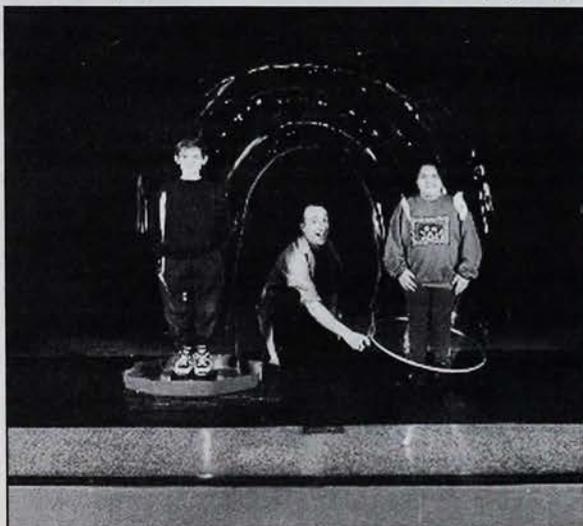


HAPPENINGS

Pop Into Bubblemania at Striar Jcc, January 21

Bubbleologist Casey Carle will bounce into Striar Jewish Community Center, 445 Central St., Stoughton, Mass., on January 21, 2002 for an afternoon of visual comedy, big band music and light-hearted fun. The high-energy entertainer creates imaginative airborne inventions like Bubble Spaceships, Bubbleheads, Bubble Popcorn Machines, and people filled bubbles with his popular show, BubbleMania. He will tickle your funny-bone with intricate bubble innovations that form columns, squares, double trouble, and more.

The show begins at 2 p.m. and is appropriate for children aged 3 and up. Tickets are just \$4 per child, \$6 per adult in advance; add \$2 at the door. For reservations, information, please phone Nina Shatz, (781) 341-2016, ext. 295 or e-mail <nshatz@jccgb.org>.



BUBBLEOLOGIST Casey Carle put a boy in a bubble during the performance of BubbleMania at Striar JCC on Monday, January 21 at 2 p.m. Photo by Art Illman

Calendar: December 28 through January 3

- 28 **Everyone's An Artist** at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island. Caricature artist Noa Teplow will teach children step-by-step how to draw a cartoon of anyone's face. The JCCRI is located at 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence. To register or for more information call Charlie Lurie at 861-8800, ext. 147.
 - 31 **The Jewish Community Center** of Rhode Island will offer a program entitled "What's Cookin's for 2002." The program, hosted by Jeffrey Brous, will teach children how to make something special to eat in the new year. For registration or information call 861-8800, ext. 147.
 - First Night Providence 2002** begins at 2 p.m. and continues until midnight at locations throughout downtown Providence. For information call 521-1166 or visit www.firstnightprovidence.org. see related story below.
 - 1 **Roger Williams Park Zoo** in Providence will offer free admission to the zoo from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For information call 785-3510 or visit www.rogerwilliamsparkzoo.com.
 - 2 **The Cranston Senior Guild** will hold its monthly general membership meeting at Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston, at 1 p.m. Nancy Berman will be presiding. Refreshments will be served. For information call 785-1800.
 - Winter Wonderland at the Jewish Community Center** of Rhode Island offers kids a chance to grab their skates and head for winter ice skating at the Fleet Skating Center in downtown Providence. For information or to register, call 861-8800, ext. 147.
 - 3 **Perspectives** will have a social meeting at Finnegan's Wake, 397 Westminster St., Providence, at 8 p.m. For more information call Andy at 435-5035.
- WGBH and the Old South Meeting House** present an afternoon of jazz with vocalist Semanya McCord at 12:15 p.m. The Meeting House is located at 310 Washington St., Boston. For tickets and information call (617)482-6438 or visit <www.oldsouthmeetinghouse.org>

Michal Cohen Will Perform at First Night

The Consulate General of Israel to New England is proud to present Michal Cohen, a famous Israeli singer, as part of the First Night Celebration. Every year the consulate brings performers from Israel to participate in this spectacular celebration, and this year is no different. Cohen is a multi-talented young woman. She is able to bridge the gap between modern music and traditional Israeli Yemenite music. Her multi-cultural blend of music will tantalize even the most discerning of ears. Cohen recently spent some time studying vocal performance here at Berklee College of music where she was awarded the Clear Lane award for vocal jazz performance.

Cohen is classically trained in modern jazz music but she blends in her Yemenite roots to provide her unique sound. Her performances at the Boston Public Library Rabb Auditorium, at 10 p.m. and 11:15 p.m. should not be missed.

Feinstein Center for a Hunger Free America Gets a Permanent Home at URI

The Feinstein Center for a Hunger Free America will become a permanent part of the University of Rhode Island and its mission, thanks to a recent \$1.5 million gift by the Feinstein Foundation. The gift establishes an endowment. Interest from the endowment will fund the center's ongoing activities.

The Feinstein Foundation established the center at URI in 1999 with an initial contribution of \$500,000. The center has offices at URI's Providence and Kingston campuses.

"The Feinstein Center for a Hunger Free America now has a two-year record of achievement at the University of Rhode Island," said URI President Robert L. Carothers. "With a permanent base of support established, the university and the Feinstein Foundation can look forward to a long-term partnership that will work to eradicate hunger in Rhode Island and America."

"I value the faith that Alan Shawn Feinstein has shown in URI as a vehicle for accomplishing social good," the president added.

One of the primary goals of the center is to develop lifelong anti-hunger advocates by giving students hands-on experience. The center also is bridging the relationships between the university and the wider Rhode Island community to find solutions to the problems of hunger and poverty.

Among the center's achievements is the creation of a new hunger studies minor at URI which offers students exposure to issues of hunger and an opportunity for personal involvement through service learning activities, research and outreach.

In addition, with the appointment of Dr. Kathleen Gorman as its director in August 2000 after a nationwide search, the center achieved another goal, which was to attract a recognized leader in the war on hunger. Gorman came from the University of Vermont with a solid background in academic research and a history as an activist, informing the public and influencing policy on hunger-related issues.

"Mr. Feinstein's continuous gifts in the fight to eradicate hunger show his commitment to making a difference in people's lives not only in Rhode Island, but in the rest of the world. I appreciate the confidence he has placed in us," said the center's director.

Directory to this week's Herald

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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
Lincoln Park Cemetery	737-5333
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

Copies of the Herald are available at...

In Cranston

Barney's, Oaklawn Ave.
Borders Book Shop, Garden City Ctr.
Rainbow Bakery and Cafe, Reservoir Ave.

Providence and Vicinity

Barney's, East Avenue, Pawtucket
Coffee Exchange, Wickenden St.
College Hill Book Store, Thayer St.
Eastside Marketplace, Pitman St.
East Side Prescription Center
Rhoda's Judaica, Hope St.

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Rhode Island Jewish HERALD

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

VOLUME LXXIV NUMBER 51 ISSUED THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2002 36 PAGES

R.I. Jewish Community Reacts to Heinous Terrorist Attack

By Jay Rubin
Head Editor

A terrorist act of unprecedented scale and magnitude, a suicide bombing that killed 26 people and injured more than 200 others, has shocked the Jewish community in Rhode Island and throughout the United States. The attack, which took place in the crowded lobby of the World Trade Center in New York City on September 11, 2001, is a stark reminder of the vulnerability of our society to acts of violence and terrorism.

The Jewish community in Rhode Island has reacted with a sense of solidarity and compassion. We are all grieving for the lives lost and the families affected. Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their loved ones. We are also aware of the need to support our government and military forces in their efforts to bring justice to the perpetrators of this heinous crime.

The Jewish community in Rhode Island is committed to promoting peace and understanding between all people. We believe that the only way to prevent such acts of violence is through dialogue and mutual respect. We will continue to work for a more just and peaceful world.

"There have been many acts of terrorism in the past, but none so heinous as the attack on the World Trade Center. We must not let this tragedy divide us. We must stand together and support our government and military forces in their efforts to bring justice to the perpetrators of this crime. We must also work for a more just and peaceful world, where all people are treated with dignity and respect."

- Jay Rubin, Head Editor

JEWISH COMMUNITY

Zamir Chorale of Boston Presents Concert for Children of All Ages

On Jan. 13, 2002, the Zamir Chorale of Boston will present its popular annual concert of Jewish music for children of all ages at Temple Emeth, 194 Grove St., Chestnut Hill, at 1 p.m. The one-hour performance will both educate and entertain, as conductor Joshua Jacobson introduces and explains the stories behind several child-oriented pieces selected from the chorale's vast repertoire. Joining the chorale will be Kol Echad, the children's choir from the Jewish Community Day School directed by Sigal Gavish. Children will be seated on the floor, close to the singers, and will be encouraged to participate in many of the performance activities. Seats will be provided in the rear of the hall for parents and teachers.

Tickets will be sold at the door only, \$5 per person; \$3 for

children age 12 and under. For information, call toll-free (866) 926-4720. Note: in the event of a severe snowstorm, the concert will be postponed to Jan. 20 at 1 p.m.

Zamir means "nightingale" in Hebrew, an appropriate name for a choral ensemble specializing in the full spectrum of music arising out of the various Jewish traditions. The chorale's repertoire, spanning thousands of years, four continents, and a variety of styles both popular and classical, includes Jewish liturgical music, classical works, commissioned compositions by contemporary Jewish composers, and Israeli, Yiddish and Ladino folksongs. The chorale's 1999 tour to Eastern Europe is the subject of the documentary "Zamir: Jewish Voices Return to Poland," broadcast nationally on PBS.

Start The New Year With The Security of Lifeline/RI

New Year's Day for many is a time of making resolutions to improve one's life, a time to prepare for the future and apply new energy to solving worries and concerns. This is the perfect time to think about what the Lifeline/RI personal emergency response system could mean to someone you know.

Do you know a person whose mobility is limited? Are you close to someone who has visual or hearing impairment? Is a friend or relative elderly and living alone? Do you know someone who is recuperating from surgery or illness? All of these individuals could benefit from the peace of mind that Lifeline/RI can bring.

The 24-hour personal emergency response system is designed to meet the needs of people who enjoy an independent lifestyle, but would appreciate the extra security that

comes from knowing that assistance is available with the touch of a button.

Lifeline/RI subscribers receive a personal help button which can be worn as a pendant and a small home-installed unit. In the event of an emergency, the user simply pushes the button and a signal is instantaneously transmitted via telephone to a response center staffed by trained professionals. The subscriber's medical history, special instructions for emergencies and other pertinent information appear on a screen, allowing a dispatcher to send the appropriate help. Communication between the subscriber and a Lifeline/RI professional is possible through the receiver device even when the subscriber cannot reach the phone.

For more information, call the Lifeline/RI program at Jewish Family Service, 331-1244.

