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SERVING RHODE ISLAND AND SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

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R.I. turns out to stand with Israel

Series of events runs gamut from tears to pledges of help

By Jonathan Rubin

A small girl walked along the State House steps in Providence on April 21, carrying on her tiny shoulders an Israeli flag larger than herself. She trailed behind her family as she proudly hoisted the banner. Asked where she was from, she beamed and shouted, "Yerushaylim! Jerusalem!"

Israeli events have shifted into high gear in Rhode Island, with discussion groups, prayer sessions, letter-writing campaigns and large support rallies occurring one after the other.

The rally at the State House, organized by the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, brought more than 1,000 people together in support of Israel.

The crowd, dappled blue and white by the multitude of Israeli flags, brandished signs that read "Support our democratic ally Israel," "U.S. & Israel — united against terrorism," and "Solidarity with the Israeli people."

Pupils from the Alperin Schechter Day School sang Hativka with Cantor Brian Mayer from Temple Emanu-El.

A delegation of Rhode Island officials, including congressmen and state representatives, joined Israeli officials in expressing their support for Israel's right to defend itself against terrorist attacks, and stressed the importance of American support for the state.

"The Palestinians are blam-

See RHODE ISLAND, page 16



TWO FLAGS wave in solidarity at a State House rally April 21. Photo by Irving Schild

Taking a new look at Judaism in R.I.

By Gerry Goldstein

Imagine that you're about to glance into a mirror — for the first time since 1987. Naturally, you're anticipating changes. But you aren't sure exactly what you'll see.

For the first time in 15 years, Rhode Island's Jewish Community is about to take a collective peek into the looking glass.



DO YOU RECOGNIZE this venerable synagogue in South Providence? It's one of several interpreted on canvas through the eyes of an unusual artist. Story, page 17.

Photo by William K. Daby

Using a \$170,000 federal grant, the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island has commissioned a detailed telephone survey, beginning May 10, that is expected to produce a contemporary portrait of the state's Jewish population.

Has it grown since the last survey in '87? Has it aged? Do as many of us still observe

Jewish rituals? How high is the intermarriage rate?

These are among myriad questions to be answered by Ira M. Sheskin, professor of geography at the University of Miami and a fellow in the university's Miller Center for Contemporary Judaic Studies.

Sheskin has surveyed dozens of communities — 27 of

them Jewish — over the past 20 years and is a technical advisor for a national survey being done by United Jewish Communities, an umbrella organization of Jewish federations.

His team of some 50 interviewers will reach about 8,000 local households, randomly dialed. Sheskin says that the number of those homes

See JUDAISM, page 18

Digging deep to ease pain in Israel

JFRI's campaign seeks \$1.35 million

By Joshua Karlin

The economy and psyche of Israel have been decimated by an 18-month war of terror against the Jews.

Every family in the country has been affected by terror attacks that have reached into the heart of Israel's major cities, with over 468 dead and 3,866 maimed or seriously wounded. This is a different kind of war than we have experienced in the past, and it creates a different kind of need.

But the war against Jews does not stop at the borders

See DIGGING DEEP, page 3

Reviewing 1987's survey

'Some of my best friends are Jewish'

By Gerry Goldstein

As a Jewish community, who are we? How many are we? Where in Rhode Island do we live, and how much of a factor is Judaism in our lives?

The last time anyone asked was 1987, in a telephone survey that resulted in a report co-authored by Brown University professors Calvin Goldscheider and Sidney Goldstein.

Theirs was the first report on the subject since 1963; it

drew on interviews with more than 1,100 of Rhode Island's estimated 17,000 Jews.

Then, as with the current survey, sponsorship was through the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island. A private research company was hired to conduct the interviews.

Some of the findings:

—More than half the respondents reported that their three closest friends were Jewish, and another 23 percent

said two of their three best friends were Jewish. Women were more likely than men to have exclusively Jewish friends.

— Most Jews did not
See SURVEY, page 18

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Robert Mann, President
Janet Engelhart, Executive Vice President

Editor

Jonathan Rubin
Consulting Editor
Gerry Goldstein
Production Assistant
& Graphic Design
Leah Camara
Advertising Representative
Cynthia Loux

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Mail: The Jewish Voice & Herald, 130 Sessions St., Providence, RI 02906.

E-mail: voiceherald@jfri.org

Editorial Board:

Eleanor L. Lewis, chair

Members: Stanley Aronson, MD, Alan Axelrod, Patricia Cohen, Rabbi Alvan Kaunfer, Toby London, Doris McGarry, Robert Riesman, Richard Shein, Gladys Sollosy, Joshua Stein, Norman Tilles, Judith Romney Wegner, Alan Zuckerman

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News Briefs

IDF has new tactic

Israel has adopted a new tactic in the West Bank. After its large-scale anti-terror operation wound down late last month, the Israel Defense Force is now entering Palestinian population centers, arresting suspected terrorists and then quickly departing. Israeli military officials say the tactic already has borne fruit. The brief incursions already prevented a "very, very serious" terror attack planned to take place near Tel Aviv, a military spokesman told The Associated Press.

E.U. says it didn't fund terror

The European Union denied that money it donated to the Palestinian Authority was used to finance suicide attacks against Israel. A spokesman for the European Union said Monday that E.U. officials closely monitored where the money went and what it was used for. The statement came one day after Israel published documents that Israeli officials said prove that more than \$9 million in E.U. funds had been diverted to fund Arab terror.

Israelis back West Bank operation

Some 90 percent of Israeli Jews believe the decision to launch the anti-terror campaign last month in the West Bank was correct, a poll said. According to a Peace Index poll released Monday, even 60 percent of those who support the dovish Meretz Party agreed, while only 9 percent of Israeli Arabs backed the military operation, the Israeli daily *Ha'aretz* reported.

The survey also showed that 91 percent of Israeli Arabs, but only 3 percent of Israeli Jews, believe that Israeli soldiers carried out a massacre in the Jenin refugee camp, a claim Israel categorically denies. In recent days, human rights groups, along with some Palestinian sources, have said no massacre was carried out in the camp.

Israelis abroad want to go home

Israelis living abroad are showing an increased interest in returning home. More than 3,000 such inquiries were made in April, an increase of 500 percent compared with March, according to official statistics. Observers attribute the jump to a rise in solidarity with Israel following Operation Protective Wall and an increase in anti-Semitism around the world.

Palestinians fake Jenin funerals

Palestinians have been holding phony funerals in the Jenin refugee camp, apparently to make the death toll there appear worse than it is.

An Israeli Defense Force drone filmed one such Palestinian funeral procession on April 28, during which stretcher-bearers dropped the purported corpse. The "dead" man hopped back onto the stretcher, but the next time he was dropped, he walked away.

Poll finds need for U.S. role

A plurality of Americans believe the United States should play a role in resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. A new CBS-New York Times poll found that 48 percent of Americans want U.S. intervention, with 43 percent opposed. Sixty percent of Americans approve of President Bush's handling of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Four out of 10 people want the United States to publicly support Israel. The poll has a 3 percent margin of error.

P.A. snubs offer to rebuild Jenin

The Palestinian Authority rejected an offer from an Arab political movement in Israel to start rebuilding the Jenin refugee camp. P.A. officials snubbed the offer from the Islamic Movement because they want international officials to see the ruins, according to the Jerusalem Post. The P.A. may decide never to rebuild the area so it can provide evidence of what they are trumpeting



MOURNERS carry the body of 5-year-old Danielle Shefi to her grave in the southern Israeli town of Kiryat Gat on April 28, a day after the young Israeli girl was shot dead in her parents' bedroom by Palestinian gunmen in a terror attack on her home. Danielle's mother, Shiri, and two younger brothers were also wounded in the attack by Palestinian gunmen in their West Bank Jewish settlement of Adora that left a total of four Israelis dead and seven wounded. JTA

as Israeli brutality, the paper reported.

Embezzlement at Florida JCC?

Top employees of a Florida Jewish community center may have bilked the institution of hundreds of thousands of dollars. According to the Palm Beach Post, the State Attorney's Office is investigating a suspected credit card scam at the Jeanne Levy Jewish Community Center in West Palm Beach, allegedly involving the top executive and several others. The alleged embezzlement was first discovered by the local Jewish federation, which was suspicious after the JCC overspent its \$7 million budget.

Barghouti admits to terror

The head of the Fatah movement in the West Bank admitted that he helped plan terror attacks against Israel. Marwan Barghouti made the admission while being interrogated by the Shin Bet domestic security service after he was arrested on April 15 during Israel's military operation in the West Bank.

Israeli soccer stays in competition

Soccer's international federation rejected an attempt by Arab states to ban Israel from participating in international matches.

Last Friday's move by FIFA followed a recommendation from the governing body of European soccer to reject the Arab call, which was made because of outrage over Israeli actions in the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian violence. Last week, Rep. Anthony Weiner (D-N.Y.) and 25 other congressmen sent a letter to FIFA, asking them to reject the ban.

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French Jews cheer Le Pen loss

By Andrew Diamond

(JTA) — Eric Sarfaty is happy that far-right leader Jean-Marie Le Pen was trounced in France's second-round presidential elections.

But Sarfaty, a dentist who is active in the Jewish community here, said the relief French Jews feel is mixed with a bit of dread following Sunday's vote.

"Many people I have spoken with over the past weeks feel that" incumbent President Jacques Chirac is "very friendly with the Arab states and has a lot of support in the Muslim community here," Sarfaty said. "So there is the perception that with his election things may get worse — that there will be more attacks against synagogues and schools by Arab youths."

Chirac's victory in Sunday's runoff brought an end to an embarrassing two weeks in French history. But his election doesn't end the problem of how government and society should react to the wave of anti-Semitic attacks that swept France in recent months before abating during the elections, French Jews said.

Chirac received about 82 percent of the vote, with some 18 percent going to Le Pen, according to exit polls.

The 18 percent represented a negligible percentage increase for Le Pen from the April 21 first round vote, when he finished second among 11 candidates with about 17 percent of the ballots.

Despite the lopsided results, Le Pen's vote count still is worrisome, said Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League.

"While the good news is that the French people overwhelmingly rejected the candidacy of Jean-Marie Le Pen, the bad news is that one out of

five people accepted his message of hate," Foxman said in a statement. "The challenge for President Chirac is to lead his country away from the message of hate and toward a more accepting society, where the ideals behind *liberte, egalite* and *fraternite* can be realized."

During the past several months, the Jewish community has been disappointed by the French government's weak reaction to anti-Semitic aggression, carried out mainly by Arab youth inflamed by Israeli-Palestinian violence.

Yet they probably never

thought the alternative would be Le Pen, a far-rightist who favors stricter controls on North African immigration to France — and has a history of anti-Semitic statements.

Immediately after first-round results showed Le Pen in the runoff, half a million French citizens took to the streets to say "no" to the Nazism, fascism, xenophobia, and anti-Semitism that critics say Le Pen's National Front Party represents.

On May 1, up to 1 million anti-Le Pen demonstrators turned out throughout France,

including at least 400,000 in Paris alone. That sense of crisis helped boost Sunday's turnout to an estimated 80 percent, far higher than in the first round.

Despite the resounding demonstrations against Le Pen, French Jews remain worried about the anti-Semitic attacks, which have been the worst in France since World War II, some Jewish officials said.

Le Pen, 73, once dismissed the Nazi gas chambers as just a "detail" of history. In this campaign, however, he toned down his anti-Semitic rhetoric in favor of a populist crusade

against the status quo, patriotic cries for restoring the franc as French's currency and a xenophobic ideology, including a proposal that illegal aliens be placed in transit camps awaiting deportation.

The number of French Jews looking to leave — both to Israel and to other countries — already has increased in the past few months. If the far-right scores more political triumphs, or if the government fails to change course and crack down on anti-Semitism, that number could increase.

Digging deep to ease the pain in Israel

Continued from page 1

of Israel. The situation there has unleashed a wave of anti-Semitic attacks in France, Italy, Germany, Russia and even in Canada. Israel is the realization of the dreams of Jews throughout the world over centuries of persecution and exile. We recognize that a strong Israel protects Jews, and, in this time of crisis, we stand with Israel as we have throughout her history.

Meanwhile, the Jewish community of Argentina struggles with the effects of a collapsed economy and terror attacks on its community center and the local Israeli embassy. In just one year, more than 30,000 Jews have fallen below the poverty line. Many will seek refuge in Israel, despite the current situation there.

We have always stepped forward as part of the national Jewish community to provide emergency support for critical needs in Israel and for Jews in distress around the world. The "We Stand With Israel Emergency Campaign" provides an opportunity to take action and to join with Federations throughout North America as part of United Jewish Communities' (formerly UJA) national campaign to provide assistance to Israel.

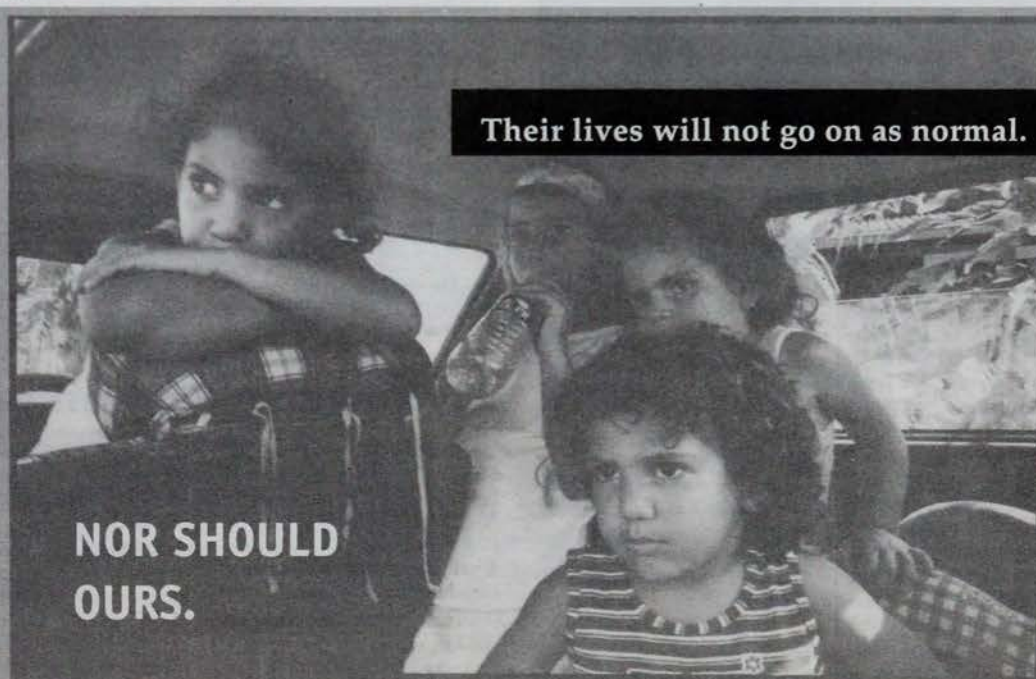
Our "We Stand With Israel Emergency Campaign" will raise at least \$1.35 million in Rhode Island as our share of the \$300 million national goal, all of which will be sent to Israel before June 30 and dedicated to:

- Aiding victims of terror and their families in dealing with their trauma. These funds will meet urgent, immediate needs including physical, psychological, financial, employment, transportation, housing and family reunification.
- Saving Jewish lives with armored school buses, vans, and ambulances.
- Protecting our children: Ensuring that kindergartens, pre-schools and day care centers have armed guards, bulletproof windows, and protective gates and playground enclosures.
- Helping new immigrants from Argentina start new lives in Israel in spite of the dangerous situation.

