

Rhode Island Jewish HERALD

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

Happy Tu B'Shevat!

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Martin Luther King

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'Let My People Go!'

Freed Slave Speaks at Emanu-El

by Jon Rubin
Herald Editor

Francis Bok was seven years old when the horsemen came thundering into the village of Nymlal in Sudan. Women and men were viciously cut down, slain by swords and guns as they fled in terror. He and other children were tied to donkeys and taken away from their families. A seven-year-old girl alongside him who wouldn't stop crying was shot in the head.

So began 10 horrific years of beatings and forced labor, sleeping beside the foul-smelling animals that he tended all day, friendless and lost.

He went from being human to being referred to as "abeed" — "black slave." "When I first heard it," he said, "I never wanted to hear it again." But that is exactly what he was for the duration of his captivity.

Bok came to Temple Emanu-El in Providence on Shabbat on Jan. 19 to teach people that not only does slavery still exist, but that it is spreading, with an es-

timated 23 million people in bondage in Brazil, Calcutta, Mauritania, and other countries. Bok's arrival coincided with the Torah portion Bo, in which the Jewish people departed from Egypt after Moses appealed to Pharaoh to "Let my people go."

Standing a towering 6 foot 4 inches tall, Bok is a charming and gentle man of just 22 years, and, although self-conscious about his English, spoke clearly and calmly and without malice about the hellish conditions he has faced.

Bok's people are the victims of a government that has turned against them, he remarked in a telephone interview from Boston the day before his arrival. Sudan, the largest African country, is sharply divided between the black Christians in the south and Arab Muslims in the north. The two cultures are entirely different in every respect, Bok said. "We are black... they are white."

Africa has a long and largely

untold history of slavery; in Sudan the scourge of slavery has thrived after the government chose in 1983 to operate under Sharia, or Islamic law. The wealthy north has traditionally been very hostile towards the blacks in the south, and the change in government fueled this xenophobia towards the "infidels," Said Bok, "To them, we are animals."

Racism and economics became the motivating factors for the raids, with the Muslim government allowing or supporting the plunder of southern Sudanese resources. Many members of the militia are armed by the government but not paid, and they frequently pillage and take slaves from those they terrorize. "And it's getting worse," Bok said.

Once he was taken captive, he was given an Islamic name and was told he would be killed if he didn't accept Islam. A religious Catholic, Bok did so only to save his life. "I didn't accept Islam, not in my heart," he said.



FRANCIS BOK, formerly a slave in Sudan, spoke to members of Temple Emanu-El in Providence about the relatively unknown problem of slavery around the world. In the above picture, he runs carrying the Olympic torch.

He had no shoes and no shirt and worked and lived in his underwear, tending animals and doing other manual labor. He was not allowed to speak, and violations would prompt further beatings. The only other children he had contact with found cruel delight in hitting him with sticks.

Bok tried to escape twice, but was recaptured. After one failed attempt, his master's wife told

him that if he tried to escape again he would be killed. He waited three more years until he was 17, and then fled to another town. He went to the police, who promptly enslaved him. He then escaped again to Cairo, and, after getting in touch with a human rights group, was brought to the U.S.

But his problems were not over yet. Bok struggled to learn

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Seniors Make Art From the Heart

by Seth Bromley
Editorial Assistant

A number of delightful paintings have adorned the hallway this month at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island. These 15 vibrant watercolors are not part of a professional exhibit, nor are they for sale. They've been created by a bunch of up-and-coming Providence artists, not from RISD or Brown, but from the Comprehensive Adult Day Center at the Jewish Seniors Agency. The center participants take regular classes with art teacher Maurice Turcotte, and some of their best work was chosen to brighten the walls, along with brief statements about who each artist is and what motivated him or her to participate in the program.

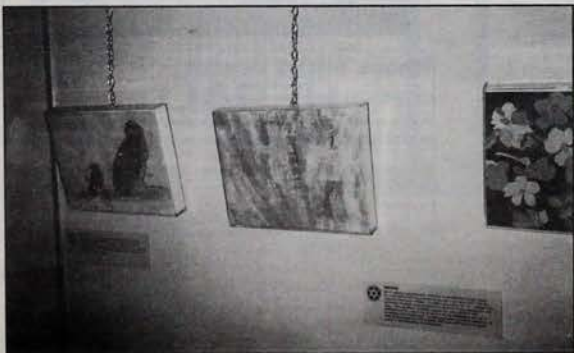


Sharon Rice, director of the center, said the art projects are a wonderful experience for those seniors who choose to take part. "Usually what happens is that they're hesitant at first... they don't feel comfort-

able expressing themselves through painting," she said. But after working to explore their creativity and build confidence, the artists end up surprising themselves, said Rice. "It's a delight in knowing you certainly can produce something meaningful, and visually [attractive]."

Many paintings featured roses and other flora, others depicted favorite animals, and some featured beautiful landscapes or abstract designs. All of them revealed some facet of the artist's personality. Seniors who come to the center's programs looking for something new, can end up finding themselves — through art.

For more information about the Comprehensive Adult Day Center and its many programs, call Lisa at 351-2440.



'Babies, Kids and Kibbitzing' at JFRI

While their kids played with toys and practiced taking steps, Jewish parents got a chance to meet one another and speak with child psychologist Myrna Silverstein at the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island playgroup. "Babies, Kids and Kibbitzing" is held the third Friday of every month at the JFRI at 130 Sessions Street in Providence. Parents submitted questions beforehand and Silverstein spoke about various parenting pitfalls and how to avoid them. "You won't solve all behavior issues at once," she advised, "you have to set your priorities."

Upcoming dates are Feb. 15, March 15 and April 19. The event is B.Y.O.T. & S. (bring your own toys and snacks). Children up to age 4 are welcome.

Below: Abby Kaplan prepares to dive into more animal crackers.

Herald photo by Jon Rubin



HAPPENINGS

Responses to Terrorism Discussed at J.C.H.

James Jajuga, secretary of public safety, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, will speak on "Issues of Safety in Response to Terrorist Threats" at the Jewish Community House, 133 High St., Taunton, Mass. on Jan. 27, from 10 a.m. to noon. Buffet breakfast will be served.

Topics discussed will be:

- How can we protect ourselves?
- How do we make our houses of worship safe?
- How has the Commonwealth responded?

The cost is \$8 per person. To reserve seats, contact Congregation Agudath Achim (508) 822-3230 or Michael Novick at (508) 822-2635. Seated is limited, so reserve now!

Touro Goes to the Hoops!

Touro Fraternal is holding a family basketball party on Feb. 9 at 5:30 p.m. The evening begins with a spaghetti and meatball dinner at Touro Hall in Cranston. Then, buses will take us to see Providence College take on Virginia Tech at the Dunkin' Donuts Center. Cost is \$10 per person. Immediate family only (Touro parents, spouses and children). RSVP by Feb. 1.

The J Connection Presents the 35+ Schmooze & Social

The J Connection, proud sponsor of the "J Ball," presents the 35+ "Schmooze & Social" will take place on Saturday Jan. 26 Veronique Restaurant, 20 Chapel Street, Brookline, Mass. The event will start at 8 p.m. with DJ dancing, Hors D'oeuvres, Street and lot parking, \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door.

For more information tickets go to www.thejconnection.com or call (781) 444-7771.

Correction

In last week's Herald, an article about the dating services matchquest and menschquest had an incorrect Web site address. The correct address is www.match-quest.com.

In last week's article, "The Kosher Magnet," The Admiral Weaver Inn was incorrectly listed as being under the supervision of the Orthodox Union. Although the Admiral Weaver is under the supervision of Rabbi Mordechai Eskovitz and the Vaad Hakashruth of Rhode Island, the Orthodox Union does not provide kashruth supervision at the Admiral Weaver.

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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



Time to Make the Doughnuts

Pre-school students at the Alperin Schechter Day School in Providence got a cooking lesson from their teacher Yardena Winkler, left, when they made sufganiot (doughnuts) for Chanukah before winter break. Seating around her clockwise from top are: Miriam Heath, Maxine Resnick, Hannah Feinstein, May Stern, Galina Gruder, Barry Newman and Rebecca Kaplan.

Photo courtesy of ASDS

Emanu-El To Host Interdenominational Discussion February 3

"Many Voices, One People" will be open to the Public

Congregation Beth Shalom, Temple Beth-El, and Temple Emanu-el are co-sponsoring an interdenominational discussion on Feb. 3 entitled: "Many Voices, One People: How Do We Each Understand Torah and Revelation."

This discussion, the second in a series of three, will be held at Temple Emanu-el, 99 Taft Avenue in Providence, at 7:30 p.m. The event is free and open to the public, and everyone is invited to attend. For more information please call 331-1616.

The third session is scheduled to take place on May 5 at Beth Shalom.

Join Cub Scout Pack 104 For a Day at The Races

On Jan. 27, from 10 a.m. to noon at Congregation Beth Shalom, 275 Camp St., Providence, Cub Scout Pack 104 will hold a pinewood derby.

At Cub Scouts who register will receive a free pinewood derby car compliments of Pack 104 and Congregation Beth Shalom.

For information, contact Russell Raskin at 273-2299.

Perspectives Announces Events for January

Jan. 26 — Swinging 88s. Call me John Travolta, even though he didn't swing. But he was a swinger! We're going for a night of swing dancing with Andy's favorite group besides Perspectives, the Swingin' 88's. The event is at the Brightbridge Club on Brightbridge Ave. in East Providence. Dancing is from 7 p.m. to midnight, with a swing lesson at 7 p.m. Cost is \$7 at the door. For more information, call Deborah at 351-8261.

Jan. 28 — Tu B'Shevat Seder. Come and celebrate the most granola-y Jewish holiday. We'll celebrate all the wonderful bounty that we have been blessed with. Thanks to the big one upstairs. The seder will be held at the Sara Doyle Center, 26 Benevolent St. The eating will commence at 7 p.m. The event is potluck dessert style, so call Brett at 273-5372 to see what you can bring. So as my sister always said, "Let's eat!"

Jan. 31 — Special Parasha. This month we have a special treat. There is a new program called DeLet which gives people a chance to change their present occupation by providing stipends and aid in relocation to work as Jewish educators. So this text study we're going to learn from the director of DeLet, Dr. Jane West Walsh, both about DeLet and leadership in the Torah. Meet us at 106 Angell St., Providence, at 7 p.m. for pizza and learning. For more information, call Jamie at 863-9357.

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

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R.I. Jewish Community Reacts to Heinous Terrorist Attack

By Jon Finkel
A terrorist attack of such magnitude has shocked the Jewish community in Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts. The attack on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, has left many in the community in a state of shock and disbelief. The Jewish community is united in its grief and its determination to support the victims and their families. The community is also focused on ensuring the safety of its members and places of worship.



OPINION

Europe's Pandering to Anti-Semitism Opens the Floodgates of Hate

by Rabbi Abraham Cooper

In the overall scheme of things, the incident doesn't seem to merit more attention than the screaming headlines in England's tabloid press.

After all, with the world anxiously awaiting the next terrorist shoe to drop on civilization, why make a big deal over "private" comments made a few weeks ago by the French ambassador to St. James Court at a private dinner party in London.

In between drinks and canapés, Ambassador Daniel Bernard, a close confidant of French President Chirac, was overheard saying: "Why should we be in danger of World War III because of these people?" No, the senior diplomat who previously served his country with distinction at the United Nations was not talking about Sudan, Iraq, North Korea, or other nations harboring international terrorists. No, as he emphasized five times, he was referring to "that shitty little country, Israel."

Almost as outrageous as the slur was the reaction, or more accurately, lack thereof. Absent was the stiff protest from Whitehall to the Quai D'orsay. Neither PM Tony Blair nor FM Robin Cook demanded an apology. They need not have worried—none was forthcoming. The French Embassy merely released the following statement: "The ambassador regarded it as a private dinner with friends. He was surprised to have his remarks reported in this way."

Actually, no one should be surprised by Bernard's expletives. It only reflects the fact that too many of Europe's elite have come to accept and even embrace anti-Semitism. We one can

only imagine the outpouring of righteous indignation from the international community if such a slur had been launched against any Islamic state during the holy month of Ramadan. But this Hanukkah, Jews of Europe and beyond know full well that they could expect no words of solidarity and support.

For the sobering truth is that a generation after the Nazi Holocaust, the new Europe is ready to stand in silent tribute for dead Jews, but has no time for the living. This blasé attitude is manifested in the stinging failure of governments to deal forcefully with the largest onslaught against European synagogues and Jewish schools since the 1938 Kristallnacht.

Most of the 200 hate crimes were linked to the current Intifada in the Holy Land. Long before the horrors of 9/11, more than 100 of those attacks were launched against French Jewry, while authorities refused and still refuse to deal with the fact that many of these outrages were inspired by Iranian and Libyan-backed extremist Moslem clerics, whose anti-Jewish and anti-American diatribes continue to this day, unabated.

Nowhere was this ill will of apathy and loathing more pronounced than at the recent United Nations Conference Against Racism, which despite its lofty title quickly degenerated into an anti-Israel and anti-American hatefest. The overwhelming majority of the 3,900 NGOs (non-governmental organizations), many of them European, voted for or stood by silently as they approved a document calling for the re-instituting of the infamous 1975 UN resolution equating Zion-

ism with racism.

Nor were our fellow European human rights activists much help as we and the other Jewish delegates in attendance were subjected to a crescendo of taunts and physical threats culminating in a protest march of 17,000 South African Moslems holding aloft banners proclaiming: "Hitler should have finished the job."

Only the United States, itself subject to withering criticism by the international gathering, had the guts to walk out from the conclave that mainlined hate into the bloodstream of the world body charged with protecting the Universal Rights of Man. Forty eight hours later, the hatred which sank Durban propelled Al Qaeda's suicide onslaught against America.

Against this backdrop, it should come as no surprise that the Arab world would embrace anti-Jewish racism with a vengeance not seen since the heyday of Nazi Germany.

