

The JEWISH VOICE & HERALD

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Jewish Federation of Rhode Island

February 21, 2003

New preschools to emerge

Synagogues, agencies, JFRI collaborate



SOUNDS OF SUCCESS — A new extension of pre-kindergarten at the Alperin Schechter Day School will be housed in Temple Am David in Warwick this upcoming school year. The Jewish Community Center will also be hosting a preschool at Temple Habonim.

By Jonathan Rubin

Two new Jewish preschools will open their doors in Rhode Island this September, in a unique collaboration between two Providence-based institutions and two synagogues in other parts of the state.

Temple Habonim in Barrington will house an extension of the Jewish Community

Center's preschool program, while Warwick's Temple Am David will house an extension of the Alperin Schechter Day School pre-kindergarten.

A seed grant of \$35,000 from the Endowment Fund of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island will help make the schools possible, in an initiative of the JFRI Strategic Planning Process, intended to diversify

services and aid growth in Jewish neighborhoods statewide.

The partnership works like this: The Federation provided start-up funding and facilitated conversations, the synagogues will provide the space, and the JCC and ASDS, each of which already have early childhood programs, will provide the curriculum and staff at their respective synagogue.

The decision comes in the wake of recent news about the importance of Jewish preschool education. National studies by the Jewish Early Childhood Education Partnership revealed that Jewish preschools can be gateways or "ramps" into Jewish life, and can have tremendous impact for both children and adults. Preschools can be an easy entry point into the local Jewish community, synagogues and continued Jewish education. Early childhood centers "not only serve as the introduction to Judaism... but are also becoming the primary place where Jewish identity is

See PRESCHOOLS, page 20

Israelis debate what Iraq war will bring

By Leslie Susser

(JTA) — Will a post-Saddam Middle East herald a new promise of regional peace or dire consequences for the Jewish state?

As the anticipated American showdown with Iraq nears, the Israeli defense establishment is sounding increasingly optimistic about the outcome.

Not only will war on Saddam Hussein remove a potential nuclear, biological and chemical threat to Israel, they say, it will also open up possibilities for peace with the Palestinians, the Lebanese and possibly even the Syrians.

Skeptics, however, warn that America's grand plans for the Middle East might prove to be overly ambitious, and, if the United States bogs down trying

to do too much, the results for Israel could be disastrous.

And even if things don't go badly wrong, the skeptics say, the end result of U.S. military action could be far less dramatic than Israel's leaders hope.

The debate is significant as Israelis grapple not only with the immediate implications of a war against Iraq, including the possibility that such a war could prompt attacks against Israel itself, but the long-term impact as well.

The most upbeat assessment of the future so far has come from Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's national security adviser, Ephraim Halevy.

In a Feb. 9 address at the Munich Conference on Security Policy, the former Mossad chief spoke of "shock waves"

See IRAQ WAR, page 3

U.S. issues heightened alert to Jewish institutions

By Jonathan Rubin

When national security was recently raised to "Level Orange," the Jewish community as a whole was put on high alert. Newsweek reported that FBI officials began contacting Jewish leaders a little more than a week ago to warn them to be especially vigilant and to

enhance security at Sabbath services and other weekend events.

Indeed, Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League, said the organization received calls and visits around the country by law enforcement bureau staff. Their message: "Help us com-

municate to the Jewish community that Jewish institutions may be targeted"

Foxman continued, "When we asked, 'Is there anything specific?' they said 'No.'"

In Rhode Island, many steps had already been taken to enhance security. The Jewish Federation had spent \$300,000 two years ago from its Endowment Fund on enhanced security hardware at the JFRI, the JCC, and synagogues statewide.

During the actual Sept. 11 attacks, things happened very smoothly — children at the Jewish day schools and at the JCC were brought inside their



Schechter spirit

STUDENTS at the Alperin Schechter Day School in Providence exult during the Zimriah, or festival of song, on Feb. 13. Hundreds turned out for the annual event.

Photo by Jonathan Rubin

See ALERT, page 11

Campaign Update

We have raised \$3,787,842 to date in our 2003 Community Campaign, on our way to \$4.3 Million and beyond. Please pledge your support to the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island's Annual Community Campaign. Call 401-421-4111, ext. 206.

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The Jewish Voice & Herald (ISSN number 1078-7232, USPS #465-710) is printed twice a month, except in June, July and December when it is printed once a month.

Telephone / Fax: Editorial phone: 401-421-4111. Advertising phone 401-421-4111 ext. 160. Fax: 401-331-7961;

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Copy Deadlines: All news releases, photographs, etc. must be received on the Thursday two weeks prior to publication. Submissions may be sent to: voiceherald@jfri.org.

The Jewish Voice & Herald encourages synagogues and members of the Jewish community to submit announcements of weddings, bar- and bat-mitzvahs, obituaries and other life cycle events.

Announcements and opinions contained in these pages are published as a service to the community and do not necessarily represent the views of The Jewish Voice & Herald, or its publisher, the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.

Periodicals postage paid at Providence, RI.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Jewish Federation of RI, 130 Sessions Street, Providence, RI 02906

Feb. 22

'The art of simplicity'
Project Shoresh presents: "Is That So Complicated?", a talk on the 'Art of Simplicity' with internationally renowned speaker, Rabbi Reuven Leuchter, director of the Mei Hadaas Institute in Jerusalem. 8:15 p.m. at the Providence Hebrew Day School, Important: As Rabbi Leuchter's travel schedule may be affected due to the security situation in Israel, please confirm that this event has not been postponed. (401)935-5238 or projectshoresh@hotmail.com

Feb. 23

Klezmerpalooza at Brown
Klezmerpalooza 2003, sponsored by Brown University Hillel, will present klezmer bands from the Northeast for a day of performances and workshops. at 2:30 p.m. in Sayles Hall, on the Brown University campus.

Admission is free for those under 18 or students with valid ID, \$10 for adults and non-students. For more information, contact Ilana Sherer, 401-867-5363 or klezmer@brown.edu

Feb. 28

Family Fun at Temple Am David
The next "Family Fun Shabbat" at Temple Am David, 40 Gardiner St., Warwick, will be Feb. 28, in the evening. These events are \$10 per family. Call the Temple office at (401) 463-7944 for reservations and directions.

March 2

JCC Murder Mystery
Whodunnit? Find out at the Jewish Community Center in Providence. Call 861-8800.

Habonim presents Significant Jewish Books program

The Adult Education Committee will hold a discussion on Miriam Weinstein's book "Yiddish, a Nation of Words," at 7:30 p.m. in the Temple library, 165 New Meadow Rd., Barrington.

Fall River Yiddish club meets
The Fall River Yiddish Club meets at Adas Israel Synagogue, at 1 pm.

The speaker will discuss European traveling. The rest of the afternoon will be filled with Purim music, jokes and stories and "noshing on hamantaschen." Call 508-678-4273 or e-mail: reneclipson@atbi.com Yiddish Club

March 2, 9, 16

Beth-El Film Festival
The Sisterhood of Temple Beth-El, Providence, will be holding its Fourth Annual Sisterhood Film Festival "Jewish Life Around the World." Coffee and refreshments will be served, followed by a film and discussion. It will be held in the Temple Meeting Hall, Orchard Ave.

The programs are free and open to the public: Sun., Mar. 2, 2:00 p.m. "A Kiss to This Land." Sun. Mar. 9, 2:00 p.m., "Rhapsody in Blue" Sun. Mar 16, 2:00 p.m. "The Port of Last Resort"

For information, call 331-6070.

March 3

"User-Friendly Judaism"
Rabbi William E. Kaufman will give a lecture series on "User-Friendly Judaism" for five consecutive Monday evenings at 7:30 pm beginning March 3 at Temple Beth El, Fall River. Call 508-674-3529.

March 5

Dr. Stanley Aronson to Speak
Voice & Herald and Providence Journal columnist, Dr. Stanley Aronson will speak to the Cranston Senior Guild at 1:00 p.m. at Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston. Dr. Aronson is a physician, professor and Dean of Medicine emeritus at Brown. A raffle and refreshments will follow the meeting. The event is free.

March 7

Shabbat across America
Congregation Agudas Achim joins with 750 congregations across the United States in extending a special welcome to non-practicing Jews to share in the Shabbat. A beginners' service, a potluck dinner, songs, traditional blessings and an explanation of the ritual will be led by Rabbi Elyse Wechterman at 5:45 pm at the synagogue, 901 N. Main St., Attleboro, Mass.

March 8

Torat Yisrael annual auction
Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Avenue, Cranston, is hosting its 5th annual auction and dinner on March 8th at 7:30pm. The auction has items including sporting goods, restaurant gift certificates, and much more.

For information call the temple at 401-785-1800 for advance tickets at \$15. Tickets purchased at the door are \$18.

March 8, 9

Providence Singers to perform
The Handel oratorio, "Israel in Egypt" will be performed on March 8 at 8:00 p.m. at



Need a Lawyer?
JCC Murder Mystery • March 2 — 6 P.M.

Grace Church, 175 Mathewson St., Providence; and March 9 at 3:00 p.m. at Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence. Each performance will be preceded by a 45 minute discussion.

Tickets are \$28, \$26 for seniors, and \$14 for children. For groups of 10 purchase in advance \$23. For information call 401-683-1932 or 888-579-4800.

March 9

Rosh Hodesh event
Congregation B'nai Israel, 224 Prospect St., Woonsocket, will welcome the month of Adar II musically. Abbe Sherman Morrongiello, a singer and pianist, will lead the Rosh Hodesh program at 10:00 a.m. at the Temple.

Admission is free and is open to all Jewish women and non-Jewish women with Jewish spouses or children. For information call 401-762-3651 or visit www.shalom-cbi.org.

