

The JEWISH VOICE & HERALD

SERVING RHODE ISLAND AND SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

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Jewish Federation of Rhode Island

June 21, 2002

Federation raises \$1 million for Israel

Campaign ends June 30 with Israel solidarity walk

By Joshua Karlin

The American Jewish community has pledged more than \$265 million over the past nine months to help alleviate the suffering of Jews in Israel, who have been living on the front lines of the war on terror.

In Rhode Island, the Jewish community has pledged \$1,013,472 to date to the "We Stand With Israel Emergency Campaign," which has a local goal of at least

\$1.35 million — Rhode Island's "fair share" of the national goal of more than \$300 million. The Rhode Island campaign ends June 30 with an Israel solidarity walk, which takes place at 8:30 a.m. at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island.

Donors to the emergency campaign are contributing at levels that average more than

55 percent of their gifts to the annual community campaign, and many donors are giving to the emergency campaign far in excess of their annual giving.

Thanks to anonymous donors who agreed to cover the advertising and administrative costs of the emergency campaign, 100 percent of every dollar contributed will help Jews in need in Israel.

With more than 518 victims of terror dead and more than 4,060 maimed, the trauma families are experiencing lasts long after the headlines for each attack have passed. Donated funds will provide physical therapy and counseling for victims and their families. Donations will also be used to keep children safe by providing summer camping experiences, as well as bulletproof glass and armed guards for



See FOR ISRAEL, page 14

Cantor's move from bimah playing to mixed reviews



CANTOR BRIAN MAYER of Temple Emanu-El tries out the acoustics from his new location in the Temple Emanu-El sanctuary.

Photo by Jonathan Rubin

By Jonathan Rubin

Temple Emanu-El's Cantor Brian Mayer has changed his location during services by about 15 feet — a small step in distance, but a giant leap away from tradition.

In a move aimed at bringing prayer closer to the congregation — literally and figuratively — Cantor Mayer now chants not as an imposing figure on the raised bimah, but at a floor-level lectern in the midst of the worshippers.

The move comes as part of renovations at the temple designed to bring a new intimacy to services — and so far it is playing to decidedly mixed reviews.

"I think it's the greatest," said Jamie Leiter, 24, of Providence. "Central davening

See CANTOR, page 28

'Tamarisk' to sink roots in Warwick

By Gerry Goldstein

The 66-unit assisted living complex planned by the Jewish Seniors Agency of Rhode Island will be named "Tamarisk," after the tree that thrives in the Israeli desert and has been a traditional symbol of hospitality and protection.

The agency recently accepted a bid not to exceed \$8,489,750 from the O. Ahlberg & Sons construction company. Site clearance off

Greenwich Avenue in Warwick, on the 28.5 acre site already occupied by the agency's Shalom Apartments, is scheduled to start July 15, according to Executive Director Susette Rabinowitz.

The 64,000-square-foot complex, which will include 20 apartments for residents with dementia such as Alzheimer's disease, should be complete and ready for occupancy a year from July, Rabinowitz said.

She said her agency has received 573 inquiries from potential residents or their families, and that those who have already asked for information will be the first to be notified about the schedule for taking deposits.

The agency should be ready to accept deposits by the end of this year, Rabinowitz said, adding that a ceremonial groundbreaking has been

See TAMARISK, page 15

Time can't break up that old gang of theirs

By Gerry Goldstein

They were all 8 and 9 years old in 1927, the sons of poor Russian-Jewish immigrants who had settled in the neighborhoods around Hope Street in Providence.

Seeking strength and acceptance in numbers, the eight of them banded together in a club they called the "Frats," electing Louis Yosinoff president and planning to be friends forever.

Seventy-five years later, Yosinoff — now 83 — and many of his cronies are still getting together, most recently at

See OLD GANG, page 14

IN THIS ISSUE

THE PRICE OF TERROR:



Vladimir Morari, 19, was one among scores of Israelis

killed in the continuing terrorist attacks. Read his profile, and others, on page 3.

VISIONS OF PEACE:

In a special report compiled by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Israel's top leaders offer their ideas for stopping the carnage. Pages 5 to 9



EYES ON THE PIES — Andy Weiser, Karen Feldman, Marsha Sherman and Toby Fingerth dig into pizza at Perspectives Pizza Challenge, held at Johnson & Wales University. More than \$180 was raised for Max Dwares, a high school senior who has leukemia.

Photo by Jonathan Rubin

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News Briefs

Report: Arafat stole millions

Yasser Arafat pocketed more than \$5 million in foreign aid intended for needy Palestinians, according to *Al-Watan*, a Kuwaiti newspaper. The newspaper also claimed that Arafat diverted aid money from Arab states that was earmarked for Palestinians who lost homes during Israel's massive anti-terror operation in the West Bank this spring. The paper charged that Arafat used the money to increase his stock holdings in a concrete company, profiting from rising concrete prices resulting from increased demand for construction materials to rebuild after the Israeli invasion.

Israelis want German citizenship

A growing number of Israelis are expected to apply for German citizenship this year. The expected rise comes after more than 1,700 Israelis received German citizenship in 2001. Only a few of the Israelis who obtain German citizenship actually move to Germany, but having the citizenship allows for easier travel and work throughout the European Union. Most of the Israeli applicants had or have grandparents or great-grandparents

who lived in Germany.

First lady criticizes West Bank fence

First lady Laura Bush criticized Israel's plans to build a fence along the border with the West Bank. "I don't think a fence will be some long-lasting sign of peace," she said Monday in a radio interview. "Right now, there is a huge barrier of hate and distrust between all the parties in the Middle East. I hope they can tear that barrier down."

Rabbi calls off street patrols

A militant rabbi decided not to launch armed patrols in Jewish sections of Brooklyn. "The response was so overwhelmingly negative, but God forbid anything should happen, and then I'll have to say, 'I told you so,'" Rabbi Yakove Lloyd said Sunday. Last week, Lloyd announced that members of his Jewish Defense Group would patrol the streets, some carrying shotguns in bags, others with bats and lead pipes. He said the patrols were conceived after a suspected terrorist jailed in Iraq said in a TV interview aired recently that the terrorists who carried out the 1993 World Trade Center bombing originally wanted to target Jewish neighborhoods of Brooklyn.



Police officers and rescue workers surround a destroyed bus in Jerusalem on Tuesday. A Palestinian man detonated nail-studded explosives on the bus, which was crowded with high school students and office workers, killing himself and at least 19 passengers in the deadliest suicide attack in the hard-hit city in six years. At least 52 were wounded. JTA

AJCongress halts France trips

The American Jewish Congress suspended its tour programs to France. The group said in an ad in Monday's *New York Times* that it took the move because the French government is not doing enough to crack down on anti-Semitic violence. Last year, the AJCongress sent about 600 people to France on educational tours involving sites of Jewish interest.

Israel fears use of ambulances in attacks

Israeli security officials fear Palestinians may use stolen Israeli ambulances to carry out attacks. Health Minister Nissim Dahan revealed that several ambulances recently were stolen, Israel Radio reported.

E.U. blacklists 3 Palestinian groups

E.U. foreign ministers added three Palestinian groups to its list of terror organizations. Following Monday's move, the 15 E.U. member states must freeze the assets of the Al-Aksa

Brigade, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Palestine Liberation Front.

Scientists sign pro-Israel pact

More than 600 scientists from around the world signed a statement calling for continued collaboration with Israeli scientists. The statement, circulated by the American Committee for the Weizmann Institute of Science, comes in response to petitions, primarily in Europe, urging a boycott on all scientific collaboration with Israel.

U.S. Muslims barred from Israel

Israel barred a group of 20 U.S. Muslims from entering the country. An Israeli police spokesman said the 20 were held under guard at the airport Sunday before being deported, but had no further details. Margaret Zaknoen, program organizer for the group, American Muslims for Jerusalem, said an immigration official told her the group was denied entry because of "serious security concerns" and the belief that the group wanted to support the Palestinian Authority.

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In a reign of terror, here are five who died

As Israel struggles to deal with the carnage of terrorism, the number of dead and maimed continues to rise; Tuesday's bus bombing alone added 19 to the death toll. Who are the people behind the grisly headlines? Here are short profiles of five whom Israel has lost this month alone. Killed in the deadly Egged bus bombing near Afula June 5 were Cpl. Vladimir Morari, Sgt. David Stanislavsky, Violetta Hizgayev and Sivan Wiener. Sgt. Maj. Shalom Mordechai was killed when terrorists opened fire on him south of Bethlehem June 8.

A quiet soldier

Cpl. Vladimir Morari, 19, of Hadera, immigrated to Israel with his family from Moldavia about three years ago. The night before his death, he was talking to his sister Irena about his plans to study after the army. Vladimir joined the army about six months ago and served in the



Morari

Ordnance Corps. His friends described him as a quiet type who helped everyone. "In five weeks he would have been 20," said Irena.

Morari was buried in the military cemetery in Hadera. He is survived by his parents, Ludmilla and Nicolai, his sisters Irena, 18, and Nastasia, 10, and his brother Nick, 8.

'He loved life'

Sgt. David Stanislavsky, 23, immigrated to Israel from the Ukraine four years ago with his mother Irena. He was her only

child.

Stanislavsky had bought a plane ticket to travel to the Ukraine next month to become engaged to Victoria, a childhood friend. She was going to come live in Israel. "He had an excellent sense of humor; he was a wonderful person, polite, optimistic and he loved life," said Irena.

Stanislavsky was buried in the military cemetery in Netanya.

Newly 19

Sgt. Sivan Wiener turned 19 just one day before the bus bombing. She celebrated her birthday with her young nieces at her brother's house, and in the evening, went out with friends to a Tel Aviv club. She wanted

to return to the army base that night, but her brother Dudo asked her to wait until early morning when it is safer to travel. Next week she was to begin training her first group of army recruits.

Wiener was buried in Holon. She is survived by her parents, two brothers, Dudo, 33, and Micha, 28, and her sister, Orly, 26.

A family man

Sgt.-Maj. Shalom Mordechai, 35, of Nahariya was killed when terrorists infiltrated the community of Carmei Tzur south of Bethlehem June 8.

Two terrorists slipped into the settlement, located in the southern Gush Etzion region, before dawn. Two soldiers from an artillery unit, still in basic

training, identified the intruders, and demanded that they stop. The terrorists opened fire on them. Eyal Sorek was shot and killed when he left his caravan, holding a firearm. His wife Yael, who was nine months pregnant, was shot dead in the caravan.

Mordechai, who served in the army in the Golani Brigade, had been on reserve army duty for two weeks. He lived with his wife and children near his parents in Nahariya, where he was born. His favorite hobby was motor sports, and he would spend the weekends with family and friends traveling in the Galilee, whether by jeep, all-terrain vehicle, or motorcycle.

Mordechai was buried in the military section of the Nahariya cemetery. He is survived by his wife, Orly, his sons Shaked, 9, and Ro'i, 5, his parents and three siblings.

College bound

Sgt. Violetta Hizgayev, 20, took bus number 830 every day to the Ordnance Corps base where she served as a technician. She was planning to attend college after completing her army service in a few months. Her brother was also supposed

to be on the bus, but had a doctor's appointment. Hizgayev immigrated to Israel with her mother, brother and

sister from the northern Caucasus eight years ago. Their father had died in Russia and their mother was killed in a car accident two years ago. Since then, the three children lived with their aunt Mina in Hadera. Hizgayev graduated from the Bosmat high school in Haifa, majoring in industry and management.

Hizgayev was buried in the military cemetery in Hadera. She is survived by her brother Yitzhak, 20, her sister Ida, 15, and her aunt Mina.



Hizgayev

Your Rabbis Call on You to Stand with Israel

WE, members of the rabbinical community of Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts, stand with the people of Israel at this moment of crisis and call upon our congregants, students and the entire Jewish Community to support and contribute to the **WE STAND WITH ISRAEL EMERGENCY CAMPAIGN**, organized by the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.



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A MAJORITY OF ONE

Give kids a robust heritage; they'll do the rest

IN an American Jewish community in which plaques, scrolls and other forms of recognition are freely distributed, I can lay claim to only one signal honor. Many years ago, when my youngest child was a toddler, the marquee of the Valley Cities Jewish Community Center in the San Fernando Valley sported, for a brief time, this bold announcement: "Mother of the Month" — followed by my name.

It was a salute well earned. Since my writing schedule allowed for such an indulgence, I was the dropper-off and picker-up of Ariela, whose need for transportation continued even unto grade school and high school, first in Los Angeles and later in Providence.

This responsibility did not end, in fact, until four years ago, when Ariela graduated from Classical High and was accepted to Brandeis University. Experienced parents will by now have recognized the thrust of this column; four years at Brandeis means that she has

just graduated and is entering the real world.

My skills as a chauffeur are no longer required, although our home as a provider of laundry and other services still fills some major needs.

Ariela is a young woman who has been raised in and nurtured by the Jewish community.

Her long progression through Jewish day schools in Los Angeles and a final year at Alperin Schechter Day School, Camp Ramah and the Brandeis-Bardin Institute in California, two visits to Israel and a budding career as an instructor of Israeli dance, have all been documented in print by her father.