Witness a new series produced by state-run Abu Dhabi Television, which aired on primetime during the month of

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Letter to The Editor

A Special Bar Mitzvah Wish

I will be making my bar mitzvah May 11, 2002. As part of my preparation, I will be doing a mitzvah project. A mitzvah is a commandment to do good deeds. Participating in a mitzvah project helps me to begin to learn more about the needs of others and give me an opportunity to find ways that I can help. Mitzvah projects are part of the bar mitzvah tradition as I take on more responsibilities and move towards becoming an adult. I am focusing my mitzvah project on kindness.

For my mitzvah project, I volunteer every week at the Cupboard of Kindness food pantry in Norton. The food pantry, located at 70 East Main St., opened on Dec. 15, 2001. It offers help to people that have difficulties with getting enough food and clothing for themselves and their families. The Cupboard of Kindness can only offer help to these people and their families if they get donations and contributions from the generosity of the people and businesses in the community.

As part of my volunteering, I stock shelves with food, clean, collect and empty community

donor bins, help with mailings and any other appropriate tasks that need to be done. I'm also organizing a canned food drive at my school and will participate in the Cupboard of Kindness. Contact me anytime you have something you wish to donate and I will make arrangements to pick it up. I have also placed donation bins in the front hall of the synagogue and the Jewish Community House for non-perishable food items.

My phone number is (508) 285-5758, my e-mail address is <scushner@mediaone.net> and my mailing address is 2 Gateway Lane Norton, MA 02766. If you would like, you may send donations or financial contributions directly to the Cupboard of Kindness, 70 East Main St., P.O. Box 874, Norton, MA 02766. Include my name so I may send you a thank-you note.

I would truly appreciate anything you can donate or contribute to help me with my mitzvah project and benefit the Cupboard of Kindness.

Eli J. Cushner is a member of Congregation Agudath Achim, Taunton, Mass.

Holy Action and Hockey Violence

by Rabbi Avi Shafran

The trial and conviction of Thomas Junta, the Massachusetts father who beat another father to death during a dispute at their sons' practice hockey game should spur some discussion of sports among thoughtful people, including thoughtful Jews.

According to a medical examiner's testimony offered during the trial, Junta, a 270-pound truck driver, repeatedly

punched Michael Costin, a 156-pound carpenter, in the face, rupturing an artery at the base of Costin's brain and almost severing his head from his neck.

Manslaughter may be a relatively rare outcome of sports-related altercations, but violence itself is another matter. Overseas, soccer matches have often stirred fans to what can only be described as gang warfare, complete with weapons, blood and broken bones. In our own soci-

ety, bottle, garbage and battery hurling (not to mention insult hurling, violence in its own right) is hardly unheard of, even during games of baseball—one of the contemporary world's more civil sports.

And the more barbaric examples, like boxing, are openly and unabashedly predicated on brutality and gore. Little wonder some of the "role models" the world of sports has offered

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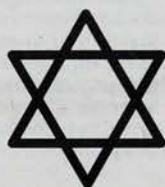
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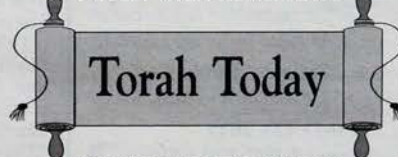
In the original version of the space opera "Star Trek" there was a concept called the Prime Directive: although the crew's mission was to seek out "new life and new civilizations," it should not interfere in the development of these cultures. In other words, if these people have not discovered how to process their potatoes for latkes yet, let them learn on their own. Don't introduce your high-tech advances to a primitive people.

The unintended joke, of course, was that the crew regularly violated this purportedly inviolable rule. They stopped wars, defeated tyrants, offered Declarations of Independence and improved toasters. There's just no avoiding the fact that, presented with a problem, humans will want to insert a solution.

Nowadays, we still wrestle with the same conundrum: how much should we interfere with the problems of others? There is a general governmental reluctance to stay away from "internal conflicts," otherwise known as civil wars. Of course, this contract is broken when those "internal conflicts" affect inter-

ests of one's own nation. There is even a shyness about "passing judgment" on people who come from different belief systems. Should we campaign for the rights of women in nations where subjugation of females is "normal?" Should we encourage primitive tribes to give up bodily mutilation?

Recently a Yale University student wrote in *Newsweek*



about her concern that this attitude had been carried too far by some. That there was some "moral equivalency" between any soldier fighting in a war (say, World War II) and suicide bombers who blow up buses, restaurants and World Trade Centers. If we could only see things through the eyes of others, we would have a less "judgmental" view of their actions. She observes this idea expressed on the campus of one of our most esteemed by both students and professors.

Well, what do you think? Is it possible that, had Moses looked at things through

Pharaoh's eyes, he would have disagreed that G-d should visit the plagues on Egypt, as happens last week in Bo? Maybe he would have said, "Gee, this is the way Egyptians conduct their civilization—if slavery is okay with them, we shouldn't try to change their belief system."

Seems like a stretch, doesn't it? Of course, Moses had a vested interest in bringing the Hebrews out of bondage. He was one of them. On the other hand, why couldn't he go back to Midian and enjoy life with Zipporah, far from the problems of these slaves?

Because there is right and wrong. Because customs of dress and cuisine and religion aren't the same as customs of subjugation, mutilation and murder. Because there is a moral code we must uphold. Because Torah says so. That's why.

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>.

TU B'SHEVAT

Tu B'Shevat and Today's Corporations

by Pamela J. Gordon

The time of the harvest of fruit trees was so important in our ancient homeland that Tu B'Shevat was designated as one of the Jewish calendar's New Year days. It seems it was clearer to our tribal people than how inseparable the environment is from our daily activities.

So why is it today — when for many of us our daily activities are largely within office buildings — that the natural environment is far from the daily foci of most boardrooms? I think it's because most managers assume wrongly that the environment is not related to quarterly profits.

Fortunately, however, managers at some of today's leading corporations — including Intel, Sony, Horizon Organic Dairy, IBM, and Louisiana-Pacific — realize that taking positive environmental steps has everything to do with quarterly profits. This is the subject of a recent book of *Lean and Green: Profit for Your Workplace and the Environment* (Berrett-Koehler publishers, October 2001).

Texas Instruments, for example, recycles 81 percent of non-hazardous solid waste in its U.S. operations (and 75 percent worldwide), which saves \$23 million worth of water and energy, not to mention saving trees and reducing landfill. TI spends \$160 million on manufacturing resources each quarter; the environmental programs are designed to optimize the company's resources by at least 10 percent, and to save at least \$16 million each quarter. Actually, TI's environmental achievement at this writing has exceeded the 10 percent target.

French television-maker Thomson Multimedia's world-

wide environmental projects save the company \$12.5 million each year through cost avoidance, cost savings, and revenue generation. Waste reclamation and glass recycling (from TV CRTs) contribute the most toward the \$12.5 million. By reducing electricity, fuel, and gas, in Europe alone, Thomson Multimedia saves \$2.8 million.

Walt Rosenberg is director of corporate environmental affairs at Compaq, where, on a per-product basis in the competitive personal computer market, he says, "even 1 percent cost savings is motivational. We're fighting on pennies on some components — because pennies count when multiplied by millions of units. The mindset is 'every single cent.' A reusable transport pallet saves \$5 per unit — this becomes a fundamental business benefit."

In addition to expense reduction, revenue generation is a benefit of environmental steps. Apple Computer gains \$1 million per year from recycling, and Philips Semiconductor earns millions of dollars from marketing "green" products (such as Philips's popular GreenChip).

The key to bringing to the corporate world a focus on a safe, cleaner environment of the magnitude of a "new year," such as is Tu B'Shevat, is to link environmental steps not with "tree hugging" or threats, but with increased revenues and reduced expenses leading to enhanced quarterly and annual profit. Walt Rosenberg at Compaq remarks about making environmental improvements with the organization, "This isn't a touchy-feely area. It's good for business. We are not

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Happy Jewish Arbor Day, Chaim Brown!

by Cary Eichenbaum

Tu B'Shevat, the Jewish new year for trees, will be celebrated this year on Monday, Jan. 28. Jews the world over will thank G-d that day for those precious gifts of creation, trees. "Tu" is an abbreviation for "Tet-Vav," or the number 15 in Hebrew. Hence, the Holiday is known as Tu B'Shevat, since the Festival always occurs on the 15th day of the Hebrew month Shevat.

Though a minor holiday in our people's heritage, Tu B'Shevat, the Jewish Arbor day, is celebrated by Jews in Israel and the Diaspora. Israeli Jews plant trees in their homeland, and their American compatriots send money for trees to be planted — usually in memory of a loved one — in Eretz Yisrael. Schoolchildren in Israel also plant trees through funds contributed by Jewish students abroad through the generosity of the Jewish National Fund.

A seder — similar to the one on Passover — is held in honor of the day. This gala is full of delightful fruits of the vine of the Holy Land. Modeled after the Pesach Seder, the Tu B'Shevat version also includes the drinking of four cups of wine. These vary between red and white wine, alternatively representing the shifting of yearly seasons. Children are encouraged to participate equally as much as their adult counterparts.

The Tu B'Shevat seder takes

its roots (no pun intended) back in the 17th century, where the Jewish mystics of Safed, the Kabbalists, invented it. The Kabbalists were influenced by a verse in Deuteronomy 10:19: "For man is like the tree of the field. Additionally, the seder can have readings about trees and fruit, derived from various Jewish sources.

Though Friday night is the earliest one can perform a Tu

chio, pine nut, pomegranate and brazil nut.

(2) fruits with edible outer flesh and pithy, inedible cores: olive, loquat, plum, jujub, hackberry, peach, cherry and persimmon.

(3) fruits which are edible throughout and need no protective shells, either external or internal: raisin, blueberry, apple, quince, kiwi, carob, raspberry, grape, strawberry, fig, cranberry and pear.

Tu B'Shevat marks the beginning of spring in Israel. At this time, the country endures sustaining rains, and the trees respond, brimming with buds of fragrant life. For Jews in the United States and other nations, the holiday is a renewal of awareness and vision. It is also a connection for Jews to many different things — including to their own inner selves, the social world of human beings, to nature and to science, as well as to G-d.

This new celebration has evolved over the years, going from Safed to Sephardi communities in Italy, Greece and Turkey, and later to Asia, Europe and North Africa. Modern — and different — adaptations of the Tu B'Shevat Seder have been created by Chabad Lubavitch, Hillels, Jewish environmental groups, Modern Orthodox, Jewish Singles Organizations and many other groups.



B'Shevat Seder, many students will conduct theirs on Sunday, Jan. 27. For the seder, 15 different kinds of fruits and nuts are needed in addition to wine. One must eat a combination of 15 various fruits and/or nuts, five each from the following three categories:

(1) fruits or nuts with an inedible outer shell and an inedible inner core: pineapple, coconut, orange, pomello, banana, walnut, pecan, grapefruit, star fruit, papaya, almond, pista-

The New Year for Trees

by Velvel "Wally" Spiegler

Tu B'Shevat (the 15th day in the month of Shevat) has always been one of the most beloved minor Jewish holidays. It is a celebration of the relationship of G-d with His people as expressed by the blessings that He bestowed on the land. Today, when so many Jewish people seek to heighten the spirituality of their lives by deepening their bonds with Israel, this holiday assumes renewed purpose.

Unfortunately, in spite of the fact that Tu B'Shevat is discussed in both the Mishna and the Talmud, comparatively little information is available about the holiday. The origin of Tu B'Shevat is elucidated in the Mishna (the six orders of the Oral Tradition), tractate Rosh Hashana. The very first verse says, "There are four New Years: On the first of the month of Nissan is the New Year for kings and for festivals; on the first of Elul is the New Year for the tithe of animals; on the first of Tishrei (Rosh HaShanah) is the New Year for the counting of the years, for the sabbatical years (or Shmitta, a.k.a. Jubilee); and the first of Shevat is the New Year for Trees, according to the view of the School of Shammai. But the School of Hillel says, on the fifteenth of Shevat.

Tu B'Shevat is the New Year for trees. What does that mean,

a "New Year" for the trees? Do trees make resolutions on that day? Do they dip their apples in honey and ask for a sweet year? This New Year for Trees is related to the biblical tithe on fruits. Fruits which ripen and are picked from the trees up until the 15th of Shevat get counted for tithing that year, and the fruit picked from the trees after Tu B'Shevat get counted for the following year. These two groups must be kept

enous to Israel; by doing some special project for the environment; by collecting funds to plant trees in Israel; or by observing the day with a Tu B'Shevat "seder."

Perhaps the first seder held for Tu B'Shevat was formulated in the mid 1600's by the students of the Holy Ari — Rabbi Isaac Luria. They saw the seder as an opportunity to restore their spiritual connection with the world. It was set up along the lines of the Passover seder. White tablecloths were placed on the tables with light of candles glowing. Incense, preferably myrtle, which is harvested during Succot, is placed on the tables. Similarly, flowers were used to decorate the tables and to give the air a pleasant fragrance.

The mystical Seder of Tu B'Shevat revolves around the "Four Worlds" of the Kabbalah. These worlds are the mystic's conception of the structure of reality — descending in stages from the spiritual to the material. Not unlike the Passover seder, four cups of wine are consumed to recognize each of the four worlds. Fruits of the trees are to be eaten, and designated according to each world.

For Atzilut, the world of emanation, the completely non-physical aspect of the universe, no fruit is consumed; for Briah, the world of creation, fruits that have neither a pit on the inside

(Continued on Page 5)

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Woodcut from Sefer Minhagi, Tu Bishvat Amsterdam, 1723.

Photo courtesy of the Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary

separate — one must not take fruit of the previous year and pass it off as tithes for the following year.