Mar. 12

Should we screen for cancer?
Gary Strauss, MD, MPH, discusses the issues and answers questions on this controversial subject in the adult lounge of the Providence JCC, 401 Elm-grove Ave., at 12:30 p.m.

Mar. 16

Purim mask making workshops
The Bureau of Jewish Education is sponsoring two workshops for creating Purim masks in cooperation with Michael's Crafts.
Refreshments will be served. This program is free and open to the public. See page 15 for full story.

BBYO to honor Dave Hochman March 22

David Hochman will be honored for his 25 years of service to the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization on March 22 at a banquet at Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Avenue, Cranston. Call Judy at 467-2296 or Rochelle at 294-3811 to RSVP.

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Middletown: Shaw's

Cranston: Barney's - Oaklawn Ave.
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Rainbow Bakery
Shaw's - Garden City

Wakefield: Wakefield Pharmacy

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Send us your calendar listings, along with time, date & telephone number. Notices must be received 2 weeks prior to publication date.

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CANDLE LIGHTING

For greater Rhode Island



- Feb. 21 5:06
- Feb. 28 5:14
- Mar. 7 5:23
- Mar. 14 5:31

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Israelis debate what Iraq war will bring

From page 1

from a post-Saddam Baghdad that would have "wide-ranging effects in Teheran, Damascus and Ramallah."

He also envisaged a post-Yasser Arafat Palestinian leadership negotiating in good faith with Israel, a progressive and prosperous Iraq rejoining the family of nations, and Syria, no longer feeling a need to compete with Iraq, loosening its ties with Iran.

This, in turn, Halevy said, could lead to a weakening of the Iranian hold in southern Lebanon, a Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon, the disarmament of Hezbollah and an eventual peace agreement between Lebanon and Israel.

"Syria could feel comfortable allowing Lebanon true freedom, withdrawing the 30,000-odd Syrian soldiers from Lebanese territory and opening an embassy in Beirut for the very first time since Lebanon's independence," Halevy said.

"The departure of Syrian and Iranian forces from Lebanese soil, accompanied by the disarmament of Hezbollah, could enable Lebanon to make peace with Israel."

Amos Gilad, Israel's newly appointed "national commentator" on the war with Iraq, called the imminent American strike a "miracle."

But how likely is the anticipated American attack to have the kind of impact Israeli leaders are hoping for?

Among the skeptics is Maj. Gen. Ya'akov Amidror, a former head of army intelligence research, on retirement leave from the IDF, and just back

from a stint in the United States as a fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, a think tank.

Although a hawk, Amidror argues that American plans for remaking the Middle East through a war in Iraq may be too optimistic and fail to achieve the hoped-for results.

In particular, he is skeptical about American plans to democratize Iraq and through a ripple effect based on a successful Iraqi model, democratize the Middle East as a whole.

The deep, underlying goal of the American move against Iraq, Amidror says, is to neutralize global terror by turning the

It could prove to be a recipe for all-out war between the United States and the Muslim world, and a nightmare scenario for Israel, he said.

Shlomo Brom, a senior researcher at Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies, gives an example of how things could start to go wrong.

"U.S. military government in Iraq," he says, "would strengthen the perception of the war as Western colonialism in new clothing. The result will be similar to the Israeli experience in Lebanon in 1982, which started with the population throwing rice and flowers, and ended with Hezbollah."

Even the skeptics don't deny that taking out Saddam and his weapons of mass destruction would be a major strategic boon for Israel. But they would like to see the United States move out of Iraq as

soon as the job is done.

The key, American, European and Israeli leaders believe, is whether Arafat, the Palestinian Authority president, steps aside.

Should things go wrong in the war with Iraq, Gen. Amidror foresees potential for an armed showdown between Israel and Hezbollah.

Then, he says, Hezbollah — with an estimated 1,000 Katyusha rockets trained on Israeli targets — could be encouraged to attack.

The truth may turn out to be somewhere between Halevy's rosy optimism and Amidror's bleak caution.

Leslie Sussler is the diplomatic correspondent for the Jerusalem Report.

"U.S. military government in Iraq, would strengthen the perception of the war as Western colonialism in new clothing. The result will be similar to the Israeli experience in Lebanon in 1982, which started with the population throwing rice and flowers, and ended with Hezbollah."

Middle East, the region where it flourishes, into a conglomeration of more open, Western-oriented societies in which Al-Qaida-style terror would have no breeding ground.

But this grand scheme, Amidror argues, is unlikely to succeed, and its failure could exacerbate tensions between the Arab world and the United States — and by extension, between the Arab world and Israel.

Others go further in their pessimism.

Former Mossad chief Shabtai Shavit reportedly warned officials in the United States that a failed attempt to democratize the Middle East could lead to major regional instability.

From the Federation President What kind of community do we want for ourselves?

I am writing to you as JFRI President and as a parent of a recent Bar-Mitzvah. As I approached this family event, I asked, "What sort of a community do I wish for my son? What sort of community do I wish to lead?"



First, a community that inspires, whose values will give him guideposts by which he can make his important life decisions. A community based on learning, on caring and on justice.

Second, a community that is marked by excellence. The programs and services we offer must be able to compete in the marketplace.

Third, a community that is inclusive, in which all who want to participate can find a way in through open doors and through numerous paths. I am proud that the Federation has promised to meet this challenge for the future by identifying the following actions.

To develop leadership, services and facilities as needed in all six geographic areas of RI and Southeastern, Mass. A senior citizen in Woonsocket or one in South Kingstown should have equal access to quality services.

To build new partnerships among agencies, synagogues and Federation. This will allow us to increase the number of children in Jewish preschools and the number of adults engaged in Jewish study.

To raise the funds needed to support these and other projects.

To improve our marketing and communications so that all members of our community will understand the possibilities available.

I would like to retell a story that begins 100 years ago in Russia. Jacob, the head of his family decided he had to take his wife, his children and his most treasured possessions and board a boat to America. He was looking for better times and freedom. He packed a box with three items: his prayerbooks, his Passover dishes and his hopes and dreams.

The family prospered in America, his children married and moved to cities far away from the old neighborhood. His son took the box with the Passover dishes, but left the prayerbooks that he couldn't read.

Years later, when Jacob's granddaughter was offered the box with the Passover dishes as a wedding gift, she declined, registering instead for new dishes. But because she remembered her grandfather fondly, she took the box with the hopes and dreams to give to her child someday. It was left to her son to refill that box with hopes and dreams for a Jewish future. This is also our story. The Rhode Island Jewish Community story.

Together we can take our hopes and dreams and imagine a future to which we can aspire and that inspires us.

I invite you to join me to assure that, by our actions, our RI Jewish Community will last beyond our children's lifetime. This is no easy challenge, but if we do it together we will succeed.

Mark R. Feinstein is in the first year of his Presidency of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.

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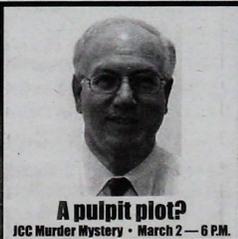
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A pulpit plot?

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A MAJORITY OF ONE Rainbow Synagogues

FIRST, full disclosure. I was raised in the Conservative Movement, was on the staff of the University of Judaism for many years and still feel most at home in Conservative services.



Yehuda Lev

So when I make the point that in some matters the Conservatives are generally two decades behind Reform and three behind the Reconstructionists, I have some grounds for my argument. As per: Women rabbis, women in the minyan, women reading Torah,

b'not mitzvah and now — are you ready for this? Conservative gay and lesbian rabbis.

Back in Los Angeles, from whence we came on aliyah to Rhode Island, there was a gay and lesbian synagogue. It followed the usual Jewish tradition and split over some minor point or other so now there are two. They are affiliated with the Reform Movement but a number of their members come from Conservative and even Orthodox backgrounds. Their reasons for worshipping among their own are clear — they feel more comfortable partially because they can adapt the service to suit their needs and, perhaps mainly, because they do not have to disguise their sexual orientation.

Now there is a group of students within the Conservative movement's two institutions of higher learning, the Jewish Theological Seminary of America and the University of Judaism, arguing for the right of gays and lesbians to be Conservative rabbis.

When the campaign first began to admit women into the Conservative rabbinic, the main arguments against it were: 1. It had never been done before. 2. Women will take over the synagogue. The first reminded me of one Catholic argument against women priests, namely that all of Jesus's disciples were men. Well, they were also all Jews. Carry that to its logical end and you'll have a pope named Chaim.

The second seemed to me to have some validity given the lower social status that women have always had in America. Would men attribute to Jewish observance a proper importance and respect if women were running the show? Leading services? Reading Torah? Heading committees?

The Reform and the Reconstructionists have survived the shock and so, it turns out, have the Conservatives. There are still synagogue search committees in which it is understood that the main rabbi is going to be male. Women rabbis can run the religious school and handle the overflow crowds on the High Holidays. But when it gets down to the serious stuff, to marrying one's children and burying grandparents, a lot of shul goes into a deep, authoritative bass, not a charming, lilting soprano.

Gays and lesbians, of course, add a whole new dimension to what is and what is not acceptable in Jewish tradition and practice. The position of the Orthodox is clear — there is no room even for discussion, the whole thing is an abomination.

But the world is changing. Many years ago, observing the sorry state of Jewish newspapers in Los Angeles, I decided to publish my own. It was a journalistic triumph and a financial disaster. But it offered one innovation in the eight issues that actually appeared. It included a column, "Out of the Closet," in which Jewish gay and lesbian writers discussed issues facing their communities. A very distinguished Orthodox writer who was one of my star attractions, withdrew from our pages when he learned of this. And a number of readers from different Jewish loyalties also complained about "promoting a forbidden lifestyle."

But if someone were to introduce so sensible an idea today, it might even increase a newspaper's circulation and influence within a segment of the Jewish community that feels rejected by its peers.

