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Happy
Shavuot!

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Wachs Stresses Attention to Spirituality at Rabbi Kaunfer Seminar

by Seth Bromley
Editorial Assistant

Leaders from the Jewish community were brought together at the Alvan Kaunfer Honorary Seminar, to learn about the subject of "Nurturing a Spiritual Community." The lecture was given by Dr. Saul Wachs, the Rosaline B. Feinstein Professor and department chair at Gratz College in Philadelphia. Wachs is also a field consultant for the Solomon Schechter Day Schools.

Among those in attendance were Penny Stein and Ruth Berenson of Alperin-Schechter Day School; Minna Ellison, of the Bureau of Jewish Education; Marla Dansky, executive director of the Rhode Island Holocaust Memorial Museum; Cantor Brian Meyer, of Temple Emanu-El; Susan and Elaine Froehlich; and of course, Rabbi Kaunfer. Wachs began by giving tribute to Rabbi Kaunfer, saying "some of the most accomplished people are also the most humble."

He then asked the audience members to each take a moment and conjure up a memory of an experience. The experi-

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JFRI Annual Meeting Inducts New Board, Honors Community Leaders



ALAN HASSENFELD, left, presents the Merrill L. Hassenfeld Award to David Resnick.

Herald photo by Jon Rubin

by Jon Rubin
Herald Editor

The Jewish Federation of Rhode Island held its 56th annual meeting on May 16 at the Jewish Community Center in Providence. Outside the room where the meeting was to be held stood a gallery of the many institutions the Federation supports. The Alperin-

Schechter Day School, The Providence Hebrew Day School, Brown / RISD Hillel and the Hillel at the University of Rhode Island, the Bureau of Jewish Education and the JCC, among many others, are all strengthened by Federation grants and projects.

The evening honored three outstanding members of the

Jewish community with leadership and service awards, and also included the installation of the 2001-2002 JFRI officers and board of directors.

Rabbi Alvan Kaunfer of Temple Emanu-El gave the d'var Torah for the evening. "Community," he said, "...implies in it unity. We can re-

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Shavuot — The Short Version

by Jon Rubin
Herald Editor

Shavuot is known by many names. It is called Ziman Matan Totateinu ("The time of the giving of our Torah"), Chag HaKatzir ("the holiday of the cutting of the crop) and Chag HaBikkurim (the holiday of the first fruits). Shavuot means "weeks," and refers to the end of the seven weeks counted from the second day of Passover to Shavuot (a.k.a. Sefirat HaOmer).

Because Shavuot does not have a distinct symbol associated with it like a matzah or a sukkah, and because it comes at the heels of the hectic Passover Seders, it is sometimes overlooked by American Jews. This is ironic, since Shavuot commemorates the defining moment of the Jewish people, the pivotal moment in Jewish history when the Jews, out of all of the peoples in the world, received the Torah from G-d. Shavuot is used to reacquaint ourselves with G-d and the Torah, to immerse ourselves in the depth and breadth of its message.

Shavuot is usually celebrated for two days in the Diaspora and for one day for those living in Israel. Shavuot is also celebrated as an agricultural festival, as one of the three Regalim, or pilgrim festivals, along with Sukkot and Passover. The Israelites began their spring harvests during Passover and did so for seven weeks. The first

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Temple Beth-El has a passion for fashion at their annual donor event
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'This Is Not Judaism' — A Look at Jews For Jesus

by Seth Bromley
Editorial Assistant

Jews for Jesus, the frequently controversial "Messianic Jewish" organization, now claims to have 75,000 members and is growing. David Brickner, the executive director since 1996, has stated the basic mission of the group is "to make the messiahship of Jesus an unavoidable issue to our Jewish people worldwide." Many critics in both the Jewish and Christian communities, however, believe this group to be a threat to interfaith relations and to the traditions and ideals of both religions.

Based in San Francisco, this international evangelistic organization now has branches in 10 countries and 19 cities. Brickner's claim: that it is possible to believe in Jesus and still be Jewish. "We were born Jews, and that's what makes us Jewish. A belief in Jesus



"Survivor Stories," a video produced and distributed by Jews for Jesus containing interviews with converted Holocaust survivors.

does not make us gentiles. That's impossible," he says. The group has periodically placed ads in newspapers, magazines and on billboards in cities with large Jewish populations. It also sends volunteers to college campuses to proselytize and distribute pamphlets. It recently produced and distributed a video and booklet asserting that the Holocaust was a sign for Jews to "believe in Jesus."

Brickner's organization, founded in 1973, has many skeptics that call the idea of mixing Christianity and Judaism preposterous and insulting. Jewish leaders say Brickner and his brethren aren't Jewish at all, but that the proper term is Hebrew Christian. Also, many critics are affronted by the group's zealous methods to win new converts. Unlike missionaries from traditional Christian sects, Jews for Jesus will tell the targeted

person that he or she can remain a Jew but still accept Christian beliefs, thus making the conversion seem more acceptable. Jewish leaders from all the major denominations, whether Reform, Orthodox, Conservative or Reconstructionist, agree that someone who believes in Jesus as the Messiah cannot be religiously Jewish.

"The Jews for Jesus is a very scary situation," said Rabbi Barry Hartman, of Congregation Ahavath Achim, in New Bedford, Mass. "This is not Judaism, but they look overtly like very religious Jews." Messianic congregations use Judaic rituals and symbols and include them with traditional Christian ceremonies. The leaders of the congregations are referred to as rabbis, and yarmulkes and tallitot are worn during ceremonies. Prayer services are often conducted in both Hebrew and English.

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HAPPENINGS

Entertainment for Children

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

May

- 27 **Happy Birthday, Rhode Island!** 1 to 3 p.m. Sing "happy birthday" as the state turns 211 years old! Join the party and enjoy a piece of state-shaped birthday cake. Play games like Pin Providence on the Map, don a festive hat and meet some special party guests from the State House.
- 28 **Patriotic Hats.** 1 to 3 p.m. Show your pride. Kids 3 and up make patriotic hats from red, white and blue paper to celebrate Memorial Day.
- 29 **Play & Learn.** 1 to 2:30 p.m. Preschoolers, ages 2 to 4, play games and explore the nooks and crannies of Littlewoods.
- 30 **Geo-Mazing.** 3 and 3:45 p.m. Children ages 5 and up use mirrors to investigate symmetry. Explore colorful patterns by creating crazy kaleidoscopes to keep!
- 31 **Archaeology Adventure.** 3 and 3:45 p.m. Be an archaeologist for a day! Learn how archaeologists solve ancient mysteries. Help in an above-ground excavation and solve a history mystery.

June

- 1 **Art Smart.** 9:40 a.m. to 1:50 p.m. The museum's Preschool Friday series (June 1 to July 20) begins anew as preschoolers, age 3 to 5, use paper plates and a sock to make a turtle puppet and act out the poem, "I Had a Little Turtle." Meet Shelby the box turtle! Each session is 20 minutes long. Pre-registration is recommended for this popular eight-week series. Call 273-KIDS, ext. 24 for enrollment information. There may be space available for walk-in registration for individual sessions. There is a \$1 fee above the price of admission for walk-in registration. Check at the admissions desk.
- Free at Five on Fridays.** 5 to 8 p.m. The summer celebration kicks off as the museum opens for free very Friday evening! Families are invited to romp and play in the museum's hands-on exhibits. See young people perform traditional Mexican folk dances in the garden at 6 p.m. and join in the fun to welcome the summer season. Free at Five on Fridays is sponsored by metropolitan Life Foundation.

Calendar: May 25 Through May 31

- 25 **Memorial Day Weekend Sunset Cruises** from 7 to 9:30 p.m. on Point Judith Pond and the Harbor of Refuge. Reservations are required. Cruises depart from State Pier at the Port of Galilee in Narragansett on the Southland Riverboat. Call 783-2954 or visit <www.southlandcruises.com>.
- 26 **RISD's Department of Apparel Design** presents "Collection 2001," a fashion show by apparel design majors. The show begins at 7 p.m. at Veterans Memorial Auditorium, Avenue of the Arts, Providence. Tickets will be priced between \$16 and \$36. Call the VMA box office at 272-4VMA.
- The John Brown House Museum** is free in honor of Museum Month in May. Located on 52 Power Street in Providence, John Brown House is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Between the hours of 10 a.m. and noon, the Rhode Island Historical Society will offer games and activities for children of all ages. Call 331-8575.
- The fifth annual "Virtu Art" Festival** will be held in Westerly at Wilcox Park, Grove Ave. and High St. from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 596-7761 or visit <www.westerlychamber.org>.
- Capitol City Art Festival** will be held at Station Park, Francis St., Providence from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Call 455-3880 or visit <www.caparts.org>.
- Gaspee Days Arts and Crafts Festival** will be held at Narragansett Parkway, Pawtucket Village, Warwick, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 781-1772.
- 27 **Memorial Day Services for the Jewish War Veterans** will be held at 11 a.m. at the Jewish War Veterans Memorial Cemetery, within Lincoln Park Cemetery, 1469 Post Road, Warwick. Services will also take place at 1 p.m. at R.I. Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Exeter.
- Waterfire Providence** begins at sunset. Stroll along cobbled riverbank walkways as nearly 100 bonfires dance atop the waters near Waterplace Park. Call 272-3111 or visit <www.waterfire.org>.
- Over 40 Singles Dance** at the Rumford Columbus Club, One New Road, East Providence. The dance will start at 6 p.m., admission is \$10. For more information, call 351-3189.
- Brown University Jazz Band** will perform its annual commencement concert in Grant Recital Hall, One Young Orchard Ave., Providence at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5. For information, call 863-3234.
- 28 **Shavuos Celebration** at Chabad CHAI Center, 15 Centerville Road, Warwick, from 5:45 to 7 p.m. Hear the reading of the Ten Commandments and then enjoy a wine and cheesecake reception. Call 732-6559 for reservations or information.
- The East Greenwich Memorial Day Parade** starts at 10 a.m. on Main Street. Call 884-9865 for information.
- 30 **Miniature Golf with Perspectives**, at 7 p.m. at Fiddlesticks, off of Rte. 4 in North Kingstown. Admission is \$5 per person. For more information, call Karen Bandel at 831-0749.
- Touro Fraternal Association holds its installation dinner** for officers and the board of directors. The dinner is for members only. Admission is \$10, dinner starts at 6:30 p.m. Touro Hall is located at 45 Rolfe Square, Cranston. Call 785-0066.
- Free lecture on Oriental medicine** at the Tockwotten Home in Providence. The lecture, which begins at 7 p.m., will be by Dr. Tadueusz Szytkowski. For more information, call Maria Accardo at 943-8888.
- 31 **Bryant College hosts World Trade Day** from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The conference will address issues and strategies for competing in today's global marketplace. The fee is \$50 to attend. Bryant College is located at 1150 Douglas Pike, Smithfield. Call 232-6407.
- Alumni Weekend at the University of Rhode Island**, Kingston Campus. Planned events include the Green Hall Revival, Golden Grad Luncheon, Clambake and class reunion dinners. Call 874-4536.

The Zoobadours Live on Stage

The resident theater troop at Roger Williams Park Zoo, the Zoobadours, open their second season of live weekend performances, on June 2, 3, 9, 10, 16 and 17. Learning about conservation has never been this much fun. For showtimes and more information, please call 785-3510. The performances are free with regular zoo admission.

Friends of Rochambeau Annual Meeting

The friends of the Providence Public Library, Rochambeau Branch, will hold their annual meeting on June 11 at 7 p.m., in the Library Community Room, 708 Hope Street. The guest speaker will be Froma Harrop, syndicated columnist and Providence Journal editorial writer. Her topic will be "The Fine Art of Opinion Writing." The community is enthusiastically invited.

Hebrew Free Loan Holds 98th Meeting

The Hebrew Free Loan Association of Providence, 58 Burlington St., Providence, R.I., cordially invites all members to its 98th annual meeting with the election and installation of officers and board of directors for 2001-2002. The meeting is preceded by a buffet supper.

The meeting occurs on May 30 at the Jewish Community Center, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence, R.I. at 6 p.m.

The Hebrew Free Loan Association grants interest free loans to needy individuals. For information and membership application, call 331-3081.

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OPINION

The Sin of Silence

by Abraham H. Foxman

When Pope John Paul II made his historic visit to Israel last year, it was seen as the culmination of years of progress in Vatican attitudes toward the Jewish people, that began with the famous 1965 Nostra Aetate declaration absolving Jews of Christ's death. The leadership of the Catholic Church, in moving away from the destructive deicide charge and in condemning anti-Semitism in the most forthright terms, led to similar steps taken by mainstream Protestant groups.

A series of events in the last few weeks, however, point to the fact that our fight for religious tolerance has not yet been won. Indeed, it is clear the old prejudices and the old charges are still alive and risk resurgence if religious leaders and others do not stand up right now and denounce such manifestations in a forceful way. It was astounding to see and hear the diatribe of Syrian President Bashar Assad, in the presence of Pope John Paul II, reviving the charge that the Jews were responsible for the death of Jesus and adding to it that Jews tried to kill Mohammed.

The fact that Assad said these poisonous words is bad enough. Worse, are the circumstances that made him feel comfortable speaking this way in front of the Pontiff and a world audience. Even worse still is that the Pope and Vatican officials failed to clearly denounce Assad for his remarks. This was a sin of silence.