Today, Tu B'Shevat is celebrated in numerous ways: By planting trees; by eating fruit, especially fruit that is indig-

TU B'SHEVAT

Plant a Bean, Not an Acorn on Tu B'Shevav

by Ted Roberts

The shortest Jewish book ever written is my new best seller published by Schlemel Publications, *The Jewish Holidays*. Not surprisingly, it describes our holidays, one sentence on each. Yom Kippur is about repentance. Purim is about hamentashen. Pesach — where I go into great detail about matzoh ball recipes — concerns freedom. And finally, the exotic, illusory meaning of Tu B'Shevav.

What I know about Tu B'Shevav you could stuff in a hollowed-out acorn. But I think it has something to do with trees. That's all I know, but maybe that's enough.

If you, like our ancestors, wandered around the Sinai and then the Negev a couple millennia ago, you know that a tree was as welcome as a well. And a more miraculous wonder than the parting of the Red Sea. You are hot and hungry and there's sand between your toes and in every crevice of your body. But hey — look ahead. There's shade, a cool breeze, and maybe even lunch hanging from the limbs of that grove of Trebinths.

Our forefathers were so impressed with the Creator's generosity with this big green leafy gift that they called Torah — "Etz Chayim," a "Tree of Life."

Kids love stories about trees. So, on this holiday tell them about the acorn that turned into a 40-ton tree that shades 6-year-old Melinda's house, an easy-going tree that allowed them to tie a swing on his lower

branches. Tell them how that old oak tree will patiently serve Melinda and her children and her children's children for three generations of humankind. Remind them that 50 years from now some child, now patiently waiting in the womb of infinity, will thank her unknown grandmother, Melinda, for shade and a nice swing.

Kids love Tu B'Shevav — because they love trees and magic. And they see clearer than us the magic in the green family of trees.

My grandson, Jonah, turned 5 the other day. His parents gave him a party. They even hired a magician fully dressed in cape, wand, even hat. The kids went wild. The magician hid things and he transformed things. He violated the laws of gravity.

I asked him, "Hey, Tu B'Shevav's coming — make a tree." Instead, he pulled a quarter out of Jonah's ear. Big deal.

In early spring every year I tour our backyard with one grandchild after another. "See that stick standing in the ground, Jonah? Well, in a couple of weeks it'll sprout some leaves. And by the end of summer, it'll be a miniature, two feet tree."

Kids love miracles. One spring day a few years back, Jonah, the birthday boy, and I were touring the yard. "Jonah, hey look," I said. "See that stick poking up out of the ground?" (Actually, the "stick" was the product of four seeds planted last fall.)

"So Jonah, see the stick?"

"Sure."

"Well, wanta see a super magic trick?"

"You're gonna turn it into a candy bar like the magician at my birthday party?"

"Nope — a lot better than that. I am going to say the magic word — which is 'Tu B'Shevav.' I am going to wave my magic handkerchief over the stick. And you and I, in three years, will come back to this stick, which will turn into an apple tree. We'll sit in the shade and eat apples. Then, you can climb up to the top of the tree. Is that a trick or what?"

The normal 5-year-old grandchild says thank you; then tries to get a handle on the concept of time: How is three years different from next Wednesday?

But this child, with a few ragged DNA threads from in-laws in his bloodstream, complained about waiting so long for his magic trick. That's when I went from oak trees to bean vines. Plant them in April and by July you've got yards and yards of vines decorated with bean blossoms.

If nothing else on Tu B'Shevav, remember what Bill Gates said: "Fortunes are made by fools like me, but only G-d can make a tree."

Tu B'Shevav Kitchen Recipes

Sugar Spiced Mixed Nuts

1 cup almonds (whole)
1 cup filberts (whole)
1 cup pecans (whole)
1 egg white
1 cup sugar
1 Tbsp. cinnamon
1 tsp. black pepper
1 tsp. cloves
1 t nutmeg
1/2 tsp. salt

Mix together sugar, spices and salt. Set aside. Toss nuts together with egg white until fully coated. (If any white remains in the bottom of the bowl, transfer the moist nuts to a dry bowl.) Toss the nuts in the spicy sugar and place on 9" x 13" baking sheet. Bake in a 300 degree oven for 10 to 12 minutes or until toasted. Store in an airtight container. Serve as snack or chopped over ice cream.

Easy Marinated Prunes

1 bottle sweet kiddush wine
2 lbs. of sour prunes or pitted prune plums
2 sticks cinnamon sticks
1/2 Tbsp. peppercorns (black)
1 Tbsp. cloves (whole)

Place all ingredients in an airtight container and marinate in refrigerator for 1 to 2 months. (I like to do this ahead at Shavuot.) They can be used for main course or over ice cream.

If you want to speed this up, place all ingredients in a pan and bring to a boil. Cool. When cooled, place in an airtight container for about one week. Enjoy.

Dvorah Buhr, a student in the Jewish Theological Seminary's H.L. Miller Cantorial School, is also an award-winning, certified pastry chef with a specialty in chocolate and candy production.

A Thing or Tu 'bout Shevat

by Rabbi Yaakov Feldman

Ever wonder what baseball players, for example, do off-season, or what actors do off-stage? It's only natural to wonder what kind of secret lives such individuals lead.

What our people have been curious about this time of the year for millennia is what fruit-trees are doing now. Because we're coming upon Tu B'shevav, the Rosh Hashanah ("New Year") of trees. And our old

friends are fast approaching the spotlight again.

We ourselves (as well as the trees) have suffered through the very thickest, coldest, darkest part of winter up to now, and are anticipating its end. The night is at long last inching in a bit later, day by day, and we're actually waking up to light by now. So we're somehow a bit more settled in our beings and more optimistic.

(Continued on Page 6)

The New Year for Trees

(Continued from page 4)

nor shells on the outside are chosen (grapes, fig, apples, citrons, lemons, pears, blueberries, raspberries, quinces, carobs). The world of Yetzirah, the world of formation, is signified by fruits that have a pit on the inside, but the outside can be eaten (olives, dates, cherries, jujubes, persimmons, apricots, peaches, loquats, plums, hackberries). Finally Assiah, the world of action, the tangible world, encompasses fruits that have a shell which must be discarded, but the inside may be eaten (pomegranates, walnuts, almonds, pine nuts, chestnuts, hazelnuts, coconuts, Brazil nuts, pistachios, pecans).

Families most often compose their own versions of Tu B'Shevav seders. They generally follow the format of four cups of wine beginning with white wine (the most spiritual of colors) for the first cup and gradating, by adding bits of red wine, to shades on pink, with a ruby pink

(a color representing earth) for the last cup. A minimum of four appropriate fruits is selected based on the verse in Deuteronomy 8:8: "A land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of oil olive, and honey."

Following the pouring of each cup of wine, a biblical verse is read appropriate to the fruit. The fruit is eaten followed by the proper blessing. The blessing for wine is recited and the cup is consumed. Some families choose to insert the "shehechianu" into their seders, the prayer to thank G-d for keeping us alive and together at this season.

Regardless of how you choose to celebrate Tu B'Shevav, this lovely little holiday in the middle of winter brings with it the promise of renewal at just the time when the sap in the trees is ready to awaken before spring. Happy Jewish Arbor Day!

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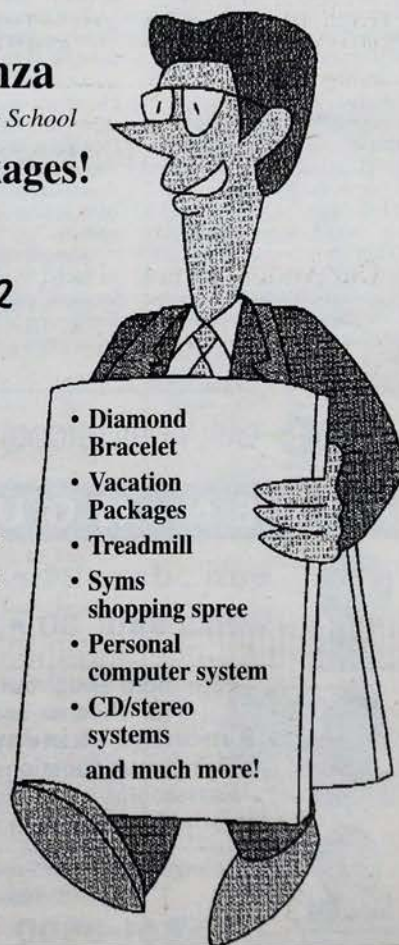
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JEWISH COMMUNITY

'Let My People Go!'

(Continued from Page 1)

English and moved around a few times looking for work. He learned that his parents and many of his siblings had been killed. Only one brother survived — a fighter in an anti-government resistance group.

One day, a friend introduced Bok to the American Anti-Slavery Group in Boston. He was originally hesitant about confronting slavery again after all he had been through, but, after seeing pictures of child slaves from villages like his, he real-

ized he had found his calling and joined their staff. He started attending school for the first time in September of 2000, and speaks excellent English after only learning the language for a year and a half. Bok currently travels the U.S. speaking about slavery. When he visits classrooms, both students and teacher are frequently shocked at the very existence of such tyranny.

Testifying before the U.S. Congress about his ordeal in May of 2000, he pleaded, "You must help us. Why are you silent? This is a country that freed its slaves. But my people are still in bondage." Although Bok's tale made waves that day ("They were crying when I told them my story"), he still feels that this issue is largely ignored in the press. "This story is not covered," he said.

Why doesn't his story make headlines? Besides the fact that most people don't think slavery is an issue in the 21st century, governments that allow or support slavery vigorously deny that it exists within their borders. "It would hurt the government" if people knew, he said, "they don't want anyone to know."

The American Anti-Slavery group has a Web site (www.iabolish.com) with information about the affliction of



FRANCIS BOK shakes hands with Secretary of State Madeline Albright.

international slavery and what people can do to help eradicate it, whether writing members of congress, educating the public or supporting the opposition groups in Sudan.

Bok has spoken many times before Jewish congregations, and has found a lot of support in the Jewish community. His visit to Emanu-El was unique, however, because it was the first time he ever attended a synagogue service or wore a kippah. He spoke in lieu of a sermon, after the Torah service. Although it is customary not to clap during services, many in the audience rose in applauding him when he finished his speech.

"People think slavery ended in 1865," he said during his interview. "It's not about what's happening in Sudan... It's what is happening all over the globe."

Robert M. Heller Elected Chair of Social Action of Reform Judaism

Robert M. Heller, a partner at the leading New York City law firm of Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP, has been elected Chair of the Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism.



Robert Heller

Heller succeeds Judge David Davidson, of Bethesda, MD, who served as chair of the Commission since 1997.

Serving as the vice chair of the Commission for the past two years, Heller has been a member of the CSA since 1992. Heller's father, Philip, also served on the Commission during the 1950s and 1960s.

Heller said: "Social action, which our teacher, Alex Schindler of blessed memory, once called 'applied Judaism,' enables us to live our Jewish values. I am humbled to stand in the place of so many distinguished predecessors and honored to have the opportunity of working with our extraordinary professionals and volunteers across North America. Together we will forge our own new and vital links in the chain of social action tradition that is our living legacy."

Heller holds several other key leadership positions in the Reform Movement. He currently serves as Vice Chair of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC) and a member of the Board of Governors for the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.



"A Thing or Tu 'bout Shevat"

(Continued from Page 5)

As if our blood were churning within anew, and we were beginning to actually feel our arms and legs again.

In a sense, the same is going on within the trees. The "blood," i.e., resin and sap, is beginning to rise deep in the heart of trees by now, and they too are beginning to sense their limbs about now. And all that is passing along on a very deep and phenomenal level to the frozen-over fruit buds as well. So by the time Tu B'Shevat actually rolls around, winter begins to think of succumbing to the spring.

But not quite yet.

Our sages reveal that Tu B'Shevat is the very point at which the tree stops being nourished by the waters of the previous year, and begin to be nourished by the new year's waters. And since we clearly can't determine the exact moment when that process starts, it's sort of like 3 or 4 a.m. for trees, as far as we're concerned.

Tu B'Shevat is kind of a no-man's-land of sorts, somewhere in the dark of night, somewhere between winter and spring, somewhere between last year's water supply and next year's, somewhere between last year's Succot and next year's. But there's got to be more.

There is, and it has to do with the tree's fruits, rather than with the tree itself. For since the production of fruit is the very raison d'être of fruit-trees, fruit represents aim and purpose. And it stands for our own aim and purpose, since human beings are likened to trees.

What we're to do on Tu B'Shevat is to realize that we're all indeed sitting in the very matrix point between our entire past and our entire future. We're all dwelling in an existential 3 or 4 a.m. at this moment. And we must determine now what our future will be.

This article originally appeared at torah.org.

Cranston Senior Guild Announces Meeting

The Cranston Senior Guild will hold its monthly general membership meeting on Feb. 6 at 1 p.m. at Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston, R.I. Nancy Berman, president, will preside.

Our guest speaker will be Bill Harper, director of Cranston Senior Music Makers, a 14-piece band which entertains every Tuesday at different Cranston centers. We will be entertained by four or five of its band members, including Eli Lefkin, one of our own members.

The meeting is open to everyone, so join us for a special afternoon and bring a friend. Refreshments will be served following the meeting and program.



Feinstein Visits PHDS

Alan Shawn Feinstein visited the Providence Hebrew Day School and spoke to the entire student body about the importance of doing good deeds for others. He then presented each child with a special coin as a reminder of his visit and the important message he delivered.

Photo courtesy of PHDS



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JEWISH COMMUNITY

OU Taps Veteran Fund-Raiser to Direct Development Activities

With the appointment of Rabbi Roy I. Rosenbaum as the new director of planning and development, the OU has added a highly experienced professional to its new management team, and stands prepared to move forward with new initiatives. Rabbi Rosenbaum, who comes to the OU from the American Friends of The Hebrew University, where he served as the vice president for development, will now oversee and direct all fund-raising activities, as well as explore new planning possibilities.

