights. A number of parent volunteers will take to the phones and call past and present donors for contributions to the scholarship fund. Barbara Japhet will coordinate the telethon volunteers. The Providence Hebrew Day School is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization and all contributions to the scholarship fund are tax deductible.

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Theater Meets Reality

Local Holocaust Survivor
Lea Eliash Speaks
to Young Actors
by Luke O'Neill
Herald Editor

The cast of the All Childrens Theatre's "Anne Frank and Me" sat in the first few rows of chairs at the Vartan Gregorian School Theatre in Providence last week. But, for the time being, the theater lights were shining just short of the stage on Lea Eliash, a Holocaust survivor now living on the East Side. The young actors gathered closely to hear Eliash's detailed stories of Holocaust survival.

In the words of Eliash, she is "fulfilling [her husband's] legacy" by giving talks and remembrances of the Holocaust as she and the world experienced it—injecting an historic reality into ACT's young cast. ACT's "Anne Frank and Me" addresses the awakening of modern teens to the harsh realities and travesties of the Holocaust, while also confronting Holocaust denial.

Born in a flourishing Jewish community in Lithuania, Eliash later lived in the Kovno ghetto in the early 1940s. She showed her young audience paper cut-outs of gold stars Jews were forced to wear on the front and back of their clothes. Jews were not allowed to walk on the sidewalk, said Eliash, but were forced to walk in the road, behind one another. Jews could not seek medical help, she added, and had to obey a 6 o'clock curfew at night. Eliash remembers tight living quarters

within the ghetto which was surrounded by electric barbed wire fences, like "a prison," she said. "This was our life." Eliash later got word that her parents and other family members had been killed.

Forced to walk to and work in a factory three miles from the ghetto, Eliash and her co-workers regularly had to work from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. In the ghetto, she remembers usually having just a loaf of bread each week—"they treated us like animals." Factory workers were regularly told "Work makes life sweet," and, "Work makes you free," she said.

Eliash remembers the Nazis' plans to kill Jewish professionals, including doctors, lawyers and accountants. At one point, 435 of these professionals were killed. Then the Nazis planned to eliminate the Jewish race by murdering children; when Eliash got word of this, she took her 18-month-old daughter in a shopping bag (a bag she still has) to an orphanage headed by a woman named Violet. Violet and the orphanage would accept Eliash's daughter under three conditions: change the baby's Jewish name, raise the child as a Christian and if either biological parent survived after the war, the child would be returned. If either parents did not survive, the child would remain at the orphanage.

With her daughter safely in an orphanage, Eliash then told of the war coming to an end and the Nazis' last ditch effort to kill Jewish children. Yellow school busses came rolling into the

ghetto one day — March 27, 1944 to be exact. Soldiers came off the busses to abduct the children. The busses were blaring music in order to drone out the children's crying and screaming. Four months later, Eliash witnessed the burning of the Kovno ghetto; afterwards, she moved in with a co-worker from the factory.

Remembering her harsh living conditions, Eliash said, "To survive, nothing is too difficult." Eliash was later reunited with her daughter after the war's end and went off to the Jewish immigration office in Prague, where she obtained a list of survivors and displaced persons, looking for her husband. Eliash was later reunited with her husband who survived the Dachau concentration camp, emerging at only 60 pounds.

The reunited family moved to America with help from an affidavit issued by the Hassenfeld family, who were at the time and still are owners of the Hasbro company. Eliash and her family were sent to Providence via the affidavit and lived on State Street. Alan Hassenfeld, now chairman and chief executive of Hasbro, was one of Eliash's Hebrew school students with private classes on Wednesdays after he had classes at Moses Brown.

Eliash's daughter went on to attend Classical High School and Brown University where she was a Phi Beta Kappa. "Providence has been good to us," said Eliash.

Asked by ACT artistic direc-



LEA ELIASH, a Holocaust survivor, takes time for a picture with the All Childrens Theatre cast of "Anne Frank & Me."

Herald photo by Luke O'Neill

tor Wrenn Goodrum what kept her going, Eliash said that "my daughter really saved me." Eliash said she still remembers faces and images from the Holocaust, but may have not been able to survive without the help of a network of honorable people helping each other.

Selma Stanzler, president of the Rhode Island Holocaust Memorial Museum, accompanied Eliash last week to the school. Stanzler added that Jewish culture has a history of rescue missions helping out fellow Jews and that these Holocaust survivors and their children have gone on to benefit society.

Speaking briefly with the cast

of "Anne Frank and Me," one can see that Eliash's message hit home. Many of the young actors, after seeing the Holocaust's "undeniable reality" through a survivor, came away with a message of promoting tolerance and eliminating bigotry and ignorance in today's society. After meeting with an actual Holocaust survivor and presenting a play on stage, the actors feel they can make the history more real than simply having students read about the history in a textbook at school.

Others pointed out the "power of one" and the power of the human spirit to conquer

(Continued on Page 15)

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FEATURE

JCPA to Feature Director of White House Office of Faith-Based Initiatives

More than 1,000 Jewish activists from across the country will meet in Washington, D.C., Feb. 24 to 28 for the 57th annual Jewish Council for Public Affairs plenum. Senior American officials, including John Dilulio, the director of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, will discuss domestic issues facing the American Jewish community, while leading experts in Middle East politics and public affairs, including the speaker of Israel's Knesset, Avraham Burg, will discuss the future of the Middle East peace process. JCPA sessions are open to the media and coverage is invited.

Since 1944, national Jewish agencies, the Reform, Conservative and Orthodox Jewish movements, and local community relations councils have come to rely on the JCPA table to hammer out their political differences. This year's plenum will be the first with new emphasis on social justice engagement — mobilizing American Jews for grassroots involvement — to complement its advocacy in international and domestic policy areas.

JCPA will be joined for much of the program by the Charlotte and Jack J. Spitzer B'nai B'rith Hillel forum on public policy and the Coalition for the Environment and Jewish Life's Mark and Sharon Bloome Jewish Environmental Leadership Institute.