The freedom to attack Jews with impunity in the Arab world seems to be at an all-time high. Assad's statement comes in the context of the free ride Arab media have had in recent months for their expression of vile anti-Semitism. A whole range of anti-Jewish comments in the Egyptian, Palestinian, Saudi and other media have gone unanswered by Arabs, world leaders or religious leaders. Included are the deicide charge, the blood libel accusation, denial of the Holocaust, and justification of the Holocaust.

Yet, outside of exposure and criticism by the State of Israel and a number of American-Jewish organizations, these manifestations of classic anti-Jewish hatred have been met with stone silence.

One can only assume that the Syrian leadership decided that since no one, except Jews, has complained about all the other bigoted comments, why not do

"It seems to be open season on Jews and Judaism."

it on the world stage, with the Pope in attendance. Unfortunately, on a smaller scale we have seen several expressions of this old style religious anti-Judaism surfacing, and religious, as well as other leaders, have been reticent in denouncing it in the clearest terms. When New York Knicks player Charlie Ward said in *The New York Times Magazine* piece that Jews are "stubborn," have Jesus' "blood on their hands" and are persecuting Christians even today, the reaction of Knicks ownership and the NBA was slow and weak. Words such as "objectionable" and "zealotry" were tossed around, instead of calling it like it is: religious anti-Semitism which has been the source of so much Jewish suffering for centuries.

Similarly, when Paul Weyrich, a conservative Christian activist, wrote in a religious commentary on his Web site

that Jews are responsible for the death of Jesus, there was little hue and cry from conservative political or Christian leaders.

And "BC" comic strip creator Johnny Hart had no problem doing an Easter strip that denigrated Judaism by portraying a disappearing Menorah replaced by a Cross, sending his clear message that Christianity supersedes Judaism.

It seems to be open season on Jews and Judaism. Whether we will look back on this period as a mere aberration in a progressive trend or whether it is a harbinger of regressive activity, will ultimately depend on the willingness of good people to stand up.

It must start with the Vatican. Maybe it wasn't possible for the Pope to rebut Assad at that very time, but it is now critical that Catholic leadership condemn Assad and all others for fomenting religious hatred. American political and religious leaders too must set an example. Too many lives have been lost because of the sin of silence. It is time to stand up.

Abraham H. Foxman is National Director of the Anti-Defamation League. This op-ed originally appeared in the *New York Jewish Week* on May 11, 2001.

'Open Season on Jews'?
Calm Down, Mr. Foxman

Toward Tradition, a coalition of Jews and Christians, regrets the Anti-Defamation League's needless attack on Pope John Paul II in a *New York Times* advertisement.

The ADL ad, which ran on the *Times* op-ed page two weeks ago, harangues the pontiff for his "silence" when, in the pope's presence, Syrian leader Assad said rude things about Jewish people. Previously, ADL national director Abraham H. Foxman also wrote melodramatically of the pope's "sin of silence" and offered the hysterical observation that "It seems to be open season on Jews and Judaism."

The latter remark was in the context of recent statements by several Americans — activist Paul Weyrich, cartoonist Johnny Hart, New York Knick Charlie Ward — who publicly expressed certain Christian beliefs about Jesus' life and death, relating to Jews and Judaism. The Anti-Semitism Industry, headed by the ADL, reacted to these sentiments with a declaration of holy war.

Toward Tradition's president, Rabbi Daniel Lapin, commented: "I wish we could

all calm down a little. I mean, were it not for the ADL's screaming, hardly anyone would know about Assad's pathetic insults.

"And just what was the elderly pontiff supposed to do as Assad blathered away in Arabic — jump up, run across the stage and start strangling the guy? But I imagine Abe Foxman was facing a shortfall in fund-raising this quarter, or something like that. As the president of a non-profit organization myself, I can sympathize with the ADL's cash-flow needs, especially with their \$50 million budget. But this attempt to whip up hysteria goes a bit far.

"As for Weyrich, Hart, and Ward, I think a diverse, liberal society should police only acts, not speech. Seeking to regulate the beliefs of other people is simply wrong. We Jews should know that better than anyone. Should there ever be any serious threat of physical or other genuine harm being done to the American Jewish community, I shall personally write out my own check to the ADL. In the meantime, end the Inquisition, Mr. Foxman!"

In My Opinion — Enough of This

by Hannah Reich Berman

It's no coincidence that the majority of us are astonished by bad behavior. That, I am convinced, is because most people are inherently good. We're touched when we read about someone saving the life of a total stranger. That's why they're called human-interest stories. Television talk shows often devote entire segments to everyday heroes and hearing these stories moves us and inspires each of us to become a better person. I'm sorry to say, however, that nothing captivates me more than a story about a person such as Timothy McVeigh with his evil persona.

It's certainly not admiration;

it's more of a macabre fascination with things we can't hope to understand. Most of us tend to assume that a person who has committed such a vile act is just plain crazy, but the unfortunate truth is that he's as sane as you and me. I recently heard the Moralist, Dr. Laura, explain that we mistake an evil person for one who is mentally ill because we're unable to comprehend wickedness of such immense proportions. It's hard for our minds to process the type of information we've been given about the kind of person this McVeigh character is.

There's another dimension to this sad and sordid episode that we need to address. He did more

than destroy the lives of all those people; he took a little piece of us with him. Gentle, fair-minded, and even-tempered people, who've been taught not to hate, are spewing venom at just the mention of this beast's name. Folks who normally cringe at the site of a dead squirrel in the road are waiting with bated breath to hear about the execution of this animal and some are even anxious to watch the event. We want him out of our sight, out of our thoughts and out of existence.

He has made this world a darker place not only because he slaughtered so many innocents but also because his das-

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HERALD EDITOR

JONATHAN RUBIN

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

SETH T. BROMLEY

MAILING ADDRESS:

Box 6063, Providence, R.I. 02940

TELEPHONE: (401) 724-0200

PLANT:

Herald Way, off Webster Street
Pawtucket, R.I. 02861

OFFICE:

1000A Waterman Avenue
East Providence, R.I. 02914

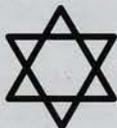
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Candlelighting

May 25, 2001

7:50 p.m.



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The Mystery of Torah

by Velvel "Wally" Spiegler

While driving home, one clear but frosty January evening, from a Kabbalah class I attended every Tuesday, that particular evening's discussion muddled around in my head with a sense of uneasiness. We were learning a segment of the Shaar Ruach Hakodesh, Gates of the Holy Spirit, a 16th century text by Rabbi Chaim Vital, a disciple of Rabbi Issac Luria, the celebrated Kabbalist of Safed. I read and reread the material several times both before and after the class, but I kept running into a stone wall. The text implied something more than just the words alone conveyed, but I couldn't quite grasp it; I could, however almost feel it. I realized, there and then, that words, particularly those of holy text like Torah, were limited by the boundaries of human speech. As a result of that

revelation, I set out to uncover ways in which we can indeed transcend the limits of the written word.

"Awareness is based on the discovery that it is more useful to simply become deeply aware of yourself as you are now."

First I decided to find out what the world of psychology had to offer on the subject. The first bit of information I stumbled upon came from *Awareness*, a book by John O. Stevens, and a colleague of Fritz Perls, founder of Gestalt therapy. Stevens writes, "Awareness is based on the discovery that it is more useful to

simply become deeply aware of yourself as you are now. Rather than try to change, stop, or avoid something that you don't like in yourself, it is much more effective to stay with it and become more deeply aware of it. You can't improve on your own functioning; you can only interfere with it, distort it and disguise it. When you really get in touch with your own experiencing, you will find that change takes place by itself, without your effort or planning. With full awareness, you can let happen whatever wants to happen with confidence that it will work out well." In other words awareness surpasses the spoken word, the pensive word and the written word.

I looked up "awareness" my dictionary: Conscious, cognizant, sensible, alive, awake, alert, watchful, and vigilant. To be mindful or heedful of something. Awareness implies know-

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JEWISH COMMUNITY

'Mi Kosher Es Su Kosher' Shavuos — The Giving of The Torah

Orthodox Union Kosher Video Now Available in Spanish

Can you say *kosher* in Spanish? Spanish speakers now have the opportunity to watch an educational film about the laws of kashrut and kosher supervision in the Orthodox Union's new Spanish translation of "The Kosher Video."

The video communicates the basic principles of kosher certification while explaining what kosher really means. As food production has become more complex, so has the kosherization process. The video navigates the process of making a popular snack cake kosher by closely following a specific product being manufactured, while pointing out the pitfalls and possible hidden ingredients that could compromise the end result.

OU Executive Rabbinic Coordinator Rabbi Moshe Elefant said, "The Kosher Video" is very useful for companies interested in learning about kashrut and what it entails. Many of our representatives from currently certified manufacturers and plants find it helpful to have plant personnel watch the video to afford them a better understanding and appreciation of the strict guidelines they are following. Being able to offer the Spanish, and soon Chinese, ver-

sion of "The Kosher Video" to our client companies demonstrates our commitment to making kashrut, and receiving OU kosher certification, an interactive and personalized process."

Video and Broadcasting Director Ricky Magder, who directed and produced the video, said, "Technology has become the quintessential means to effectively market and convey information in today's business world. 'The Kosher Video' takes a 3,500-year-old tradition and presents it in a dynamic and informative fashion. We have received letters from plant managers throughout the country telling us that they use the video to train their personnel and teach them that kashrut is not an archaic set of laws, but rather a living, industry-oriented and market based connection to the life of present day observant Jews."

One such letter, received from Peter Cammelot, senior research and development scientist for M&M Mars, said, "The Kosher Video" you sent is an excellent information tool. I would appreciate additional copies of the video to be used in my training of current and new research and development associates." For more information visit <www.ou.org>.

Shavuos, the second of the third major festivals, comes exactly 50 days after Passover. It marks the giving of the Torah by G-d, to the entire Jewish people on Mt. Sinai, 3,311 years ago.

The giving of the Torah was far more than an historical event. It was a far-reaching spiritual event — one that touched the essence of the Jewish soul then and for all time. Our sages have compared it to a wedding between G-d and the Jewish people. We became his special nation and He became our G-d.

Before giving the Torah, G-d requested for some sort of guarantee that the Torah and its mitzvot would be loved and cherished. The Jews replied,

"Our holy ancestors." The offer was rejected. They then responded, "Our prophets and elders, they will be our guarantors." Again G-d refused. At last they proposed "Our children will ensure that the Torah will be studied, our children will be our guarantors that the mitzvot will be loved and cherished for all future generations." At that moment G-d started the Ten Commandments.

Reasons for Eating Dairy Foods on Shavuos

Until the giving of the Torah, the Jews were allowed to eat meat that was not slaughtered properly or even from a non-kosher animal. When the Jews received the Torah, the laws

about kosher animals became known to them and all their utensils therefore were not kosher. They therefore ate dairy foods until they had an opportunity to kasher their utensils.

Candlelighting Times

May 27 — Light candles at 7:52 p.m.

May 28 — Every man, woman and child, including young infants, are encouraged to hear the reading of the Ten Commandments.

May 28 — Light candles from a pre-existing flame after 8:56 p.m.

May 29 — Yizkor 5:45 p.m. at the CHAI Center. Call 273-7238.



Camp Gan Israel is Growing and is Now Open For Ages 4 to 10

The summer is not too far away, and that means Gan Israel Day Camp is just around the corner. Camp Gan Israel is planning a great summer and is now accepting registration for Jewish children ages 4 to 10.

Camp Gan Israel will be full of fun. The program includes a mix of sports, art, drama, swimming, and field trips with an emphasis on enhancing each camper's spirit and love for Judaism. "The trips and activities were fun and educational," said parent Esther D. from Cranston.

The counselors are very dedicated to each and every child and come with years of experience in camping. "The camp is like a family," said Rivka Kanar, one of the counselors of last summer. "The counselors were high energy, caring, loving and wonderful and the directors took excellent care of all [of us]," said parent Leslie Dinerman from Scituate.

The goal of this program is to instill in the campers a pride in their Jewish heritage for them to draw upon as they reach adulthood. Camp is a wonderful and important opportunity. It impacts children who have little or no Jewish background; and for those who attend Hebrew School throughout the years, it reinforces all they have studied. "There was diversity of activities with a cultural emphasis," said parent Mrs. Wipkler from Cranston.

For a brochure, call Shoshanah Laufer at the Chabad CHAI Center at 732-6559.

Congregation Beth Sholom Holds Barbecue

On June 3 from noon to 4 p.m., Congregation Beth Sholom will hold its annual barbecue at Katy's. There will be hayrides, shelling at the beach, and softball followed by a barbecue.

There will also be grilled hot dogs and hamburgers (both glatt), plus vegetarian food for an "all you can eat price." Bring your own drinks, salads, desserts, and lawn chairs.

The cost is \$8.50 per adult (over 12), \$4.50 per child (3 to 12 years), under 3 years of age free. Thirty-two dollars maximum per family.

Directions from Providence: Take 195 East to 24 South (Newport/Tiverton on exit sign) follow to Bristol/Newport on sign. Bay Point Inn on the right. Right on Boyds lane to light at top of Hill. Take sharp right at Mt. Hope Bridge to fifth driveway on right, 751 Bristol Ferry Road.

Call Rabbi Mitchell Levine at 621-9393.