Miriam Hospital Hosts Discussion on End of Life Issues from Jewish Perspective

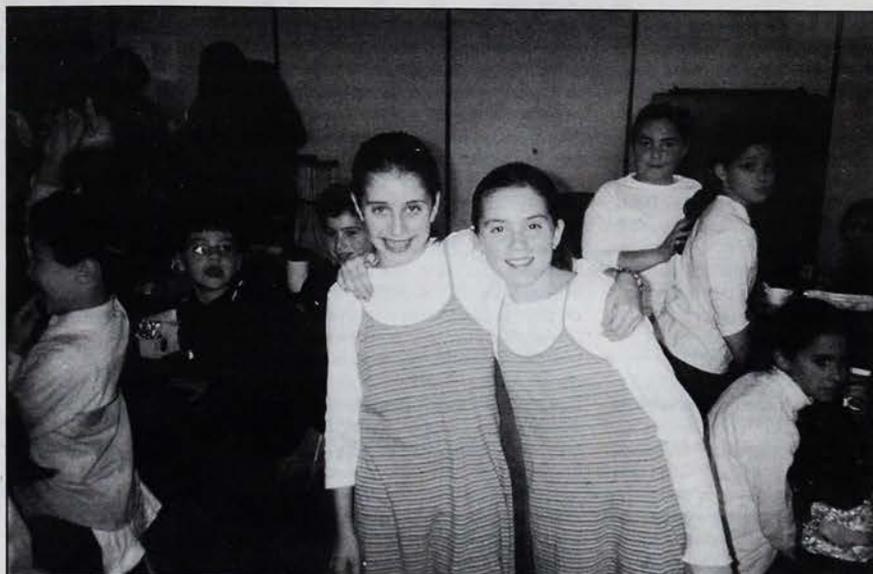
A panel discussion and series of workshops about the Jewish perspectives on end-of-life issues will take place at The Miriam Hospital on January 13, from 3 to 5 p.m.

The discussion, entitled "The Role of Values in the Decision-Making Process from the Medical and Jewish Perspectives," will be moderated by Steven Schecter, MD and includes panelists Joan Teno, MD, Rabbi Alvan Kaunfer and Rabbi Natan Schafer.

Four workshops will also be conducted: "Family Dynamics and Crises Management: A Reality-Based Workshop," with Frank Prosnitz and Erin Minor, LICSW; "Jewish Funeral Practices and How They Can Help at the End of Life," with Jill Sugarman, Michael Smith and Rabbi Alvan Kaunfer; "Legal Decisions at the End of Life," with Susan Leach DeBlasio; and "Hospice, Home Care, Nursing Home: What Are My Options," with Marcia Werber and Analee Wulfschlegel.

Refreshments will be served, and dietary laws will be observed. The event is sponsored by the Carlyn Summer Fund, Jewish Seniors Agency, the Rhode Island Board of Rabbis and Home & Hospice Care of Rhode Island.

To register for the program or for more information call 444-4800 or (800) 927-1230.



Student Council at PHDS Holds 'Twin Day'

If you happened to walk into the Providence Hebrew Day School last week you might have thought you were seeing double. It was actually another activity planned by the PHDS Student Council to promote school spirit. It was Twin Day. Students of all ages selected a fellow student and they came to school dressed as twins. Pictured (left to right) are Elisheva Stark and Sophie Felder.

Photo courtesy of PHDS

Szold BBYO Raised Money for Breast Cancer

Josephson Szold BBYO, from Newport, Rhode Island, recently raised more than \$100 for Breast Cancer Research. BBYO chapters are required to do community service projects. October was Breast Cancer Research Awareness month, and several of the members went to Shaw's Supermarket in Middletown, R.I., and sold pink ribbons. One hundred percent of all proceeds went to the American Breast Cancer Association. Chapter N'siah Rachel Goldstein said, "We heard some very moving stories from cancer survivors."

Although they have only 14 members, the chapter is very involved in the community. In December, they held a program with the local Hebrew school about drug and alcohol awareness. S'ganit Emma Reidy said "We have also held food drives for the book bank of Rhode Island, as well as volunteered there." In addition, later this year they will be doing a fund-raiser for AIDS/HIV, and Out R.E.A.C.H. month (Responsibility Everywhere to Aid and Care for the Homeless).

While doing this community service project, the members also had a lot of fun. Josephson Szold also sponsors activities including laser tag, movie nights, and bowling.

*Many Voices...
One People*

Interdenominational Conversation

Follow-up to Last Year's Series

Three Study Sessions:

"How Do We Each Understand Torah and Revelation"

- Sunday, January 6th at 7:30 p.m.
at Temple Beth-El

- Sunday, February 3 at 7:30 p.m.
at Temple Emanu-El

- Saturday, May 4th — Afternoon
(location to be decided on Jan. 6)

Open To The Community

Co-sponsored by

**Temple Beth-El, Congregation Beth Sholom,
and Temple Emanu-El**

OPINION

NPR Admits Anti-Israel Bias

by Karin McQuillan

A group of five unhappy National Public Radio listeners from Boston asked NPR to meet with us to discuss their poor quality of reporting on Israel. We were: a tenured journalism professor and *New York Times* reporter, a business executive in high-tech, a retired psycho-therapist, a retired businessman, and a lawyer.

On Nov. 5, NPR sent their ombudsmen, Jeffrey Dvorkin, the head of the Boston NPR affiliate WBUR, Jane Christo, and WBUR Program Director, George Busey. (WGBH lost \$200,000 worth of sponsorship a few weeks ago from two major Boston bookstores, protesting NPR's anti-Israel editorial policy.) The NPR people were friendly and charming, assuring us repeatedly that they wanted to hear from us in detail about our complaints. However, when it came to any of our actual complaints and observations, they denied that NPR coverage has to improve.

There was one telling moment in the discussion — Jeff Dvorkin said, and I quote verbatim: "We haven't moved beyond the simplistic view of a third world liberation movement against oppressive Israelis."

I thanked him for acknowledging that, and read the sentence back to him. He admitted saying it, but claimed that characterized NPR reporting at its worst.

Unfortunately, we hear NPR at its worst daily.

As most of the American media did in the 1930s covering Germany, NPR has decided that anti-Semitism and incitement to murder Jews is not news. Dvorkin claims that Myrna Sheinbaum at the Anti-Defamation League (212-490-2525) and David Harris at the American Jewish Committee have told him the ADL and AJCommittee do not consider NPR unfair to Israel. (Myrna says the ADL doesn't get complaints about NPR — let's correct this.) If you know anyone who knows these individuals and/or the heads of those groups, would you please let them know your opinion of NPR?

Based on this meeting, the journalism professor and I came away with the same impression: NPR has an institutional commitment to advocacy reporting against Israel. They are complacent about their editorial staff, guidelines and professional quality control. I don't believe anything will change there until they lose so much funding in protest that they are forced to make changes in their staff in order to survive.

Loren Jenkins, NPR Foreign Editor who oversees coverage of the Middle East, is on record calling Jews colonizers — which is the same as saying Israel has no right to exist. When a media watch group confronted him with NPR's knowingly misrepresenting facts, he defended

NPR's lack of objective reporting by saying, "Let's face it. The Jews are colonizers. They're colonizing there." (7/14/98) He has also made the same statement in print. NPR will never improve with true believers like Jenkins directing their news coverage.

NPR has an institutional commitment to advocacy reporting against Israel. They are complacent about their editorial staff, guidelines and professional quality control. I don't believe anything will change there until they lose so much funding in protest that they are forced to make changes in their staff in order to survive.

A few details from the Nov. 15 meeting:

We asked that the same language guidelines for the use of "terrorist" be used in Israel coverage as in covering the United

States or Ireland. Dvorkin replied that we (Jews) "wanted the story to be covered our way."

Bussey: "One man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighters."

Dvorkin: "We (NPR) can't use the word terrorist because some people complain we should use the word terrorist to apply to Israel."

Jane Christo admitted that "language should be fair and just, not an issue of what turns people off," but she said this to refute us.

They denied the validity of the requests of many Jewish listeners that use of terrorist to be the generally accepted one, of people killing civilians in order to terrorize the population for political ends.

We asked that they remove editorial comment from fact-based stories. The journalist professor really pushed them on this, saying that it was journalism 101 and she would give NPR's performance a "C." Dvorkin accepted the examples we gave as valid (for example, a reporter characterizing a statement by Sharon to President Bush as "snide and sarcastic" in her news report). Yet he concluded with the blanket assertion that NPR reporters do not mix in their opinion on news stories, and that NPR "does not see a problem in reporters making judgments."

I told Dvorkin that institutionalized anti-Semitism and incitement to violence was a key, major part of the entire story that should be covered regularly, weekly. The answer came from George Busey: "If an imam preaches hate every week, there's no story," i.e. Arab anti-Semitism and incitement to murder is not news, because it happens constantly and NPR refuses to mention it.

We asked that they stop blacklisting Steven Emerson — the most prominent American expert on Moslem terror networks in America, who appears regularly before Congress, who briefed President Bush after Sept. 11, and is interviewed on the mainstream TV networks.

In 1998, a letter from NPR to an Arab-American activist was leaked, in which NPR apologized for interviewing Emerson after they'd promised not to, and assured him it was NPR policy not to use Emerson. Dvorkin claimed he'd "love to put Emerson on," but won't because "he's such a flashpoint" (meaning, the very terrorist-supporting groups Emerson exposes have complained!).

Karin McQuillan is author of the *Jazz Jasper mysteries*, combining stories of wildlife with the mystery genre.

Christians and Israel

by Herbert Zweibon

An attitude of indifference toward Israel may have settled upon a segment of American Jewry — witness the significant decrease in recent months in the number of American Jews visiting Israel or choosing to study there — but the level of pro-Israel sentiment among Bible-believing Christians has remained as high as ever. This is not merely ironic; it contains an important lesson about possible future sources of influence on American-Israeli relations.

In a recent column in the *Jerusalem Post*, Jonathan Rosenblum pointed out that "many of Israel's staunchest supporters in Congress have traditionally come from states with small Jewish populations, e.g., Sen. Sam Brownback of Kansas, Sen. Tim Hutchinson of Arkansas, Attorney General John Ashcroft, formerly a senator from Missouri, and House Majority Whip Tom DeLay."

Nor do they have close ties to mainstream Jewish groups, which are diametrically opposed to them on domestic issues. Rosenblum continues: "These men support Israel not because of the mainstream Jewish community, but despite it. Their views are shaped by their own consciences and reflect the

consensus of their overwhelmingly Christian constituents. Devout Christians constitute the bedrock of American support for Israel. Such Christians number in the tens of millions. Unlike American Jews, they are not embarrassed by criticism of Israel in certain leftwing circles, and do not cancel tours to Israel after each terrorist incident... Christian supporters of Israel open up their Bibles and read that Israel is the Promised Land promised to the Jews."

We at Americans For a Safe Israel have long recognized the political significance of the fact that tens of millions of conservative Christians feel deeply, even passionately, about the importance of preserving the integrity of the Land of Israel and protecting the Jewish state against its enemies. They are outraged by American pressure on Israel to withdraw from its biblical heartland, Judea and Samaria. They understand that the Oslo accords have been a disaster for Israel. They know Arafat is an unrepentant terrorist, that there is no real difference between Arafat, Hamas, and Islamic Jihad. And these Christians have demonstrated their sentiment, over the years, by repeatedly undertaking joint political action projects with AFSI.

This past July, for example, a number of Christian fundamentalist leaders joined AFSI and others in a special delegation to the White House, where we met with senior aides to the president and warned against U.S. pressure on Israel. Each of the Christian delegates made sure that the president's aides got their message loud and clear: don't take our votes for granted.

