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Rhode Island JEWISH HERALD

The Only English-Jewish Weekly in Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts

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Page 4

VOLUME LXXI, NUMBER 47

ELUL 4, THURSDAY, AUGUST 23, 2001

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Big Names Fill Touro For Annual Washington Letter Reading

by Jon Rubin
Herald Editor

Touro Synagogue is famous for more reasons that you might think. Besides being the oldest synagogue in the United States, it is also home to a piece of American history — a letter written by George Washington to "Hebrew Congregation in Newport, Rhode Island."

A number of dignitaries joined invited guests in Newport's famous Touro Synagogue to the annual reading of the famous Washington letter on Aug. 19.

Despite the sweltering heat, all seats were taken for this very special event, which was attended by former Governor Bruce Sundlun, Lt. Gov. Charles Fogarty, Sen. Jack Reed, along with numerous other political leaders, religious leaders, and friends of the synagogue. The event is a creation of The Soci-

ety of Friends of Touro Synagogue, and the letter has been read every year for more than 50 years.

The famous letter was written on Aug. 21, 1790 and contains Washington's praise of the temple's existence as a representation of the religious diversity that America promotes and encourages. Because it was written two years before the Bill of Rights was ratified, it is believed by many to be early proof of Washington's sincere efforts in creating a religiously tolerant nation.

Regarding the letter itself, Sen. Jack Reed remarked that "we affirm these words... [because] tolerance and religious freedom are rights that are always challenged."

Keynote Speaker U.S. Rep. Patrick J. Kennedy invoked the spirit of those who fought for religious freedom, including

Rhode Island founder Roger Williams in addition to Washington.

"[It's] reality that, early in our nation's history, when people's commitment to tolerate those of other faiths was very much in doubt, that our nation was willing to make a commitment," Kennedy said. "And when you consider that the commitment was made by a man known as the 'Father of our Nation' — it's an even more remarkable promise to make."

He continued, saying that "for President Washington to lead a vastly Christian nation and affirm to its citizenry that a small religious minority — whom the majority look upon with a jaundiced eye — have the same, absolute right to practice their faith as unmolested as do the majority is nothing short of momentous."

Kennedy praised Washing-



Sen. Jack Reed was only one of many esteemed guests invited to the reading of the Washington letter at Touro Synagogue.

Herald photo by Jon Rubin

ton's persistent efforts in promoting religious tolerance, not only in his letter to the Jewish community in Newport, but also before communities of numerous faiths, including Quakers, Baptists and Episcopalians.

Kennedy happily announced that a piece of legislature that he introduced to the House of Rep-

resentatives, Resolution 62, which asks to recognize the Touro letter as "one of the most significant early statements buttressing the nascent American constitutional guarantee of religious freedom," recently passed the House Judiciary Committee.

(Continued on Page 4)

Hersh at the Helm

An Interview with USY International President Eitan Hersh

by Jon Rubin
Herald Editor

Walking up to Eitan Hersh's house (okay, his parents' house), I hear loud jazz piano music, which ceases after I ring the doorbell. The door opens, and he is standing there in T-shirt and shiny blue basketball trunks. He invites me in, we sit on the back porch, leisurely munching on Utz's pretzel rods and pleasantly kibbitzing about Jewish community tidbits.

Unassuming and eternally modest, Eitan does a very good job of not tooting his own horn to the fact that he just happens to be International President of United Synagogue Youth, the country's largest Conservative

Jewish youth movement. And, despite the fact that he is only 18, his pensive, patient demeanor is most definitely impressive, and the hefty title of "International President" that he shoulders seems more and more deserved the longer you talk to him.

In general, although Eitan spends a lot of time with the adult administrative leadership of USY, his primary responsibility is tending to the general "Q+A" of other USYers. When asked what his job entails, he said that, "I'm there to give my opinion and to help people." USY works on a two-tiered system — adult-oriented management and kid-oriented events,

and Eitan is the head-honcho for all things young, Jewish, and Conservative.

There are 17 national USY regions, 420 chapters, and over 25,000 members worldwide, and they all have Eitan's e-mail address, and are encouraged to use it for questions or comments. It's not unusual for Eitan to get 40 or more e-mails a day, all of which require answers. "I spend a lot of time in front of a computer," he confessed.

Times were tough for Eitan when he was initially elected in December of 2000. From that point until the end of May, he had a full day of school followed by five or six hours of USY work every night. "It's a lot of work," he says, but his face is beaming with excitement as he says it.

Eitan recalled the first e-mail he received right after returning home from his induction ceremony. It was from a person who lamented, "I'm not having a good time at USY... tell me what's good about it."

And he did. Eitan certainly has no trouble speaking about the positive aspects of USY. Eitan remarked that USY provides Jewish kids who want to be able to be Jewish socially with everything that public schools don't provide. This includes activities that celebrate Jewish culture, learning and singing songs, social events, Israeli dancing, and anything and

(Continued on Page 4)

Fighting Israel's Water Crisis

JNF Launches Initiative to Increase Water Reserves

by Seth Bromley
Editorial Assistant

Along with fighting terrorism at home and anti-Israel attitudes around the globe, Israeli citizens are facing another crisis that has the potential to threaten the prosperity of the Jewish homeland, a shortage of the Middle East's most precious resource — water. Although water has always been a limited commodity, Israel is currently undergoing the worst drought cycle in its 50-year history, according to Jewish National

Fund CEO Russell Robinson. Robinson recently returned from Israel, where he went on a water fact-finding tour to witness the current situation and discuss possible solutions with Israel's leaders.

Robinson said the severity of the water shortage is instantly noticeable: "You can see where Lake Kinneret has literally shrunk." Lake Kinneret, also known as the Sea of Galilee, is one of Israel's main sources of fresh water as well as a major tourist attraction. Russell visited the lake and said that if one were to start from the original shore-

(Continued on Page 9)



Eitan Hersh, USY International President Herald photo by Jon Rubin

Hillels Welcome New Directors

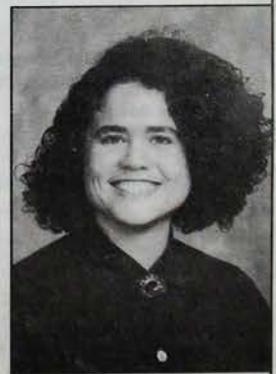
Sobel Promises Higher Profile

by Seth Bromley
Editorial Assistant

The new director of the University of Rhode Island Hillel, Naomi Sobel, has a vision for URI Hillel — be more visible. She said that one of the first things she would like to change is the perception of URI Hillel "not having such a high profile."

She spoke about two separate goals concerning the vitality of the Hillel program at URI: one is to increase student involvement and participa-

(Continued on Page 5)



Naomi Sobel

HAPPENINGS

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS:

- Alperin Schechter Day School** 751-2470
- Brown / RISD Hillel** 863-2805
- Bureau of Jewish Education** 331-0956
- Hadassah (RI Chapter)** 463-3636
- Hebrew Free Loan Association** 331-3081
- Jewish Community Center of RI** 861-8800
- Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island** 621-5374
- Jewish Family Services** 331-1244
- JFS Kosher Mealsite** 781-1771
- Jewish Federation of Rhode Island** 421-4111
- Jewish Seniors Agency** 351-4750
- Jewish War Veterans of RI** 941-6032
- Perspectives** 863-9357
- Providence Hebrew Day School** 331-5327
- RI Holocaust Memorial Museum** 453-7860
- RI Jewish Historical Association** 331-1360
- South Providence Hebrew Free Loan Association** 781-1949
- Touro Fraternal Association** 785-0066
- URI Hillel** 874-2740

Calendar: August 23 Through August 20

- 23 **Temple Torat Yisrael** will have a barbecue for temple members to meet the new rabbi, Stephen Parnes, at 5:30 p.m. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be served. Admission is \$18 per family or \$5 per person. The temple is located at 330 Park Ave., Cranston. Call 785-1800 for information.
- 24 **Perspectives** will host a potluck Shabbat dinner and service at 106 Angell St., Providence. Dinner will start at 7:30 p.m. Call Nora Klein at 331-4732 to attend.
Temple Beth-El will hold its Summer Shabbat Under the Stars at 7:30 p.m. The temple is located at 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. Call 331-6070 for information.
Scienterrific at the Providence Children's Museum from 9:40 a.m. to 1:50 p.m. Preschoolers age 3 to 5 see demonstrations of air's power to make things move. Each session is 20 minutes long. Call 273-KIDS, ext.234.
- 25 **The Saturday Brunch Bunch Toastmasters Club** will meet from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Pawtucket Public Library on Summer Street in Pawtucket. Come work on your speaking, listening and leadership skills. Everyone is invited. Call 658-3434 or e-mail <debcartier@home.com> for more information.
Cruise and explore the marine biology and history of Rose Island with Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation and Save The Bay from 9:30 a.m. to noon in Newport. Open to all ages and families. Call 272-3540, ext. 133 for prices and reservations.
- 26 **"Zamir-Jewish Voices Return to Poland"** will be aired on WGBH, Channel 2, at 6:30 p.m. The documentary chronicles the Eastern European tour of Boston's Zamir Chorale.
The Navigators (Portuguese music) will be performing at the Pawtucket Riverfront series from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Admission is free, and the concert will be held at the Veterans Amphitheater next to Pawtucket City Hall on Roosevelt Avenue. Call 724-5200.
- 28 **The JCCRI Brown Bag Club** will host Peter Harrington, curator of the Anne S.K. Brown Military Collection at Brown University. Harrington will present slides and photos of the collection. The event will begin at noon and a donation of \$1 is appreciated.
- 30 **The Best of Rhode Island Party** will take place at the Rhode Island Convention Center from 6 to 9 p.m. All you can eat, music and entertainment. Call 454-1911.

Crash Course in Reading Hebrew

From Oct. 30 to Dec. 4, Congregation Beth Shalom in Providence will host the National Jewish Outreach Program's Crash Course in Reading Hebrew. The program lasts for six Tuesdays, at 7 to 8:30 p.m. The temple is located at 275 Camp St., Providence. Call (401) 274-3577.

RIHMM Presents Songs by Composers The Nazis Silenced

The Rhode Island Holocaust Memorial Museum presents Mara Sindoni, soprano, and Akemi Fujita, pianist, in an annotated concert of works created by composers who were censored by the Nazis and/or died in the Holocaust. The R.I. premieres of song cycles by Ervin Schulhoff and Ernst Krenek as well as songs by Klein, Korngold, Krasa, Mittler, Schoenberg, Schreker, Svenk, Ullmann and Weill will be presented.

The concert will take place at 3 p.m. on Sept. 16 at Laurelmead, 355 Blackstone Boulevard in Providence. Following the concert there will be an opportunity to meet Sindoni at an informal reception.

The concert and reception are open to the public at no charge. For more information, call the RIHMM at 453-7860.

Beth-El to Hold Open House on Sept. 5

Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence, will hold an open house reception on Sept. 5 from 7 to 9 p.m. for prospective and new members.

Rabbi Leslie Gutterman, Rabbi Jonathan Blake and Cantor Judith Seplowin will be present along with the officers, board of trustees and committee chairs. They will provide an overview of Temple Beth-El life blending its warm spiritual sense with the wide range of activities offered to members of the Reform Congregation.

In existence for 147 years, Temple Beth-El's membership reflects the changing composition of contemporary American Judaism, embracing the traditional, yet allowing for the innovative.

For information, call Ruby Shalansky, executive director at 331-6070.

Directory to this week's Herald

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT	12-13
CLASSIFIEDS	15
FEATURE	11, 15
JEWISH COMMUNITY	4-10
OBITUARIES	14
OPINION	3

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- Coffee Exchange, Wickenden St.
- College Hill Book Store, Thayer St.
- Eastside Marketplace, Pitman St.
- East Side Prescription Center, Hope St.
- Rhoda's Judaica, Hope St.
- Touro Synagogue, Newport

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Rhode Island Jewish HERALD

The Only English-Jewish Weekly in Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts

30,000 Israeli, Hispanic and One Palestinian
Page 7

Divine Mercy or Divine Wrath?

By the Rev. Dr. [Name]...
[Image of a person in a hat]

OPINION

Letter to the Editor

Losing the PR Battle

by Bernice Lipkin

We believe the time has past that we need to demonstrate that the Arabs that call themselves Palestinians are waging a systematic war against Israel. They have inculcated their young — some of which were not yet born when the Oslo Accords were accepted by Israel — with hate against Israel.

We believe the time has come to admit that the Arabs are waging a war against the Jews.

We believe the time has come to fight back, to show we understand that American Jews are as much a target as Israeli Jews. If Israel goes down, American Jews will soon be back where we were in the 1930s — we will be an OK target for any group with a grievance. It will be OK to hit Jews. Even those politically correct in all other respects.