Through UJC, we will work closely with our partners in Israel, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and the Jewish Agency for Israel, to ensure that 100 percent of the funds sent there are committed to emergency human needs.

We accept our collective responsibility for helping Jews in Israel and around the world during this crisis. We stood with Israel at the founding of the state, during the Six-Day War, the Yom Kippur War, and, as she fights this war on terrorism, we stand with Israel, now and forever.

Joshua Karlin is director of planned giving at the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.



Their lives will not go on as normal.

NOR SHOULD OURS.

Israel is in **CRISIS** and we must **RESPOND IMMEDIATELY**. Unite with us for an **EMERGENCY MEETING** as we expand the Annual Meeting of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island. **TOGETHER** we will focus on the crisis in Israel and commit our **UNDIVIDED SUPPORT** to the victims and their families. We Stand with Israel Now and Forever. We must **ACT NOW**.

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EDITORIAL *Stand with Israel*

THE people of Israel need our moral support and our financial support. They are faced with danger and uncertainty in every one of their waking and sleeping hours. Their lives and their economy are in a shambles. Suffering from individual tragedies and disruptions, they can be comforted by our help in this emergency.

As you can read on the front page, not only our Jewish community but Jews across North America are mobilizing to give that help. This effort needs participation by every one of us, regardless of our political opinions. It's not about the policies of the Israeli government. We can think, and discuss and write and speak out about the policies of the government. We might applaud them or you might prefer alternatives. Within our community there is a wide spectrum of political opinion. The placards and posters at the State House rally on April 21 gave eloquent expression to that diversity.

A wide variety of opinions will find their place in this and future issues as well. Let us discuss and argue, even as Zev Alexander and Joshua Stein express their viewpoints in this issue. That is the Jewish way and the American way. That is the strength and beauty of living in democracies like the United States and Israel.

However, there is a bottom line here — the existential question of the survival of the State of Israel. At the end of the discussion, we need to support the people of Israel. Im eyn ani li, mi li? "If I am not for myself, who will be for me?" The Europeans?

This paper goes to 8,000 homes. The people of Israel need to count on the people in every one of our homes to be with them.

Turning the other cheek is no shield from terror

By Joshua Stein

I HAVE no doubt that those who are offended by Israel's actions on the West Bank are moral persons. They are disturbed by Israel's actions, especially in the Jenin refugee camp, and I must confess that while I am not, I have neither wit, nor words, nor worth, nor utterance, nor the power of speech to stir men's blood as they do. I only speak the truth. It is sometimes a poor weapon, but it is all I have.

Each morning, the *New York Times* arrives at my doorstep. In it I find stories of Arab civilians killed, Arab homes destroyed, Arab survivors weeping. Then I watch the evening news and the scenes are hammered home with even greater impact. It's devastating. It's very distressing. But, folks, it's war.

War is waged in a variety of ways — by propaganda, by espionage, by technological advances, and (are you ready

for this, the shocker?) by killing people. People die in war. Sometimes they are soldiers (there were relatively few

civilian deaths on the western front in World War I, though millions of soldiers slaughtered one another). And sometimes, civilians die. (I imagine there were a bunch of them in Dresden, which the Americans firebombed in 1945.)

It happens; it's awful; it's war. On April 18, four Canadian soldiers were killed in Afghanistan — by American warplanes. It happens; it's awful; it's war.

Should we pull out of the territories and say to the Arabs, "Come, let us reason together" and conclude by returning to the pre-1967 borders? Yes, we should. Will it bring us peace for land? We tried that after

Oslo; we tried that by pulling out of Lebanon. How'd those efforts work?

What do the Arabs want? From what they say, they want the West Bank and Gaza — and the rest of Israel to the sea. If he can get it, I think Yasser Arafat would love to have Amman as a provincial capital of Greater Palestine — after all, before 1922 Transjordan was part of the Palestine Mandate.

Recently, Suha Arafat told an Arabic-language magazine that she endorsed suicide attacks as legitimate resistance against Israeli occupation. Mrs. Arafat said that if she had a son, there would be "no greater honor" than to sacrifice him for the Palestinian cause. "Would you expect me and my children to be less patriotic and more eager to live than my countrymen and their father and leader who is seeking martyrdom?" she was

See TURNING, page 6



Joshua Stein

Letters to the editor



A photo from long ago stirs vision of 'the Home'

I received in the mail, from a friend in Cranston, a photo taken from a recent edition of the *Jewish Voice & Herald*. It was taken at a seder one Passover many years ago — I would suggest 1936 or '37 — at the Jewish Home for the Aged of Rhode Island.

My late father, Isaac E. Feinstein, was at that time superintendent of the Home.

My friend reminded me that my late mother, Dora Feinstein, used to take food trays up the stairs (there being no elevator in those days) to residents who were ill or too fragile to come down to the communal dining room.

My parents, my sister Ber-

nice, and I lived on the third floor of the Home.

In fact, during World War II, I worked as the waitress for more than a year, when my Dad was unable to get proper help, since most people worked in the war effort.

In the photo you have correctly identified Jacob Shatofsky. In the center is Reb Moishe Pearl, who lived to be 103, and on the right is Benjamin Gordon.

Thank you for allowing me to reminisce, and I hope this brought back some wonderful memories for other Rhode Islanders.

Harriet Feinstein Baskin
West Palm Beach, Fla.

Tolerance is key to Judaism's future

First Alan Zuckerman, then Carl Adler.

I am Jewish, my mother and grandmother are Jewish Holocaust survivors, and my two children, Sophie and Eli, are Jewish.

They were welcomed to the world with the traditional Jewish customs of Bat Shalom and Brit, and have been blessed to have a non-Jewish father, John O'Brien, who, without converting, has embraced our traditions and rituals with love.

My husband is proud not only to participate, but also, he acknowledges that we have a

Jewish home. If there is to be Jewish continuity for generations to come, there *must* be tolerance of interfaith marriages.

Ten years ago, when my husband and I were planning our wedding, we could not find a Rhode Island Rabbi to perform the ceremony, but we were told that once we were married, we were welcome to become members of several congregations, some of which even offered classes to interfaith couples. Choosing not to be hypocritical, we made other, very beautiful arrangements that included a ketubah,

chuppah, and a lovely translation of the seven blessings, by my mother, Anna Prager.

It breaks my heart to see how little progress we've made in the Rhode Island Jewish community toward accepting diversity and tolerance.

The truth is, however, that in Southern Rhode Island, the picture is different. The population of the South County Hebrew School, where my daughter attends kindergarten Sunday School, is filled with interfaith families starved for a sense of community. The future of Judaism depends on acceptance and tolerance. In fact, peace in the Middle East depends on the same.

Interfaith marriages are consistent with the concepts of acceptance, tolerance, and continuity because there are Jewish children as a result of the union. If my grandmother, whose parents and siblings were murdered by Nazis, can lovingly embrace the choices that I have made for my life and my family, it seems ludicrous that elder statesmen speaking in the hypothetical cannot do the same.

My kingdom for a minyan

During the warm months, I wear a t-shirt with the following inscription on the back, "If 1/3 of the donating population gave blood one more time a year, there would never be a blood shortage."

How about printing up similar shirts for the temples that experience problems putting together a minyan for morning and evening services (unfortunately, that would probably include just about every temple in the state of Rhode

Island). It would read, "If just ten people would attend services, we would never lack for a minyan."

We might also set up a mobile davening coach, and serve cookies and juice, like the blood coach. Or maybe we could deduct a percentage of a member's dues if he showed up at services.

Al Resnick
Warwick

Liz Prager
Kingston

Belief in Israel is belief in ourselves

WHEN we hear about Israel in the news, we think of one country, a single entity in peril. But when Israel is attacked, when bombs, nails, and the raging hatred behind them tear holes in her people, we know that this single country is made up of millions, and we see not one face in agony, hear not one voice sobbing in despair, but seas of thousands.

For every injury, there is a family who suffers. For every death, there is a community that mourns. We see the death toll rise, but know that these are simply numbers. They do not represent in human terms the pain left by the murder of parents, children and friends.

The enormity of the situation

often escapes us. It's so immense, so complicated, and so very far away. Sometimes, against all our best intentions, we find ourselves confused about Israel and its plight; we find ourselves plagued by doubts.

On Monday I attended an emergency meeting on Israel at the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island. This was a gathering populated by agency representatives, rabbis, longtime volunteers and other members of our Jewish community. I expected a typical meeting — people speaking, people applauding. I planned to take some photographs, jot down some nice quotes and be on my way.

I had guessed that the focus

of my story would be Ruth Bar-On, from Israel's Crisis Management Center.

She described the special challenges faced by immigrants who are caught in terrorist attacks. In addition to their grievous injuries, they face language barriers at every turn.

Even worse, she said, new arrivals often have no family or friends to help them through their long, painful rehabilitation.



Jonathan Rubin

tion.

Alone and wounded in an unfamiliar land, they depend on trauma teams who try to piece their shattered families back together. They receive help from people who care for them, understand their language, and share with them a bond that cannot be damaged by violence or bloodshed. That bond is called Judaism; feeling what it is to be Jewish is to know this innately.

The Jewish population in Rhode Island numbers less than 2 percent, and sometimes it can feel like our community gets lost in the din of secular society. In times of crisis, however, a community can change from something dispersed to some-

thing concentrated — focused intently on a single purpose. And on Monday night, I saw a community move itself to tears with one message in support of something it deeply treasures — Eretz Yisrael, the land of Israel.

Person after person stood up and shared the special significance that Israel had for them.

Veteran educator Jenny Klein, 90, made jaws drop when she said that she marched in New York when the Balfour Declaration was passed in 1917, and that she has no fewer than four generations living in Israel today.

Asserting that she has the "best job in the Jewish community," Duffy Page, head of the Israel Desk at the Bureau of Jewish Education, talked about the hundreds of children and adults she has sent to Israel on summer trips and to make Aliyah. With every contingent that travels to Jerusalem, she said, she feels that a part of her gets to make the trip as well.

For more than an hour it continued.

One man said that in all his foreign travels he never felt like anything more than a guest. But when Israel was born, he said, he felt he finally had a home. Another said that Israel and its armed forces are the backing Jews require in an age of worldwide anti-Semitism. "The Holocaust never would have happened if we had someone to speak up for us," he said.

People talked of visiting Israel on solidarity missions, on trips with their families, and on journeys of self-exploration. Some had been to Israel twice; others more than two dozen times.

Some encouraged others to buy Israeli products online. Another said leaving a phone message for George Bush at the White House often takes less than a minute. Others said that fighting anti-Israel bias in the news, or challenging one-sided reporting on television or in newspapers (yes, even Jewish ones) needs to be our topmost priority.

Acts of generosity were commonplace; people pledged stock portfolios to Israel's needy, meeting or even exceeding their previous campaign gifts.

It was an hour where love for Israel shined and where Jewish souls were linked. When it was over, some wiped away tears.

Jonathan Rubin is editor of the Jewish Voice & Herald.

Taking strength from their struggle

By Zev Alexander

AS I followed the events in Israel, struggling to find strength each day, I was constantly feeling broken and alone. I desperately had to reconnect with the Israel I know, the one beyond the headlines.

My realization is that our attitude about the situation there should not center on politics and its leaders. We should concentrate instead on the people and places in Israel that make it the place we love. After all, since we aren't living there, we can't really understand the reality from reading or watching on TV.

If we want to support the Israelis, we should listen to individuals, and not appraise policies.

Through real accounts we can feel proud and sense the miracles that go on there each day. The way to do that is to turn off the television, put away the paper, and go.

Yes, now. Now is when they need us the most. Now, when life is hard, we have to see exactly how people are coping and how they shine in moments of challenge.

I decided to go to Israel for Pesach. I woke up early on Shabbat and was eager to walk the streets. I decided I would wander until I found a minyan. Eventually I saw an old man with a long beard and a streimel, waddling through the alleys and puddles of the neighborhood Nachlaot. He turned out to be the rabbi of the oldest synagogue there (in continual use since 1873) and he was seventh generation in Israel; his father was the biggest rabbinic

judge in Jerusalem during the creation of the state. I had hit the jackpot!

It is a little hard to imagine, but he didn't even know about the terrorist attacks of that week. For him, daily life was just about Pesach, family, and learning Torah. He didn't need the news to tell him what is happening in Israel — he was Israel.

At lunch on the final day of Pesach, I realized how insensitive it is for American Jews to argue with what the Israeli Defense Force is doing. I was eating with a family whose 30-something son was called up to go to Ramallah. While we all ate and relaxed he was defending us. His wife and 5-year-old daughter were at the meal and we were told not to talk about where he was or what was hap-

Zev Jacob Alexander, 26, is a third-year medical student at Brown University who grew up in Providence. He studied in Israel for 3 1/2 years and led tours there.



pening.