"As the first Jewish organization to meet in Washington since the American and Israeli elections, we will bring more

than 1,000 Jewish activists from 123 communities, 13 national Jewish organizations and the three major Jewish movements together to work on the Jewish community's evolving place alongside the new administrations in Washington and Jerusalem," said Leonard Cole, chairman of the JCPA. "At this time of crisis in the Middle East, this year's JCPA plenum will express solidarity with Israel as we work with our communities to help the Jewish state."

Highlights of the plenum include:

Speaker of the Knesset Avraham Burg and a representative of Prime Minister-Elect Ariel Sharon (invited) will discuss the peace process, U.S.-Israel relations and American Jewry's partnership with Israel, Feb. 25 at 1:30 p.m.

Crisis in the Middle East, a townhall meeting with the Director General of Israel's Foreign Ministry and top leaders from the Anti-Defamation League, American Jewish Congress, American Jewish Committee, AIPAC and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, Feb. 26 at 2:15 p.m.

Building Bridges to the Arab American Community with terrorism expert Steven Emerson and Rabbi Doug Kahn, Feb. 26 at 4 p.m.

Defining the Role of Faith-Based Organizations with John Dilulio, director of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, Feb. 26 at 8:15 p.m.

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PROVIDING THE RESIDENCE OF CHOICE FOR SENIORS

Lincoln's Jews

by Zev Roth

When Cesar Kaskel first saw the notice, he likely rubbed his eyes. In a daze, he probably ran home to his family. One look at him and his wife would have realized that there was something dreadfully wrong.

"Why, what is it? What happened?" she surely asked.

And then he told her about the order for every Jew to leave his home within 24 hours.

"Leave? Why? What have we done?" she may have asked, bewildered.

And he may have answered: "Do they ever say why when they throw Jews out of their homes? I just never thought it would happen in America."

Whatever the precise words of their conversation, Kaskel informed his spouse about Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's General Order 11, signed on Dec. 17, 1862. As Military Governor of newly conquered Civil War territory, he had issued the order in Holy Springs, Miss., mandating the total expulsion of "the Jews, as a class" from an area corresponding with what is today Northern Mississippi, Kentucky and Western Tennessee within "24 hours," without trial or hearing.

In Paducah, Kentucky, many families were expelled. They could not believe they were being forced from their homes in so abrupt a manner. A certain Mr. Silverman from Chicago, visiting the town, unfortunately came to share the fate of his local brethren, who on Dec. 17,

denied even rail transportation for their exodus, were forced to travel all the way to Memphis by foot. For his efforts to use some contacts to get a desperate telegram through to General Grant, Silverman was promptly thrown into a Holly Springs prison.

For his part, Cesar Kaskel tried to contact the president of the United States, Abraham Lincoln. He wrote an urgent telegram to the White House, protesting "this inhuman order, the carrying out of which would be the grossest violation of the Constitution and our rights as citizens under it, which will place us... as outlaws before the whole world."

As it happened, his letter was the second to find its way to Lincoln's desk concerning the Jewish people. A few days earlier, a missive had arrived from one B. Behrend, the father of a religious Jewish soldier in the Union army. Behrend wrote to request Lincoln's assistance in allowing his son to observe the Jewish Sabbath. He asked Lincoln, "as your namesake Abraham," for his help in this matter. "This will be exactly lawful, as the Constitution of the United States ordains it, and at the same time be exactly according to the teachings of the Bible, as recorded in Leviticus XIX, 18: 'Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.'"

Kaskel realized, due to the desperation of the situation, that he had to make a trip to Washington. With the help of Con-

gressman Gurley of Ohio, he secured an appointment to see President Lincoln. Together, they were quickly admitted to Lincoln's office on the second floor of the White House.

It quickly became apparent that Lincoln knew little or nothing about the Jewish expulsion. Kaskel, however, had brought documentation along, and provided a first-person account of Jews being evicted from their homes. After carefully listening, Lincoln asked, "And so the children of Israel were driven from the happy land of Canaan?"

Kaskel said, "Yes, and that is why we have come unto Father Abraham's bosom, asking for protection."

Lincoln replied "And this protection they shall have at once." He then ordered that General Order 11 immediately be revoked.

Historians debate whether Ulysses S. Grant was the one responsible for the expulsion, or whether he had merely carried out the wishes of an anti-Semitic higher government official. What is clear, however, is that Lincoln was very sympathetic to the plight of the Jewish Americans affected by the order.

Perhaps, in part, because of a letter from a Sabbath-observant soldier's father.

Am Echnad Resources. Zev Roth is an author living in Israel. His most recent book is The Monsey-Kiryat Sefer Express: True Tales from Two Cities (Targum Press, 2000).

Peace Corps Holds 40th Anniversary Celebration

You're invited to attend Peace Corps 40th Anniversary Celebration on March 9 in the Rhode Island State House, State Room, Providence, R.I. From 4 to 5:15 p.m. will be a presentation with keynote speaker Sen. Jack Reed and from 5:15 to 8 p.m. will be the informal reception. Hors d'oeuvres will be served. All returned and potential Peace Corps volunteers, their families and interested community members are invited to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Peace Corps.

On Oct. 14, 1960, presidential candidate John F. Kennedy stood on the steps of the University of Michigan's Student Union and challenged the 10,000 students present to volunteer their skills overseas. On March 1, 1961, less than five months later, the Peace Corps was created and the first volunteers left for Ghana, Africa. More than 160,000 Peace Corps Volunteers have served in 134 developing countries speaking more than 300 different languages. The global experience defined volunteers lives and changed their views of their role in the international community. Rhode Island's 500-plus RPCVs are ambassadors of continued service around the world, and in the Rhode Island community.

Call For Artist/Deadline March 15 For Convergence 2001/ Pawtucket

The Pawtucket Convergence Program Committee seeks proposals for the Convergence 2001 Pawtucket Arts Festival, Sept. 7 to 23.