When Ariela was born I was 53, the age of my wife's parents, and my older daughter dubbed me her "recycled father." In that exalted capacity I was invited to address the Associ-



Yehuda Lev

ation of Jewish Nursery School Teachers. (In a community of 600,000 Jews, such organizations exist.) Having already shared in the raising of three older children, I was full of advice ranging from "no TV in the house" to the need for strict homework supervision.

Needless to say, all of this wisdom evaporated as Ariela developed a mind of her own, becoming addicted to 1940's MGM musicals on TV and, often as not, completing her homework assignments at breakfast.

Ariela's decision to apply for early admission to Brandeis was entirely her own. Her choice reflected, of course, the Jewish involvement of both her parents as well as her upbringing in that community.

One of the reasons that Jewish parents send their children to Jewish environments is to try to ensure that they will marry other Jews. Man proposes and God laughs, as the Yiddish expression has it. It turns out that Jewishness is not the only trait Ariela has picked up from her

parents. She also has a well-developed sense of independence, and so, let me introduce you to Clayton, a computer programmer in Boston and father, at 26, of Isadora, a two-year-old daughter whose custody he has.

As you can see, complications abound. But here, too, the experience of Ariela's parents plays a part. My wife, daughter of two Latin American Catholics, originally converted to Reform Judaism when she was still in college and later, after we met and married, had an Orthodox conversion. (She can, and occasionally does point out that she has written proof of her Judaism, while I can only rely on the word of my parents.)

Anyway, Clayton will soon embark on a one-year Conservative conversion program after which, all things being equal, they intend to marry.

It is the fate of parents to view their adult children as they were when they were

considerably younger, as if the intervening years of growth and maturing had never occurred. And, as Ariela walked up to receive her diploma I had much the same reaction, tempered to be sure by another. At 21 I was in the Israeli Army, having already been in the American army, and then involved with illegal immigration to Palestine. People had lived or died according to decisions I made, sometimes the wrong ones. But the responsibilities I had were never for those I loved.

Ariela strode up to the platform exuding self-confidence, ready to take on the burdens of a new job, of a new household, of a child and a husband-to-be. Responsibilities such as those I did not assume until I was much older, and I don't believe I could have handled them at her age. But of Ariela's ability to do so, I have little doubt. Credit those who reared her, yes, but credit also a Jewish community that strengthened and sustained her through the years, and, I trust, will do the same for her new family.

Letters to the editor

Hadassah forges her path to Holy Land

I worry about Israel. Each day when I read the newspaper and each night when I watch the news I worry about Israel. I worry about Avigail, my Israeli exchange student and her family who live on a kibbutz in the center of the country.

When she lived with us for a year in 1995, her older brother and sister were just finishing their military tours. I imagine them in the uniforms as reservists defending their homeland. I fear for their safety, but I know they were ready from the first moment because they fear for Israel's safety. And they are ready to sacrifice their lives.

Life is full of unexpected turns. For weeks now, thoughts of Israel have been hovering in the back of my mind. This afternoon they jumped to the front of my mind. When I got home, I received a call from a woman I had never met. She wanted me to join Hadassah. She apologized because she had waited so long to call me. She had held my name for a long time.

Her questions brought back a flood of memories. I told her that my mother, my grandmothers, all my aunts and all our women friends were mem-

bers as I was growing up in Winthrop, Mass. during the 1950's. Many other memories returned as I remembered the Hadassah Hospital, the fundraisers, the ad books, and the time all the ladies came to our back yard for a meeting in July. There must have been 50 of them. The committee served baked Alaska and I've never forgotten the juggling that went on to keep the ice cream from melting on that hot summer afternoon.

I have been in Rhode Island since 1985, and no one has ever asked me to join Hadassah before. I think it was meant to

be that I would join now during the hardship. Joining Hadassah today gives me a way to honor Israel. I remember the day Israel was born. During the '67 war, there was a picture on the front page of the *New York Times* that I saved. It showed the soldiers at the Wailing Wall. It was taped to my mirror for years. It is appropriate that all this is happening on the weekend of Mother's Day. We are the Jewish mothers who worry. We are also the strong women of our people who find a way.

Renee Fullerton
Cranston

Paper keeps them connected

We recently received the May 10 issue of *The Jewish Voice & Herald*. It was an absolute delight to read all about our friends and their contributions to the community.

We were active members of the community when we lived

in Rhode Island from 1965-1976. We congratulate the editors on an excellent production and we wish you all continued success in your efforts.

Dr. Ben Chinitz
Ethel Chinitz
Florida

More letters on page 5

Fight on, dear old Harvard, but for us

IMAGINE that it's June of 1942 — just a few months after Adolf Hitler declared war on the United States. It's commencement time at Harvard University and a faculty committee has



Daniel Pipes

chosen a German-American to give one of three student orations at the ceremony. He titles his talk "American Kampf," purposefully echoing the title of Hitler's book, *Mein Kampf* ("My Struggle") in order to show the positive side of "Kampf."

The planned talk spawns protest, but a Harvard dean defends it as a "thoughtful oration" that defines the concept of "Kampf" as a personal struggle "to promote justice and understanding in ourselves and in our society." The dean promises that "the audience will find his oration, as did all the Harvard judges, a light of hope and reason in a world often darkened by distrust and conflict."

When it turns out that the student is past president of the Harvard German Society,

a group with a pro-Nazi taint, the university administration is still not bothered. Nor is it perturbed that he praised a Nazi front group — one shut down by the president of the United States, no less — for its "incredible work" as well as its "professionalism, compassion and dedication to helping people in dire need," and then raised money for it.

Sound far-fetched? It sure is. But exactly this scenario unfolded recently at Harvard. Just replace "German," "Nazi," and "Kampf" with "Islamic," "militant Islamic" and "jihad."

Faculty members chose Zayed Yasin, 22, past president of the Harvard Islamic Society, to deliver a commencement address. Yasin earlier had sung the praises of and raised money for the Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development, a militant Islamic organization closed down by President George W. Bush.

Yasin titled his talk "American Jihad," echoing Osama bin Laden's jihad against the United States. (Curiously, both Kampf and jihad translate as "a struggle.") Yasin declared an intention to convince his audience of 32,000 into believing that

On Shabbos, the sound of silence runs deep

I am as old as the wind in the fields.

That's what Becky Brotman used to murmur, ruefully, on days when even the sunshine of June could not draw the ache from her bones or the melancholy from her breast.

This was decades ago, when it was common for children like us to share our homes with grandparents.

Since Becky was indeed old — and of the old school — she nurtured a ritual that, for us, was steeped in mystery.

Each Friday, as millions of Jewish women do the world over, Becky, a widow, would wrap her thinning gray hair in a babushka, whisper the venerable benediction, and light the Shabbos candles. Then — for what seemed an eternity as we

hungrily awaited dinner — she would bury her face in mottled hands and sink into silent contemplation.

On these sabbath evenings she was a long way, in time and distance, from her own turn-of-the-century childhood in the Ukraine, from the land of the wind in the fields.



Gerry Goldstein

As was the case with many of her immigrant contemporaries in South Providence, Becky had endured her portion of poverty and heartache — but we kids knew little of what burdens she had borne, or what

dreams she had dreamed.

Friday after Friday, at candle-lighting time, her ritual continued. What sentiments swirled, we wondered, behind the ancient fingers cupped at her eyes and forehead?

Sometimes her reverie seemed serene and soothing. Sometimes it seemed a thing of sorrow, as though a sob might escape her.

What was our *babbe* thinking? Was she lost in rapture, or regret? Or maybe it was something simpler — a supplication that God should bless us with His mercy. Whatever, to beg specifics would have been an intrusion; her reflections seemed so... private.

Becky never volunteered an explanation, and the mystery of the candles guttered to

its end, unresolved, when she announced one day that she was reclaiming her independence: While the decision was still hers to make, she declared, she was moving to the Jewish Home for the Aged. And there, she lived out ample years.

Through the generations, much of Judaic ritual has been a male dominion. But this luminous rite — the lighting of sabbath candles and its attendant moment of contemplation — is steeped in womanhood. Maybe that's why men might view it as enigmatic, as this man always has. Now, though, it is his wife who wraps herself in a flowing babushka and sets the candles glowing — and who gathers her thoughts in profound and private silence.

Surely, with marriage being

a sharing of heart and mind, there's no harm in asking, at long last: What is it? What are you thinking? What plea, or declaration, glimmers unvoiced above our candles?

But the enigma remains, because still, the question seems invasive — like asking what she wished upon a star.

So let her wish upon her stars. Her husband will content himself with the lambent glow of her candles and her silent Shabbos reflections — both of which, he prays, will brighten his house each Friday from now until he, himself, is as old as the wind in the fields.

Gerry Goldstein is The Jewish Voice & Herald's consulting editor.

Fight on, dear old Harvard, but for us

From page 4

"Jihad is not something that should make someone feel uncomfortable."

Oh no? The authoritative Encyclopaedia of Islam begs to differ, defining jihad as "military action with the object of the expansion of Islam" and finding that it "has principally an offensive character." The scholar Bat Ye'or explains for non-Muslims that this has meant through history "war, dispossession... slavery, and death."

Jihad does indeed sound like "something that should make someone feel uncomfortable."

Sadly, this commencement episode is not an aberration, but indicative of two important developments at Harvard.

Apologizing for militant Islam: Hiding jihad's awful legacy, a professor of Islamic history portrays it as "a struggle without arms." The Harvard Islamic Society's faculty adviser defines true jihad as no more fearsome than "to do good in society." All this is part of a pattern of pretending Islam had nothing to do with 9/11.

Neutral in wartime: Harvard appears neutral in the current war, as Pat Collins points out. Take the example of Hamas: While President Bush has called it "one of the deadliest terrorist organizations in the world today," a Harvard spokesman replies "no comment" when asked if it is a terrorist organization, and the university has allowed fundraising on its premises on behalf of

Hamas. Even today, militant Islamic groups have full access to university facilities and the right to advertise their activities. Oh, and Harvard has two fellowships endowed by Bin Laden's family, each worth \$1 million.

Contrarily, the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC), a training program for the U.S. armed forces, is the only student group at Harvard to be prohibited access to university facilities (students enrolled in ROTC must travel to another university for its classes) and is disallowed from advertising its activities.

Unfortunately, Harvard's stance is typical of nearly all North American universities. Almost every Middle East specialist hides the truth about jihad and (as shown by a chilling report from the American Council of Trustees and Alumni, *Defending Civilization*) almost every campus drips contempt for the U.S. war effort. (Typical statement: "The best way to begin a war on terrorism might be to look in the mirror.")

"You are with us, or you are against us," President Bush said. Harvard and other universities need to look hard into their souls and decide on which side they stand.

Daniel Pipes, director of the Middle East Forum, received his A.B. and Ph.D. from Harvard and taught history there. He can be reached at www.DanielPipes.org.

More letters to the editor

Democracies should come to Israel's aid

I've always been intrigued by Santayana's observation about history, but in the twisted situation of the Middle East, where murderers are called martyrs and victims are labeled violators, perhaps a slightly altered mirror image of his quote is more sensible: Those who remember the past may be rewarded by repeating it.

What is worth remembering and repeating about that past?

Some 60 years ago, the

democracies of the world faced a malevolence dedicated to the destruction of their core value: that all people are created equal.

It took the events of Dec. 7, 1941 to awaken our resolve to ensure these rights. I believe this has been echoed in the events of Sept. 11, some 61 years later, causing us to fight a more destructive enemy.

Democracy's earlier confrontation with "evil" unleashed a world war ending with an

ultimate horror: the incineration of two cities and reducing Japan and Germany to rubble. As democracy stood victorious amid that rubble, what did it do? It installed democratic and constitutional governance in what was left of those societies.

Those democratic institutions were force-fed under the tutelage of an occupying army to ensure their success for as long as was necessary so that today, that "evil Axis" of an earlier era are strong bastions of the core ideals we insist are universal. They now have opportunities for future generations that are among the highest levels in the world.

History has demonstrated that we can do no less now than we did at the end of the last century, when despots threatened our democratic way of life. Unfortunately, in the case of the Middle East, it has come upon Israel's shoulders to pursue the role that England played before 1941; but, like England, Israel cannot shoulder this burden alone.

The burden now, as it did then, falls upon all democracies. As President Bush has so poignantly observed, this is a world war targeted against our fundamental inalienable rights as freedom loving peoples. And as the world did with Japan and Germany, we can remake those societies in the image of the universal and inalienable rights all people are entitled to.

Robert Allen
Providence

David M. Hirsch
Providence

Let a higher Authority help Israel make peace

I remember an interview where a journalist was interviewing General Mofaz of the Israeli army. The journalist asked General Mofaz why Israel couldn't just leave. The general then asked the journalist: "Where do you want us to go?"

An Israeli soldier was interviewed. He told the reporter: "We don't hate them (the Arab Palestinians). Recently, an Arab woman was interviewed. She said: 'We don't want to kill all of them (the Israelis)!'"

I think there is a great difference between the way the Israeli soldier answered and the way the Arab Palestinian woman answered. Whereas he answered that we don't hate, she answered that we don't want to kill all of them.