Let's start with Jewish community support for Israeli Jews.

Suppose we use a weapon we used to help get Jews out of the Soviet Union. Suppose every synagogue puts up a sign that reads: "They are killing our people. Stop Arab terrorism," or "Arabs are murdering Jews. Don't reward Arab terrorism," or "We are tired of state department evenhandedness. We are tired of the violence, stop Arabs from teaching their children hate."

Such signs would be a morale booster for Israeli Jews, attacked by their mortal enemies and unsupported by their elected government, a government who tells them they may be suffering but, hey, look what good PR being a victim makes. They suffer. But it ain't good PR. So far, the Arabs are winning that one.

Bernice Lipkin is corresponding secretary for Brandeis District of Zionist Organization of America.

Bush, Jews, and The World Conference Against Racism

by Matthew Brooks and Joshua London

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Indeed, President Bush has made any United States participation at the WCAR conditional: the WCAR must remove any and all anti-Israel propaganda and anti-Semitic vitriol from its declaration against racism. In doing so, the President reiterated his commitment to "send a signal to the freedom loving nations of the world that we will not stand by if the world tries to describe Zionism as racism."

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The delegates to the conference in Tehran adopted a resolution calling for an end to Israel's "foreign occupation" of Jerusalem, "the racist practices of Zionism," and Israel's "geno-

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More disturbing for a world conference against racism, the Tehran document also undermines the notion that anti-Jewish bigotry is a form of racism; proposing to replace any references to anti-Semitism being racist with the phrase "Zionist practices against Semitism."

The document also proposes to change references to the Holocaust with the more generic, and plural term, "holocausts" denying the uniqueness of the Shoah. The use of "holocausts" also underscores the supposed "evil" of Israel's mythical "holocaust" against the Palestinians.

The U.S., commendably, is taking the lead in opposition. Yet some partisans are criticizing the President's decision, claiming that non-attendance at the conference would constitute a victory for the forces of racism. Accusing President Bush of being unconcerned about racism, and hinting at "something

more malignant," Rep. Cynthia McKinney (D-GA) argues that "our attendance is especially important because we hold ourselves out to be a nation that is the champion of human rights." McKinney also accuses the president of being intransigent towards the purpose of the WCAR, and claims the President's attitude illustrates his administration's indifference to racism. McKinney echoes Mary Robinson, UN high commissioner for human rights and WCAR secretary-general, in saying the "WCAR is something truly special to the world community and surely, on any view, something that our country should give complete support to."

This is palpable nonsense. The United Nations, more often than not, has been the accepted forum for the diplomatic expression of international hatred, anti-western sentiment, and anti-capitalist propaganda. And although UN resolutions established the State of Israel, and through them Israel received international diplomatic recognition, the UN has mostly demonstrated hostility and belligerence toward Israel; Resolution 3379, which equated Zionism with racism, was only dropped in 1991, after the Soviet Union's influence ended, and only after intense U.S. efforts by then-President George Bush.

(Continued on Page 15)

Savage Terrorism in Israel Needs to Stop

by Rabbi William Kaufman

As spiritual leader of Temple Beth El, I am writing to condemn the recent suicide bombing in a Sbarro's in Jerusalem. All civilized human beings should be outraged and horrified over the killing of 15 innocent civilians and the wounding of more than 130 people by a Palestinian suicide bomber.

Targeting noncombatant civilians for death is the most nefarious of crimes. The suicide bomber's blast tore people up inside the Sbarro Pizzeria in the center of Jerusalem. At least six children were among the dead. Most of the casualties were Is-

raelis but the dead included one American from New Jersey and a Brazilian. The militant Islamic group Hamas claimed responsibility for the bombing.

This brutal event must be placed in historical context. The state of Israel always has sought peace and the recognition by the Arab states of its right to exist. Instead, the Arab states waged war against Israel in 1948, 1956, and 1967 and sponsored hundreds of terrorist attacks, openly declaring their goal to be the annihilation of Israel. More recently, in the peace negotiations, the then prime minister, Ehud

(Continued on Page 9)

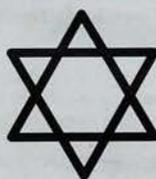
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The Herald welcomes Letters to the Editor and opinions on subjects of interest to the Jewish community. All letters must be signed and include a phone number.

The Responsibilities of The Flesh

Two stories of modern Judaism:

A very observant couple sends their daughter to a college in a major metropolis, where she will have access to the Hillel House, where relatives are nearby, where there are Jewish students and synagogues aplenty. The daughter meets people who have holes in their bodies that G-d did not put there, listens to songs with words that are not in Torah, puts in her mouth food that would make a mashgiach faint, and falls in love with a deep thinker, a man whose idea of philosophy is to refer to religion as superstition. What happened?

Another couple have a son, a good son. He has not been inside a synagogue since he became bar mitzvah, and his parents think Judaism has more to do with matza balls than mitzvot. This does not mean, however, that they are not fine people. They offer their high school graduate a vacation wherever he would like to go. London, Paris, Rome. He chooses Israel. Well, they think,

he's an adventurer. He wants to backpack and suffer. Okay. He goes. He comes back. He's sporting *payess* and *tzitzis*. He eats kosher. He contacts the local Chabad community and hangs out with them. His parents tear their hair out. If only he had become gay, they think, it would have been better.

What happened? (In this case, what happened to the parents?) It's what happens to all of us. We do our best to love and nurture

A large portion of *Re'eh* concerns itself with flesh — the flesh of animals. It reiterates and expands on the laws of *kashrut*, spelling out which animals may be eaten and how they should be prepared. What is all this doing at the back end of a chapter which starts out warning us about our loved ones? Because we are flesh also. We are tangible and human, and subject to the desires and weaknesses of being so.

This does not suggest that the only One you can believe in and trust is G-d. You can trust all of the people some of the time, and some of the people all of the time, as Abe Lincoln said. If your trust is betrayed, that does not give you license to dispose of the betrayer. In fact, it's a sign that this person needs a little soul-polishing, as we all do. And who better to do it than you? Even if you are *fleishig*, your own soul carries the milchig of human kindness. Use it.

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

Torah Today

those around us, and they find the most bizarre ways to betray our devotion. But don't say you weren't warned.

Take a peek at *Parashat Re'eh*. "If thy brother, the son of thy mother, or thy son, or thy daughter, or the wife of thy bosom or thy friend, that is as thine own soul, entice thee secretly..." What?! Any of these people I love can do something wrong? Can try to lead me astray? Of course.

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by Rabbi William Kaufman

As spiritual leader of Temple Beth El, I am writing to condemn the recent suicide bombing in a Sbarro's in Jerusalem. All civilized human beings should be outraged and horrified over the killing of 15 innocent civilians and the wounding of more than 130 people by a Palestinian suicide bomber.

Targeting noncombatant civilians for death is the most nefarious of crimes. The suicide bomber's blast tore people up inside the Sbarro Pizzeria in the center of Jerusalem. At least six children were among the dead. Most of the casualties were Is-

raelis but the dead included one American from New Jersey and a Brazilian. The militant Islamic group Hamas claimed responsibility for the bombing.

This brutal event must be placed in historical context. The state of Israel always has sought peace and the recognition by the Arab states of its right to exist. Instead, the Arab states waged war against Israel in 1948, 1956, and 1967 and sponsored hundreds of terrorist attacks, openly declaring their goal to be the annihilation of Israel. More recently, in the peace negotiations, the then prime minister, Ehud

(Continued on Page 9)

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HERALD EDITOR
JONATHAN RUBIN
EDITORIAL ASSISTANT
SETH T. BROMLEY

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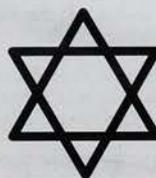
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Candlelighting
August 24, 2001
7:15 p.m.



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The Herald welcomes Letters to the Editor and opinions on subjects of interest to the Jewish community. All letters must be signed and include a phone number.

The Responsibilities of The Flesh

Two stories of modern Judaism:

A very observant couple sends their daughter to a college in a major metropolis, where she will have access to the Hillel House, where relatives are nearby, where there are Jewish students and synagogues aplenty. The daughter meets people who have holes in their bodies that G-d did not put there, listens to songs with words that are not in Torah, puts in her mouth food that would make a mashgiach faint, and falls in love with a deep thinker, a man whose idea of philosophy is to refer to religion as superstition. What happened?

Another couple have a son, a good son. He has not been inside a synagogue since he became bar mitzvah, and his parents think Judaism has more to do with matza balls than mitzvot. This does not mean, however, that they are not fine people. They offer their high school graduate a vacation wherever he would like to go. London, Paris, Rome. He chooses Israel. Well, they think,

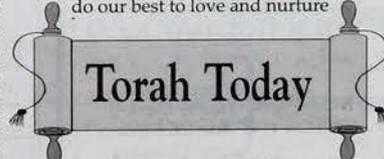
he's an adventurer. He wants to backpack and suffer. Okay. He goes. He comes back. He's sporting payess and tzitzis. He eats kosher. He contacts the local Chabad community and hangs out with them. His parents tear their hair out. If only he had become gay, they think, it would have been better.

What happened? (In this case, what happened to the parents?) It's what happens to all of us. We do our best to love and nurture

A large portion of *Re'eh* concerns itself with flesh — the flesh of animals. It reiterates and expands on the laws of *kashrut*, spelling out which animals may be eaten and how they should be prepared. What is all this doing at the back end of a chapter which starts out warning us about our loved ones? Because we are flesh also. We are tangible and human, and subject to the desires and weaknesses of being so.

This does not suggest that the only One you can believe in and trust is G-d. You can trust all of the people some of the time, and some of the people all of the time, as Abe Lincoln said. If your trust is betrayed, that does not give you license to dispose of the betrayer. In fact, it's a sign that this person needs a little soul-polishing, as we all do. And who better to do it than you? Even if you are *fleishig*, your own soul carries the milchig of human kindness. Use it.

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



those around us, and they find the most bizarre ways to betray our devotion. But don't say you weren't warned.

Take a peek at *Parashat Re'eh*. "If thy brother, the son of thy mother, or thy son, or thy daughter, or the wife of thy bosom or thy friend, that is as thine own soul, entice thee secretly..." What?! Any of these people I love can do something wrong? Can try to lead me astray? Of course.

JEWISH COMMUNITY

Hersh at the Helm

(Continued from Page 1)

everything else. It also provides kids with the opportunity to meet other Jews and experience other Jewish communities, as well as giving them a chance to learn about social justice and tikkun olam.

The USY head offices are located on Fifth Avenue in New York City, and Eitan calls in every day and shleps down there once or twice a month to meet with the adult-half of USY and discuss upcoming events. He has worked with international officers and fellow students in Canada, Spain, France, South America and other places. "I've definitely learned geography this year," he said.

And then there's the travel. "Regions invite me to their conventions if they want to show off... or if there's a problem," he said. He's been to Wisconsin, Toronto, and Philadelphia, to name a few places, often flying alone but always staying with a host family. Once he flew to Israel from Los Angeles, which had him in planes and airports for more than 24 hours straight.

For the most recent USY Israel trip that took place this summer, "a lot of attention was on us," he said. The movement was especially scrutinized when the Reform movement canceled its trips. Eitan said that key members of USY met with CNN and *Jerusalem Post* reporters many times, although he did not get a chance to speak to the media himself.

Before the trip, Eitan spent a great deal of time dealing with questions from nervous USYers about the trip, or USYers who said that their fearful parents were ready to pull them out of the program. Eitan told those who sought his advice to discuss the trip further with their parents, while continually

stressing that, besides being the most secure Israel trip around, that trip was avoiding any areas where things could go wrong, including downtown Jerusalem. "This was frustrating to the kids who went," Eitan said, "but they'd rather not go downtown than not go to Israel."

All in all, 286 USY teenagers went to Israel this summer, and for Eitan it was his fourth time. Eitan spent time there with the eight regional USY groups that had traveled there. Because some of those who attended the trip were not particularly involved Jewishly — indeed, some of the kids had never even seen a Jewish community before — Eitan found himself answering all sorts of questions about Jewish life, Jewish history, Israel, and USY's attitude towards all three.

Both in Israel and in the U.S., Eitan is continually playing the role of the "in-betweenner," sometimes acting the kid with kids, sometimes acting the adult with the adults. Although finding this role "challenging," he said it was to his benefit that he, being 18, was older than the rest of the 16 and 17-year-old Israel-bound USYers.

Eitan is currently involved in planning for numerous events, including the International Convention in Washington, D.C. in December, where over 1,400 USYers will descend upon the city.

He is also in charge of a tikkun olam project set for Labor Day that will give \$100,000 to various charities. "It's a unique opportunity for an 18-year-old to be able to read through charity applications... and to have \$100,000 in your hand," he said.