"The OU is blessed with a new generation of professional and volunteer leadership who are committed to expanding opportunities for volunteer involvement," said Rabbi Rosenbaum. "This will have a dramatic effect in enhancing the human and financial resources so that we can concentrate on the challenges facing the Jewish community. The wide range of OU activities in the United States and around the world demands no less than the very



Rabbi Roy Rosenbaum

best minds and hearts. The most important element in our planning is to now target these dedicated and committed men and women who have yet to find their niche within our organization."

Previously, Rabbi Rosenbaum served as the chief development professional for the

American Israel Public Affairs Committee and the Jewish Theological Seminary. He began his communal career at the Jewish Federation in Cleveland, from where he went on to become the chief professional officer of the Jewish Federations of Richmond and St. Louis.

'A Summer Like No Other' at JCCRI's Summer Camps 2002

The Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island, 401 Elmgrove Ave., in the heart of the East Side, Providence, announces the following summer camp activities:

In Camp K'Ton, the morning toddler camp for ages 2 to 3 years, activities include nature walks, stories, music, arts and crafts dips in our splash pools, creative indoor and outdoor play and more.

For children ages 3 to 5 (entering kindergarten), there's Camp Yeladim ("children" in Hebrew) which focuses on the child's social, emotional, physical, and intellectual growth. Field trips and special visitors, and Jewish values and concepts activities, form an integral part of the program. Our nationally standardized swimming program promotes water safety and adjustment, swimming readiness skills, and fun in the water. The program is centered on three-week sessions based on themes: City Sidewalks in June and July, Off To The Country in July, and Paths to the Beach in July and August. Full and half-day programs are available.

Camp Haverim ("friends" in

Hebrew) provides children entering kindergarten through grade two with all the fun of a traditional day camp program. Included is American Red Cross swim instruction and free swim time, sports and games, arts and crafts, music and Israeli dancing, day trips, special events, and Jewish culture.

Back by popular demand is our expanded Arts Exploration Camp for the creative and artistic camper entering grades three to six. Specialists and staff present a different combination of offerings during each of three two-week sessions. Selections include ceramics, dance, drama, drawing, painting, sculpture, collage, printmaking, photography, cooking, and creative writing. American Red Cross swim classes, free swim, special events, and day trips are included.

Sports and Fitness Camp is our new and exciting all-day program of physical activities for children entering grades kindergarten to grade six. Campers are grouped for all activities by age and ability and will receive a combination of instruction, skill drills, practice, and extended play time in a wide variety of sports, games, and fitness opportunities. Each session includes a featured sport in which campers receive specialized instruction. These sports include tee-ball or baseball, track and field, "biddy basketball" or basketball, gymnastics, swim club, martial arts, and Major League Soccer.

Our annual JCCRI Summer Camps 2002 Open House will be held on March 10 from 1 to 2:30 p.m. For more information about any of JCCRI's Summer Camp 2002 programs, call 861-8800.

PHDS Acquires 'Lechem Mishna' Machine

Rabbi Mordechai Nissel, the dean of the Providence Hebrew Day School, recently purchased a bread machine for the school. This machine, which makes two loaves of bread at the same time, has been named the "Lechem Mishna" machine, referring to the two challot that are used for the HaMotzei at the beginning of the three Shabbat meals.

Each Friday a different class bakes two challot with the machine and uses these challot in a variety of ways. The kindergarten class shared their challot at their weekly Shabbat party. The fourth-graders made challot for their Shabbatons and other teachers reward a particular student with the challot. Whichever way the challot are used, the smell of the challot baking fills the building and reminds the entire school that Shabbat will soon arrive.

Photo courtesy of PHDS



Taunton Jewish Community House To Host Lecture on Public Safety

At 10 a.m. on Jan. 27, Massachusetts Secretary of Public Safety James Jajuga will speak on "Issues of Public Safety in Response to Terrorist Threats" at the Jewish Community House, 133 High St., Taunton. Jajuga will address questions such as how to protect ourselves, our houses of worship, and how Massachusetts is responding to these issues.

The program will include a buffet breakfast, and will be \$8 per person. To reserve seating, call Congregation Agudath Achim at (508) 822-3230 or Michael Novick at (508) 822-2635.

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Camp Scholarships Available for Children of Families Struggling with Cancer

Jewish children, ages 8-13, who are part of a family struggling with the cancer of a sibling or parent are eligible for full scholarships to Camp Young Judaea Sprout Lake. The scholarships are offered through the Jonathan Krakow Memorial Fund, administered by Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America.

Camp Sprout Lake is located in Verbank, New York, two hours north of New York City. It combines the best in camping with a strong love for Israel and everything Jewish. The camp is Shabbat and kashrut observant, and accommodates a total of 200 boys and girls. Sprout Lake runs in two sessions: the first from June 24-July 17; the second from July 22-August 14. Scholarships are available for either.

The Jonathan Krakow Memorial Fund was established by Hadassah in 1996 to honor the memory of a young man who lost his struggle against brain cancer. Jonathan was a Young Judaea Sprout Lake camper, and later a counselor. His days at Sprout Lake provided him with fun and friendships that comforted and encouraged him even in his darkest days.

For further information, please contact Judy Shereck at (212) 303-4591, or jskereck@hadassah.org. Contributions to the fund can be made out to the Jonathan Krakow Memorial Fund, c/o Judy Shereck, Hadassah, 50 West 58th Street, New York, NY 10019.

Holy Action and Hockey Violence

(Continued from Page 3)

in recent years have been poster boys for bad, even murderous, behavior.

Whether sports provide a healthful outlet for "working out" aggression or are themselves merely "violence by other means" can be debated. But, at least from a Jewish perspective, what is certainly interesting is that the idealization of physical competition is utterly absent from Jewish tradition.

There have been, to be sure, Jewish athletes, including professional ones, in modern times. But, over the course of the several millennia prior, sports have traditionally been regarded by Jews as something foreign.

Jews, of course, like all people, are subject to base urges, including competitiveness and aggression. But our religious tradition teaches us that here-and-now urges are to be overcome by force of will when they lead to bad behavior, and that their essences are to be channeled into positive directions. The Talmud has G-d announcing "I have created an evil inclination," and then add-

ing, "I have created the Torah as its sweetener."

The final word in that passage, *tavlin*, is often mistranslated in this context as "antidote"; but it elsewhere refers to a spice or sweetener that makes food more palatable.

Our religious tradition thus teaches that the inclinations that derive from the animal side of our natures must not be given free rein. But at the same time, it also teaches — and was teaching thousands of years before Freud — that raw human energy can be channeled toward constructive purposes.

A Jew's raw energy, the Torah maintains, is to be channeled into the performance of *mitzvot* and study of Torah, into acts of kindness and introspection. A moral workout may not tax biceps or quadriceps, but it can be quite exhausting all the same. And healthful, too, in the most meaningful — indeed eternal — sense.

Am Echad Resources. Rabbi Avi Shafran is director of public affairs for Agudath Israel of America.



You're in Trouble Now!

Ben Giordano, right, seems to have all the moves in a recent game of chess with Moses Brown School student volunteer, Daniel Rampone in the Kidspace after school program at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island.

Photo courtesy of JCCRI

Israel News



Hamas Announces 'All Out War' On Israel, IDF Takes P.A. Town

Hamas announced on Tuesday that it would wage an "all-out war" against Israel on all fronts, *Ha'aretz* reported. The Israel Defense Forces targeted four Hamas terrorists in Nablus earlier this week.

Two of the terrorists, Jasser Samro and Nissam Abu Ros, were technical experts and prepared the explosive devices used in terror attacks in Haifa, the Sbarro pizzeria in Jerusalem, and the Dolphinarium in Tel Aviv. Both were on Israel's list of most wanted terrorists. The four were killed in a gun battle with IDF soldiers who attempted to arrest them.

Meanwhile, IDF soldiers redeployed from Tulkarem today. Minister of Defense Binyamin Ben-Eliezer said that the Tulkarem and Nablus operations were meant to prevent attacks on Israeli civilians and that Israel had no plans to reoccupy Palestinian-controlled areas. "We don't have any interest in toppling the Palestinian Authority," he said. "We don't have any interest in anything other than protecting the lives of Israeli citizens."

Palestinian Terror Attack at Bat Mitzvah Party Kills Six

A Palestinian terrorist killed six Israelis and wounded 30 others when he sprayed automatic gunfire on guests at a bat mitzvah party in Hadera, *The Washington Post* reported. Reports indicate that the gunman, who is affiliated with Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat's Fatah faction, was also carrying explosives, which he was unable to detonate before being overcome by the crowd and killed by Israeli policemen.

Israel said Arafat was ultimately responsible for the attack, and responded to the incident with strikes against security targets in Tulkarm. State Department Spokesman Philip Reeker condemned the attack "in the strongest possible terms" and called again upon Arafat to dismantle the infrastructures of terrorist groups operating in areas under his control.

IDF To Allocate NIS 250 Million for Gaza Fences

The Israel Defense Forces is planning to spend NIS 150 million (approximately \$35 million) on new fences around Jewish communities in the northern

Gaza Strip and another NIS 100 million (approximately \$25 million) to improve the existing fence around the entire Gaza Strip, *Ha'aretz* reported. A senior military source said that some of the money would also go toward improving defense capabilities at army outposts in the area.

The IDF says that the existing fence around Gaza and the IDF's deployment has proved most effective during the past 15 months of fighting of preventing terrorist cells from penetrating Israel's borders.

U.S., Israel Discuss Concerns Over Russian-Iranian Cooperation

The United States and Israel recently held high-level meetings in Israel to discuss mutual concerns over Russia's role in helping to develop Iran's nuclear and missile programs, Reuters reported. Undersecretary of State John Bolton, who oversees arms control and international security affairs, is slated to meet with key Israeli officials including Dan Meridor, national security aide to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. Russian assistance to Iran has resulted in a dramatic increase in Tehran's ability to strike Israel and U.S. forces in the region with ballistic missiles.

Hezbollah Fires Missiles at Israeli Jets

The Hezbollah terrorist group in southern Lebanon fired anti-aircraft missiles at Israeli jets, *The Jerusalem Post* reported. Shrapnel from the missiles fell on the northern town of Kiryat Shemona, prompting some residents to take cover in bomb shelters. The attack comes just days after National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice called on the Lebanese government to act against the terrorist group.

(Continued on Page 15)

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JEWISH COMMUNITY

Providence Hebrew Day School News

Fourth-Graders Have Shabbatons at Teacher's Home

The fourth-graders at the Providence Hebrew Day School recently had a special treat — an entire Shabbat at the home of their Judaic studies teacher. Miriam Esther Weiner and her family hosted the girls in the class on January 4 and 5 and the boys on Jan. 11 and 12. These mini-Shabbatons had the theme of "Friendship — The Jewish Way." The students enjoyed Shabbat meals at their teacher's home and homes of other members of the PHDS faculty. They davened together at the Day School, heard presentations about friendship and gave their own Divrei Torah. After hearing havdalah at the end of Shabbat, the boys went to the New England Rabbinical College to participate in "Motzei Shabbos Live," a weekly father-son learning program sponsored by Rabbi and Mrs. Gibber. The girls ate a light snack and then went to the PHDS to see the New England Academy of Torah girl's high school production of "The Guiding Light."

N.E.A.T. Students Honored

Four students from the New England Academy of Torah have had poems accepted for publication in *A Celebration of Young Poets*, the spring 2002 anthology of student poetry published by Creative Communications, Inc. The four poets are seniors Elisheva Diamond and Gitty Leibowitz and juniors Zivia Ackerman and Bracha Shapiro.

Originally begun several years ago as only a contest to reward creative writing, the poetry project ultimately came to encompass publication not only of the winning poems but also of what Creative Communications call additional "worthy" and "high merit" poems. According to the official letter of notification from Thomas Worthen, editor, "there were thousands of entries in this contest" but most of them were "not invited to be published." Acceptance, therefore, is reason indeed for sincere congratulations to the four NEAT poets.

PHDS Receives Generous Donations

The Providence Hebrew Day School, like most non-profit organizations, is the recipient of many donations throughout the year. Recently, the school received two special gifts — from an alumnus and a past teacher. Dr. Alfred Goldberg of Newton, Mass., an alumnus of PHDS, has recently donated funds to the school in memory of his parents. Goldberg is presently the head of the cell biology department at the Harvard Medical School. Goldberg has designated the funds for use in the school's mathematics and science departments. PHDS will use most of the donation to enhance the school's science laboratory.

The second gift given by Rabbi Avraham Krauss, past teacher at the New England Academy of Torah and a graduate of Providence's New England Rabbinical College. Rabbi Krauss has made a substantial donation to the PHDS Scholarship Fund from the Ethel Krauss Foundation, which was set up in memory of his mother. Rabbi Krauss lives in Israel where he is pursuing his Torah education.

R.I. Foundation Chooses Voci to Lead Grant-Making Activities

A 10-year veteran of The Rhode Island Foundation has been chosen as that charitable organization's new Senior Vice President for Program. Karen Voci, an East Greenwich, R.I., resident and a member of Temple Beth El in Providence, will direct the 15-person team that recommends more than 420 million in grants annually to the foundation's board of directors.

"Karen has been instrumental to the foundation — and Rhode Island — in pioneering our partnerships with national foundations," said Foundation President and CEO Ronald V. Gallo in announcing Voci's promotion. "As a direct result of her work, the foundation is deeply involved in health care, non-profit housing development, and child care issues in a manner that is the envy of other foundations across the nation."

"I have been privileged to work for the foundation during a time of its unprecedented growth and creativity," Voci said. "The last decade has demonstrated that community-oriented foundations like ours can successfully connect local, regional, and national philanthropists to area needs. My new responsibility is to work with a great staff to take our grantmaking resources — both funds and expertise — to non-profits and neighborhoods across Rhode Island and increase those partnerships."