Until the Arabs can start learning to seek peace, to stop

the suicide bombing and to stop bombing in general, how can the world expect Israel to negotiate? What kind of negotiations can you hold with one who wants to kill you?

In such a case we need first to turn to God and seek guidance. Nothing is too wonderful for God to accomplish.

Israel should be encouraged to do what it needs to do to prevent the suicide bombings from taking place. Israel will not only be helping to keep herself alive, but will also be helping to prevent the flowering of terrorism.

One truly in support of freedom should be encouraging Israel in her effort to find and detain those who are encouraging others to become suicide bombers.

VISIONS FOR PEACE

Topple Arafat, then talk peace

Besieged by an unprecedented wave of terror and grim prospects for peace, Israel stands at a critical juncture. Jews worldwide are looking to Israel's political leaders to provide a vision for the future. In this special report, commissioned by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Israel's top political leaders answer the vital questions: What next? Where does Israel go from here and what does that vision for the future look like?

By Benjamin Netanyahu

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Just a few months ago, America lost thousands of its citizens to terrorist attacks. How can we defeat this international terrorism?

First, we must recognize the difference between freedom and tyranny, between good and evil.

President Bush boldly declared that terrorism, the deliberate attack on civilians, is never justified; it is always evil. Israel and the United States are today waging the same war and confronting the same evil. Like the United States, Israel did not seek this war. It was forced on us by a savage enemy that glorifies in a culture of death, in which murderers are called

martyrs and suicide is sanctified.

Second, we must topple the terrorist regimes. An enemy that sends children to die and to kill other children is an enemy that cannot be placated.

An enemy that openly preaches the destruction of our state is not a partner for peace.

With such evil, there can be no negotiations and no concessions. The only way to fight it is to confront it and to destroy the regimes that sustain it. Once

terror is defeated, I believe other Palestinians will come to the fore with whom we will forge a genuine and lasting peace.

Yet the apologists of terror say that the way to end terror is not to fight it but to appease it, to give in to the terrorists' demands. The root cause of terrorism, they say, is the deprivation of national and civic rights. If that were the case, we would have found endless examples of terrorism in the thousands of conflicts and struggles for national and civil rights in modern times.

But the opposite is true. Mahatma Gandhi did not use terrorism in fighting for the independence of India. The



Create a state, add the 'Quartet'

By Shimon Peres

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The Labor Party believes that the way to avoid a threat to Israel's existence if turned into a binational state without a Jewish majority is to create a nonmilitarized Palestinian state alongside the State of Israel.

Labor looks upon an end to Israeli control over the Pal-

estinian people as a measure consistent with the moral code of Jewish history and in the political and security interests of the State of Israel.



These goals can be accomplished only through separation by mutual agreement.

An agreement relating to a shared political horizon may lead to a real cease-fire, paving the road to permanent peace.

When the Palestinian side rejected the proposals of President Clinton at Camp David, it posed a serious question in the minds of many as to

whether a Palestinian partner really existed for the peace process.

It seems that in the wake of the skepticism generated by this rejection, it is necessary to introduce an additional partner into the equation, to impart credibility to the negotiations and confidence in their resolutions.

Such a partner already exists — the "Quartet" that was formed in Madrid by the United States, the European Union, Russia and the United Nations.

The mounting dangers in the Middle East — ballistic threats from outside the geographical range of the Middle East, across-border terror and unconventional weapons — elicit the urgent and consolidated intervention of the "Quartet," so as to generate a renewed peace momentum.

A peace plan must consist of elements that are acceptable in Israel, and which will not be rejected by the Arab world. Such a prospect is being made possible by the Saudi peace proposals and the understandings reached with the Palestinians.

The Peres-Abu Alaa understandings reached between our

See STATE page 8

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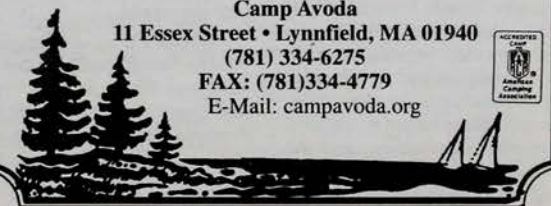
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VISIONS FOR PEACE

Cease-fire first, then look toward peace talks

By Ariel Sharon

JERUSALEM (JTA) For 20 months, Israel has been under a bitter and bloody attack, initiated by our Palestinian neighbors. We have paid a high price in casualties, solely because of our honest wish to live in peace with them, and because of our belief that they want the same.

The infrastructure of terror against Israel was established before this government took office. The main purpose of our national unity government was to achieve a cessation of violence and incitement as a vital and essential condition for the resumption of our efforts to achieve peace with security for our people.



This was my main goal in establishing this government of national unity.

I offered a practical proposal to end the violence, and reiterated our unwavering commitment to achieve peace. I proposed making a clear distinction between the general population seeking to live in peace with us, and the terrorists.

I suggested ways to ease their suffering and return to normal living conditions. I extended my hand in peace, and was met by a wave of acts of terror and violence.

Still, we have not given up on direct dialogue to bring about an end to violence.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Shimon Peres has left no stone unturned in his efforts to find a partner for dialogue. I have personally hosted several Palestinian Authority officials,

and reiterated our concrete proposals for a cease-fire and the resumption of political negotiations.

In talks with various world leaders, I presented our ideas for a step-by-step long-term interim agreement, and a permanent settlement possible only after the cessation of terror. We presented Israel's honest wish for a peace that will bring honor, prosperity and security for both peoples.

However, Yasser Arafat chose a different path. He chose a strategy of terror and established a coalition of terrorist organizations. He assumed, and still assumes, that he will be able

to defeat Israel and break our spirit. By way of blood and horror, he wants to force Israel into a unilateral withdrawal to the 1967 borders, including Jerusalem, and then press for the return of the refugees to undermine the very existence of the State of Israel.

But peace can only be attained once a cessation of violence is achieved and terrorism is uprooted. A Palestinian leadership must emerge willing to accept the primary responsibility of every regime to prevent the use of its territory for indiscriminate acts of violence and murder. Peace negotiations can commence and move forward

only after terrorism has ceased.

If such a Palestinian leadership should arise, it will find in Israel a hand extended toward peace and negotiations. I, who have fought in all of Israel's wars and have seen all the horrors of war, understand and appreciate the value of peace, as much, if not more, than those who speak of it, but have never experienced war.

Despite the extreme demands included in the resolutions of the conference of Arab leaders in Beirut, I welcome the fact that an important Arab leader such as Abdullah

See CEASE-FIRE, page 9

know

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Topple Arafat, then talk peace

From page 6

peoples of Eastern Europe did not resort to terrorism to bring down the Berlin Wall. Martin Luther King did not resort to terrorism in fighting for equal rights for all Americans.

These and other genuine fighters for freedom pursued their cause without resorting to terror because they believed in the sanctity of each human life. They were committed to the ideals of liberty and they championed the values of democracy.

But those who practice terrorism do not believe in these ideals. They believe that the cause they espouse is so all-encompassing, so total, that it justifies anything and everything. They believe that it allows them to break any law, discard any moral code and trample all human rights into the dust.

There is a name for the mind-set that produces this evil. It is called totalitarianism. Indeed, the root cause of terrorism is the totalitarian mind-set, a tyranny that systematically brainwashes the minds of its subjects to suspend all moral constraints for the sake of a

twisted cause.

This is why from its inception totalitarianism has always been wedded to terrorism, from Lenin to Stalin to Hitler to the ayatollahs to Saddam Hussein to Osama bin Laden to Yasser Arafat.

It is not merely that the goals of terrorists do not justify the means they use. It is that the means that they choose tell you what their real goals are. Those who target the innocent never protect freedom and human rights. We can see this clearly every time terrorists come to power. Those who fight as terrorists rule as terrorists, setting up dark dictatorships in Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan or Arafatistan.

Indeed, Yasser Arafat is the quintessential terrorist. Both the means he employs and the goal he espouses are illegitimate. Arafat pursues a goal of "policide," the destruction of the Jewish state, by employing the means of suicide and mass terror. Arafat does not want a Palestinian state next to Israel. He wants a Palestinian state instead of Israel.

By contrast, any time that Israel has been confronted with an Arab leader who was genuinely committed to peace and spoke of peace to his people, we have made peace with that leader: Menachem Begin with Egypt's Anwar Sadat, Yitzhak Rabin with Jordan's King Hussein.

But five Israeli prime ministers have been unable to make peace with Arafat for a simple reason: Arafat does not want peace.

America rightly defeated the Taliban. And today, in an historic mission that deserves the support of civilized peoples everywhere, President Bush is courageously leading the free world to dismantle Saddam's regime before it acquires nuclear weapons.

If Israel is to end terror and begin peace in our own part of the world, we must also dismantle Arafat's regime, a mission equally worthy of support from all foes of terror and all friends of liberty.

Benjamin Netanyahu is a former prime minister of Israel and an influential leader in the Likud Party.

Create a state

From page 6

selves and the Palestinian representatives, under the leadership of Abu Alaa, the speaker of the Palestinian legislative council, did not provoke either formal approval or rejection, and exist by dint of the force of logic that closes ideological distances within Israel and bridges political gaps between ourselves and our neighbors.

These understandings are based on four stages:

Stage I (a prerequisite): The creation of a single Palestinian security arm that will dismantle the fragmented Palestinian armed factions that enable extremist organizations to threaten peace, undermine Palestinian autonomy and provoke Israel into exercising its right for self-defense. Also, only by operating a single Palestinian headquarters that will consolidate overall control over arms and triggers will it be possible to achieve a real cease-fire.

Stage II: Mutual recognition between the State of Israel and the Palestinian state within

a short period of time (a few weeks). Israel will recognize the Palestinian Authority as a Palestinian state, the boundaries of which will be determined through negotiations based on U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338, and the Palestinians will recognize Israel as a Jewish state.

Stage III: Negotiations that will be ongoing for a year, with the aim of finding solutions to controversial issues -- border lines, Jerusalem, refugees, settlements, security measures.

Stage IV: Will be dedicated to the implementation of the agreements reached, which will take a further year.

The accords and agreements reached will be endorsed by the "Quartet," largely representing world consensus.

This kind of endorsement has real enforcement power, for a breach of agreement could trigger international delegitimization and even affect aid allocations.

There is no need for outside military intervention to arrive at an agreement or enforce its implementation. An army is unable to function except on a battlefield or to control a situation that will ensue from an accord between the sides. An army cannot replace an agreement, nor can it function when an agreement is absent.

It is not difficult to foresee the demands of the "Quartet": disarm the Palestinian terror organizations and create a central headquarters that will have sole control over arms, put an end to terror, stop the incitement, freeze settlement activity, ensure Israeli withdrawal to outside of the Palestinian territories, ensure financial transparency and release of funds; a removal of roadblocks, opening of borders, erection of joint industrial zones, open labor markets, economic rehabilitation of the Palestinian entity and the development of a modern economy for all the peoples -- based on global market prerequisites, European Union regulations, American free trade zone stipulations and a market resting on openness, competition, transparency and growth.

Shimon Peres is the foreign minister of Israel. A former prime minister, he is also the former head of the labor party.

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Cease-fire first, then look toward peace talks

From page 7

of Saudi Arabia has, for the first time, adopted the vision of peace between Israel and its Arab neighbors -- a vision, which all of Israel's leaders have espoused for the last 54 years.

We welcome the Saudi initiative and vision, but the details must be negotiated between the parties themselves. Peace negotiations cannot be dictated. They must be based on mutual respect and a genuine attempt to reach a compromise. In the absence of open dialogue between the parties, this initiative will remain devoid of any real content.

Israel cannot accept the return of Arab refugees to its territory, as it would effectively terminate the existence of the State of Israel as a Jewish state. Neither can Israel accept any solution that would divide Jerusalem and deny Israel full sovereignty over its 3,000-year-old capital.

What is the outline through

which a comprehensive peace in the Middle East may be advanced?

Personally, I doubt it is possible to leap from the current violent conflict directly into a comprehensive permanent agreement that will bring a complete and final end to the conflict. Such an approach would rapidly lead us to a dead-end. After all, the Palestinians rejected the previous government's proposals, which included far-reaching concessions, refused to negotiate over them and chose to try to enforce their will upon Israel through terrorism.

Only when they come to the realization that violence is not an option will we be able to achieve a real cease-fire. And only when the Arabs reconcile with the birthright of the Jews to have an independent Jewish state in their ancestral homeland, can true lasting peace be achieved.

It is from that point that I propose to move forward toward a long-term interim agreement, which will affect the character and development of relations between Israel and the Palestinians.

It is in this situation that the Palestinians will be able to build an independent society and rebuild their ruined economy. We can and are willing to generously assist them in preparing their people for peace and good neighborly relations. Such an interim agreement would put an end to the ongoing suffering of the Palestinian population, those who wish to live in peace and prosperity.

The history of the political relations between Israel and the Arab states is proof of the via-

bility of a gradual step-by-step approach. We were in a state of war with the Egyptians. We went through five terrible wars. The war ended with an agreed cease-fire, in accordance with U.N. Security Council Resolutions 338 and 339.