Eitan feels there is certainly

nothing monotonous about the job, and every event he takes part in and every new community he visits offers something different and unexpected. "No two things have been the same yet," he said. "Even questions on the same questions are different questions... All regions are different — New York [City] is different from upstate New York," he said.

He was jubilant in describing the Rhode Island chapter of USY, citing their growth from 60 members to 120 members, not to mention that they were recently awarded Chapter of the Year. "This is my favorite chapter... they've turned it into something absolutely amazing," Eitan remarked that growing up Jewish in Providence was easy, and felt that the "many role models who I had at Temple Emanuel sparked my interest" in Jewish leadership.

Eitan declared triumphantly that "the Providence Conservative community is looking [at] USY," and that it is hard not to be impressed and inspired by their hard work and dedication. He is also very excited about February, when USY will be holding an International Weekend in R.I.

"It'll be a great opportunity to show off," he said.

For more information on USY, visit www.usy.org.

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Registration for 2002 March of the Living Begins

Planning for the 2002 March of the Living program is well underway, and this year's trip should be the best ever. The

ers will be required to enroll in a class that will provide them with Holocaust education, Polish-Jewish history, and informa-



2001 March of the Living marchers at a mass grave in the forest near Tikocyn, in Northeast Poland.

Photos by Rich Walter

March of the Living is a one-of-a-kind program for high school juniors and seniors. The highlight of the program is a two-week trip to Poland and Israel, where participants explore their Jewish identity, relive Jewish history, and celebrate the State of Israel. The 2002 March of the Living trip will take place from April 7 to April 21.

This year, the March of the Living program has been expanded in an effort to increase its effectiveness on student participants. In an effort to enhance the program experience, March-

tion on the birth of the State of Israel. Students will have the option to take the course either on Sunday mornings in Providence or Wednesday evenings in Cranston. In addition, students will be able to pursue advanced college credit from Rhode Island College for their participation in the course.

For more information on the March of the Living or other teen programs offered by the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island, please contact Rich Walter at 331-0956 or <rwalter@bjeri.org>.



Marchers brave the elements and arrive at a monument in the center of the death camp Treblinka.

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The Woman of 1,000 Faces

Rhode Island educators recently returned from a nine-day solidarity mission to Israel. While there they met with groups representing the incredible diversity that Israel possesses.

The photos below show versatile actress and educator Helen Gottstein in her one-woman show in which she "becomes" different segments of Israeli society, including the haredi, ultra-Orthodox woman, left; the modern Orthodox woman, center; the hiloni, a secularized Jew, right. This fascinating portrayal showed the diverse cross-section of Israel today and was provocative and insightful.

Photos courtesy of BJE/RI.



JEWISH COMMUNITY

New URI Hillel Director

(Continued from Page 1)

tion, the second is to increase engagement and cooperation with the groups representing the main body of the Jewish population 20 miles north of Kingston.

"There are 1,300 Jewish students here," she said, adding that there are only several hundred registered Hillel members. "It's a challenge to get everyone involved." Sobel said that in just her first few days, however, she was glad to meet students who were "very enthusiastic." "One thing that helped me to make the decision to come here was that the students were so involved in what's going on," she said.

Sobel arrives in Rhode Island by way of Milwaukee, where she had a position at the Jewish Community Center but was looking to do something different. "I was interested in working with college students," she

said. Originally from Tampa, Fla., Sobel attended Columbia University and received a bachelor's degree in sociology, and also received a degree in Bible studies from Jewish Theological Seminary and a master's degree in social work from the University of Pennsylvania. She does have Rhode Island roots as well, however; she said that she lived in Cranston when she was 10, and attended Providence Hebrew Day School for two years.

She said that she is still gaining an "understanding [of] how Hillel works," and that she intends to carry out in action the Hillel mission statement — "Maximize the number of Jews doing Jewish with other Jews." She said that she wants to increase communication with other Jewish entities in other parts of the state, in order "to put URI Hillel on the map."

Sobel thinks that it is important for people throughout the state to know what's going on at the URI campus.

Sobel said that this would be an important year for URI Hillel, since they will be celebrating its 50th anniversary. "We plan to celebrate our jubilee in the spring... in between Purim and Passover." A mailing to more than 3,000 people is in the works. "We've never done this before," said Sobel.

Sobel will spend the few weeks before the start of the school year getting to know the area and the community, but she said that she already has good feelings about her decision to move. She characterized her first impression of the Jewish community as "vibrant and welcoming." Said Sobel, "I'm very happy to be working here."

New Director at Brown/RISD Hillel Emphasizes Pluralism

by Seth Bromley
Editorial Assistant

The Brown/RISD Hillel has a new executive director, Rabbi Richard Kirschen, who arrived on August 1, and is looking forward to meeting the needs of the collegiate Jewish community at Brown University and the Rhode Island School of Design.

Kirschen arrives from the University of Michigan, where he had been the associate director of the Hillel there. Kirschen said that although he hadn't been looking to leave Michigan, once offered the position at Brown/RISD, he didn't look back. Kirschen said, "It was a great opportunity, and who could refuse Rhode Island?" Although he has only been in town a matter of days, he said he likes what he has seen of the area. "Providence is beautiful, and it has a dynamic Jewish community," he said.

Kirschen is originally from the Long Island community of Woodmere, N.Y., and studied at the University of Massachusetts and Hebrew University. He said he was ordained as a Reform rabbi but he doesn't want to define himself by any one religious affiliation. "I'm a Reformed Conservative Jew with Reconstructionist ideas about Orthodoxy," he said of himself. Since the Hillel is intended to serve the needs of a diverse body of Jewish students, Kirschen said it is important to him to "make it as pluralistic as possible."

Kirschen said he likes what

he sees so far about the state of the Hillel program. "The program here has been excellent, and I'd like to continue that tradition... Having Brown students [will] help..." Kirschen said that already his first goal is to follow through on plans to renovate the Hillel house. "One of the main priorities is to build this building," he said. "We're very close to breaking ground."

Kirschen is also looking for new opportunities to work with other Jewish organizations. "Partnering is very important to us," he said. Specifically he would like to develop a close relationship with the Hillel's birthright program and the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island's Partnership 2000 program.

Kirschen is enthusiastic about meeting the challenges of his new position. "I look forward to working with students [and] creating an exciting pluralistic community."



Rabbi Richard Kirschen

Touro Letter

(Continued from Page 1)

Throughout the afternoon, speaker after speaker voiced the heart of the Washington letter, which declared that the United States "...gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance." The Washington letter was read by Sylvia Hassenfeld, past president of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. The Moses Seixas letter, which

prompted Washington's letter of response, was read by Leon Levy, president of Congregation Mikveh Israel of Philadelphia, the third oldest congregation in the United States.

The Society of Friends of Touro Synagogue presented the Judge Alexander George Teitz Award to Connecticut Superior Judge Jerry Wagner in appreciation for his prolonged commit-

ment to religious tolerance and freedom. Wagner has held chair positions in numerous Jewish and secular organizations, including the Connecticut Jewish Community Relations Council.

Cantor Barbara Cohen, cantor at Temple Anshe Amunim of Pittsfield, Mass., sang the "Star Spangled Banner" and other freedom-inspired songs.

Also present were Newport Councilman Dennis McCoy and, standing in for U.S. Senator Lincoln Chafee, his brother Zachariah Chafee.



U.S. Rep. Patrick J. Kennedy during his keynote address.

Herald photo by Jon Rubin

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JEWISH COMMUNITY

CAJE Increases Funding by 900 Percent

Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education has announced a 900 percent increase in funding to individual members with new educational programming ideas. For more than a quarter of a century, CAJE, the largest membership organization of Jewish educators in North America, has been responsible for inspiring and encouraging innovative educational programs. This new, expanded grants program awards up to \$10,000 to worthy proposals, and replaces the Mini-Grant program that has been in place for the past 16 years. It reflects CAJE's grassroots history in that it is meant to cut through the red tape that often accompanies funding a program.

This grant expansion was born out of a desire to continue to stimulate creative educators to generate new approaches and experiments in Jewish education. CAJE felt that increased funds and an expedited process gave power to the educators on the front lines and would bring a faster return to the diverse constituencies they serve.

Mark Charendoff, CAJE board member and chair of the Grants Committee, says, "Without the aid of professional grant writers, many local Jewish educators and small communities were finding it difficult to ac-

cess money for their projects because of very structured foundation requirements. CAJE is the only agency in a position to cut through the process and put the money directly into the hands of educators with creative ideas."

This year's grant recipients echo those sentiments:

William Berkson, of Reston, Va.'s Jewish Institute for Youth, was awarded an \$8,560 grant for the Becoming a Mench program. "Becoming a Mench trains leaders nationwide for parent-teen workshops that bring together Jewish ethical values with contemporary issues and insights of modern psychology. CAJE and the CAJE grant have been an open door to new ideas to strengthen Jewish education," according to Berkson.

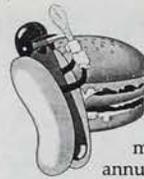
"I came from the outside, as a philosopher and former college professor with new ideas, to make Jewish personal ethics relevant to teens and families. I found I faced difficult obstacles. Most doors were closed or very reluctant to open. The CAJE Grants Program had a shot application and turn-around time and was judged by people who are teachers themselves. The grant to train teachers and social workers for Becoming a Mench is substantial enough to

make a real difference in the lives of Jewish youth and families."

Cheryl Gordon, of El Paso, Texas Academy, submitted the Horim Project that helps parents increase their level of Jewish knowledge to support their children's religious education. She was awarded a \$2,880 grant. Gordon says, "This is especially exciting for us, because it was awarded to a small community and may be a model for similar underserved ones. Additionally, it will be supportive of our mission, because it will help us take Jewish involvement and learning beyond the school walls and into the students' homes."

In this first year of its expanded Grants Program, CAJE received 60 proposals from North America and as far away as Israel and Australia. Participation was from all denominations of synagogues and schools and targeted every age group. The most common type of proposal was in the area of curriculum (57 percent). Programs included development of new curricula, educational resources, and distribution of curriculum. Informal education was the second most common (23 percent), while adult and family education programs represented another 12 percent. The remainder was in special education, professional development, and teacher recruitment. CAJE is enthusiastic about this year's response and hopes to double the number of applicants next year.

"This year's experiment in increasing CAJE Grants taught us an important lesson — namely, that more is more," says Alan Wiener, CAJE Chair. "Increasing the amount of money available per CAJE Grant to \$10,000 (nearly 10 times the previous amount) resulted in more competition, more applications, more collaboration, more time and talent for creative educational programming, more concentration, and more interest within and outside CAJE in building concrete steps toward more creativity in Jewish education."



Touro Fraternal Goes to McCoy Stadium

It's fireworks when Touro goes to McCoy Stadium. Touro Fraternal Association invites its members to come see the Pawsox and to enjoy their annual picnic buffet. Among the summer fare being served up will be hot dogs, hamburgers, chicken, chips, coleslaw, ice cream, etc. and fireworks! The picnic takes place Sept. 2, starting at 5 p.m. Touro families only — wives, children, grandchildren, and parents. Admission is \$8.50 per person.

Please R.S.V.P. by Aug. 26. Please call 785-0066.

PHDS Announces New School Programs

The dean of the Providence Hebrew Day School, Rabbi Mordechai Nissel, has announced a number of programs being planned for the new school year.

Israel — This year has been chosen for a school-wide campaign to highlight the state of Israel for both students and parents. Among the areas the school plans to explore are cities and places in Israel; famous personalities; and the Israeli government. A special Israel Fair and a film/speakers series for parents are also slated for the upcoming school year.

Mock Trial Competition — Each year there is a mock trial statewide competition for public and private schools throughout Rhode Island. The NEAT high school has already been involved with this program for a number of years. This year the PHDS seventh- and eighth-graders will participate in this annual event. Students prepare and deliver legal arguments for defense and prosecution cases. Each team has a faculty and legal advisor to help in the preparations for the trial. It is a demanding and rewarding experience for all the students who take part.

Ziv Tzedakah Project — The Rhode Island Jewish community has been chosen to host a pilot tzedakah project involving various organizations. In preparation for this program, PHDS students have learned the Jewish laws regarding tzedakah and they will participate in the planning process. The Bureau of Jewish Education will be coordinating this effort.

Special Needs — For the past three years, PHDS has been able to offer services to special needs students through a grant from the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island. This coming school year, the school has decided to continue these services which include a part-time Judaic resource teacher, a part-time secular resource teacher and a full-time speech pathologist. Special fund-raising efforts are being planned to fund this program.

PHDS/NEAT Elects Lay Leadership

At its annual meeting, the Providence Hebrew Day School selected its lay leadership for the upcoming school year. Elected for a third term as president was Martin Saklad. Saklad is the father of four children at PHDS/NEAT and is an alumnus of the school.