Voci brings considerable expertise to the position, having served as a consultant, program officer, and then vice president for evaluation and special projects to the foundation since 1992. Before that, she served several other foundations and non-profits, including the J. Paul Getty Trust, the New Hampshire Charitable Fund, and the Citizens Community foundation, a charitable arm of Citizen's Bank.



Karen Voci

Israel Myths and Facts

MYTH #40: Israel opposes the creation of a Palestinian state, and the frustration of Palestinian national ambitions, and their right to self-determination, is the cause of the present conflict.

FACT: For many years, the consensus in Israel was that the creation of a Palestinian state would present a grave risk to Israeli security. These fears were well-founded given the longstanding Palestinian commitment to the destruction of Israel.

As recently as June 2001, famous Palestinian "moderate" Faisal Husseini expressed this goal, "We agree to declare our state over what is now 22 percent of Palestine, meaning the West Bank and Gaza, our ultimate goal is the liberation of all historic Palestine from the River to the Sea... We distinguish the strategic, long-term goals from the political phased goals, which we are compelled to temporarily accept due to international pressure."

Israelis still believe a Palestinian state will present a threat, especially given the Palestinians' illegal smuggling of weapons into the Palestinian Authority; nevertheless, a radical shift in opinion has occurred in recent years and even most "right-wing" Israelis are now reconciled to the likelihood that the Palestinians will establish a state and are prepared to accept the risks involved in exchange for peace.

"In the end we [Israel and the Palestinians] will reach a solution in which there will be a Palestinian state, but it has to be a Palestinian state by agreement and it has to be a demilitarized Palestinian state."

— Ariel Sharon (Reuters, November 11, 2001).

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

Fellowship to Reward Jewish Social Thinkers

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Joshua Venture is seeking individuals who:

- Demonstrate a track record of entrepreneurial leadership
- Want to be a voice for their generation and for Jewish social change
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- Can commit to and communicate a vision for Jewish social change
- Are not afraid to take risks

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Ventures may be idea-stage or early-stage nonprofit organizations or independent programs within existing organizations. Ventures may emerge from a wide variety of disciplines including education, social justice, the arts, technology, the environment, and spirituality.

Venture Proposals are due April 1, 2002. Fellowship funding begins in February 2003.

For information visit www.joshuaventure.org or e-mail fellowship@joshuaventure.org

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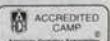
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MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY



PHDS Students 'Let Freedom Ring'

On Jan. 21, first- and second-grade students at the Providence Hebrew Day School celebrated the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in song and in story. Wearing red, white and blue hats, the young boys and girls recounted the great achievements of the civil rights leader, and for a finale sang "G-d Bless America" with the audience.

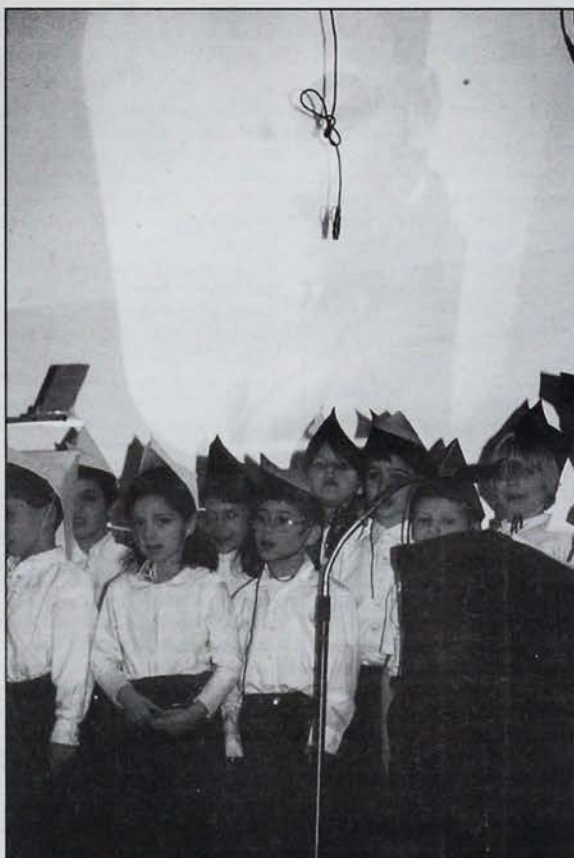
Above left

Aryeh Rosenfield soloed and played tambourine during "G-d Bless America."

Above right

Students at the Providence Hebrew Day School sing in front of a picture of Dr. King

Herald photos by Jon Rubin



AT RIGHT:

"I Have A Dream" — Talmudic Style

During the 2001 Charlotte and Jack J. Spitzer B'nai B'rith Hillel Forum on Public Policy participants, students and scholars visited the Lincoln Memorial and discussed the biblical sources of Dr. Martin Luther King's, "I Have a Dream" speech.

The speech is provided on page 11 with notes as a special Sugya (text study) in the tradition of Talmud. This file is optimized for printing on 11" x 17" paper (although it is legible on regular letter-size paper), and is available at www.hillel.org.

King's Special Bond With Israel

by John Lewis

THE REV. MARTIN Luther King Jr. understood the meaning of discrimination and oppression. He sought ways to achieve liberation and peace, and he thus understood that a special relationship exists between African Americans and American Jews.

This message was true in his time and is true today.

He knew that both peoples were uprooted involuntarily from their homelands. He knew that both peoples were shaped by the tragic experience of slavery. He knew that both peoples were forced to live in ghettos, victims of segregation.

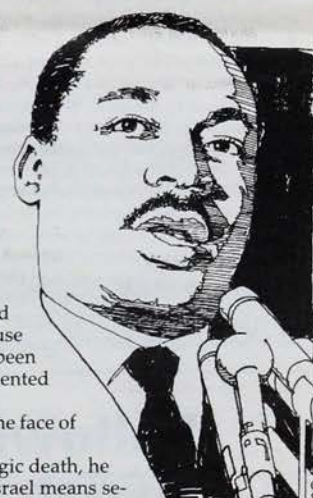
He knew that both peoples were subject to laws passed with the particular intent of oppressing them simply because they were Jewish or black. He knew that both peoples have been subjected to oppression and genocide on a level unprecedented in history.

King understood how important it is not to stand by in the face of injustice. He understood the cry, "Let my people go."

...On March 25, 1968, less than two weeks before his tragic death, he spoke out with clarity and directness, stating, "peace for Israel means security, and we must stand with all our might to protect its right to exist, its territorial integrity. I see Israel as one of the great outposts of democracy in the world, and a marvelous example of what can be done, how desert land can be transformed into an oasis of brotherhood and democracy."

"Peace for Israel means security and that security must be a reality."

U.S. Rep. John Lewis, a Democrat, represents the 5th Congressional District of Georgia and worked closely with Martin Luther King Jr. during the civil rights movement. This letter originally appeared in the San Francisco Chronicle.



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I Have a Dream*

JOYOUS DAYBREAK TO END THE LONG NIGHT: *Rabban Gamliel would say that anyone who has not explained three things on Passover has not fulfilled his obligation. These are they: Pesach, Matzah, Maror. Pesach, because the Omnipresent passed over our ancestors' houses in Egypt (and did not slay*

our first born). Matzah, because our ancestors were redeemed from Egypt. Maror, (bitter herbs) because the Egyptians embittered our ancestors' lives in Egypt. Therefore, we are obliged to thank, to sing, to praise, to glorify, to exalt, to beautify, to bless, to offer, and to magnify the One who performed these miracles for our ancestors and us—who brought us from slavery to freedom, from despair to joy, from mourning to feasting, from darkness to great light and from bondage to redemption, and let us say before the One, Hallelujah! (The

Passover Haggadah) THE FIERCE URGENCY OF NOW: *Hillel would say: If I am not for myself who will be for me? If I'm for myself alone, what am I? If not now, when?*

Shammai answered: Set time for Torah study. Say little and do much. Receive everyone with grace. (Pirkei Avot 1:15).

GOD'S CHILDREN: *(When Israel was crossing the Red Sea), the ministering angels wanted to sing praises. God chastised them saying: The works of my hand (i.e. the Egyptians) are about to be drowned, and here you are singing praises?! (Talmud, Megilla 10b)*

Rabbi Akiva would say: Beloved is the human for he was created in [God's] image. Excessive love is bestowed upon him because he was created in the image, As it is written, '(One who spills the blood of another, his blood should be spilled, for In the image of God was the human made.' (Genesis 9:6) (Pirkei Avot Chapter 3

Mishnah 14)

UNTIL JUSTICE FLOWS DOWN LIKE WATERS: *"And justice and righteousness will rejoice like water, like the river of Eitan" Amos 5:24. "Rabbi Eliezer said: One who performs acts of righteousness and justice is greater than one who brings sacrifices to the Temple, as it is written: and what is just*

is more desired by the Lord than sacrifice." (Proverbs 21:3) He also said: Acts of compassion are greater than acts of justice, as it is written: 'Plant your seeds justly but reap them with compassion.' (Hosea 10:12) When one plants, he may or may not eat [from what he planted], but once he reaps, he will certainly be able to eat. (Talmud Succah 49b)

THAT UNEARNED SUFFERING IS REDEMPTIVE: *(O Lord, you know—*

Remember me and take thought of me, Avenge me on those who persecute me; Do not yield to your patience, Do not take me away! Consider how I have suffered on your account. (Jeremiah 15:15-16) Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai said: Three great gifts were given to Israel for their suffering, The Torah, The Land of Israel and the World to Come, (Talmud Brachot 5a.)

THE ROUGH PLACES WILL BE MADE PLAIN: *Let the rugged ground be made level, and the ridges become a plain, (Isaiah 40:4) "Let the rugged ground be made level—This is referring to the evil inclination [in everyone]" and the crooked places will be made straight, Rabbi Shimon Ben Menasya says: A crooked person had to be straight to begin with, and now has become crooked. (Midrash Bereshith)*

"And the Crooked will not be made straight, and that which is missing will not be counted."

LET FREEDOM RING: *Where does the word Dror (Liberty, or freedom) come from? It comes from the word for transient (Dayyar) for he goes and sells his wares wherever he pleases.) (Midrash Yalkut Shimoni Chapter 25: 659)*

FREE AT LAST: *Rabbi Shimon the son of Gamliel said: The world stands on three things: On justice, on truth and on peace. As it is written: Judge with truth justice and peace within your gates. (Zachariah 8). (Pirkei Avot 1:17) Sleep is one sixtieth of death.*

I am happy to join with you today in what will go down in history as the greatest demonstration for freedom in the history of our nation. Five score years ago, a great American, in whose symbolic shadow we stand today, signed the Emancipation Proclamation. This momentous decree came as a great beacon light of hope to millions of Negro slaves who had been seared in the flames of withering injustice. It came as a joyous daybreak to end the long night of their captivity. But 100 years later, the Negro still is not free. One hundred years later, the life of the Negro is still sadly crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination. One hundred years later, the Negro lives on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity. One hundred years later, the Negro is still languished in the corners of American society and finds himself an exile in his own land. And so we've come here today to dramatize a shameful condition.

In a sense we've come to our nation's capital to cash a check. When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir. This note was a promise that all men - yes, black men as well as white men - would be guaranteed the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note insofar as her citizens of color are concerned. Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given the Negro people a bad check, a check that has come back marked "insufficient funds." But we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt. We refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this nation. And so we've come to cash this check, a check that will give us upon demand the riches of freedom and security of justice. We have also come to his hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of now. This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism. Now is the time to make real the promises of democracy. Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice. Now is the time to lift our nation from the quicksands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood. Now is the time to make justice a reality for all of God's children. It would be fatal for the nation to overlook the urgency of the moment. This sweltering summer of the Negro's legitimate discontent will not pass until there is an invigorating autumn of freedom and equality. Nineteen sixty-three is not an end but a beginning. Those who hoped that the Negro needed to blow off steam and will now be content will have a rude awakening if the nation returns to business as usual. There will be neither rest nor tranquility in America until the Negro is granted his citizenship rights. The whirlwinds of revolt will continue to shake the foundations of our nation until the bright day of justice emerges. But there is something that I must say to my people who stand on the warm threshold which leads into the palace of justice. In the process of gaining our rightful place we must not be guilty of wrongful deeds. Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred. We must forever conduct our struggle on the high plane of dignity and discipline. We must not allow our creative protest to degenerate into physical violence. Again and again we must rise to the majestic heights of meeting physical force with soul force. The marvelous new militancy which has engulfed the Negro community must not lead us to a distrust of all white people, for many of our white brothers, as evidenced by their presence here today, have come to realize that their destiny is tied up with our destiny. And they have come to realize that their freedom is inextricably bound to our freedom. We cannot walk alone. And as we walk, we must make the pledge that we shall always march ahead. We cannot turn back. There are those who are asking the devotees of civil rights, "When will you be satisfied?" We can never be satisfied as long as the Negro is the victim of the unspeakable horrors of police brutality. We can never be satisfied as long as our bodies, heavy with the fatigue of travel, cannot gain lodging in the motels of the highways and the hotels of the cities. We cannot be satisfied as long as the Negro's basic mobility is from a smaller ghetto to a larger one. We can never be satisfied as long as our children are stripped of their selfhood and robbed of their dignity by signs stating "for whites only." We cannot be satisfied as long as a Negro in Mississippi cannot vote and a Negro in New York believes he has nothing for which to vote. No, no we are not satisfied and we will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream. I am not unmindful that some of you have come here out of great trials and tribulations. Some of you have come fresh from narrow jail cells. Some of you have come from areas where your quest for freedom left you battered by storms of persecution and staggered by the winds of police brutality. You have been the veterans of creative suffering. Continue to work with the faith that unearned suffering is redemptive. Go back to Mississippi, go back to Alabama, go back to South Carolina, go back to Georgia, go back to Louisiana, go back to the slums and ghettos of our northern cities, knowing that somehow this situation can and will be changed. Let us not wallow in the valley of despair. I say to you today my friends - so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal." I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood. I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice. I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. I have a dream today. I have a dream that one day down in Alabama, with its vicious racists, with its governor having his lips dripping with the words of interposition and nullification - one day right there in Alabama little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers. I have a dream today. I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, and every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together. This is our hope. This is the faith that I go back to the South with. With this faith we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day. This will be the day, this will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with new meaning "My country 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my father's died, land of the Pilgrim's pride, from every mountainside, let freedom ring!" And if America is to be a great nation, this must become true. And so let freedom ring from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire. Let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York. Let freedom ring from the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania. Let freedom ring from the snow-capped Rockies of Colorado. Let freedom ring from the curvaceous slopes of California. But not only that; let freedom ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia. Let freedom ring from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee. Let freedom ring from every hill and molehill of Mississippi - from every mountainside. Let freedom ring. And when this happens, and when we allow freedom ring - when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children - black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics - will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual: "Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"

Martin Luther King (August 28th, 1963)



WILLIAM J. JOSEPH, M.D.
CENTER FOR JEWISH LEARNING

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*A DREAM is one sixtieth of Prophecy.
(Babylonian Talmud,
Berachot 57b)



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

The Community Players Present 'The Front Page'

Rhode Island's oldest community theater, The Community Players, is proud to announce the opening of the comic gem, "The Front Page."