In November, the Christian Coalition and other Christian Zion groups took part in AFSI's "Don't Sell Out Israel" rally outside the state department, followed by meetings with dozens of members of congress. At these meetings, we made it clear that the Christian conservatives represent tens of millions of voters, and an abandonment of Israel could have real electoral impact — Because the issue of Israel is important to them, in a deep and personal way.

On page 3 of our most recent edition of the *Outpost*, we reprinted the text of a Christian Coalition appeal to its members, urging them to flood the White House with calls and letters opposing the establishment of a Palestinian state. How many Jewish organizations are doing anything comparable?

Herbert Zweibon is chairman of Americans For a Safe Israel.

Ohel Shalom (Peace Tent)

by 'Grandma' Anne Schwartz

Near the Yuvalim junction in the Misgav region of the Galilee

The Children of Israel, Arab and Jewish, strive to meet
Hope beyond hope, to save humanity from hapless defeat

The fragile tent is open and offered to peace makers
Upon this tortured earth, are there any 'takers?'

When evil final repents

"How goodly are thy tents"

Children in uniform; children out of uniform

Babies from their mothers' arms

Funerals every day and everywhere

The blood-thirsty terrorist will no longer scare

Only ten-months-old, her name was *Shelhevet* (Flame)

And now she is *b'mavet* (in death)

Only eighteen years old, "May you live to be twenty"

In death a final serenity

These grandparent's tears combined with historic rage

Only a true and just peace will assuage

Dearest Children, you want us to know

The struggle for peace — a precious seed to grow

Finding a path beyond jealousy, self-glory,

and power they seek

The children yearn to find common ground

for a future not bleak

If two peoples revere the same land

A peaceful co-existence our children demand

Yes, we can live here, we can live there

and we can live everywhere

Yes, we can visit our holy sites without fear

Death to double-standard hypocrisy

Death to terrorist advocacy

Death to false accusations

Death to discrimination

We must work to witness a truly free democratic nation

Never again to be accused

To be abused

To be used

The honest pursuit of compromise

And the ultimate reward — the true peace prize!

Like something? Don't like something? Let us know.

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.

A Diverse Past May Ensure a Jewish Future

by Dr. Karla Goldman

A new survey indicates that fewer and fewer Jews connect to Judaism as a religious faith. While 5.5 million individuals identify themselves as Jewish by birth or ethnicity, the new study, conducted by Egon Mayer, Barry Kosmin and Ariela Keysar, suggests that one quarter of these claim adherence to other religious faiths and another quarter describe themselves as secular or as having no faith at all. Thus a full 49 percent of those who might be considered part of the Jewish community deny having any kind of religious Jewish identity.

This startling statistic, like the notorious 52 percent intermarriage rate reported in the 1990 National Jewish Population Survey, challenges us to re-examine our assumptions about American Jewish life. Religious identity has been and will remain fundamental to sustaining Jewish community in the United States. Yet cultural, historical and ethnic connections to Judaism may prove equally important to securing a meaningful Jewish future.

In recent years, many Jewish leaders have argued that the best way to create a vibrant American Jewish community is to focus upon those who already manifest a serious commitment to Judaism and religious Jewish identities. This approach, however, raises the question of whether the organized Jewish community can afford to dismiss nearly half our potential community.

Through much of the 20th century, concentrated Jewish neighborhoods and close proximity to immigrant relatives of

ferred most American Jews access to a meaningful and multi-faceted Jewish identity. Zionists, Yiddishists, socialists, Hebraists, and those devoted to Jewish education, the B'nai B'rith, or synagogues lived all jumbled up within the same community. Many shared multiple affiliations.

The suburbanization of the nation's Jewish population in the post-war years dispersed

In recent decades, institutional American Jewish life has concentrated increasingly on the effort to engage Jews as followers of a religion.

this diverse and vibrant Jewish culture. Younger generations found themselves increasingly removed from the urban neighborhood's many varied religious, cultural and linguistic expressions of Jewishness. In recent decades, institutional American Jewish life has concentrated increasingly on the effort to engage Jews as followers of a religion. The synagogue has come to dominate the suburban Jewish landscape. This focus reflects a communal belief that religious identities are easier to preserve than ethnic identities. The demographic realities revealed in the most recent survey, however, push us to reassess this assumption.

The Jewish Women's Archive is dedicated to illuminating an

American Jewish past that encompassed far more than the sphere of the synagogue. Our *Women of Valor* posters and Web exhibits offer a portrait of an American Jewish community defined by its rich diversity.

Women of Valor brings together Zionists (Henrietta Szold), radicals (Rose Schneiderman and Emma Goldman), reformers (southerner Gertrude Weil and Lower East Side settlement worker Lillian Wald), Yiddishists (actress Molly Picon), Jewish communal workers (Rebecca Gratz and Hannah Solomon), political activists (Bella Abzug), a chemist (Gertrude Eilion), an athlete (Bobbie Rosenfeld), a businesswoman (Beatrice Alexander), an anthropologist (Barbara Myerhoff), and a 19th-century religious orator (Ray Frank). Many of these women were deeply committed to Jewish religious tenets yet found ways to express those commitments in non-religious contexts. Other identified more exclusively with the political and historical lessons of the Jewish experience.

JWA's *Women Who Dared* program honors unheralded contemporary women who have made extraordinary commitments to a range of contemporary social movements. Their example encourages us to see the Jewish context for our contributions to the wider world. *Weaving Women's Words*, by gathering the oral histories of elderly Jewish women, validates the many ways that women have lived as Jewish in 20th-century North America. Taken together these projects demonstrate that the Jewish

Are the Suburbs Bad for the Jews?

One person's 'sprawl' is another's right to a better life

by Jonathan Tobin

www.jewishworldreview.com — Walk through most any American neighborhood and without too much digging, you'll quickly find that the most contentious issue on most local minds isn't the threat from terrorism. The really nasty fights are about zoning.

Whether the source of the controversy is the right of a homeowner to improve his or her property against the wishes of the neighbors, or the attempt of a school or a synagogue to move onto a block whose residents are unhappy about the idea, nothing gets 21st-century Americans marching out to the barricades with pitchforks quicker than a perceived threat to their property values.

But in recent years, environmental concerns have moved some of these local battles from the realm of personal grudges to that of ideology. Along with atomic energy plants that we fear will rain down nuclear fallout upon us and corporate villains who pollute our soil, air and water with industrial waste, a new face has been added to the modern American rogues gallery: the developer.

Forget about the bad boys of Brazil who are supposedly cutting down the rainforests and eliminating our breathable air. For the children of the environmentalist generation, the real creeps are now the guys who build McMansions and strip malls in the outer suburbs of our cities, where once only the deer and the antelope played.

Enlightened people despise these profit-driven ogres who, we are told, will soon pluck the last blade of grass within a 100-

mile radius of every major American downtown.

The Postwar Boom

That's an interesting change in American culture, because 50 years ago, in the immediate aftermath of the World War II, the people who built new homes and neighborhoods for the returning heroes of the "greatest generation" were regarded quite differently. Armed with a mortgage guaranteed by the G.I. Bill of Rights, hundreds of thousands of Americans moved out of the cramped tenements of the cities, seeking breathing room and dignity behind white picket fences alongside a paved driveway. Though much urban carnage was wrought by power-mad developers such as New York's Robert Moses, these people did much good for Americans previously relegated to the depths of inner cities.

Before this, home ownership was a remote dream for many city dwellers, especially the children of immigrants. Privately owned homes within reach of urban jobs were just too costly. But in the 1950s, with the vast expansion of suburbs (made possible by the development of state and federal highways), all that changed. Half-a-century later, the grandchildren of these veterans look at the ever-expanding belt of suburban crackerboxes with a different eye. To them, the continuing development of land on the fringes of our cities represents not a revolutionary growth in the quality of life of most Americans, but a despicable decline in the quality of our environment.

Modern-day environmental-

(Continued on Page 15)

(Continued on Page 15)

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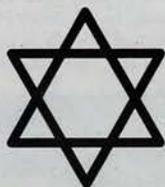
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Candlelighting
December 28, 2001
4:04 p.m.



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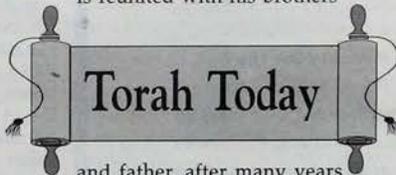
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Wrestling Match

Do we think He might be wrong about something?

Let's be clear about that: No. We do think, however, that there is a possibility we could be wrong. And so we have to ask ourselves relentlessly what we have learned, and re-learn it, and refine it, all life long.

Last week in *Vayigash* Joseph is reunited with his brothers



and father, after many years apart, during which he rose to high position in Egypt. At one point, it seemed obvious that his brothers had done a terrible wrong by abandoning him to slave traders. Yet Joseph says to them, "And now be ye not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither; for G-d did send me before you to preserve life... it was not you that sent me hither, but G-d."

How did this come to be the truth, when the truth in the portion *Vayeshev* seemed to be that this was an evil deed committed

by Joseph's family? The answer is that most truths are never perfectly clear until we examine them, see them from different perspectives, and have the understanding that only time provides. Time... and our own desire to seek truth. (Mark Twain noted that, at the age of 18, he was embarrassed by the ignorance of his parents. When he returned home after college, however, he was amazed at how much they had learned in four years.)

So, if it serves your needs, address your questions to G-d. Ask Him what is required, and why. Don't assume anything. Don't be afraid to examine the most central values of Judaism. But remember all the time... it is not Him you are confronting, but yourself.

Submitted by Rabbi Yossi Laufer at the Chabad of West Bay, an affiliate of Chabad of Rhode Island. For more information about our programs and classes, call Rabbi Yossi Laufer at 732-6559, 15 Centerville Road, Warwick, R.I. 02886 or visit <www.ChabadOnLine.org/Warwick>.

JEWISH COMMUNITY

20 Years Later: AIDS Still Touches Us

by Tj Feldman

As part of World AIDS Week I attended the "Service of Hope and Healing: For Those of All Faiths Touched by AIDS" at Temple Beth El on Dec. 3. However, I was there as more than just a writer, I was there as a member of a family that has been deeply touched by AIDS.

Twenty years after AIDS first became part of American culture there were nearly 50 people at this very moving service. The service was led by Rabbi Jonathan Blake with music by Debbie Waldman and Cantor Judith Seplowin and was truly interactive. The service itself featured a variety of songs and readings, but "This is Our Challenge" by Barry Block and Rabbi Daniel Frelander sums up the continuing challenge that AIDS presents:



We are faced with a challenge.
We the lovers,
We the parents,
We the children,
We the friends,
We the neighbors,
We the faces in the crowd.
Each of faces a responsibility;
Each of us shares a challenge
To enhance the lives
Of people living with AIDS.

In the face of darkness
Through times of despair,
We create hope;
We make the light.

Together we can sing,
Together we can eat.
Together we can pray.

As we listen to the stories,
We hear.
As we share memories, we smile.
A moment lived
Can be a moment of holiness.
Let each of us strive
To make it so.



People sit in contemplation during the AIDS Service of Hope at Temple Beth-El in Providence.