First call for entrees: Sculpture commissioned can be installed in designated locations such as City Hall, Blackstone Valley Visitor Center, parks, Main Street, store fronts, public plazas, waterways, and building facades in and around Pawtucket, R.I.

Artists who create sculpture for interiors and exteriors, film and video installation, and interactive works will be commissioned and are encouraged to enter. Interior sculpture can be of any material. Exterior sculpture must be made of weather resistant materials and able to withstand public interaction. Commissioned sculptures will be permanent installations. All sculpture will be juried by professional artists selected by the Pawtucket Convergence Pro-

gramming Committee. The committee will arraign group site tours on three selected dates TBA. All proposals must be accompanied by samples of recent work, 10 2x2-inch slides, reviews, résumé, amount requested (not to exceed \$2,000). Proposals to fabricate new work must include an accurate budget and time frame if sculpture will be worked on during festival or prior to installation.

Second call for entrees: Sculpture competition, for contemporary installations to be exhibited, and juried Sept. 7 to 23, 2001. All installations can be in the same locations listed above. All exterior sculpture must be made of weather resistant materials and able to withstand public interaction for the three-week period. All entrees must include: Entry fee \$10, five photos, or five 2x2-inch slides, resume or bio, list of all materials, size — height, depth, and width — and all information

about the art being entered in competition. Also include: A proper sized, self-addressed envelope, and the proper postage, for slides or photos to be returned. All entrees accepted will be sent notification and an artist form to fill out and return by the deadline: April 15. Entry fee: \$10 for each category.

Awards will be given to all three categories. First prize is \$250 and plaque from the Convergence Committee. Second prize is \$150 in gift certificates. Third prize is \$75 in gift certificates and a convergence T-shirt.

First category is for 12- to 17-years-old; second category is for 18 years and up; and third category is for seniors 65 years and up. For more information, call 724-2200.

Send entrees to Convergence 2001/Pawtucket, Blackstone Valley Visitor Center, Attn.: Donna Rochon, Program Coordinator, 175 Main St., Pawtucket, R.I. 02860.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



ASDS Zimriyah 2001 — A Student Song Spectacular!

Shiru Shir La Zimriyah!

by Jon Rubin
Assistant Editor

If there's one event at the Alperin Schechter Day School every year that pulls out all the stops, it's the Zimriyah. The entire school gets involved — all the kids, certainly, as well as teachers, administrators, alumni, parents and friends. It's big, colorful, full of music and lots of great Hebrew songs. From kindergarten to eighth-grade, the entire school performs as one. This was the school's 18th Zimriyah.

There have been Zimriyahs at Schechter since Schechter's earliest years, and this entire time Wendy Garf-Lipp has been teaching them what to sing and how to sing it. Already a teacher at ASDS, Garf-Lipp wears a number of hats for the months before the Zimriyah, creating, producing and directing the entire affair. She is, if I may editorialize, the heart of the Zimriyah.

The time before the show was filled with anticipation and excitement. Kids ran everywhere, younger ones chatting feverishly, older ones comparing past Zimriyahs to this one. All the grades were separated by colored T-shirts, from the orange and red and yellow shirts that the littlest kids wore to the black shirts that the middle-schoolers wore. The Vestry had all the lower school kids sitting on the floor, waiting to be called in grade by grade. For the time being they sat nervously, but soon they would explode into a room with hundreds of parents and the booming sounds of their own voices.

The Zimriyah raffle had the usual range of exciting prizes to win, including the bike from

Bennys; a weekend at the Providence Marriott; a leather watch; even a manicure. This year had 55 prizes to win. Michael Shuster was this year's champion of ticket sales. Michael is in the sixth grade and sold a whopping 80 booklets of tickets.

Students were hocking raffle tickets to everyone who strolled in the door, armed with smiles and grandstanding-type techniques. "Get your raffle tickets here!" a few shouted. Mari Zeman was in charge of the raffle and had people filling out ticket slips up until the first student ran in the door. In fact, this year's sales even broke last year's record with more than 2,000 tickets sold.

As the size of the Schechter school grew, more and more bleachers had to be added to hold the ASDS students. This year had students on the stage, on a large metal bleacher on the floor and had the youngest students on a small wooden bleacher to the left of the larger one.

Every year, the Zimriyah starts with the song "Shiru," and the empty aisles are suddenly filled with kids streaming by at the speed of light towards the stage. The room was packed — every seat taken, parents bumping into each other trying to take a picture of their kids, waving to them to get them to smile. Camcorders ran on tripods, young siblings danced on chairs while parents who knew the words sang along. There was a lot of ruach (spirit) in that room, to say the least!

The opening statements of the Zimriyah were given in both in English and Hebrew by the students. After that it was all



ASDS's Zimriyah 2001 in the Meeting House at Temple Emanu-El.

Herald photos by Jon Rubin

song, all night. Behind the students was an enormous banner which read, "Eve-du et Adonai B'simcha Bo'u L'fanav Birmana," "Serve G-d with Joy, Come with a Song."

Garf-Lipp led and conducted every song. She was totally plugged into every student, asking for more volume when there wasn't enough and bringing any voices or eyes back with the rest when they went astray. With a wave of her hand she brought the whole school to their feet for a song, and with another wave brought them back down to sit upon the bleachers afterward.

There seemed to be a song for everything. "The Rainbow Blessing" had the students waving brightly colored scarves, while another called "Ki Eshmera Shabbat" had eight girls from the Middle School doing an interpretative dance around the lighting of the Shabbat candles.

During some songs, Garf-Lipp held up signs of encouragement to humor the kids, from "GREAT" to "U Blow Me Away!" Towards the end of the show two of the students held up a sign in appreciation that read "Wendy Rocks!"