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Temple Emanu-El Features Zamir Chorale of Boston

On June 10 at 7 p.m. in the Alperin Meeting House, at Temple Emanu-El, the annual Benton A. Odessa Memorial Concert will feature the world renowned Zamir Chorale of Boston. Led by their musical director, Professor Joshua Jacobson, Zamir will present a program entitled, "Passport to Jewish Music," featuring the best Jewish music from communities around the world. The Zamir performed in the Odessa Concert some nine years ago at a packed house in the Meeting House. It was a thrilling and entertaining evening and Temple Emanu-El is surely in for another musical treat.

The Zamir Chorale of Boston is a 50-voice choir with an international reputation for excellence. Zamir recently traveled to Poland and eastern Europe. Their concertizing and travels were captured in the documentary film, "Zamir: Jewish Voices Return to Poland," which aired nationally as a PBS special. The film was broadcast most recently in December on WGBH2. The soundtrack of the documentary has been released in a CD, "The Songs Live On." Be sure not to miss this opportunity to hear the best in Jewish music. Temple Emanu-El's Temple Choir, Choral Club, and Kol Kesem Youth Choir will be joining Zamir for parts of the program.

Cantor Brian Mayer of Temple Emanu-El will be the featured soloist for the evening.

The Odessa Concert is free and open to the public, so be sure to arrive early to get a good seat.

Temple Emanu-El is located at 99 Taft Ave. in Providence. Call 331-1616 for more information.



A Classical Music Treat For PHDS Students

The Providence Hebrew Day School played host to a Brown University student quartet. For the past four years, Brown students have come to PHDS to provide 40 minutes of beautiful music and musical information for students ages 3 years old to 13 years old. This year there were two violinists and two French horn players who played a variety of classical selections. The students also took time to answer questions from the student audience. Dr. Edward and Mrs. Grace Beiser sponsor this annual classical music event in memory of Mrs. Beiser's mother, Mrs. Bertha Fischer. Mrs. Fischer loved music and was a supporter of PHDS.

Photo courtesy of PHDS

JEWISH COMMUNITY

Conflict Diamonds

by Rabbi David Saperstein

It is not pretty, but we must confront the true price of diamonds in the world today:

More than 6.5 million people driven from their homes in mining regions; more than 1 million of them forced to become refugees in neighboring nations; the rest living in squalid camps as internal refugees, strangers in their own lands; almost 2.5 million people dead from the civil wars ravaging Sierra Leone, Angola, and the Democratic Republic of Congo; hundreds of thousands maimed and wounded; tens of thousands of children, some as young as 10 years old — taken by force to join the fighting; and, tens of thousands of women assaulted, abused and raped.

The human price is the real price of diamonds from Sierra Leone, Angola, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. These diamonds — conflict diamonds — enable the brutal civil wars in these nations to continue, enable rebel forces and government armies to buy weapons and supplies used to commit atrocities against unarmed populations that collectively number more than 70 million. These diamonds are being sold every day on the world's greatest diamond exchanges and in the jewelry stores of the world's greatest cities. These diamonds are being laundered through Liberia, Togo, Congo, and Burkina Faso.

Don't let anyone tell you that we don't know where these diamonds come from, or that we don't know how they get to our markets, or especially that we do not know the price being paid by innocent civilians — men, women, and children — in the heart of Africa. And while we commend the many diamond centers in Tel Aviv, Antwerp, and elsewhere, and the many retailers who have acted as best they can to prevent such diamonds, what we do know is that once these diamonds arrive in Antwerp, Tel Aviv, Bombay, London and New York, there is no way to tell them from legitimate diamonds.

We know that few people want to ask uncomfortable questions or pry too deeply into the origins of the diamond they want to buy. We know that according to the state department, conflict diamonds make up an estimated 10 to 15 percent of the international diamond trade. And we know that Americans

consume 65 percent of the diamond market.

You do the math — whatever the United States does on this issue, the market will follow because, my friends, we largely are the market.

Fortunately, we can do something very simple, yet remarkably powerful. We can adopt the Clean Diamonds legislation and we can advocate for the U.S. government to take a leadership role on the Kimberly process, a forgery-resistant system that certifies legitimate rough diamonds at their source, bars diamonds without such certification, and creates a stream of conflict-free diamonds. We commend Reps. Tony Hall and Frank Wolf for introducing this vital legislation. These strategies will significantly cleanse the diamond market, resulting in no further funding for the civil wars fueled by conflict diamonds, and allowing these nations that produce diamonds lawfully — nations led by South Africa and Botswana — to continue their trade in diamonds.

Our religious traditions teach that our moral values must govern our business practices, as much as they do our personal lives. The rabbis taught that wine mixed with water could not be sold as "wine," and even if marked correctly as "wine mixed with water," could not be sold to a wholesale merchant, who might, out of greed or indifference, sell it to those who would deceive their customers. Just as every customer has the right to know that there is no water in the wine, every customer has the right to know that there is no blood on the diamonds offered for sale, and that their beauty is untarnished by the suffering of innocent victims.

If the scores of millions of Americans who celebrate our Sabbaths in the pews of every church, every mosque, and every synagogue in America were to pause for just a moment, to contemplate the diamonds they wear, the diamonds they have bought, the diamonds they have given, and to think about where those diamonds might have come from, who might have mined them, and what the consequences of the international trade in conflict diamonds were — then we would meet the moral responsibilities to which our worship of G-d calls us.

Then, Isaiah's admonition

that worship without justice is not acceptable to G-d, would compel us all to ensure that no diamond they or anyone else will buy from now on will result in innocent people killed, maimed, and displaced by those who profit from conflict diamonds. Only then will our loved ones we seek to honor with our gifts know we truly honor them, and G-d will know we truly honor the call to partnership in creating a better and a more hopeful future for all humanity.

The Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism is the Washington office of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, whose 900 congregations across North America encompass 1.5 million Reform Jews, and the Central Conference of American Rabbis whose membership includes more than 1,700 Reform rabbis.

Feminist Issues In Jewish Liturgy at Hebrew College

In recent years there has been an explosion of creativity among Jewish women seeking new expressions in prayers, female life cycle rituals and holiday celebrations. What are the most common feminist criticisms of "male" G-d-language? Which alternative strategies are women adopting to voice their concerns?

On June 4, Dr. Lois Dubin, associate professor of religion and Bible literature at Smith College, will explore these issues in "Women's Experiences/Feminist Expressions: Contemporary Issues in Jewish Liturgy," the third of Hebrew College's center for Adult Jewish Learning's lecture series on the siddur. Dubin will examine contemporary approaches to traditional Jewish prayers and consider both the benefits and risks of particular innovations.

The lecture will be held at Hebrew College, 43 Hawes St., Brookline, at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$10. Please contact Lina Reznikov at (617) 278-4939 for registration information.

Shavuos and Birthday Celebration at Chabad

Shavuos celebration and Lieba Laufer's birthday, for men, women and children, will be celebrated on May 28 from 5:45 to 7 p.m. at the Chabad CHAI Center, 15 Centerville Road, Warwick.

Come and hear the reading of the Ten Commandments! There will be a cheesecake and wine reception with a full variety of cheesecakes. Children can make and eat ice cream sundaes and make and take their own cheesecake.

Reservations are appreciated. Call 732-6559.

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The Campaign for a Healthy Rhode Island is supporting **House Bill H-5554** and **Senate Bill S-283** that would raise the cigarette tax by 50 cents per pack. These bills will save all of us money by funding programs that will lower kids' smoking rates and decrease the \$340 million we spend each year on health care directly related to tobacco use.

Even if you have health insurance, this legislation will save you money. It will help keep your health care costs from rising by providing health insurance for nearly 20,000 people. These folks presently go to the emergency room when they get sick because they don't have a regular doctor they know well and visit often. **We all pay the bill when these folks can't.**

You Can Make A Difference

Call these legislators and tell them that increasing the tobacco tax and investing the revenue is critical to protecting our children from the ravages of tobacco. This per-pack-tax is the most effective way to keep kids from starting to smoke. Also tell them that it's important to you that all Rhode Islanders have access to health insurance.

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Chair of the House Finance Committee
723-4743

Sen. Frank Caprio
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455-0055

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JEWISH COMMUNITY

Weizmann Institute of Science Nominates New President

Professor Ilan Chet will be nominated to serve as the new president of the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, Israel. After a formal election by the Institute's Board of Governors, the new president will begin serving on Dec. 2, upon the conclusion of the 13-year term of the current president, Professor Haim Harari. Gershon Kekst, chairman of the Weizmann Institute's Board of Governors, made the announcement in Israel.

The nominating committee's recommendation marks the end of a yearlong process, which included a search committee composed of members of the Weizmann Institute Board of Governors from Israel and abroad, and leading scientists from the institute and abroad.

Chet was born in Haifa in 1939. He completed his doctoral work in microbiology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Faculty of Agriculture, in Rehovot. His research focuses on the biological control of plant disease using environment friendly microorganisms, concentrating on the basic, applied, and biotechnological aspects of this field. Chet has published more than 330 articles in international scientific journals and edited three books. He holds 30

patents and has trained approximately 30 Ph.D. and 50 M.Sc. students.

Between 1983 and 1986, Chet served as the founding director



Prof. Ilan Chet

of the Otto Warburg Minerva Center for Agricultural Biotechnology, and between 1986 and 1989 he served as dean of the Hebrew University Faculty of Agriculture in Rehovot.

For the last 10 years, Chet has served as vice president for research and development of the Hebrew University. His national and international fame is exemplified by his rich list of academic appointments, prizes,

and awards. He served as visiting professor at Harvard, Cornell, and Rutgers universities in the United States and at Goettingen and Lund in Europe. He served as senior scientist for the Dupont Company in Delaware and is a member of the scientific advisory committees of both the European Union and NATO.

Chet was awarded an honorary doctorate from Sweden's Lund University in 1991 and the Max-Planck Award for Distinguished Research in 1994. His numerous prizes include the Rothschild Prize in Agriculture (1990), the Japanese Arima Prize for Applied Microbiology (1996), the Israel Prize (1996), and the Wolf Prize (1998). He has been a member of the Israel Academy of Sciences and humanities since 1998.

The Weizmann Institute of Science, in Rehovot, Israel, is one of the world's foremost center of scientific research and graduate study. Its 2,500 scientists, students, technicians and engineers pursue basic research in the quest for knowledge and to enhance the quality of human life. New ways of fighting disease and hunger, protecting the environment, and harnessing alternative sources of energy are high priorities at Weizmann.

PEJE Establishes Grant Program For Small Jewish Communities

The Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education, founded in 1997 to promote and develop Jewish day schools in North America, announced recently the establishment of the Charles Schusterman Small Communities Enhancement Program for Jewish Day Schools.

Named in memory of PEJE's first president, the grant program is designed to assist new and established elementary and middle Jewish day schools located in communities with Jewish populations not exceeding 15,000.

"Typically, these communities are located in more remote areas of the country where access to expertise and support is limited," said Joshua Elkin, executive director of PEJE. "Grantee schools will now have the services of an experienced educator and additional funding to help develop and implement new programs to improve the excellence of their schools."

Schools that are chosen to

participate in the Small Communities Program will be given 10 days of a Madrikh's (coach or guide) time and \$10,000 to be used to implement the recommendations that emerge from the Madrikh/school partnership. All the coaches are experienced educators who have founded schools and/or have extensive expertise working with established schools.

In addition to receiving this specialized expertise and related funding, the participating schools will be able to send one professional and one lay leader to the PEJE Grantee Conference or another educational conference of their choice.

Interested school or communities must complete a Request for Proposals, which is due on Dec. 21. Recipients will be notified by early June, 2002. Priority will be given to the smallest communities that apply. Requests for Proposals can be obtained from PEJE, 183 State St., Suite 6, Boston, MA 02109. Phone: (617) 367-0001.

Sammie Moshenberg Will Speak at NCJW Installation

The National Council of Jewish Women Rhode Island section cordially invites all members to come join in the celebration at the annual meeting and installation of officers and directors on June 6 at 11:30 a.m. at Temple Beth-El Social Hall, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence.

Sammie Moshenberg is the director of Washington Operations of NCJW and will be guest speaker. As head of the organization's Washington office, Moshenberg is the staff director for all of NCJW's advocacy efforts nationwide including its State Public Affairs network, a team of volunteer advocates representing the organization in more than 30 states. Moshenberg is also the editor of NCJW's quarterly *Washington Newsletter*.

Moshenberg is active in national coalitions on issues of concern to NCJW including: civil rights, reproductive rights, work-family issues, child care, and First Amendment issues. She is a member of the Advisory Board of the Women's Information Network of Washington, D.C., and a past board member of the National Committee for Public Education and Religious Liberty. On behalf of NCJW, Moshenberg served as the first co-chair of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights' Women's Caucus. In addition, she chaired the First Tuesday Group which consists of the Washington representatives of major American Jewish organization for 1986-1987 and 1993-1994. She has spoken on public policy and legislative issues to a variety of groups throughout the country, including syna-

gogues, universities, Jewish communal organizations, youth groups, and advocacy groups in the general community.

Moshenberg is well-respected in Washington. We at the NCJW have evidence of this fact when we look at the outstanding speakers who are ea-



Sammie Moshenberg

ger to be present at our Washington Institute Conventions, such as Justice Ginsburg, Sen. Dodd and Rabbi Saperstein. Because of her fervent defense of the issues we pursue in the halls of Congress and her leadership skills, Moshenberg was presented the prestigious Hannah Solomon Award in 1998 at Washington Institute.