Since that cease-fire came into effect, not one bullet has been fired between the Israeli and Egyptian armies. Shortly afterwards, we proceeded toward long-term interim agreements, which led to the commencement of direct negotiations and finally to the peace treaty of 1979 between the two countries.

Peace with Egypt has been sustained because it was predicated on the solid foundations of peace with ironclad security

arrangements as well as painful concessions. Although the situation with the Palestinians is more complicated, the outstanding issues are more difficult and the bitterness is greater, together, we can, I believe, move forward toward a better future for both our peoples.

All of Israel is committed to peace. It is a natural choice for us. I believe that we are destined to live here with Arabs and that if we remain united and determined, we will be able to bring our Palestinian and Arab neighbors to realize that peace is the only real viable choice for them as well.

Ariel Sharon is the prime minister of Israel. This piece was compiled for JTA from recent speeches by the prime minister.

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VH2

'Women of stories' hear a frightening Israeli tale

"We are women of stories; we tell each other stories and that is how we get to know each other," explained Leonore Sones, educational director for Temple Sinai in Cranston and the main speaker at this year's final Women's Alliance Rosh Hodesh program, held April 22 at Touro Synagogue in Newport.

With the current war of terror being waged against Israel, however, participants that evening got to know another woman through her personal story. Marta Ben Ami, mother of a local youth emissary from the Afula Gilboa region, Gal Ben Ami, began by saying, "As a mother — I am afraid." She has a daughter, Shirli, currently in the army, and a younger daughter, Orly, in addition to Gal, who will be returning to Israel this summer and joining the army in the fall.

Marta Ben Ami talked about what life is like for a mother in Israel today — about hearing of a bus explosion and knowing that if she hadn't bought her daughter a car, her daughter would have been on that bus. And about being required to serve as a guard



AT THE WOMEN'S ALLIANCE program in Newport, from left, are Marcia Cohen, of Newport; Helene Schechter, of Portsmouth; and Newport residents Bea Ross, Rosalyn Schmelzer, and Emily Kusin-itz. Women from throughout the state and southern Massachusetts participated.

at her child's school and the cancellation of all field trips and activities outside of school; about forbidding her teenager to go to a café, a movie, or even the supermarket.

And about carrying a pistol with her now wherever she goes.

Sones followed up on Ben Ami's story by engaging the more than 80 participants in a discussion about the relationships between mothers-in-law and daughters-in-law. Using the story of Ruth and Naomi, Sones illustrated the potential of that relationship — which

developed through the sharing of stories, and through love, kindness, and trust. Sones encouraged the audience to continue to tell their stories to one another to build positive relationships, and concluded the evening with a prayer reaching out to the mothers and daughters of Israel.

For more information about the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island's Women's Alliance and Judaic programming, contact Sylvia Berman-Peck at 421-4111 x 171, or at sberman-pec@jfri.org.



Jane Jacober and Marsha Horowitz listen attentively at the JFRI Leadership workshop. Photo by Jonathan Rubin

Women's Alliance helps "build" leaders.

The Jewish Federation of Rhode Island's Women's Alliance held a leadership "power workshop" April 25 for more than 30 women board and committee members involved with the Federation.

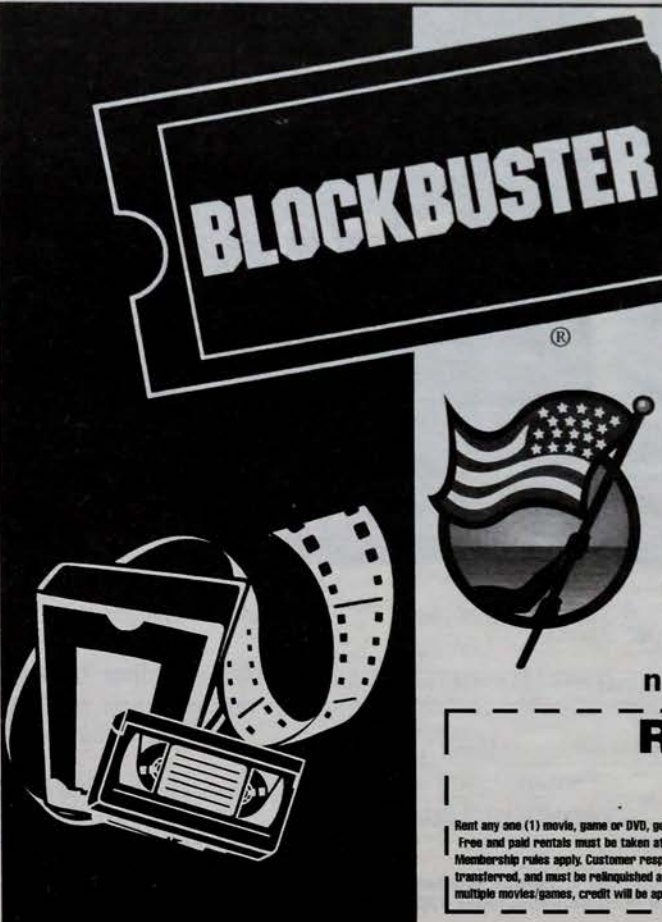
Elise Feldman, a member of the United Jewish Communities (UJC) National Women's Constituency (NWC) Board, the National Training Department, and one of the developers of the UJC NWC Leadership Power Program, developed a customized training program

for Rhode Island and facilitated the April 25th program held in the JFRI Board room.

Feldman, who runs two of her own companies, Feldman Benefit Services, Inc., and Outsource Inc., in Springfield, New Jersey, also speaks frequently to financial professionals and business owners about leadership training.

For the Rhode Island program, she focused on needs identified by the Women's Alliance Leadership Development Committee, chaired by Stacy

See WOMEN'S ALLIANCE page 11



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Women's Alliance workshop

From page 10

Emanuel and Judy Robbins. Topics included how to build the "A" Team by understanding different personalities, forging partnerships, and bringing everyone together to accomplish the goal; how to delegate successfully and resolve conflicts; and effective communication and presentation skills.

While campaign and other Federation-specific examples were utilized throughout the program, the workshop emphasized how these skills were applicable to one's professional

and personal life too.

Some the women who participated in the day-long workshop were committee members Amy Dressler, Estelle Klemmer, and Rina Vertes. Other committee members who helped plan the program included Jill Goldstein and Marilyn Friedman Shealey.

For more information about the Women's Alliance and future leadership development opportunities, contact Sylvia Berman-Peck at 421-4111 x 171 or at sberman-peck@jfri.org.

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Jewish demographic study completed



On Tuesday, May 18, the last phone calls were made to complete the Rhode Island Jewish community's first demographic study in 15 years. Led by Ira Sheskin, of the University of Miami, as well as a committed group of more than 50 callers, completed a total of 831 surveys.

The demographic study, sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, will provide information about the number of Jewish people living in Rhode Island, their religious practices, Jewish education, affiliation and other areas of interest.

The Demographic Study Committee, chaired by Albert Silverstein, worked with Sheskin and community leaders to develop a comprehensive questionnaire specifically for Rhode Island.

RACHEL CHODOROW-REICH, left, and Laura Belson field calls during the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island's demographic study.

Photo by Jonathan Rubin

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VH3

Around our agencies

Nursing aide cited for work with elderly

Patricia Lopes, a certified nursing assistant in the Jewish Seniors Agency's Comprehensive Adult Day Center, was honored in ceremonies at the State House May 30 as Home and Community Care Worker of the Year.

She was cited by the R.I. Department of Elderly Affairs.

Lopes has been a certified nursing assistant for ten years and an employee of the Jewish Seniors Agency for two years.

She was nominated by the agency for her skills and "genuine respect and affection for the participants she assists." Her supervisor, Roberta Sinapi describes Lopes as a "come in early and stay late," creative, self-directed team player.

Of the people she helps at the center, Lopes said, "I have a chance to put quality into their day and to add purpose and meaning to their lives by doing activities with them and caring for them."



HANK GREENBERG, Lillian Schwartz and Gloria Lefkowitz check out some of the books and video cassettes brought by the Bookmobile, a joint program of the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island and the Jewish Seniors Agency. The bookmobile program brings both Jewish and secular books, audio tapes and videos to synagogues, assisted living centers, hospital rooms and apartments all over the state. The bookmobile librarian, Barbara Dwares, (not pictured) also brings book reviews and starts discussions about holidays or Jewish life.

Photo by Jonathan Rubin

— Paid advertisement —

Summer art in Gallery 401

Gallery 401, located at the Jewish Community Center in Providence, will be present oil landscapes by Jennifer Clement during the month of June. Educated at Rhode Island School of Design, Fashion Institute of Technology, Newbury College, and Montserrat College of Art, Clement's work has been exhibited widely throughout New England.

The exhibit is open through June 30 during normal building hours of the JCC.

There are no exhibits during the summer months of July and August.

Their stories will be links to history

The Jewish Seniors Agency's JERI Outreach Program is looking for volunteers to visit nursing homes to take the oral histories from residents. The oral stories told by the elderly will be used as a tool to teach young people, for intergenerational activities in the nursing homes and as gifts to families.

For further information call Susan Adler, JERI Outreach program director, at 621-5374.

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Americans for Peace Now: Two Polls, One Direction



There's no doubt that Israelis and Palestinians increasingly are hardline on short-term security issues. But two polls were released recently that give reason to hope that they can still find a way to live together without conflict in the long run.

The first poll was conducted by the Dahaf Institute on behalf of the Israeli Peace Coalition, and found that 59% of Israelis either think or are certain that they would support a peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians with American sponsorship that includes a withdrawal to the 1967 borders, a compromise in Jerusalem, and the Palestinians conceding the right of return (i.e., an amended Saudi initiative). The survey also found that 59% of Israelis believe that a withdrawal that includes evacuating most of the settlements from the occupied territories will lead to the renewal of peace talks.

On the other side, the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research released a poll showing that 66% of Palestinians support the Saudi proposal calling for a two-state solution, an Israeli withdrawal to the 1967 borders, and the establishment of full normal relations and peace between Israel and the Arab states. In addition, 70% of Palestinians support reconciliation between the Israeli and the Palestinian peoples after reaching a peace agreement based on the establishment of a Palestinian state recognized by Israel.

Without underestimating the amount of mutual animosity that has built up during the Intifada, Israelis and Palestinians alike recognize reality: the way out of the current crisis lies in the direction of peace negotiations and a political solution.

To learn more about this issue or related topics, visit the Americans for Peace Now web site at: www.peacenow.org

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— Around our agencies —

JFS Health tip: prep before doctor visit

Doctor visits can be overwhelming, especially for older people. It is easy to feel rushed, knowing the doctor has a waiting room full of other patients. You might be nervous about some troubling symptoms or anxious about test results. Yet, according to Jewish Family Service Home Care Coordinator Vicky Briggs, RN, there are a few preparations you can make before hand to help the visit go smoothly and make sure that vital questions do not go unanswered.

Here are some suggestions:

- Make a list of questions you wish to ask your doctor. Put the most important ones at the top. That way you will not forget anything, and you will be able to spend the most time on the questions that matter the most to you.
- Bring along a small notepad and a pen to write down instructions or information the doctor gives you. That way you can refer to the items in writing if you forget something or if there is medical terminology you want to look up.
- If you are worried about something, make a note of your symptoms and when they occur. For example, if you often feel lightheaded, jot down when it happens. Is it when you first get up in the morning, or does it occur at intervals throughout the day? The more information the doctor has, the easier the diagnosis will be.
- Make a list of all medications you are taking, the dosage, the condition for which it is prescribed and the doctor who prescribed it. Include any over-the-counter medications you take regularly. This information is also good to have on hand in the event of an accident or emergency. More importantly, this can help avoid possibly dangerous drug interactions.
- Relax. Your doctor is there to help you. Be prepared to ask for explanations if you do not understand something he or she says.
- You may want to bring along a spouse, relative or friend to provide support.

Training course to start for volunteers aiding elderly

The Jewish Seniors Agency's third training course for people interested in becoming spiritual volunteers begins July 11. The goal of the agency's CHAVER Program (Caring Helpers and Visitors Empower Residents) is to give volunteers skills to act as "friendly visitors" to the elderly.

According to Ethan Adler, CHAVER coordinator, "our goal is to give people a better understanding of what it is like to be in a nursing home and to sensitize them to the feelings and needs of residents who may

have lost touch with the outside world."

The CHAVER curriculum, to be taught by Adler and an array of guest speakers, has both secular and Jewish components. It includes lessons in visiting skills and etiquette, information on diseases and their effects, and interactive activities designed to enhance communication.

Jewish traditions and perspectives on illness, suffering, the soul, death, and the afterlife will also be covered. Volunteers will learn how to share stories

and use song and prayer to reconnect the residents to their Jewish heritage.

Upon completion of the course, CHAVER volunteers are matched with residents in nursing homes convenient to them. Volunteers determine their own schedule of regular visits. The eight-week course will be held Thursdays from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center.

For more information, contact Susan Adler, the agency's JERI Outreach Program director, at 621-5374, or 946-2604.