Nothing is so fragile as a religious taboo that goes against what is deemed acceptable by the larger society. The Mormons discovered this when Utah's application for statehood was threatened by the practice of polygamy. Suddenly God sent a message from on high to the Mormon elders and polygamy disappeared.

The Bible condones slavery, among other practices, and Jewish texts detail the conditions under which slaves must be treated. That too has disappeared as Judaism has adapted to changing conditions.

Now that homosexuality is increasingly understood to be genetically based, the move towards Conservative gay and lesbian rabbis is, as the cliché has it, an idea whose time has come.

Which leaves only...?

Yehuda Lev is a retired journalist who has worked in Israel, Europe and the U.S.

Letters to the editor

Rising Star

I was worshipping in synagogue that fateful Saturday morning when Columbia exploded above the Texas sky. Aboard the Columbia was the first Israeli astronaut, Ilan Ramon. Ramon and I shared something very important — like my mother, his mother was a Holocaust survivor. He understood that he had a very important mission in life to prove that it mattered that he was given life. It was not enough for him to simply exist in this world — Ramon needed to contribute to a world that nearly murdered his mother.

Ramon represents the Star of David in its greatest glory as someone who had known war (he fought in the Yom Kippor War and helped destroy Iraq's nuclear reactor in the early 90s), but who in space dedicated himself to truth and peace.

As the first Israeli astronaut, he

entered a new sphere of understanding. Above the earth's atmosphere, he saw the Middle East without its political borders. He saw the earth as God sees it. And he carried with him in space a remembrance of a child, a victim of the Holocaust, who dreamed of stars from behind a barbed wire fence of death. Ramon lived the dream of all Jews to be closer to God by seeking truth and knowledge of the unknown.

I saw a special on television entitled "The Fallen Star" to depict our lost astronauts. But I think the well-meaning producers picked the wrong name. I believe President Bush got it right when he said that the Creator who named the stars now knows the names of our astronauts. And, almost as important, the world knows the name of Ilan Ramon who brought great honor to Israel.

Cindy Halpern
Warwick

Solve Iraq problem with one bullet

Terrorists came to America and secretly prepared to destroy the Twin Towers and kill thousands of people without our knowledge. Why don't we do the same in Iraq, but dispose of just Saddam Hussein instead of "throwing the baby out with the bath water" with a

large-scale invasion. There is no justice in that, and certainly we have the intelligence to accomplish this goal without mass destruction. Didn't we learn anything from World War II?

Helen Turner
West warwick

Submission guidelines

The *Jewish Voice & Herald* welcomes letters to the editor and other opinion pieces on topics of interest to the Jewish community. All submissions must be signed and include city of residence and telephone number. Letters to the editor should be limited to 250 words, and viewpoint pieces to 700 words. Submissions may be edited for length or content. Send submissions to: *Jewish Voice & Herald*, 130 Sessions St., Providence, 02906, or e-mail to: voiceherald@jfri.org

Living Jewishly with OCD

By Cary Eichenbaum

This is a follow-up piece to Carolyn Schwartz's Jan. 10 letter to the *Jewish Voice & Herald* about the disabled in Rhode Island. I am familiar with Mrs. Schwartz in two ways — first, through lifelong friendships with her nephews, and, second, through Carolyn's selfless and devoted work to aid the mentally and emotionally ill — both Jewish and Gentile — in our state. I have seen firsthand the positive fruits of her "labors of love" with Rhode Island's poorest and most despondent, who have benefited greatly from her dedication.

I agree with Mrs. Schwartz especially that Jews with disabilities are being shut out from the local religious communities. Despite tremendous advances, there is precious little tolerance for the "different" individuals in our midst. Mental disability is not always as self-explanatory as other disabilities, such as blindness, obesity, or being physically handicapped. As a

result of this "hidden disability," many disabled people receive ridicule, scorn, lack of concern or estrangement from the greater community.

I have had one form of emotional illness for all my adult life, and I have endured many experiences in my 37 hard years. In synagogue, during prayer, many different types of my obsessive/compulsive disorder (OCD) manifest themselves, including: extending my arms and arching my hands heavenward (this one gets the most bizarre stares), waving my right arm over my head in a "cowboy lassoing a horse" motion; or having the unbelievable desire to jump, kick, run and dance at inappropriate parts of the service. This last one, thank God, I keep to an absolute minimum, but the fact remains: I will usually have overriding compulsive desires to perform these actions during every service I attend.

The stress level of people with
See LIVING WITH OCD, page 18

'An affinity for democracy' in Arab lands?

OUTSIDERS wonder if the U.N. Security Council will endorse Washington's goal of toppling Saddam Hussein. But policy insiders assume an American war and an American victory, followed by Iraq's rehabilitation.



Daniel Pipes

For insiders, the main issue is the extent of U.S. ambition in the Arabic-speaking countries after that's all done. This foreshadows the debate likely to dominate foreign policy circles for decades to come: What should be America's role in the world?

Let's eavesdrop.

In the ambitious corner stands Middle East specialist Fouad Ajami, a Lebanese immigrant and professor at Johns Hopkins University. Writing in the liberal-leaning *Foreign Affairs*, he comments scathingly about the reigning political culture in the Arab countries ("the belligerence and self-pity in Arab life, its retreat from modernist culture, and its embrace of conspiracy theories"). He sees in the vigorous exercise of American power the best chance for improvement: "No great apologies ought to be made for America's 'unilateralism.' The region can live with and use that unilateralism."

Ajami wants American will and prestige to tip the scales "in favor of modernity and change" and calls on Washington to aim high. "Above and beyond toppling the regime of Saddam Hussein and dismantling its deadly weapons, the driving motivation of a new American endeavor in Iraq and in neighboring Arab lands should be modernizing the Arab world."

Only a successful U.S. military campaign in Iraq will embolden those Arabs who seek "deliverance from retrogression and political decay," so he hopes the war will be fought "with the promise that the United States is now on the side of reform."

Over in the cautious corner stands

A complicated and imperfect system

IF you are confused by the Israeli election system and by the results of the recent poll leading up to protracted negotiations seeking to establish a stable government, you have every right to be. It is an imperfect, complicated arrangement which, in the name of democracy, carries that ideal to absurdly ridiculous lengths.



Carl Apert

Even though Arik Sharon and his Likud party are said to have won a smashing victory, they gained only 38 seats in the 120-member Knesset, and must now seek a deal with some of the 12 other parties which gained places in the parliament, in order to

strategist Andrew J. Bacevich, a retired Army colonel and now professor at Boston University whose article, evocatively titled "Don't Be Greedy!" appeared in the conservative *National Review*. Bacevich admonishes the Bush administration to confine its attention to Iraq itself and not make grand plans to bring democracy to the Arabs.

He dismisses these as "utterly preposterous" on four grounds:

- "Arabs have little affinity for democracy" due to historical, cultural, and religious factors.

- Arabs understand that freedom implies disposable marriages, sexual license, and abortion on demand as much as it does self-government and the rule of law – and they decline the package.

- Efforts to inculcate democratic values will find few allies from within Arab societies, where "advocates for liberal values constitute at best a small minority."

- Advocates for an ambitious program point to Germany and Japan as models, forgetting the "protracted, ugly, and unpopular" U.S. failures in the Philippines, Mexico, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and South Vietnam. The Arab countries will more likely fit the latter pattern than the former.

Instead of trying to bring the Arabs into ideological sympathy with the United States, Bacevich argues, the goal should be to improve their governments' behavior. "Concepts like parliaments or women's rights may strike Saudi princes as alien. On the other hand, they have no difficulty grasping the significance of a B-2 bomber or a carrier battle group."

More broadly, Bacevich sees this approach as a proper "modesty and self-restraint" in U.S. foreign policy.

Both Bacevich and Ajami make compelling arguments – and their articles should be read in full – but this analyst sides with Ajami. Addressing Bacevich's four points:

- Japan had about as much "affinity for democracy" in 1945 as the Arabs do today, yet democracy took hold there.

set up a stable administration. It must be added that after the election Natan Sharansky's party, Israel B'Aliyah, folded its two members into the Likud, giving Sharon 40 seats, just one third of the Knesset.

The multiplicity of parties is encouraged by the law which provides that any political group which manages to garner one and a half percent of the votes cast is entitled to two seats. This year 26 parties competed for the votes. As a result, and as usual, no one party, no matter how popular, was able to emerge with a majority, and form a stable ruling government.

If and when Sharon succeeds in

- There is no indication that an open political system inexorably leads to higher divorce rates and the other social changes – again, look at Japan.

- A famous American victory in Iraq and the successful rehabilitation of that country will bring liberals out of the woodwork and generally move the region toward democracy. (Saudi leaders are already leaking their plans to establish electing assemblies, something totally unprecedented in their kingdom.)

- The United States cannot pass up a unique chance to remake the world's

most politically fevered region. Sure, the effort might fail, but not even to try would be a missed opportunity.

Secretary of State Colin L. Powell last week said that American success in Iraq "could fundamentally reshape [the Middle East] in a powerful, positive way," suggesting that even the Bush team's most cautious member is rightly coming around to the ambitious point of view.

Daniel Pipes www.DanielPipes.org is director of the Middle East Forum and author of Militant Islam Reaches America.

Quote of the week

"Saddam, cross the borders and let us hear the sound of your weapons...Saddam, you champ, destroy all the Americans."

Some 400 chanting Palestinians, waving Iraqi flags and posters of Saddam in the streets of Ramallah, in protest against American plans to attack Iraq.

Stop handwringing and fund Jewish education

By **George D. Hanus**

At the General Assembly of United Jewish Communities last November, there was much agonizing and lamenting over the aborted presentation of the latest Jewish population study. The publication of the 2000 population results had been suspended at the eleventh hour due to concerns over statistical precision that could skew results, creating uncertainty as to whether 5.2 million or 5.4 million Jews reside in the U.S.