AIDS continues to be a challenge for our society. After the service I had a chance to speak with some of the members of the Jewish Federation's AIDS Task Force. I asked Julia Carr if there will ever come a time when there won't be new cases of AIDS.

"We certainly hope so," she replied. Marc Paige believes, "you always have to hope." I asked Marc if he felt the Jewish community has responded appropriately to AIDS. "No religious community started out with an appropriate response because of fear, prejudice and ignorance, but the Jewish community's response is always getting better, with the understanding that anybody can be infected and affected by AIDS."

There were also panels from the NAMES Quilt displayed in the lobby of Temple Beth El on Dec. 3 reminding everyone of those who have already perished. The service was a truly touching way to remember those lost to AIDS an inspiration to find a cure.

Myths and Facts About Israel

Myth #37:

"The Balfour Declaration did not give Jews a right to a homeland in Palestine."

Fact:

In 1917, Britain issued the Balfour Declaration:

"His Majesty's Government views with favor the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavors to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country."

According to the Peel Commission, appointed by the British Government to investigate the cause of the 1936 Arab riots, "the field in which the Jewish National Home was to be established was understood, at the time of the Balfour Declaration, to be the whole of historic Pal-

estine, including Transjordan."

The Mandate for Palestine's purpose was to put into effect the Balfour Declaration. It specifically referred to "the historical connections of the Jewish people with Palestine" and to the moral validity of "reconstituting their National Home in that country." The term "reconstituting" shows recognition of the fact that Palestine had been the Jews' home.

Furthermore, the British were instructed to "use their best endeavors to facilitate" Jewish immigration, to encourage settlement on the land and to "secure" the Jewish National Home. The word "Arab" does not appear in the Mandatory award.

The Mandate was formalized by the 52 governments at the League of Nations on July 24, 1922.

Source: *Myths & Facts Online — A Guide to the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, edited by Mitchell G. Bard, <www.JewishVirtualLibrary.org>

Signers to Feinstein Petition Reach 1 Million

Alan Shawn Feinstein's national petition drive calling upon the president and Congress to end hunger in America has reached more than 1 million signatures from people throughout the country. Feinstein is asking Sens. Jack Reed and Lincoln Chafee to present them to the president.

All members of the Senate will be notified of the number of constituents from their states who have signed.

David Duffy and Heidi Kirk-Duffy to be Honored at National Jewish Humanitarian Award Luncheon

David A. Duffy, co-founder and chairman of the Providence public affairs and advertising firm Duffy & Shanley, Inc., and wife Heidi Kirk-Duffy, Ph.D., will be honored for their many years of commitment to the Rhode Island community at National Jewish Medical and Research Center's Humanitarian Award Luncheon on April 3, 2002.

Twenty-eight committee members and friends met on Dec. 7 for the campaign's kick-off meeting to announce that close to \$40,000 has already been raised to benefit National Jewish. Attendees included Alan Hassenfeld of Hasbro, The Hon. Barbara Leonard, Marilyn and James Winoker and Jon Duffy, David Duffy's son and current president of Duffy & Shanley. Other committee members include Paul Choquette of Gilbane Building Co., Rev. Phillip Smith of Providence College and Alice Boss. The campaign's goal is to raise \$100,000.

Howard Sutton, publisher, president and CEO of the Providence Journal Company, chairs the luncheon.

The Humanitarian Award Luncheon takes place at the Westin Providence, 1 West Exchange St., on April 3, at 12:30 p.m. Gift opportunities for this event range from \$500 per couple to \$5,000 for a table. For

reservations and giving opportunities, contact Dina Gordon, National Jewish, (800) 743-355.

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David Duffy and Heidi Kirk-Duffy

the United States devoted entirely to respiratory, allergic and immune system diseases, including asthma, tuberculosis, emphysema, severe allergies, AIDS, cancer, and immune diseases such as lupus. Founded in 1899, National Jewish is a non-sectarian institution dedicated to enhancing prevention, treatment and cures throughout research, and to developing and providing innovative clinical

in research and treatment. The organization has been ranked as the number one respiratory hospital in America for four straight years, as ranked by *U.S. News and World Report*; one of the three most influential research institutions for immunology in the world, and number one among those that are privately funded; and among the world's top 10 independent biomedical research institutions of any kind.

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JEWISH COMMUNITY

PHDS CELEBRATES CHANUKAH



AN EDIBLE MENORAH? The kindergarten class at PHDS enjoyed making and eating their own menorahs. The children received a lesson in good nutrition as they made menorahs from celery, carrots and cream cheese.



THE PHDS YOUTH CHOIR brought a repertoire of songs to the Senior Adult Program at the Jewish Community Center. The children sang a variety of songs, including an "aleph, bet" song where they held up Hebrew letters as they sang.



THE PHDS YOUTH CHOIR performed at the Chanukah celebration by singing songs in Hebrew, English and Ladino. The children from grades one, two and three, were under the leadership of Fishel Bresler.

Photos courtesy of PHDS



THE PHDS KINDERGARTEN CLASS gave a special performance in honor of Chanukah for their parents and special guests. The children helped to tell the story of Chanukah and dressed the part.

ASDS Students Participate in Third-Grade Read-A-Thon

This year, ASDS students in the third grade surpassed an all-time reading record! They have a reading chart in the classroom and students have already filled the chart with stickers representing the books they have read.

Students have been busy reading small books, chapter books, poetry books and all types of books. All of this reading prepared them for the Read-A-Thon held on Nov. 20. Students brought their pajamas, sleeping bags, blankets, pillows, flashlights, and stuffed animals. They brought books from home and read all day! A storyteller also came to the class and read a beautiful piece of literature.

What does all this mean? It means that third-graders are reading, reading, reading!

ASDS Fifth-Graders Meet With Environmental Experts

The fifth-grade students at the Alperin Schechter Day School were recently given the opportunity to individually interview environmental experts. Students were gathering information on four different situations that could affect the natural balance of a field or forest community. The experts who visited the students on their specific topics included:

Beverly Migliore, DEM, topic: toxic waste; Thomas Bourne, DEM, topic, forest fires; Catherine Spark, DEM, topic, gypsy moths; Marion Gold, URI, topic: invasive plant species.

"The goal of the project," explained science teacher Elaine Mangiante, "was not only to allow students together information from noted specialists, but also to help students learn about, and develop, their interviewing skills."

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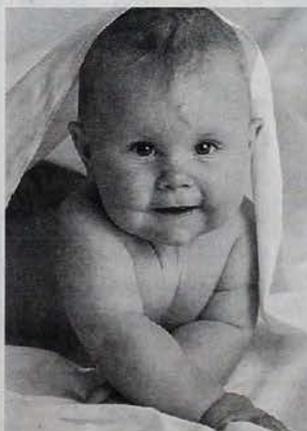
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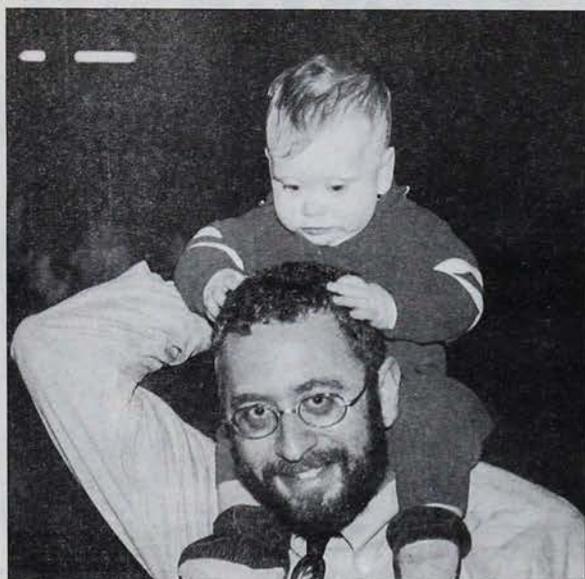
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JEWISH COMMUNITY

Klezmer at Lupo's



YAAKOV ROSENBAUM and his son Akiva David get into the spirit.



SHELLEY KATSH, left, and Fishel Bresler playing a wide variety of Jewish folk music at Lupo's Heartbreak Hotel in downtown Providence on Christmas Eve. *Herald photos by Jon Rubin*

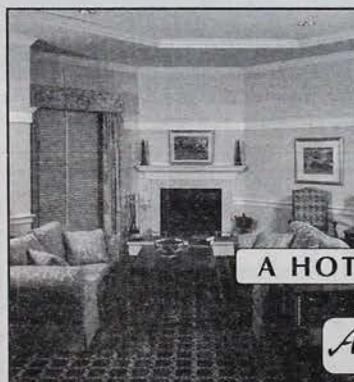


PEOPLE WERE UP AND DANCING, thanks largely to the spirited Nitza Attali (left).



THE EVENT'S "Nosh Pit" provided bagels aplenty.

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, fax to 726-5820 or e-mail rijewishherald@hotmail.com



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Lighting the Menorah

Congregation Agudas Achim in Attleboro held its annual Chanukah party on Dec. 15.

Photo courtesy of Agudas Achim

JEWISH COMMUNITY

JCC Chinese Dinner



JEWISH BINGO (a.k.a. "Oi Vey") kept people playing (and winning) long after the food ran out.



MICHAEL AND ROSIE FINE sample some Chinese delicacies.

Herald photos by Jon Rubin



LYN SCHAFFER, membership director at the JCCRI, helped dish out the goods.



Miriam Plitt Honored

The American Heart Association recently honored Miriam Plitt with the Grassroots Advocacy Networker Award at its annual Volunteer Recognition Reception. The award honors an individual who has played a major role in furthering the public policy agenda of the American Heart Association and its national, affiliate/regional, state, and/or local advocacy properties. Larry Sadwin, the national chairman of the board, presented the award to Plitt for being one of the American Heart Association's most dedicated and involved volunteers in southern New England. She is marketing director for Coventry Credit Union, and a resident of Pawtucket.

It is Never Too Early to Register For Camp JORI

Would-be campers are urged to register early for Camp JORI's summer of 2002. Registration packets have been mailed, and the camp fills quickly. Camp Director Ronni Guttin says, "Last year we were already half full by January, and some of the popular sessions and age groups were filled in the autumn of 2000. Summer 2001 was so successful we had to actually add spaces to accommodate additional campers beyond our original capacity." Anyone who has not received a registration packet should call the camp office.

Guttin says that almost all of the camp's administrative staff will be returning again for 2002,

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

The only Jewish overnight camp in Rhode Island, Camp JORI offers a full sports program; performance arts program; arts and crafts including ceramics and instrumental music; nature programs; special events and field trips. The Naragansett-based camp also of-

fers the selective Leadership in Training program for 14- and 15-year-olds to develop leadership skills which includes such activities as mountain climbing overnights, kayaking, canoeing, professional sporting events and excursions.

For ages 7 to 13, there is an overnight camp with two four-week sessions, and for first-time campers only there are four two-week sessions. JORI also offers a day camp with two-week sessions for children 6 to 9 years of age. Camp JORI observes the dietary laws of kashruth.

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



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JEWISH COMMUNITY

Israel New



Golem.tv Web Site Heralds New Era in Jewish Entertainment

Clashes Continue Between PA and Hamas, Islamic Jihad

New clashes broke out earlier this week in the Gaza Strip between Palestinian Authority Police and members of Islamic Jihad, *The Jerusalem Post* reported. Palestinian sources said two people were killed and dozens were wounded.