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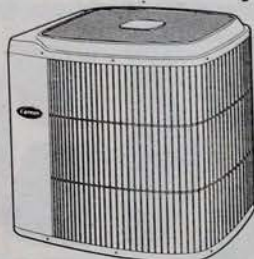
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75 years can't break up that old gang of theirs

Continued from page 1

a reunion several weeks ago.

Actually, the next in their series of 10-year gatherings wasn't scheduled until 2007, but a former club president, Sid Green says he suggested moving things up because "I looked around and said we aren't going to last another five years."

But don't put it past this old gang to have at least a few more reunions. Their friendships have endured — even through a depression and a world war that in later years, when membership had expanded, claimed the lives of seven from their ranks.

At the Providence Marriott recently, some 24 members and their wives, and even the widows of deceased members, reminisced — about a long-ago time when nobody's family had money and camaraderie was the order of the day, mostly at the old Jewish Community Center on Benefit Street.

"My father never owned a

bank account in his life," recalls Yosinoff, of Pawtucket, who spent 33 years as a math teacher and guidance counselor in Providence schools.

In fact, he says, club members were so poor that as Depression teenagers, when they had started taking girls to dances, they would agree beforehand to limit the amount each could spend on a corsage.



Sid Green

Green, of Providence, joined the club in the 1930s, and later in life grubstaked immigrant Jewish peddlers from his wholesale dry goods store. Now 82, he recalls how the club — eventually renamed the William Gates Cutler Olympic Club after its advisor from the JCC — evolved into a group that helped others through charitable work.

One of its beneficiaries through the years was an organi-

zation reminiscent of the club's own heritage of childhood — the Jewish Orphanage of Rhode Island.

Solidarity was a trademark of the club in its early years, says Yosinoff. He recalls one of the rules: "If one of the fellows asked a girl to an affair and she refused him, nobody else in the club could ask her."

There were theater productions, social events, hikes, and a lot of sports, Yosinoff recalls — hence the "Olympic" part of the name.

And there was gallantry, as well:

"After we went out with girls we'd kiss them goodnight and that was about it," says Green.

When the war was over and many members returned from battle to marry and raise families, the old gang began drifting apart, says Yosinoff; the club — having grown at one time to a membership of some 75 — disbanded in 1952.



CHARTER MEMBERS of the William Gates Cutler Olympic Club, founded in 1927, are, from left: Nat Schwartz, Errol Haas, Louis Yosinoff, and Joslyn Presser.

But not completely, because the reunions have come with regularity. This last one included all four surviving original members, who in addition to Yosinoff, are Nat Schwartz, of Bloomfield, Conn.; Errol Haas, of Martha's Vineyard and Florida; and Joslyn Presser, of Knoxville, Tenn. The four

deceased original members were Jack Jacobson, Haskell Wallick, Ira Stone and Jack Rottenberg.

In the end, says Yosinoff, the William Gates Cutler Olympic Club has lasted so long because it still values the essence of what got it started so long ago: "Friendship."

Rhode Island raises \$1 million for Israel

Continued from page 1

pre-schools and kindergartens.

Armored buses and ambulances will save lives, and economic assistance will be provided to those making *aliyah* to Israel as they flee the economic disaster in Argentina to start a new life in Israel at this most difficult time.

The priority of programs

to receive funding is being verified by the Overseas Needs Assessment and Distribution (ONAD) committee and the Overseas Pillar, one of the four priorities of the United Jewish Communities — the national organization of Jewish Federations. Decisions are being made with input from UJC's international partners in Israel, the Jewish Agency and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

Robert Mann, immediate past president of the Federa-

tion, its current endowment chair, and a member of the ONAD committee, said, "It is clear what our priorities are: How can we best protect our children, keep them safe for the summer, and then to, from, and in school? How do we best help those most traumatized by the past 18 months of terror throughout Israel? Our only challenge is to find or create the programs that best accomplish these goals."

Rhode Islanders have already paid more than

\$455,000, and the Federation anticipates sending a check to UJC for the first installment of \$500,000 from the local campaign next week.

No money will be spent based on pledges to the Emergency Campaign — only money actually received will be expended. Rhode Islanders have already paid more than \$455,000, and the Federation anticipates sending a check to UJC for the first installment of \$500,000 from the local campaign next week.

The local "We Stand

With Israel Campaign" was designed as a 60-day emergency campaign, with the guideline that all pledges be paid in full by July 31 if possible, and by Dec. 31 at the latest.

Half of the money distributed from funds raised in the Federation's annual community campaign is also used to provide for Jews in need in Israel and throughout the world, while the other half helps support the local Jewish community.

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

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'Tamarisk' takes root at Shalom complex

scheduled for Oct. 6.

Rabinowitz said the project will be financed with \$3.2 million from the agency's endowment of about \$11 million, and the issuance of tax-exempt bonds through the Rhode Island Health and Educational Building Corp.

The complex will cost more than the total of the construction contract, she said, because that agreement doesn't include expenses such as architect's fees and furnishings.

Eventually, the project is expected to be self-supporting through its rental income.

The three-story facility will include one- and two-bedroom apartments and efficiencies, and all the meals served there will be prepared in two on-site kosher kitchens, one for meat and one for dairy.

Rabinowitz said the monthly rents will be competitive with other assisted living complexes, probably varying from an estimated \$2,400 to \$4,400, the latter for dementia units.

The apartments will range



TAMARISK

THIS LOGO has been developed to represent the new assisted living center in Warwick.

in size up to 824 square feet, she said.

According to Rabinowitz, Tamarisk will offer three daily meals, a weekly housekeeping service, linens, a physical activities room, and a theater facility.

The complex will include a nursing station, to be staffed during the day, with an off-premise nurse also available when needed at other times.

Tamarisk will provide a busy schedule of daily recreational and educational activities, to be developed by residents with the assistance of a committee chaired by Elaine Odesda, Rabinowitz said.

She said that her agency hopes to make use at Tamarisk of a number of stained glass windows and memorial plaques that once were a part of the former Jewish Home for the Aged.

The agency, which sought suggestions from the public for naming the complex, received scores of responses, finally settling on one that came from the project's public relations firm, Saaybe & Co., of Providence.

According to Barbara Dawson, of Saaybe, the idea sprang from a brainstorming session. The agency was looking for a name that would mean something to the Jewish community but would still seem suitable to residents who aren't Jewish.

According to Rabinowitz, while the complex will be non-sectarian, the kosher meals and Jewish character of the complex will probably result in applications and acceptances that are about 80 percent Jewish.

An agency committee chaired by Susan Leach DeBlasio coordinated the search for a name.

Responses ranged from the Biblically inspired ("Aaron's

Place," "Canaan Village," "Genesis"), to the topographical ("Midland," "Pinecrest") to the clearly Jewish ("L'Chaim House," "Heimish House.")

According to the agency's announcement about the name, the tamarisk "is a tree that thrives in the desert, growing strong and protecting travelers with its pleasant, cooling shade. According to Biblical lore, Abraham planted a tamarisk tree upon his arrival in Beersheva. Today, the tamarisk is frequently planted throughout Israel, sprouting up in parks along the boulevards of its coastal cities."

"It is in the spirit of this desert tree," the announcement continued, "that Tamarisk will rise on our land as a symbol of hospitality, making all who come here feel welcomed, comforted and protected."

Information on the complex is available through the Jewish Seniors Agency at 351-4750.

Artist's rendition

AL RESNICK, of Warwick, stands next to the Star of David that he carved for the meditation room at EPOCH Assisted Living in Lincoln. Resnick creates Judaica items in his spare time, including menorahs, Hebrew words and magnets, with a circular saw in a studio in his home.



Photo by Jonathan Rubin

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Planning a wedding is like spring training for life

By Oren Kaunfer

I asked my girlfriend, Rachel, to marry me last August. It was not a decision that I took lightly — we had dated for five years and had been friends for twice that.

Picking out a diamond ring by myself, however, proved a bit too stressful, so I trained my nervous energy on a rock that we had picked up on the beach together, turning it into a perfectly rounded token of engagement. Thankfully, popping the question went off without a hitch. I got down on one knee, she was shocked to tears, the rock was a perfect fit — and she said yes.

All of my planning had culminated in an ideal day. Finally, we could relax. Rachel no longer would have to stay up nights wondering if I would ever grow up, and I wouldn't have to sneak into a back room at my office to sand a rock into a ring. We were

golden.

But then something strange happened. The next morning, instead of lying around reveling in our impending nuptials, my girlfriend — excuse me, fiancée — began stewing over a calendar.

Now don't get me wrong, I love Rachel. I would do anything for her. I was and still am extremely excited about marrying her, but I was under the impression that as the groom my involvement in this wedding would be pretty minimal. After all, my grandmother had promised me that all I had to do was "show up on time and look nice." That was a job I thought I could handle. Unfortunately that's not how it works. Maybe I am more liberated than other men, but I have certainly gone beyond my bubbe's "groomly expectations."

Here's how that happened.

Days after the engagement, before I knew it, we were narrowed down to two potential wedding dates — apparently the only two Sundays when the stars would be aligned with our aunts' and uncles' schedules. By the end of the week we had picked a broad geographic locale, and talked to our parents a total of 63 times. I'm not sure I had talked to my parents that much in all four years of college. Rachel told me that as soon as we had finalized a place and a date, we could relax. I figured, how hard could that be? We set out to find a non-synagogue or non-hotel venue for our nuptials.

Rachel's from Boston; I'm from Providence. Between the two cities, we figured, there must be a hundred beautiful outdoor spots for a June wedding. Turns out there are 241. Over the next few weeks we called every one. Let me save anyone looking to get married outdoors, in New England, during June, with a kosher caterer and about 175 people, some trouble. Finding a place that meets all four of those parameters on a date that fits Dodah Channah's schedule is impossible. I'll make a long

story short: We are getting married at Temple Mishkan Tefilah in Chestnut Hill, Mass. (it has a beautiful patio).

In the early planning stages I gladly stayed out of the way, but soon I was sucked in. I come from a simple family of rabbis and educators. I was raised to think of "China" as a country and that the word "register" should be preceded by "cash." Eight months later, I now know that the Internet was invented as a means to make sure people get you everything you want (as long as they carry it at Crate & Barrel), and Ivana at Michael C. Fina knows my taste in dishware better than I do.

It didn't shock me that I lacked some knowledge about the finer things in life. I know that I am basically ignorant. What did shock me was the first time I caught myself looking at China on the Internet. Or using my lunch break to set up mock place settings. And to all of my friends who are about to call and make fun of me, I say this: Just wait. One day you, too, will start caring about what you're going to eat your brisket off of for the next 50 years.

Once my Bloomingdale's registry consultant knew me by name, I knew there was no turning back. I had become deeply involved in planning my wedding. I tried to give Rachel carte blanche on some items, like the invitations or the flowers, but I just couldn't stay out of things. We live in a small apartment. I would hear her say something to her mother over the telephone, and the next day I would find myself stopping at corner delis to compare Calla lilies to daffodils. At least my X chromosome has kept me from losing sleep over such subjects.

Once, a long time ago, I was at synagogue and the bat-mitzvah girl was giving a thank-you speech. She concluded with, "Thank you, Mom, for all of your help and everything you've done to make this day so special. And thank you, Dad, for staying out of the way."

I never met that father, but I'll always wonder how he did it.

I guess planning a wedding is sort of like spring training for life.

This article originally appeared in The Forward. Oren Kaunfer is a freelance television producer living in New York City. He was married June 9.

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Photo courtesy of the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association

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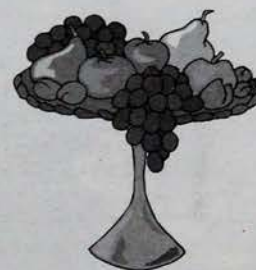
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A group of eighth graders at Providence Hebrew Day School recently participated in a statewide mock trial competition. After weeks of study and preparation, the team competed as prosecutors and defense lawyers with other eighth graders throughout Rhode Island. It was the first time PHDS eighth grad-

ers took part in this program. In the end, the PHDS team placed fourth out of 35 teams in the competition.

Pictured above: Ari Winkelman, Jason Kerzer and Danielle Greengart in back row, left to right. In front row are Daniel Vaknin, Reuven Yavner and Beth Japhet.