The following people were elected as officers of the board: Moshe Golden, treasurer; Dr. Michael Felder, vice president of education; David Kaufman, vice president of budget and finance; Janine Kutliroff, vice president of personnel; Leeba Taitelbaum, recording secretary; and David Yavner, vice president of fund-raising.

The following people were elected as members of the executive committee: Vicki Bharier, Dr. Marc Diamond, Barak Haldorsen, Dr. David Kerzer, Russell Raskin, Gail Rubenstein, David Schacht, Amy Strachman, and Michael Weiner.

'Both Manifest & Hidden' on Display at Striar JCC

A mixed media display using collage and printmaking techniques by two Massachusetts artists will be exhibited in the Perkins Gallery at Striar Jewish Community Center in Stoughton from Sept. 9 to Oct. 14. "Both Manifest & Hidden" features work by Carol Blackwell of Framingham and Edith Green of Chestnut Hill. An opening reception and Artists' Talk will be held on Sept. 9, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Blackwell and Green, a painter and printmaker, combine their talents to think and create collaboratively, thereby creating one whole from two separate parts. An inherited Jewish past contributes significantly to how each sees and responds to the world. The works provide a colorful mirror of personal history with text, paper, and found objects.

The Perkins Gallery is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, contact Sharon Grahm at (781) 341-2016, ext. 264, or e-mail <sgrahn@jccgb.org> or curator Karin Sanborn at <karines@mediaone.net>.

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JEWISH COMMUNITY

JFS Offers Tips on Choosing a Counselor

Entering a counseling relationship can naturally be anxiety-provoking. After all, it often involves putting very personal and emotional concerns into the hands of another person. As consumers of this service, people deserve a competent and caring professional who is both sensitive and well-trained.

There are so many counselors to choose from, a decision can be overwhelming. Where does one begin?

You must find someone with whom you feel comfortable. It is important to choose someone whom you feel respects your opinions and individuality, and treats you with empathy and acceptance.

Whether you want to sort out a troubling relationship, set goals and find support for them or find clarity on an emotional or personal problem, keep in mind that although it can be a difficult process, good counselors are available.

It is also important to consider the counselor's training and professional experience. A recent survey in *Consumer Reports*

showed that people in counseling generally rated psychologists, clinical social workers and psychiatrists equally effective.

A good place to start is a reputable agency that is known and trusted in the community. Its counselors will have to meet professional standards, licensing, constant updating of skills, and supervision. There will usually be a broad range of expertise on the staff, meaning that there is likely to be a counselor with skills and experience in the particular issue each client presents.

Counseling at Jewish Family Service offers comprehensive services for individuals, families, couples and the elderly and their families. Our staff of clinical social workers all have master's degrees and are LICSW, a designation that requires post graduate training. JFS staff attend workshops to advance their skills and keep up with the latest information.

If you are seeking help, just call Jewish Family Service at 331-1244 for an initial assessment or an appointment.

Tourists to Israel Can Now Breathe Easily

Smoking Banned in Public Places

An Israeli ban on smoking in public places was instituted Aug. 9 by Israel's Ministry of Health, and has left many smokers searching for a place to light up.

The new law prohibits smoking in restaurants, hotel lobbies, bars, cafés and museums (except for specially designated areas), with smoking entirely off-limits in holy places, hospitals, banks, pharmacies and post offices. Arie Sommer, Israel's Commissioner for Tourism in North America and a former smoker himself, said, "The new ordinance comes as a welcome relief to American tourists accustomed to a smoke-free environment and brings Israel up to par with similar limits on smoking here in the United States."

Prohibiting second-hand smoke is a proactive move by Israel, creating a significantly healthier public environment than most European countries and Israel's Middle Eastern neighbors.

Save The Date: Jewish Family Service Family of the Year Awards Oct. 18

By the time you read this article, the Family of the Year Committee will have met and selected the recipients of the 2001 Jewish Family Service Family of the Year Awards.

In keeping with its commitment to honor families, Jewish Family Service conducts a statewide search each year for nominations for the Family of the Year Award. For the sixth year, members of the community throughout the state submitted profiles of families who exemplify the best in family life.

Make plans to attend the Jewish Family Service Annual Meeting and meet the 2001 Family of the Year Award recipients on Oct. 18 at Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave. in Providence.

Watch for more information in September. For details, call Jewish Family Service at 331-1244.

Hadassah Calls Presidential Decision on Stem Cell Research an Important First Step

Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, expressed cautious optimism about President Bush's decision to allow the federal funding of embryonic stem cell research in limited cases.

Bonnie Lipton, Hadassah national president, commented: "Cutting-edge medical and biotechnological research has contributed greatly to human survival and the eradication of many once fatal diseases. As we have seen through research conducted at the Hadassah Medical Organization and throughout the world, embryonic stem cell research offers great hope for the discovery of future treatments for many diseases."

Lipton continued, "We recognize the complexity and difficulty of this issue for the president and appreciate the thoughtful manner in which he made his

decision. Federal funding will greatly enhance the progress of this important research. While research on an unlimited number of stem cells may not be necessary, we feel that scientists are best equipped to determine the appropriate number of lines. This decision is an important first step, but we hope President Bush will see fit to expand the scope of funding for stem cell research in the future."

Hadassah's national board, its highest governing body, recently passed a policy statement in support of government funding of stem cell research and other innovative medical and biotechnological research. Discussions on this and other matters of great concern to the organization were held at Hadassah's 87th national annual convention in Jerusalem, August 5 to 9.

Young Judaea Teens Present Petition About Israeli MIAs to U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State

Members of Young Judaea, the youth movement sponsored by Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, presented a petition to Deputy Assistant Secretary of State David Saterfield at the State Department last month. Signed by 25,000 registered voters across the country, the petition asked the State Department to exercise its full influence in international concerns to secure a safe release and return of eight missing Israeli soldiers and civilians (MIAs) presumed to have been kidnapped by the terrorist group Hizbullah.

"This is an issue we have been working on for the length of my career (19 years)," commented the deputy assistant secretary of state as he accepted the petition. "I want you to know that the United States fully understands the pain felt by families and friends who do not know where a son, husband, or brother is. We have MIAs too — from World War II, the Korean Conflict and the

Vietnam War. We will not accept anything except a full resolution for them, or for the Israeli MIAs."

Josh Scharff, *Mazkir* (president) of Young Judaea, presented the petition to the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State. Along with teen members of the young movement across the country, he has spent the last six months gathering signatures in support of this call to action. Scharff says, "As the youth of this country, we represent not just the future, but the present also. It is an honor to become involved in what should be seen as a humanitarian, not a political issue. I will keep working, with all Young Judaeans nationwide, to make a positive difference in our world."

The first Israeli MIAs disappeared in 1982, and the most recent in 2000. None have been heard from since. Their whereabouts and conditions are unknown. Members of Young Judaea recently attempted to send letters to the missing

through the International Committee of the Red Cross but their communications were returned undelivered.

Shaloh House in Stoughton Presents South Shore Jewish Music Festival

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MAIMONIDES ROOM 31 JAZZ BAND — Under the direction of Michael Maleson, these talented children from the Brookline school will have you swinging in your seats.

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Woodsttick 2001 Brings Back One Day of Shalom, Love, and Happiness

It's the most exciting evening since Moses parted the Red Sea! Woodsttick 2001: The Odyssey returns to the University of Rhode Island on Sept. 13 on the main quad at 5 p.m. Sponsored by Hillel: the Center for Jewish Life on Campus, the second annual Jewish arts festival united the campus and community through live music, food and vendors as part of the university's welcome back events. This year's Woodsttick promises to be even bigger and badder than ever.

Woodsttick 2001 is still in need of arts and crafts vendors to display and sell their work — call Amy at Hillel, 874-2274 or e-mail the address below to reserve a table. The festival committee is also still accepting applicants for bands with Jewish members or Jewish content to perform in the evening. Bands are encouraged to submit press kits and inquiries to: Woodsttick 2001, 34 Lower College Road, Kingston, R.I. 02881 or e-mail <woodsttick2001@hotmail.com>. No phone calls, please.

JEWISH COMMUNITY

NCJW Launches Reproductive Rights Campaign

With Challenge to Nomination of Judge Kuhl

The National Council of Jewish Women, long active in support of women's reproductive rights, has announced its commitment to examine all U.S. Supreme Court and federal appellate court nominees and to challenge those who oppose reproductive rights as embodied in *Roe vs. Wade*, the landmark case decided in 1973. NCJW has launched a campaign to educate and mobilize its membership and the larger Jewish community to advocate for a judiciary that will protect a woman's right to choose.

"For over 100 years, NCJW has protected the rights of women — as a resource to those in need, as a pioneer in family planning, and today, as the leading pro-choice Jewish organization fighting to preserve reproductive rights. Now, NCJW plans to reach out to the Jewish community nationwide to educate and activate its allies to preserve a woman's right to choose through monitoring court ap-

pointments and challenging anti-choice nominees," said NCJW President Jan Schneiderman.

NCJW's first effort in this campaign will challenge the nomination of Judge Carolyn Kuhl of Los Angeles to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Judge Kuhl has made clear her opposition to the Supreme Court's decision in *Roe vs. Wade*, calling for its "abandonment." NCJW's opposition to Judge Kuhl marks the first time the organization has taken a stand on a judicial nominee below the Supreme Court level.

"Our scrutiny and advocacy regarding judicial nominees must extend to the entire federal appellate judicial system. Too often in the past, women's reproductive rights have been curtailed by the federal appellate courts, whose decisions have been endorsed by the Supreme Court or been allowed to stand unreviewed with restrictive provisions intact," Schneiderman added. "Furthermore, recent Supreme Court Justices have been drawn from the federal appellate bench, where judges have acquired the credentials they need to be considered for the high court. The situation is urgent and the statistics are dramatic."

From 1993 to 2001, conservatives blocked 36 nominations made by President Clinton.

During the eight years of the Reagan presidency, only nine nominations were blocked. Currently, 32 of 179 total authorized federal appellate court judge-ships are vacant, or nearly 20 percent of the federal appellate judiciary. In the next four years, 18 additional vacancies may be created when sitting judges assume senior status. In this term, President Bush may have the opportunity to appoint nearly 30 percent of the federal appellate judiciary.

"Conservatives in Congress have stymied mainstream judicial nominees during the '90s in the hope that winning back the White House would enable them to control the federal judiciary. NCJW will join with others in this campaign to see that the judicial nomination process proceeds fairly," said President Schneiderman. "Opposing Judge Kuhl's nomination to the appellate bench is the first step in our effort to safeguard the constitutional rights of the majority who support the *Roe v. Wade* decision and a woman's right to choose."

NCJW is a volunteer organization, inspired by Jewish values, that works to improve the quality of life for women, children and families and to ensure individual rights and freedoms through research, education, advocacy, and community service programs.

Gershona Milstein Marries Ronald Fein

Whispering Pines, Alton Jones Campus, West Greenwich, R.I., was the setting of the wedding of Gershona D. Milstein and Ronald A. Fein on July 1. The bride is the daughter of Charna and Jack Milstein of Warwick, R.I. The bridegroom is the son of Honey and Steven Fein of Stone Ridge, New York.

Rabbi Jonathan Eichhorn officiated at the ceremony. Elana Milstein, sister of the bride, was the honor attendant. Bridesmaids were Shari Fein (sister of the bridegroom), Brenda Harden, and Lindan Jordan Todd.

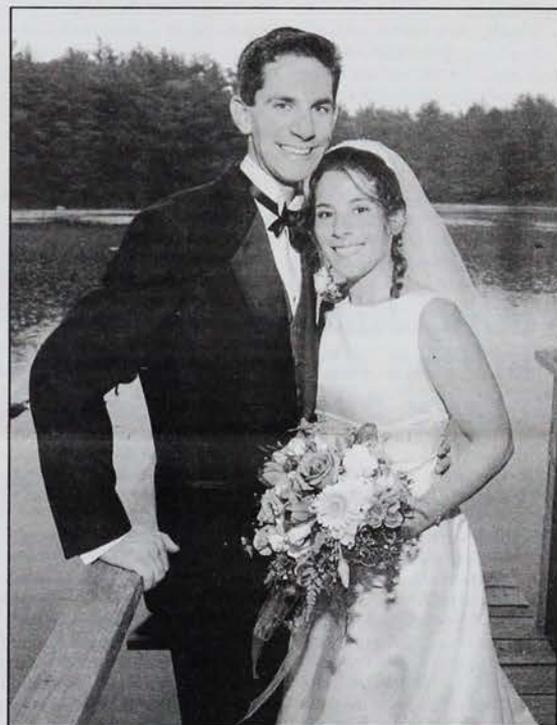
Best man was Daniel Gior-

dano. Ushers were James Uree-land, Jeffrey Yao, Julian Schreibman, Marc Dinkin, Aaron Snow, and Matthew Kudzin.