Oblivious to the tragically self-evident decrease over the last decade in the number of U.S. Jews, insensitive

to the crisis of our dwindling numbers and aging ranks on any count, the Jewish world at large joined in the great hue and cry that went up from the General Assembly over the travesty of \$6,000,000 spent on a population study that did not yield a precise tally of Jews.

This preoccupation with blame-placing and dollars eclipses entirely the undeniable underlying fact that Jewish souls are being lost at an ever increasing velocity that threatens our survival as a people. Our crude fixation on the inconsequential enables us comfortably to ignore the momentous crisis of our people and lulls us into a complacency we can ill afford.

Can anyone forget the headlines when the 1990 population study reported that the intermarriage rate had soared to 50 percent? In a frenzy, Jewish organizations around the globe anxiously formed high level commis-

sions and blue ribbon committees to convene hearings, study the problem and report to someone about doing something to reverse the trend. To whom they were to report was never really clear and proposals for doing something never quite materialized. Preoccupation with organizational niceties and administrative trivia distracted attention from the real issues, even as it gave us something to feel constructively busy with. So we lost a decade and about 150 Jews a day (according to the Jewish Agency's Institute For Policy Planning For The Jewish People).

It is well past time to wake up to the critical issue and the obvious solution. The Jewish people are under siege. The exponential increase in intermarriage and accelerated assimilation are decimating our ranks. This tragedy is a direct result of lack of Jewish education. It is that simple.

We are known as the "People of the Book," but too few of our children even know the name of the book. Our children are not maliciously or purposefully turning their backs on 4,000 years of Jewish heritage and teachings. They are simply ignorant of a tradition that they have never been taught, their own tradition. Love of God and Torah is nurtured by Jewish education. It can not grow in the parched soil of ignorance.

Funding Jewish education in the Western Hemisphere should be the highest priority for the Jewish world.

See JEWISH EDUCATION, page 18

Women's Alliance Endowment Fund

THE WOMEN'S ALLIANCE ENDOWMENT FUND was established in 1993 and has grown significantly since its inception. This fund gives women like yourself the chance to help enrich the lives of other Jewish women. Contributions help create a financial reservoir that is used to support programs in the areas of education, health, culture, and social services. In the past, this endowment fund has provided subsidies for female Jewish educators to travel to Israel, a Bat Mitzvah program at URI Hillel, camperships, Holocaust education, and most recently, subsidized a speaker for the Coalition Against Domestic Violence in the Jewish Home.

By donating a minimum of \$1,000 (payable over 3 years), you can become a named donor of the Women's Alliance Fund. The income from the Fund is distributed each year directly to the program or agency designated by the Women's Alliance.

This year, for the first time, all Fund members are invited to participate in determining this year's grant recipient(s) on March 3, 2003, noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, 130 Sessions St., Providence, RI, 02906.

For more information about becoming a Fund member, please return the cut-off below or contact Sylvia Berman-Peck, WA Director, at 421-4111 x 171 or at sberman-peck@jfrl.org

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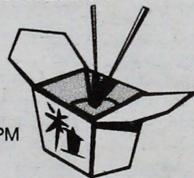
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A complicated system

From page 5

forming a coalition, one of his first steps should be agitation for passage of a law that raises the threshold for membership in the Knesset to at least five percent. There certainly are not 26 different major policy programs in this country, and all the little pet projects can find their places within one of the large, comprehensive parties.

Indeed, despite the Jewish predilection for divisiveness, it would be safe to say that there are, at best, only five distinctive and basic policy platforms, and even these have large elements which are shared with others. They are the left wing views on the economy, the right wing on the economy, the left wing on relations with the Palestinians, the right wing on such relations, and the role of religion in the state.

Because the ruling government under the present system is set up by a coalition of parties, there is always danger of collapse if the small, constituent parties don't get their way. They often do make exaggerated demands which have to be met in order to maintain the government in power commanding a majority in the Knesset. Otherwise, the result is fresh elections, as indeed has happened constantly throughout our short history.

Thus, once the government is established, there is no guarantee that it will remain in power throughout the fixed term. And so, Amram Mitzna, the leader of the second place (and badly defeated) Labor Party, proclaimed: "I don't intend to join Sharon but to unseat him!" If Al Gore had threatened that he did not intend to cooperate with Bush, but to have him thrown out of office, America would have been up in arms.

The fact that many European countries have a similar parliamentary system and suffer from its weaknesses, is no excuse for Israel to imitate them. The leaders of the three leading parties here, Arik Sharon, Amram Mitzna and Tommy Lapid, should have a long range common interest in changing the Israel system, and thus assure continuity and stability in the duly elected administrations. As in the American system, these indeed may change from time to time, reflecting the wishes of the majority of the voters.

The choice is between genuine, stable democracy or constant threat of political chaos. It will not be easy to change the system. The little parties now in the Knesset are today needed to make up a coalition, and they are certainly not going to support any move which will threaten their existence. But, we repeat, if Sharon, Mitzna and Lapid have the courage and the best interests of the country at heart, they command enough votes between them in the Knesset to make the necessary legal change.

On the other hand...

Israel is going through a critical period in which decisions will have to be made affecting the country's future and very existence. What if a government which is fixed in power for a full four years should decide to expand the settlement program, or contrarily, decide to withdraw fully from the West Bank, this at a time when public opinion may have changed on these issues? In the U.S. there is the safety valve of a House of Representatives which can change its composition every two years. Perhaps we should retain an elastic Knesset which can more readily reflect public opinion.



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**U.S. Jewish leader:
 Terror threat overstated**

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Reports about possible terror attacks against Jewish targets in the United States have been overstated, according to a U.S. Jewish leader. “A lot of these reports have been based on misinformation, especially in the last two weeks,” Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said this week in Jerusalem at the opening of the group’s annual meeting.

Congress cuts Israel aid

WASHINGTON (JTA) — U.S. foreign aid to Israel was cut last week during the annual congressional appropriations process. Due to a budget crunch, spending, including aid to Israel, was cut across the board at a rate of 0.65 percent.

**Patriot missiles arrive
 in Israel**

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Two Patriot missile batteries arrived in Israel recently after being shipped from Germany. The missiles will be used for defense in case of a possible attack by Iraq.

**Terrorist planned
 election attacks**

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israel foiled several terror attacks planned for Election Day. The plans included an attempt by an Islamic Jihad cell in Jenin to simultaneously blow up four car bombs in different locations in Israel on Jan. 28, the Israeli daily Ha’aretz reported. As a result of intelligence information received by the Shin Bet domestic security service, soldiers entered Jenin that day and arrested suspects. Four Palestinian gunmen were killed in the ensuing clash.

**Houston Federation
 criticizes UJC**

NEW YORK (JTA) — The Jewish federation in Houston is considering suspending its dues to the United Jewish Communities, federation insiders have confirmed.

In a letter circulated to 20 large-to-intermediate-sized federations last month, the Houston federation said the national system “had lost its way,” according to the Forward, which first reported the letter.

Houston cited what it said were flaws in decision making and overseas allocations.

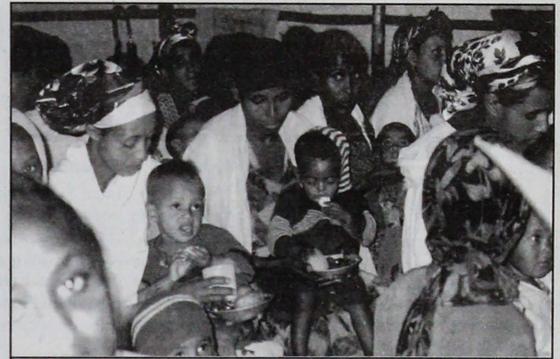
Officials there also questioned whether UJC had “thrown away” \$6 million on the 2000-01 National Jewish Population Study, results of which were shelved in November due to lost data. The letter comes as federation leaders of large cities prepare to meet during the first week of March to examine the role of the national system.

**Poll: Americans don’t
 trust Arabs on Israel**

NEW YORK (JTA) — Most Americans do not believe that Israel’s Arab neighbors are ready to accept Israel’s right to exist, a new poll says. The poll, conducted by the Institute for Jewish & Community Research, says most Americans believe the Palestinian Authority, Egypt, Syria, Jordan and Saudi Arabia all refuse to accept Israel’s existence.

**Jewish figure barred
 from rally**

NEW YORK (JTA) — A dovish editor and rabbi was prevented from speaking at an anti-war rally on Feb. 15, in San Francisco. Michael Lerner, editor of *Tikkun* Magazine and a frequent critic of Israeli policy, was barred from the rally by one



Israel OKs Ethiopian immigration

Israel’s Cabinet approved a plan to immediately bring some 18,000 Falash Mura from Ethiopia. The plan was proposed by Interior Minister Eli Yishai following a call by the spiritual leader of the fervently Orthodox Shas Party to “save the souls” of the Falash Mura, whose ancestors converted from Judaism to Christianity in the 19th century. Above: Ethiopians obtain food in an American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee clinic in Gondar, Ethiopia in 2001.

of the sponsors, known by the initials A.N.S.W.E.R., because Lerner has criticized the way the group used past rallies to put forward anti-Israel propaganda.