During the main course, there was a knock at the door. I turned around and simultaneously heard a sweet delighted call of "Abba," (father). It was the most heartwarming thing I've ever seen. There he was in full battle gear at the door; he picked up his daughter and they kissed and cried. He had turned his ankle on a rock and was sent home.

We were gripped by the stories he told about what was

actually transpiring in the territories.

I learned that they page rabbis on holy days to ask about military protocol and Jewish law. He also shared his appreciation for the residents of the much-discussed settlements of Beit El and Efrat who brought over clothing and thousands of personally cooked kosher-for-Passover meals. Shopkeepers opened their stores on Shabbat and hungry soldiers were able

See STRENGTH page 6



Turning the other cheek

From page 4

quoted as saying.

Mrs. Arafat has a daughter, not a son, and she lives in Paris, not in Palestine. And when did she say all this? On the very same day her husband (the father and leader of his people who is seeking martyrdom) said that he renounced suicide bombing against civilians.

What a hypocrite. She and her husband (the father and leader of his people who is seeking martyrdom) deserve each other. Maybe when she's tired of sipping coffee on the Boulevard St. Michel she'll return to Ramallah and send her daughter, strapped with explosives, to blow herself up. Or maybe she'll never tire of café on the Boulevard St. Michel.

Those Jews who want to surrender land for peace are honorable men, as are those who wring their hands, lachrymously bemoaning Arab deaths. They remind me of other honorable men, like Stanley Baldwin and Neville Chamberlain. Both of those gentlemen advocated that the poor Germans of the inter-war period had been

denied national self-determination. Germans were aggressive, they explained, because they had been short-changed. Give them land and there will be peace. Let them re-arm; let them move into the Rhineland; let them have Austria; let them have the Sudetenland; okay, after Bohemia, no more, and we mean it this time. Oh, and if they hate the Jews, if they want to destroy the Jews, well, that's the Jews' problem.

Truth is a poor weapon when contrasted to television images, but it is all I have. I also have history, the knowledge of what has happened, and the certainty that future Jewish historians will know I was right. War is war. Until the Passover massacre, only one side was fighting it. Now we both are. We are losing the war of public opinion; let us not lose the State of Israel by being the only one who is fighting fair.

Joshua Stein is a professor of history at Roger Williams University. His opinions do not necessarily reflect those of the faculty or administration of the University.

Taking strength

From page 5

to take what they needed. This is the news we need to hear to stay hopeful and feel the glow that comes from Israel. These are our soldiers.

Israel gave me back my life. I was so down and frustrated in the states that no one seemed to understand. Being in Jerusalem, I felt comforted. Everyone there is dealing with the events that are foremost to all Jewish people together.

American Jews should recognize how much Israelis want us there now, with all their hearts. It was so beautiful to be

thanked for visiting, and yet I felt guilty—I was leaving, and they were left waiting for more visitors.

Of all the time I have spent in Israel, this was my most meaningful trip. Despite the danger, it is because we have so much to learn from Israelis that, for our own sake, we have to go. I call people there to ask how they are. Not for their sake do I stay in touch, but for mine. Hearing their wisdom, patience, and courage, I feel mended while the media here breaks me. Yes, Diaspora Jews support Israel, but it is the Israel-

The saga of saving our brethren

Book review

By Yehuda Lev

On Jan. 3, a conference call involving leaders of the UJC (federations), JAFI (Israel relief), JDC (Diaspora relief), and ONAD (an arm of the UJC), was held to discuss ways of alleviating the plight of the 250,000 Jews of Argentina.

Experienced observers of Jewish organizational life held their breath for the inevitable next stage and sure enough, scarcely a month later, the *Forward* published an editorial which began, "A troubling quarrel has broken out between New York and Jerusalem over how best to address the crisis of Argentine Jewry." The editors pointed out that the American-based philanthropies see their goals as "Feeding the hungry and providing rent and mortgage payments for the thousands believed threatened by homelessness."

The Jewish Agency for Israel, on the other hand, said the *Forward*, has "Launched a drive to direct every available Jewish philanthropic dollar towards efforts to encourage Argentine Jews to relocate to Israel." The *Forward* didn't think much of JAFI's argument, pointing out that no more than 5,000 Argentine Jews are considering such a move.

The conflict between Jewish organizations supporting Israel and those who see the needs of the Diaspora as their first priority was most strongly felt among American Jews in the struggle to save Soviet Jewry. That division, and similar episodes in Jewish philanthropy relating to the Jews of Ethiopia, Iran, Iraq, North



Africa, Eastern Europe and even to the survivors of the Holocaust, is a major theme running through Tom Shachtman's new book, *I Seek My Brethren: Ralph Goldman and the Joint*.

The "joint" is the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. Ralph Goldman was its director from 1975 to 1988, although he worked for the Joint, and other Jewish public bodies in Israel, Europe and the United States before that time and continues to advise on its policies today. (For some years during this period, its president was Sylvia Hassenfeld, of Rhode Island.)

The Joint never had a clearly defined agenda, other than to assist Jews in trouble. In the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe it was involved in trying to gain the release of Jews whether they intended to live in Israel or in Diaspora countries. At the same time it provided funds to enable Jewish communities to survive whether or not people intended to emigrate.

In Ethiopia, all of the movement was toward Israel. In post-war Europe the Joint unofficially assisted the "illegal immigration" to Palestine, but also kept body and soul together for Jews in the displaced persons camps or trying to rebuild their lives in Eastern Europe.

The Joint, funded largely by North American Jewry through its federations, was responsible for the saving of many thousands of lives and the preservation of Jewish life in countries where it had almost been eliminated by Nazi Germany.

Goldman, with a degree in social work, had the patience and diplomatic skills to work not only with Israeli politicians but also with East European and Soviet leaders who had little reason to accede to his demands other than to profit from the departure of Jews. In Romania and Ethiopia, he bought Jews from the authorities by the head, so many dollars per Jew.

Much of Shachtman's book concerns the diplomatic maneuvering that Goldman conducted, which, according to what we read in these pages, was an almost unbroken string of triumphs. Undoubtedly there was more to the picture than that; American aspects of the Soviet refusenik issue, which divided American Jewry into "activists" and those who stood by, receives little attention, although its effects on the American Jewish community were profound.

Goldman, for all that he

See SAGA page 29

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2002 ANNUAL MEETING

The Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island
401 Elm Grove Avenue ~ Providence, RI 02906

Wednesday, May 15, 2002

4 Sivan 5762
7:00 p.m.

- Installation of Officers and Board –
Richard Mittleman, President-Elect
- Thank you to outgoing President, Bruce A. Leach
- Recognition of Volunteers

Rose Mossberg Malkin, Annual Meeting Chair



Community service awards go to Emanuel, Lederberg

JFRI annual meeting May 13

Stacy Emanuel and Michele Lederberg, two Jewish community leaders, will be honored at the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island's annual meeting May 13 for their accomplishments and community service.

The Robert A. and Marcia S. Riesman Leadership Development Award, given as a "stimulus to inspire and encourage emerging JFRI leadership," will go to Emanuel. Described as "a dedicated volunteer" and "enthusiastic about her commitment," she has been a Women's Alliance vice president for three years - two years as the Young Women's vice president and one as vice president of Leadership Development.

She is also an active member of the Planning and Allocations Committee, having chaired both the Hillels and the Jewish Family Service/JERI Review Committees.

Emanuel is a graduate of the Federation's LEADERS program and has traveled to Israel twice on missions.

As a recipient of the Riesman Award, Emanuel will attend the General Assembly of the United Jewish Communities in Philadelphia in November.

Lederberg, legal counsel for Blue Cross, is to receive the Merrill L. Hassenfeld Award for Community Service. The purpose of this award is to "recognize and honor individuals



Stacy Emanuel

who have performed community service by active participation in one of the major beneficiary agencies of the JFRI."

Her nominator described her as one who "finds time to take additional tasks" and as an individual who "stands out as a young leader."

Lederberg has been involved in leadership positions at Jewish Family Service for seven years. She is currently a first vice president and has also served as treasurer, chair of the Personnel Committee, and chair of the Family of the Year Committee. Lederberg has a number of other community involvements including the JFRI Professional Advisory Committee and the JCC Parents' Association.

The Hassenfeld Award will fund a UJC Mission to Israel for Lederberg.

The Jewish Federation of Rhode Island recently updated its website, www.jfri.org, to provide community members with a way to access timely information about the needs in Israel.

Working with SubsidyMedia, the Federation has created a new site that offers first-person perspectives and educational information about life in Israel today—and explains what we can do in support of Israel.

On the website's "We Stand with Israel" pages, community members can read about why Israel requires special funds, where the dollars raised in the emergency campaign will be going, and upcoming Israel solidarity events in the community. Also included are educational articles and suggestions on individual actions that can be taken to support Israel.

The site contains a place

for individuals to register for e-mail updates about the crisis in Israel, and allows donors to give to the Israel Emergency Campaign on-line.

Future additions are also planned, including an on-line version of the *Jewish Voice & Herald*.

For more information about the website, call Sara Ende, director of planning and allocations, at 421-4111, ext. 170.

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May 19-24, 2002



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THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF RHODE ISLAND 401-421-4111 EXT. 158

What is the Dor L' Dor Society?

Last spring, the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island created a society and named it Dor L' Dor - Generation to Generation. The Dor L' Dor Society recognizes and honors donors who make a gift to the next generation. Like the Talmudic sage who planted a tree that would bear fruit after he was gone, these donors have given a gift which will benefit the Jewish community after they are no longer with us.

There are many ways to make such a long lasting gift to the community: by bequest in a will or trust, through the creation of a life income plan, or through beneficiary designation in life insurance or a retirement plan.

The members of the Dor L' Dor Society are people of vision who recognize their debt to the past, their obligation to the present and their power to make a difference in the future. Please join us as a Charter Member of the Dor L' Dor Society.



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of the Jewish Federation
of Rhode Island

To join or for more information
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Bryant showcases the travails, triumphs of Jackie Robinson

Hank Greenberg film also set

The Urban League of Rhode Island and the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island have combined to give Rhode Island a look at the touring multimedia exhibit, "How Jackie Robinson Changed America," which is open at Bryant College in Smithfield through June 2.

The free exhibit highlights

the life and career of baseball great Jackie Robinson, featuring both his athletic triumphs as the player who integrated major league baseball, and his many civic accomplishments.

The exhibit was created by the Simon Wiesenthal Center Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles. It features visuals from the Brooklyn and Los Angeles Dodgers, the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N. Y., and the Jackie Robinson Foundation, as well as film clips from Robinson's baseball career and interviews with former teammates.

Schools across the state, along with youth clubs, baseball leagues, and church and synagogue youth groups, have been invited to view the exhibit (groups may schedule tours by calling Aimee Gannon at 421-4111).

In conjunction with the

exhibit, the film, "The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg," will be shown to the public free at Janikies Auditorium at Bryant at 7 p.m. May 23.

A Hall-of-Famer and twice the American League's Most Valuable Player, Greenberg — considered baseball's first Jewish superstar — played for the Detroit Tigers in the 1930's and '40's. He hit 58 home runs in 1938, two shy of Babe Ruth's record. Four years earlier, he won praise for refusing to play on Yom Kippur.

Playing in Detroit when it was known for open and virulent anti-Semitism, Greenberg was often the object of ethnic slurs — once, pork chops were hurled at the stands.

More information about the film or exhibit, including driving directions, can be obtained by calling Rebekah Raz at 421-4111.

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In Argentina, proud lives tumble into desperation

By Roberta Holland

On April 8, 150 national Jewish leaders arrived in Argentina on a fact-finding mission to witness the severe effects the financial collapse is having on the country's Jewish community.

There are 200,000 Jews in Argentina, mostly in Buenos Aires, which contains the sixth largest Jewish community in the world. Historically they have been overwhelmingly members of the upper to middle class — prosperous, educated, comfortable and organized with one of the best Jewish education systems in the Diaspora.

Since a series of governmental and financial failures they have been terribly affected, as has the general population, by 35 percent unemployment and limited access to their savings, resulting in inability to buy clothes, food and medicine.

More than 20,000 Jews have slipped into poverty. So far over 1,400 Jews have made aliya this year. The Jewish agency for Israel (JAFI) expects 5,000 people to come in 2002 and that may be a conservative estimate.

As we were leaving, a JAFI agent handed each

person an airline ticket, each child a toy and each family a mezuzah for their new doorstep. If you ever wondered what your Federation campaign contribution went for, here it was in action.

Even if thousands of Argentinean Jews left for Israel, there would still be a Jewish community left in Argentina that is larger than most of our communities in the U.S., and they are desperately in need of our help.

A common denominator of their fears is that their children will not get an education, and their anxiety is well grounded — the schools are desperate. After 66 years of great accomplishments they will have to close their doors in three months if they don't get an immediate infusion of money for scholarships and teachers. Parents can't afford the tuition for Jewish day schools, either, and these are about to fail, as well.

I was sad to leave behind such a desperate community of Jews. But I left proud to be a member of this special and magnificent community we all belong to — the Jewish people.

Roberta Holland, is a former Women's Division president and campaign chair at the Jewish Federation of RI

An exciting, multi-media exhibit comes to Rhode Island



Make plans now to visit this multi-media exhibit designed to promote:

- Education about American social history, using Jackie Robinson's achievements on and off the field.
- Critical thinking about the nature and importance of heroes and allies in American society, and such values as courage, perseverance and faith.
- Appreciation of diversity and tolerance; teacher-parent partnerships, and family involvement in children's learning.

When: May 5 — June 2, 2002

Where: Bryant College • Smithfield, RI

Times: By appointment (and other times to be announced)

Admission: FREE

This exciting, learning experience will include:

- First-person account from Robinson, his wife, teammates, journalists...even his foes.
- The exhibit was created by the Simon Wiesenthal Center Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles, and is being sponsored in RI by the Urban League and the Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of RI, with the support of other organizations.
- Trained docents will guide students through the exhibit.
- Curriculum guide will be available in early spring.
- Middle and high-school students are invited to participate in an essay contest on topics related to civil rights, diversity, and heroism. Winners will receive a special award and will have their work published in the Providence Journal.