The Zimriyah was a circus of surprises — the kids had glow sticks, xylophones, pictures of parts of the human body and even a skit about a kind of "secret Hebrew language." Three songs had the Parent, Teacher, Alumni Choir pitching in, sandwiched in between rows of kids. During one point in the show, one of the young children of one of the parents in the choir wandered over to Wendy and stood by her feet. In mid-song, Wendy gently picked up the girl, and, while continuing to conduct, passed the little girl through the rows of children to her mother.

The music for the night had a smattering of ASDS Alumni, including Sam Stein on bass, Eitan Hersh on trumpet, Ezra Lipp on drums, Mark Trachtenberg on keyboard and Howie Bromberg also playing bass. Jane Revkin played flute on a few songs, and Susan Adler and Brenda Redding did some guest directing as well. Redding even led the "Abba, Imma"

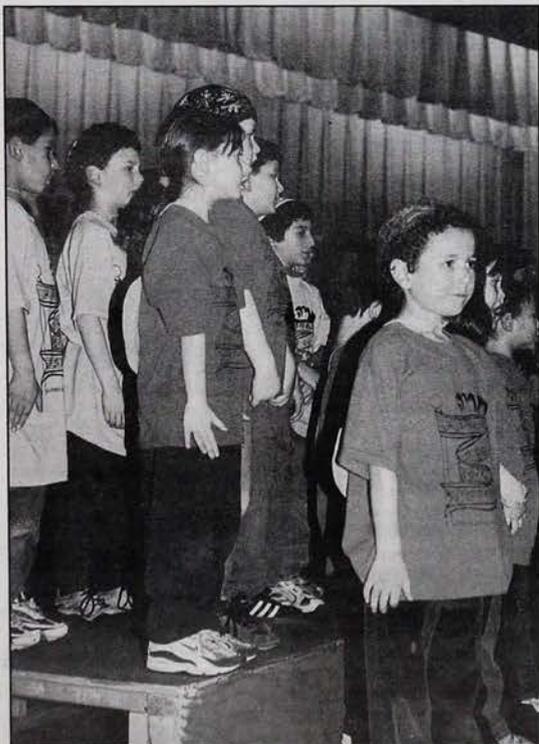
song, which had the children following her responsively out loud with the Hebrew words for mom, dad, yes and no and grandma and grandpa.

Some songs were the translated versions of popular songs. "Mi Shetov Lo" was a rendition of "If you're happy

and you know it..." that had all the students stamping their feet and clapping their hands. "Modeh Ani" was sung to the tune of "Let it Be" by The Beatles. This year's Zimriyah had everything, and for this Schechter alumnus, it was great to be back.



THE CALM BEFORE THE STORM. Students wait on the floor of the vestry before the Zimriyah.



MEMBERS OF THE LOWER SCHOOL stand as they sing the "Shabbat Shalom Medley."

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

What is Mimosa?

Perishable Theatre to Present New England Premiere of 'Exchange at Café Mimosa'

Perishable Theatre announced the next mainstage production of their 2000-2001 season will be "Exchange at Café Mimosa" written by Oana-Maria Cajal and directed by the theater's Artistic Director Mark

J. Lerman. Billed as an "espionage-thriller-farce," "Exchange at Café Mimosa" will have its New England premiere on the theater's mainstage on Feb. 24 to March 25. Born in Romania, playwright Oana-Maria Cajal's work has been heralded as "extraordinary." Todd London, the artistic director of New Dramatists states "Reading her collected work, you can feel the

a fantastic world of illusion where nothing is truly as it seems, where lizards run free, parrots talk and even the walls close in on themselves.

This season marks the 11th year of Lerman's tenure as the Artistic Director of Perishable Theatre. During his decade at Perishable, Lerman has produced more than 110 productions (new plays, classics, performance art, site specific performance, puppetry and dance), having directed nearly a fifth of the productions himself. Last year he directed A Christmas Carol at Trinity Repertory Company, and was proud to bring Perishable Theatre's world premiere production of "Only in America" by Providence playwright Aishah Rahman to both the Ensemble Studio Theatre in New York and the National Black Theater Festival in North Carolina. Lerman has served on grant panels for the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts, Massachusetts Cultural Council, the New England Foundation for the Arts, and is a member of the Steering Committees for Business Volunteers for the Arts and Rhode Island Citizens for the Arts. Lerman has been a guest lecturer at the Rhode Island School of Design and has served as a guest dramaturg for the Brown University Graduate Playwriting program. Lerman is also a 1989 graduate of the Trinity Rep Conservatory.

influence of Chekhov, her countryman Ionesco, and especially, Beckett..." Director Mark J. Lerman has received much praise from local media for his direction of the 1999 production of "A Christmas Carol" at Trinity Rep.

Combining a large cast with exotic landscapes and surreal plot twists, "Exchange at Café Mimosa" defies standard dramatic labels and instead lends itself to a new theatrical description — "espionage-thriller-farce." The plot of Cajal's play is deceptively simple. Two vastly different couples have been chosen to transport two mysterious boxes to a tropical island. Once there, they must exchange their boxes at precisely the right moment. Their quest is made much more complex by the oddball denizens and quirky guests of their tropical hotel, the Hotel Mimosa. And if they should fall? Only the fate of the world itself rests upon this exchange.

Describing the world of the play, Director Mark J. Lerman compares it to "A classic Fellini movie. The playwright has populated this piece with a wild assortment of characters, even talking animals, that each in turn make it harder and harder for the two main couples to accomplish their goals." In keeping with his decidedly cinematic approach to staging the play, Set Designer Jeremy Woodward and Costume Designer Susan Reid have created



NEIL SANTORO AND CONSTANCE CRAWFORD in rehearsal for "Exchange at Café Mimosa."

Israeli Dance as Part of Winter Mini-Fest 2001

On March 3 and 4, the American Dance Legacy Institute will present Winter Mini-Fest 2001: "Roots and Branches: Exploring Our Dance Legacy Through The Eyes of Children." Headquarters for all events are in the Ashamu Dance Studio in Lower Lyman Hall on the Brown University campus.