We are proud of the work we accomplish under her direction that we wanted all of our members to hear from Moshenberg in her own words.

A petite luncheon will be served at the event.

Heavenly Science

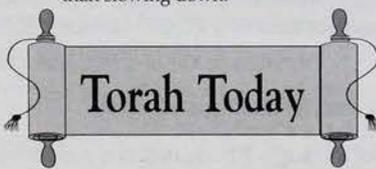
It is a force stronger than anything we know of scientifically. It can't be measured by any tool we have, but there is ample evidence of its existence. It permeates the universe, but we cannot define it, see it, even name it. It has the potential to change everything we believe scientifically about the birth, life and activity of the cosmos.

For many decades, astronomers and physicists have believed that the universe proceeded from an event they call the Big Bang — an unimaginable explosion that formed all matter and, eventually, life. Since Torah is not inconsistent with science, we can see this occurrence as another way of viewing the Creation: "Let there be light."

Measurements of the motion of universal bodies have supported the Big Bang theory, show-

ing that they are speeding away from where the original explosion happened. But the gravity of all these stars and planets should also be slowing down the speed, pulling on each other.

Yet two recent experiments have cast doubt on this notion. They show, in fact, that the galaxies are speeding up rather than slowing down.



The chaos this news created among scientists has generated, or re-animated, theories about a strange force at work in space: we can't see it, measure it, understand it, or elucidate its characteristics. But it's there, pushing things along faster than

even scientists' imaginations had imagined.

Last week's portion, *Bechukosai*, enumerates the rewards for performing mitzvot. But the name itself comes from the root *chukim*, which refers to a particular subset of commandments — those that defy rational understanding. Why should there be such commandments? What is the point of doing something we don't understand?

No matter how much we study, no matter how much we learn — in Torah or in the physical sciences — we must always recognize that the totality of G-d's greatness will forever exceed our comprehension.

And so when we look at the heavens, and observe a Force we can't see or measure — we can smile at our understanding that we're not supposed to understand.

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

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JEWISH COMMUNITY

Shavuot — The Short Version

(Continued from Page 1)

crop of each fruit was set aside as bikkurim, or "first fruit." On Shavuot the farmers gathered all the bikkurim and brought them all to the city of Jerusalem where they would brought to the Holy Temple.

Many of the customs celebrated today on Shavuot come from stories of the ancient Israelites at Mount Sinai. On Shavuot, Jews often stay up all night studying the Torah, the Talmud and other Jewish texts. This study session is known as Tikkun Y'el Shavuot, or the "fixing" or "improvement." This is done to honor the giving of the Torah by studying it with all of our heart, and to experience some of the joy that the ancient Israelites must have felt in receiving it.

It is said that the ancient Israelites actually overslept on the morning of G-d's visit. It has become a custom to stay up all night as a sort of a "make up" for those late risers. During Shavuot the Book of Ruth is read, to link Ruth's conversion process to our reacquainting ourselves with G-d and the Torah on Shavuot.

It is said that when the Israelites trudged through the barren desert towards Sinai, they found the mountain was lush and overflowing with flowers and vegetation of all kinds. It has become custom today to spread flowers and greens

about the synagogue and our homes, to bring to mind the lush vegetation around Sinai, as well as to act as a reminder of the harvest season. This act of decorating received some rebuking, however; the Vilna Gaon, the famous Lithuanian sage, remarked that this custom should be banned as it bared resemblance to pagan ritual. Despite his condemnation, this custom is still celebrated by Jews today.

Another custom that has arisen is that Jews are to eat only dairy foods (or to refrain from eating meat) on the first day of Shavuot. There are a number of explanations for this. It is said that upon receiving the Torah, the Jews suddenly realized that all of their utensils needed to be kashered. Dairy foods were therefore consumed until proper utensils and properly kosher food was to be found.

Another explanation brings to mind the passage in Song of Songs which reads, "Honey and milk shall be under your tongue" — meaning that the words of the Torah are to be compared to sweet honey and nourishing milk.

Today many Jews eat blintzes and cheesecake to recall this story, since eating in Judaism has always symbolized "internalizing" the holiness in life. For that reason, and, of course, because Jews love to eat.

Jews For Jesus

(Continued from Page 1)

The best way to nullify the influence of such groups, believes Rabbi Hartman, is to educate people, especially teenagers who may be more open to questioning their faith. "Many young Jews are not educated [enough] to understand what Jews for Jesus really means," said Rabbi Hartman. Jews for Jesus often attempts to win new converts on college campuses. In fact, Brickner himself has said he was first introduced to the group while in college. The group also has a Web site, <www.jewsforjesus.org>, that features testimonials from converted Jews and other information.

A strong response to this new kind of evangelism is being undertaken by the counter-missionary organization Jews for Judaism. Many resources on the issue can be found at their Web site, <www.jewsforjudaism.org>. Jews for Judaism attempts to raise awareness among the Jewish community about Christian missionary groups in general and Jews for Jesus in particular. Rabbi Hartman endorsed the organization, saying, "High school seniors should take the seminar offered by Jews

for Judaism to avoid any pitfalls that may occur in college."

Rabbi Mark Bloom, of Temple Torat Yisrael in Cranston, said the group's evangelical effort is not the only problem created by Jews for Jesus. "The biggest problem the Jews for Jesus movement presents has to do with how we are perceived by Christianity," he said.

He said he is not as worried as some about large numbers of Jews being converted by the group. "What I am worried about, however, and what I experienced when I served as a rabbi in the heavily evangelical area of Atlanta, was that it greatly confused Christians," he said. "We have spent decades trying to make good Christians understand that Jews do not accept Jesus as anything more than a historical person. When this movement comes along claiming that one can accept Jesus and still be a good Jew, not only is this blatantly false and theologically untrue, it undoes much of our hard work over the past decades. Jews for Jesus makes it harder for Christians to understand what Judaism is all about," Rabbi Bloom said.

United Brothers Historic Synagogue

205 High Street, Bristol, Rhode Island

Invites the public to their

Friday evening June 1 service at 8 p.m.

A memorial plaque will be dedicated in honor of

Alton Brody, founder, past president and trustee.

Upcoming Events at The JCCRI

We have a wonderful opportunity to join together as a community for a Family Shabbat Dinner on June 1 at 6 p.m. in the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island social hall.

Performing Arts Event June 7

On June 7, at 4:30 p.m. in the JCCRI social hall, we will be treated to a special presentation by the aspiring actor and actresses in Laura Bennett's Performing Arts class. Liliana Gutmann-McKenzie, Alexander Herbert-Rapport, Gabrielle Labrecque, Rebekah Beth Page, Samantha Pilavin, and Laura Weil will combine all their dance, theatre, and music skills to present this very special show. All are invited to attend.

Speaking of Summer...

Plan now to join us for a Shalom To Summer ice cream sundaes party in Kidspace/PTC on June 7, from 5 to 6:15 p.m. Family members are invited to join in the fun, following the Performing Arts class presentation.

The JCCRI is located at 401 Elm Grove Ave. in Providence. Call 861-8800.

PHDS Holds Annual L'ag B'Omer Picnic

Each year the Providence Hebrew Day School celebrates the holiday of L'ag B'Omer in the traditional way — with a picnic and outing. This year the pre-schoolers through eighth-graders took a trip to Colt State Park to play games, have races and enjoy a barbecue lunch. L'ag B'Omer (the 33rd day of the omer period) became a holiday because it represents the cessation of a terrible plague that affected the students of the famous Rabbi Akiva. School children throughout the world celebrate this day with all types of outdoor activities.



SUSAN SUGARMAN, the physical education teacher at PHDS, leads the younger grades in relay races.

Photo courtesy of PHDS

Help Us Celebrate The Marriage of Chaya Laufer and Michael Goldman



The officers and friends of the New England Academy of Torah invite you to the Sheva Brachas celebrating the marriage of Chaya Zisel Laufer, daughter of Rabbi and Mrs. Yeshoshua Laufer of Providence, R.I. to Michael Goldman, son of Rabbi and Mrs. Yossy Goldman on May 31 at 5:30 p.m.

The celebration will take place at the Providence Hebrew Day School, 450 Elm Grove Ave., Providence, R.I.

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JEWISH COMMUNITY

Annual 'Mitzvah Day' Held at Beth El

by Jon Rubin
Herald Editor

At Temple Beth El on May 6, the members of the Temple Beth El Social Action Committee brought their annual Mitzvah Day to the streets of Rhode Island. More than a dozen simultaneous activities had SAC members cleaning up playgrounds and Jewish cemeteries, helping administrators at Camp JORI set up for the approaching summer campers, doing some gardening at the East House Women's Shelter and many other activities.

The bone marrow drive held for the benefit of Max Dwares, and the blood drive that ran alongside it were packed with mitzvah day volunteers. In total, 180 people volunteered for bone marrow screenings and 38 units of blood were collected, each amount exceeding expectations.

Gary Shyine, who was chair of Mitzvah Day and a member of SAC for the past six years, described Mitzvah Day as a two level process. The first level includes actions taken against existing social problems, with blood and food and clothing drives. The other level, said Shyine's, "beneath the surface... to teach children that mitzvahs are an important part of Judaism."

Shyine's wife, Dr. Ellen Berlinsky, also chairs the event. She said that this year's Mitzvah Day had over 400 participants, and that participation was required for all of Beth El's religious school students. "This is what it is to be a Jew," she said. "[We try to] let the larger community know that Jews do this sort of thing." Her son, Adam, also coordinated the event.

Outdoor clean-ups took place at India Point Park in Providence and in Blackstone Park in Pawtucket. The clothing and book drive held at Beth El brought up hundreds of books for donation, and their clothing drive brought in "professional" clothing that would be given to people who would be leaving federal assistance programs for employment opportunities.

Genie Shau coordinated a playground clean-up at the Varieur School in Pawtucket. She had about 25 volunteers helping her pick up litter, clean up graffiti and remulch the playground. She noted that "the city doesn't do routine maintenance — just repairs." That's where she came in, Shaul said.

For more information about the SAC, call Temple Beth El at 331-6070.



BLOOD DONORS at Beth El lie in the blood-giving position.
Herald photos by Jon Rubin

R.I. Jewish Teens Inspired by D.C. Retreat

by Elana Kiesser

On January 14, 13 Rhode Island Jewish teenagers took the hour-long flight from T.F. Green airport to Baltimore/Washington International Airport, armed with clothes, snacks, toiletries to donate to the homeless, and a completed assignment on Jewish morals and values. The bus ride from the airport to the hotel itself was exciting, as was getting a tour of the capital and arriving at the wrong hotel! When we finally did arrive at the correct one, everyone was excited, and curious about what was going to happen over the next couple of days.

The Community Jewish Civics Initiative Retreat, led by The Washington Institute for Jewish Leadership and Values, took place January 14 through 17, and was comprised of Jewish teenagers from Boca Raton and Broward County, Fla., New Haven, Conn., and, of course, Providence, R.I. The Providence group was led by Rabbi Mark Bloom, of Temple Torat Yisrael, and Miriam Abrams-Stark, youth coordinator at Temple Emanu-El. The purpose of the retreat was to make Jewish kids aware of what was going on today in the government and politics, and to encourage us to get involved, whether it was relating to Israel, the environment, or the then upcoming inauguration of President Bush.

The four days, full of moral discussions, riveting speeches and exciting tours, took place over Martin Luther King Jr. weekend, fittingly. Everything that Dr. King had worked so hard for was

being instilled in the participants of the conference.

It was a hot time to be in D.C., because of the upcoming (and sometimes controversial) presidential inauguration and John Ashcroft confirmation hearings. After getting acquainted with all 92 students, everyone came together for their first official lecture by People for the American Way. A heated discussion then followed about social justice and equality, and a nighttime tour of the monuments, which was led by Jewish college students from the surrounding universities.

The next morning, students chose between preparing food for the homeless, chatting with nursing home residents, cleaning up a park, or packing bags with winter necessities to be handed out at a Martin Luther King Day parade to D.C. residents. After a labor-of-love filled morning, students were given a few hours to tour D.C. on their own. Kids went to a variety of sites, including a visit to George Washington University, a look at Judy Garland's Ruby slippers in the Library of Congress, a (kosher) snack at Hard Rock Cafe, and even a tour of the White House!

The keynote speech on Tuesday morning was given by Rabbi Sid Schwartz, president of the Washington Institute for Jewish Leadership and Values: He convinced us that even teenagers can take action and do good for the world. He mentioned 15-year-old Amber Kaufman, who began by bringing meals to the homeless in

(Continued on Page 15)



MITZVAH DAY DO-GOODERS (left to right) Eric Munsel, Jenny Maclellan, Eric Steinberg and George Trainer work some rakes at the Varieur School in Pawtucket.

Temple Beth-El Sisterhood Holds Fashion Show

by Seth Bromley
Editorial Assistant

Music and fashion were the passion at Temple Beth-El last week, when on the evening of May 17, the Temple Sisterhood held its annual donor event, "A Fabulous Fashion Show."

Ardean Botvin and Melissa Baker were co-chairwomen of the event, which also included a sumptuous dinner and a raffle. The evening's highlight, however, was the fashion show, complete with runway music. State Representative and Temple Beth-El board member David N. Cicilline embodied the role of dapper fashion commentator.