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Ask the experts

An unbeatable combination in guarding your estate

By Larry Berren

What is a power of attorney, and why should you want one?

Let's start with some definitions. A non-durable power of attorney is a document in which you appoint someone as your agent to perform certain specified acts for you. The power remains valid so long as you are alive and capable of revoking it. You lose the ability to revoke the power when you become incompetent. If that happens, the power becomes immediately invalid, and your agent can no longer act for you.

A durable power of attorney is the same as a non-durable power of attorney, except that the power is "durable," i.e., it lasts. The power remains valid even though you are incapable of revoking it. In other words, even though you are incompetent, your agent can still act for you.

Which one would you rather have? Until 1983 there wasn't a choice in Rhode Island — when you asked for a power of attorney, you got a non-durable one. Since then, however, this state has recognized durable powers, and the insertion of one short sentence will transform an otherwise non-durable power into a durable power.

But the law is strict; without the magic words, you're out of luck if incompetency strikes. How do you know if yours is a durable power? Look for language like this: "This power of attorney shall not be affected by the incompetency of the donor."

A broad durable power of attorney, customized to your needs, can be invaluable. Your agent can do the very things you would do for yourself if only you were competent. He can apply for governmental benefits. He can make gifts to save estate taxes. He can transfer property to a Medicaid trust to preserve those assets for your family in the event of a long-term illness. He can get the credit card company to pay attention when he tells them your card has been stolen.

But is a durable power of attorney, by itself, enough?

Maybe not. First of all, your agent is authorized *but not required* to act for you. So, if the agent doesn't get around to paying your mortgage and the bank is about to foreclose on your house, there's nothing you or your heirs can do to make the agent write a check. To take control of things, someone in your family will have to go to probate court and have a guardian appointed.

And then there are the banks. Often when presented with a power of attorney — durable or otherwise — a banker will refuse to honor it. The banker is worried about releasing the funds only to be sued later by an unhappy family member. He would be much more comfortable with a probate court order appointing a guardian to make the withdrawal.

So, with only a durable power of attorney your family might be faced with having to petition the probate court for the appointment of a conservator or guardian. A conservator is a person appointed by the court to be legally responsible for the handling of your financial affairs. This person reports back to the court on a regular basis and must seek prior permission for any action that is out of the ordinary.

A guardian is a person appointed by the court to be legally responsible for the care of your physical well-being. In common usage, the terms

"guardian" and "conservator" are often used interchangeably.

Is there a better way?

Yes. If you set up a revocable living trust, then the trustee you've selected to help out in the event of incapacity has both the authority and the obligation to manage your affairs and to use your property for your benefit. There is no duty known to the law that is higher than the duty owed by a trustee to a beneficiary.

A trustee answers to the beneficiaries. A guardian or conservator answers to the probate court. The agent you name in a power of attorney answers to no one. A living trust trustee doesn't need to curry favor with the banker or get his permission to withdraw funds. A trustee can act, and act quickly, and all without probate court supervision.

In summary, a durable power of attorney is a must for every estate plan, but its place is on the sidelines, not the front lines. Out front you want a revocable living trust. In combination, the two are unbeatable.

Larry Berren, a Providence native, is co-chair of the Professional Advisory Council of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island. He has been advising and representing families and business owners in estate, business, retirement, tax and charitable planning for over 20 years. He is licensed to practice in Rhode Island, and is the author of numerous books.

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Women's Alliance Annual Meeting

The installation of Women's Alliance Officers and Board Members will take place at the 57th Annual Meeting of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.

Monday, May 13, 2002

7:00 p.m.

All community members are encouraged to attend.

Due to the current crises in Israel and the need for our community to focus our resources on the "We Stand With Israel" Emergency Campaign, the Women's Alliance Executive Committee and Campaign Cabinet, in a joint meeting, agreed not to hold a separate Women's Alliance Annual Meeting this year as originally scheduled for May 30.

For more information, questions, comments or concerns, please call Sylvia Berman-Peck at 421-4111, ext. 171 or E-mail at sberman-peck@jfri.org

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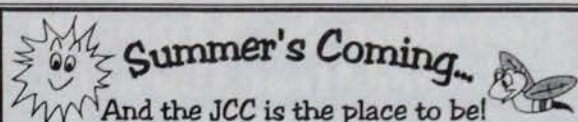
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Agency seeks candidates for 'Family of Year'

Jewish Family Service is seeking statewide nominations for its 2002 Family of the Year Award. Members of the community are invited to submit a profile of a family that exemplifies the best in family life.

The agency requests that you consider the following questions in making a nomination: What strengths and values do we admire in family life? Is there a family that typifies these values? What are the everyday qualities that provide the basis for a strong family unit?

The agency defines a family as comprising more than one person. At least one member of the family must be Jewish. An individual may nominate only one family.

Nomination forms can be requested from Jewish Family Service by calling 331-1244; forms will also be available at temples. Awards will be announced at the Jewish Family Service annual meeting Oct. 10. Entries must be mailed or brought to Jewish Family Service, 229 Waterman St., Providence, 02906, by midnight May 31. For additional information, call Jewish Family Service at 331-1244.

Relatives of the staff of Jewish Family Service, and relatives of the Family of the Year Committee, are not eligible.



A GOLDEN GIFT: The Jewish Community Center's Golden Ages Club recently made a donation to the JCC as well as to the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island. Pictured above, from left, are JCC executive director Rick Nelson, assistant executive director Linda Singer-Berk and Tanya Plungyn, club president.

JCC to honor leaders, elect new officers

The Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island invites the public to attend its 77th annual meeting Wednesday, May 15, at 7 p.m. in the social hall. Chaired by Rose Mossberg Malkin, the meeting will highlight the past year's achievements and will honor program volunteers. A special tribute will be made to Bruce Leach, outgoing president.

The election of officers and board members for the coming year will also be held.

The candidates are: president, Richard Mittleman; first vice president, Rose Mossberg Malkin; vice presidents, Douglas Emanuel, Cindy Feinstein, Jenny Klein and Bertram Lederer; treasurer, Jeffrey Vogel; secretary, Harley Frank; and associate secretary, Deborah Rosenfeld.

Proposed as directors for three-year terms are Gussie Baxt, Pamela Nelson Erskine, Barbara Harris, Carl Lovett, Robert Mann, Bonnie Steinberg, David Wisen and Marlene Fishman Wolpert.

Presidential appointees will be Arthur Jenkins and Ivy Marwil.

Other features of the meeting will be a special thank you to outgoing officers and directors. Refreshments will be served. For further information, call 861-8800.



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-Jane Sprague, *The Jewish Voice of RI*, June 2001

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Springing into Judaism at Early Childhood center

By Sue Conner

Spring has been a time of celebration and a time to develop lasting memories for the children in the Early Childhood Program at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island. The sights, sounds, smiles, tastes and feel of the Jewish culture have been abundant in every classroom.

A cornerstone of Jewish faith – Passover – provided an opportunity for the children to learn the meaning and traditions of the holiday.

Classrooms provided enriching experiences through literature, art and music. A number of special events enhanced classroom activities. Children participated in the Chabad Matzah Factory, in which they made matzah. A seder, led by Rabbi Alvan Kaunfer, reinforced the story of Exodus; the children themselves prepared food for the meal.

As part of a grant from the Rhode Island Council on the Arts, storyteller Mark Binder

and puppeteer Marc Kohler performed, reinforcing the learning experience.

Yom Ha'atzma'ut has also brought a time of celebration and learning to the children. During the week children celebrated Israel Independence Day by making birthday cakes for Israel, Israeli flags and food, including pita sandwiches, hummus and falafel.

Children have been learning what life in Israel is like. One of the classes took an imaginary airplane trip to Israel. A highlight of the celebration was a playground parade in which the children marched with instruments, carrying their Jewish flags and singing *Hatikva*.

For more information about the Early Childhood Program call Director Sue Connor at 861-8800, ext. 142.



MAYOR JAMES E. DOYLE, of Pawtucket, presented his annual proclamation to the Rhode Island Holocaust Memorial Museum in remembrance of Yom Hashoah on April 9. He stands with Marla Dansky, left, executive director of the museum, and Selma Stanzler, museum president.

Teens can still register for August Maccabi Games

Join the Jewish Community Center's delegation in representing Rhode Island at this summer's Maccabi Games in Springfield, Mass.

The games will be held Aug. 18-23 for Jewish teens ages 13-16. The Olympic-style format will include competition in team and individual sports, including basketball, volleyball and soccer for boys and girls, as well as swimming, golf, tennis, bowling and table tennis.

This is an opportunity for teens to compete with others from around the world. Home hospitality is part of the experience.

Call Alex Turek at 861-8800, ext.149, for more information.



JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER Kidspace and Pre-Teen Connection participants Aaron Lentz, Jessica Spindell, Freta Kroessler and Allison Robbio (left to right) were among those who helped with the mitzvah of donating chametz (food that is not kosher for Passover) to Camp Street Ministries.

Photo by JCCRI.

Post-Holocaust art at Gallery 401

Gallery 401 presents the work of Bob Barancik, an award winning graphic artist, video producer and Holocaust educator, through May 31.

Barancik, of Ardmore, Pa., earned a BFA from Rhode Island School of Design and an MFA in Art Education from Stanford University. His work with schools, providing his "Art Not Hate" program, has won numerous awards.

For more information, call Sue Suls at 861-8800, ext. 108.

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From the Bureau library

The scoop on Shavuot

By Judy Greenblatt

Shavuot, the least well known of the pilgrimage festivals, is widely ignored in the publishing world; school is generally over, so publishers feel they have lost a prime market.

Fortunately, Barbara Diamond Goldin overcame this reluctance, and Harcourt agreed to publish *A Mountain of Blintzes*. A delightful story set in the Catskills, it tells of a poor family that works together to earn enough money to celebrate Shavuot.

Well, they almost work together. That is, the parents have a plan, the children have a plan, and you can guess which plan succeeds. In the process, we learn why and how Shavuot is celebrated.

The target audience includes pre-schoolers to third

graders, but unless you're very careful, you'll enjoy it too. The call number in the Bureau of Jewish Education Library is 243.3 GOL.

Another book appropriate for Shavuot is *Ten Good Rules*, by Susan Remick Topek, published by Kar-Ben Copies. Each of the Commandments is summarized in a brief sentence, and negative Commandments are re-phrased in positive language for easier comprehension by children. Pastel illustrations make this book very attractive. The call number is 243.3.

Adults who want more information for themselves and their families can look at *Celebration: the book of Jewish festivals*, edited by Naomi Black and published by Dutton. The chapter on Shavuot includes gorgeous photographs, history,

customs and legends, an adaptation of the story of Ruth, music, recipes, and a craft project. You'll find it at 240 B.

Those who are web-minded can check <http://www.jewish.com/holidays/shavuot.shtml>, a site that provides basic information with links to different aspects of the holiday. Articles are all attributed, and the name of each cookbook is given with recipes. There are links to Shavuot and its midrashim, receiving the Ten Commandments, Ask a Rabbi (denomination listed), recipes, and more. You can also access the Jerusalem Post and the Jewish Telegraph Agency through this site.

Judy Greenblatt is librarian at the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island.



Getting a better look at Passover

A Highland Court resident participates in a model seder led by Jewish Senior's Agency Eldercare of Rhode Island volunteers and staff. Two hundred large-print Passover Haggadahs were donated by the Touro Fraternal Association, which were used in 17 model seders around the state.

Photo by JSA

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Bringing up (grand) baby

Giggles, hopscotch kept them young

By Avis Gunther-Rosenberg

Jim Shocket will be 88 years old in July. His wife, Sylvia, is 85. Like many seniors, they are enjoying the leisure of retired life – playing bingo in the temple's social hall, visiting with friends at the Jewish Family Service mealsite at Temple Torat Yisrael, taking classes in art and writing.

But unlike their peers, the Shockets, of Cranston, spent many of their latter years raising a youngster – their granddaughter, Shana Kulik, now 21.

Shana came to live with the Shockets in 1985, when she was 4 and they were well past retirement age. She'd been living with her mother in Key West,



JIM AND SYLVIA SHOCKET with granddaughter Shana Kulik, at her Bat Mitzvah 8 years ago.

Fla., but her mother was too ill to care for her. The plan was for her to live with her aunt,

the Shockets' youngest daughter, Sue Ann.

The plans changed.

"We were only supposed to have her until our youngest daughter finished her paper for her Ph. D.," says Sylvia, a petite redhead with a twinkle in her blue eyes. "But, once we had her, we wouldn't give her back."

Raising a child wasn't what the Shockets had planned for their golden years. In their late 60s, they found themselves on the playground with parents half or even a third their age. Despite health issues, the Shockets did not slow down.

"I jumped ropes; I climbed snow banks; I played hopscotch," Sylvia recalls of those early years with Shana. "We giggled a lot."

The Shockets are not alone.

"As I walk along Broad Street in the morning, I see all these grandparents walking with the little ones," Sylvia says.

A national survey by the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), completed two years ago, concludes that a surprising 11 percent of grandparents are caregivers for their grandchildren. Eight percent provide daycare on a regular basis while their children work, and three percent say they are raising a grandchild.

Of grandparents who are not caregivers, 44 percent see their grandchildren at least

See HOPSCOTCH, page 28

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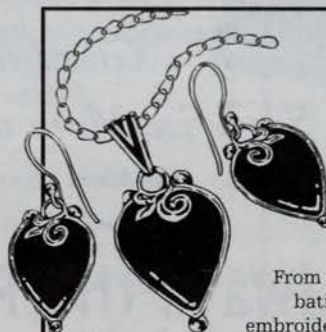
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The joys of older motherhood Rolling Stones inspire mom to gather no moss at age 54

By Jane Ulman

"You're the oldest of all my friends' moms," my 11-year-old son, Danny, tells me.

As if I don't know this — or don't have a card for senior discounts to prove it.

A year and a half ago, I was a trendsetter. The Wall Street Journal reported that many women — women who already had children or even adolescents — were short-circuiting a potential midlife crisis by giving birth to another child.

"Nationwide," the paper stated, "the number of women between the ages of 40 and 44 giving birth again is up 23 percent since 1995."