The bride received a B.S. from the University of Rhode Island and a M.A. in education at Antioch University, Seattle, Washington. She is employed by the Los Gatos School district, Los Gatos, Calif.

The bridegroom received a B.A. from Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. He is currently a law student at Stanford University.

The couple honeymooned in Maine, Nova Scotia, and Hawaii. They have made their home in Palo Alto, Calif.



Mr. and Mrs. Ronald A. Fein

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Chabad CHAI Center to Hold Holiday Workshop

Rosh Hashanah Workshop Sept. 5

The most significant observance of Rosh Hashanah is hearing the shofar.

Explore...

- The meaning and technique of blowing the shofar.
- Customs and prayers of the holiday.
- How to enhance your own Rosh Hashanah experience.
- Why prayer?

Yom Kippur Workshop Sept. 10

The long fast — who needs it? Come discover why you do — for body and soul.

Explore...

- The mental, emotional and spiritual aspects of this day.
- The meaning of the festive meals of Yom Kippur eve.
- Customs and prayers of the holiday.
- The structure of the five prayers.

Sukkoth Workshop Sept. 24

A beautiful and enjoyable festival for your family and neighborhood.

Explore...

- Its meanings and customs.
- Why we have a Sukkah.
- Where to get one, or how to build your own.
- The meanings and techniques of shaking the four species (Lulav and Esrog).

All workshops will be held at 7:15 to 8:45 p.m. at the Chabad CHAI Center, 15 Centerville Road, Warwick, R.I. The instructor will be Rabbi Yossi Laufer. To R.S.V.P. and to order a shofar, call 732-6559. Suggested donations are \$4 per workshop, \$10 for all three, and \$5 for a shofar.

If you have a shofar, bring it along. If you wish to purchase one, we can order it for you. (Totally optional)

Hebrew College Spirituality Series Sept. 9 and 16

Confronting the Human Dilemma of Imperfection

As Jews the world over are getting ready for individual and community days of worship this Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, the Center for Adult Jewish Learning at Hebrew College, in a continuation of last year's Journey's in Spirituality series, is offering a half-day workshop and a four-session follow-up class devoted to examining the nature of *Teshuvah*, or repentance.

Dr. Shaul Magid, chairman of the department of Jewish philosophy at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, will offer "Teshuvah: Confronting the Human Dilemma of Imperfection" in a workshop on Sept. 9, from 2:30 to 6 p.m. What is repentance and how does one do it? Through exploring medieval and modern texts, participants will look at the complex notion of *Teshuvah* as an act of self-reflection, self-criticism and confrontation with the core of our imper-

fect human condition. Rethinking conventional notions, Magid will challenge participants to discover new ways of revitalizing their practice.

"Teshuvah: Freedom Forgivenness and the Power to Change" is the focus of a four-session follow-up class taught by Rabbi Shai, held on Sunday afternoons at Hebrew College from 4 to 6 p.m., beginning Sept. 16. In-depth examination of the nature of *Teshuvah* will offer participants the opportunity for both text study, personal reflection and practice. Rabbi Held is the Conservative Rabbinic advisor at Harvard Hillel.

Pre-registration is strongly encouraged. The Sept. 9 workshop is \$25; \$30 at the door. The four-week class is \$95. For details, contact Lina Reznikov at the Center for Adult Jewish Learning at Hebrew College. Call (617) 278-4939. Hebrew College is located at 43 Hawes St. in Brookline, Mass.

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JEWISH COMMUNITY

Elie Wiesel Named Honorary Chair for Israel Solidarity Rally in NYC

United Jewish Communities recently announced that Nobel Peace Prize winner Elie Wiesel will serve as honorary chairman of a major solidarity rally for Israel Sept. 23 in New York City.

Wiesel, a world-renowned author, teacher and defendant of human rights, will share the dais with rally chairman, Marvin Lender of New Haven, a member of the UJC board of trustees and past national chairman of United Jewish Appeal, UJC's predecessor organization.

The rally, intended to be a continental show of unity with the people and government of Israel, is sponsored by UJC and the Federations of North America. It is being supported by nearly every major North American Jewish organization.

"Israel is being threatened and is in danger as never before," Wiesel said. "Thereafter, Israel needs our support as never before. It is my hope that a hundred thousand people will come to the rally and with their presence say that Israel is not alone."

The Nobel Laureate and Boston University professor said the message of support emanating from the rally, one element of a broad-based UJC solidarity initiative, must resonate beyond the Jewish communities of North America. "I hope that world Jewry will hear us and respond the same way wherever they are."

UJC Chairman of the Board

Charles R. Bronfman said, "We are proud and deeply honored to have as our rally's honorary chair a man of Elie Wiesel's unique stature as a devoted supporter of Israel, defender of Soviet Jewry, and champion of human rights throughout the world."

"I am confident that Elie Wiesel's passion, dedication, and eloquence on behalf of the Jewish people will be an inspiration to us all in making a clear and unequivocal statement of solidarity with the government and people of Israel," said UJC Executive Committee Chairman Joel D. Tauber. He added, "It is also my hope that his words will encourage many to join a UJC solidarity mission or go to Israel on their own as a further demonstration of our never-ending support and alliance."

Marvin Lender said, "for me personally it is a great honor to serve alongside Elie Wiesel, who, in my view, is one of the greatest Jewish leaders of our time. His commitment to this tally and its success will ensure that the American Jewish community's expression of solidarity with the people of Israel is heard, loud and clear."

Wiesel and Lender will be joined at the rally, set for 1 p.m. along Second Avenue beginning at 47th St. in Manhattan, by Israeli officials as well as regional and national U.S. leaders.

Savage Terrorism

(Continued from Page 3)

Barak, was willing to offer major concessions to the Palestinians for peace. Nevertheless, Yasir Arafat showed that he and the Palestinians did not really want peace by rejecting Barak's generous offer.

Ariel Sharon was elected to replace Barak as prime minister because the people of Israel were tired of their school children and others being the victims of terrorists.

It is up to Yasir Arafat, as the leader of the Palestinian people, to put a stop to Palestinian acts of

terrorism. By not effectively preventing terrorism, Arafat shares responsibility for incidents like the recent suicide bombing.

A concerted campaign against violence is a necessity. Let us hope and pray that irrational violence will give way to a rational approach, which, guided by the U.S. government, will solve the problems in the Middle East and implement peace in the Holy Land.

Rabbi William E. Kaufman is the rabbi at Temple Beth El in Fall River.

line, "You would have to walk the length of three football fields to reach the water." Officials have examined records dating back to Roman times and concluded that the lake has never been lower in recorded history.

Steps have already been taken to reduce consumption as much as possible. Water allocations to farmers have been reduced by 50 percent, and people in urban and suburban areas have begun to feel the effects as well. Water in Tel Aviv was recently shut off for two days because of poor quality. There has also been debate in the Knesset this summer about imposing a ban on lawn-watering throughout Israel.

The simple explanation for Israel's current water shortage crisis is too little supply, too much demand. The three sources of Israel's fresh water, the coastal and mountain aquifers and Lake Kinneret, are all at or below what experts call "red-line" levels, as a result of overpumping. If these sources drop further, they could become contaminated by underground salt deposits and thus unusable for drinking and irrigation. Some Israelis blame the shortage on mismanagement by the Israeli government. As put forth succinctly in *Israel's Business Arena - Globes*, "...the state has not invested real money in water development for over 20 years, during which time Israel's population has doubled from 3 million to 6 million."

But several consecutive years of low rainfall and increasing standards of living due to industrialization are also contributing factors. In addition, Israel must share its limited water supply with its neighbor, Jordan, which is entitled to receive 50 million cubic meters of water annually from Israel as part of a treaty signed in 1994. It is also a foregone conclusion that any lasting peace treaty with the Palestinians will have to include concessions with regard to access to and control of the water supply. Robinson affirmed this belief, stating that in the long

Fighting Israel's Water Crisis

(Continued from Page 1)

term, "Future peace won't depend on land or oil — it will depend on water."

Within the next few years, Israel must increase both its supply and the efficiency with which it uses that supply. According to Robinson, there are several projects underway that he calls "short and middle term solutions." JNF is starting a fund-raising campaign in America and the Diaspora that will hopefully bring them to fruition. One such project that is being funded by JNF is the construction of more than 100 new reservoirs, which will allow Israel to capture and store more water during rainfall, rather than losing it to the sea. "We want to catch the rain and utilize it," said Robinson.

Another project is the collection and treatment of waste water, which can then be used for crop irrigation. "Two hundred million cubic meters of waste water is generated every year," said Robinson. Catching, treating and recycling waste water also provides the benefit of reduced pollution. Robinson said that these efforts are already underway, but felt that "more needs to be done. This is a double-edged opportunity."

Negotiations are also underway for Israel to import approximately 50 million cubic meters of water per year from Turkey. This solution can help make up the shortfall while the government constructs desalination plants. These plants, which take sea water and convert it to fresh water suitable to drink, are very expensive to operate, which is why Israel has been reluctant to turn to them until now. According to

Robinson, however, "Desalination is the only long-term solution."

Part of Israel's problem is inherent in its very nature as the Jewish homeland. A steadily increasing population of Jewish immigrants is the biggest reason that water consumption outpaces the capacity of rainfall to replace it. However, due to Israel's policy of aliyah, this growth is likely to continue, which Robinson said is a good thing. "Does increased population cause water problems? Yes. Do we still want increased population anyway? Absolutely."

Furthermore, many critics have faulted Israel for relying too much on its own agricultural production, instead of importing produce from abroad. This is not yet something that has undergone serious consideration by Israeli leaders, however. Robinson said that farming is essential to the spirit of the Jewish state. "That's the Zionist dream - to develop the land of Israel and bring food to the people."

The JNF hopes to raise awareness about the issue in the Diaspora. Although the situation right now has been described as "a catastrophe," it gets less attention than it otherwise would because of the ongoing intifadah. Robinson said that he realizes how difficult it is to worry about two such crises at once. At least in the case of the water shortage, though, Israel and its supporters can take comfort in the fact that steps in the right direction are being made, steps that focus on clear and attainable goals. "This is a crisis we can do something about," Robinson said.

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

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The limbo was ably demonstrated by fifth-grader Rashel Shneyder at the JCCRI Camp Haverim DJ party, where music was provided by Good Time Tunes. Photo courtesy of the JCC

JEWISH COMMUNITY

Notable Jewish Women Featured in 'Women of Valor' Posters

As children prepare to return to school after summer vacations, the Jewish Women's Archive is making available to Jewish schools around the country a unique resource: its Women of Valor posters. Focused on the achievements of notable American Jewish women, the series of 15 posters is accompanied by resource guides for teachers and an extensive Internet exhibit on JWA's Web site at <www.jwa.org>.

"Jewish education has seen explosive growth in the last decade," said JWA Executive Director Gail Twersky Reimer. "That makes this an ideal time for schools — whether they are new or longstanding institutions — to look at how their curricula treat Jewish women in

history. Too often, curricula have overlooked or omitted Jewish women from the telling of history, both sacred and secular. JWA's Women of Valor educational outreach program addresses that problem by telling the stories and detailing the accomplishments of remarkable Jewish women."

For each of the past five years, JWA has annually chosen three "women of valor" as subjects of striking posters, content-rich Web exhibits and idea-packed resource guides. The 2001 Women of Valor are entrepreneur and philanthropist "Madame" Beatrice Alexander; Nobel Prize-winning medical researcher Gertrude Elion; and the first Jewish woman to preach from a pulpit in the United States, Ray Frank. They

join a dozen Women of Valor from previous years: politician Bella Abzug, athlete Bobbie Rosenfeld, anthropologist Barbara Myerhoff, philanthropist Rebecca Gratz, poet and writer Emma Lazarus, actress Molly Picon, children's rights activist and jurist Justine Wise Polier, National Council of Jewish Women founder Hannah G. Solomon, activist and organizer Lillian D. Wald, union organizer and activist Rose Schneiderman, 17th century author and businesswoman Glikl bas Judah, and Hadassah founder Henrietta Szold.

Schools can receive one set of Women of Valor posters free by contacting the Jewish Women's Archives by phone at (617) 232-2258 or by e-mail at <webmaster@jwa.org>.



Summertime and the Learning's Easy at the BJE

Summertime in the Resource Center at the Bureau of Jewish Education is when we get a chance to roll up our sleeves — to take stock and to replace stock, to develop curricula and to create new items. In their second summer of volunteering at the BJE, Susan and Laura Landau have been working with Sharyn Yanku Wilk, educational services associate at the BJE/RI, helping to catalogue posters and make display samples of various projects for holidays throughout the year. Come visit and see what's new! The Bureau of Jewish Education is located at 130 Sessions St. in Providence. Call 331-0956. *Photo courtesy of the BJE*

AFL-CIO Decries Jerusalem Bombing

The AFL-CIO condemns the recent terrorist bombing in Central Jerusalem that left 15 people killed and 130 others injured. On behalf of the 13 million members of the AFL-CIO and the more than 40 million members of trade union families across the United States, we extend our deepest sympathies to the families of those Israelis, Americans, Brazilians and French men, women and children whose lives were senselessly taken away in this latest terrorist attack. We also send our wishes for a speedy recov-

ery for the many people who were injured in the blast.