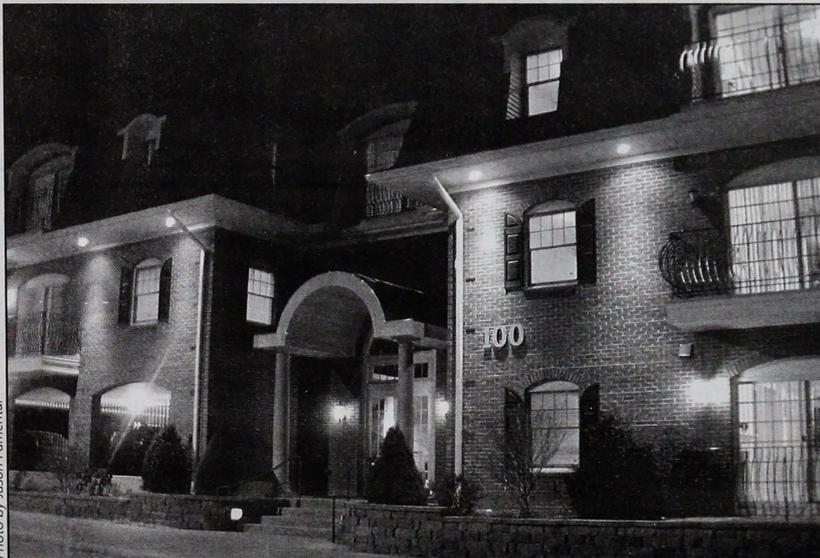
A spokesperson for A.N.S.W.E.R. was quoted as saying that the group would not agree to have a “pro-Israel” speaker at their rally.

Scrabble alters entry

LONDON (JTA) — The publisher of a Scrabble dictionary agreed to alter its definition of “Jew,” used as a verb, following a complaint by a leading British Jewish group.

The Board of Deputies welcomed the decision to replace “to cheat or get the better of” with “old offensive word meaning to haggle.”

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As world prepares for Iraq war, American Jews prepare to help Israel

By Rachel Pomerance

JTA — As an American war on Iraq appears imminent, some U.S. Jews anticipate a repeat performance of America's 1991 Gulf War with Iraq, when Saddam Hussein lobbed Scud missiles into the thick of Tel Aviv.

At the time, Israel abided by America's request not to strike back. But Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has stated Israel might not take another round of attacks lying down.

In any case, many American Jews and American Jewish organizations are responding to the threat of a U.S. war on Iraq by trying to fortify Israel. The efforts include shoring up Israel's blood supply, readying volunteer doctors and assembling gas masks.

In the past few weeks, American Red Magen David for Israel, the U.S. organization supporting Magen David Adom, Israel's equivalent of the Red Cross, has stepped up its activities.

Among its efforts, it has funded additional security at

Israel's blood banks, fearing they could be targeted; trained Israeli paramedics and bought them armored vests; and purchased packages for collecting blood and freezers for plasma storage along with 12 new machines to extract and separate blood parts to function for

And this week, the American group was mailing 400,000 letters to its contributors, asking for funds in case of war: "As the imminent threat of war with Iraq looms just over the horizon," the letter begins, "the people of Israel will be caught in the middle of the battle."

Samulevich said, are constantly calling the group to ensure their documents have been received and approved.

While Israel's Ministry of Health has not yet called for any doctors, the group is organizing its paperwork to be prepared for when they are needed.

In the last four months, it has directed more than 100 American doctors to Israel for weeklong trainings with the Ministry of Health.

During the last few months, the U.S.-based Volunteers for Israel has also seen an increased demand by Americans eager to assist Israel in crisis. Atop its regular two- or three-week stints for volunteers to aid army bases or hospitals, the group, known as Sar-El in Israel, has added a special one-week program to assemble gas masks.

"Just as during the Gulf War, the number of volunteers who went through us increased, so now we are getting a lot of volunteers who are anxious to go to Israel to help out because they know they're needed now," said Jeanne Schacter, the national president of Volunteers for Israel.

"As the imminent threat of war with Iraq looms just over the horizon," the letter begins, "the people of Israel will be caught in the middle of the battle."

more than one patient and purpose, like creating antibodies.

The group encourages solidarity missions in Israel to donate blood to Magen David Adom, in some cases shuttling bloodmobiles to groups' hotels.

It has also brokered a deal with the American Red Cross to enable Americans to designate donated blood for Israel. The Red Cross will credit the amount for future use by Magen David Adom.

At the American Physicians Fellowship for Medicine in Israel, each time the government or media broadcasts a message of war, "our phones don't stop ringing," said Barbara Samulevich, the group's executive director.

The group, which runs a program for American doctors to cover for Israeli civilian doctors who are called for military duty, has a registry of 800 physicians. Several of them,

Americans for Peace Now Wants to Help Settlers

(That's Not A Typo)

Last summer, the Israeli Peace Now movement released the results of an extensive survey of settler public opinion in the occupied territories. The poll revealed that 77% of settlers chose to live in the West Bank and Gaza for "quality of life" reasons. Indeed, successive Israeli governments have spent hundreds of millions of dollars each year to entice people to live in the settlements and to encourage them to stay there.

Unfortunately, there is no similar Israeli government program to help those settlers who want to move back to Israel due to the security situation or other reasons—and there are signs that some of them do want to leave.

During a recent public meeting of West Bank settlers from Kadim and Ganim, Naftali Ashgar said he wants to leave Kadim with his family but he has no money. "This is no life," he said. "My parents haven't been here to visit for years. Everyone here wants to be evacuated..."

After this session, settlers from six other communities expressed their interest in exploring compensation for those who want to leave the settlements. "We want to hear, since with the difficult security situation we would like to examine the possibility of evacuation," said Merav Talal of Rimonim.

Americans for Peace Now (APN) believes that settlers who want to leave the territories should have government assistance to do so since government aid was responsible for attracting most of them to the West Bank and Gaza in the first place.

That is why APN's support for Israel's recent request for an additional \$4 billion in military aid and \$8 billion in loan guarantees from the U.S. includes a call to set aside 20% of the loan guarantee package to help build housing inside Israel for settlers who want to move back. We also propose that the equivalent of each dollar that the Israeli government spends on settlements be deducted from the loan guarantee package and dedicated to this same compensation effort.

To learn more about the APN campaign to assist these settlers through the loan guarantee program and to find out how you can help, visit the Americans for Peace Now web site, www.peacenow.org.



Americans for Peace Now

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www.peacenow.org

Jewish group likely to defeat settlements resolution

By Matthew E. Berger

JTA— Numerous Jewish organizations are lining up to defeat a resolution to be debated next week at an American Jewish policy conference that calls on Israel to freeze settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Reform movement has submitted a resolution on Israel for debate at the annual plenum of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, which is slated to be held early next week in Baltimore.

The JCPA is the umbrella organization of 13 national Jewish organizations and 123 local Jewish community relations councils.

As such, it is considered an important forum to get national and local input — and consensus — on policy issues important to the organized Jewish community.

The resolution, which expresses solidarity with the

State of Israel and the Israeli people, says Israel's policy of settlement expansion "complicates" the chances for Middle East peace and calls for a freeze on all settlement growth in the West Bank and Gaza.

Reform leaders, who have criticized Israel's settlement policy for 20 years, say it is time for the American Jewish community to debate the controversial expansion of Jewish settlements because the violence in the region is continuing unabated and they believe a revision of the settlement policy could open the door to reviving the moribund peace process.

"It's natural to have this debate that affects Israel," said Rabbi David Saperstein, director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism.

"Israel lives and dies by the decisions it makes, but these decisions can be informed by debate in the United States."

While Reform leaders pri-

vately acknowledge that it is unlikely the resolution will pass as worded, the debate itself represents a departure from the position of the mainstream organized Jewish community, including the Reform movement, not to criticize Israeli government policies while it is facing Palestinian terrorism.

Martin Raffel, associate executive director of the JCPA, said he expected that the debate would focus both on Israel's settlement policy itself and whether it is appropriate for the American Jewish community to debate it at this time.

The Conservative and Orthodox communities, as well as several communal organizations and local community relations boards, are mounting a campaign to get the section relating to settlement freezes deleted.

Opponents say that it is inappropriate for American Jews to make a judgment on Israeli policy during this time of intense conflict with the Palestinians.

"A lot of people think this is going too far into American Jews trying to dictate the policy of the Israeli government," said one Jewish leader, who asked not to be named.

Israel attacks Hamas targets after tank crew is killed

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM, Feb. 17 (JTA) — Israel broadened its military operations in the Gaza Strip this week in response to a Hamas attack that killed four Israeli soldiers.

The four Israeli members of a tank crew were killed Saturday when a large mine weighing more than 200 pounds exploded beneath their tank in northern Gaza.

The four Israelis were identified as Cpl. Noam Bahagon, 20, of Elkana; Sgt. Tal Alexei Belitzky, 21, of Rishon le-Zion; Staff Sgt. Doron Cohen, 21, of Rishon le-Zion; and Sgt. Itay Mizrahi, 20, of Beersheba.

This was the fourth such

fatal attack against a tank during the past year.

Hamas claimed responsibility, saying it was to avenge the recent killing of two of its members in Gaza by Israeli troops.

An initial inquiry into the attack found that the bomb had apparently been placed inside a water heater container and planted up to a month before.

Israeli army officials believe the tank set off the mine when it deviated from the path being cleared by a bulldozer that was traveling ahead of the tank.

The attack touched off a series of Israeli military actions against Hamas targets.

New Jerusalem mayor causes concern

By Matthew Gutman

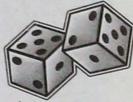
JTA — The appointment of an acting mayor in Jerusalem has provided a new source of religious-secular tensions in the sharply divided city.

On Sunday, after Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert announced his resignation so he could take a seat in the Knesset, he was succeeded by Deputy Mayor Uri Lupoliansky of the fervently Orthodox Agudat Yisrael Party.

Lupoliansky, the first fervently Orthodox Jew to lead

Jerusalem's capital, is likely to remain mayor until municipal elections are held in October.

Lupoliansky's appointment reflects the ascendancy of the fervently Orthodox parties in Jerusalem's City Council — of eight deputy mayors, six are fervently Orthodox. Nevertheless, in his inaugural speech as acting mayor, the 50-year-old Lupoliansky said people should not be "judged on the basis of their lifestyle and dress, but on the basis of their acts."