Mini-Fest activities will include master classes and workshops for dancers, teachers and children; a gala concert; and a Sunday brunch and Israeli folk dance. All events are open to the public and free of charge except for the concert, which is \$10, \$5 for students and seniors. For in-

On Saturday there will also be a series of three workshops for teachers, education students, youth, and children. In-service credit is available. In these workshops, teachers will be given resources and lesson plans that they can incorporate immediately into their curricula.

On Saturday night at 8 p.m. in the Ashamu Dance Studio, the Mini-Fest concert will include dance classics and contemporary works performed by a multi-generational cast. Featured on the program will be Charles Weidman's "Lynchtown" (1936), and Repertory Etudes choreo-



THE DANCE EXTENSION in Charles Weidman's "Lynchtown." Photo courtesy of the American Dance Legacy Institute

formation and ticket reservations call 863-7596. Reservations should be made by Feb. 26.

On March 3 there will be a master class taught by Carolyn Adams, former principal dancer with the Paul Taylor Dance Company and faculty member at the Juilliard School.

Following the master class there will be open coaching sessions of Repertory Etudes choreographed by Donald McKayle and David Parsons. Dancers from the community are invited to participate, and observers are welcome.

graphed by Donald McKayle, David Parsons, and Anna Sokolow. The concert includes performances by The Dance Extension, Catalyst Dance Company, and Arabella Project (formerly The Rhode Island Dance Repertory Company).

On March 4 from 10:30 to 12:30 a.m., Mini-Fest 2001 will culminate in a family brunch, Israeli folk dance, and a viewing of excerpts from Sophie Maslow's 1955 master work *The Village I Knew*, inspired by the short stories of Shalem Aleichem.

Zamir Chorale of Boston to Perform at Temple Israel

The Zamir Chorale of Boston will perform at the Sandra Gamm Memorial Concert at Temple Israel of Sharon, Mass., on March 11 at 7 p.m.

Zamir means "Nightingale" in Hebrew, an appropriate name for a choral ensemble specializing in the full spectrum of music arising out of the various Jewish traditions. Since its formation by Music Director Joshua Jacobson in 1969, the chorale has remained committed to the highest quality performance of this literature, which spans thousands of years, four continents and a variety of styles. Zamir's programs reflect its commitment to both the musical and Jewish communities with projects ranging from free concerts for Boston school children and elderly groups to major performances of significant choral-orchestral repertoire in major concert halls.

Zamir has performed throughout New England and New York, toured Israel and

Great Britain, and appeared with the Jerusalem Symphony and Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, conductors Daniel Baren-boiro and Zubin Mehta, and soloists Theodore Bikel and Herschel Bernardi. Zamir has received consistent musical praise in both local and national media, receiving the Silver Medallion award for performing excellence from Boston's Association for the Performing Arts in 1978; in 1988, the Myrtle Wreath award from the New England region of Hadassah, and in 1992, the Klal Yisrael award from the Synagogue Council of Massachusetts. The Zamir Chorale of Boston is the chorus-in-residence at Hebrew College.

Tickets for the concert may be obtained by sending a check payable to Temple Israel, Sandra Gamm Fund, 125 Pond St., Sharon, Mass. 02067. Ticket prices are \$5 per person on or before March 5, and \$10 thereafter.

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Come to Spring Concert at RIC

The annual Spring Concert by the Rhode Island College Dance Company on March 1 through 4 in the auditorium in Roberts Hall will feature new works by Peter Schmitz, Mark Taylor and Melody Ruffin Ward. Pieces by Adrienne Hawkins and Clay Taliaferro will complete the program. Performances March 1 through 3 are at 8 p.m.; March 4 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10.

Photo courtesy of RIC Dance Company

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Auditions For 21st Century Youth Orchestra

The 21st Century Youth Orchestra of Southeastern Massachusetts is a new collaboration between the Southeastern Massachusetts Arts Collaborative and the Mansfield Music and Art Society. This new initiative is open to musicians ages 14 to 23 who play strings, percussion, winds, brass, keyboards, synths, guitars (keyboard and guitar musicians must be able to read music). Through an open audition the young musicians will be selected to play in this unique 21st century orchestra. The orchestra will play an eclectic mix of classical, pops, Broadway, jazz, rock, and alternative. The Tweeter Center, Mansfield, Mass., has invited the 21st Century Youth Orchestra to perform on the Tweeter stage July 5.

Auditions for advanced intermediate to advanced music students, ages 14 to 23, who play the above instruments will take place March 3, from 9 to 2 p.m. at the Quarters Middle School, orchestra room, Mansfield, Mass. The rehearsal schedule will be announced af-

ter auditions and will take into consideration the availability of the selected musicians. Music students who are younger than 14 may audition with the permission from the musical director.

Musicians should be prepared to play scales up to three sharps and three flats, major and minor, in two to three octaves with MM=60; a piece of musical literature, any style, that shows off your skills and musicianship; and music for sight reading will be provided at the audition. Students must come with all electric equipment and most percussion instruments, including mallets, will be available at the audition.

There is a \$5 audition fee and for selected musicians a \$50 orchestra fee for SMARTS members and a \$75 orchestra fee for non-members. SMARTS members are students who reside in Attleboro, Dighton, Easton, Foxboro, Mansfield, Norton, Rehoboth, or Taunton. Scholarships are also available. For more information, call SMARTS at (508) 222-8484.



Home Show at The R.I. Convention Center

The Home Show at the R.I. Convention Center will feature nearly 300 exhibitors showcasing the latest in products, services and technology. If you are building, remodeling or decorating a home, you do not want to miss The Home Show, sponsored by the Rhode Island Builders Association. Attractions include:

- Robin Hartl and Dean Johnson, hosts of the top-rated home improvement TV show "Hometime" on March 1 and 2.
- A designer showcase by *Rhode Island Monthly* featuring the state's best designers creating rooms with a Rhode Island theme.
- Providence's hottest chefs performing cooking demos.
- A comprehensive seminar series with expert speakers who will focus on how to build and decorate your dream house.