Botvin remarked "The fashion show is fun for the whole family, and that's what the temple represents



Cantor Judith Seplowin



Co-chairwomen Melissa Baker and Ardean Botvin.
Herald photos by Seth Bromley

— the family." Baker thanked all the donors for their contributions, which she said will go to the temple's religious school, and be used to purchase new desks and chairs for the children.

Clothing was provided by local merchants such as Gabrielle Apparel, Sonya's, Tassio Men's Clothing and Sara's Childrens Boutique. Among those offering up their talents on the catwalk were Rabbis Leslie Gutterman and Jonathan Blake, as well as Cantor Judy Seplowin of Temple Beth-El. They and the other volunteer models displayed all manner of spring fashions and formalwear.

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JEWISH COMMUNITY

Rabbi Kaunfer Seminar

(Continued from Page 1)

ence should be, he said, "[something] that deeply affected you as a human being... that changed you... was one of the defining characteristics of your life... and that is not possible to fully articulate — something transcendent." He then asked the audience to share their experience with the person seated next to them, and the room broke out in spirited conversation. After a minute, Wachs then asked individuals to share their experience with the group. Several people described their first journey to Israel as such an experience, while another talked about the passing of a close relative. The common thread of the stories was not that they were happy moments or sad moments, but that, as Wachs said, "they point beyond, to the realm of the transcendent."

Wachs then commented: "The rabbis who have shaped Judaism [have been] skeptical towards what we would associate with mysticism." Wachs meant that Judaism rejects many of the ways in which people throughout history have attempted to reach mystical and transcendent experiences. For example, some religions teach that a state of solitude and solitary prayer can put one in touch with the mystical. Judaism, however, uses the concept of a minyan (the requirement that 10 men be present to pray), which reinforces the idea that "you must fulfill your life through living in a community," said Wachs.

He then added that some religions believe asceticism or celibacy can lead to the realm of the mystical, and pointed out that Judaism also discourages these behaviors. "Unlike those religions in which [celibacy] is a prerequisite," Wachs said, Jewish spiritual leaders are almost required to have a family. Having a family of his or her own gives a rabbi a better understanding of the breadth of human experience, and therefore makes him or her better able to relate to the congregates.

Wachs also said that materialism, which some religions claim is an obstacle to spiritual-

ity, is not seen as such by Judaism, because one cannot have enough time to devote to worship and religious study "if you're spending all your time just trying to feed yourself."

Wachs said that true mysticism can be manifested during certain "moments in the here and now." These moments, he said, "which you know you can't measure... have a dimension of depth that can't be defined." A visit to Israel, davening, carrying out mitzvot and creating or enjoying music and art, are some examples that Wachs gave of things that put us in touch with the mystical.

"All human beings are naturally spiritual," said Wachs.

He mentioned a recent study in which interviews were conducted with 100 Jews who had converted to other religions. He said the researchers' original hypothesis was that these Jews had converted due to strained relationships with their families. Wachs said that the results showed evidence of something else entirely — that many of the converts believed that "being Jewish was an ethnic thing," and that Judaism was not fulfilling their spiritual needs.

Wachs believes there are five ways that individuals commonly express their spiritual side and experience transcendence: through religious observance, through appreciation of nature, through stimulation of their intellect, through appreciation of the aesthetically beautiful and through social action in a community. "The community must cater to all these types," said Wachs. He warned against too much focus on religious observance and tradition, to the detriment of the other four paths. He said that Judaism should remain open to allowing individuals to take whichever of these various paths they are most comfortable with, in order to sustain and nurture their natural spirituality. He said that the alternative might result in more and more Jews looking elsewhere for spiritual guidance. "We must restore the balance between the ethnic and the spiritual or Jews will leave the community," he said.

capture this spirit of Sinai... with kindness for one another."

This year's Leadership Development Awards were given to outstanding individuals in the Jewish community who were active in service to their community, who act as leaders and who inspire others to lead. When the awards were to be given out, a multi-media presentation was shown that contained clips of family, friends and colleagues thanking and



SUSAN FROEHLICH, recipient of the Riesman Leadership Development Award, says a few words of thanks of after receiving her award.

Herald photo by Jon Rubin

congratulating the award recipients for doing what they do best and for setting such fine examples.

Alan Hassenfeld, Chairman and CEO of Hasbro, Inc., was awarded the Joseph W. Rens Community Service Award. Among his many achievements in the Jewish community, Hassenfeld has served on the Board of Directors of the JCCRI, is a recipient of the JFRI's Never Again Award, and currently serves on the Board of Directors of the JFRI. Hassenfeld's award was presented by Joan Rens Reeves.

Susan Froehlich, who is soon to be the next president of the Women's Alliance, was given the Riesman Leadership Development Award. Froehlich has served many positions in the JFRI over the years, as well as serving on the boards of the Alperin Schechter Day School and Temple Emanu-El. Froehlich's award was presented by Robert Riesman, and the award

JFRI Annual Meeting

(Continued from Page 1)

will enable her to attend the General Assembly of the United Jewish Communities in Washington, D.C.

David Resnick, who serves on numerous boards, including Jewish Seniors Agency, the Jewish Family Service, Partnership 2000, and the Federation's Strategic Planning Steering committee, and the Bureau of Jewish Education, amongst others, was presented with the Merrill L. Hassenfeld Leadership in Com-

President: Robert Mann
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President Robert Mann said that the Federation is primarily centered on the East Side Jewish community and that this is something he would like to change. Mann announced his intent to focus on "centralized community planning," which would entail placing focus groups in different communities to increase feedback to the Federation. "Cranston," Mann said, "is only ten minutes away... [T]hey feel like they're 10,000 miles away." The Federation, Mann said, will fully utilize its eight area vice presidents in this task.

Mann also announced that the Federation has raised \$62,500 for a new Israeli ambulance to replace the one destroyed in the Intifada. The money will go towards purchasing a new ambulance in the city of Afula, which is connected to Rhode Island through the Federation. Mann announced that Rhode Island is the first state in the United States to replace an ambulance.

community Service Award. Resnick's Award was presented by Alan Hassenfeld, and will enable Resnick to travel to Israel to learn about the local community's relationship to Israel.

The installation of the new slate of officers and members of the board of directors for the JFRI was officiated by Harris Rosen. The new officers and board members for the years 2001-2002 are:



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Shavuot at Chabad House in Providence

Celebrate Shavuot, the Festival of the Giving of the Torah! On May 28, hear the Ten Commandments. Services are at 10:30 a.m., the Ten Commandments at 11:30 a.m., followed by a festive holiday luncheon and children's program with sweets and ice-cream.

Bring the kids and make an investment in Yiddishe Nachas. On May 29 service begins at 10 a.m. with Yizkor services at 11 a.m.

There will be an all-night Torah-Learn-a-Thon on May 27 from 12 a.m. to dawn. Study groups, discussions and much more. Services will be held at the Chabad House, 360 Hope St., Call 273-7328.



Jewish War Veterans

Susan Adler and Estelle Klemer of the Jewish Seniors Agency JERI program, with veterans Jerome Herman and Herman Blumenthal at the Rhode Island Veterans Home. Cantor Judy Sepulwin of Temple Beth-El was also on hand to entertain the troops.

Herald photo by Seth Bromley

FEATURE

American Cancer Society's Relay Celebrates Life and Hope of Conquering Cancer

The American Cancer Society's Greater Providence Relay for life, set for June 1 and 2 at Mt. Pleasant High School in Providence, is more than just a fund-raiser to support the fight against cancer. It's also a celebration of the fact that hundreds of local residents have survived cancer and a fun way for residents of the Greater Providence area to take up the fight.

According to Carol Trudel, event chairperson, the American Cancer Society expects to raise \$100,000 during the relay. More than 70 teams of walkers and runners from local businesses, families, and community organizations are expected to sign up, she said. "Each team will keep at least one team member on the track throughout the day and night," she said. "Walkers collect sponsorship money from friends, family members, and co-workers, which supports the American Cancer Society's programs of research and local services."

Among the expected participants are 300 cancer survivors, Trudel said. Survivors will walk the first lap of the relay at 6 p.m.

Tribute will also be paid to those who currently have cancer or who have died. A special candlelight ceremony at 8:30 p.m. will feature luminaria — candles that bear the names of loved ones affected by cancer.

Funds raised during the relay will support American Cancer Society cancer control programs. The American Cancer Society is also a source for comprehensive information about cancer through its (800) ACS-2345 number, which connects callers to services offered to local patients and those who love them. The information line and Web site <www.cancer.org> operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week, in English and Spanish.

Solid Hiring Gains Forecast for Providence

A bright jobs outlook is on the horizon for the Providence area, based on the newest poll of employers' labor needs for the third quarter. Manpower Inc. recently released the latest findings of the Employment Outlook Survey.

For the July through September period, 33 percent of the companies interviewed plan to augment workforce levels while 3 percent indicate reductions are warranted, according to Manpower spokesperson Sheldon Sollosy. Another 64 percent ex-

pect payrolls to remain steady.

"Last quarter, employers were not quite as optimistic when 27 percent forecast adding workers and 3 percent anticipated reductions," Sollosy said. "A year ago at this time the outlook was healthy as 33 percent thought increases were likely and 13 percent were intending to cut back."

Looking ahead, job prospects appear best in construction, and durable and non-durable goods manufacturing. Mixed readings come from wholesale trade.

R.I. Food Security Survey Shows Increase of Hunger Among Poorest Families

One in four families living in low-income neighborhoods do not have enough money to buy the food they need to feed their families, according to the results of a survey released recently by the Rhode Island Department of Health. The survey, which is part of the Rhode Island Food Security Monitoring Project, measures food insecurity and hunger that is a direct result of restricted financial resources.

Food insecurity is defined as "limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe food or limited or uncertain ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways." Based on information collected in the survey, households are categorized as either food secure, food insecure hunger" have adults and children who experience physical sensation of hunger.

Adults in 401 randomly se-

lected Rhode Island households living in low-income neighborhoods responded to the telephone survey. Among families defined as food insecure, 43 percent suffered from hunger. This is an increase from the 1999 survey where 36 percent were determined to be suffering from hunger.

"We are concerned about the increase in the number of families experiencing hunger, since hunger can be a precursor to more serious health problems," said Patricia A. Nolan, M.D., MPH, director of the Rhode Island Department of Health. "Most alarming is that one in three families with children are food insecure."

The survey also shows that food insecurity in Rhode Island households varies according to factors, such as:

- Annual incomes less than 100 percent of the federal poverty level (62.8 percent),

- Unemployed adults (52.4 percent),
- Single parent with child (42 percent),
- Hispanic ethnicity (42 percent).

A significant percentage of families who met income criteria for federal food and nutrition programs, such as WIC and Food Stamps, did not use these programs. Community-based food programs, such as SERVE, are also underutilized. These findings point to the need for improved outreach to families. "Improving participation in some of these valuable food and nutrition programs may be part of the solution to improving food security among these families at risk of hunger," says Nolan.

The full report of the 2000 Rhode Island Food Security Monitoring Project can be found on the Department of Health Web site <www.health.state.ri.us>.

Antique Appraisal and Wine Tasting Festival at Hamilton House

Hamilton House Community Center for Active Seniors is hosting an Antique Appraisal and Wine Tasting Festival on June 8 from 4 to 6 p.m. This event is open to the public and is being held at the Hamilton House on 276 Angell St., Providence. The event features a live jazz band, wine and cheese tasting, hors d'oeuvres, and appraisals by topnotch appraisers from CRN Auctions, Inc. of Cambridge, Mass., and N. David Scott of Providence, R.I.

Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door and include admission, wine and cheese tastings, music, and hors d'oeuvres. Up to three verbal appraisals per admission of American and European Art & Antiques, jewelry, porcelain, and silver sold separately at event for \$5 each with admission from 4 to 6 p.m. For tickets, call 831-1800 or come in to Hamilton House Community Center at 276 Angell St., Providence, on Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Health and Happiness Workshops at EPOCH

EPOCH Assisted Living on Blackstone Boulevard located at 353 Blackstone Boulevard, Providence, is hosting free Health and Happiness Workshops every Tuesday night from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the residence.

Dr. Dolores Seymour, author, motivational speaker, columnist and holistic counselor will conduct this weekly educational series. Come learn about stress management, relaxation, positive thinking and much more. This event is free, open to the public and light refreshments will be served. For details, call Julie Fox at 273-6565.

Enjoy Cycling — With Heart!

The American Heart Association's Heart Ride 2001 will take place on June 3 in the beautiful countryside of Westport, Little Compton and Sakonnet, in R.I.

Individuals, families, children and corporate teams are all invited to join the fun, non-competitive biking event. Three course lengths will be available. The 100K starts at 8:30 a.m., the 50K at 9 a.m. and the 25K at 9:30 a.m. All participants must wear a bike helmet.

Registration prior to June 1 is \$50; \$75 on the day of the ride. Sponsorship forms will also be available and anyone generating \$250 in sponsorship will have the registration fee waived.

Serving as honorary co-chairs are NBC10's R.J. Heim, who also served last year, and WSNE's David Jones of the morning Jones & Joan show. Sponsors are Southcoast Health System, Sakonnet Vineyards, Westport Vineyards, Fall River Ford and <oso.com>. Cycle service will be provided by Providence Bicycle. Other sponsors are: RI Quahog Company, Spring Valley Natural Water,

The Cookie Outlet; New York Bagel, Fruit & Bagel, Wainer & Son, and Whites of Westport.