Written by Charles MacArthur and Ben Hecht, this witty and engrossing story is set in the 1920s pressroom of the Chicago criminal courts building, where a collection of reporters is waiting through the night for the 7 a.m. execution of a cop killer.

The condemned man is an anarchist, and the policeman he was convicted of murdering was African-American. Racial politics and anti-communist hysteria frame the story. Card playing and cynical wisecracking dominate the pressroom. The reporters encounter common, prostitutes, corrupt politicians, and a runaway convict. The shenanigans of the pressroom coupled with the ever-present dramatic tension will keep theatergoers thoroughly engaged.

Produced at Jenks Junior High School located on Division Street in Pawtucket, across from McCoy Stadium, performances are scheduled for Feb. 1 to 3, 8 to 10. Come and experience live theater at its best! For reservations and ticket information, call 726-6860.



LANNY SLUSHER (left) of Bristol and Michael Nolfe of North Kingstown are featured in The Community Players' production of "The Front Page" to be presented at Jenks Junior High School in Pawtucket from Feb. 1 to 10.

'Thunder Knocking on the Door' at Trinity Rep

Blues Musical Features Leslie Uggams

Trinity Rep heats up the February nights with the exciting blues musical, "Thunder Knocking on the Door." Written by Keith Glover with original music by Grammy winner Keb' Mo' and Anderson Edwards, "Thunder Knocking on the Door" is an irresistible fable of myth, magic, and the blues.

In the last five years, "Thunder Knocking on the Door" has captivated audiences in Chicago, Baltimore, Dallas, Minneapolis, Seattle, Cincinnati, Washington, Cleveland, San Diego and San Jose. Trinity Rep's own production is directed by Tony Award-nominated Marion McClinton, and features a distinguished guest ensemble of Broadway, Off-Broadway and regional veterans including Leslie Uggams,

Chuck Cooper, Peter Jay Fernandez, Marva Hicks, and Michael McElroy.

"Thunder Knocking on the Door" runs Feb. 15 to March 24 in Trinity Rep's Elizabeth and Malcolm Chase Theater, upstairs at 201 Washington St. Tickets are on sale now at the Trinity Rep box office, 351-4242 and online at <www.trinityrep.com>. "Thunder Knocking on the Door" is sponsored by Citizens Bank.

It is 1966 in rural Alabama, and the Dupree family is about to be turned upside-down by the arrival of a mysterious stranger with amazing powers. Before it's all over, the devilish charmer Marvell Thunder will challenge Glory, the blind daughter, to a blues guitar "cutting contest." At stake are her family's musical legacy, both past and future, her sight, and perhaps her best chance at love. Playwright Keith Glover received the Stavis and Osborne Awards for Best Play for "Thunder Knocking on the Door." Together with the acclaimed direction of Marion McClinton, the Grammy-winning music of Keb' Mo', "Thunder Knocking on the Door" boasts an extraordinary collection of talent including Leslie Uggams as Good Sister, Marva Hicks as Glory, Peter Jay Fernandez as Marvell Thunder, Michael McElroy as Jaguar Jr., and Tony Award winner ("The Life") Chuck Cooper as Dregster and Jaguar Sr.

"Thunder Knocking on the Door" is a raucous, loving, heart-warming, foot-thumping, wildly celebratory story of blues, of magic, and of love," said Artistic Director Oskar Eustis. "Under the direction of my good friend Marion McClinton, one of our country's most popular and sought-after directors, I know that this production will bring enormous joy and excitement to this community."

Trinity Rep's season continues with Tony Kushner's "Homebody/Kabul," John Caird and Trevor Nunn's "Peter Pan or the Boy Who Would Not Grow Up," and Margaret Edson's "Wit." The popular Under Thirty Thursdays, sponsored by Sovereign Bank, returns this season, offering a \$12 walk-up ticket to anyone under the age of 30. This play's Under Thirty Thursdays dates are Feb. 28 and March 7. Subscription packages are still available. For more information or a free brochure, call the box office at 351-4242 or visit Trinity Rep's Web site at <www.trinityrep.com>.

R.I. Committee for The Humanities Offers Islamic Information Series

At a time when certain followers of Islam are being blamed for the worst terrorist attack ever suffered by the United States, the Rhode Island Committee for the Humanities is offering the opportunity for Rhode Islanders to move beyond the tragedy by learning more about the Islamic world.

In announcing the series, Drake Patten, RICH's executive director, remarked, "As we try and make sense of these last months, we must remember that the deeds of a few should not be the legacy of all. An enduring strength of the humanities is their power to present many viewpoints fairly and fully."

RICH intends to explore the cultural richness of the Islamic world — its literature, arts and music — in a series of eight programs entitled "Beyond the Mosque." With the exception of the opening reception on Jan. 28, a RICH fund-raiser, all programs are open to the public free of charge.

As an introduction to everyday life in the Middle East, "Beyond the Mosque" begins with a screening of the Iranian film, "The White Balloon" (1995) at the Avon Cinema on the East

Side of Providence on Jan. 28 at 7 p.m. "The White Balloon," which offers a rare glimpse of Iran as seen through the eyes of a child, was written by the internationally recognized filmmaker Abbas Kiarostami. Tickets for this new RICH fund-raiser are \$10 in advance; \$12 at the door. Refreshments have been donated by the Mr. Pita restaurant on Hope St. For advance tickets, call 273-2250.

The Middle Eastern countries are little known to most Westerners. To place the Islamic World geographically, on Feb. 5, at 5:30 p.m., Richard A. Lobban, Jr., professor of anthropology and African studies at Rhode Island College, will provide an eye-opening talk on Muslim maps, which were created during Islam's Golden Age of Science. His free lecture will be presented in the RICH gallery, 385 Westminster St., Providence.

RICH is also offering participants a chance to learn more about the basic tenets of Islam during a visit to the Providence Islamic Center, led by Imam Abdul Hameed on Feb. 9, at 1:30 p.m. Please call 273-2250 or indicate attendance. For more information on these and other events, call 273-2250.

Harborhill Place Programs for Seniors

Members of the community are invited to participate in the following activities hosted by Harborhill Place:

A Pat Boulay Fitness Program is offered on Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:15 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. in the Harborhill Fitness Center. The program incorporates exercise to music and is specifically geared to seniors.

Harborhill Place Bridge Club meets on Mondays from 1:15 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Windjammer Club room at Harborhill Place. Irma Silverman will be teaching bridge classes as part of the meeting. Both new and experienced players are welcome. Light refreshments

will be served. Bring a buddy.

The Active Older Adult Knitting club meets on Fridays from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. New and experienced knitters are invited to participate. Members are making afghans for area shelters. Donations of yarn are greatly appreciated. The Kent County YMCA and Harborhill Place sponsor the club.

Harborhill Place is an Independent and Assisted Living Residence located at 159 Division St., East Greenwich. For more information contact Jennifer Cipalone, activities director at Harborhill Place: 884-2704, ext. 102.

Get Into The 'Swing' of Things!

WGBH 89.7 and Old South Meeting House present a month of weekly lunchtime jazz programs. The final event in the series, "Swing Tunes," features vocalist Jim Porcella and clarinet player Dick Johnson accompanied by Jack Senier on piano.

The event takes place Jan. 31 from 12:15 to 1 p.m. at the Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St., downtown Boston. Admission is \$5, \$4 for seniors and students with identification, and free for WGBH and OSMH members. For information call (617) 482-6439 or visit <www.oldsouthmeetinghouse.org>.

Jim Porcella has performed in jazz and cabaret venues in Boston, New York City, St. Thomas Island, London, San Francisco and Vancouver, and was the featured vocalist at the Ritz-Carlton Roof in Boston for six years. Porcella also performs with his swing band, Bombay Jim & The Swinging Sapphires.

A versatile reed player, Dick Johnson has long been known for his beautiful tone and fluent style. Johnson has performed in Boston for many years, and in the '80s and '90s he frequently performed with Artie Shaw's part-time orchestra.

Pianist Jack Senier performs throughout the Boston area, accompanying local artists and appearing with the Al Boudreau Quartet.



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Spirituality in Jewish Life

What Does it Mean? Who Is It For?

As spirituality becomes more and more important to people of all faiths in America, many people in the Jewish community ask what it really means in Jewish life. What is spirituality? What is Jewish about it? Where does it come from? What do people do with it? Now, these and other questions are explored in a practical, useful and inspiring way by 50 of today's foremost spiritual leaders.

The Jewish Lights Spirituality Handbook: A Guide to Understanding, Exploring & Living a Spiritual Life (Jewish Lights Publishing/ November 2001/ Hardcover & Quality Paperback/ \$24.95 & \$18.95), edited by Stuart M. Matlins, is for the simply curious, those intently searching for greater personal meaning, and others who actively seek ideas, information, practices and inspiration to enrich religious or secular life with spiritual meaning.

In one resource, *The Jewish Lights Spirituality Handbook* offers everything people need to understand Jewish spirituality and incorporate it into their lives. It explores every aspect of Jewish spirituality — G-d, community, prayer, liturgy, healing, meditation, mysticism, study, Jewish traditions, rituals, blessings, life passages, special days, the *everyday*, repairing the world, and more.

"Personally, I believe there are too many places I have been taken on my own Jewish journey for it all to be merely coincidence. In those places — from Jerusalem to Los Angeles, from Toronto to Rio de Janeiro, and lots of stops in between — I have been fortunate enough to

meet and learn from some of the great spiritual teachers in the Jewish world today: rabbis, cantors, educators from all movements in the Jewish community. A significant part of their teaching has become the books published by Jewish Lights. The purpose of this book is to share

The Jewish Lights Spirituality Handbook is a wonderful way to enrich Jewish life throughout the year. Royalties from sales of the book are gratefully donated by the contributors and publisher to America's Jewish seminaries to support of their ongoing contribution to the Jewish community.

Stuart M. Matlins, founder, editor-in-chief and publisher of Jewish Lights Publishing, has had the inspiring experience of learning from all of the great spiritual leaders in this book. Widely recognized as one of the most innovative religion publishers in America today, Jewish Lights has changed the style and content of Jewish-interest books and the readership of them.

The Jewish Lights Spirituality Handbook edited by Stuart M. Matlins, is available at bookstores or directly from Jewish Lights Publishing, Sunset Farm Offices, Route 4, P.O. Box 237,

Woodstock, Vt. 05091; \$18.95 Quality Paperback; \$24.95 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.



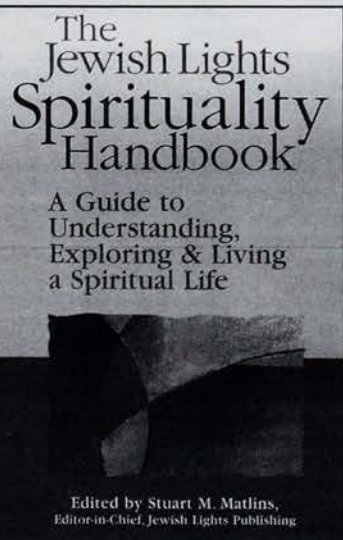
'7 South Coast Photographers' at New Bedford Art Museum

From now until May, the New Bedford Art Museum will be showcasing the following exhibits. Call (508) 961-3099 for more information.

Flash 4 Hire. Works of four photographers who make a living in Greater New Bedford. Photographs by Matthew A. Poyant, Corinna Raznikov, John Robson, Tim Sylvia. Skylight Gallery.

Visual Music. Thirty years of jazz, rhythm and blues and rap with Creole singers and musicians. Photographs by Anthony and Ronald Barboza. Heritage Gallery.

By the Waterfront. A retired commercial photographer's unique close-up look at the New Bedford waterfront. Photographs by Paul Francis. Upper Vault.



their wisdom with you," says Stuart M. Matlins, editor-in-chief of Jewish Lights, in the introduction to *The Jewish Lights Spirituality Handbook*.

Practical and personal, this handbook shows how spirituality is relevant in Jewish life. It offers people of all faiths, all backgrounds the opportunity to make today's great Jewish spiritual teachers their own.

"A resource for learning about spirituality with a specifically Jewish focus," writes *Library Journal*. "Reflect[s] the different aspects of spirituality and highlight[s] the range and breadth of issues connected with it."

'Three Stooges' Coming to Zeiterion Theatre

Now you can see the trio on the big screen at New Bedford's historic Zeiterion Theatre during February school vacation week. On Feb. 22 at 1 p.m., the curtain rises on Stooges favorites "I Can Hardly Wait," "Gents Without Cents," and "Violent is the Word for Curley."

Tickets for this movie fun-fest are just \$5 general admission, and can be purchased at the Zeiterion box office, located at 684 Purchase St. in downtown New Bedford. It is open Tuesday through Friday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Refreshments, including fresh popcorn and soft drinks, will be sold. On-street parking is located around the theater.