The escalating cycle of violence between Palestinians and Israelis will not solve the many differences between them. The recent deaths in Jerusalem, where schoolchildren, parents and passersby faced the full force of a bomb designed to inflict as much personal injury as possible, reaches out beyond the Middle East to the countries where visitors to Jerusalem live and work.

The stakes for working men and women and their families

in the Middle East are too high to allow the continuation of such carnage. We call on Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasir Arafat to decisively act to stop the groups within the areas under his control, and to bring those responsible for this most recent attack in Jerusalem to justice.

Finally, we reiterate our call for all sides, Israelis and Palestinians alike, to return to peace negotiations. As trade unionists, we also call on the Palestinian and the Israeli labor movements to do everything within their power to bring their nations' leadership to understand that the only place that their differences can be resolved to the benefit of all sides is at the negotiating table.

Brown Bag Kickoff Luncheon

The annual Brown Bag Kickoff Luncheon is scheduled for Sept. 11 in the Social Hall of the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island at noon. Catered lunch by Izzy's Kosher Catering.

This year's guest speaker is Charlie Hall, the creative genius behind Ocean State Follies. Performing as a stand-up comic for more than 20 years, Hall has also been on numerous television shows and performed as an "opener" for acts such as Jerry Seinfeld and Natalie Cole. *Rhode Island Monthly Magazine* voted the Follies as the state's Best Comedy Show in '93, '97, and '98, and Hall as the state's Best Comedian in '94, '95, and '96. Hall will give us a little insight into the workings of the Follies. This is sure to be a most enjoyable and memorable afternoon!

The Brown Bag Club is a long-standing casual group that meets every second and fourth Tuesday of the month to socialize over lunch and enjoy a speaker, a movie or perhaps a workshop. There is no fee to join, but a \$1 donation is appreciated each meeting. There is an additional fee for the Kickoff Luncheon.

For further information, call 861-8800, ext. 108.

'Hasidic Hendrix' Will Hit South Shore Jewish Music Festival

This Labor Day, you can leave your workaday cares far behind while enjoying an eclectic, vibrant Judaic festival with the family. Sponsored by Shaloh House of Stoughton, Mass. the South Shore Jewish Music Festival, which is free of charge and will happen rain or shine, will rock Sharon / Easton's Borderland State Park on Sept. 3 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Shaloh's Rabbi Mendel Gurkow and marketing director, Leslie Tamarkin, produced the event that will open with the Brookline students' Maim-onides Room 31 Jazz band and continue with music, dance and stories of David Paskin and Rock Toy, children's performer Jonathan Cahr and the *Village Voice*-dubbed "Hasidic Hendrix/Separdic Santana" Yosi Piamenta and his band.

Along with the musical palette, the festival, which is co-sponsored with CJP, Reebok, Striar JCC, N.E. Sinai Hospital, Rodman Ford, Polychem USA, American Auto Transport, It's Party Time, Rentals Unlimited, BC Tent and Awning, J&E Baking Co., Mid East Bakery and many other organizations, businesses and area synagogues, will feature carnival rides, arts and crafts workshops, kosher concessions, Judaic vendors and displays. The 9th District Congressional candidates will be reading books to children at the Albert Judaic Children's Library booth and then will be mingling with the crowds.

For more information or directions, call Shaloh House toll free at (866) 2-SHALOH.



Yosi Piamenta, the 'Hasidic Hendrix' will play the South Shore Jewish Music Festival



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'Senior Journal' Issues Broadcast Schedule

The "Senior Journal" cable television program is devoted to exploring the issues of growing older in Rhode Island through the personal perspectives of seniors. Programs are produced by senior volunteers and are sponsored by the R.I. Department of Elderly Affairs, in cooperation with COX Communications. Programs are aired on Sundays at 5 p.m.; Mondays at 7 p.m.; and Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays at 11:30 a.m. over statewide interconnect channel "A."

The next "Senior Journal" broadcasts are the Feinstein Mentoring Programs, hosted by Lee Chalek of Warwick, and featuring Arlene McNulty, director of the Feinstein/Warwick

Mentoring Program; and Angela Silva, mentor (Sept. 2 to 16). Also scheduled to broadcast is the "Rhode Island Silver Haired Legislature," hosted by Chalek, and featuring Libby Aaron, speaker of the R.I. Silver Haired legislature; Joe Brown, SHL deputy speaker; and Arnold Durfee, SHL treasurer (Sept. 16 to 17).

Viewers written comments, suggestions, or opinions on the "Senior Journal" are always welcome and should be addressed to Larry Grimaldi, R.I. Department of Elderly Affairs, 160 Pine St., Providence, R.I. 02903. For more information, or to become a "Senior Journal" volunteer, call 222-2858, ext. 222.

R.I. Coalition Against Domestic Violence Seeks Community Involvement

The R.I. Coalition Against Domestic Violence is looking for local organizations to participate in several events slated for National Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October. This year's campaign will focus on teen-dating violence.

First, they are seeking to involve local religious organizations in Domestic Violence Awareness Day. The faith community will choose one of their services during the month of October and observe a moment of silence in memory of the victims of domestic violence. The coalition will provide the faith community with the educational materials needed to participate.

The coalition is also looking for community involvement from local businesses such as libraries, banks, police departments, social service agencies, healthcare facilities, and so on, to display information on domestic violence. Last year, there

were more than 1,000 displays statewide.

If your organization or faith community is interested in participating in Domestic Violence Awareness Month activities, contact Maria Piro at 467-9940. These and other statewide events will help to raise awareness about teen-dating violence and the help that is available to victims.

The Rhode Island coalition Against Domestic Violence has six member agencies which serve families affected by domestic violence. Services provided include emergency shelter, 24-hour helpline, court advocacy, community outreach, community support groups, public education and counseling.

This year's DVAM campaign is being sponsored by United-Healthcare of New England, Verizon, Providence Gas, NBC10 and Citizens Bank.

Diabetes Support Group to Meet at Memorial Hospital

Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island's Diabetes Support Group will meet on Sept. 5 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in Sayles Conference Room 2 and 3, located on the ground floor. The topic of this meeting will be Common Medications Used to Treat Diabetes.

Joan Veran, a registered pharmacist from Memorial Hospital, will review common medications used to treat diabetes. She will focus on oral hypoglycemic agents and their benefits to managing blood glucose levels. Veran will also discuss various actions of medications and which medication may best suit your lifestyle.

The Diabetes Support Group meets first Wednesday of each month at Memorial. For more information, call Nicole Fiermonte, R.D., LDN at 729-2574.



OCG Will Run a Candidates School

Robert Arruda, chairman of Operation Clean Government, is pleased to announce that OCG will run a Rhode Island Candidates School. The school will be open to anyone thinking of running for any state or local elected position — school committee, city or town council, state legislature and general office. Rhode Island citizens of any party or independents as well as their associates and volunteers are welcome to attend this candidates school. The school will take place within the first four months of 2002. Arruda also announced that Bruce Lang, OCG board member, is chairing the planning and implementation of this candidates school.

Lang stated that "to have good, open, responsible and honest government, it is important to have lively and competitive races and a wide variety of citizens involved and filling elected positions."

For more information, call (877) 793-3774 or visit <www.opcg.org>.

Feinstein Foundation and R.I. Colleges Start \$20 Million Scholarship Fund

The following colleges and universities have joined with the Feinstein Foundation in offering a massive scholarship opportunity for R.I. students and adults who have been in the Feinstein elementary and or middle school programs and best exemplify the values of community service and dedication to making a positive difference in the lives of others.

Rhode Island College — Up to 200 full scholarships per year only for students in our program.

Roger Williams University — Up to \$12 million in scholarships.

Johnson & Wales University — Several scholarships yearly, some fully paid.

New England School of Technology — Up to several \$11,000 scholarships!

Twenty to 35 \$10,000 Louis Feinstein Scholarships will be awarded yearly, matched by most Rhode Island colleges and universities and \$40,000 added to it for those scholars electing to attend Roger Williams University.

URI Feinstein College of Continuing Education will offer 250 to 300 scholarships yearly for adults for part-time college courses to enhance job skills, learn new ones or for courses needed toward a college degree.

Prospective Adoptive Parents Invited to Informational Meeting in Mass on Aug. 29

Anyone in southeastern Massachusetts who is interested in exploring the possibilities of adoption is invited to attend an informational meeting offered by Adoption Options, the non-sectarian adoption program of Jewish Family Service. The meeting will take place on Aug. 29 at 6 p.m. at the Massachusetts office of Adoption Options, located in the Community Counseling building at 366 Winthrop St., in Rehoboth. For directions the night of the meeting, call (508) 252-9809.

The meeting is free and open to anyone considering pursuing an adoption. Adoption workers

will be on hand to provide information and answer questions about the many types of adoption, including domestic and international, traditional and open, and explain the steps involved in the adoption process.

Adoption Options, a non-sectarian, non-profit, comprehensive adoption program is licensed in both Rhode Island and Massachusetts. The agency's Massachusetts office can be reached toll-free at (800) 337-6513 for information or to arrange a confidential consultation. The Web site can be found at <www.adoptionoptions.org>.

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

Free Large Print High Holiday Machzor Available

You have a unique opportunity to make the forthcoming High Holidays truly special and memorable for your parents or grandparents. The Jewish Heritage for the Blind will send them a free Hebrew/English volume of our deluxe edition large print — High Holiday Machzor or the Braille edition.

Contact their physician or eye-care specialist to have them fax or mail a note to our office confirming that they have difficulty reading regular print.

Mail, Fax or E-mail your request to: The Jewish Heritage for the Blind, 1655 East 24th St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11229. Fax out of state: (877) 230-2205 (toll free); fax in New York, (718) 338-0653; E-mail: <jhb.ny@operamail.com>. One per household; supply is limited.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Watercolor Society Goes 'Around the World'

Three members of the Rhode Island Watercolor Society, fellow painters in the watercolor medium and friends of many years exhibit their paintings together in "Around the World in Watercolor," at the R.I. Watercolor Society with an opening on Aug. 26, 1 to 4 p.m.

RIWS member Mary Lessard of Pennsylvania features the people, children and gardens of Beijing, China; Susan Daly of Gloucester, Mass., enjoys plein-air painting in Ireland, Europe, England; while Joan Seville discovers the world of New England gardens in her paintings. All three of the artists will be on hand at the opening, Aug. 26, 1 to 4 p.m. to talk with the public about the pleasures of painting in a water medium.

The show opens Aug. 26 and continues through Sept. 21. It is free and open to the public.

The R.I. Watercolor Society is located at Slater Memorial Park, Armistice Boulevard, Pawtucket, R.I. Directions available at the Web site <www.riws.org> or by calling the gallery at 726-1876. The gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday 1 to 5 p.m.

Susan Daly

Mary Lessard

Joan Seville



Yes Incorporate Their Unique Sound With Symphonies

Legendary rock band Yes, featuring Jon Anderson, Steve Howe, Chris Squire and Alan White, will re-define the term classic rock by combining their unrivaled signature sound with symphonies nationwide. The Yessymphonic Tour stops at the Mohegan Sun Resort in Uncasville, Conn., on Aug. 25. Ticket prices are \$30 and \$45 and are available at the Mohegan box office <www.tickets.com> or by calling (888) 332-5600.

"We always dreamed of performing with an orchestra in a tour setting," says lead singer Jon Anderson. "Our upcoming album was written with an orchestra so we wanted the tour to reflect that." Orchestrations for the songs were created by well-known film composer Larry Groupe, who will also conduct the orchestra at several shows.

Yes will showcase their songs from their upcoming al-

bum (set for release later this year) in addition to featuring fan favorites from their vast repertoire. Mainstream audiences first took notice of the group with "Owner of a Lonely Heart," while die-hard fans were hooked on other, more complex anthems. Notable albums include "Fragile," "Close to the Edge," "90125," "Tales From Topographic Oceans," and "Yessongs," which became a model for progressive rock live albums.

Pioneers of progressive rock — a mix of classical music and arty pop-rock, Yes has endured for more than 30 years by showcasing amazing talent and musicianship that consistently produced music of quality and distinction. One of the most influential rock bands of all time, the members of Yes link rock with more complex, classical-sounding arrangements by using classical and jazz traditions to create a modern classical pop.