The show is from Feb. 28 to March 4 at the Rhode Island Convention Center in downtown Providence, R.I.

Times will be: Feb. 28 to March 2 from 2 to 10 p.m., March 3 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., and March 4 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Adults \$8 each; children 6 to 12, \$2 each; children 5 and under free. For more information, log onto <ribahomeshow.com>.

Shirim Klezmer Orchestra to Play at Congregation Agudas Achim

The Shirim Klezmer Orchestra, one of New England's finest klezmer bands, will be in concert at Congregation Agudas Achim, 901 North Main St., Attleboro, Mass. (off exit 5, Rte. 95) on March 3 at 7:30 p.m. Shirim is a nationally known group which has recorded four CDs including the widely acclaimed "Klezmer Nutcracker." They have played in concert halls and clubs throughout the world where they have impressed audiences with their interpretation of klezmer music in both its traditional and contemporary forms.

The Shirim Klezmer Orchestra is well known for its versatility. They can transport audiences to the shtetels of 19th-century eastern Europe, the Dixieland and swing halls of the 1920s and 1930s, and the jazz clubs of contemporary America. Recently, the band was featured on the highly respected NPR radio series "Sound and Spirit" where they provided the music for Ellen Kushner's holiday program, "A Hanukah Fantasy." The group was also featured in two recent Hollywood films, "A Stranger Among Us" starring Melanie Griffith and Woody Allen's "Deconstructing Harry."

Klezmer music came to this country at the turn of the century with the Jewish immigrants of Eastern Europe. It was

influenced by American Jazz and other popular forms of music. While klezmer nearly died out by the end of World War II, it was revived in the 1970s by a number of young musicians and has grown and flourished ever since. The musicians who make up Shirim have been an important part of

that revival. The music's stirring rhythms as well as its lovely melodies inevitably captivate audiences.

The public is cordially invited to this event. Refreshments will be available and donations will be accepted. For more information, call (508) 222-2243.



Shirim Klezmer Orchestra

'Top Girls' Takes Center Stage at URI

Some of history's most interesting women will take center stage at the University of Rhode Island this month as the URI theater department presents "Top Girls," a play about the struggles and triumphs of women.

"Top Girls" will run from Feb. 22 to 24 and from Feb. 28 to March 3 at 8 p.m., in J Studio of URI's Fine Arts Center. A panel discussion will be held after the March 1 performance. Tickets are \$10 for general admission and \$8 for students, senior citizens, and children. To reserve tickets, call the URI theater box office at 874-5843.

"Top Girls," written by Caryl Churchill, weaves the stories of historical women, real and fictional, around the life of the main character Marlene, a modern day feminist who has climbed the corporate ladder in the 1980s. Such notables as Geoffrey Chaucer's character of Griselda, the famous Victorian world-traveler Isabella Bird, and the legendary ninth-century Pope Joan are brought to life on the stage at a fantastical dinner party to celebrate a promotion Marlene has recently received.

"It's a good show to see. It will make you laugh, but it will also make you cry. It's a feeling play and it will definitely leave you with a strong feeling. The play makes you tap into your emotions," said Courtney Edge, a sophomore theater and French major from Portsmouth who plays the character of Angie.

Churchill wrote the play as a warning to all women that it is important to find balance in life, according to Bryna Wortman, director of the play.

The play is being produced in conjunction with Women's History Month in March. It was chosen by the theater department to highlight the talents of the department's actresses, who are often overshadowed in male-dominated plays.

The panel discussion, to be held following the March 1 performance, will be on the topic of "Top Girls of Rhode Island 2001." A panel of women from URI and the state of Rhode Island will use the play as a starting point to discuss women of the past, present, and future, and also to share their own stories of their journey as women.



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OBITUARIES

LILLIAN ABRAMS

PROVIDENCE — Lillian (Grodsky) Abrams, of Hillside Ave., a retired administrator for the Massachusetts Department of Labor, died Feb. 15 at Hillside Health Center.

She was the wife of the late Saul Abrams. Born in Boston, a daughter of the late Samuel and Annie (Mazofsky) Grodsky, she came to Providence from Brookline, Mass., in 1963.

She attended Lynn Classical High School and graduated from Boston Clerical School, now known as Boston Business School.

During her long career, she was affiliated with the Division of Industrial Safety of the Department of Labor and Industries in Massachusetts, where she attained a head administrative position and was the recipient of awards from governors for increasing government's efficiency.

She was a member of Temple Emanu-El and its Sisterhood and numerous other organizations in Providence and Miami, including life memberships in the Brandeis Women's Committee, Hadassah, the former Jewish Home for the Aged, N.E. Sinai Hospital and Yeshiva University.

She leaves a brother, David Grodsky of Boston. She was the sister of the late Rose and Jennie Grodsky.

The funeral was held Feb. 18 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.

ALBERT I. BERGER

CRANSTON — Albert I. "Buddy" Berger, of Scituate Avenue, a retired business owner, died Feb. 19 in Cedar Crest Nursing Home.

He was the husband of Sharon R. (Oster) Berger. Born in Providence, a son of the late Louis and Helena (Tanenbaum) Berger, he lived in Cranston most of his life.

He was the owner of the former Berger Lumber Corp./

Kingston Cottages, of Kingston, before retiring in 1983. He had also worked for many years at his late father's company, the former Berger Supply Co. of Warwick.

He was a member of the Rhode Island School of Design Museum of Art, the Rhode Island Historical Society, the Mystic Seaport Museum and the Pennsylvania Academy.

He enjoyed sailing. He was a founding member of Temple Sinai, and a former member of Temple Habonim.