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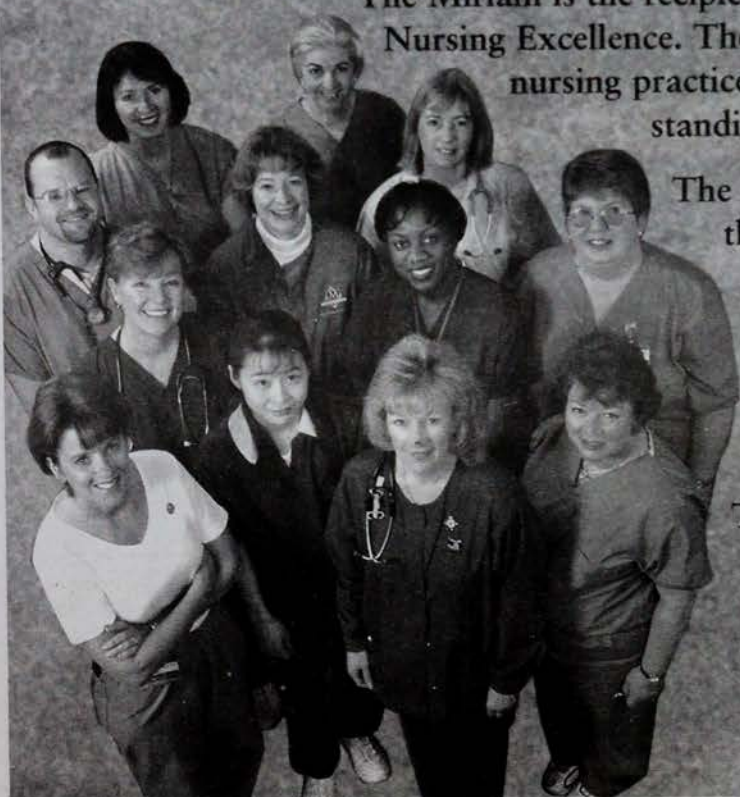
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Mouse click will help feed the hungry

Rhode Island philanthropist Alan Shawn Feinstein has announced that he will donate \$5 for every person who clicks on the web site www.helpthehungry.org for the remainder of this year, up to a total of \$1 million.

At the end of the year the money will be distributed among anti-hunger agencies throughout the country.

Feinstein, founder of the Center for Hunger-Free America at the University of Rhode Island and the Feinstein International Famine Center at Tufts University, has distributed over \$5 million to some 2,000 anti-hunger agencies nationwide in the last five years.

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Calendar of community events

June 21

Shabbat picnic

The Stars of David, a non-profit adoption support network, invites families to the Seekonk Swim and Tennis Club, at the end of Davis Street off Route 152, to celebrate Shabbat, eat, swim, and play volleyball or tennis, starting at 5:30 p.m. \$7.50 adult, \$5 per child. Call 431-0728 or call the club at (508) 336-9128.

June 23

B-ball tournament

The Jewish Community Center will hold three-on-three basketball tournaments in three age divisions. The 21-and-over match begins at 11 a.m., and the 13-15 and 16-20 games begin at 3 p.m. At least one JCC member per team is required in the adult division. \$35 per person. Contact Alex Turek at 401-861-8800, ext. 149 for more information.

Israel discussion

Sen. Jack Reed will speak at a fundraiser at Congregation Ohave Shalom in Pawtucket at 10:15 a.m. He will discuss the current situation in the Middle East. \$12.50 admission. Light lunch will follow. Call Barbara at 725-4445 for more information.

June 25

Pharmacy speaker

Participants at the JFS Kosher Mealsite, Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston, are invited learn about over-the-counter medications as a pharmacist from CVS provides information, beginning at 11:15 a.m.

Islam is topic

Dr. Mohammed Sharif, President of the Rhode Island

Muslim Society and Professor of Economics at the University of Rhode Island, will speak to members of the Brown Bag Club about Muslims and Islam at 12:30.

June 28-30

Weekend getaway

THE J CONNECTION will hold a 35+ weekend getaway for 150 men and 150 women on 300 acres in the Berkshire Mountains. For more information visit www.jconnection.com.

June 30

Israel Solidarity walk

Join the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island in an Israel Solidarity walk. Festivities, food and music included. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., walk begins at 9 outside the Jewish Community Center, 401 Elm-grove Ave., Providence.

July 2

JCC Night at McCoy

Jewish Community Center offers tickets to see the Pawtucket Red Sox in a 6:05 game at McCoy Stadium. Tickets available Monday-Friday at the membership office of the JCC or at main lobby reception window. Adults \$4.25, children \$3.25. Fireworks after the game.

July 3

Israeli film

The Boston Jewish Film

Festival and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston is showing the recent Israeli film Yellow Asphalt, July 3 at 8:15 p.m.; July 6 at 2 p.m.; July 7 at 4:15 p.m. and July 11 at 6 p.m. Winner of the Best Film Award at the 2000 Haifa International Film Festival. Tickets are \$8 for MFA and BJFF members, seniors, and students; \$9 for general admission. Call 617-369-3770 for reservations.

July 17

Social Seniors

Social Seniors of Warwick will travel to "Whites of Westport" to see "New Year's in July." Lunch will be included. For further information call Tillie Orleck or Anne Margolis.

July 23

Mah Jongg

Mah Jongg Mavens can attend an afternoon of lunch, learning, laughter, fun and prizes at the Jewish Community Center. Don't know how to play? We will teach you. Have your own set? Bring it. Call Sue Robbio or Sue Suls at 861-8800 to register.

July 26

Services under the stars

Temple Beth-El continues its summer tradition of holding outside services "under the stars" at 7:30 p.m. Singing, stories and summertime Oneg Shabbat are included. Children with summer birthdays will also be honored.

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Robinson exhibit has big finish

BONNIE GOLD, of Foxboro, Mass., admires a portrait of Jackie Robinson at final day of the "How Jackie Robinson Changed America" exhibit at Bryant College on June 2. The exhibit, sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island and the Urban League of Rhode Island, encapsulated Robinson's seminal career as the man who integrated major league baseball in playing for the Brooklyn Dodgers. More than 2,000 students toured the exhibit, and the closing ceremony brought together medley of musical performers, including gospel singers, klezmer music sign-language performers, and Hasidic music.



Photo by Jonathan Rubin

24 win diplomas from Midrasha

Twenty-four students were graduated May 19 from the Harry Elkin Midrasha Community High School, Providence, during ceremonies at Congregation Am David in Warwick.

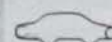
Among award winners were Miriam Jacobson, the Nathan Resnik Scholar; Adam Beraha, the Eliezer Ben Yehuda Award; David Rotenberg and Anna Cable, the Al and Tina Simons Award; Shoshana Miller, the Harry Elkin Memorial Award;

and Sarah Morey-Hardy and Peter Ziegler, the Rabbi and Mrs. Israel S. Rubenstein Memorial Award.

The graduates are:

Kyle Assad, East Greenwich; Noah Bassel, Providence; Adam Beraha, Providence; Anna Cable, Providence; Benjamin de Boer, Providence; Mychal Feingold, Providence; Stacey Formal, Providence; Adam Freedman, Pawtucket; Miriam Jacobson, Providence; Michelle Levinson, Providence;

Henri Martin-Engle, Cranston; Shoshana Miller, Providence; Sarah Morey-Hardy, Providence; Anna Norman, Providence; Brooke Odessa, Providence; Lymor Ringer, Providence; Micahel Rosenstein, Providence; David Rotenberg, Providence; Ari Savitzky, Providence; Anya Sgambato, East Greenwich; Elana Snow, Pawtucket; David Weinschel, South Dartmouth; Amanda Werber, East Greenwich; Peter Ziegler, North Kingstown.



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Elvis in Jerusalem: Post-Zionism and the Americanization of Israel

Author Tom Segev
Metropolitan Books, 2002, 161 Pages
Book review by Yehuda Lev

In the spring of 1958, with Canadian soldiers stationed with the UN in Gaza and with an increasing number of North American tourists visiting Israel, the Israeli Foreign Ministry decided to present a daily English language radio program for their entertainment and, hopefully, political education.

Kol Israel, the Israel State Radio, was already providing a number of daily English language news bulletins but this was to be a much more ambitious project: an hour every afternoon of American-style news, features, folk songs, humor, interviews and, for the first time ever in Israel, commercials. Inasmuch as I was already working in the station's newsroom and had an intimate knowledge of baseball, the electoral college and the correct pronunciation of Connecticut, they handed the hour over to me.

There was an immediate negative reaction from the Association of English Teachers in Israel. They passed a resolution of protest on the grounds that their students were being subjected to American-accented English, quite out of keeping with the BBC style they were accustomed to teaching. They protested in vain and the program remained for some years one of the most popular in Israel.

This tiny footnote to Israeli history has been noted in a new book by the Israeli journalist Tom Segev, "Elvis in Jerusalem: Post-Zionism and the Americanization of Israel". On page 71 of his

brief and oddly bifurcated study, Segev mentions the introduction of commercial advertising on radio as one instance of a growing American influence on Israeli life. That caught me by surprise; commercials for El Al and the Tel Aviv Sheraton didn't have a smidgen of the later impact in Israel of McDonalds and Home Depot, the influence of American popular culture, the gradual acceptance of English (often American-accented) as a teaching language in the universities, the increasing reliance on American legal precedents in the courts and the training of leading Israeli politicians, business and military people in American settings. Segev refers to all of these and more in the first half of his book.

In Israel, even in its early years, we were aware of a kind of delayed American influence on our lives. American trends in popular music always had an immediate effect on our own while new medical and dental procedures, teaching techniques and technological innovations developed in the United States usually appeared in Israel some five or 10 years later. Segev also remarks on this phenomenon, including such major adoptions as smoking bans in public areas and minor ones like highway signs with white letters on a green background.

Segev believes that it has been American influence that has changed the stress in Israeli self-defini-

tion from "we" to "I". Certainly in the past two decades; the kibbutznik has been replaced by the businessman as the model for secular Israelis. The use of drugs became more widespread in Israel when they were introduced by youthful American volunteers on Israeli kibbutzim after the Six Day War. But these are not changes limited to Israel, nor have these influences come from the United States alone.

Furthermore there are large segments of the Israeli Jewish population that are relatively unaffected by the onslaught of American behaviors and western technology. I wonder what percentage of Sephardic Jews in Israel learn English or travel to the United States to study or work. In general the ultra-Orthodox Jewish population of Israel does not use TV or radio, does not attend movies or the theater and rejects any attempt to bring about a melding of the various strains of Jewish culture which have come together in Israel.

All this is in the first half of Segev's book. The second half virtually ignores



Elvis in Jerusalem
Post-Zionism and the Americanization of Israel

Tom Segev

the issue of American influences on Israel and consists instead of a vigorous defense of so-called "post-Zionism." This is a secular, left-wing movement supporting the idea that Zionism should return to its roots when the aim of its founders was to establish a "normal" state, one in which the Jews would be like any other nationality in their homeland. It rejects the idea of a divine giving of the land to the Jews and re-writes Israeli history in line with new information and a more objective and balanced view of events.

The argument is interesting but doesn't really belong in this book and requires a separate review.

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The Mazel Tov column

Engagement



Dr. Mark Winkler and
Dr. Ivana Hemolova

Mr. and Mrs. Merrill Winkler of Cranston announce the engagement of their son, Dr. Mark Louis Winkler, to Dr. Ivana Hemolova. Dr. Winkler is a radiologist, specializing in magnetic resonance imaging in Henderson, Nev. Dr. Hemolova is a third-year pediatrics resident. She is the daughter of Karel Hemolova of the Czech Republic and the late Alena Hemolova. A fall wedding is planned.

Births

Amy and Steven Bloom, of Cranston, announce the birth of a daughter, Sydney Faye, April 23. Sydney Faye is a granddaughter of Carol and Alan Cohen, of Pittsfield, Mass., and

Dolores and David Bloom of Houston, Tex. Maternal great-grandfather is Leonard Hazen of Providence. Maternal great-grandmother is Esther Cohen of Pittsfield.

Nancy and Jeremy Bloch, of Cranston, announce the birth of a son, Samuel Edward, Feb. 25. Samuel is the grandson of Allen and Sandra Ross, of Greenville, and Irwin and Shirley Bloch, of Sharon, Mass. His maternal great-grandmothers are Beryl Meyer and Sadie "Tex" Ross Fein, both of Providence. Samuel is named for his paternal great-grandfathers, Saul Bloch and Charles Heller, and for his maternal great-grandfathers, Samuel Garber and Edward Kossove.



Michael Francis

Deirdre and Kenneth Barth announce the birth of their first child, Michael Francis on Jan.

10 in Fall River. Grandparents are Linda Somers Miller of Dartmouth and the late Roy and Constance Barth of Lakeville, Mass. Michael was named for his late Uncle Michael and his great grandmother, Frances Somers. His Hebrew name is Moshe Pesach. The family lived in Lakeville, Mass.

50th anniversary



Greta and Bernard Labush

Greta and Bernard Labush of Delray Beach, Fla., formerly of Warwick, recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at Temple Am David in Warwick. They have four children, Sheryl E. Barlow, Tamara P. Kortick, Iris B. Labush, and Stevan H. Labush; five grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Earns Ph.D.

Jean A. Riesman recently received a Ph.D. in urban planning and studies from the

Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She also was awarded a fellowship for her "Outstanding contribution to the intellectual life of the department." She is the daughter of Marcia and Robert Riesman of Providence.

B'nai mitzvot

Anne Reesa Kaplan became a bat mitzvah June 8 at Temple Emanu-El in Providence. A "Silver Scholar" participant, she is the daughter of Deborah and Murray Kaplan of North Scituate. Anne is a seventh grader at the Alperin Schechter Day School.

Henry Sion Barcohana, the son of Esta and Fred Barcohana, celebrated his bar mitzvah April 20 at Temple Emanu-El in Providence.

Graduates

Sara Feinberg, daughter of Doris and Alan Feinberg, of Newport, graduated from Harvard University June 6. Her activities included varsity squash, tutoring prisoners, and teaching English as a second language to Spanish-speaking immigrants. She attended the Lincoln School in Providence.