Funds raised support cardiovascular research and education to reduce death and disability from this country's number one and number three causes of death — heart disease and stroke.

Prizes ranging from T-shirts to a hotel weekend on the Cape are available at different sponsor levels. For more information, call the American Heart at (888) 863-4052.



Big Brothers Humanitarian Award Dinner Set for May 30

The 24th annual Big Brothers of Rhode Island Robert "Cy" Killian Humanitarian Award Dinner will be held on May 30 at the Providence Marriott. This year we will be honoring Edward P. Garrahy Sr. for his extraordinary dedication and hard work in support of our work with fatherless boys.

Garrahy is a member of the board of directors of Big Brothers and his generosity and concern are key ingredients to our agency's success. He serves as our auctioneer at our Sports/Celebrity Auction.

Garrahy coached basketball and baseball at both St. Patrick's and Blessed Sacrament parishes, where he won numerous State and New England titles in both sports.

Garrahy was honored in 2000 as an inaugural inductee into the R.I. Basketball Officials Hall of Fame.

The toastmaster for this exciting dinner will be Ed's brother, former governor, the Hon. J. Joseph Garrahy.

The guest speaker for the evening will be Steve Grogan, the great New England Patriots quarterback.

Cocktails begin at 6:30 p.m. and dinner at 7:30 p.m. All proceeds go to Big Brothers of Rhode Island.

Tickets are \$50 per person. Call the Big Brothers office at 432-9955 for more information.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Song of Ascent

Short Stories by
Gabriella Golinger

(Raincoast Books, May 2001,
\$14.95)

Song of Ascent is an eloquent contemplation on Jewish history and culture through the lives of the Bimbaum family and friends. These linked stories — some darkly disturbing and painful and some bitterly humorous — come from Golinger's own uneasy relationship with her Jewish identity. "The characters in *Song of Ascent* are outsiders. Each is caught in a struggle between past and present. It is an interesting, though sometimes painful, place to be," says Golinger.

and Holocaust survivor, she ultimately finds the tension between the ever-present weight of history and her torrid affair with an older, married man to be suffocating. "She is dreaming corpses, she is falling into a pit, she is buried under a professor." Golinger's nuanced ambivalence in writing about this relationship is indicative of her sensitivity in portraying her characters' struggle with their complex, haunting history.

"Poetic and poignant... Golinger infuses her immigrant portraits with humanity, blending metaphor and psychology."

— *Publishers Weekly*

Gabriella Golinger was co-winner of the Journey Prize in

URI'S Fine Arts Gallery Presents 'Lighthouse'

An ambitious exhibition in multiple media opens in the Main Gallery June 2, timed to coincide with the featured west



coast artist's 30th reunion from the University of Rhode Island. Ernest Silva, '71 B.F.A. and a native Rhode Islander, was launched in his artistic career by his formative training at the university, where through its art department he first became part of an art community that sparked, as he recalls, his "confidence and curiosity... The classes and facilities provided a foundation in painting and sculpture that I still rely on today..."

Only a year after his URI graduation (1972) and before going on to earn his M.F.A. degree from the Tyler School of Art at Temple University (1974),

Silva began what has grown into an impressively thick exhibition history. His creative work has, by now, been shown in more than 45 one-person shows and more than 100 group shows. Previous monographic exhibitions include those held at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston; Artists Space, New York; Laguna Museum of Art, California; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Roskilde, Denmark and numerous gallery exhibitions in New York, Chicago and Los Angeles. Since 1979, Silva has been a professor of visual arts at the University of California, San Diego.

The premier Main Gallery, Fine Arts Center, will become the setting for "Lighthouse," an exhibition of inter-related recent works which will weave together paintings, sculpture carved from basswood, and an installation by the artist. Silva practices a fluidly representational yet emotive form of artmaking that is accessible to audiences of all ages. The major theme of "Lighthouse" is the process of how any individual navigates life as a combination of lived ex-

perience and speculation. The artist projects the special exhibition developed for the Main Gallery as a "journey expressed through images of men and women, islands, lighthouses, a boat's movement through the ocean: intimations of experiences of memory, longing, desire — the search for fulfillment..."

On June 2, from 3 to 3:45 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center Printmaking Studio (Room F107), Silva, Barbara Pagh and Jeff Bertwell will discuss the behind-the-scenes deliberations that are necessary to collaborative printmaking, and demonstrate



the workings of the impressive Dufa IV offset press supporting their successful enterprise. The opening reception for the exhibition will follow at 4 p.m. in the gallery. Call 874-2775.

The Marriage of Art and Science

Perhaps the best known of Everett Dance Theatre's educational programming, "The Marriage of Art and Science" is a fun interactive exploration of basic physics. Families join in the action as they stand on the giant lever and fulcrum, lie on the bed of nails, or start the cause and effect machine. Dynamic movement sequences and exciting experiments create a memorable and meaningful experience guaranteeing that everyone will still be thinking about science long after the performance is over.

"The Marriage of Art and Science" is the fourth in the Families and Friends series of Saturday morning performances at the Carriage House, 7 Duncan Ave., Providence. The series was created to provide fun and informational programs for children and families. This show is geared toward elementary and middle school-aged children.

"The Marriage of Art and Science" will be May 26 at 11 a.m. Tickets are \$5. For reservations, call 831-9479.

Cheap Food at the Cost of Cheap Lives

"Commercial fishing is at the heart of New England's economy, history and culture in the same way that farming is an important part of our collective American culture. Having photographed fishermen in our riskiest profession, and farm workers laboring in America's second riskiest job, I was struck by the parallel nature of their lives."

— David H. Wells, 2001

Rhode Island-based photojournalist David H. Wells declares directly in the statement quoted above — addressing the genesis of his project to be presented to the public for the first time at the University of Rhode Island — that he became motivated to use his photography to document the timely and compelling cultures of two fundamental American professions which normally are not portrayed in parallel. But with the upcoming debut of his project, appropriately to a broad New England audience, Wells' argument is manifest powerfully and convincingly.

Viewers of Wells' confident photographic project, on view

in the Corridor Gallery, beginning June 1, will witness the parallel struggles that both fishermen and farm workers undergo thanks to consumer demand. Viewers may then come to recognize what had been their disregard for what is ultimately a very human "supply" — the working people who make food available to us.

Wells uses his art to argue that our knowledge as consumers is generalized, random and inconsistent. It is at odds with the maritime and agrarian food suppliers' remarkably parallel lives that reflect the daily consequences for their work either of following tradition or undertaking innovation, and their persistent struggle with economic/social conditions like workplace injury, inhospitable work environments and downward spiraling pay.

Fishermen of Point Judith, R.I. and Gloucester, Mass., generously allowed Wells to go to sea with them to learn about and photograph their lives. In the 1980s, with the help of the

Nikon/National Press Photographers Association Documentary Sabbatical grant, Wells photographed farm workers in the central valley of California. More recently, he entered the lives of farm workers in Camden, Maine. Together, these documented experiences form the basis of Wells' distinctive photographic project to debut at the University of Rhode Island.

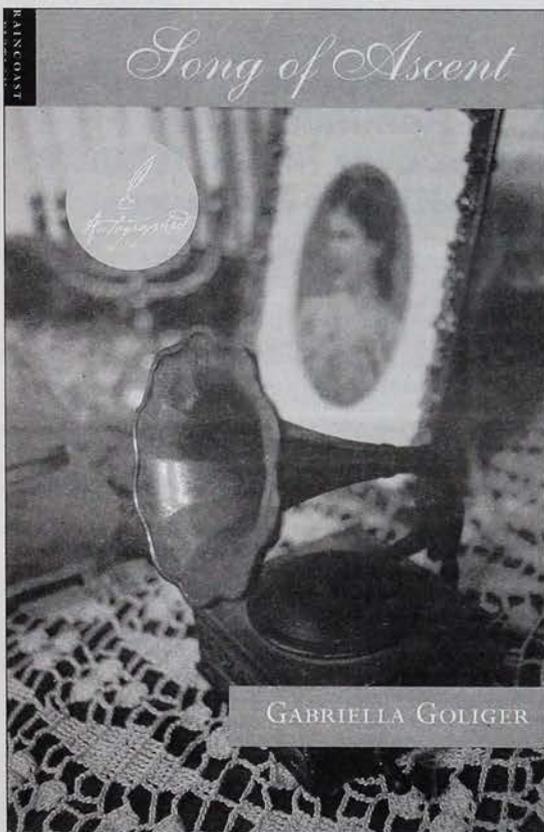
On Sept. 20 at 4 p.m., there will be a closing reception with comments by the artist.

Corridor hours are daily, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. All programs of the Fine Arts Center Galleries are open to the public without charge. Call 874-2775.

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"What makes their struggles particularly poignant, even absurd at times, is their marginalization from mainstream Jewish life."

In "Maedele," Rachel is having an illicit affair with Professor Blutstein, a Yiddish poet and scholar who passionately advocates for an understanding of the Jews' ancient history and their present-day role. Blutstein says, "The Jewish soul bears witness, suffers, has a destiny — to redeem the world by exposing the tyranny of empires and to reassert Jewish sovereignty, which is happening right now, this very moment." While Rachel is flattered to have been singled out by this great poet

1997 for her story, *Maladies of the Inner Ear*. Her story *Song of Ascent* was nominated for the same prize in 1995 and won the PRISM International Short Story Contest in 1993. Golinger has been published in *Coming Attraction 98* (Oberon, 1998) and in *Best New American Voices 2000* (Harcourt, 2000) and is slated to appear in an anthology of Jewish-Canadian writing forthcoming from University of Nebraska Press. She has a B.A. from McGill University and an M.A. in English literature from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. She now makes her home in Ottawa but has also lived in Montreal, Baffin Island, England and Israel.

Watercolor Society Opens New Exhibit

The Rhode Island Watercolor Society is having a four-person exhibit showing the works of Ellen Helman, Nancy Paull, Barbara Rhian, and Edward Weber from June 3 through June 29, with an opening reception on June 3 from 1 to 4 p.m. The exhibit, which is held at the society's gallery in Slater Memorial Park in Pawtucket, is free and open to the public. Call 726-1876 for more information.



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Summer Shakespeare Returns

Trinity Summer Shakespeare Project Announces Fourth Season

Trinity Rep's highly acclaimed Summer Shakespeare Project is back for a fourth season. For the past three summers, the performances have entertained audiences all over southern New England with its pared-down, fast-paced, extremely accessible and incredibly fun productions of Shakespeare's greatest plays. Last summer more than 22,000 people throughout New England experienced what *The Providence Journal* called "truly live theater—filled with energy and excitement."

This summer the lively troupe returns with two brand new productions that are sure to delight—"Macbeth" and "A Midsummer Nights Dream." The season runs from June through August, with performances at various outdoor venues in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and New York. Performances at Waterplace Park are funded by the City of Providence Department of Public Parks, office of cultural affairs. To find out more about how to bring free outdoor Shakespeare to your neighborhood, contact Dee Davis at 521-1100, ext. 223.

"Macbeth," Shakespeare's fiercest tragedy, resonates with intrigue for today's audiences. A man and a woman will stop at nothing to be king and queen—not even the most explosive treachery—but their blinding lust for power cannot change destiny. Trinity Summer Shakespeare's rip-roaring production moves at lightning speed, keeping you on the edge of your seat. "Macbeth" will be directed by Mark Sutch.

"A Midsummer Night's Dream," Shakespeare's hilarious tale serves up lovers fleeing arranged marriages, yokels rehearsing a rustic comedy, and fairies dispensing love potions—what could be better? As this cast of unforgettable characters prepares for a royal wedding, the woods come alive with midsummer madness! "A Midsummer Nights Dream" will be directed by associate artistic director, Amanda Dehnert.

Led by current and former Trinity Conservatory students, the Summer Shakespeare Project is an independent project that showcases the younger generation of theater artists. Created in the spirit of the conservatory, it brilliantly illustrates the talent and imagination of both the students and

other players. This year's cast features Andy Macdonald as Macbeth. Macdonald recently performed as Pip in "The New England Sonata" on Trinity Rep's main stage. He appeared as Lucius in last season's Summer Shakespeare production of

Marie Holmes and Alex Platt, both of whom performed in this past season's Trinity Rep production of "School for Scandal," and newcomers Miriam Silverman and Aaron Andrade.

Call 521-1100 for a schedule of dates and locations.



CAESAR (Joy Besozzi) is supported by her fellow Romans, including Cato (Laura Ames), in Trinity Summer Shakespeare Project's 2000 production of "Julius Caesar." Directed by Amanda Dehnert, "Julius Caesar" was performed at outdoor venues throughout Southern New England from June through August, 2000. Photo by Dina Croce

"Julius Caesar" and as Lucentio in "Taming of the Shrew." Jay Bragan, who previously played Marc Anthony in "Julius Caesar" and Tranio in "Taming of the Shrew," returns this summer, as well as conservatory graduate Kerri Brown who will be playing Lady Macbeth. Brown performed two years ago in "Twelfth Night" and "Romeo and Juliet" and was last seen on the Trinity Rep as Mrs. Crachit in this season's "A Christmas Carol." Also performing in both productions are Trinity Rep Conservatory students Andy Gaukel and Lian-

Marc P. Smith CD Signing at Walden Books

Worcester playwright, director, author Marc P. Smith will be at Walden Books in the Natick Mall on June 2, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. to talk about his spoken word CD, "My Life... In Smithereens" and to sign copies of his CDs and cassettes.