The Zeiterion Theater is supported, in part, by grants from the cultural councils of Acushnet, Berkley, Bourne, Brewster, Carver, Dartmouth, Dennis, Fairhaven, Freetown, Marion, Mattapoisett, New Bedford, Orleans, Rochester, Yarmouth, Warham, and Westport, local agencies sup-

ported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

It is also supported by the City of New Bedford, the Acushnet Foundation, Citizens Bank, Crapo Foundation, Grimshaw-Gudewicz Charitable Foundation, Massachusetts Historical Commission, New Bedford Day Nursery board of managers, NSTAR, Sea Breeze Foundation, Target, and our friends and business partners.

For more information, call (508) 997-566, ext. 18, or visit Web site at <<http://www.zeiterion.com>>.

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Civil Rights in Wartime Traces History of U.S. Legal Conflicts

Unique Presentation & Videotape/CD-Rom

U.S. government actions taken and proposed following the September 11 attack have focused attention on the challenge of preserving Constitutional freedoms and civil rights while protecting national security. Now, a unique and timely educational program created and offered by the Rhode Island Bar Association provides an interesting historic perspective on relevant legal cases and United States Supreme Court decisions from the Civil War, World War I, and World War II. The program includes: in-person presentations by volunteer Rhode Island attorneys to RI upper school (grades 10-12),

colleges, universities, and adult organizations and groups; and an original 30-minute, videotape and CD-ROM.

The *Civil Rights in Wartime* videotape or CD-ROM, including a seven-page background document detailing these and other relevant historic cases and decisions, is available for a \$10 shipping and handling fee.

To schedule a free RI attorney classroom visit or adult group speaking engagement, and/or to purchase the 30-minute videotape or CD-ROM, contact: Rhode Island Bar Association Communications Department by telephone at 421-5740 or e-mail at: fmassie@ribar.com.



R.I. Philharmonic Youth Orchestras to Hold Fund-Raising Concert

The Rhode Island Philharmonic Youth Orchestras will present their second concert of the 2001-2002 season on Feb. 3 at 3 p.m. at the Providence Biltmore Hotel Ballroom. This concert and dessert reception will be the first major fund-raising activity of the year to benefit the Youth Orchestra. This special event will help RIPYO continue to provide a high quality program while keeping tuition as low as possible. The concert is underwritten by Shaw's Supermarkets, Inc. and the Business Development Company of Rhode Island.

The Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of the Philharmonic's resident conductor Francisco Noya, will perform the "Emperor Waltzes" by Johann Strauss, Jr., "Casus Belli" by Andrew Boysen, Jr., and the

Suite from Tchaikovsky's "Swan Lake."

The concert will also feature the Repertory Orchestra under the direction of Anthony-Alexander Torelli, playing the "Carmen Suite" by Bizet, and the "Danse Baccanale" from "Samson and Dalila" by Saint-Saëns. The RIPYO Woodwind Quintet will perform "Trois Pièces Brèves" by Jacques Ibert. The concert will be rounded out by a performance by the Preparatory String Ensemble under the direction of Gabriel Shapiro.

Tickets for this event are \$25 for adults and \$15 for students through high school. Tickets must be purchased in advance and seating is limited. To order tickets or for more information about the RIPYO, call the RIPYO office at 831-3123, ext. 24.

Workshops to Explore The Computer Resources at Providence Public Library

The Providence Public Library will offer a series of workshops on the effective use of the library's electronic resources, databases, and online computers. The Adult Services Department and branch librarians will conduct the <resources@provlb.org> workshops at several locations. All workshops are free to the public, but space is very limited. Workshop registration is required through the respective branch library for the following programs:

- **Staying Close to Home:** <resources@provlb.org> on Travel Within New England. Susan Shoaf, Adult Services Librarian, 455-8110. Feb. 4, 6 to 7 p.m. at Rochambeau branch located at 708 Hope St., Providence.

- **From Alfalfa to Zen:** Holistic Health <resources@provlb.org>. Kathleen Flaherty, Adult Services Librarian, 455-8102. March 6, 10 to 11 a.m. Knight Memorial branch located at 275 Elmwood Ave., Providence.

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OBITUARIES

ARNOLD BRIER WEST WARWICK

Arnold H. Brier, 63, of Lonsdale St., a general contractor, died Jan. 19, at Kent County Memorial Hospital, due to an automobile accident.

Born in Providence, a son of Reba (Kaufman) Brier of Sepulveda, Calif., and the late Max Brier, he had lived in West Warwick for six years, previously living in East Greenwich.

He was a general contractor for more than 30 years. He was a former member of the Coventry Junior Chamber of Commerce, the Warwick Chamber of Commerce, the Rhode Island Builders Association and Temple Sinai in Cranston.

Besides his mother, he leaves a daughter, Elizabeth Brier of East Greenwich; two brothers, Alan D. Brier of Providence and William Brier of Sepulveda, Calif.; one granddaughter; his wife, Janet Brier of North Kingstown; his former wife, Georgiana (Busby) Brier of East Greenwich; his companion, Diane Vitalo of West Warwick; two step-sons and two step-daughters. He was the father of the late Charles R. Brier.

Funeral services were held Jan. 23 in Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston. Burial was in Sinai Memorial Park, Warwick. In lieu of flowers, contributions in his memory may be made to the Make-A-Wish Foundation, 744 Park Ave., Cranston, R.I. 02910. Arrangements were made by Shalom Memorial Chapel, 1100 New London Ave., Cranston.

CHARLES BRIER

WARWICK — Charles R. Brier, 42, of Major Potter Road, a general contractor, died Jan. 19, due to an automobile accident.

Born in Providence, a son of Georgiana (Busby) Brier of East Greenwich and the late Arnold H. Brier, he had lived in Warwick for three years, previously living in East Greenwich. He was a general contractor for 25 years. He was a former

member of Temple Sinai and the Rhode Island Builders Association.

Besides his mother, he leaves a daughter, Megan, at home; a sister, Elizabeth Brier of East Greenwich; two grandmothers, Reba (Kaufman) Brier of Sepulveda, Calif., and Ann (Boyajian) Busby of Cranston; and his companion, Anne-Marie Santos of Warwick.

Funeral services were held Jan. 23 in Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston. In lieu of flowers, contributions in his memory may be made to the Make-A-Wish Foundation, 744 Park Ave., Cranston, R.I. 02910. Arrangements were made by Shalom Memorial Chapel, 1100 New London Ave., Cranston.



NATHANIEL 'BABE' BRYNES

PAWTUCKET

Nathaniel "Babe" Brynes, 81, of Harborside Healthcare Pawtucket Village, Post Road, a retired retail manager, died Jan. 13 at home.

He was the husband of the late Doris (Gentile) Brynes. Born in Providence, a son of the late Abraham and Rachel (Wasbutski) Brynes, he had lived in Providence and Cranston before moving to Warwick last year. He was a toy department manager for many years before retiring several years ago.

He was an Army veteran of World War II, serving in the Pacific.

He leaves two sons, Michael and Harvey Brynes, both of Warwick; two sisters, Dorothy Weinstein of Boston and Ida Anslow of Muskogee, Okla.; and five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. He was the father of the late Sharon Brynes, and the brother of the late Samuel, Martin, Leo and Charles Brynes and Ethel Ballon.

A graveside service was held Jan. 16 in the Rhode Island Veterans Cemetery, Exeter. Burial followed. Arrangements were made by Shalom Memorial Chapel, 1100 New London Ave., Cranston, R.I.

DORIS CHARREN

CRANSTON — Doris (Elman) Charren, 73, of Glen Ridge Road, Cranston, died Jan. 21 at the Philip Hultar Inpatient Center of Home and Hospice Care of Rhode Island, Providence.

She was the wife of Burton Charren; they had been married for 53 years.

Born in East Greenwich, a daughter of the late Benjamin and Celia (Jacobson) Elman, she had lived in East Greenwich and in Providence before moving to Cranston in 1952.

She attended the University of Rhode Island, where she was a member of Sigma Delta Tau Sorority.

She was a member of Temple Beth-El and its Sisterhood, the Hadassah, and the Women's Association of Miriam Hospital.

Besides her husband, she leaves two daughters, Gaia Charren of Narragansett and Jane Charren of East Greenwich; a son, Marc Charren of East Greenwich; her twin sister, Carolyn Botvin of Pawtucket; and five grandchildren. She was a sister of the late Arthur Elman.

The funeral was held Jan. 23 in the Sugarman-Sinai Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Hospice Care of Rhode Island, 50 Maude St., Providence, R.I. 02908. The family was assisted with the arrangements by Sugarman-Sinai Memorial Chapel.



FREDERIC G. COHEN

CRANSTON

Frederic G. Cohen, 69, of Brookside Drive, co-owner of the former Twiny's Diner in Olneyville, died Jan. 16 in Rhode Island Hospital.

Born in Providence, a son of the late Samuel Granoff and Evelyn (Schneider) Granoff-Cohen, and the adopted son of

the late Albert Cohen, he had lived in Cranston for 61 years.

He was the owner with his twin brother, the late Lawrence Cohen, of the Twinys Diner, Providence, for 30 years, retiring 15 years ago.

He was a member and honorary trustee of Temple Torat Yisrael and its Men's Club, and he and his brother were major benefactors of the temple.

They were honored in 2000 for their generosity and years of devotion to the temple when its religious school was named after them.

He was a 1955 graduate and a major benefactor of Penn State University. He was a member of Doric Lodge of Masons and the Palestine Shrine.

He was an Army veteran, serving from 1955 to 1957.

He leaves several cousins.

The funeral was held Jan. 18 in Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston, R.I. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. In lieu of flowers, contributions in his memory may be made to Temple Torat Yisrael. Arrangements were made by Shalom Memorial Chapel, 1100 New London Ave., Cranston, R.I.

HELEN S. MEYER

PROVIDENCE — Helen S. (Mastbaum) Meyer, 96, of North Main St., a retired secretary, died Jan. 20 at the Summit & Pavilion.

She was the wife of the late Claus Meyer. Born in Paris, a daughter of the late Ernst and Lucy Mastbaum, she had lived in Aachen, Germany, and Shanghai, China, and had lived in Cranston before moving to Providence more than 10 years ago.

She was a secretary at the former Gladding's department store, and later at A&C Woolen Mills.

She was a survivor of the Holocaust, and a member of Temple Beth-El.

She was the sister of the late Jan Mastbaum.

The funeral was private. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to your favorite charity. The family was assisted with the arrangements by Sugarman-Sinai Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.



ARLINE ZACKS PROVIDENCE

Arline Bernice Zacks, 84, of Highland Ave., died Jan. 17 at Summit Medical Center.

She was the wife of the late Alfred Zacks. Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Benjamin and Ida (Torghe) Sass, she had lived in Pawtucket for 30 years before moving to Florida for 12 years. She returned to Providence in 1999.

She was co-owner along with her husband of the former Lad and Lassie Shoe Store, Providence, until her retirement 25 years ago.

She was a past president of Jewish War Veterans Auxiliary in Rhode Island, a national officer of Jewish War Veterans, and a board member of the JWV Wall of Honor at Lincoln Park Cemetery.

She served in the Coast Guard during World War II. She was a 1936 graduate of Hope High School.

She leaves a son, Michael Zacks of Providence; a daughter, Fredda Sendker of Sharon, Mass.; and three grandchildren. She was the sister of the late Lillian S. Harris, Samuel J. Sass, Edith Haas and Dorothy Gevurtz.

The funeral service was held Jan. 22 in Sugarman-Sinai Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to your favorite charity. The family was assisted with the arrangements by Sugarman-Sinai Memorial Chapel.

When You Have Questions, Call Us.

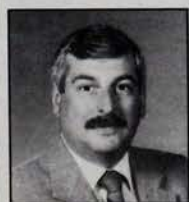
If you are one of many people who have never arranged a funeral, you may have a lot of questions on your mind.

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One's goal in paying a shiva call to a mourner is to comfort him or her. Yet one does not always know what sort of comfort the mourner most needs. Perhaps you will start speaking about the dead at just the moment he or she desperately needs to speak about something else. Or perhaps you will try and divert the mourner by speaking about a lighter subject (I've often heard people in shiva houses talk of sports events) at just the moment when he or she needs to speak about the deceased. And, perhaps the mourner just doesn't want to speak at all.

For most of us, silence is uncomfortable. Rabbi Jack Riemer notes, "We are afraid of silence. I get into the car, I turn on my radio. I get into the elevator, they play music for me. Why? Because we're afraid to be alone for two seconds with ourselves. It's okay to be quiet. It's okay to just sit and listen. It's okay to not fill the air with small talk and cheap talk and sports talk. Just leave enough silence in which something can be felt."

The Book of Jewish Values, A Day-By-Day Guide to Ethical Living, by Rabbi Joseph Telushkin, Day 136

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FEATURE

Europe's Pandering to Anti-Semitism

(Continued from Page 3)

Ramadan. Entitled "Plots of Terror," this family fare features Kuwait's most beloved comedic actor as Ariel Sharon. The Israeli Prime Minister is portrayed as a latter day vampire who mass produces and markets "Dracu-Cola" from the blood of Arabs, the younger the better.

The climax of the first installment shows 'Sharon' tossing babies into a bonfire, then reflecting on the birthday present of 20 Arab children given to him by the late Prime Minister Menahem Begin: "...we drew their blood and drank it. It was one of my best nights..."

Not to be outdone by this 21st century update of the Medieval Christian Blood Libel, Saudi Arabian Television plans to air a 30-part miniseries, *Horseman Without a Name*, based on *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, a debunked Tzarist canard invoked by every Jew-hater of the 20th century.

And the cavalcade of officially-sanctioned Jew hatred goes far beyond ratings-hungry television executives. The horrific charge of blood libel — i.e. Jews ritually murdering gentle children for the Passover matzo — is the theme of a book authored by Syria's Defense Minister, Mustafa Talas, soon to be made into a motion picture

which, in the words of the Egyptian producer, will be "the Arab world's answer to *Schindler's List*."