In addition, seven Palestinians, most of them policemen, were injured during clashes with Hamas gunmen in Gaza yesterday morning, when the Palestinian Police tried to arrest Abdel Aziz Rantisi, a prominent Hamas leader who also serves as the group's spokesman. PA officials said Hamas gunmen opened fire at policemen who approached the house where Rantisi was hiding.

Earlier in the day, Rantisi denied reports that Hamas was considering a halt to suicide attacks, despite the call by PA Chairman Yasser Arafat last week to end the violence. A senior Palestinian security official accused Rantisi of provoking the clashes.

Israelis Continue to Travel

Despite Threats of Terror Following the September 11 terrorist attacks in the United States, Israelis have resumed travel at their former rate faster than any other group of travelers in the world, *The Jerusalem Post* reported.

According to Meir Caspi, managing director of Natour and chairman of the Israel Tourist and Travel Agents Association, airline passengers throughout the world are traveling at about 50 percent of their former rates, while Israelis are going abroad at almost the same rate at which they traveled before the attacks. He said that flights from Israel to the United States are fully booked and that even the current economic situation has not resulted in a significant drop in travel.

In total, Israelis take 3.5 million trips abroad per year, with many people taking more than one trip outside of Israel per year. Caspi said that 1.2 million

people leave the country annually, 300,000 take two vacations abroad annually, over 200,000 take several vacations abroad and another 250,000 travel often on business.

"Israelis are inoculated against trouble," Caspi said. "The only time they don't go abroad is when there is any danger of trouble in Israel." Caspi added that the Israeli penchant for travel is a result of the tremendous pressures in Israel, combined with the relatively high level of education.

Arafat Syet to Dismantle Terror Groups

Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat has so far failed to dismantle the infrastructure of Palestinian terrorist groups and arrest terrorist leaders and those on Israel's most wanted list, Reuters reported. Meanwhile, senior Israeli Foreign Ministry official Gideon Meir, has dismissed Hamas' pledge to suspend suicide attacks in Israel as a "tactical move" by a "terrorist organization" and said Arafat is using the statement to postpone a real crackdown on the group.

Following his speech last week calling for an end to attacks in Israel, Arafat delivered a very different address in Ramallah in which he invoked praise for Palestinian "martyrdom" and described an Israeli plot "to Judaize" Jerusalem.

Congress Boosts Funding for U.S.-Israeli Defense Programs

A number of important U.S.-Israel defense cooperation programs were secured in the fiscal year 2002 defense spending bill, also passed by both houses of Congress this week. Congress appropriated \$131 million for the Arrow missile program, including provisions to begin large-scale production of the Arrow in the United States. This number was \$66 million over the administration's request of \$65 million. Congress also appropriated \$13 million for the Tactical High Energy Laser (THEL) program in 2002. The White House and Pentagon are conducting negotiations on se-

curing multi-year funding for both of these programs in future requests by the administration. Visit our multimedia strategic showroom to see how the Arrow and the THEL work.

Former Iranian President: One Nuke Will Destroy Israel

Speaking at Tehran University where tense of thousands gathered to march against Israel, former Iranian president Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani discussed the possibility of a nuclear war in the Middle East and said Israel would be destroyed by one atomic bomb, *Agence France Presse* reported. Rafsanjani told his audience that although Western nations had supplied Israel with advanced weaponry, "if one day the Islamic world is also equipped with weapons like those that Israel possesses now, then... the use of even one nuclear bomb inside Israel will destroy everything." "It is not irrational to contemplate such an eventuality," he added. Iran, which continues to reject Israel's right to exist, is believed by experts to be less than five years away from possessing nuclear weapons.

Golem.tv, the comic book publisher and comics syndication that has been entertaining Jewish children everywhere since 1997, announces the launch of the Golem.tv Web site at <www.golem.tv> The Web site will allow Golem.tv to expand into the world of animation, interactive games, contests and reader galleries.

Golem.tv productions follow the ongoing adventures of Mendy, 12, his sister Rivkie, 11, their dog Farfel, and friends. Mendy and Rivkie encounter the day-to-day life experiences Jewish kids all over are familiar with. Through humor and art they celebrate Jewish holidays, customs and traditions.

What makes Mendy and Rivkie's experiences extraordinary is their guardian, the Golem. The Golem serves as a protector and silent mentor, encouraging them to express their hidden creative talents and introducing them to the wonders

of nature. With on-line art galleries and contests, a bulletin board, animation, music and games, Golem.tv also hopes to both motivate and provide a means for kids to express and share their own talents.

"Fun with Mendy," the syndicated weekly comic strip and fun page, has already been printed in some 50 Jewish newspapers, reaching hundreds of thousands of children worldwide. The page is now translated into Hebrew and Russian, and features the artwork of Stan Gold-berg and Barry

Gross-man, two of the biggest names in comics today. Reader response has been phenomenal, and much anticipation has been voiced about the upcoming comic book series. Art contest winners are featured on the Web site in the Fan Art gallery.

To celebrate the official launch, Golem.tv is happy to feature Golem Cards, a convenient and fun way to send a greeting on-line. New cards will be continuously added.



Chabad Sponsors Chanukah Celebration at State House

by Seth Bromley
Editorial Assistant

On Dec. 13 Governor Lincoln Almond hosted a menorah-lighting ceremony at the Rhode Island State House in Providence. Conducting the ceremony was Chabad Lubavitch Rabbi Yehoshua Laufer, who

recognized "individuals who risk their lives for the betterment of mankind," such as rescue workers in New York and U.S. troops overseas. "We stand strong, proud of goodness and justice. We pray that G-d shall return them all in good health." Rhode Island philanthropist

Alan Shawn Feinstein also participated, and spoke to congratulate Rhode Islanders on their commitment to helping those in need. Rhode Island, he said, has "the highest percentage of [people] involved in community service" in the United States. Feinstein continued, "I'm proud



RABBI YEHOShUA LAUFER (fourth from left) lights the menorah at the State House, joined by Alan Shawn Feinstein, Gov. Lincoln Almond, Isidore Gerber and Tomer Hazay.

Herald photo by Seth Bromley



I wish a happy and healthy New Year to you and yours.

Speaker of the House
John B. Harwood

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to say that the moral code of Judaism is the code of all of us... Reaching out to help others is the greatest of all achievements."

Almond, Laufer and Feinstein each lit one candle of the menorah. Isidore "Izzy" Gerber, a resident of Providence and World War II combat veteran lit another candle, and Israeli Tomer Hazay, a visiting student at Johnson and Wales University, lit another.

JEWISH COMMUNITY

11th Annual New York Jewish Film Festival to be Presented Jan. 13 to 24

The Jewish Museum and The Film Society of Lincoln Center will present the 11th annual New York Jewish Film Festival from Jan. 13 to 24. This collaboration between the museum and the film society will take place at The Walter Reade Theatre at Lincoln Center, 165 West 6th St., New York City. Featuring two world, seven United States, and 11 New York premieres, the international festival will present 30 productions

illuminating the rich diversity of the Jewish experience from Argentina, Canada, France, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Poland, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

This year's films, set everywhere from Turkey and Tel Aviv to Costa Rica and New York, reflect the magnificent diversity of the Jewish experience. The themes and genres of these works are wide-ranging, from

The Walnut Tree, a dreamlike experimental short, and the Parisian romantic comedy *Once We Grow Up* to important documentaries like "Brownsville Black and White." The vibrant Argentinean Jewish cinema is represented by four compelling works, including an Argentinean/American co-production "To Live with Terror," a fascinating investigation of the bombings of the Israeli embassy and the Jewish Commu-



A SCENE FROM "The Seventh Day" (Argentinian, 2000), directed by Gabriel Lichtman



STANLEY TUCCI as Adolf Eichmann and Kenneth Branagh as SS General Reinhard Heydrich in "Conspiracy" (USA, 2001), directed by Frank Pierson. Photo: Stephen F. Morley/HBO

ADL: U.N. Session Encourages Arab Terror

The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) recently expressed serious concern with a series of anti-Israel resolutions passed by the United Nations General Assembly. "It is astounding that the U.N. General Assembly has once again called an emergency session to consider one-sided resolutions that deal only with alleged Israeli behavior," said Abraham H. Foxman, ADL National Director.

"Throughout the more than 15 months since the Palestinian campaign of violence and terror began, the General Assembly has continued to recycle anachronistic and biased statements that have nothing to do with the actual situation on the ground

in region. These resolutions serve only to encourage Arab and Palestinian theatrics on the world stage and have no practical purpose in creating a better future for Palestinians and Israelis."

At an "emergency session" called on Dec. 20, the General Assembly approved a resolution condemning Israeli settlements and expressed support for the Palestinian Authority. A second resolution endorsed a resolution critical of Israel passed by the High Contracting Parties of the Geneva Convention earlier this month. General Assembly resolutions are non-binding under international law, but are considered declaratory.

"We once again express our great appreciation to U.S. Ambassador John Negroponte for his strong statements in opposition to the resolutions, and to the U.S., the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru and Tuvalu who joined Israel in voting against the resolutions," Foxman said.

nity Center in Buenos Aires in the 1990s.

Several directors will be in New York during the festival to introduce their films, including Mirra Bank, Robert Cohen, Jacky Comforty, Karl Francis, Pearl Gluck, Joel Katz, Ronit Kertsner, Elida Schogt, Ton Vriens and Jorge Weller.

Highlights of the festival include the world premiere of American director Mirra Bank's documentary, "Last Dance" (2002 video). This film reveals the creative process behind the dancework, "A Selection," a collaboration between legendary author-illustrator Maurice Sendak and the innovative and audacious dance company Pilobolus, partly inspired by the Czech composer Hans Krasa's opera "Brundibar," which was performed by children in the Terezin concentration camp.

British director Karl Francis' "One of the Hollywood Ten" (2000) will receive its New York premiere. The film stars Jeff Goldblum, Greta Scacchi and Angela Molina, and presents the compelling story of Herbert Biberman, a film director and victim of McCarthyism blacklisted in the 1950s for refusing to disavow his Communist beliefs. Also receiving its world premiere is American filmmaker Joel Katz's "Strange Fruit" (2001, video). This work

dives into the history and legacy of the song "Strange Fruit" — written by Bronx Jewish schoolteacher Abel Meeropol in the 1930s and best known through a Billie Holiday rendition — using it to explore the intricacies of Black/Jewish relations.

The Walter Reade Theatre is located at 165 West 65th St., Plaza Level. Tickets for each screening are \$9 for the general public; \$5 for Film Society and Jewish Museum members and donors; and \$4.50 for senior citizens during weekday matinees. Tickets are available online at <www.filmlinc.com>; by phone at (212) 496-3809; or at the box office, from 30 minutes before the first screening of the day until 15 minutes after the last show begins. There is a \$1 surcharge per ticket for all tickets bought online or by phone. To request a brochure and ticket order form, the public may call (212) 423-3338.