Besides his wife, he leaves two daughters, Beth A. Schwartz of Cranston and Andrea Erlich in New Jersey; a son, James Berger of Cranston; a sister, Jacqueline Nemzow of Providence; and four grandchildren.

The funeral will be private. In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to Alzheimer's Association Rhode Island Chapter, 245 Waterman St., Providence, R.I. 02906. The family was assisted with the arrangements by Sugarman-Sinai Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

BELLA COHEN

PROVIDENCE — Bella (Sirkis) Cohen, 82, of Sinclair Avenue, a retired volunteer, died Feb. 15 at Our Lady of Fatima Hospital, North Providence.

She was the wife of the late Isadore Cohen. Born in Woonsocket, a daughter of the late Benjamin and Rebecca (Fisher) Sirkis, she was a lifelong resident of Rhode Island.

She was a volunteer for 12 years at the Cranston Senior Center before retiring. She was a former member of Temple Torat Yisrael. She was a graduate of Woonsocket High School.

She leaves two sons, Harvey Cohen of Smithfield and David Cohen of Providence; a sister, Martha Jacobs of Virginia Beach, Va.; and two grandchildren. She was the sister of the late Oscar and Sidney Sirkis and Jonah Sirkis.

The funeral was held on Feb. 18 at Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to

Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston, R.I. 02905. The family was assisted with the arrangements by the Sugarman-Sinai Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

MAX NULMAN

PROVIDENCE — Max Nulman, of Dexterdale Road, co-owner of the former Shaset's Auto Supply, died Feb. 14 at Miriam Hospital.

He was the husband of Rae (Goldenberg) Nulman. Born in Fall River, a son of the late Hyman and Anna (Sofrenko) Nulman, he had lived in Fall River before he moved to Providence in 1941.

He was a member of Temple Emanu-El, the Mason's Redwood Lodge and Crestwood Country Club, Rehoboth. He was an avid golfer.

Besides his wife, he leaves a daughter, Marilyn Nulman in Maine, and a grandchild. He was the father of the late Carol Ruscio, and brother of the late Ida Wassel and Louis Nulman.

The funeral was held Feb. 18 at 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, 458 Hope St., Providence.

BEATRICE WEINBERG

WARWICK — Beatrice (Parness) Weinberg, of Warwick Avenue, a retired real estate agent, died Feb. 14 at Miriam Hospital.

Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Aaron and Eva (Tetelbaum) Parness, she moved to Warwick 35 years ago. She was a graduate of Bryant College and a secretary at Temple Emanu-El before entering the real estate business. She was an agent for several area real estate companies.

She leaves a son, David Weinberg of Warwick; two sisters, Judy Lubusky of Framington, Conn., and Eleanor Goldberg of Staten Island, N.Y.; two grandchildren; and two nieces and two nephews.

The funeral service was held Feb. 18 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 your favorite charity. The family was assisted with the arrangements by Sugarman-Sinai Memorial Chapel.



Ask The Director

by Michael D. Smith F.D./R.E.
Shalom Memorial Chapel

Many people have asked why prepaid funeral contracts are necessary for someone going into a nursing facility. Hopefully, today's answers will explain the necessity for this.

Why prearrange and prepay a funeral prior to SSI/Medicaid acceptance?

A 1982 amendment to the Social Security Act implemented a program whereby SSI/Medicaid eligible persons can set aside funds for their funeral and burial before their resources are exhausted by medical bills or their income declines to such a level that they need the cash assistance provided by the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program.

Are you, or someone you know, applying for financial assistance under SSI/Medicaid?

If so, prepaid funeral arrangements offer the opportunity to completely pay for the funeral of your choice before assets are used up for medical care and before your assets are reduced to SSI/Medicaid eligibility levels.

Does Federal and State law permit the prepayment of funeral arrangements?

Yes. Federal and State law permit, through the use of qualified trust funds, the prepayment of funeral arrangements in a manner such that, when you apply for these programs, the funds set aside will be excluded as resources, which might otherwise delay eligibility.

How does Pre-Arranging assist you in ensuring acceptance?

When people prepay their funeral arrangements, Rhode Island law requires the funeral director to deposit 100 percent of the funds into a trust account. Each account is fully insured by the FDIC to the extent permitted by law. Funds are placed in bank deposit accounts or certificates of deposit in a bank within the State of Rhode Island.

What is the advantage of Pre-Paying?

Federal and State law provide that properly trusted assets intended for the payment of funeral expenses will not be considered a resource when SSI/Medicaid eligibility is determined. This allows Medicaid recipients to preserve assets that would normally be exhausted, and in so doing ensure their funeral will be provided for, as they wish.

Preparing for SSI/Medicaid eligibility isn't the only reason to prearrange a funeral. Selecting and prepaying your burial expenses removes the burden from family members and loved ones at a difficult time. In addition, preplanning allows you to become informed of Veterans Administration, Social Security, fraternal, civic and other benefits that may be available to your family at the time of death.

Questions are welcomed and encouraged. Send your questions to: "Ask The Director," c/o Shalom Memorial Chapel, 1100 New London Ave., Cranston, RI 02920, phone: 463-7771, e-mail: <shalomchapel@aol.com> or write The Rhode Island Jewish Herald, P.O. Box 6063, Providence, RI 02940.

Michael D. Smith is a licensed funeral director and owner of Shalom Memorial Chapel.

Service of Comfort

A Healing Service for the Soul will be held at Temple Beth-El on Feb. 25 at 5 p.m. in the Bennett Chapel.

The service is designed for those struggling with chronic illness, their caregivers and anyone seeking spiritual solace. This brief service incorporates music, prayer, and reflective readings that focus on the Jewish road to healing.

For more information, call the temple office at 331-6070.

When You Have Questions, Call Us.

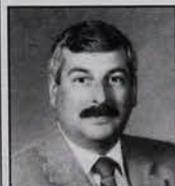
If you are one of many people who have never arranged a funeral, you may have a lot of questions on your mind.