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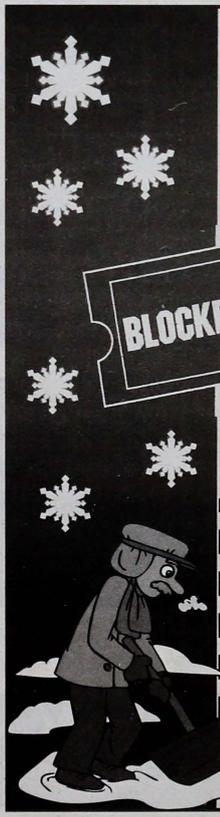
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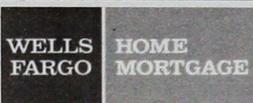
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Jezebel – go od wife or nogoodnik?

By Jonathan Rubin

"But there was none like unto Ahab who did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord, who Jezebel, his wife, stirred up." (1 Kings 21:25)

It's not a coincidence that most parents don't name their daughters Jezebel. Besides the fact that her name means "not exalted," her terrible reputation — idolater, instigator, conspirator, accessory to murder — would seem to be enough to have her permanently black-listed from any book of baby names.

But how much of her reputation is factual, and how much the hearsay of millennia? The 4th annual "Women of the Bible" Rosh Hodesh series, a program of the Women's Alliance of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island set out to examine the biblical figure and decide whether Jezebel was a good wife, evil incarnate or simply an amoral person who didn't know the difference.

Set at Congregation Agudas Achim in North Attleboro on Feb. 5, the discussion brought 45 women from all over Rhode Island. Lenore Sones, veteran educator at Temple Sinai in Cranston, led the discussion.

The story begins with Jezebel, a Phoenician princess who was married to King Ahab of Samaria, becomes involved in her husband's land-grab scheme. He was attempting to buy a vineyard from a man named Naboth in Jezreel, but found that Naboth would not sell the land because it was inherited (ancient law forbade any man, even a king, from taking inherited lands of



GAYE BELSKY-GLUCK, of Providence, asks a question at the Women's Alliance 'Women of the Bible' series at Congregation Agudas Achim.

Photo by Jonathan Rubin

another).

Ahab returned distraught to his palace. Jezebel, after figuring out the situation, says, "Rise and eat something, and be cheerful; I will get the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite for you." She then used the king's seal and wrote letters to set up an elaborate feast, with Naboth at the front of the assembly. She then arranged for two "scoundrels" to sit opposite him, and publicly accuse him of blasphemy against God and the king, a capital crime. Then, she says, "Take him out and stone him to death."

"She used the legal system," Sones said. "She just didn't go out and kill him... she used the system to kill him," including having two witnesses present.

Everything happens according to her plan, and she informs the king of this fact and tells him to take possession of the dead man's land.

"She is powerful... she thinks of herself as a queen," as his equal, Sones said. Some

audience members said that the influence on her husband reminded them somewhat of Queen Esther or even Eve.

On the way to claim the land Ahab meets Elijah the prophet, who, acting through the word of God, condemns Ahab and all of his descendants to die gruesome deaths. The king was put to death, and the new king had Jezebel torn apart by wild dogs.

So, how did she rate? Many members of the audience felt that she was self-motivated, knowing that if the vineyard were obtained that she would benefit financially. She also acted to ease her husband's suffering, one woman said.

Others wondered how aware the king was of all that transpired, and how guilty he was of "letting a woman from another culture dominate him."

"She strikes me as a very sharp woman... very little escaped her attention," said Cynthia Benjamin, of North Smithfield.



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Jewish security alert

From page 1

buildings, and other Jewish institutions closed their doors while police around the state patrolled synagogues on heightened alert.

In the aftermath of 9/11, the JFRI established a security task force, headed by Meyer Goldstein, to coordinate Jewish institutions in the case of an emergency. "One of our goals is to be an information and communication bridge between the Jewish community and the FBI and other anti-terrorism groups," Goldstein said. "We want to help agencies and synagogues be as secure as possible while being able to function normally."

Jewish community leaders met with the U.S. Attorney's Anti-Terrorism Task Force and representatives of the FBI and State and Providence Police Departments for the first time.

They established an on-going relationship and a communications network to ensure the quick verification of news reports, a rapid response to threats and the prompt dissemination of information.

A training session was also held for agencies and synagogue staff on how best to respond to emergencies, such as bomb threats, threatening phone calls and suspicious packages.

When the latest warnings came in a few weeks ago, Goldstein said he received inquiries from local synagogues which he checked out with the FBI. They told him that there was strong intelligence that "something" would happen, but no definite targets were identified. Still, people were encouraged to be very alert at large, publicized gatherings.

Goldstein is reassured that police departments are very responsive to reports of suspicious people doing unusual things around Jewish institutions. "They should be contacted if people see things that worry them. Concerns about a particular synagogue or agency, can be raised with the appropriate staff."

Some Jewish organizations felt differently about the recent affair. Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, downplayed the concern over "Level Orange", saying that the group's conversations with security officials indicate no evidence of increased risk to Jewish institutions. But Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge reasoned that it was better to err on the side of safety by issuing the warnings.

The United Jewish Communities, the umbrella group of North American Jewish federations is working with a panel of professors at The John Jay College of Criminal Justice to produce an emergency planning manual for Jewish organizations. They hope to distribute the guide in CD format to all North American federations, synagogues and Jewish schools next month.

Compiled with reports from the Jewish Telegraphic Association.



Could she?
JCC Murder Mystery • March 2 — 6 P.M.



Investigator or Instigator?
JCC Murder Mystery • March 2 — 6 P.M.

Kosher Meals on Wheels 'desperate' for drivers

By Jonathan Rubin

The Providence Kosher Meals on Wheels Program is in dire need of volunteers, said Sue Robbio, mealsite coordinator at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island. The program, which is now in its 30th year, brings nutritionally balanced kosher meals to homebound residents in the Providence / Pawtucket area. The goal of the program is to allow residents to stay in their own homes and maintain their independence.

"These people are completely reliant on our volunteers," Robbio said, many of whom have been out sick recently. "Sometimes, the delivery person is the only person they speak to all day," Robbio said. "It's also a way we can make sure that they are all right."

Volunteers are needed between 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. to deliver 15 to 20 meals. They must have their own car. To volunteer, call Sue Robbio at the JCC at 861-8800 ex. 107.

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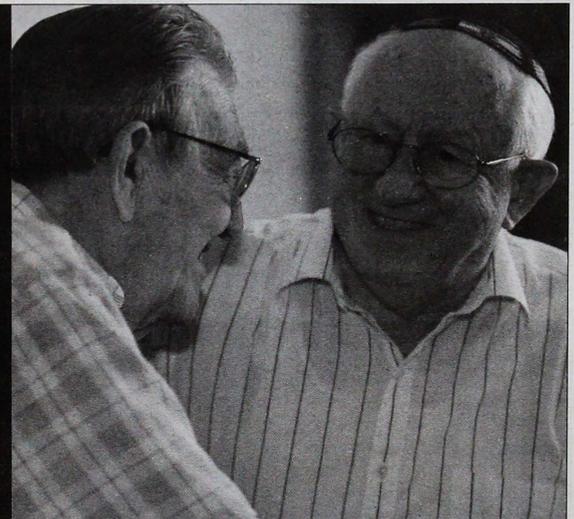
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Howard Weiss

Jon Weiss

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way to keep your loved one connected through Shabbat services, friendly visits or celebration of holidays, call the JERI Program at 401-621-5374.

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Welcome Spring with adult learning at Beth-El

Temple Beth-El of Providence is offering an extensive program of Jewish learning and Cultural Programming for this coming Spring.

The program is aimed to help adults participate in the tradition of Talmud Torah, the life-long study of our literature, traditions, history, and heritage.

Late Spring Courses:

Wed. evenings, April 30
 — May 21, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.;
Jewish Humor; in the Bible and the Talmud." Instructors will be Rabbi Gutterman, Rabbi Blake, Rabbi Marc Jagolinzer, and Prof. Phil Brown of Brown University, who is a historian of the Catskills.

Wed. evenings, April 30

— May 21, 7:00–8:30 p.m. Israeli Dance. Instructors will be Marilyn Rueschemeyer and Mara Solkolsky.

The courses above have a fee of \$36 for members and \$72 for non-members (In case of financial hardship call Ruby Shalansky at 401-331-6070, ext. 105, or e-mail rshalansky@temple-beth-el.org.)

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Directions from North: Rt. 95 South to exit #30, turn right at 2nd traffic light onto Central Ave. (Central Ave. becomes Cross St.) Follow to the end. Turn left onto Pine St., then 1st right onto #225 Conant St.

Israel education at Am David

An exploration of Israel, its history, its people and its concerns is the key objective in a six-session series beginning Feb. 13 developed by Temple Am David's Adult Education program.

The series runs on six consecutive Thursday evenings at

6:45 p.m. in the library at the Temple (40 Gardiner St.). It is open to the public, Temple Am David membership is not required.

The rest of the schedule centers around Israeli films:

February 27: "Hill 24 Doesn't Answer" uses actual

events during the War of Independence to explore the meaning of Zionism.

March 6: "The Wooden Gun" explores the role of the military in Israeli society.

March 13: "Over the Ocean" deals with relations between Israel and the Diaspora.

March 20: "Fictitious Marriage" examines the relations between Arabs and Israelis.

A \$5 registration fee is requested. Further information may be obtained by calling the Temple (463-7944) or Alice Goldstein (463-9233).

'Foundations of Buddhism'

On February 23, the Leisure Club of Temple Emanu-El will present a lecture by Anne Heyrman-Hart on "The Foundations of Buddhism". Heyrman-Hart has taught a variety of classes in the field of comparative religion at Wheaton College, Brown University, Providence College and Bryant College.