For general information, the public may call The Jewish Museum at (212) 423-3338 or The Walter Reade Theatre box office at (212) 875-5600. A complete schedule will be available on the Internet at <www.thejewishmuseum.org>, The Jewish Museum's Web site, and at <www.filmlinc.com>. The Film Society of Lincoln Center's Web site.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

First Night Providence 2002 — Your Year Starts Here

Celebrating the Spirit of Community

Lights and action, music and motion, dance and drama, comedy and capers, all come together on Monday, Dec. 31, from 2 p.m. to midnight, as families and friends gather in downtown Providence to celebrate, in a spirit of community, the dawning of a New Year. It's First Night 2002!

First Night 2002 will include Rhode Island premieres of the shimmering spectacle LUMA, Theatre of Light, Andrea Beck's aerial artistry, the athletic lunacy of The Second Hand, and a New Vaudeville Celebration—along with familiar favorites ranging from Bill Harley and the Troublemakers to the annual Rhode Island Philharmonic First Night concert, with guest artists Sendebarr, Medieval Music of the Mediterranean—culminating in the Koch Eye Associates Midnight Fireworks Finale.

During the kick-off for First Night button sales at the Providence Biltmore, Executive Director Doris Stephens remarked, "This year our community rituals are more important than ever. First Night's been a tradition of alcohol-free celebration for 16 years, and this year's programs especially reflect the richness of our diverse cultures. La Fiesta! will be a Hispanic music festival with hot dance bands and lively folk groups, and "Watch Night" is going to be a rafter-raising gospel celebration. Our Closing Ceremonies will begin with a ringing of bells as a way for everyone to recognize our nation's recent tragic events."

First Night buttons, on sale around the region, are just \$9 each, or a Value 4-Pack is available for \$30. After Dec. 25 all buttons are \$12 each. First Night Providence is a non-profit organization, supported in large measure by button sale revenues. For more information on First Night admission buttons, merchandise, and programming, visit the First Night Web site, <www.firstnight

providence.org>, or call (401) 521-1166.

First Night 2002 Highlights

First Night 2002 begins at 2 p.m. when the Rhode Island Convention Center sets the stage with a cornucopia of shows and activities geared for early bird family fun.

Appearances are deceiving and never more so than finding yourselves transformed in extraordinary ways and projected larger than life in the digital/video funhouse Magic Mirrors. Watch closely as multitalented Kevin Locke Duo, Native American Dance and Drumming performs the amazing Hoop Dance, the Kenya Wizard Acrobats razzle-dazzle with their feats rooted in African traditions and the Gizmo Guys juggle your funny bones.

The Second Hand, an award-winning gymnastic trio described as "part Blue Man Group, part Momix" fusing martial arts, ballet and oddball comedy, will cavort on stage at Veterans Memorial Auditorium for a special afternoon performance.

After designing masks and other creations at the Imagination Market, youngsters are invited to join Les Sages Fous's two big birds, one giant egg, and three zany clowns as they lead the Grand Procession to Opening Ceremonies at Kennedy Plaza, where Double Dutch Divas delight with jump ropes and Bobarino Gravittini warms things up with a fire show. Koch Eye Associates Early Fireworks Show for the young at heart heralds the evening festivities.

First Night Evening Entertainment

A New Year without resolutions is like Father Time without a beard. Start the evening by recording yours at Cyborg Resolutions, at Avis Rent-a-Car, and then watch the fun begin.

You can light up your life at the Providence Performing Arts Center where LUMA, Theatre of Light casts its magic with glowing hula hoops, luminescent trapeze artists and shimmering images of DNA strands, all set to the melodious strains of an eclectic musical score.

The Second Hand performers stretch boundaries of the imagination with athletic lunacy in evening shows at Veterans Memorial Auditorium.

It's vaudeville comedy all evening at the Rhode Island School of Design Auditorium, so come get 'MetaMURPHosized' with Tom Murphy, clown extraordinaire. And for more laughs meet the unforgettable characters of zany comedian and sometime political pundit Robert Post.

At the RI Convention Center, the Hip-Hop Celebration is cookin' with the hot sounds and cool dance numbers of Bronx-based Full Circle Souljahz, the Providence Strike Force, Newport's Off the Curb, and the YMCA's Rap and Resolve. Later, local rap legend Raidge showcases hip-hop and reggae with artists expressing hopes for a better world.

Sizzling Latin rhythms from the Grand Ballroom herald La Fiesta! Hispanic Music Festival. The evening heats up with performances by the merengue tropical music group Lokkera, the passionate Bolivian dynamo

Andrea Villarroel, the enchanting Fuego Flamenco dancers and, from the Dominican Republic, the sultry bachata sounds of Felix Almanzar and His Group.

If cutting edge music and dance are your taste, head to the Fleet Galleria,

where the original music and choreography of Bosch's Harp, performed on and within a 12-foot harp, set spirits soaring. Later, pianist Judith Stillman and baritone James Kleyla celebrate classical and show-tune favorites with music ranging from "Baroque to Broadway."

Classical music with a Latin flavor promises to delight the many fans of the Rhode Island Philharmonic and attract new ones as well. Conductor Francisco Noya lifts his baton for "Fandango, Fiesta, and Favorites" at the Veterans Memorial Auditorium. While at Vets, don't miss Sendebarr, Medieval Music of the Mediterranean, exotic music from the Iberian Peninsula.

Feast on inspirational music, energetic dancing, and a soul-stirring storyline by Rhode Island playwright Ricardo Pitts-Wiley in "Celebrations: An African Odyssey" at Trinity Repertory Company. "Skips in the Record," a new work by Rhode Island actress/playwright Rose Weaver, a bittersweet and some-

times antic comedy about Alzheimer's Disease. Come to Trinity for Rhode Island theater at its best.

Top the evening off with V. Majestic's experimental sounds in psychedelic jazz at the URI/ASF College of Continuing Education, one way to wrap-up a sumptuous variety of multi-ethnic courses to suit all tastes.

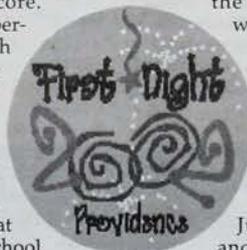
First Night Closing Ceremonies

Say good by to the Old Year at the State House with Gov. and Mrs. Lincoln Almond at Closing Ceremonies beginning at 11:50 p.m. Bell ringing by Chris Turner, in honor of those affected by the tragic events of September 11, followed by a community choral tribute, will close out the year 2001.

As First Night revelers ring in the hope and optimism of a New Year, the Midnight Fireworks Finale, an Alonzo fireworks extravaganza sponsored by Koch Eye Associates and Koch Eye Laser Vision Centers, blazes through the winter sky, a fitting finale to a glorious feast.

First Night Transportation Services

Festival-goers can leave the driving to others and ride free on all RIPTA buses all day on Dec. 31 with a First Night button. For those who drive, there will be free Park 'n Ride services, or a discounted parking coupon can be found in the First Night Festival Guide, available wherever buttons are sold.



Celebrate the New Year and Go Wild For Free!

On New Year's Day, Jan. 1, Roger Williams Park Zoo invites you to experience the wonder of the zoo in winter, free of charge.

See the zoo's famous polar bears, snow leopards, penguins, arctic foxes and other wintry animals in their natural environments. Many other animals will be on exhibit as well.

Afraid the chill will get you

ion you can see elephants, giraffes, scorpions and Kenya sand boas. Afterwards, visit the Polar Bar inside the A to Zebra Gift Shop and grab a hot meal and some hot chocolate.

While you're at the zoo why not take a drive through the park as well — it's a hidden treasure and a winter wonderland after a snowfall — great for sledding, too! Roger Williams



down? Visit the zoo's Tropical America building and get a taste of the hot, humid rainforest in January. While there, you can see the white-faced saki monkey, cotton-top tamarin and the prehensile-tailed porcupine.

And inside the African Pavil-

Park Zoo is open all year-round, so why not catch a glimpse of the animals the way few have seen them — maybe even in the snow!

New Year's Day hours are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call 785-3510 or visit <rogerwilliamsarkzoo.com.>



Senior Citizen Art Exhibit at Cranston Public Library

Students of Jackie Villanis, RISD graduate and teacher at the Cranston Senior Services Center, will be exhibiting their multi-media art in the Cranston Public Library Meeting Room Gallery, 140 Sockanosset Cross Road, from Jan. 4 through 31, 2002.

The exhibit is free and open to the public during library hours. Library hours are Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sundays, 1 to 4 p.m.

An opening reception will be held on Jan. 13 from 2 to 4 p.m. The reception is free and open to the public.



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Gallery 401 Presents Images of Italy

Gallery 401, located at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island in Providence, will feature a photography exhibit by Ron Rosenstock entitled "Images of Italy." The opening reception is open to the public and will be held Jan. 7, from 5 to 8 p.m. The JCCRI is located at 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence. Call 861-8800 for more information.

Children's Programs Resume at Barrington Library

Registration begins Jan. 2 at 9:30 a.m. for the Jan. 9 After-School Storytime for elementary school children. Held the second Wednesday of each month from 3 to 4:30 p.m., included is a half-hour each of stories, film and craft/activities. A different theme is offered each month. Limited to 20 children.

Mother Goose Time. A lapsit program designed for very young children and their caregivers. Classes held Mondays and Tuesdays at 11 a.m. and Fridays at 10 a.m. Registration begins Jan. 7 at 9:30 a.m. for January classes. Call the children's department (247-1920, ext. 4) for details.

Booklook for 2-year-olds. Registration begins Jan. 8 at 9:30 a.m. Classes will be held Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 10 a.m. or Thursdays at 11 a.m., starting the week of Jan. 21. Each half-hour class will include stories, songs and fingerplays appropriate for an early introduction to a structured library experience. Each child must be accompanied by an adult.

Multiage Storytimes for children under 6 and their caregivers resume Jan. 16. The program will include stories, finger rhymes, songs and films appropriate for young children. Children under age 3 must be accompanied by an adult. This program is held Mondays at 10 a.m., Wednesdays at 11 a.m. No registration required. (Same program all week.)

Storytime for 3- to 5-Year Olds resumes Jan. 17. Program is held Thursday at 10 a.m. Class size is unlimited, no registration necessary.

Mandolin Orchestra to be Held January 26

On Jan. 26, 2002, the Providence Mandolin Orchestra will present a concert at the Johnson & Wales Pepsi Forum, in downtown Providence. Reflecting the diverse international styles featured at last summer's successful Providence International Mandolin Festival, the orchestra will perform a program of music from Germany, Spain, Italy, France, Brazil, and the United States. The program will highlight "Music for Play," by Claudio Mandonico, the conductor of Italy's "Citta di Brescia" Orchestra — a popular act at the International Festival.

The concert will begin at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15 (\$10 for students), and may be purchased at the door. The Pepsi Forum is located in the Plantation building, on Pine Street (east of Chestnut Street), Providence, R.I.

For additional information, or to reserve tickets, call 521-7766, or visit the orchestra's Web site at <www.mandolin-orchestra.org>.

Finding Spiritual Meaning in a Challenging New World

"Kedar breaks ground in the fertile field of Jewish inspirational literature."

— Publishers Weekly

It is not always possible to understand the world rationally. Logical answers ultimately fail us when we ask questions such as: What does my future hold? What is the meaning of my work?

It is no accident that today more people are reading the Bible and the Qur'an than ever before in recent American history. People are seeking alternative answers to life's most profound questions.