Written and narrated by Smith, this CD memoir is compelling aural history, as told by a New England father to his sons. This first volume of the CD is subtitled "Roots" and is the first of a projected four volume series. Through the prism of one man and his family, time moves back and forth from the presents, to Czarist oppression, to the Holocaust, and to the 1950s in a crazy-quilt of

personal memories and world-shaking events.

Critics have called "Smithereens," "...a captivating listening experience"; "heart-warming and heart-wrenching at the same time"; and "totally engrossing."

Having co-founded Worcester Foothills Theatre in 1974 and serving as its executive producer/artistic director for 25 years, Smith's retirement from that position two years ago gave him the opportunity to begin this project. The actual catalyst for these memoirs was the request by both of his sons that he put together his biography for them.

For information, call (508) 653-3858.



Haffenreffer Museum Reminds Public to Discover Rhode Island's Hidden Treasures

From airplanes to art, from historic houses to harbors—the wide range of Rhode Island's cultural and historical museums offers Rhode Islanders and visitors to the Ocean State a variety of choices.

At the Haffenreffer Museum, we're stretching our celebration of May is Museum Month to June 2. From 9 a.m. to noon, join Strong Woman (Julianne Jennings), a Wampanoag-Pequot artist and educator, to learn about Native American baskets and to make your own small cat-tail basket. Bring a lunch and picnic on the Haffenreffer Museum's grounds afterwards.

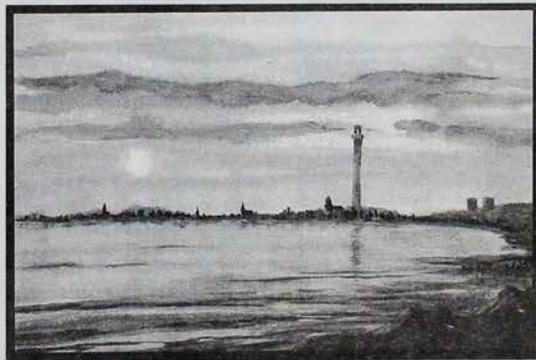
Fees are \$8 per person or \$20 per family, which includes all materials and entrance to the museum. No basket-weaving experience is necessary, but advance registration is required. Call 253-8388 or 253-1610 to register.

The Haffenreffer Museum of Anthropology, Brown's "university museum," holds collections of more than 100,000 artifacts from the native peoples of the Americas, Africa, Asia and the Pacific. It is recognized as one of the leading anthropological teaching museums in the Northeast. The museum's four intimate galleries offer a stimulating setting in which to learn about other peoples and their cultures. The Haffenreffer Museum is located in Bristol, R.I., on traditional lands of the Wampanoag peoples.

New Exhibit at Dodge House Gallery

Brian Larkin presents "Seasons in the Sand: Race Point & Provincetown," an exhibition of new work, showing from June 3 to 15.

The public is invited to an opening reception on June 2 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Dodge House Gallery, 11 Thomas Gallery, Providence. Call 331-1114. Gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays, 2 to 4 p.m. weekends. (At right) "Provincetown: A Remembered Vision."



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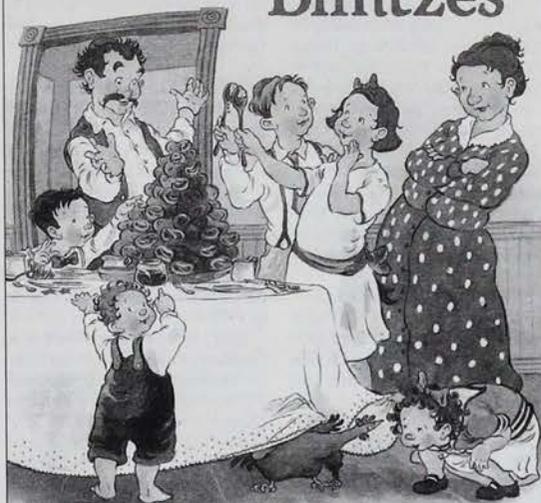
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



A Mountain of Blintzes



BARBARA DIAMOND GOLDIN
ILLUSTRATED BY ANIK McGRORY

A Mountain of Blintzes

by Barbara Diamond Goldin

Each spring Sarah, Max, and their five children look forward to celebrating Shavuot with a mountain of delicious blintzes. But this year Sarah and Max are worried. Their pockets are empty and with no money to spare, how can they afford to make a special treat like blintzes?

Join this big-hearted family in preparations for Shavuot, the Jewish holiday celebrating the day Moses received the Ten Commandments, and discover — as they do in a round-about way that's sure to spark giggles — the true meaning of cooperation.

A Mountain of Blintzes by Barbara Diamond Goldin (Gulliver Books, 2001, \$16.00)

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

Klezmer Conservatory Band at Temple Emanu-El

Performs at SAGE Concert June 5

Sometimes soulful, sometimes joyous, always mesmerizing... the ever-popular music of an Ensemble from the Klezmer Conservatory Band will entertain the audience at the SAGE concert on June 5, at 12:30 p.m. at Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave. in Providence. The ensemble provides a lively program that invites listeners to dance, tap their feet, clap their

formed with Itzhak Perlman and Joel Grey, and is known both across the country and in-

ternationally. She teaches and leads Yiddish song and dance, plays tambourine and a traditional style drum and cymbal called a "poyk." Audiences in-



Mark Hamilton



Art Bailey



Jim Guttman

hands and participate in the celebratory atmosphere they create.

ceived rave reviews for both her technical artistry and her ability to communicate with her audience. The ensemble also includes Art Bailey, a master of the piano and accordion, bass-



Ilene Stahl



Grant Smith



Judy Bressler

Many will be familiar with the featured vocalist, Judy Bressler, who is a founding member of the Klezmer Conservatory Band. A native New Yorker, Bressler is a third generation entertainer who has per-

variably respond enthusiastically to her animated performances, superb vocal talents, gift for telling the story of the

ist Jim Guttman, trombonist Mark Hamilton and Grant Smith on drums.

Tickets are \$3 each; the concert is open to all seniors who wish to attend. For tickets or information, call Jewish Family Service at 331-1244.

New Exhibits Celebrate Women in the Arts

Gallery Agniel and Perishable Theatre present "Rhode Island Women in The Visual Arts 2001" in conjunction with the ninth annual Women's Playwriting Festival.

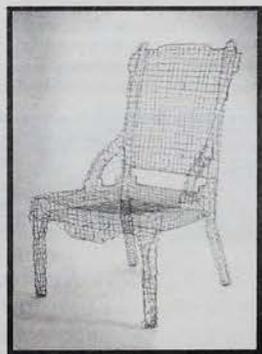
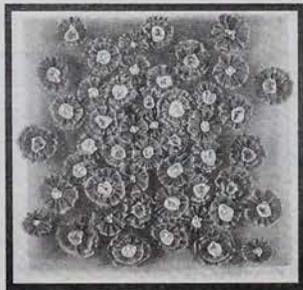
Featured artists are Jill Colinan, at The Hive Archive StreetSpace, 14 Olneyville Square; Elizabeth Keithline, at The Lerner Building at Westminster and Eddy streets, downtown Providence; and Cristin Searles, at Perishable Theatre, 95 Empire St., downtown Providence.

The exhibit will be open from May 24 to June 14. Receptions at the Lerner building and RICH are being held May 24, 5 to 8 p.m.

Gallery hours are as follows: at Perishable Theatre, Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and 90 minutes before performances; at RICH, Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; at Lerner's by appointment only; and at the Hive Archive StreetSpace, visible 24 hours a day. For appointments, call Gallery Agniel at 272-1522.

This exhibit made possible by the Providence Tourism Council, Buff Chace and Cornish Associates, the Rhode Island Committee for the Humanities, and Blake's Tavern.

Call 331-2695, ext. 101 for more information about the ninth annual Women's Playwriting Festival.



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OBITUARIES

YETTA CHURCHIN

MIDDLETOWN — Yetta Jacqueline "Lincourt" Churchin (Blumberg), 80, of 600 Valley Road, Middletown, a retired medical transcriptionist, died May 14 at Newport Hospital. She was the wife of the late Abraham Churchin and the former wife of the late Leo J. Lincourt.

Born in Latvia, a daughter of the late Harry and Nesse (Hertzbach) Blumberg, she came to the United States in 1927 and lived in Springfield, Mass., until moving to Rhode Island in 1942. She moved to the west coast in 1968 and lived in Westminster, Calif., and Las Vegas for 17 years before returning to Rhode Island in 1985.

She graduated from the former Sweeney School of Business and was a medical transcriptionist for more than 25 years before retiring in 1994.

She was a former member of Temple Beth David of Narragansett and a member of NAMI.

She is survived by her daughter, Joan Garfinkel of Narragansett and two grandchildren. She was the sister of the late Faye Kaufman and Israel and Frank Blumberg.

A graveside service was held in Palm Valley View Memorial Park, Las Vegas and a memorial service will be held June 3 at Temple Beth David, Kingstown Road, Narragansett. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be

made to Temple Beth David, Kingstown Road, Narragansett, R.I. 02882. The family was assisted with the arrangements by Sugarman-Sinai Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

WILLIAM R. GOLDBERG

PAWTUCKET — Former Chief Family Court Judge William R. Goldberg, 90, of East Avenue, a past president of the Rhode Island Bar Association, died May 14 at South County Hospital, South Kingstown.

Goldberg had served as a judge on the state Family Court for 18 years before being appointed the court's chief judge in 1986, by then-Gov. Edward D. DiPrete, at the age of 74.

A 1932 graduate of Brown University and 1935 Harvard Law School, he had maintained a private law practice in Pawtucket for 33 years.

From 1954 to 1966, he served as the Pawtucket probate judge. Appointed to the state Family Court in 1968, he retired from the court as its chief judge in 1987.

After retiring, Judge Goldberg chaired the special commission — convened by Gov. DiPrete — that examined construction delays and cost overruns on the Jamestown-Verrazano Bridge and presented its findings in a 1988 report.

He also served as a member of the Governor's Task Force for Judicial Reform and was active

in the American Law Institute, a national organization dedicated to the clarification and simplification of the law.

In 1992, he was called back to the state Family Court, as a part-time judge, to help clear its backlog of cases.

He was often described by his colleagues as a "no-nonsense" judge who displayed both patience and courtesy on the bench. Judge Goldberg had served as chairman of the Interdisciplinary Professional Committee for Retarded and Abused Children.

A member and past president of the Rhode Island Bar Association, he was a fellow of the American Bar Association. He also had been a member of, and state delegate to, the House of Delegates of the American Bar Association.

He was a past president of the Harvard Law School Association of Rhode Island.

Judge Goldberg was the husband of the late Temperance C. (MacConnel) Goldberg. Born in Pawtucket, a son of the late Jacob and Ida (Cohen) Goldberg, he was a lifelong resident of the city.

A member of the board of the Pawtucket Boys Club for many years, he was a member of the T.K. Club, the Mount Tom Club, the Elks Club, the Kiwanis Club and the Matunuck Point Beach Club.

He was a member of Temple Beth-El.

He leaves three sons, Robert D. Goldberg, a former Rhode Island Senate minority leader, and Thomas D. Goldberg, both of the Matunuck section of South Kingstown, and Lawrence L. Goldberg of Narragansett; and a

daughter, Julie A. Potter of Beverly, Mass. He was the brother of the late Max, Hyman, Samuel and Harry Goldberg, Bessie Pomerans, Esther Gopen and Anna Kolodny.

The funeral service was held May 16 in Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. Burial was in Swan Point Cemetery, Providence. In lieu of flowers, contributions in his memory may be made to the Boys & Girls Club of Pawtucket, 53 East Ave., Pawtucket, R.I. 02860 or Temple Beth-El. The family was assisted with the arrangements by Shalom Memorial Chapel, 1100 New London Ave., Cranston, R.I.

ESTELLE GREENBERG

WARWICK — Estelle Pearlman Greenberg, 93, of 1403 Warwick Ave., died May 16. She was the wife of the late Leo Greenberg.

She was active in the R.I. Democratic Party and the former R.I. Jewish Home for the Aged. She was a member of Temple Am David in Warwick and Temple Share Zedek of Providence. She was an active participant of the Jewish Family Meal Program at Temple Torat Yisrael in Cranston. She was an avid piano player and canasta player.

She is survived by three grandchildren, Lori Albert of New Haven, Conn., Brooke Levin of Oakland, Calif., and Jill Levin of Albuquerque, N.M.; and five great-grandchildren. She was the mother of the late Corinne G. Levin.

Funeral services were held on May 20 in the Samuel Priest Memorial Chapel, Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. Memorial

contributions may be sent to The Corinne G. Levin Education Fund, c/o The Graustein Fund, 1 Hamden Center, Suite 2-B, 2319 Whitney Ave., Hamden, Conn. 06518. Funeral arrangements were in the care of the Robert E. Shore Funeral Home, 543 George St., New Haven, Conn.

PHYLLIS F. STEINER

WARWICK — Phyllis F. Steiner, 83, of Pocasset Court, a retired bookkeeper, died May 18 at Rhode Island Hospital.