This free lecture begins at

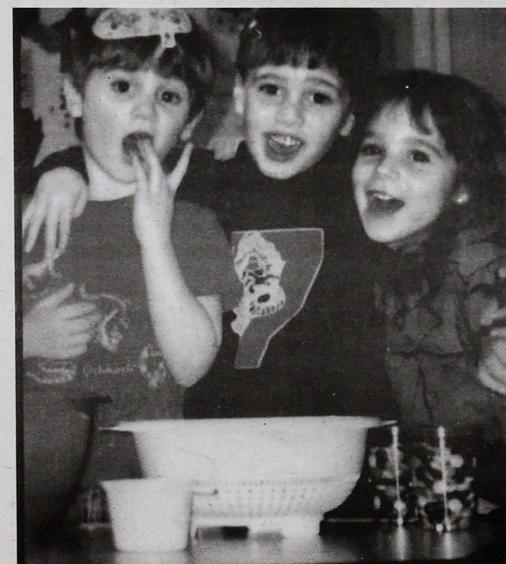
2 pm at the Temple and is open to the community. For more information, please contact Beryl Meyer, Leisure Club President or Miriam Abrams-Stark, Leisure Club Coordinator, at Temple Emanu-El, 331-1616.

CORRECTION

Jacob Rosenberg, listed in a photo caption on page 20 of last issue, was mistakenly listed as Jacob Rubin.



Jailhouse Rock?
 JCC Murder Mystery • March 2 — 6 P.M.



Open House

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TV 'Survivor' at Touro Fraternal Open House

Helen Glover, the latest Rhode Islander to participate in the television series "Survivor", will present her side of the story at Touro Fraternal Association's Annual Membership Open House, Wednesday, March 26.

Ms. Glover, who finished fourth in CBS-TV's Survivor Thailand edition, is from Middletown. She will be the featured speaker at the meeting to be held at the Asso-

ciation's headquarters (45 Rolfe Square).

Andrew Lamchick, chair of Touro's Membership Committee, explained that "in addition to providing a little entertainment we hold an open Touro meeting to show prospective members a little bit about Touro, what it does and what it stands for. These programs traditionally have brought in an increasing number of new members each year." He said special

incentives have been developed for members bringing in prospective new members that evening.

The meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. and is open to all Touro members and prospective qualified members. Reservations are required and may be made by calling Touro (785-0066). Further information on Touro, this, and other Association events are available on Touro's website, www.tourofraternal.org.

Cosmic topics to be covered in Emanu-El symposium

The Koffler Bornstein Families Institute of Temple Emanu-El announces *Cosmic Issues*, a symposium on the impact of current research on biology and evolution, brain science, and cosmology on traditional values, our concepts of ourselves as humans and thinking conscious beings, and the notions of the structure of the universe and of reality itself. All of this will be presented in layperson's language.

New findings and theories in science have made our current era as much an intellectual and theological watershed between past and future as the era of Galileo and Copernicus. The lectures are intended to inspire and stimulate discussion of these important issues.

Visiting our seniors

By Susan Adler

It usually goes something like this: "It is hard to walk any distance now. Oh! I remember when I could walk to Miller's and back home again. I was a member of the garden club and so much fun. It was great to be with friends. I don't do any of this now, and I am so lonely."

This is a common statement by the elders that I visit. They love their homes and don't want to move, but they have become isolated. Yet these seniors have active minds and

The Cosmic Issues symposium will feature the following:

March 25 — Dr. David Sheinberg, a member of the multidisciplinary Brain Research Program at Brown.

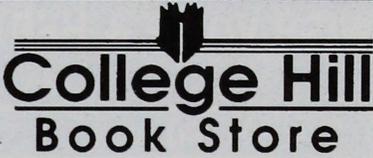
April 1 — Dr. Kenneth Miller, professor of biology at Brown and an authority on evolutionary mechanisms and modern biology.

April 8 — Dr. Robert Brandenberger, professor of physics at Brown, a cosmologist and astrophysicist.

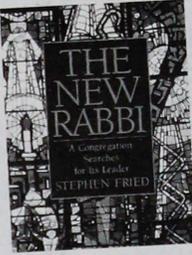
The programs will take place at 7:30 p.m. at Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Avenue, Providence and are open to the general public. \$8 covers the entire series, \$6 for members of Temple Emanu-El, \$5 for students and seniors.

much to share. Shopping and doctor's appointments are made possible through RIDE, but a visit with a friend is rare.

Visits to the homebound are one of the outreach programs at Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island, a program of Jewish Seniors Agency. Do you have an aunt, uncle, mother, father, or family friend who could use another person to talk to? Call our office at 1-401-621-5374 and ask for Susan Adler, director of Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island.



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A local philanthropist has endowed a lecture appearance by the famed talmudic scholar Harry Shapiro. Harry was mysteriously murdered prior to the lecture. The mystery of this murder will unravel throughout the evening. Can you solve the mystery of who committed this devastating crime that has rocked the Rhode Island Jewish community? There will be prizes for those who are able to identify the murderer.

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Israel in Egypt...in Providence

Just in time for Pesach the Providence Singers present Handel's oratorio *Israel in Egypt* for chorus, soloists, and orchestra on March 8 and 9.

Israel in Egypt combines the glory of the baroque period with the drama of opera. The musical portrayal of hopping frogs, swarming locusts, buzzing flies, pounding hail and running fire add musical drama to the biblical saga.

Comprehensive program notes, including Michael Ingall's discussion of the Song of the Sea are available at www.providencesingers.org.

Two Providence performances are offered: Saturday, March 8, at 8 p.m. at Grace Church, and Sunday, March 9 at 3 p.m. at Temple Emanu-El.

Artistic Director Julian Wachner and Associate Con-

ductor Andrew Clark will present pre-performance discussions beginning 45 minutes prior to each concert. Cathy Fuller of WGBH FM will moderate the Saturday evening discussion.

Tickets are \$28, \$26 for

seniors, and \$14 for children. \$2 discount on full price tickets for members of WGBH. For groups of 10 or more purchasing in advance \$23. Ticket information: (401) 683-1932 or 888-579-4800.

Shabbat across America

On Friday evening, March 7, Congregation Agudas Achim at 901 No. Main St., Attleboro, will be one of approximately 750 synagogues across the continent that will simultaneously open its doors to practicing and non-practicing Jews alike so they may join together to experience and rejoice in a traditional Shabbat service and festive meal. Led by Rabbi Elyse Wechterman, attendees will experience an interactive Friday night beginners' service

and traditional Shabbat dinner with all the rituals explained. The event will begin with candle lighting at 5:45 pm, followed by a dairy potluck dinner, services, blessings and songs.

Shabbat Across America was conceived and organized by the National Jewish Outreach Program (NJOP). The NJOP was established in 1987 by Rabbi Ephraim Buckwald and has become one of the world's largest and most successful Jewish outreach organizations. NJOP offers free programs at more than 3500 locations across North America and in 27 countries worldwide. Through programs such as Shabbat Across America and Read Hebrew America, NJOP has successfully reached more than 615,000 North American Jews and engaged them in Jewish life.

For more information on Shabbat Across America or other programs offered by Agudas Achim, please call 508-222-2243.

Purim Mask Making

"Celebrations: Discovering Jewish Life in the Marketplace," a program of the Bureau of Jewish Education in cooperation with Michael's Crafts, is sponsoring a Mask Making Workshop for children and their families on Sunday, March 16, at 2 p.m. (see below for locations).

Participants will create their own colorful masks facili-

tated by a talented craftsperson. Refreshments will be served. This program is free and open to the public. Workshops will be held at the following locations:

- Michael's Arts and Crafts**
85 Highland Avenue (Route 6) Seekonk, RI 02771
(508)-336-7858
- Michael's Arts and Crafts**
371 Putnam Pike (Route 44)

See MASK MAKING, page 18

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By Tema Gouse

Life is full of many factors that tell us we are getting old. But nothing affirms this more than the realization that your children are passing the half-century mark. Can it be true that I have one son who turned 50 in the year 2000 and that the other guy will celebrate that landmark in the year 2003?

It can't be. If they are, in fact, that old, I should not be able to remember so many details of their infancies, teenage years, young manhood, and the years in which they began to remind me that they were adults, no longer in need of my superfluous advice. But I remember most of it: I may not be able to tell you quickly what I ate for breakfast this morning and I may have difficulty recalling the name of the old dear friend I had lunch with yesterday, but I remember endless minutia of most of the days of their lives.

When I celebrated my 40th birthday it became apparent

that I could no longer think of myself as a young person. My 50th birthday clearly dictated that I was now officially an "older woman." So, does that mean that my kids are now "old men"?

Well, let's examine this carefully. Number one son was a skinny, myopic, overactive, under-eating sweet kid. He's still a sweet bespectacled guy but he's different in many ways. Most obvious is his size. No one needs to urge him to eat—he nibbles constantly and if he would lose 30 pounds I would make a party in his honor. He still loves sports but most of his sports involvement is from the perspective of a seat in front of the television set. He works hard and is a very conscientious husband and father. He prefers being inactive, and he's tired most of the time.

His younger brother had a markedly different image. Oh, he wore glasses too. With two myopic parents, near-sightedness is inevitable. He was good student whose idea of activity was to read constantly. He rarely showed his feelings. He never verbally refused an order from either parent but he rarely did anything he did not want to do. Well, at nearly age 50, he too has changed. Contact

lenses have replaced the glasses. He has finally stopped studying and reads for pleasure. He exercises religiously. He still answers only to his own drummer.

So how do the old folks adjust to their changed offspring? Or, more importantly, how do they adjust to having such ancient parents?

Superficially, we are still the parents and they are still the children. But as any senior citizen can avow, these vital relationships have changed. We make suggestions and usually realize that the suggestions may be accepted, but are more likely to be rejected. Our recommendations on child rearing are more likely to be rejected. (It makes no sense. If we raised them into such superior beings, shouldn't our opinions have merit). They feel (and usually are) better educated and think they know more about child-care and their children in particular. Ha!!