Rabbi and inspirational author, Karyn D. Kedar, shows in *The Dance of The Dolphin: Finding Prayer, Perspective and Meaning in the Stories of Our Lives* (Jewish Lights Publishing/ January 2002/ \$19.95/ Hardcover) how it is possible to find meaning in a changing, often confusing, world. It can be difficult to keep our balance in the physical world and still develop a meaningful spiritual life — but Kedar shares with us how.

Shoni Labowitz, author of *Miraculous Living*, praises Kedar's work saying "You can't help but be drawn into the quest and drama of what it means to live fully, while maintaining a G-d-connection."

"Kedar weaves together profound experiences from her own life to offer readers a glimpse into the sacredness of ordinary moments," says Lawrence Kushner, author of *Invisible Lines of Connection* and other books.

We live in two seemingly incompatible worlds — rational and spiritual. *The Dance of the Dolphin: Finding Prayer, Perspective and Meaning in the Stories of Our Lives* shows how we can keep our balance.

Kedar uses the image of the dolphin, who exists in both water and air, to explain how we must learn to live and thrive in two conflicting worlds — the rational, material, everyday craziness of life versus the still, spiritual soulfulness of our deepest selves. Balancing the two — difficult as it often can be — is the key to our spiritual survival.

Through poignant stories, spiritual teaching and insights, *The Dance of the Dolphin* shares the ways we can integrate the everyday — family, work, personal challenges — with our quest for deeper spiritual understanding. Kedar helps us to decode the three "languages" we must learn to weave the seemingly ordinary and extraordinary together:

- **Prayer** — The path through which our souls connect with the Divine.
- **Perspective** — How we define life's twists and turns, and how our words and actions define the quality of our lives.
- **Meaning** — The quest to understand and make sense of all that seems incompatible.

"Karyn Kedar is both an exceptional spiritual teacher and a gifted writer. Her insights and gentle touch affect readers in profound ways," adds Stuart M. Matlins, publisher of Jewish Lights.

Kedar is widely recognized as an inspiring spiritual leader who guides people in their spiritual and personal growth. She is also the author of *God Whispers: Stories of the Soul, Lessons of the Heart* (Jewish Lights). A rabbi, she is the Union of American Hebrew Congregation's Great Lakes Regional Director. Kedar teaches both Jewish and Christian groups throughout the United States, and has worked with congregations in the United States and Israel. She lives near Chicago with her family.

The Dance of the Dolphin: Finding Prayer, Perspective and Meaning in the Stories of Our Lives by Kedar is available at bookstores or directly from Jewish Lights Publishing, Sunset Farm Offices, Route 4, P.O. Box 237, Woodstock, Vt. 05091; \$19.95 Hardcover; add \$3.75 for shipping and handling for the first book, \$2 for each additional book. For credit card orders, call (800) 962-4544.

WGBH 89.7 and Old South Meeting House Present Vocalist Semanya McCord

WGBH 89.7 and Old South Meeting House present a month of weekly lunchtime jazz concerts and a special lecture by Boston's dean of jazz radio, 89.7's Eric Jackson. Vocalist Semanya McCord kicks off the series on Jan. 3 with a performance of "The Spiritual Roots of Jazz."

A vocalist, music educator and composer, McCord has been performing throughout New England since 1975. She has developed programs and residencies featuring African American-based arts experiences through spirituals, blues and jazz, and was named Outstanding Jazz Vocalist by the 1988 Boston Music Awards. In 1997, McCord was selected for a "Commonwealth Award" in the artist category from the Massachusetts Cultural Council and Massachusetts Advocates for the Arts, Sciences, and Humanities.

The event will take place Jan. 3 from 12:15 to 1 p.m. at Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St. in downtown Boston. Admission is \$5, \$4 for seniors and students with identification; free for WGBH and OSMH members. For information call (617) 482-6438 or visit their Web site at <www.oldsouthmeetinghouse.org>.

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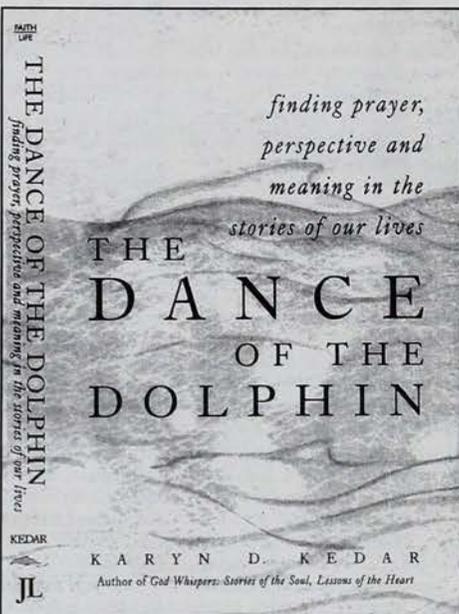
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OBITUARIES

MOLLIE FALCOFSKY
PROVIDENCE — Mollie Falcofsky, 98, of Summit and Pavilion Nursing, Rehabilitation & Enhanced Assisted Living, 1085 North Main St., died Dec. 23 at home.

She was the wife of the late Samuel Falcofsky. Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Kiva and Rebecca (Bazar) Bazar, she had lived in Cranston for 36 years before moving to Providence two years ago.

She was a member of Temple Torat Yisrael, the Hadassah, and the Women's Association of the former Jewish Home for the Aged.

She leaves two daughters, Arleen F. Barber of Warwick and Beverly Schafer of Bellingham, Mass.; five grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren. She was the sister of the late Hyman, Morris and Harry Bazar, Rose Brown, Anne Woolf and Pearl Berke.

The funeral service was held Dec. 24 in Shalom Memorial Chapel, 1100 New London Ave., Cranston. Burial was 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.

RUTH FINK

WARWICK — Ruth Fink, of 553 Quisset Court, Wethersfield Commons, died Dec. 24 at Rhode Island Hospital. She was the wife of the late Nathan Fink.

Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Jakob and Rose (Wallack) Bernstein, she had lived in Providence most of her life until moving to Warwick 22 years ago. She was a member of Temple Torat Yisrael and a past president of its sisterhood. She was a member of Hadassah, the former Temple Beth Israel, the Women's Association of the former Jewish Home for the Aged and the former Pioneer Women.

She leaves a son, Edward P. Fink, of Cranston; a daughter, Linda Fink of Warwick; two brothers, Isadore Bernstein of Providence and Dr. Bernard

Berstein of Narragansett and Boynton Beach, Fla.; a sister, Eleanor Krasner of Cranston and four grandchildren. She was the mother of the late Howard V. Fink.

Funeral services were held Dec. 26 in Shalom Memorial Chapel, 1100 New London Ave., Cranston. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. In lieu of flowers, contributions in her memory may be made to Temple Torat Yisrael or your favorite charity. Arrangements were made by Shalom Memorial Chapel.

LILLIAN GROSSMAN

NEW BEDFORD — Lillian (Greenman) Grossman of Oakdale Street died Dec. 16, at St. Luke's Hospital.

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., the daughter of the late Abraham and Fannie (Greenberg) Greenman, she lived in New Bedford for many years before she moved to Fort Lauderdale, Fla., in 1978. She returned to New Bedford last year.

She was a clothing buyer for Pat McKenna's Apparel Shop for 20 years.

She is survived by two sons, Stephen Grossman of New Bedford and Robert Grossman of Reynoldsburg, Ohio; a sister, Helen Levin of New Bedford; a brother, Norman Greenman of Phoenix; and a granddaughter, Jackie.

A memorial service was held Dec. 18 at Dartmouth Funeral Home, 230 Russells Mills Road, Dartmouth. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to your favorite charity. The family was assisted with the arrangements by the Sugarman-Sinai Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

ETHEL KAIDAN

PROVIDENCE — Ethel (Semel) Kaidan, 74, of Elmway Street, Providence, an executive secretary to the associate commissioner at the department of education in Massachusetts before retiring, died Dec. 19 at Rhode Island Hospital in Providence. She was the wife of David Kaidan.

Born in Manhattan, N.Y., a daughter of the late Avraham and Goldie (Berkowitz) Semel, she had been a resident of Randolph, Mass., for most of her life before moving to Providence in the fall of 2000.

She was a member of Young Israel Congregation of Randolph.

Besides her husband, she leaves two daughters, Janice Kaidan of Providence and Linda Kaidan-Berry of Sarasota, Fla.; a sister, Ruth Morris of Revere, Mass.; and five grandchildren. She was the sister of the late Sarah Katz, Leah Semel and Bernie Semel.

The funeral was held Dec. 20 in Beth-Israel Cemetery, Everett, Mass. The family was assisted with the arrangements by Sugarman-Sinai Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence, R.I.

PEARL H. MEKELBURG

FALL RIVER — Pearl H. (Horvitz) Mekelburg, 91, of 116 Highland Ave., a retired lawyer, died Dec. 19 at home.

She was the wife of the late A. Lincoln Mekelburg. A lifelong Fall River resident, she was a daughter of the late Abraham and Ida (Lynch) Horvitz.

She was a 1925 graduate of BMC Durfee High School, and a 1930 graduate of the Boston University School of Law.

A practicing attorney for 68 years, retiring in 2000, she had owned a law practice in Fall River from 1959 to 1985. She was a member of the Fall River, Bristol County (Mass.) and Massachusetts Bar Associations.

She was a member of the board of directors of the 9th Street Day Nursery, and she had

served for three terms as president of the board.

She was a life member and past president of the Fall River Chapter of Hadassah. She was a life member of the Fall River Historical Society. She was a member of the American Association of University Women, Fall River Chapter, the Fall River Jewish Home, and the Marine Museum.

She leaves a son, Edward C. Mekelburg of Robbinston, Maine; and a brother, Louis Horvitz, and a cousin, Anna H. Zalkind, both of Fall River. She was the sister of the late Sarah, Joseph and Samuel Horvitz.

A graveside service was held Dec. 20 in Agudas Achim Cemetery. The family was assisted with the arrangements by Sugarman-Sinai Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

Challenges of Mid-Life

by **Erin Gisherman Minior**

You are 40 something. Half of your life is behind you. You have witnessed life-altering events. You have experienced loving relationships and may have contributed to the development of a new generation. Your education and work experiences have enabled you to engage in satisfying job opportunities. Younger less experienced co-workers now look up to you with respect rather than treating you with camaraderie. You have taught others who now aspire to follow in your footsteps. Does the future hold as much promise for you as your past? Is the glass half-empty or half-full?

As we approach our middle years, we are often confronted with some of life's sad realities: the loss of loved ones, personal health challenges, career or business setbacks, responsibilities of caring for an aging parent, relationship changes. Often-times these emotional critical

moments serve as our rite of passage into middle adulthood. Sometimes, these events can serve as an impetus for us to make changes in our lives as we reassess ourselves and our roles in life. At times, this is referred to as a "mid-life crisis."

The self-assessment that we embark upon can bring about tremendous personal growth. Growth does not stop during adulthood, but rather opens new dimensions for us to explore in our lives. We may try and find enthusiasm for new purpose in life, because our roles have often shifted. Relationships can change, becoming richer and more genuine. We may begin to tap into talents or explore interests that were previously put aside as we pursued our professional careers. Opportunities may now present themselves that we are able to follow; when in the past we were unable to because of parental responsibilities. The issue

of our own mortality seems that much more real having experienced losses. This issue of shortened time may guide our decisions in ways that we never imagined before. Many middle-aged adults grow spiritually and seek to gain a better understanding or a renewed relationship with G-d.