Michelle B. Levitt, daughter of Joan and Steve Levitt of Cranston, recently graduated from the University of Rhode Island with a bachelor's

degree in elementary education and psychology. She was also inducted into the education and psychology honor societies.

To lead medical unit

David B. Abrams, of Providence, professor of psychiatry and human behavior and director of the Centers for Behavioral and Preventive Medicine at Brown Medical School/The Miriam Hospital, was recently inaugurated as president of the Society of Behavioral Medicine. The society is the premiere scientific forum for more than 3,000 behavioral and biomedical researchers.

Goldwater Scholarship

Alicia Little, a sophomore at Amherst College, will receive a Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship next year. A graduate of South Kingstown High School, she is the daughter of Arthur and Sara Little. Little, a chemistry major, is co-president of Amherst College Hillel and co-captain of the Women's Ultimate Frisbee Club there. She plans to pursue an M.D., and a Ph.D. in biochemistry or molecular biology and to do research on autoimmune diseases.

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Former kitten at the keys still tickling those ivories

If memory serves me right, I have never written about my love affair with music. Other than my family and friends and my joy in reading, music has given me more pleasure than anything else. But my musical career has been a checkered one.



Tema Gouse

It all began in the first grade. My teacher organized an orchestra to accompany the class singing. The musicians played tambourines, castanets or triangles, producing as cacophonous a sound as is conceivable.

There was status attached to playing the tambourine. It identified you as "teacher's pet." Today those tambourinists would be identified as nerds. I was a nerd — but all this was not the foundation of my love for music.

I was the youngest of the three children in my family. At age 8, my brother started taking piano lessons. At age 9, my sister started taking piano lessons.

I never did — my mother died as I was approaching the age to start taking lessons. My father had his hands full just getting us through the days, and did not feel he could take on the added burden of forcing yet another child to practice the piano.

Needless to say, I was the one who, uninstructed, sat and

played for an hour a day, teaching myself to read the music and to adapt it to the keyboard. The music came in sheet form, and we had loads of it, because Sister and Brother had taken lessons for several years.

I played with absolutely no technique or style, foot heavy on the pedals, thinking I could impress my father with my talent. I was unsuccessful. However, I discovered I wasn't entirely without talent. I could sight-read any piece of music, an ability I have retained. We will not discuss what it sounded like.

My sister's vocal talents were recognized when she was 14 and we both fell in love with opera. On Saturdays, when normal children went to the movies, we went to the opera. In those days it cost a quarter to sit in the last balcony of the opera house. The other price was that you had to climb 11 flights of stairs to get there.

In the Depression years the Chicago Symphony gave free concerts during the summer in Grant Park. My friends and I went three or four times a week. They didn't have George Solti in those days, but the music was heavenly. Glenn Miller began to take a back seat in my musical adoration.

Then catastrophe occurred. My sister, the aspiring soprano,

got married, left our home, — and took the piano with her. No more long hours abusing the grand piano. And I missed it. Oh, did I miss it. And I lived without a piano in the house for the next 45 years.

I went away to college, and then I was working or going to graduate school. I got married and had kids and eventually returned to a professional job. Busy, busy, busy. I was attending a few concerts and falling asleep listening to the Metropolitan Opera on Saturday afternoons.

I tried repeatedly (unsuccessfully) to interest each of my sons in playing the piano so I could justify buying one for myself. No way, though. One son became a tolerable clarinetist. The other failed guitar lessons.

"There was status attached to playing the tambourine. It identified you as 'teacher's pet.' Today those tambourinists would be identified as nerds."

Another period of musical frustration: Opera was not available in my community. I stayed with the local symphony group, and it has improved over the years.

Hope returned when I was planning for retirement. I decided to buy a piano and take real piano lessons.

And I did, retiring on a Friday, purchasing a piano on

Monday, and taking my first lesson on Thursday. The ability to sight-read music spared me from boring scales and simple music. My wonderful teacher improved my fingering, my timing and technique. I had arrived — at age 62!

I never aspired to being a singer. Sisters compete a great deal, but I do not compete when I am sure to lose. My sister was the obvious winner in that area. I was lucky to be able to sing on key.

Today? Well, the music lessons tapered off, but the pleasure of an hour at the piano hasn't. The local symphony merits a season ticket purchase. Opera in our state has yet to arrive. Occasionally I try the visiting opera presentations,

only to be disappointed.

I have made peace with the fact that my sons and granddaughters have different taste in music than I do. My radio is permanently locked into the FM station that plays only classical music. Two of my granddaughters are taking piano lessons, neither exhibiting great talent.

I am never bored, because I can always play at playing the piano. I can't stand the noise that young people call music, and I worry about the future of good music because almost everyone at the symphony carries a Medicare card.

I'm never going to play Carnegie Hall, but good music has enriched the life of this senior citizen.



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Herbert Siegal

NARRAGANSETT—Herbert S. Siegal, 83, of 101 Ocean Rd., a retired real estate developer, died May 16 at home. He was the husband of Mollie F. (Marks) Siegal.

Born in Newport, a son of the late Barnett and Eva (Gelman) Siegal, he had lived in Narragansett for 20 years and had wintered in Florida for 33 years. He previously lived in Worcester, Mass.

He was the owner of the former Reliable Jewelers in Worcester, later becoming a real estate developer. Mr. Siegal was a World War II Navy veteran, having served with the Seabees in the Pacific.

He was an avid violinist, and had played bass in the Seabee Band before going to the Pacific. He was a supporter of music and the arts.

Besides his wife, he leaves two sons, Byron Siegal, of Portsmouth, N.H., and Donald A. Siegal, of Glendale, Cal.; and two sisters, Gloria Frome, of Deerfield Beach, Fla., and Sally Jaffe of Miami Beach. He was the brother of the late Nathan, Eddie and Ruth Siegal, Rose Pass and Belle Gilbert.

Funeral services were held in Shalom Memorial Chapel, Cranston, and burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. Contributions may be made to the Congregation Beth David Building Fund, in care of the synagogue, Kingstown Road, Narragansett, 02882.

Lillian Dennis

NEW BEDFORD—Lillian Dennis, 104, died May 12, at the New Bedford Jewish Convalescent Home. She was the widow of Joseph Dennis.

A lifelong New Bedford resident, she and her husband owned Dennis Dress until retiring in 1967.

She was a former member of Tifereth Israel Congregation.

Survivors include a son, Sidney Dennis of Delray Beach, Fla., five grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

She was the mother of the late Irving Dennis, and the sister of the late Eva Kaplan, Rose Levine, Ida Shapiro, Ann Ackerman, Harry Finkelstein, Max Finkelstein and John Finkelstein.

Contributions may be made to New Bedford Jewish Convalescent Home, 200 Hawthorn St., New Bedford, 02740.

Nathan Jacobson

PROVIDENCE—Nathan Jacobson, 96, of Eighth Street, a retired industrial administrator, died June 7 in Miriam Hospital. He was the husband of the late Gertrude (Tolchinsky) Jacobson.

Born in Providence, a son of the late Maurice and Bessie (Goldstein) Jacobson, he was a lifelong resident of the city. He leaves a daughter, Beryl Jacobson

Feinberg, of Sharon, Mass., and two grandchildren. He was the brother of the late Leo, Charles, Henry and Joseph Jacobson. The funeral service was held at Temple Emanu-El.

Dora Nisson

NEW BEDFORD, Mass.—Dora Nisson, 91, of 11 Westview St., a retired assistant credit manager, died May 16 at the Sippican Healthcare Center, Marion, Mass.

A lifelong New Bedford resident, she was the daughter of the late Herman and Sophie (Shrader) Nisson. She was an assistant credit manager for the former C.F. Wing Co., Karten's Jewelers and Gollis Apparel, retiring 20 years ago. She was a member of Ahavath Achim Synagogue and its Sisterhood, the Jewish War Veterans Women's Auxillary, AARP and the Ladies Helping Hand Society.

She leaves a sister, Bertha E. Nisson, of New Bedford; a sister-in-law, Osna W. Nisson, of New Bedford; and nieces and a nephew. She was the sister of the late Joseph I. Leonard, and of Bernard Ted, Milton and Sara Nisson. Graveside funeral services were held in Plainville Cemetery, New Bedford.

Violet Hellman

SOUTH KINGSTOWN—Violet G. Hellman, 87, of 55 Higgins Dr., a founding member of the Washington Modern Dance Society, died May 18 at South County Hospital, Wakefield. She was the wife of Richard Hellman.

Born in New York City, the daughter of Abraham and Anna (Poss) Zeitlin, she moved to Rhode Island in 1970 from Washington, D.C., when her husband was appointed professor of economics at URI.

In 1934, at age 18, she was the youngest graduate of Hunter College in New York. When she came to Rhode Island she danced with Irene Owen, Herci Marsden, and Diane Tomasi.

Besides her husband, she leaves three children, Peter Hellman and Elizabeth Cooper, of New York City, and Caroline Hellman of Cambridge, Mass.; a sister, Beulah Scher, of New York City, and four grandchildren.

The funeral was held at Congregation Beth David in Narragansett. Burial was in New Fernwood Cemetery, Kingston.

Abraham Dinerman

CRANSTON—Abraham Dinerman, 75, of Dartmouth Road, a retired businessman and Holocaust survivor, died May 26 at Rhode Island Hospital, Providence. He was the husband of Hilda (Lewis) Dinerman.

Born in Poland, a son of the late Max and Ida (Gamzer) Dinerman, he came to this country in 1947, arriving in New York City, and had lived in Connecticut before moving to Scituate in 1960 and Cranston in 1986.

He was the owner of Diner-

man's Modern Egg Farm, which he founded in 1960 and operated until his retirement in 1986. He was an active member of the Farm Bureau. He also assisted Russian immigrants who relocated to Rhode Island.

Mr. Dinerman was a member of Sons of Abraham Synagogue.

Besides his wife, he leaves four sons, Harvey Dinerman, of Niantic, Conn., Norman Dinerman, of Scituate, and Steven and Paul Dinerman, both of Cranston; two daughters, Lori DiDoménico, of Framingham, Mass., and Enid Koplovsky, of Duxbury, Mass.; a brother, Nathan Dinerman, of San Diego, and 10 grandchildren.

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

Sonya Rathbun

JOHNSTON—Sonya Hope Rathbun, 59, of 1417-A Plainfield Pike, died May 30 at the Philip Hulitar Inpatient Center, Providence. She was the wife of Frank Rathbun.

Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Abraham and Ruth (Fish) Kriss, she had lived in Johnston for 15 years. Besides her husband, she leaves a son, Alan DiCristo, of Providence; a daughter, Tammy DiCristo, of Cranston; a sister, Harriet Saltzman, of Warwick; and two grandchildren. Graveside services were held in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

Contributions may be made to the Johnston Senior Center, 14 Priscilla Lane, 02919

Dorothy Gittleman

CRANSTON—Dorothy Gittleman, 92, of 55 Oaklawn Ave., a retired nurse, died May 25 at Scalabrini Villa, North Kingstown.

She was the wife of the late Sidney Gittleman. Born in Leominster, Mass., a daughter of the late Ira Charles and Theresa (Foster) Greene, she had lived in Warwick for 22 years before moving to Cranston two years ago.

A registered nurse, she was a 1930 graduate of the former Homeopathic Hospital School of Nursing in Providence, now the Roger Williams Medical Center, where she worked for the next 10 years.

Later in life, she was manager of the book department of the former Outlet Company in Garden City, and still later, she was an assistant bookkeeper at R.I. Temps in Warwick for 12 years. She retired five years ago.

She leaves a son, Allan Gittleman, of East Greenwich; two daughters, Donna Sinel, of North Kingstown, and Diane Seaback Martin, of Warwick; seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. She was the sister of the late Leon Greene, Beatrice Elliott and Madeline Hedde. Contributions may be made to

Home & Hospice Care of R.I., 169 George St., Pawtucket, 02860.

Morris Staller

TAMARAE, Fla.—Morris Staller, 91, of Northwest 53rd St., formerly of Cranston, a self-employed electrical engineer, died May 8 at St. Thomas Manor, Tamarac.

He was the husband of the late Florence (Kaplowitz) Staller. Born in New York City, a son of the late Adolf and Pauline (Bacher) Staller, he had been a resident of Florida since 1987.

Mr. Staller had worked as an electrical engineer in Rhode Island for 35 years before retiring in 1983. He leaves a daughter, Sandra Nathanson, of Pawtucket; three sisters, Yetta Nadel and Gertrude Gottlieb, both of New York City, and Rebecca Stoddard, in Connecticut; three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. He was the brother of the late Anne Garow and Nathan and Bernard Staller.

Contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association's Rhode Island Chapter, 215 Waterman St., Providence, 02906.

Anne Cohen

NORTH DARTMOUTH, Mass.—Anne Cohen, 94, of Huntington Avenue, died May 18 at St. Luke's Hospital. She was the wife of the late Hyman Cohen for 66 years.

She was a daughter of the late Pearl and Samuel Fineman.