"Yes create sort of a classical modern pop: a wacky mix of Stravinsky, Moody Blues and Vangelis scores. Their vocal harmonies have always been one of rock's most epic sounds." *Los Angeles Times*

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.

Patty Stone on Exhibit at P.C.

Hunt-Cavanagh Art Gallery, Providence College, Hunt-Cavanagh Hall, Providence, will feature Patty Stone: Images and Fragments. The exhibit will run from Sept. 4 to Oct. 5. A reception will be held on Sept. 9, 2 to 4 p.m. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 9 to 4 p.m. Call 865-2401. "Rice bowl with strawberries," (2001, oil on canvas 26 inches x 36 inches) is one of the pictures on display.

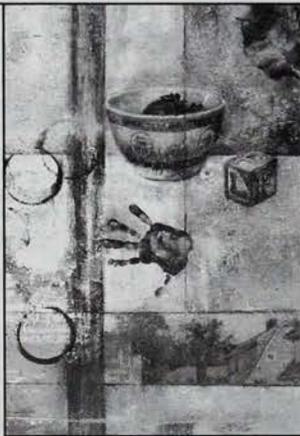


Photo courtesy of Hunt-Cavanagh Art Gallery

'Barefoot in The Park' Plays at Mill River Dinner Theater

Neil Simon's "Barefoot in the Park" is an "amiably idiotic" (*N.Y. Herald Tribune*) comedy which tells the story of a newly married young prim and preppy lawyer and his dizzy, bon-vivant wife. Adding an eccentric neighbor, quite taken by the wife, and a mother-in-law that has a tendency of "Just stopping by..." along with delivery and workmen involved in the matters-of-the-moment, all set-up this production of sheer madness.

Show times run until Sept. 9. Mill River Dinner Theater is located at 499 High St., Central Falls, R.I. Call 721-0909 for reservations.



A SCENE FROM "Barefoot in the Park" now playing at the Mill River Dinner Theater, Central Falls, R.I.

Photo courtesy of the Mill River Dinner Theater

Theatre-By-The-Sea Concludes Season with Sweet Charity

FourQuest Entertainment is proud to announce the opening of the razzle-dazzle musical comedy, "Sweet Charity" at Theatre-By-the-Sea, which began on Aug. 21.

Originally conceived by Bob Fosse and written by America's greatest comic playwright, Neil Simon, "Sweet Charity" tells the story of a dance hall hostess named Charity who longs for a true and abiding love in order to realize her dreams. Although she successively becomes enamored with worthless men, Charity never loses her plucky determination to keep searching for her true love. This spirited and sophisticated musical combines sparkling dance numbers with an engaging, funny look and an upbeat, clever score featuring such popular tunes as "Big Spender," "I'm a Brass Band," "There's Gotta Be Something Better Than This," and "If My Friends Could See Me Now." In the words of its most famous song, "Big Spender," Sweet Charity offers its audiences fun, a few laughs and a good time!

Jerome Vivona, who directed last season's critically acclaimed productions of "Guys and Dolls" and "West Side Story," returns to direct this bright and

brassy musical comedy. Seasoned NY performer Sally Mae Dunn, who most recently was seen in "Follies" on Broadway, will be making her Theatre-By-The-Sea debut in the role of Charity. Michael McEachran, who performed in the recent Broadway production of "Little Me" with Martin Short, will portray both the roles of Oscar and Vittorio and Broadway veterans Laurie Gamache and Greta Martin will be portraying the roles of Nickie and Helene.

"Sweet Charity" will be presented from Aug. 21 to Sept. 9. Performances are scheduled for Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evenings at 8 p.m., Thursdays at 2 p.m., Saturdays at 5 and 9 p.m., and Sunday evenings at 5 p.m. The theater is located at 364 Cards Pond Road, Matunuck, R.I. Tickets are \$27 for preview performances and \$30 for all other performances. Discount rates for senior citizens and groups of 20 or more are available. The box office is currently open Monday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday to Friday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. On performance days, the box office will also be open during intermission.

Located on Rhode Island's south shore, Theatre-By-The-Sea presents the best of Broadway all summer long. For tickets, call 782-8587.

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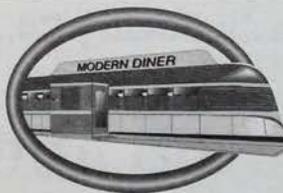
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Trinity Rep Brings on 38th Season With 'Noises Off'

What better way to open Trinity Rep's 38th season than with one of the modern theater's most popular comedies, "Noises Off?" With Trinity Rep's resident acting company and an extraordinary director/designer team, this hilarious "farce-within-a-farce" invites you backstage as the long-suffering director, beleaguered stage manager and dimwitted thespians battle lovers' spats, diva fits and technical mishaps. You'll laugh yourself silly! "Noises Off" runs Aug. 31 to Oct. 7 in Trinity Rep's Elizabeth and Malcolm Chace Theatre, upstairs at 201 Washington St., and is sponsored by

members will play a big role in the latest collaboration between director Amanda Dehnert and set designer David Jenkins ("My Fair Lady," "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?," "The New England Sonata," "Othello" and others). Michael Frayn's classic behind-the-scenes comedy is famous for its 25-minute second act, which takes place backstage during a silly British sex comedy that's falling to pieces. Most theater companies build the set on a turntable, then spin it during intermissions. At Trinity Rep the set stays put but the audience goes backstage — literally! Trinity Rep audiences have moved in the past with produc-

ence will return to their original seats. "Noises Off" is a wild ride. It should be fun. It should be an adventure," says director Amanda Dehnert.

"Noises Off" is the first of two plays by Tony Award-winning British playwright Frayn that will be performed at Trinity Rep this season. The season closes with Frayn's "Copenhagen," which won three Tony Awards in 2000 including Best Play. "Noises Off," which opened to critical and popular acclaim, capturing London's West End Theater Society's Best Comedy, is a traditional comedy in which Frayn uses the textbook play-within-a-play technique as a metaphor for life falling apart.

"Noises Off" calls for a cast of thousands. Cynthia Strickland (The Beauty Queen of Leenane) who last appeared as Scrooge in "A Christmas Carol" takes on the dual roles of Dotty Otley and Mrs. Clackett. Veteran company actors Timothy Crowe and Fred Sullivan Jr., who wowed audiences in "Art" now take on the roles of Selsdon and Lloyd. Janice Duclos, who played Melony in "The Cider House Rules, Parts I & II" appears as Flavia and Belinda. The cast also includes season 00-01 company newcomers Angela Brazil and Stephen Thorne, each of whom played starring roles in "The Cider House Rules, Parts I & II." Also appearing in this rip-roaring hilarious production are resident company members Stephen Berenson ("The School for Scandal") and Mauro Hantman ("The School for Scandal," "The Cider House Rules, Parts I & II"). Trinity Rep welcomes back former company member Jennifer Mudge Tucker in the dual roles of Brooke and Vicky.

Trinity Rep's season continues with Donald Margulies' "Dinner With Friends," the 25th anniversary production of "A Christmas Carol," Marc Wolf's "Another American: Asking & Telling," David Henry Hwang's "Savage in Paradise," J.M. Barrie's "Peter Pan," Frayn's "Copenhagen," and the world premiere of a new play. The popular Under Thirty Thursdays, sponsored by Sovereign Bank, return this season, offering a \$12 walk-up ticket to anyone under the age of 30: this play's Under Thirty Thursdays dates are Sept. 13 and 20. A wide array of subscription packages is available, from the full season to the returning Pick Four package. For more information or a free brochure, call the box office at 351-4242 or visit Trinity Rep's Web site at <www.trinityrep.com>.



Photo courtesy of Trinity Repertory Company

The Gatehouse Restaurant and Catering Company. Tickets are available now at the Trinity Rep box office, 351-4242. Tickets to select performances are available at <www.trinityrep.com> With "Noises Off," audience

tions of "Cathedral of Ice" and "No Plays, No Poetry," but this is the first time that audiences will have the opportunity to go backstage. During act three, when the action shifts to the front-of-house again, the audi-

Calling All Artists: Wickford Art Association Calls For Entries

Wickford Art Association invites artists to enter their abstract and avant garde work in an open juried competition. Works in any media may be entered. Cash awards are awarded to winning entries.

To enter, artists are requested to bring their original work to Wickford Art Association Gallery on Sept. 5 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. or 5 to 6 p.m., and Sept. 6 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. only. The registration fee is \$12 per entry or three entries for \$30. Artists may submit a maximum of three pieces. All work must be original, current (less than 3 years old), framed, wired, and ready to hang. Work must not have been previously judged at Wickford Art Association Gallery.

Work juried into the show will hang from Sept. 7 through 20. The opening reception is

Sept. 9, from 1 to 3 p.m. The public is invited to attend. Wickford Art Association Gallery is located at 36 Beach St., North Kingstown, R.I. 02852. The gallery is open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and noon to 3 p.m. on Sundays. The gallery is wheelchair accessible. All exhibits are free and open to the public.

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Home Lands

Portraits of the New Jewish Diaspora

In his travels overseas as a reporter for the *Boston Globe*, Larry Tye stumbled upon a revitalized Jewish world not reflected in what he'd read about the vanishing Jews of America and the disappearing Diaspora. Instead, he found a renewal of Jewish identity under way around the world, from the former Soviet Union to the jam-packed synagogues of Atlanta and Boston. In *Home Lands: Portraits of the New Jewish Diaspora* (Henry Holt & Company; September 10, 2001, \$27.50), Tye brings his experiences, observations, and extensive research to the page by tracing this regeneration of Jewish life through the stories of seven far-flung Jewish communities, each of which offers its own compelling tale. Focusing on specific cities in Germany, Ukraine, Ireland, France, Argentina, and the United States, Tye concentrates on a single family or congregation in each place whose own story reflects the wider community's past as well as its present.

With the memory of the Holocaust still fresh, Tye finds that Düsseldorf has the fastest growing Jewish population in the world. The Jews of Buenos Aires have made a home in a land that also gave refuge to Nazi henchmen the likes of Adolf Eichmann. Ireland is proud of its tight-knit Jewish community that has produced Lord Mayors in Belfast, Cork, and twice in Dublin. Deep in the Ukraine, Dnepropetrovsk illustrates how tens of thousands of Jews are reclaiming traditions stifled during a century of rule by the Nazis and the Soviets. And within his own family in Boston, Tye tells of roots that run deep in the Jewish community at the same time he and his relatives embrace the secular society around them. These cities, plus communities in Paris and Atlanta, illuminate Jewish life past and present, and together make up the story of the New Jewish Diaspora.

While the first impression to emerge from the author's travels are the cities' differences, far more striking is what they have

in common. A resurrection of purpose exists in which Jews feel confident living in diverse societies while still embracing a core of beliefs and practices that define them as Jews. They still share enough universal customs



and rituals for outsiders to see them as part of the same people — whether it's donning the same traditional yarmulkes and tallits, chanting prayers in the same Hebraic tongue, or parsing the same passages from the Torah, Talmud, and Midrash. Even more striking, children are reversing the pattern of history by leading their parents and grandparents back to the synagogue and to Judaism. And a new partnership of equals is being forged with the Jewish state, one that acknowledges that the Diaspora is as critical to the survival of Israel as Israel is to the survival of the Jewish people.

"The new Jewish Diaspora — of a 'heterogeneous people who thrive in secular societies' — is here to stay, asserts Tye. As these diverse Jewish communities have become not merely way stations but enduring homes, they have begun to remake Judaism itself. Tye tells this intriguing story through sketches of people and of life in seven cities." — *Publisher's Weekly*

Delving deep into the various communities, *Home Lands* offers an unexpected and inspiring story of a renewed Jewish Diaspora that is no mere curiosity of history, but rather the reality of today and tomorrow.

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OBITUARIES

DORIS ARBEITMAN
NORTH PROVIDENCE — Doris Arbeitman, 80, of Douglas Avenue, a retired office manager and entrepreneur, died Aug. 16 at Miriam Hospital.

She was the wife of Henry Arbeitman. They were married for 35 years. Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Samuel and Dora (Sarser) Strashnick, she had lived in North Providence for 11 years, previously living in Warwick.

She was an office manager for Hardlines Distributors, Norwood, Mass.; before retiring in 1970. She and her husband then started the now-defunct Nantru Jewelry Mfg. Co.

Besides her husband, she leaves three sisters, Mildred Bloomberg, Irma Friedlander and Tillie Selenger, all of North Providence. She was a sister of the late Louis and George Strashnick, Shirley Leibow and Catherine Pedlikin.

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



NATHAN BERANBAUM

BRISTOL — Nathan Beranbaum, 73, of the R.I. Veterans Home, Metacom Ave., died Aug. 8 at the home. Born in Providence, a son of the late Morris and Lillian (Levine) Beranbaum, he had lived in Cumberland before moving to the Veterans home.