But now, according to Time magazine, I'm an aberration. An article states that fertility begins to decline at age 27 (along with brain cells, which expire at the rate of 50,000 per day).

The magazine reports, with statistics from the Centers for Disease Control, that by age 42, 90 percent of a woman's eggs are chromosomally abnormal. As a result, one in five women age 40 to 44 is currently childless, only a small percentage by design.

Some of us older moms had no choice. I, for instance, didn't meet my husband until I was 34, and I was pushing 43 when my fourth son was born.

In retrospect, those early years were the easy ones.

For here I am at age 54, where biologically and psychologically I should be at that peaceful stage of life with near-grown children. You know, those few years between children and grandchildren when you can safely put knick-knacks on the coffee table.

Instead, I am working "24-7-365," as my son Jeremy says — as drill sergeant, chauffeur, caretaker, social secretary and nonstop negotiator for boys now 11, 13, 15 and 18.

"You're a lot younger than

Sarah," my husband, Larry, says, referring to the first Jewish mother and matriarch. "She had Isaac at age 90."

"Yes, and what was her reaction?" I answer. "She laughed — because she knew, even 3,716 years ago, that giving birth as an older woman is antithetical to nature, gravity and sanity."

There's no correct response to this childbirth conundrum.

Yes, the Bible, in Ecclesiastes 11:6, exhorts us to "Sow your seed in the morning and don't hold back your hand in the evening." Talmudic rabbis have interpreted this to mean that we should bear children when we're young and be productive in other ways later.

Yes, easy for him, the undoubtedly male author of Ecclesiastes, to say. I'm sure he never had to drive a carpool or repeatedly tell his children not to slurp their sodas, pummel their brothers, throw balls in

the house or pierce their ears.

But life is full of conflicts and compromises, risks and restrictions. And not all women have control over when, and if, they can give birth.

As the Rolling Stones sing, "You can't always get what you want."

But, in truth, whether I'm a trendsetter or an aberration, I take pride in knowing that I can still muster the enthusiasm to drive to Century City.

I take pride in knowing that I, along with my husband, have raised four solid citizens and four committed Jews.

And I take pride in being the oldest mom in Danny's fifth-grade class.

Because, as the Rolling Stones continue, "If you try sometimes, you just might find, you get what you need."

Jane Ulman lives in Encino, Calif.

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Rhode Island makes Israel connection

Continued from page 1

ing Israel for their suffering," said Gal Ben-Ami, an Israeli working in the Jewish community. "What has [Arafat] done to better the Palestinian people? Has he built schools, roads or hospitals? No, he has taught a generation of children to attack [the] innocent."

Ben-Ami comes from the town of Afula, Rhode Island's sister city in Israel that has suffered from three fatal bombings in the last seven months.

"At this moment as I speak," he said, "my friends in Israel are at the front lines trying to keep terrorists from entering the borders of our country. These terrorists do not distinguish between children, mothers, fathers or grandparents."

Itzhak Levanon, Israel's consul general to New England, said, "Terrorism has been a fact of Israeli life even before the establishment of the state and before the so-called 'occupation.'"

"Israel wants peace... the whole world wants peace... but peace can only happen when terrorism ends. Israel supports the creation of a peaceful state — not a terrorist state."

State Rep. David Cicilline remarked, "There is no way to

justify the murder of people attending a bar-mitzvah or attending a Passover seder... Anyone who tries to turn murderers into martyrs has blood on his hands, as well."

The crowd cheered speakers calling for support of Israel's actions, and broke into chants of *Ami Yisrael Chai* (The nation of Israel lives.)

The rally, part of the Federation's Emergency Israel Campaign, included tables where Israel supporters could sign letters to the President and pick up biographies and pictures of people slain in terrorist attacks.

Individual members of the crowd were bursting with opinions. Anne Schwartz, of Providence, said she was skeptical about peace agreements with the Palestinian Authority.

"Israel tried democracy and it didn't work," she said. "I believe Israel has a right to go after these murderous terrorists before [they] have access to Israeli holy places."

The rally was only the tip of an Israel-oriented focus locally in recent weeks. Members of the Israeli community and others poured out their grief on Yom Hazikaron April 16, the day of remembrance for those who have fallen in Israel's defense. A crowd of more than 85 crammed



Gal Ben-Ami, left, and his sister, Orly, sport Israeli flags at an Israel rally at the State House in downtown Providence.

Photo by Jonathan Rubin

into a small room in the Jewish Community Center, singing mournful songs in Hebrew about parents and children who have been lost. Many broke quietly into tears during the service.

Tomer Hazay, who played piano and helped organize the event, said that the songs are meant to comfort those left behind, but also to ask for peace. He described the deep emotions that those who have lost friends and family feel on this day.

"If you don't feel touched... you didn't get this day," he said.

Mixed feelings and emotions about the Mid-East crisis were aired at Temple Emanu-El that same day, as David Ellison led a discussion as part of the synagogue's adult education program. Ellison, who lives in Providence, handed out a CNN timeline of terrorist attacks against Israelis over the years, noting that there were 60 terrorist attacks even prior to this year's escalation.

Ellison said he was disturbed by the institutionalized hate being taught to Palestinian children, and said that in many places "Arab education is reminiscent of Nazi education."

"We need to get together and talk about Israel," he said. "This is the only way to get the

message out into the community."

A week earlier, many Rhode Island Jews drove all night to attend a massive Israel rally in Washington that attracted more than 100,000 people from all corners of the country.

Barbara Jablow, of Providence said that whenever the bus pulled over to a rest stop, "it was like you were in Israel. There were kosher lunch boxes and kippot everywhere."

The perception that remains with her most vividly, she said, is that even in this difficult time, Jewish support for Israel is extremely vocal.

"People do care," she said. "This community is not apathetic."

The rally included about 30 students from Brown / RISD Hillel, as well. Aaron Katchen, Hillel's director of Jewish campus life, said, "Everyone who went believed in Israel and wanted a strong state of Israel."

Katchen, explaining that even though he has reservations about some Israeli policies and is "definitely from the peace camp," said, "I wanted to stand with 100,000 people who were standing with Israel... it was an amazing experience, and the politics were secondary."



Eitan Hersh, center, and his brother Ami, stand in front of the United States Capitol at an Israel rally on April 21.

Photo by Joshua Karlin



Two students mourn the loss of Israeli soldiers during the Yom Hazikaron ceremony at the Jewish Community Center

Photo by Jonathan Rubin

Her brushes with the Divine color artist's palette

Gloria Merchant seeks muse in Rhode Island's 'sacred places'

By Gerry Goldstein

Gloria Merchant stood before the Gates of Righteousness, awestruck by her proximity to "a giant, looming, mystical Presence."

Her location, though, was hardly celestial — the corner of Broad and Glenham Streets in shopworn South Providence.

Sketchpad in hand, the artist looked up at Temple Shaare Zedek (the name means Gates of Righteousness) and was transfixed by an earthly symbol that "sent a chill through me" — the iron security gate that guards the 91-year-old synagogue.

She thought: Such an imposing task, living a life that will merit us a place with the Divine — and how narrow the passageway to get there.

Months later, her painting of Shaare Zedek was complete, a formidable view of the structure in unsettling reds and purples, that gate prominent in the foreground.

She says the work is not meant to be fearsome, but to be humbling in the face of "the awesome power of the Divine — to show that we are a part of something so much greater than ourselves."

The oil on canvas is typical of Merchant's work — her paintings are on display through May 17 at the Providence Art Club — an exaggeration of form and color that expresses her reactions to yet another "sacred place."

Sacred places — she likes those that are pre-1950s — are her stock-in-trade, with most of her subjects the churches and synagogues (plus a mosque) around Rhode Island.

Each strikes her differently,



SCITUATE'S Gloria Merchant and pal Rosie pose with some her paintings, from left, Congregation Shaare Zedek in Providence, Temple Beth El in Fall River, and Temple Emanu-El in Providence. Above her and below, left, is Touro Synagogue in Newport and below, right, is the Beth Jacob Community Center in Plymouth, Mass.

Photos by William K. Daby

she says, usually providing a single insight into the myriad facets of the spiritual.

For instance, while her image of Shaare Zedek focuses on standing in awe of God, her rendering of 76-year-old Temple Emanuel-El, on Providence's East Side, projects a softer image, in hues of gold.

"It's more of a *l'chaim* kind of feeling," she says. "A glowing feeling of the Divine being manifest on earth."

Maybe you wouldn't expect a *l'chaim* kind of feeling in an artist who grew up Roman Catholic, even though she now says that "if the bishop and I sat

down and talked about religion he would shake his head."

While she's not a churchgoer, she does believe in the Divinity, noting that "I couldn't possibly paint as passionately and poignantly as I do if I didn't. It would all be hollow to me."

Merchant, 56, says that spirituality shows up for her unannounced as she reconnoiters her subject, viewing it from every angle and making sketches and photos.

And it doesn't matter, she says, whether she's painting the Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul in Providence or the famed Touro Synagogue in Newport.

At Touro, completed in 1763, an antique painting of the stone tablets struck her eye; in her own painting, she has moved them outside, letting them frame the synagogue in front of them. The symbolism: Touro faces east toward the Holy Land, where the Commandments were given.

Occasionally, Merchant can approach the Dali-esque, as with her rendering of the Beth Jacob Community Center in Plymouth, Mass., a one-time church.

In the sky over the structure she painted not the sun, but a road sign indicating two-way traffic.

"It shows that it's a round-

her paintings only on the back, putting just her initials in small letters on the front.

Merchant, who grew up in Cranston and Warwick, lives in Scituate with her husband, Jack Merchant, a design engineer.

After earning a degree in art history at Simmons College, she received a master's degree in art education from New York University.

She is exhibiting some 35 paintings in the current show, four or five of them of synagogues. As examples of her pricing, she says the Temple Emanu-El and Shaare Zedek works are \$750 each.

Spirituality, says Gloria Merchant, can be an immense force in life, and she's grateful for the gift she has in being able capture it on canvas.

An artist's view of it: "It's believing that there's more going on out there than meets the eye, and that all of us will be tapped on the shoulder by it and reminded that the material world is not all there is."

The current exhibit, also featuring works by Elizabeth F. Curtin, is in the Providence Art Club's Maxwell Mays Gallery, 11 Thomas St., Providence. Hours are 10 to 4 Monday-Friday and 2-4 Saturday and Sunday. The gallery is also open from 5-9 Thursday, May 16. Admission is free.



A new look at R. I. Judaism

From page 1

containing at least one Jewish person will reveal Rhode Island's Jewish population within an error margin of 3.5 percent.

The 1987 survey estimated the state's Jewish population at 17,000, occupying slightly more than 7,200 households. That survey also established that Rhode Island's Jewish population was steadily declining.

In 1963, for example, more than 19,000 Jews were estimated to be living in the Greater Providence area, alone. (Outlying districts weren't surveyed.)

Noting that up-to-date information about the community is vital to understanding what kinds of services it needs, the Federation named a committee to plan a new survey, headed by Albert Silverstein, of Pawtucket, a psychology professor at the University of Rhode Island and a member of Temple Emanuel.

Consultant to the project is Anna F. Prager, of South Kingstown, director of the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority. Long active in the South County Jewish community and a former Federation board member, she is a member of the Town Council, the former municipal planner in South Kingstown, and was a state senior policy analyst in the

DiPrete Administration, focusing on the environment.

Survey information will be anonymous, said Sheskin, so much so that even the interviewers will not know the names

The 1987 survey reported that intermarriages were rising 'sharply, to a point where 38 percent of all marriages in 1980-87 involved a partner who was not born Jewish.'

and addresses of the people they call. None of the telephone numbers dialed will be made available to the Federation, he said.

The survey will use a technique called "random digit dialing," in which numbers are dialed at random within each telephone exchange.

Interviewers will survey households where respondents

indicate there is at least one person who was born or raised Jewish, or is currently Jewish.

Questions will span a wide range of issues geared to determine where today's Jews are living in Rhode Island, whether they are moving from some parts of the state to others, and to collect information on age, marital status, levels of religious commitment, membership in and support of Jewish organizations, social service needs, visits to Israel, anti-Semitism, the reading of Jewish publications, and levels of philanthropy.

Results will also indicate how many people are affiliated with the various branches of Judaism.

Both Sheskin and Prager said figures on intermarriage will be especially valuable, since the 1987 survey reported that intermarriages were rising "sharply, to a point where 38 percent of all marriages in 1980-87 involved a partner who was not born Jewish."

How to deal with that is a big question, says Prager, who notes that her own daughter, who married an Irish Catholic but will raise the children Jewish, could not find a rabbi who would perform the ceremony.

"That's a turnoff right there," she says, asserting that if the trend continues, so will an increasing need to make mixed couples welcome.

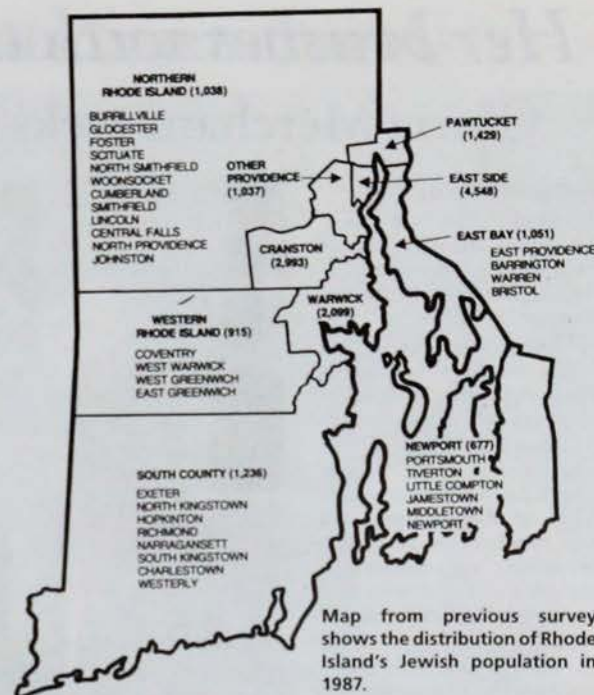
She said both of her children are intermarried and "I don't have any friends who don't have at least one kid who's intermarried."