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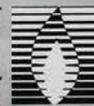


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FEATURE



Hasbro Children's Hospital Dedicates Child's Room

Hasbro Children's Hospital recently dedicated a child's room in recognition of the \$34,000 contribution by the Greater Providence Board of REALTORS. The board has donated the proceeds from its last four charity golf tournaments to the Child Life Program at Hasbro.

Greater Providence Board President, Robert A. Scaralia, President of RE/MAX 1st Choice, Cranston, said, "We are very pleased to support the Child Life Program which is totally dependent on volunteer contributions. This program creates a child centered environment which is nurturing during this time of illness."

Past President of the Greater Providence Board of REALTORS and President-Elect of the Rhode Island Association of Realtors, added, "The Child Life Program addresses the child's physical needs as well as their emotional needs and tries to create a sense of normalcy in the daily lives of these children."

Continuing Reading Series at The Providence Athenaeum

Features Local and Out-of-State Poets

The Providence Athenaeum continues the second year of a three-year grant from Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund with a reading to take place on March 15 at 7 p.m. The series is organized in conjunction with Providence poet Rosmarie Waldrop, recipient of a LW-RD Writers' Award, and consists of four public readings per year at the Athenaeum. Three of the annual readings feature both a local poet and an out-of-state poet. The fourth annual reading features a foreign poet and a local poet and/or translator.

Claude Royet-Journoud will read from his work in the original French with Keith Waldrop, English translator. Royet-Journoud has been called by writer Paul Auster "one of the most exciting poets of the new generation in France." He is author of a tetralogy, of which three volumes were translated

into English by Keith Waldrop: *Reversal, The Notion of Obstacle, and Objects Contain the Infinite*. Royet-Journoud lives in Paris. He has received grants from the Caisse des Lettres and, last December, the Grand Prix de la Ville de Paris.

Waldrop teaches at Brown University and is co-editor of *Burning Deck Press* in Providence. His recent books of poetry include *Haunt, The Locality Principle, and The Silhouette of the Bridge*, winner of the 1997 America award. He has written a novel, *Light While There is Light*, and translated a number of contemporary French poets. He has received awards from the Fund for Poetry, the National Endowment for the Arts and the Berlin Artists Program of the DAAD. In 2000, the French government named him Chevalier in the Order of Arts and Letters, for lifetime contribution to French literature.

The program is free and open to the public.

Tension in the Air

(Continued from Page 1)

viewed as the underdogs," Strauss said. "Americans like underdogs." He added that Israel was once favored in this respect, but now much of this favoritism has shifted sides.

He also felt that the pro-Palestinian news bias is undermining the credibility of Middle East reporting. "[Journalists] love violence. That's news. ... Sometimes, however, the pictures only tell part of the story." He brought up the recent cropping of Middle East photos of violence to give them an anti-Israel slant in various American newspapers. He was also very condemning of the way the Palestinian Authority seems to be intentionally involving their children in areas of armed conflict. "What kind of society sends their children out to die?" he said.

Strauss told the familiar story of Jerusalem's vacant city centers, deserted marketplaces and the many shops and hotels that were closed from lack of business. "We were the only people in the Jewish quarter," he said. "There were hardly any customers." During the daytime things weren't always that bad, and some days were even "bustling." At nights, though, every place became deserted. Because of the extremely tight security around the touring groups, Strauss's group didn't do not run into any other American Jewish tour groups while over there.

Strauss's picture of how Israel was doing was not entirely bleak. He spoke very highly of Israel's "world-class" high-tech industry, and the extremely positive economic turnabouts of late. He quoted Israel's low unemployment rate and its increase in living standards, which all point towards Israel's economic goal — self-sufficiency. He cited their extremely successful computer chip industry, their aircraft repair industry and the recent support given by the Russian immigrant population. He even said that Israel has even been successfully importing workers from Asia and Africa to replace the Palestinian workers that are unable to get to work because of roadblocks. "Business carries on," he said.

Strauss said that he was pleased with Sharon's decision to create a unity government, and felt it was "a positive step" towards healing the deep rifts inside the Israeli government. And despite of everything he saw, or perhaps directly because of it, he strongly recommends that American Jews visit Israel now. "Please go," he said. "They really appreciate it in their time of need."

Theater Meets Reality

(Continued from Page 9)

evil. The goal of the educational plan, said one girl, is for people to experience this history and "stretch their minds" as to the world around us. Goodrum presented Eliash with a bouquet of white flowers symbolizing hope.

"Anne Frank and Me" has received much support from the Jewish community, including funds from the Alperin/Hirsch Family Foundation and the Rhode Island Holocaust Memorial Museum. Presented in partnership with the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island in celebration of its 50th anniversary, special performances of "Anne Frank and Me" will be March 14 at 10 a.m. at the Jewish Community Center, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence and at 6:45 p.m. at Temple Torat Yisrael in Cranston for the Harry Elkin Midrasha Community High School. The general public is invited to the free 10 a.m. performance.

Public performances are at the Vartan Gregorian School Theatre on March 16, 17, 23 and 24 at 7 p.m. and March 18 and 25 at 2 p.m. Touring educational performances will take place for South County middle school students during the week of March 12. ACT has produced and distributed a study guide to acquaint students and teachers with the play and its themes, inviting discussion before the performances. Middle school audiences will be encouraged to participate in post-play discussions prompted by the cast and Goodrum.

Members of the ACT Ensemble will perform at the Anti-Defamation League's A World of Difference Institute's Youth Congress at UMASS, Amherst in April.

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"U.S. seniors are now able to use e-mail to fill their prescriptions abroad according to FDA guidelines," said M.J. McCormick, developer of www.medicines.md. The senior-focused Web site offers free access to regularly updated international price lists for the 120 most popular brand name prescription drugs, as well as more than 1,300 generic medicines. Seniors are able to compare their current prescription costs with the same medications when mail-ordered from abroad. Complete ordering information is available by visiting www.medicines.md.

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