Far from being isolated for his hate mongering, Talas was recently awarded a doctorate in history by the prestigious Sorbonne. Not to be outdone, Talas' new boss, Syrian President Bashar Assad, used the occasion of Pope John Paul II's historic visit to Damascus to accuse the Jewish people of murdering Jesus and plotting against Mohammed. Sadly, the normally outspoken pontiff stood by silently.

There are many historic reasons for the ambivalence of Europeans to anti-Semitism. But if they think for a moment that tacit encouragement of anti-Semitism in the Moslem world will spare the West any further agony and anguish from Al Qaeda-style hate, they are dead wrong. Not when the faithful answered Amen to an Imam's sermon in Hamburg, Germany, after 9/11, which declared: "G-d, we implore You, to destroy the United States of America!"

And anti-Jewish credentials won't save European elites from the vision of the Turkish-based extremist group IGMG. The organization, which is linked to an outlawed extremist Turkish

party, claims to have 500 branches in Germany and over 200 in France, Scandinavia, Switzerland, Austria and Belgium, pursues its dream of erecting an Islamic State in Europe, with the "...promise that we will... fight for the triumph of the Islamic revolution...[and] will not accept outside of the Koran any system of government."

A generation ago, Europe's early appeasement of Adolph Hitler led to World War II and the Nazi Holocaust. Ambassador Bernard and others would do well to re-learn a basic fact—Jews are often the first victims, never the last.

The leaders of the European Union should take their lead from President George Bush, "there are no good or bad terrorists," and remember that hate, the source of all terrorism, must be fought regardless of its target. If Europe fails, then we will all soon be invoking Santayana's prophetic warning: "Those who fail to learn from history are condemned to repeat it."

Rabbi Abraham Cooper is the associate dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center. He can be reached at www.wiesenthal.com.

Israel News

(Continued from Page 8)

"We believe that the Lebanese government should do with Hezbollah what the United States and other governments are doing with other terrorist organizations: freezing assets, not allowing them to operate freely, not allowing them to run arms freely, not allowing their territory to be used as sanctuary," Rice said in an interview in Washington with LBC, a private Lebanese channel.

Safer Transportation for IDF Soldiers

A new association was formed on Tuesday to create a transportation infrastructure to benefit Israel Defense Forces soldiers serving at remote bases, *Yediot Aharonot* reported.

The association, entitled Am Chai, is the initiative of Shimon Chai, a Netanya resident. Its goal is to create an infrastruc-

ture of transportation operated by volunteer drivers, allowing soldiers a speedy and safe commute from their bases to their homes without having to wait for public transportation or risk hitchhiking in unsafe areas.

Currently, soldiers serving at remote bases often face infrequent bus service and are not allowed, due to the security situation, to hitchhike. Many soldiers are therefore incapable of leaving their bases for their weekend vacations.

The new association was inaugurated by Minister of Defense Binyamin Ben-Eliezer and his deputy Dalia Rabin Philosoph. Among its key activists is Yehuda Waxman, whose son Nachshon was kidnapped and killed by Palestinian terrorists in 1994 while hitchhiking from his army base to his home in Jerusalem.

The association has already begun a fundraising campaign to purchase vehicles and employ drivers.

Israeli Swimmers Win Gold, Bronze Medals

Two Israeli swimmers were awarded the gold and bronze medals in the World Swimming Cup held in Italy on Tuesday, *Yediot Aharonot* On-line reported.

Vered Borohovsky was awarded the gold medal in the 100-meter medley category, which she completed in 1:02.25 minutes. Last month, Borohovsky set the Israeli record for that category at the European championship, completing the swim at 1:01.82 minutes. Yoav Gat won the bronze medal for the 200-meter back swim, which he completed in 1:55.79 minutes.

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WRITER WANTED

Person with writing skills wanted to help elderly Jewish woman transcribe small editorial piece for publication. Please call Dorothy at 272-2767. 1/31/02

Tu b'Shevat

(Continued from Page 4)

telling our senior vice presidents that environmental steps are good for the world, the right thing to do for our grandchildren..." Walt rolls his eyes; "I'd get thrown out. They would respond with, 'You're right, it's nice. Bye-bye.'"

So even if the corporate world is not yet ready to give employees a day off to taste and celebrate each of four species of fruits and nuts, corporate executives are ready to turn around the economy, reduce expenses, and increase sales. This is being accomplished everyday by environmental champions worldwide.

When enjoying the fruits of Tu b'Shevat this year, realize that your corporation can enjoy the fruits of profitability by taking steps that also protect the world's trees and other natural resources worldwide.

Pamela J. Gordon, certified management consultant and president of consulting firm Technology Forecasts, Inc., is author of the book *Lean and Green: Profit for Your Workplace and the Environment* (Berrett-Koehler Publishers, October 2001). She can be reached at pgordon@Techforecasters.com.

Spotlight on Business — The Textile Warehouse

by Joanne Doyle

Aaron Trachtenberg, proprietor of the Textile Warehouse, runs a very fine discount store featuring fine towels, sheets, comforters, pillows and many other accessories.

The origin of the Textile Warehouse is an interesting one. He began his textile company as an offshoot of a wiping cloth business in 1983. In the beginning, they sold cloth to factories or mills for cleaning. For example, a knitting mill would go into the warehouse and purchase the cloth by the pound to be used as rags to wipe down machines after they cleaned them. As the business progressed, the quality of the materials that Trachtenberg began to receive got better and better.

One day a woman came in and saw them sorting towels and asked what they were doing, and Trachtenberg told her. She asked if she could purchase the towels for herself. Hence, the retail part of the business was born.

On the first day that they were open to the public, Trachtenberg described the scene as "an absolute madhouse." Customers were literally fighting for the sheets and

towels and new bins had to be replaced where the products were showcased.

The store has been run by Trachtenberg's daughter, Bethany Sutton, since 1995. But she began her career, if you will, long before this. Since the family started the business in 1986 she would go to the store and help her parents, mainly her mother, Caren, who ran the retail part of the store. Caren was a schoolteacher at the time and wanted to pursue a different path. Sutton is now in charge of doing all the buying for the store and prides herself on giving customers great service and personal attention.

The biggest seller in the store are misprinted sheets. Many people come from Canada, and purchase large quantities of sheets and towels to bring them home for friends and family. Also, many people from Guatemala and Cape Verde purchase items and send them to their families. The price is certainly right. The unbelievable thing is that the prices have not changed since day one! Towels are an amazing \$4.50 a pound! The store also carries those hard-to-fit, extra long sheets for college-bound students.

National Dance Education Organization Seeks Memorabilia

"Dance: A Living Legacy of Building Bridges" is the theme of National Dance Education Organization's June 2002 conference to be held in Providence. In keeping with NDEO's commitment to innovative dance teachers and educators, we are seeking memorabilia that reflect the legacy of dance learning in Rhode Island. From era to era, from generation to generation, from teacher to student, from higher education to studio, from community to community, from books to classes, from inspiration to exhibition.

At the June 26 to 28 conference, NDEO will exhibit important memorabilia that reflect the legacy of Rhode Island's early dance educators — teachers who nurtured us as dance students and as young people. They include Dr. Fannie Helen Melcer, Bertha Carr, Lydia Pettine, and more recently, Dr. Doris Holloway, Christine Hennessey, Winthrop Corey, and Herci Marsden. We hope to present a broad range of material covering all forms of dance — ballet, jazz, modern, tap, ballroom, and musical theater.

If you have any memorabilia — videos, photos, newspaper articles, or programs — that you believe should be included in this exhibit, send them to Patricia G. Cohen, NDEO Public Relations, P.O. Box 372, East Greenwich, R.I. 02818. Identify the material, and clearly mark all items with the donor's name, so that we may acknowledge the contribution. We will return items if they are clearly marked and if suitable packaging and return address are provided.

Bring a Compass! Explore The Secret Garden!

9th Annual Rhode Island Spring Flower & Garden Show February 21-24

Need a way to cure those winter blues? Looking for some new gardening tips or designs for spring planting? Why not attend the ninth annual Rhode Island Spring Flower & Garden Show, Feb. 21 to 24, at the Rhode Island Convention Center. This year's show will feature more than 25 display gardens and garden vignettes, an estimated half million flowers in bloom, 50 tons of rocks, enough mulch to cover two football fields, 275 garden product exhibitors, numerous guest speakers and educational presentations. Such characteristics make the Rhode Island Spring Flower & Garden Show one of the largest and most attractive flower and garden shows in the nation.

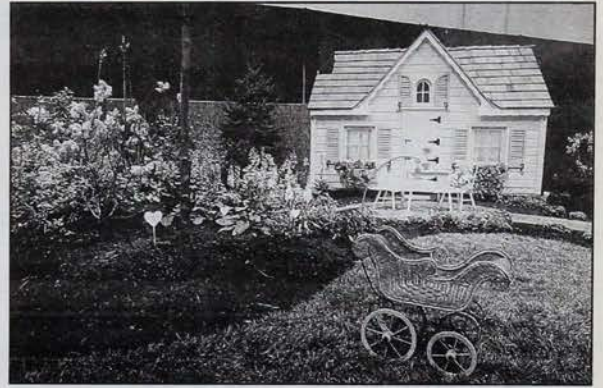
Once again, the show will feature award-winning gardens crafted by some of New England's finest nurseries and designers, including nationally

ing enthusiasts. Show designer, Charles Carberry, said, "In keeping with the show's Secret Garden theme, each full-size exhibit will offer visitors a mystical journey through floral and magically designed landscapes. Guests will be delighted to see gardens that mimic or play off of the Secret Garden tale and others that will display a place of tranquillity and peace. It gives me great pleasure to work with such a talented group of garden designers."

Other highlights of the 2002 show include the Rhode Island Spring Flower & Garden Show Special Events Series, which will include evening wine samplings to be offered Friday and Saturday evenings from 6 to 8 p.m. in the grand rotunda room on the Convention Center's fifth level. Guests 21 and over may sample some of the area's finest wines and delectable

Looking to improve your landscape? At the 2002 Rhode Island Spring Flower & Garden Show, the Rhode Island Chapter of ASLA will sponsor a Garden/Landscape Designer Forum. Visitors will have the opportunity to talk to professional gardeners and landscape architects. Stations will be set up for one-on-one consultations. Patrons are encouraged to bring photos of their landscape/property or ideas that they may have for their own yards. The forum, to be held in the convention center's fifth floor rotunda, is free of charge with flower show admission. For more information, call 785-9450, ext. 219.

New to the show festivities is the Roger Williams Park Botanical Center Shop. With 100 percent of the purchase proceeds benefiting the proposed Roger Williams Park Botanical Center, the shop will offer attendees an opportunity to take home a little bit of spring by offering a wide selection of flowering spring bulbs and unique house plants. Beautiful Canna bulbs and seed growing kits will give that eager gardener something to start indoors, a variety of garden gifts and accessories will provide the hint that spring lies just around the corner. Please be sure to



shop and get a glimpse of the future of Roger Williams Park.

The Rhode Island Convention Center is located at One Sabin St. in downtown Providence. From North or South, take I-95 to exit 22. Visitors can park in the Convention Center Garage for \$7 per day (subject to change), the Providence Place Mall Garage and use the pedestrian walkway connector, or thanks to the Providence parks department, park free at Roger Williams Park Zoo (I-95 to exit 17), then take the Flower Show Shuttle. Shuttle runs Thursday and Friday only between 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. and costs \$3 per person round-trip.

Show hours are Feb. 21 through Feb. 23, 10 a.m. to 9

p.m.; Feb. 24, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tickets are \$11 advance, \$13 weekdays, \$14 weekends; seniors/students, \$12 weekdays, \$13 weekends; groups 20 or more, \$10 children (6 to 12) \$7, under 6 free. Advance tickets \$11 are also on sale at all Citizen Bank branch locations through Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts.

With so much to see and do, make the 2002 Rhode Island Spring Flower & Garden Show a "must see" excursion for the entire family. For ticket prices and information, call the show's ticketing coordinator at 253-0246 or visit <www.flowershow.com>. For general show information, call 458-6262 or visit our Web site.



acclaimed Allen C. Haskell of New Bedford, Mass. The show also features the expertise of Roger Williams Park, A Piece of Paradise, Yardworks, Inc., Michael Jardin Fine Gardening, Rhode Island Wild Plant Society, Tim Comeau Landscaping, Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Q Gardens, Tranquil Water Gardens, and many more garden-

chees in a wonderful warm casual atmosphere overlooking the City of Providence. Tickets, sold separately from regular show admission, are \$20 per person and can be purchased in advance or at the door. For more information and reservations, call the show's ticketing coordinator at 253-0246 or visit <www.flowershow.com>.

Learn Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Trees

Do you love trees? Do you wish you knew more about them? Do you feel that your community needs more trees and healthier trees? If you've answered yes to any of these questions, then the Rhode Island Tree Council thinks you should take its Tree Steward Course. Two courses are offered each year in the spring and fall, six evening classes and two Saturday workshops are taught by

professional instructors at different locations around the state. Stewards learn how to identify trees, diagnose problems, plant, fertilize, prune, water, and nurture trees. They also learn how they may volunteer to plant trees in their neighborhoods.

The course fee is \$35 which includes materials and an introductory membership to the Rhode Island Tree Council. To become a certified Rhode Island

Tree Steward, participants are asked to attend seven out of eight sessions and volunteer 30 hours of tree-related community service. Being a RITree Steward certifies that an individual possesses sufficient knowledge, skills and informed concern to bring about effective tree care. The council has many rewarding projects for tree stewards, such as hands-on pruning and planting projects, helping to develop their municipalities tree programs, and participating in tree education programs. For more information, call Norm Willis at 647-9922 or e-mail <RITreeCouncil@loa.com>.



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