She said the survey will also be of great value in determining the numbers of Jewish elderly, so the need for services can be addressed, and the number of children, so the need for Jewish education can be assessed accurately.

Sheskin, 51, sees the need for Jewish numbers as key, because if they diminish too sharply, "You start to fall below the threshold levels needed to run your institutions."

Even more important, he says, is the personal impact on individuals who ignore their Judaism, because "There's something missing from their lives."

Statistics gleaned from the survey, whose figures will be available next year, will help determine where efforts can best be made to keep the community vibrant, says Sheskin, because "as a whole, of most importance is the issue of Jewish continuity."



Map from previous survey shows the distribution of Rhode Island's Jewish population in 1987.

Reviewing the 1987 survey

From page 1

observe religious rituals regularly, except for lighting Hanukkah candles, fasting on Yom Kippur, and having a Passover seder.

— Jews were already beginning to migrate from their traditional center in Providence to outlying areas, especially to Western Rhode Island and South County; Greater Providence contained 37 percent of the state's Jews, compared to 57 percent in 1963.

— Twenty-three percent of the population was older than 65, compared to 10 percent in 1963.

— Nearly half had visited Israel and one in four had relatives living there.

— While half belonged to Jewish organizations, that number represented fewer than a quarter of the total from a century earlier.

— There were 92 men for every 100 women, compared to 98 men in 1963.

— Of American-born Jews living in Rhode Island, 45 percent were born in other states. This contrasted sharply with the state's general population, 75 percent of whom were born here.

— Levels of divorce were increasing, but were still lower than in the general population.

— The average size of a Jewish household was 2.4 people, compared to 2.7 percent in the total white population. The size of a Jewish household had decreased nearly one person since 1963.

— The traditional "nuclear

family" of father, mother and their children accounted for less than a third of Jewish households. Couples were most prevalent, and single-person households were nearly as prevalent as nuclear-family households.

— Reflecting the older character of the state's Jewish population, more than a third of all households contained at least one person age 65 or older, while only 9 percent contained children under 6. A total of 16 percent of the households contained children 6 to 17.

— Among Jews age 25-44, three of four had completed college and 45 percent had been to graduate school.

— Among Jewish women in that age group, 75 percent were working, compared to 25 percent in 1963.

— Thirty-eight percent of all marriages from 1980 to 1987 involved a partner who was not born Jewish.

— Asked directly what they would do if their child were considering marriage to a person not born Jewish, 70 percent said they would accept the marriage, 16 percent said they would discourage it, and 11 percent said they would strongly oppose it.

— Eighty-two percent reported receiving some Jewish education. More than half said they received less than six years of Jewish education, 25 percent received seven to nine years, and 20 percent, more than that. Half finished their Jewish education by age 13, and another third by 16.

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Community calendar

Mail your announcement, along with time, date and a telephone number, to: *Jewish Voice & Herald*, 130 Sessions St., Providence, 02906; fax it to 401-331-7961, or e-mail it to voiceherald@jfri.org.

May 11

Experimental Shabbat

Temple Habonim in Barrington will hold an experimental Shabbat morning service that emphasizes quiet melody, meditation and Torah discussion. 10 a.m. at the synagogue, 165 New Meadow Rd., Barrington. Open to the public. For more information call Jane Mizrahi at 245-0027 or e-mail janemiz@hotmail.com

Perspectives Pizza Challenge

All-you-can-eat pizza from local pizzerias. \$12 helps raise money for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of Rhode Island. Kosher pizza option available. 9 p.m. at the Culinary Archive and Museum on the Johnson and Wales campus, 315 Harborside Blvd. For more information call Jamie at 863-9357 or visit www.culinary.org.

May 12

Torah dedication

Congregation Ohawe Sholam, 671 East Ave., Pawtucket, invites the community to the completion of a Sefer Torah at 2 p.m. Contributions in the names of loved ones will be accepted. For more information call 722-3146.

May 13

JFRI annual meeting

The Jewish Federation of Rhode Island will hold its 57th annual meeting at 7 p.m. in the Jewish Community Center social hall. Special focus on Israel with guest speaker. Refreshments will be served. For more information call 421-4111.

May 14

Jazz speaker

The Brown Bag Club will hear a talk by Joe Parillo, direc-

tor of the jazz program at the University of Rhode Island, at 12:30 p.m. Cost is \$1 and includes refreshments. Register for the club's meal program and enjoy a kosher lunch at noon for a \$3 donation. For more information Call Sue Suls at 861-8800, ext. 108.

May 15

JCC annual meeting

The Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island invites the public attend its 77th annual meeting at 7 p.m. in the social hall. Refreshments will be served.

May 16

Torah learn-a-thon

Learn Torah all night before Shavuot. Study groups, discussions and more. Midnight to dawn at the Chabad House, 360 Hope St., Providence. Call 273-7238 for more information.

May 17 (Shavuot)

Ice Cream Party

The Chabad CHAI Center of West Bay will hold an ice cream party for children, a cheesecake and wine reception, and a reading of the Ten Commandments. 5:30-6:45 p.m. at 3871 Post Rd., Warwick. Call 884-7888 for more information.

May 18 (Shavuot)

Shavuot luncheon

Congregation Beth Shalom will hold a Shavuot luncheon immediately following services at 12:30 p.m. Turkey buffet and vegetarian choices will be available. Adults \$15, children \$7.50, children under 3 free, maximum charge per family \$55. Reservations due by May 13. For more information call 621-9393.

May 19

Israel educational forum

Everything you wanted to know about Israel and more! Topics include Israeli history and a history of the current conflict. Registration and refreshments at 8:30 a.m., program from 9 a.m. to noon. Call Rebekah at 421-4111 for more information. Sponsored by the Israel Task Force.

Jewish neighborhoods talk

Toby Rossner will give a lecture on Jewish communities from decades past and how tenements impacted Jewish life. 9:30 a.m. at Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave. Call 331-1616 for more information.

Founders' Day at Touro

The Society of Friends of Touro Synagogue will hold its annual Founders' Day at 2:30 p.m. in the synagogue. Open to the public, reservations required. Call 847-4794, ext. 14, to reserve seats. Because parking near the synagogue is limited, guests can park at the visitors' center on America's Cup Avenue and ride a trolley to the synagogue, at 85 Touro St.

Carwash fundraiser

Harry Elkin Midrasa will sponsor a car wash fundraiser in support of Eileen Rosenberg-Black, a local woman who is fighting leukemia. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Jewish Community Center parking lot, Providence.

Midrasa graduation

The Bureau of Jewish Education's Harry Elkin Midrasa will hold its graduation at Temple Am David in Warwick from 7 to 9 p.m. Call 331-0956 for more information.



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Kendyll Flanagan (left) and Jenny Travis

Tiles and smiles

WHEN YOU VIEW the 10,000 tiles that make up the Wall of Hope, which contains optimistic images in the wake of Sept. 11, you just might see a L'Chaim tile or two. Students at Temple Sinai Religious School included 27 Jewish values, from tzedakah (charity) to gemilut chassadim (deeds of loving kindness), on their tiles, and also inscribed their thoughts on hope for the future.

Photo by Temple Sinai

PHDS honors Halpers with Amudim Award

The Providence Hebrew Day School/New England Academy of Torah will be honoring Mr. and Mrs. Frank Halper with the Amudim Award of 2002. The Halpers will receive their Amudim Award, which recognizes their strong contributions both the school and the Jewish community, on June 16 at the Annual Amudim Dinner at PHDS.

Sara has been a Pre-Kinderergarten teacher at PHDS for a total of 10 years. She has also taught in the special needs program at the Bureau of Jewish Education. Always active in school and community activities, Sara is chair of the Faculty Liaison Committee, a member of N'shei Chesed and the New England Rabbinical College



Frank and Sara Halper

Ladies Auxiliary.

Sara has served as the PHDS Director of Development for two years and on the Chevra Kadisha for eight years. In 1988, she co-chaired the first Bais

Medrash Annual Melave Malka.

Frank is a partner in the CPA firm of Rosenstein, Halper and Maselli, LLP. He is a graduate of the Wharton School with masters in taxation from Bentley College. He also has a Personal Financial Specialist designation from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Frank is financial secretary and gabbai of Congregation Mishkon Tfiloh as well as current member of the PHDS Budget & Finance and Scholarship committees and chair of the Endowment Committee. He also sets time for daily Torah study.

Frank and Sara have three sons, all of whom attended PHDS through eighth grade and Ner Israel High School in Baltimore.

Lecture to give a view from city tenements

Decades ago, thriving Jewish communities existed throughout Providence, during a time when Jews owned numerous stores, selling everything from dry goods to delicatessen fare.

Jewish families lived in many of the city's triple-deckers, with breadwinners often working as pushcart peddlers until they were able to open stores.

On May 19 at Temple

Emanu-El, Toby Rossner, a local Jewish librarian, will give a lecture on triple-deckers and their unique role in the social and economic life of immigrant families as they adapted to their new culture.

The lecture will begin at 9:30 a.m. The temple is located at 99 Taft Ave., Providence. Call 331-1616 for further information.

'Cantors Five' to perform at Am Daavid

The nationally renowned Cantors Five will perform at Temple Am David in Warwick on June 16.

The Cantors Five are Ivan E. Perlman, cantor emeritus of Temple Emanu-El in Providence, and his four sons, Eli, Emanuel, Josh and Richard.

Richard is the spiritual leader and cantor at Temple Am David.

The Cantors Five performances at several congregations throughout the United States

include a sold-out concert at Temple Beth Kodesh in Boyton Beach, Fla. where Ivan Perlman is cantor.

The performance was followed by another sold-out concert at B'nai Israel in Rockville, Md. that featured cantorial, Yiddish, Hebrew and folk music and was videotaped by PBS for future broadcast.

Tickets to the 3 p.m. June 16 concert can be bought through the temple at 463-7944. Visa and Mastercard are accepted.

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'Cabaret' duo take energy from their Jewish heritage

International singers Rosalie Gerut and Betty Silberman will perform "Cabaret" at a concert presented by Senior Adult Group Educators (SAGE) on Tuesday, June 4. The concert, which begins at 12:30 p.m. at Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence, is open to all seniors. Admission is \$3 per person and refreshments will be provided.

Gerut and Silberman, who have performed with renowned musicians and entertainers, bring special intensity to honoring their Jewish heritage — both are daughters of Holocaust survivors.

Gerut, who began her musical career as a self-taught folk-singer, has performed leading roles in numerous musical theater productions throughout New England, and has been a guest vocalist with Boston's outstanding jazz musicians.

She has composed the music for theater, film and ballet productions including the Joseph Papp Public Theater's Songs of Paradise, the award-winning documentary Breaking the Silence, and an ABC Barbara Walters special on the Holocaust Museum.

Silberman has performed in Broadway shows with Joel Grey and Joe Papp and has sung at New York's Blue Note club, the Smithsonian and at the Newport and Montreal Jazz Festivals. Her repertoire includes French chansons, American pop, blues, jazz and swing, and ethnic selections.

SAGE is a collaboration of professionals who work with the elderly.



Betty Silberman

The SAGE program is funded by a grant from the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.

For tickets and information, call Jewish Family Service at 331-1244. Reservations are required.

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PHDS establishes Founders Hall of Fame

The Providence Hebrew Day School/New England Academy of Torah announces the establishment of a Founders Hall of Fame to pay tribute to those who dedicated themselves to PHDS/NEAT and Jewish education. The late Dr. Joseph Jay Fishbein will be named the first inductee into the PHDS/NEAT Founders Hall of Fame at the Amudim Awards banquet at the Providence Hebrew Day School on June 16.

A native of Providence, Dr. Fishbein worked unceasingly for the Providence Hebrew Day School for many decades, beginning when his four children, Shari, Keith, Janni, and Amy, were students. Dr. Fishbein was instrumental in spearheading the building fund drive for the construction of a spacious permanent home for the school on Elmgrove Avenue, the kindergarten addition and the unique Savoy Street Wing, in addition to establishing a major endowment fund.

A founder of the New England Academy of Torah High School Division, Dr. Fishbein was also past president of PHDS. He was honored by the national Society for Hebrew Day Schools with their national Amudim Award in 1971, and both Dr. and Mrs. Fishbein were the 1990 recipients of the PHDS Amudim Award.

In addition to his work on behalf of PHDS, Dr. Fishbein was a practicing dentist for over 47 years. He served as past co-chairman of the Federation's Dental Division and past co-chairman of the Dental and Medical Division of Israel Bonds. He was named as an honorary member of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island. Dr. Fishbein also co-chaired the Congregation Beth Shalom

Project Renewal and assumed leadership roles in a number of professional organizations including being a past president



Dr. Joseph Fishbein

of the Sigma Epsilon Dental Fraternity.

Miriam women to honor volunteer

The Miriam Hospital Women's Association will honor Estelle Robinson Klemer with its annual recognition award at the group's 105th annual meeting and luncheon, at the Ledge-mont Country Club May 22.

Klemer will be cited for "her years of superlative leadership and gentle guidance," as co-president for two terms and as a former Equipment Event chair.

Klemer began her volunteerism after retiring from the business world, starting at Temple Emanu-El, where she is now an honorary vice-president. At that time she also became chairman of the board of the former Jewish Home for the Aged and president of the Shalom housing complex in Warwick.

For reservations to the 11:30 a.m. event, call the association office at 793-2520.

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Resume to: Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, 130 Sessions Street, Providence, RI 02906.

Touro society sets honor for David Bazarsky

David G. Bazarsky is a volunteer for myriad groups in Newport County who over the past nine years has served as both president and co-president of Touro Synagogue.

"His devotion to the preservation and conservation of Touro Synagogue, America's oldest synagogue, has earned him the honor of being named the Distinguished Member of The Society of Friends of Touro Synagogue," said Andrew M. Teitz, society president.

The award will be presented at the society's annual Founders' Day event May 19 at 2:30 p.m., at the synagogue.

The speaker will be Melvin I. Urofsky, author of The Levy Family and Monticello, Saving Thomas Jefferson's House.

Bazarsky is a commercial real estate developer and an adjunct professor in the graduate program at Salve Regina University.