Confronting the issues of middle age is no easy task. Sometimes it is difficult to break through some of the expected interruptions we encounter during mid-life. Seeking professional counsel for this is not unusual and may help you through a challenging period. Call Jewish Family Service at 331-1244 for the assistance of a licensed social worker to guide you through this time of adjustment and to help you see that the glass is half-full.

 Erin Gisherman Minior, LICSW, is director of professional services at JFS.

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The suffering is bad enough while you are going through it. G-d save us! No matter what, though, do not dwell at all on your difficulties. Be extremely careful to heed my advice, and do not let your mind be troubled in the least over this. Just study Torah, pray and go about your business. Relax your mind with things that cheer you and bring yourself to joy, even, if need be, with silliness. You have no idea what is really going on in the world!

Healing Leaves, Letter #213, from the letters of Reb Noson of Breslov

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FEATURE

A Diverse Past

(Continued from Page 3)

community will best be able to contribute to the richness of the world around us when we embrace a variety of secular and religious identities.

The turn to religion in American Jewish life reflected a response to a communal belief that the only acceptable differences between Americans were religious ones. In a nation that increasingly celebrates itself as multicultural, American Jews may once again be in a position to take advantage of multiple paths to meaningful Jewish identity. The more potentially alienated Jews find a textured reflection of themselves in the stories we tell of who we are, the more we facilitate their ability to claim a fulfilling place within the current constellation of American Jewish life.

Attention to our history teaches us that there are many ways to be Jewish. If we can find ways to honor the rich diversity of our past as American Jews, we may find ways to honor and ensure a diverse Jewish present and future.

Karla Goldman serves as Historian in Residence at the Jewish Women's Archive <www.jwa.org> in Brookline, Mass. She is the author of Beyond the Synagogue Gallery: Finding a Place for Women in American Judaism (Harvard University Press, 2000).

Rabbi Wechterman

(Continued from Page 1)

past-time: swing dancing. "It's legitimate to have a good time, and I like to dance," she said.

Wechterman will introduce several new educational programs at Agudas Achim. One will be an adult education program that will involve study of the prayer liturgy, and others will focus on bringing people together to celebrate and increase awareness of Shabbat.

"I believe that Judaism is a path and a resource for helping people lead meaningful lives in this broken world," said Wechterman. "I don't believe it is the only path... It's one of many paths, and the more we uncover the more it will teach us resources for meaningful lives, rather than it serving as a package to put up on a shelf and take out a few times a year."

Are the Suburbs Bad for the Jews?

(Continued from Page 3)

ists aren't interested in the desire of individual Americans to call a small plot of land their own or the right of that same American to drive where he pleases when he pleases. Instead, in the best tradition of past utopian movements, these intellectuals want to tell us what to do with our money, lives and families. In the name of all that is holy to the environmental nature gods, they tell us to forget about our need to break loose from urban congestion and move back to the cities, where we will give up our minivans and Jeeps and ride the subways or bicycles to work.

Part of this stems from the fact that most of those urging restrictions on building in the sticks already live comfortably in upscale urban neighborhoods or own land in the country — and don't want their view spoiled by the arrival of too many neighbors. But, to be fair, who can blame them? Regional sprawl does ruin the countryside, while at the same time lengthening traffic jams and diminishing public services, even if it does better the lives of those moving in. It's also bad for the Jews.

Sprawl Doesn't Help Community

The truth is, whether we enjoy urban living or not, cities are good for building Jewish communities. To take it one step further, nothing is as deadly to Jewish continuity as the growth of suburbs. It may be pleasant to live far from the maddening crowd but, as the saying goes, you can't be a good Jew on a desert island. That's because it takes a critical mass of Jewish people to build the sort of infrastructure that a thriving community needs, such as synagogues, schools, kosher food stores and community centers.

That's why 19th- and early 20th-century Jewish communities in rural America quickly died out. Rates of assimilation and intermarriage are always exponentially higher outside of the city limits. Thus, anything — even the expansion of freedom for the middle class that allow them to buy cars and private homes — turned out to be very bad for the Jews in general, though good for most of us individually.

News this week from the most sprawled out part of America — Los Angeles — should reinforce our fears.

There, despite having the second-largest Jewish population in the country, the local Jewish Federation has raised so little money that it was forced to lay off dozens of employees, and five JCCs are being shut down. The scattered and heavily unaffiliated Jewish population has contributed to that community's problems.

And, despite the obnoxious and hysterical cant heard from many in the world of the "greens," there is a powerful environmentalist ethic within the Torah that enjoins us from destroying the natural beauty of G-d's domain, or polluting it with sewage and postmodern architectural ugliness.

How then do we balance the rights of prospective homeowners to live their affordable suburban dreams with the imperative of sensible regional and urban planning, not to mention the Jewish need to stop the dispersion out of our population? Some urban areas have developed rules that seriously restrict growth in their suburbs. Others more sensibly call for a reinvestment in mass transit that will enable people to get to work comfortably and on time without driving.

But we must remember that the real victims of growth restrictions are not wicked developers, but poor and middle-class Americans who seek the same sort of better life that the postwar generation of our fathers found. Though many may wax nostalgic for the old urban Jewish neighborhoods like New York's Lower East Side or Philadelphia's Strawberry Mansion, few of today's home-buying yuppies want to bring their kids up there or in places like them, environmentalist beliefs or not.

That's the problem with freedom. People don't always choose the way planners or idealists want them to. American Jews will continue, like their neighbors, to range far from downtowns in their search for the ideal lifestyle. Though we would like them to stay in the city or at least the inner suburbs, we must make our peace with the fact that they have a right to make this choice. And no amount of green rhetoric or Jewish continuity arguments will persuade them otherwise.

JWR contributor Jonathan S. Tobin is executive editor of the Philadelphia Jewish Exponent.

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Dr. Weinberg Gives Presentation at Cleveland Clinic

Marc S. Weinberg, M.D., FACP, Providence nephrologist (kidney specialist) and clinical professor of medicine, Boston University School of Medicine and clinical associate professor of medicine, Brown University School of Medicine presented medical grand rounds for the Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, Ohio, July 20, 2001.

The title of the presentation was "Maximal Inhibition of the RAS using Combination ARBs/ACEI." One of these strategies the use of very high doses of blood pressure medication to reduce levels of the hormone, is being developed by Dr. Weinberg and his colleagues.

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JConnection Starts Online Dating Service

Find love for free online at <thejconnection.com>. Starting immediately until Dec. 31 all visitors to the J Connection's Jewish Messenger site can join for free. Gone are the days of paying for online dating sites.

"The J Connection has been struck by cupid's arrow and is now offering a new completely free opportunity for the Jewish community to instantly message each other," says Jeff Popkin, founder. "Yes, it is completely free and it can be used as a way to keep in touch with your friends worldwide or as a way to find that special someone."

The J Connection's "Jewish Messenger" site utilizes messaging technology to allow for both e-mail and instant conversations as well as a concentrated criteria searches in more than 25 categories including distance, age and more than 20 other. Once you download the free software and answer the three question sign-in, you are ready to go.

"The site is wonderful," says Shari Lyons, a user who states, "so many generic sites exist online but this one allows you to see what a person is really like by being able to have a real time conversation along with many other neat features."

The site is open to all ages! For more information go to <www.thejconnection.com> and click the Jewish Messenger link.

Chabad Holds Malaveh Malkah

On Dec. 15, the Chabad House of Providence held a community Malaveh Malkah at their establishment on 360 Hope Street. There was lots of food, singing, dancing, some Jewish guitar music courtesy of the Rosenfeld and Schuman Duet, and a presentation about "Miracles in Modern Medicine" by Dr. Michael Felder and Dr. Pinchus Kaplan. Young and old attended the event, and everyone was able to celebrate Chanukah together.



BERYL LAUFER trains to be a Maccabee lamplighter by building a wooden play menorah.



SHMUEL BERMAN belts out a Chanukah song in Yiddish at the Chabad Malaveh Malkah.



A CHABAD HOUSE student helps a senior citizen light the Chanukah candles. *Photos courtesy of the Chabad House*

Happy
New Year
from
all of us at the
Rhode Island
Jewish Herald



DR. IRVING SCHILDS lights the menorah at the Chabad Chanukah Malaveh Malkah.

JTS Creates \$1.5 Million Fund to Meet Demand for Jewish Educators

Full Tuition Fellowships Aim to Attract "Best and Brightest"

In an unprecedented effort to attract people to careers in Jewish education, the Jewish Theological Seminary announced recently that it will designate \$1.5 million for merit-based fellowships to all qualified applicants to its two-year master's in Jewish education program at the William Davidson Graduate School of Jewish Education. In making the announcement, Ismar Schorsch, JTS chancellor, said, "We are all aware of the personnel crisis in Jewish education. We know that the salaries of Jewish educators aren't what they should be. In addition, our research indicates that there are many talented and highly motivated potential Jewish educators for whom the high cost of graduate study has been an obstacle. We must not allow the financial burdens of advanced training to stand in the way of these promising candidates entering so rewarding a field."

Outlining the details of the plan, Dr. Aryeh Davidson, dean of the Davidson School, asserted that this initiative is intended to help alter the current landscape in Jewish education where there exists a severe shortage of teachers and emphasize the importance to the communal agenda of funding for graduate education. Moreover, he noted, "this fellowship fund represents the first step in JTS's long-term commitment to seeding the next generation of Jewish educators through a national recruitment and marketing strategy for the Davidson School. Our hope is that JTS will set the example for other organizations in this arena by demonstrating the impact that significant levels of funding and effective outreach can have."

JTS's aggressive recruitment campaign comes at a time of record high enrollment in Jewish day schools, summer camps, synagogue-based religious schools, JCCs and adult education programs. "The sad fact is," remarked Chancellor Schorsch, "that many of the available jobs go begging."

Endowed by Detroit industrialist William Davidson in 1994, the Davidson School has the most comprehensive program of graduate study in Jewish education in North America, offering master of arts and doctoral degrees, an online master's degree and special certification in day school administration.

Through the MA program, students elect to concentrate in one of three areas: day school education, synagogue school administration or informal/comunal education. There are currently a number of foreign students enrolled, and Davidson graduates are highly sought after for leadership positions in Jewish education throughout the United States and abroad.



Out of the Box....

Into the Hearts of Firefighters' Children

A national organization is helping to lift the spirits of the children of its local firehouse this Christmas. Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, has "adopted" its local fire company, which lost 6 out of its 17 men on September 11.

The 300 volunteers and employees at Hadassah's Manhattan headquarters selected and purchased gifts for all of the children of the firefighters. Twelve children lost their fathers after the attack, and an additional 18 are the offspring of the firefighters now staffing the Engine Company.

Accepting the gaily-wrapped scores of gifts, Captain John Bendick said, "This is the true spirit of Christmas - a Jewish organization helping us to celebrate our holiday. It's so gratifying. And we have been grateful for everything they've done for us."