He was a World War II Marine Veteran. He was a member of Redwood Lodge of the Masons and the Palestine Shrine. He was a former member of Temple Torat Yisrael in Cranston. He leaves three daughters, Irma Beranbaum and Sheryl Rothermel, both of Warwick and Holly Baron of San Francisco, Calif., and two grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, contribu-

tions in his memory may be made to Angel Flight N.E., 492 2nd St., North Andover, Mass. 01841. Funeral services were private. Arrangements were made by Shalom Memorial Chapel, 1100 New London Ave., Cranston, R.I. 02920.

SELMA CHORNEY

LOS ANGELES, Calif. — Selma Chorney, 84, of West Olympic Boulevard, a retired bookkeeper, died Aug. 12 at Berkeley West Convalescent Hospital, Santa Monica, Calif.

Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Max and Frieda (Braun) Chorney, she had lived in Cranston before moving to Los Angeles three years ago.

She was a bookkeeper at Speidel Inc., Providence, for 48 years, retiring four years ago.

She was a former member of Congregation Sons of Jacob Synagogue, Providence.

She leaves two sisters, Jean M. Sokol of Los Angeles and Dorothy Bearman of Pensacola, Fla.; and several nieces and nephews. She was the sister of the late Edward Chorney.

The funeral was held Aug. 16 in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. In lieu of flowers, contributions in her memory may be made to your favorite charity. Arrangements were made by Shalom Memorial Chapel, 1100 New London Ave., Cranston.

SHIRLEY M. GALKIN

WARWICK — Shirley M. Galkin, 58, of Peabody Drive, died Aug. 15 at R. I. Hospital. She was the wife of George J. Galkin.

Born in Brookline, Mass., a daughter of Gerta (Baker) Mann of Miami, Fla., and the late Benjamin Mann, she had lived in Warwick for 31 years. She had worked in the trust department of Citizens Bank in Providence for 15 years. She was a graduate of Boston University, Class of 1964. She was a member of MADD, a former member of Temple Torat Yisrael and B'nai B'rith.

Besides her husband and mother, she leaves a daughter, Stephanie Lynn Flanders of

Manchester, N.H.; a brother, Martin Mann and a sister, Barbara Mann, both of Boston; and a grandson.

Funeral services were held Aug. 17 in Shalom Memorial Chapel, 1100 New London Ave., Cranston. In lieu of flowers, contributions in her memory may be made to the American Cancer Society, 400 Main St., Pawtucket, R.I. 02860 or your favorite charity. Burial was in Sinai Memorial Park, 100 Harrison Ave., Warwick. Arrangements were made by Shalom Memorial Chapel.

SALLY R. HURWITZ

NORTH MIAMI BEACH, Fla. — Sally R. Hurwitz, 86, of North Miami Beach, Fla., died Aug. 19 at her home. She was the wife of the late William Hurwitz.

She is survived by three sons, Alan G. Hurwitz of Pawtucket, David and Eric Hurwitz, both of Florida; two daughters, Rhea Hurwitz of Florida and Lissa Lackman of Maryland; seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

The funeral and burial were held in Florida.

The family was assisted with the arrangements by Sugarman-Sinai Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

ROSE M. LEWIS

PROVIDENCE — Rose M. Lewis, 89, of 9 Alumni Ave, vice president of the former L.B. Lewis Co., died Aug. 18 at Miriam Hospital.

She was the wife of the late Louis B. Lewis. Born in Providence, a daughter of the late David and Ette (Cipkin) Jaffe, she had been a life-long resident of Providence.

She was co-owner with her husband in operating the L.B. Lewis Co., for 40 years, retiring in 1979.

She was a member of Temple Emanu-El, Providence, and Temple Beth Israel and its Sisterhood in Deerfield Beach, Fla., where she wintered. She was a life member of the Women's Association of the former Jewish Home for the Aged.

She was a 1930 graduate of the former Commercial High School, Providence.

She leaves a son, Joseph Lewis of Providence, and two brothers, Theodore and Irving

(Continued on Page 15)

Steven Sapolsky Dies at 53

Steven Sapolsky, a historian and social activist who specialized in labor issues and helped form a group calling German corporations to account for their use of slave labor during World War II, was a paradox.

He had the mind of an academic, the heart of a radical, the soul of an artist and the self-critical nature of a perfectionist. The first three qualities delighted friends, family, and students, who never ceased to marvel at his combination of brilliance and humility, generosity and ferocity.

And although the perfectionist in him never allowed him to realize fully the great promise of his talents and intellect — he worked on his doctoral dissertation for 17 years but never considered it finished — those close to him say he was a success by every measure but his own.

Mr. Sapolsky died Aug. 12. Police said he jumped off the Panther Hollow Bridge, and the coroner ruled it a suicide. He was 53.

He was to begin a new job that week as assistant director of undergraduate programs at the Carnegie Mellon University School of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

"Most people are satisfied to make a decent living, have a family and friends and be part of a community. They'd consider that a life well lived, and Steve had all of that," said Wendy Goldman, a history professor at Carnegie Mellon University and Sapolsky's colleague in the Working Class History Seminar, one of the longest-running seminars in the United States.

"But there are other people with great talents and enormous drive, and when they can't realize them to the fullest, the other things are just not enough. That was Steve."

"He was the most original thinker I ever met. You never knew what was going to come out of his mouth, and because of that, people really listened to him. But by his own high standards, he was never good enough."

After what friends describe as the longest student career in recorded history, Mr. Sapolsky spent 12 years as an academic

adviser to University of Pittsburgh undergraduates in the College of General Studies and the College of Arts and Sciences. There he was known for guiding lost or overwhelmed students through the maze of courses they would need to realize their own aspirations.

"He was the main mentor in my life," said Jeff Aziz, now a graduate student and teaching fellow at the university. "He sounded out courses and teachers for me and put me in touch with everyone who was important to my undergraduate education."

Mr. Sapolsky's interests ran wide and deep. He had an extensive music collection of all types and was a voracious reader of history, philosophy, political science, bioethics, mathematics and more. In recent weeks, he sold 40 boxes of scholarly books — hardly a dent in his collection — to John Schulman, co-owner of Caliban Books in Oakland.

"He told me that he had no more aspirations to become an academic," Schulman recalled. "Selling those books made him sad in a very deep way, and I came away from our conversation with admiration of how beautiful his soul was."

Mr. Sapolsky researched, wrote and lectured on the use of pesticides by agribusinesses and its effects on the environment and the economics of food. He researched the history of German corporations, particularly Bayer AG, parent company of the Pittsburgh-based Bayer USA, and their role in the Holocaust.

He could recite chapter and verse about the factories that ringed the Nazi death camps, their use of slave labor, their complicity in human experiments and their current record on human rights and environmental pollution.

His research proved invaluable to the Committee for Appropriate Acknowledgment, a small group of Jewish academics in Pittsburgh who have pushed for German companies to compensate surviving slave laborers and open their archives to outside scholars.

"He was a bird dog," said

(Continued on Page 15)

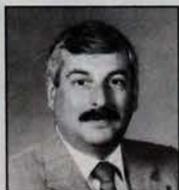
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Camp Haverim Happenings

Last Week's Theme Was Native American Adventures

Our Counselors Made Learning About The Native Americans Fun!

There were so many different and fun things going on during the week! Under Kate and Jessica's guidance, some campers designed traditional Native American-style vests and chose a real tribe's name to label the back. After learning the Sioux world "tipi" (meaning "used for dwelling"), another group used twigs, yarn, earth and rocks to create sturdy tipis in an outdoor village scene that they set up on the baseball diamond outside. Campers also made Native American Indian head dresses and coordinating feather necklaces. Finally, the children made beautiful Sioux medicine pouches or healing bags to wear around their necks for the purpose of keeping them safe and healthy.

Counselors Merideth, Jessica, and Matt worked with campers on a weaving project which is also in the tradition of natives of Central America. The children also learned about and made their own "coup sticks," traditionally used by the Sioux for

retelling of stories, using a series of pictures drawn on disks and suspended from a stick.

Special Activity: Pottery With Elizabeth

One of Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island's teachers, Elizabeth D'Abbraccio, spent four days teaching campers the basics of working with clay and particularly teaching the method for making a coiled pot resembling those crafted by native American Indians. She inspired them to add appropriate designs and colors. Their kiln-fired creations will be ready for pick-up at the end of this week!

Art With Jessica Was Awesome!

Arts and crafts counselor, Jessica, did several great projects to continue teaching the campers important things about Native American culture. While the older children made their own dream catchers, Tribe one got to make storytelling animal masks. Since using pictures was so important as a way to communicate, "animal skin" pictures using cut-out designs

game campers a traditional Cheppewa woodland Indian art experience which was usually done with birch bark shapes.

Water Wizz was Waterful

The campers experienced travel by water on last week's field trip, though the rides down the water slides were much less work than the Native Americans paddling canoes. As an extra treat, lunch was at the huge, new Westerly playground!

American Indian Legends and Jewish Story Telling

Charli read a number of American Indian legends, which start "Many moons ago," instead of "Once upon a time" or "A long time ago." Most of them are told to explain things in nature because the American Indians had a great respect for nature. Jewish tradition is also full of stories that explain things in nature and show how we respect how awesome nature is. The campers especially liked the Talmudic story about "The Sun, The Moon, and the Stars."



Everybody In!

On a JCC Camp Haverim trip to Water Wizz, Gabriella Rojas-Pellegrini was happy to land in the pool at the bottom of the "squirmy" slide.

Photo courtesy of the JCCRI

Jewish Discovery Comes to Newport, R.I. Aug. 26

The renowned Discovery Seminar will be coming to Newport, R.I. on Aug. 26 at 3 p.m. The seminar will be held at the Touro Community Center, located at 85 Touro St.

Presented around the world to audiences of all ages and backgrounds, the Discovery Seminar gives participants the opportunity to critically analyze many of the fundamental claims of Judaism and evaluate the evidence that supports those claims.

Discovery's spellbinding lecturers include scientists, lawyers and mathematicians, who take the audience on an edge-of-the-seat exploration of questions such as, "What objective evidence is there for the existence of G-d?" and "How do we account for the bizarre course of events in Jewish history?" Using state-of-the-art computer techniques, as well as investigative methodology adapted from the Israeli Mossad, Discovery is an intellectually charged yet highly entertaining presentation of "the case for Judaism."

"Discovery's rational approach has been like a breath of fresh air for today's university-educated Jew, who tends to view Judaism as a set of quaint rituals at best and, at worse, as an unwanted burden," says Eric Coopersmith, director of Discovery North America.

Comments from recent seminar participants included: "It's hard to believe that religion could be discussed so frankly and rationally. There was full intellectual honesty and that was refreshing," as well as "I don't think I'm going to change my life, but I'm much less confused about Judaism," and that the event was the "Most profound day of my life!"

Admission to Discovery is free and is being sponsored by Touro Synagogue and the Carl L. Dworman trust. To reserve a place at the upcoming Discovery Seminar, call Kathy at 847-4794, ext. 10.

Attention Herald Readers and Advertisers!

Reserve greetings space now for our 2001/5762

Rosh Hashanah ISSUE

Thursday, September 6, 2001

Wish your relatives and friends in the Jewish community a Happy New Year!

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B'nai B'rith International Enters Upcoming Racism Conference

"B'nai B'rith International will not stand by while others attempt to undermine the legitimacy of the State of Israel, promote anti-Semitism, diminish the uniqueness of the Holocaust, and threaten to rehash the old 'Zionism equals Racism' campaign," B'nai B'rith International President Richard D. Heideman said, speaking of the upcoming U.N. World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. American Jewish organizations involved in the fight against racism at the domestic and international levels have been actively monitoring the process leading to the U.N. conference, which will take place in Durban, South Africa, from Aug. 31-Sept. 7.

"These groups have invested time and efforts to ensure that the conference mission is not abused, and that the conference documents are devoid of hostile language against Israel and the Jewish people," Heideman said. "Nevertheless, the conference is being deterred from its original goals by some Arab governments." B'nai B'rith International, who will send an international delegation to

Durban, held a press conference Aug. 21 at 1 p.m., at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. Briefing participants commented on the disturbing outcome of the third preparatory meeting in Geneva, and warned of the potential failure of the conference.

"A negative outcome of this conference would yield a major blow to the global struggle against racism, and would dampen the credibility of the United Nations," said Heideman, who also chairs the U.N. Committee of the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations. Despite the fact that conference organizers had made a strong commitment not to single out any one country for condemnation, both the draft declaration and the draft program of action include several paragraphs focused on delegitimizing Israel. Moreover, in both documents there are clear attempts to trivialize the Holocaust, and exclude anti-Semitism as a form of racism. B'nai B'rith International with leadership and members in 58 countries-is the world's largest Jewish human rights, community action and humanitarian organization.