In addition to his service to Touro Synagogue and the society, Bazarsky is president of the board of St. Michael's

See TOURO SOCIETY, page 25

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Spring at Temple Sinai

CHILDREN AT TEMPLE SINAI in Cranston learned about frogs and other creatures recently in celebration of spring. From left are Troy Lovett, Jacob Meyerson, teacher Nancy Cordiero and Jessica Liner.

Touro society honors David Bazarsky

From page 24

Country Day School, and a board member of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island and of the Samuel Zilman Bazarsky Religious School at Temple Shalom in Middletown. He previously served on the board of Child and Family Services of Newport County.

The public is invited to Founders' Day and to the reception following. Reservations are required and can be made at 847-4794, ext. 14. Because parking near the synagogue is limited, guests may park at the Visitors' Center on America's Cup Avenue and ride a trolley to the synagogue, at 85 Touro St.

The Society of Friends of Touro Synagogue is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to preserve the national historic site, to manage the year-round tour program and to promote programming about religious freedom in America.

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Don't let aging rain on your picnic

The other day I looked in the mirror and discovered that in addition to being old I no longer looked young. When I tell people how old my husband is and then tell them how old I am, they invariably respond with "It's incredible—he looks so young—you'd never guess. Aha! You notice there is no mention of me looking younger than my actual age. Oh, they used to say it. And it may even have been true. But not anymore. I'm old and I look it.

Another thing that has happened is the tendency to compare my sister and me. Until And this business of meals. Fried foods are bad for you. Most desserts are fattening and produce indigestion in the elderly. Salty food plays havoc with your blood pressure. Take all these away and you are left with tasteless globs. And the globs can still cause weight gain, a no-no for most of us.

All my life I was a couch potato — exercise was never in my schedule. Now the doctors tell me I must exercise for the rest of my life to stay functional. It's boring and exhausting.



**Tema
Gouse**

Driving becomes more intimidating with each passing day and every few weeks I hear of another senior who has stopped driving at night. Boy, can that impact one's social life.

Hearing diminishes. Sight, even for the more fortunate, is not what it used to be. Our children know more about what's best for us than we do. Our peers quietly assess our deterioration.

But is it really all that bad? Let's look at the issues, one at a time. Appearance: A face covered with wrinkles can also

appear distinguished. And the gray hairs. Without exception my friends who have thrown away the bottle and "gone gray" are prettier than they ever were. Since we rarely don bikinis, it doesn't matter if body parts sag. And if my sister looks younger than I do, then the error is with the observer, not me.

If regaining vigor means regaining responsibilities, then I am against it. I paid my dues with child care, housecleaning, community service and a full-time job. Lack of energy can justify laziness. And I now have time to reminisce about the pleasures of my travels.

Unsatisfying sleep patterns are annoying but with fewer chores there is time for guiltless naps. As to the restricted menu, eat whatever gives you pleasure unless it is life-threatening. Taste is one of our most rewarding senses. And we deserve its pleasures. Limiting driving, exercising, and diminished sensory acuity are just issues to make peace with.

I never expected to live this long, so now I just delight in being here.

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Thursday, May 9 — 5:30 p.m.

Arthritis, Fibromyalgia, Chronic Fatigue

Wednesday, May 15 — Noon

Cancer, Polyps, Skin Lesions: Are Viruses Really At Play?

Thursday, May 16 — 5:30 p.m.

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Wednesday, May 22 — Noon

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Wednesday, May 22 — 5:30 p.m.

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A gift for Mother's Day and beyond

On Mother's Day, give her a Lifeline to peace of mind

Lifeline/RI is a Mother's Day present that continues to provide the gift of independence and peace of mind throughout the years. Flowers may fade; candy is eaten and forgotten. Each year people agonize over

finding an original gift to honor their mothers and to symbolize their love and caring.

According to Maxine Richman, Jewish Family Service's Lifeline/RI coordinator, some people have resolved this

dilemma by giving their mothers a subscription to Lifeline, a 24-hour personal emergency response system that provides security for both the mother and her family. If she has an accident or needs assistance and is unable to reach a phone, Lifeline makes it possible for her to receive help quickly.

JFS Lifeline/RI was created to meet the needs of people who enjoy an independent lifestyle, but would appreciate the extra security that comes from knowing that assistance can always be summoned if needed.

A 24-hour personal response system provides emergency access to help at the touch of a button. Subscribers receive a "personal help button," worn as a pendant (it can be worn while bathing or showering), and a small home-installed unit. In an emergency, the user pushes the button and a telephone signal is transmitted to a response center. The subscriber's medical history and pertinent information, such as phone numbers for relatives, neighbors and medical services, appears on a screen, allowing a dispatcher to summon help immediately.

Devices are available for those with vision or hearing impairments, as are a variety of adaptive devices for people with disabilities.

For more information call Jewish Family Service at 331-1244, ext 19., or visit the Jewish Family Service Web site, jfsri.org.

Remember when...



TOKE POLLOCK pictured above, mother of Benjamin Pollock, grandmother of Hyman, Celya, Minnie, Morris and Reuben Pollock, taken at the Rhode Island Jewish Home for the Aged in 1941 when she was 100. Submitted by Stella (Reitman) Pollock, of Warwick her great-granddaughter.

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Stacey Formal	Ari Savitzky
Adam Freedman	Anyu Sgambato
Miriam Jacobson	Elana Snow
Michelle Levinson	David Weinshel
Henri Martin-Engle	Amanda Werber
Shoshana Miller	Peter Ziegler

Giggles, hopscotch kept them young

From page 14

weekly, and another 25 percent see them at least once a month.

In the AARP study, grandparents were asked about the roles they play when interacting with their grandchildren. Nearly half said they serve as a companion, and more than a third said they often given advice, talk about family history, explain what their parent did as a child, or serve as a confidant. Twenty-nine percent say they talk about the good old days.

In response to a question about the values they would like to pass on to their grandchildren, 42 percent said integrity. Twenty-one percent said success or ambition, 20 percent mentioned religion, 14 percent said consideration of others and 10 percent said trustworthiness.

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 6.3 percent of children under 18 live in grandparent-headed households, and no parent is present in a third of these households. Grandparent-headed households cross every socioeconomic and ethnic group.

The Shockets have been married 61 years. Jim is a retired merchandising supervisor for Hiram Walker Distillery, and a veteran of World War II. Sylvia worked as a substitute teacher.

Their children are all grown. Sue Ann, 47, is a clini-



SHANA today, at age 21

cal psychologist and a marathon runner living in Virginia. Shana's mother, Robin, is 52 and now lives in Cranston. Their son, Saul, 57, is a champion weight lifter in Hanover, Mass.

The Shockets met at Old Orchard Beach, Maine, where Sylvia was working as a waitress and in a gift shop.

"One summer, I was walking on the beach with my sister," she recalls. "Five fellas were there who I didn't know. One yelled, 'Sylvia!' He had heard my sister call me. We all started talking, except this one fella. All four asked me for a date, but I just walked away. I asked the one who didn't talk what he did for a living."

"He was blond, and had gorgeous blond curly lashes. He told me he owned a pig farm. He'd been giving me a line, because I looked so young. He thought I was about 12 years old. I found him very intelli-

gent and attractive."

When Shana came to live with her grandparents, they enrolled her in a Head Start preschool. She attended the Alperin Schechter Day School and Wheeler, and summered at Camp Ramah and Camp JOR where she later became a counselor. She's currently a junior at George Washington University and is spending a semester in Sydney, Australia, studying art at the University of New South Wales. Always a good student, Shana is on the Dean's List, which makes her grandparents beam.

"I think she kept us young," Sylvia says. "My husband says that Shana recycled us. Our

'I jumped ropes; I climbed snow banks; I played hopscotch. We giggled alot.'

— Sylvia Shocket

friends were all young people, the parents of her schoolmates. I loved it. I had the wisdom I didn't have when I was young. And when the teenage years came, I knew exactly what to expect."

"All the plans I made, they changed," says Jim, a cheerful man with a shock of white hair and a smile that doesn't stop. "I was going to retire. We were going to go on trips. Now we couldn't, because it was like when we first had a child, but I didn't even consider it a sacrifice. We always got nachas, because she always got honors, and it sort of reflected back on us."

Sylvia agrees. "I didn't mind at all. I didn't regret it. I loved going to the Catskills, different places, but raising Shana was a fulfilling and rewarding experience."

"We had the experience of bringing up three children, so whatever mistakes we made, we tried not to make them with her," Jim Shocket says.

Today, Jim is recovering from recent knee surgery, and Sylvia was hospitalized this spring with a collapsed disk. But that hasn't slowed them down. She teaches exercise to seniors at Torat Yisrael, and writes poetry and short stories. One of her stories, about how she and Jim met, was published in the *Providence Journal* for Valentine's Day last year.

Would the Shockets do it all again?

"Yes, I certainly would," Sylvia answers quickly. "I'd do it again right now."

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Simchas

The Mazel Tov column

Births

Sheree and David Allen of Westwood, Mass., announce the birth of their son, Eddie Jacob Allen, May 4.

Dr. Marjorie and Mark Seidenfeld of New York announce the birth of their son, Jonah Peter (Yacov Pincus), named for his great-grandfather Peter Jacob Berger. Jonah is the grandson of Sheila and Lloyd Kaplan of Providence and Rella and Bernard Seidenfeld of New Gardens, N.Y.

Fulbright Scholar

Heather S. Homonoff, of Old Chimney Road, Barrington, has been selected to receive a Fulbright Student Award. The Fulbright Program is designed to foster mutual understanding between the people of the United States and those of other countries. The award is based on academic accomplishments and leadership.

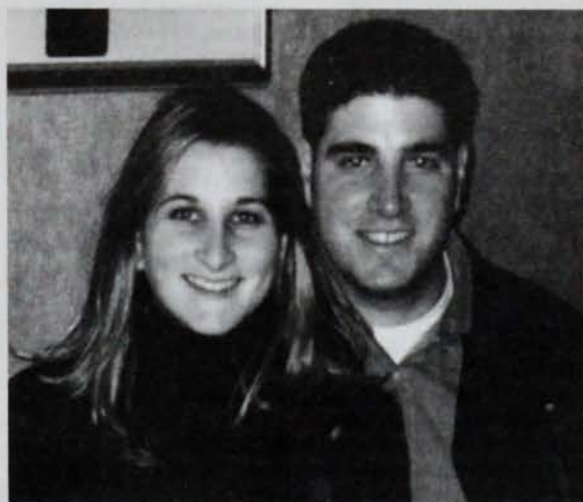
Heather will graduate this year from Wesleyan University in Middletown, Conn. and will enter the Masters Program in Development Studies at Oxford University, England, upon completion of her Fulbright research. She is the daughter of Marvin and Linda Homonoff, of Barrington.

Man of the Year

Leonard C. Mandell, of Pawtucket, a forensic scientist who has investigated the effects of burns due to gas explosions, has been named Man of the Year by Masonic Redwood Lodge 35, East Providence. Mandell, who has appeared as an expert witness in civil trials, is also a musician who appeared for years with dance bands. A former president of Camp JORI, he has contributed 50 years of Masonic service.

Bat Mitzvah

Amy-Beth Shlevin became Bat Mitzvah April 27 at Temple Torat Yisrael in Cranston. She is the daughter of Arthur and Irene B. Shlevin, of Pawtucket. Her maternal grandparents are Gussie Kaplan, of Providence, and the late Arthur Kaplan. Her paternal grandparents are Irene F. Shlevin and the late Samuel Shlevin, of Pawtucket. Amy-Beth is a seventh grader at Goff Junior High School.



Rachelle Blumberg and Charles Jagolinzer

Engagement

Rabbi Marc and Barbara N. Jagolinzer of Portsmouth, and Dr. Alvin and Amelia Blumberg of Las Vegas, Nev., announce the engagement of their children, Charles Edward Jagolinzer and Rachelle Blumberg.

Rachelle is a graduate of The Meadows School in Las Vegas and Brandeis University, where she majored in Spanish and sociology and received a bachelor of arts degree. She is employed by The Rocky Hill School in Rocky Hill, Conn. as a high school Spanish teacher, and is a religious school teacher at Temple Beth El in West Hartford.

Charles, a graduate of Portsmouth High School, is an honors graduate of Brandeis University, where he majored in American Studies and minored in Near Eastern Judaic Studies and legal studies. He is a second-year student in the University of Connecticut School of Law. A June wedding is planned.

NCJW Award Winner

Selma and Milton Stanzler were recently honored for their community service by the Rhode Island Section of the National Council of Jewish Women. Selma Stanzler has been a volunteer for many years with the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, the Bureau of Jewish Education, and Temple Beth-El in Providence, and currently is president of the Rhode Island Holocaust Museum.

Milton Stanzler, an attorney, and has long been active with the American Civil Liberties Union and in many Jewish causes. He has also been a major supporter of the Trinity Repertory Theater.

Eight honored

Eight women from the Rhode Island Jewish Community are among those honored recently as "Women Who Make a difference" by the Rhode Island Coalition for Affirmative Action. They are Wendy Aronoff, Toby Ayers, Nancy H. Gewirtz, Lynette Labinger, Charlotte I. Penn, Susette R.

Rabinowitz, Lilia M. Sapinsley and Carrie Zaslow. Additionally, Donna Fishman, co-chair of the Coalition, and her mother, Ruth Fishman, received awards. The citations go to women "who work every day to make positive changes

Wedding

Elana Rothberg, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Kopel Rothberg of East Greenwich, was married Feb. 9 to Lance Hellring, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Hellring of Coral Gables, Fla.

Rabbi Herschel Beckler and Rabbi Samuel Rothberg performed the ceremony at Temple Beth David, Miami.

The bride attended East Greenwich High School and Arizona State University. She is employed by CBS Sportsline.com.

The bridegroom attended Ransome Academy and the University of Michigan, and is employed by Superior Windows Corp.

The couple spent their honeymoon in Italy. They will live reside in Miami Beach.



Lori Ann Selya and Daniel Young

Wedding

Lori Ann Selya, daughter of Judge Bruce M. Selya, of Providence, and Ellen Barnes Selya, of Providence and Newport, was married Dec. 22 to Daniel Patrick Young, son of Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Young of Belmont, Mass.

The ceremony was held at the Agawam Hunt in Rumford.