She was the wife of the late Alfred D. Steiner. Born in Providence, daughter of the late Edward and Bessie (Riffkin) Finberg, she had lived in Providence before moving to Warwick in 1977.

She had been employed as a bookkeeper and office manager for Burton A. Finberg Insurance Agency and later for Haxton Liquor's, retiring in 1987.

She was a member of Temple Beth-El and very active in civic and religious organizations.

She leaves three sons, Edward M. Steiner of Cranston, Barry H. Steiner of La Quinta, Calif., and Mark F. Steiner of Sherborn, Mass.; a sister, Lucille Robinson of Warwick; and seven grandchildren. She was the sister of the late Col. Milton I. and Burton A. Finberg.

The funeral service was held May 20 in Sugarman-Sinai Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to your favorite charity. The family was assisted with the arrangements by Sugarman-Sinai Memorial Chapel.

Bereavement Support Group Available at JFS

The loss of a husband or wife can be devastating. Sometimes a simple incident can spark a memory that re-ignites the pain. Not only is one's soul mate gone, there are mundane considerations like how to do the finances, make social plans, maintain the house and otherwise fulfill the roles that the spouse used to do.

Both men and women who find themselves in this situation can often find comfort in sharing their concerns and discussing practical strategies with others who are widowed. Jewish Family Service is providing a free workshop as the initial meeting for a support group for those who are bereaved on May 31 at 7 p.m. at 229 Waterman St. in Providence.

The program will be led by licensed social worker, Lisa Yanku, an experienced therapist who has worked extensively with those who have been bereaved.

Those interested in attending should call Executive Director Paul L. Segal at Jewish Family Service, at 331-1244 to register. The initial workshop is free, and subsequent meetings of the group will cost a nominal \$5 fee.

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In My Opinion

(Continued from Page 3)

tardly and cowardly act makes us all feel less safe. He not only taught us to fear, he forced us to hate, and it's the hating that diminishes us. How could someone like that have walked among us, without anyone being aware of the danger he presented, until the day he blew all those people into nothingness? It's been easier to focus on him than to listen to the gory details of the bombing or to look at the pictures of those he slaughtered. And as a result, he's receiving more attention than many of his victims. The memorial that was

erected is moving indeed. One hundred and sixty eight empty stone chairs, one for each soul that he took from this earth. Chairs they will never sit in, erected on grounds they will never walk upon.

The question, whether or not we believe in the death penalty, demands a complicated answer. We read in the Bible that people were stoned to death for various crimes and we know that, in more recent times, Adolf Eichmann was put to death. But, few among us want to give, or receive, a blanket answer to

the question. I personally was disappointed to learn that Mr. McVeigh will continue, at least until the eleventh of June, to breathe the same air as the rest of us do. And it's simplistic to assume that the situation will be resolved by that date. It's sad that the F.B.I. messed up, whether by design or by incompetence, and I can't fathom how the families of his victims feel, knowing that, because of the error, his end is still uncertain. This saga has already dragged on longer than many of those children lived.

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FEATURE

The Mystery of Torah

(Continued from Page 3)

ing something either by perception (experience) or information. "Conscious" emphasizes recognition of something sensed or felt. This definition, I realized, is almost identical with the Hebrew word "kavannah," meaning mindfulness, except it lacked the notion of intention, to have a plan or to give something meaning.

With that in mind, I examined a few Kabbalistic texts a little closer to tie some of these thoughts together. The Kabbalah teaches that the fundamental reality is not matter but energy, a set of vibrations that pass through the world, making it dynamic and alive like a person's thoughts or the human soul. Man can feel these energies and control them, change them, and channel them in other directions. Thought is the tool for mastering the energy; it can channel unconscious vibrations into conscious meaning. Each person has the power to perceive his vibrations and bring to light that which was previously hidden. Thus, each person is responsible to himself, his needs and his beliefs. According to Kabbalah, we are capable of changing physical, psychological and spiritual vibrations through thoughts, thus extracting the meaning we require.

Just as awareness applies to life's situations, it applies to Torah as well. Many of us grapple with the text; often leaving us dissatisfied with both the meanings and the answers that we seek. For over two and a half centuries, sages and scholars

have offered commentaries on every aspect of Tanach (the Jewish bible) so that we now possess such exhaustive collections of interpretation, making it impossible for anyone to research it all. These varying and often opposing interpretations encompass thoughts from the sages of antiquity, right down to you and me. But all this material leaves us with nothing more than intellectual satisfaction, while the spiritual benefit is neglected.

Somehow we believe that only scholars are capable of interpreting holy text, but in fact each one of us is qualified to understand the narrative that we require for solidifying our lives.

The meanings of each verse are highly personal; every person will extract precisely what they need for emotional and spiritual fulfillment. Torah study does not test how much information we retain. Each verse, each mitzvah is an opportunity to break through old limits and venture into uncharted territory. Through relentless intent (kavannah), we can break through old barriers of knowledge to see new light. Similarly, from my experience in the bodywork aspect of polarity therapy, each client responds differently to the same touch stimulus; some don't respond at all while others respond in their own unique way depending on what their higher self needs from the session. The lessons the Torah teaches us how we teach ourselves.

The Talmud defines

"kavannah" as directing the heart. By heart, it seems to be implying a kind of higher level thought, a contemplative thought. When we study or observe with *mochin gadlut*, higher mind, we come to understand, as Stevens points out "that change and understanding takes place by itself." Everything we need for our development we already know; it's just a matter of bringing it into consciousness.

By studying Torah and observing our lives with "kavannah," we become able to explore new possibilities of spiritual and emotional dimensions. We can look at a Torah verse or a problem in our lives, focus our awareness upon it and soon utter "aha"; that's it, that's the answer I've been waiting for. It's incredible how much you can realize about your own existence by simply paying close attention to it and becoming more deeply aware of your own experiencing. What the sages have said for centuries is really true: the world is right here—all we have to do is empty our "minds" and open ourselves to receive it.

Velvet "Wally" Spiegler lives in Rehoboth, Mass. He is a certified polarity therapist, registered with advanced standing in the American Polarity Therapy Association; a student and teacher of Jewish Mysticism whose primary interest is in Jewish approaches to the healing of mind, body, and spirit. He can be reached for comments or questions by email to <wally.spiegler@yahoo.com>.

Jewish Teens

(Continued from Page 8)

her neighborhood, and ended up starting Happy Helpers of the Homeless, which now has 30 chapters across the country. Immediately following Rabbi Schwartz's speech, we all hopped on the metro, and traveled to the center of the federal government, Capitol Hill. There were more options to choose from there, including peeking in on the actual Ashcroft hearings, or partaking in a scavenger hunt around Capitol Hill. One of the most exciting and unplanned events was a real live demonstration where pro-Ashcroft and anti-Ashcroft groups came face to face, with big signs and booming voices. That was probably the best example of what Washington, D.C. is all about.

To prepare us for our congressional meetings the following day, we engaged in a mock congress session, where, in small groups, there was a member of Congress, a legislative director, a legislative analyst, a legislative correspondent, and an administrative assistant. Together, we had to decide if the member of Congress was going to vote for or against a bill seeking to close the "gun show loophole", where at National Rifle Association shows, guns can be bought and sold by anyone, without a waiting period. Besides experiencing what Congress goes through every day,

we were told again and again to write our congressmen. Handwritten letters are the most effective form of expressing a constituent's opinion on anything. We also learned that through community service, education, advocacy and voting (though most at the conference were not of age yet), all of the social issues being discussed that week could be tackled.

As kids dragged their luggage down to the lobby on Wednesday morning, everyone was sad to go, but knew that the retreat was not over yet. In fact, the focal point of what all the speakers and all the discussions and all the tours had been trying to teach us was about to take place. Dressed in their "Shabbos best," the kids boarded the metro once again, and went to Capitol Hill, not for a tour this time, but to meet our very own senators.

After all 15 of us piled into Senator Reed's spacious office, he graciously answered questions about Israel, the environment, and his personal opinion on Ashcroft. From there, we made our way to another wing of the Senate building, and arrived at Senator Chafee's office. Although Chafee was unable to attend, a personal aide to the senator was very helpful in answering the questions that we asked.

The purpose of the retreat

was to get Jewish teenagers active and involved in both community service and advocacy. To accomplish this, when we got back to Providence, we agreed to participate in a focus group for professors at the University of Rhode Island on teen domestic violence. Rhode Island is preparing for a campaign in October on abuse in teen relationships, and wanted teenagers' opinions. It was a lively session and a great chance for us to put our leadership skills into practice. We accomplished what the retreat had encouraged us to do all along. Now all we have to do is continue to do mitzvot, write our congressmen, and get involved for the rest of our lives.

Start Your Own Business Workshop

On June 6 from 6 to 8:30 p.m., attend a MicroBusiness Training Program. The Rhode Island MicroEnterprise Association is offering an introductory workshop for starting your own business, marketing your products or services, financing your new business and growing your business. Attendees receive a certificate upon completion of this four-week class. This workshop is free and will take place at the Warwick Public Library, 600 Sandy Lane, Warwick. For more information or to register, call 598-2256.

The Warwick Public Library is handicap accessible.

The Rhode Island MicroEnterprise Association is funded by The R.I. Human Resource Investment Council, The Rhode Island Foundation and Johnson & Wales University.

Free Summer Concert Series Begins at Harborhill Place

The second annual Summer Concert Series at Harborhill Place opens on May 30, at 6:30 p.m. with an outdoor concert featuring vocalist, Peter Filippi. This popular event is held on the beautifully landscaped grounds of Harborhill Place, an independent and assisted living residence located at 159 Division St. in East Greenwich.

Folks should arrive early with their favorite lawn chair or beach blanket to claim a spot on the lawn. The program will include a wide variety of tunes from oldies to today's favorites. Refreshments will be available with all proceeds going to the Make a Wish Foundation.

For further information, contact Jennifer Cipalone, Harborhill Place activities director at 884-2704.

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Lag B'Omer: An Evening of Jewish Humor and Music

A Lag B'Omer celebration with music and dancing was held at the CHAI Chabad House in Providence on May 10. There was barbecue, storytelling, stand-up comedy, free "Yiddishkeit" kits and fun for the whole family.



Pictured above is Chana Rosenfield, who drove circles (literally) around Yitzhak "Nachum" Rosenfield and Fishel Bressler (left).

Auction/Bring a Friend Day Comes to JFS Kosher Mealsite

Going... going... sold! On May 31 there will be an auction of small items at the Jewish Family Service Kosher Mealsite in Cranston, and participants are encouraged to bring a friend to share the fun. During the weeks up to the 31st, people attending the mealsite are invited to bring tchotchkes to donate to the auction. Prices will be in the 25¢ to 50¢ range. The proceeds will be used to fund a field trip or special party for participants.

Many other activities are planned for the month. 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.

In May, regular activities include:

- Bingo — at 11 a.m. on May 24 and 30
- Special Auction/Bring a Friend Day — May 31
- Blood Pressure Check-ups with the JFS Registered Nurses — Twice a month, to be announced
- Women's Discussion Groups — every Friday
- Men's Discussion Groups — every Friday
- Weekly Shabbat Meal —

every Friday

The mealsite will be closed May 28 for Memorial Day and May 29 in observance of Shavuot.

The JFS Kosher Meal site in Cranston is located at Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Avenue. Transportation is available every day for residents of Cranston and areas of Warwick. A small donation (only \$2) is requested for the meal and programs are free. For reservations and information, call Mealsite Coordinator Ronda French at 781-1771 during mealsite hours, or at 331-1244, ext. 42 at any time to leave a message.



Temple Beth-El's 115th Confirmation

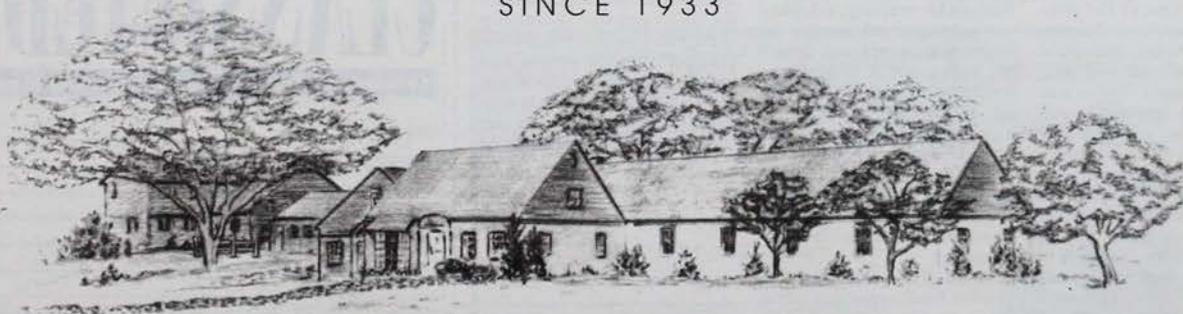
On May 27 at 7:45 p.m., 11 10th-grade students will be confirmed at Temple Beth-El during Erev Shavuot services. Congratulations are extended to the following Confirmands and their families:

Leah Bernstein, Nicholas Freeman, William Goldberg, Joshua Goldstein, Rachel Kirtley, Brian Laferriere, Sydney Linder, Emily Newman, Gordon Schoenfeld, Jolie Steiman, and Robert Strecker.

Leonards

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