She leaves a son, Allan Cohen, of Centerville; a daughter, Pearl Black, of Downingtown, Pa.; two sisters, Faye Gruber, of North Andover and Rose Shaffer of Lynn; three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She was the mother of the late Gary Martin Cohen, who was killed in Vietnam in 1971, and the sister of

the late Louis, Jacob and Charles Fineman.

A graveside service was held in Plainville Cemetery, New Bedford.

Edith Kumins

PROVIDENCE—Edith Kumins, 93, of 1085 North Main St., died May 23 at home. She was the wife of the late Dr. Albert Kumins.

Born in Malden, Mass., a daughter of the late Max and Rose (Feingold) Common, she had lived in Providence for 34 years.

She leaves a son, Dr. Richard Kumins, of Providence; a daughter, Rosanne Kumins, of Boston; and two grandchildren. She was the sister of the late Helen Drukman.

The funeral was held in the Sugarman-Sinai Memorial Chapel, Providence, and burial was in Sharon (Mass.) Memorial Park.

Contributions may be made to the Kumin Endowment Fund, c/o Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence, 02906.

Roberta Halpern

WARWICK—Roberta M. Halpern, 60, of 93 Edison St., a manager and bookkeeper, died June 3 at Miriam Hospital, Providence. She was the wife of the late Leonard H. Halpern.

Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Thomas and Dora (Glickman) Shatz, she had lived in Warwick for 34 years.

She leaves two sons, Adam and Eric Halpern, both of Warwick, and a brother, Frank Shatz of Warwick. She was the sister of the late Sanford Shatz. Funeral Services were held in Shalom Memorial Chapel, Cranston. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

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Bernard Kaufman

FALL RIVER, Mass. — Bernard Kaufman, 82, of Michael Drive, a retired hardware store owner, died May 23 at Charlton Memorial Hospital, Fall River.

He was the husband of Esther (Guy) Kaufman and the son of the late Jacob and Rebecca (Solomon) Kaufman.

He was the owner of the former Kaufman's Hardware Store before retiring 14 years ago.

He was an Army veteran of World War II, serving as a staff sergeant in the 100th Ordnance Division.

Besides his wife, he leaves three daughters, Marilyn Hoffman, of Houston, Etta Kaufman, of Portsmouth, and Marsha Kaufman, of Arlington, Mass.; and four grandchildren.

The funeral service was held in Temple Beth-El, Fall River.

Dr. Yusef Barcohana

PROVIDENCE — Dr. Yusef Barcohana, of Lincoln Avenue, anesthesiologist-in-chief at Women's and Infants Hospital for 39 years and an associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology at Brown University, died May 1 at home.

Born in Iran, Dr. Barcohana came to this country when he was 24, living in New York City before moving to Providence in 1954.

Dr. Barcohana was a member of the American Medical Association, the Rhode Island Medical Society, the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and the American Board of Anesthesiology.

He received his medical degree from Tehran University, Iran. He completed his residency in obstetrics and gynecology at the former Lying-In Hospital, and his residency in anesthesiology at Rhode Island Hospital.

He was the son of the late Zion and Talah (Levi) Barcohana.

He is survived by his wife,

Ehteram (Daniel) Barcohana; two daughters, Sheila Hollender, of Charlotte, Vt., and Soheyla Ben-Amotz, of New York City; two sons, Dr. Kevin Barcohana of Woodbury, N.Y., and Dr. Mark Barcohana of New York City; three brothers, Dr. David Barcohana and Haroon Barcohana, both of Los Angeles, and Fred Barcohana of Providence; two sisters, Madeline Eslamboly of Los Angeles, and Sara Barlevi of Providence; and seven grandchildren. He was the brother of the late Tubah Nohavandi.

The funeral was held at Temple Emanu-El, Providence. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

Contributions may be made to the Temple Emanu-El Education Fund, 99 Taft Ave., Providence, 02906.

Mildred Novogroski

PROVIDENCE — Mildred Novogroski, 91, of Colonial Road, died May 1 at Miriam Hospital. She was the wife of the late Arthur Novogroski.

Born in Providence, a daughter of the late William and Sarah Braunstein, she was a lifelong resident of the city. Mrs. Novogroski was a graduate of Classical High School, and had attended the former Pembroke College, now Brown University.

She was an avid cook, and enjoyed painting and reading. She leaves a daughter, Joanne McSweeney, of New York; a grandchild and two great-grandchildren.

The funeral service was held in Sugarman-Sinai Memorial Chapel. Burial was in Swan Point Cemetery.

Rebecca Jacobson

EAST PROVIDENCE — Rebecca M. Jacobson, 97, of East Shore Circle, a retired bookkeeper, died May 14 at home.

She was the wife of the late Leo Jacobson. Born in Manchester, N.H., a daughter of the late Eli and Celia (Sussin) Mushlin, she had lived in Providence before moving to East Providence

in 2000.

She leaves a daughter, Barbara Jacobson, of Cranston; a son, Marshall Jacobson, of East Providence; a sister, Sadye Millman, of Shrewsbury, Mass.; a brother, Meyer Mushlin, of Warwick; and four grandchildren. She was a sister of the late Anna Russian, Katie Mushlin and Dorothy Pulner.

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

Louis Horvitz

FALL RIVER — Louis Horvitz, 98, of 538 Robeson St., proprietor of the former American Furniture Company of Fall River, died June 8 at the Fall River Jewish Home for Aged. He was the husband of Ethel Horvitz and the late Helen (Bier) Horvitz.

Born in Russia, a son of the late Abraham and Ida (Lynch) Horvitz, he had been a resident of Fall River for most of his life. Mr. Horvitz served in the army during World War II.

Besides his wife, he leaves a son, Alan Horvitz of Nashua, N.H. He was the brother of the late Pearl Horvitz Mekelberg.

Jonathan Cohen

NEWPORT — Jonathan Lisle Cohen, 34, of Sunshine Court, a software engineer, died June 5 at Rhode Island Hospital.

He was the husband of Esther Wolk-Cohen. Born in Towson, Md., a son of Martin and Elizabeth Grason (New) Cohen, both of Newport, he had lived in Newport since 1971.

Mr. Cohen worked at KVH Industries in Middletown, and Raytheon N & MIS in Portsmouth. Besides his wife and parents, he leaves a sister, Elizabeth G.S. Dowd, of New York City; his maternal grandmother, Eileen T. Lynch of Sparks-Glencoe, Md.; and a niece.

Contributions may be made to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of R.I., 75 Sockanossett

Crossroads, Cranston, 02920.

Evelyn A. Kerzner

LEWISTON, Maine — Evelyn A. Kerzner, 89, of Roger Street, formerly of Attleboro, the founder and proprietor of a jewelry manufacturing company, died June 2 at Marshwood Nursing Home, Lewiston.

She was the wife of the late David Kerzner. Born in Attleboro, a daughter of the late Howard and Evelyn (Demarais) Skinner, she moved to Maine in 1985.

Mrs. Kerzner owned and operated the Midas Co. for 15 years before selling the business in 1962. She was later associated with Sweet Manufacturing before retiring in 1984.

She leaves a son, Michael A. Kerzner, of Brockton, Mass.; a daughter, Susan A. Conroy, of Lisbon Falls, Maine; a sister, Dorothy McCullough, and a brother, James Skinner, both of Attleboro; 9 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Ethel Horowitz

FALL RIVER, Mass. — Ethel Horowitz, 87, of Florence

Street, a retired executive in the drapery industry who was noted for her creations, died May 17 at Charlton Memorial Hospital. She was the wife of Paul Horowitz, to whom she had been married for 56 years.

Born in Russia, a daughter of the late Benjamin and Luba (Roitman) Twersky, she came to the United States as a young girl and had lived in New York and New Bedford before moving to Fall River when she was 15.

Mrs. Horowitz and her husband established Trends Inc., a drapery manufacturer employing 125 people with a showroom in New York City. A New York Times article referred to her as the "Curtain Queen of America."

Besides her husband, she leaves a son, Jay Horowitz, of South Dartmouth, Mass., and two grandchildren. She was the mother of the late Gail Kawadler, and sister of the late Jacob and Morris Twersky.

A graveside funeral service was held in Beth-El Cemetery. Contributions may be made to Temple Beth-El, 385 High St., Fall River, 02720.

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Cantor's move gets mixed reviews

Continued from page 1

shows us that we are all participants; it exemplifies being part of the group rather than just in front of the group."

Rosalind Bolusky, of Pawtucket, disagrees.

"I'm very unhappy about it," she said, noting, "It's very eerie when you have an empty pulpit."

Bolusky, a member of Emanu-El for 45 years, likes to sit up front, and "I really like to see the cantor rather than hear him," she said. "If you sit in front of him you have to turn to see him... If you sit behind him you only see his back."

"It doesn't really bother me," said her husband, Mervin. He grew up in an Orthodox congregation where the bimah faced the ark. Later, when he started attending a Conservative service, the bimah faced the congregation, and he got used to it.

"It's been what we've been used to for so many years... When it changes, we'll get used to that, too."

The move came in response to a five-year survey whose goal was to make services more user-friendly. A top-to-bottom refurbishment of the synagogue, expected to be finished before High Holiday services in September, will address many of the issues brought up by congregants.

Issues of accessibility are being addressed in part by adding a wheelchair lift, by lowering the bimah by 14 inches to bring it closer to the congregation, and by creating steps to the bimah that are easily accessible from the center aisles. Also planned are aesthetic enhancements, including replacement of the pews, installation of new rugs and painting the room from floor to dome.

Torah readers who tend to

whisper will be helped by an improved audio system. And, worshippers will get added-sound enhancement by the cantor's relocation: the congregation found through experimentation that singing directly underneath the dome creates the optimal distribution of sound.

"The best way to use the room's acoustical dynamics is to stand in the center of the room," said Cantor Mayer. "Where the bimah is currently placed is not under the dome's center, and makes you sound like you

"For me to get the most out of the service, I follow the cantor... I take my cues from him, and it's distracting having him in the center of the room."

- Sue Suls

are down the hallway from the other participants."

Mayer said he realizes that his move may be the most controversial of all the enhancements, but he feels that the congregation has spoken.

While understanding that changing the tradition of the cantor's placement on the bimah might require some adjustment and won't be for everyone, Mayer points out that having the cantor in the center of the room is more traditional than people realize.

Positioning the congregation leader in the center of the room where he faces the ark is really an ancient Jewish tradition, Cantor Mayer said. The decision to have the reader face the congregation is a practice that dates back only from the 17th and 18th Centuries, a time of Jewish reform in Europe.

Some Jews distanced themselves from European architecture and embraced Turkish styles rather than Roman because they viewed them as more Middle Eastern; others chose to adopt the congregation-facing method seen in cathedrals.

The "new tradition" of moving the bimah back to the center has been a hot topic in the Conservative movement of late; Cantor Mayer remarked that the main synagogue at the Jewish Theological Seminary has recently shifted to the "center davening" structure, and that a synagogue in West Hartford, Conn., has "taken its lead from us" in deciding to make the shift as well.

Having the reader face the congregation, he said, "is not an inherently Jewish architectural form."

Touro Synagogue in Newport, dedicated in 1763, adheres to the central davening tradition — its elaborate bimah stands right before anyone who enters, facing the ark at the other side of the synagogue.

Rabbi Mordechai Eskovitz at Touro said that a commandment to have the bimah face the ark comes both from such authoritative sources as the *Shulchan Aruch* (The Code of Jewish Law), written in the 16th Century by Rabbi Yosef Karo, in addition to having its roots in older practices.

"When the Israelites traveled in the desert," he said, "the sanctuary was right in the center of the 12 tribes... The bimah reminds us of the original sanctuary that left Egypt, [and] it becomes the center of Judaism, because that's where the Torah is, and everyone should be equidistant from the Torah."

All Orthodox synagogues have their prayer leaders facing the ark, he said, although some



TEMPLE SINAI in Cranston has a new feature for its young pupils — a brand new playground. The playground boasts a new fence, swings, slide, poles, a spongy woodchip floor and room for expansion for future projects. "The old playground really needed an upgrade," said Robin Greenburg, preschool teacher at Sinai. Greenburg helped lead the fundraising effort, along with Sandy Maldavir, and Lisa Weinberg. Their efforts, with the help of two substantial anonymous donors, made the playground possible. Above: Devin Weinberg hang out during recess.

Photo by Jonathan Rubin

place them directly before the ark rather than in the center of the room.

"Every synagogue should have the bimah in the center," he added.

Ancient or not, tradition, it seems, is sometimes in the eye of the beholder.

While admitting that musically the move is "absolutely much better," Sue Suls, of Pawtucket, has stopped attending the service where the cantor stands in the center and attends an earlier service.

"For me to get the most out of the service, I follow the cantor," she said. "I take my

cues from him, and it's distracting having him in the center of the room... I see what's going on all around him, and I don't want to."

"It just doesn't seem traditional to me."

Providence resident Leslie Hamilton, a member of Emanu-El for eight years, said, that "the minute it was changed it was very welcome to me."

She found herself sitting closer to the center of the room to be closer to the action, and "to me, it's much more satisfying, because I'm directly facing the ark, and I find that very spiritually rewarding as well."



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