The bride, a teacher in Brookline, Mass., is a graduate

of Wheeler School in Providence and Boston College. She has taken courses toward her masters at Wheelock. The bridegroom, an auditor for Deloitte & Touche, LLP, graduated from Belmont Hill School and Bentley College, cum laude. He received his master's degree in taxation from Bentley College Graduate School of Business where he graduated with distinction and was inducted into Beta Gamma Sigma, a national honor society.

The couple lives in Dedham, Mass.

Book review: the saga of saving our brethren

From page 6

was a public servant and would like to be seen as having been above the battle, must have been heavily involved in more than simply the negotiations with the Soviets. How he dealt with these issues in his meetings with American Jewish leaders could add much to our knowledge of what transpired during those critical years. There are a few hints of this, but nothing substantial.

It would also have been helpful if more attention had been paid to the Joint's work in enabling the Jews of the Arab world to escape, although that occurred before Goldman's watch. And I suspect that there is a great deal more to tell about the Joint's role in rescuing Ethiopian Jewry than appears on

these pages, but that story is not yet over and perhaps caution is still advised.

Nonetheless, Shachtman has an interesting story to tell, more so when he concentrates on the Joint than when he writes about Goldman, who never really comes alive to the reader. This is obviously an "authorized" biography; the dates and most of the events are certainly reliably portrayed.

The definitive histories of the Joint and of its long-time leader, Goldman, have yet to be written. Until then we can be grateful to Tom Shachtman for providing us with this introduction to one of the leading personalities and impressive accomplishments of the world Jewish community.

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Obituaries

Arthur Silverman

EAST GREENWICH — Arthur Phillip Silverman, 84, of Church Street, known affectionately as "the mayor of East Greenwich," died April 11 at Kent County Memorial Hospital, Warwick.

Born in Providence, a son of the late Herman N. and Jennie (Solomon) Silverman, he was a lifelong resident of the town, where he worked for many years with his siblings at the family's retail businesses, Silverman's Shoe Store and Silverman's Women's Apparel, both established by his father in 1908.

During World War II he was also employed as a civilian worker at the former Quonset Point Naval Air Station. He attended East Greenwich public schools and graduated from the East Greenwich Academy.

Mr. Silverman through the years was an active member of a wide variety of civic and governmental organizations, including the East Greenwich Academy Players, Chamber of Commerce, Golden Agers and the Rotary Club, which selected him as a Paul Harris Fellow for outstanding service.

He served on the Board of Incorporators of Kent County Memorial Hospital, was the only honorary member of the East Greenwich Police Department, and served as grand marshal of the East Greenwich Memorial Day Parade in 1975. He was a member of Temple Am David, in Warwick.

He leaves a sister, Ruth E. Silverman, of East Greenwich; two brothers, Howard D. Silverman, of Warwick, and Benjamin J. Silverman, of Palo Alto, Calif., and nieces and nephews. He was the brother of the late Irving A. Silverman.

The funeral service was held in Temple Am David and burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. Contributions may be made to the Arthur Phillip Silverman Scholarship Fund, c/o East Greenwich Rotary Club, Box 222, East Greenwich, 02818; to Temple Am David, or your favorite charity.

Morris Bernstein

CRANSTON — Morris J. Bernstein, 80, of 77 Dixwell Ave., owner of Warwick Stamp and Coins for more than 40 years, died April 13 at



Miriam Hospital, Providence.

He was the husband of Ida (Lerner) Bernstein.

Born in Russia, a son of the late Meyer and Sonya (Perlmutter) Bernstein, he had lived in Cranston for 51 years.

He was a World War II Navy Veteran, having served in the Pacific Theater as a pharmacist's mate.

He was a member of Touro Fraternal Association, the American and Rhode Island Philatelic Society, and the American Numismatic Society.

He was a former member of Temple Torat Yisrael and the former Rhode Island Jewish Bowling Congress.

Besides his wife, he leaves two sons, David and Myron Bernstein, both of Cranston; a daughter, Betsy Brody of Atlanta, Ga., and three grandchildren. He was the brother of the late Gertrude "Babe" Smith.

The funeral services was held in Shalom Memorial Chapel, Cranston, and burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. Contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society or your favorite charity.

Margot Mossberg

PAWTUCKET — Margot (Mueller) Mossberg, 85, of 150 Dartmouth St. a retired jewelry manufacturing worker, died April 22 at Miriam Hospital, Providence. She was the wife of the late Heinrich Friedlanda and the late Solomon Mossberg.

Born in Germany, a daughter of the late Adolph and Martha Mueller, she had lived in Pawtucket for 16 years. She was a special order agent at Coro Jewelry Manufacturing Co. for 16 years before retiring.

She was a former member of Congregation Ohave Sholam and the former Sons of Abraham Synagogue.

She leaves 7 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren. She was the stepmother of the late Jack, Irving and Al Mossberg. She was the sister of the late Sigmund and Dortha Mueller and the late Louise Witkowski. Funeral services were held at Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

Contributions may be made to Temple Am David, 40 Gardiner St., Warwick, 02888.

Dorothy Marcowitz

PROVIDENCE — Dorothy (Marcowitz), 86, of Sixth Street, died April 10 at home.

She was the wife of the late Abraham Marcowitz. Born in

Central Falls, a daughter of the late Max and Sarah (Newman) Podersky, she had lived in Providence for 50 years.

Mrs. Marcowitz was a member of Temple Emanu-El, and a life member of Hadassah and the Pioneer Women.

She was a member of the Miriam Hospital Women's Association, the Loyal Family Circle of Rhode Island, and the Ocean State Center for Independent Living.

She leaves a daughter, Sandra Marcowitz, of Pawtucket, and two sisters, Eva Gorman, of Providence, and Minnie Horovitz, of Pawtucket.

The funeral service was held in Sugarman-Sinai Memorial Chapel, Providence. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

Contributions may be made to the American Heart Association, 275 Westminster St., Providence, 02903.

Berton Goldblatt

BOYNTON BEACH, Fla. — Berton Goldblatt, 75, of Brisata Circle, formerly of Narragansett, a wholesale liquor salesman, died April 14 at JFK Hospice in Lake Worth.

He was the husband of Muriel K. (Kaplan) Goldblatt. Born in Providence, a son of the late Abraham and Lucille (Turcott) Goldblatt, he had lived in Cranston for many years before moving to Narragansett. He moved to Florida this year.

Mr. Goldblatt served as an Air Force corporal during World War II.

Besides his wife, he leaves two daughters, Susan Kisler, of Golden, Colo., and Rhonda Feldman, of Rhode Island; a son, Dr. Steven Rothstein, of Manchester, NH; a sister, Ruth Kaplan, of Lincoln; and six grandchildren. He was the brother of the late Anita Daniels.

A graveside service was held at Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

Louis J. Sofro

SUNNY ISLES, Fla. — Louis J. Sofro, 91, a retired manufacturer of infant products, died April 5 at Aventura Hospital. He was the husband of Sylvia (Rosenzweig) Sofro and the late Madeline (Bromberg) Sofro.

Obituaries

Lester Kessler, restaurateur

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — Lester Kessler, 82, of Wellington Boulevard, a former Providence restaurateur, died April 29 at home.

He was the husband of Lilian (Seltzer) Kessler; they had been married for 59 years. Born in Providence, a son of the late William and Rebecca (Peck) Kessler, he had lived in Warwick for many years before moving to Florida.

He was a 1940 graduate of



Louis J. Sofro

From page 30

Born in North Adams, Mass. a son of the late Barney and Fannie (Sulkin) Sofro, he lived in Florida for the past 30 years. He had previously lived in Providence.

He attended Antioch College and was the founder and president of Reliance Products Company of Woonsocket, which he operated for 20 years.

He was a collector of German expressionist art and traveled extensively throughout Europe to meet many of the artists.

Besides his wife, he survived by a son, Stephen B. Sofro, of East Providence; a daughter, Susan B. Sleprow, of Providence; a brother, Stanley Sofro, in California; five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

A graveside funeral service was held at Beth-El Cemetery.

Bryant College.

For 40 years, Mr. Kessler owned and operated the former Les Kessler's Restaurant in Providence. Many of his customers said they frequented the establishment as much for his personality as for his corned beef.

An Army veteran of World War II, he served as a sergeant in the Pacific, earning several decorations. He was a member for more than 50 years of the Jewish War Veterans Post 533, in Rhode Island, and was also a member of the American Legion Airport Post and JWV Post 520, in Florida.

He was a member of the Overseas Lodge of Masons, the Knights of Pythias, and the Square Club.

Mr. Kessler was a former member of Temple Am-David in Warwick, and the former Congregation Anshe Kovna in Providence. He was a member of the Touro Fraternal Association.

Besides his wife, Mr. Kessler leaves a son, William Kessler, of Pawtucket; three daughters, Margie Busby and Debra Holt, both of Warwick; and Bonnie Kates, of Cranston; a brother, Harold Kessler, of Cranston; eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He was the father of the late Cindy Kessler and the brother of the late Dorothy Katten and Anita and Carl Kessler.

The funeral was held at Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

Contributions may be made to Hospice Care of R.I., 169 George St., Pawtucket, 02860.

Judith Jacobs

NORTH PROVIDENCE — Judith Gail Jacobs, 64, of Smithfield Road, a former jewelry consultant, died April 16, at Hopkins Manor.

She was the wife of the late Gerald Jacobs. Born in Boston, a daughter of the late Abraham and Eva (Greengus) Greenberg, she had lived in Providence and Warwick before moving to North Providence in 2000.

She was a graduate of Hope High School.

Mrs. Jacobs had worked as a fine-jewelry consultant at the former Murray's, of Providence and Warwick, for 10 years before retiring.

For many years he had volunteered in her children's and grandchildren's schools.

Mrs. Jacobs was a former member of Temple Emanu-El, in Providence, and of its Sisterhood.

She enjoyed knitting and needlepoint.

She leaves a daughter, Susan DeRita, of Providence; two sons, Mitchell Jacobs, of Marlboro, N.J. and Larry Jacobs, of Salem, NH; a sister, Lois Tager, of Monterey, Calif.; and seven grandchildren.

The funeral service was held at Sugarman-Sinai Memorial Chapel, Providence. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

Contributions may be made to St. Mary's Home for Children, 420 Fruit Hill Ave. North Providence, 02911.

To all the compassionate people who comforted us after our daughter's death and bereavement.

We thank you very much.

A special todah to Temple Emanu-El and Rabbi Franklin.

We wish you all love and peace.

Albert and Jack Habib

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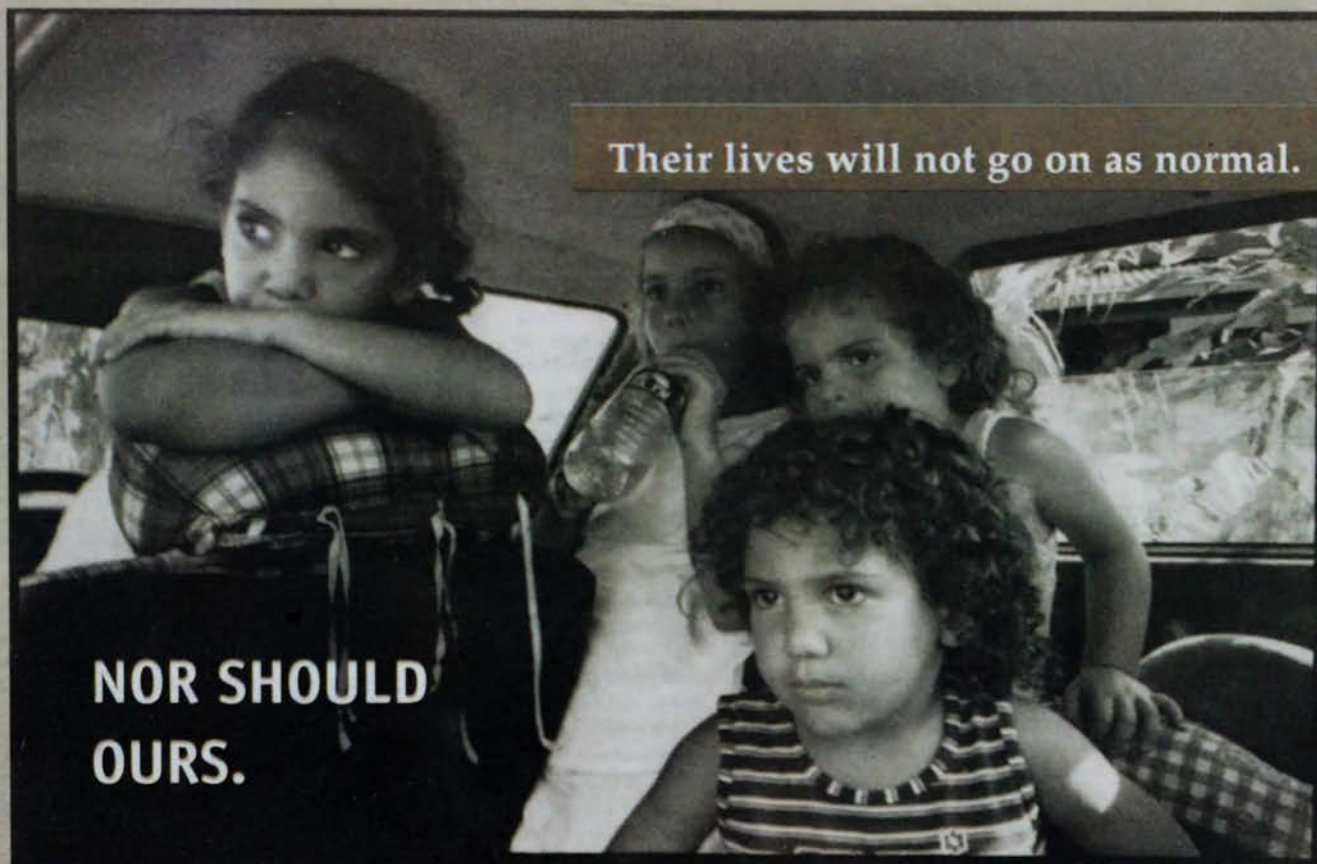
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with Israel
NOW and Forever**