The aging parents of baby-boomers know that our time as advisors to our children is limited. It is amusing to observe

their subtle evaluation of the status of our senses. They no longer seem to be seriously defending their independence of us.

One big disappointment about living long enough to have our children pass the half-century mark is that we still worry about them as much as we did when they were teenagers. I had hoped that old age would remove that curse of parenthood. But it didn't happen. Our love, fears, pride in them seem to intensify in our advancing years. And then there are the significant signs of role reversals. Who is the wise one? Who is the decision-maker? Ultimately, who has the final say-so? It isn't the grandparents.

The entire Gouse family had Thanksgiving dinner at the home of number one son, 80 miles from Rhode Island. They would not let me do any of the food preparation. They would not let us drive home in the dark. When we left to go home the next day, number two son said: "Call when you get home." We did.

I guess it was inevitable.

The kids are aging too



Tema Gouse

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Still spunky at 100

By Cary Eichenbaum

Mildred Rosner of Highland Court, Providence celebrated her 100th birthday on February 12th with friends, fellow Assisted Living residents and members of her family, including 96-year-old sister Pearl Pulner. Mildred, a spunky woman who is known to everybody by just her first name, keeps the Highland Court staff on their toes with her feistiness and her unbridled thirst for knowledge.

Photo by Jonathan Rubin

Mazel Tov

Bat Mitzvah

Pamela Lynn Winkler was called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah at Temple Beth Am on 13 Adar 1 5763 (February 15, 2003). Pamela is the daughter of Marion and Larry Winkler of Cranston, RI, and the granddaughter of Eileen and Milton Winkler of Cranston, Norman J. Feitelson of Waterbury, CT and the late Gloria Cole Feitelson.



Pamela Lynn Winkler

CORRECTION

Shelby Blair Freedman is the correct name of the fiancée of Joshua Harlan Harris, whose engagement announcement ran in the Feb. 7 issue of the Voice & Herald.

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Engagement

Gerald and Anne Sherman, of Cranston, announce the engagement of their daughter, Marsha, of Poughkeepsie, N.Y., to Jack Cleff, of West Point, N.Y. He is the son of Francis Cleff of Harrisburg, PA and Seymour Cleff of Cleveland, Ohio.

Marsha received her Bachelors and Masters degrees from the University of Rhode Island and is a freshmen mentor at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

Jack is a sergeant in the United States Army.

The Wedding is planned for October 26.

Birth

Karen and Edward Spater of Cranston, RI announce the birth of their daughter, Chloe Eden, on December 31, 2002. Paternal grandparents are Jenny and Albert Spater of Warwick. Maternal grandparents are Judith and Lawrence Bernstein of West Orange, New Jersey. Chloe Eden was welcomed home by her big sister, Isabel Remy.

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FEBRUARY

Adar 1

Date: Wednesday, February 5, 2003
Time: 12:00 - 1:30 pm
Location: Congregation Agudas Achim, 901 North Main Street, Attleboro, MA
Cost: \$10, lunch included
Presenter: Leonore Sones, R.J.E., Educational Director, Temple Sinai, Cranston
Topic: Jezebel: Love Beyond Eden

MARCH

Adar 2

Date: Thursday, March 6, 2003
Time: 7:00 - 8:30 pm
Location: Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Avenue, Providence
Cost: \$5, dessert included
Presenter: Rabbi Jonathan Blake, Associate Rabbi, Temple Beth-El, Providence
Topic: Delilah: Woman of the Night

APRIL

Nisan

Date: Thursday, April 3, 2003
Time: 12:00 - 1:30 pm
Location: Temple Shalom, 233 Valley Road, Middletown
Cost: \$10, lunch included
Presenter: Sydney Alderman Perry, Director, Dept. of Jewish Education - Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven, CT
Topic: Shifra and Puah: Giving Birth to the Jewish People

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- February 5 - "Jezebel" - (Noon) \$10.00 fee, lunch included March 6 - "Delilah" - (7:00pm) \$5.00 fee, dessert included
 April 3 - "Shifra & Puah" - (Noon) \$10.00 fee, lunch included

Enclosed is my check payable to JFRI for \$ _____ for the cost of the sessions I will be attending.

Sharon, Israel's warrior politician

By Sam Kaplan

Sharon, Israel's Warrior-Politician (Anita Miller, Jordan Miller, and Sigalit Zetouni, Academy Chicago & Olive Publishing, Chicago, 2002) is the new biography of Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon. Although the book is long, it is clearly written and a fast read for those with a desire to learn more about one of the region's most powerful personalities.

The book is a political biography, not a personal one. It begins with a synopsis of Sharon's youth and early adulthood as a *moshavnik* in the Galil. Born in 1928 to immigrant parents, Sharon came of age in the crucible of Israel's struggle for independence. The book successfully conveys the dangerous and unstable environment in Palestine as World War II came to an end and Great Britain pulled out of the region, leaving a power vacuum which precipitated Israel's bloody war for independence in 1948.

The authors of *Sharon* went to great lengths to research their book. The Sinai Campaign, the 1967 and Yom Kippur Wars, and the Lebanon invasion are all documented in a thorough and balanced way. Furthermore, the book assumes only slight familiarity on the reader's part, so it is an excellent resource for those wanting to learn more about Israeli history as told through the biography of one of its most powerful military and political leaders.

The book tells its story chronologically, with excellent coverage of the peace process from the Oslo Accords

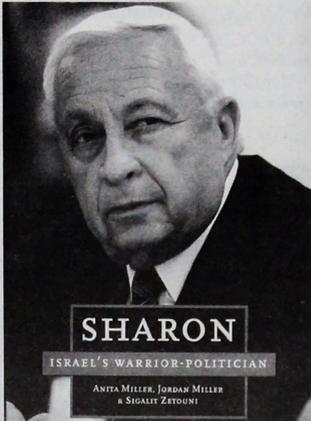
to Wye River to Camp David to the setbacks of the last two years. It details Sharon's role as a military leader who was not particularly involved in recent peace efforts with the Palestinian Authority. The extent to which the Palestinian-Israeli conflict has permeated nearly every facet of the contemporary Israeli political landscape is shocking.

Sharon is portrayed in a positive light. While the writers' perspective is from the outside, relying more on media accounts of Mr. Sharon's activities than on personal interviews, his personality is conveyed unequivocally. He is first and foremost a man of action, supremely confident in his mission to defend the State of Israel by force. The central question is whether Sharon or any of his contemporaries have the requisite vision and political acumen to bring the "peace with security" that has proven so elusive since Sharon ascended to the office of prime minister.

This book makes it clear that Israeli history has been fundamentally driven by the personalities of its leaders. Sharon's unshakable poise and composure in the heat of crises prove that he is truly the eye of the Israeli political storm. I recommend this book to anyone who wants to learn more about this powerful figure at the helm of the Jewish state as events unfold in the most volatile region of the modern world.

Sam Kaplan lives in Providence.

For more information about reviewing books, contact Judy Greenblatt at 331-0956



Jewish education

From page 5

Jewish education must be at the very top of the Jewish philanthropic agenda. We can no longer afford to remain insensitive to this necessity, oblivious to the cost in Jewish souls that we pay for the luxury of our fixations on lesser matters. The action necessary is allocating adequate funding to enable every Jewish child to receive an intensive quality Jewish education at an affordable tuition.

Even apart from the biblical mandate

Living with OCD

From page 4

OCD climbs to unhealthy levels when we do not act out our compulsions, and most often we are forced to eventually comply. When we do give in to them, we feel some relief, briefly, but soon again another compulsion will rear its ugly head and the war will begin anew.

The sad part about this disease is those of us with OCD know that our actions are illogical; we should obviously not be performing them and their completion could be detrimental to our health. But as all OCD people know, we feel as if we *have* to perform them — because if we don't, an even greater evil will befall us.

I try to be accepted into crowds of people who are completely different than I am at local restaurants, movies, lectures or any other social events I have ever attended. I'm also looking for a good Jewish woman to marry.

Disabled people don't want hand-outs, pity, special treatment or to be looked upon as children or incapacitated adults. All peoples with disabilities usually only crave the three things the world has not given them: respect, tolerance and understanding.

Please, as Mrs. Schwartz says, don't shut us disabled Rhode Island Jews out of our religious community. You may be pleasantly surprised by our abilities.

Cary Eichenbaum lives in Providence.

(repeated three times daily in the holy Shema prayer), it is a communal obligation and survival-imperative to educate all Jewish children in Torah. At an average tuition cost of \$6,000 - \$10,000 after tax, day school is only available to the very rich or the very committed who are willing to make enormous financial sacrifices. There must be an immediate change in the mindset of much of the Jewish world, which clings to the mistaken belief that the burden should rest on the users/parents.

The current Jewish population is the wealthiest and most free in the history of our people, but it is no longer reliably transmitting Torah to the next generation, nor is it prioritizing Jewish education financially. This is a recipe for disaster, a disaster that is in fact already upon us. In recent years, there has been more talk about the importance of Jewish education, but no commensurate communal financial commitment. Massive amounts of money have to be funneled into our day school system now. To attract a greater number of Jewish families to take advantage of day schools, we must provide the funds necessary to assure that the Judaic and general education they offer is both outstanding and affordable.

Yes, all of this will take a great deal of money. The Jewish community has the necessary resources to fund this initiative. Various concepts have been presented, such as Operation Jewish Education/The 5 percent Mandate, which obligates every Jew to give 5 percent of their estate to a Jewish educational endowment fund of their choice. The underlying premise is that every Jew has an obligation to participate. In biblical times every Jew had to give a half shekel to be counted in the census. The same should be required today.

George D. Hanus is chairman of The Unity Foundation, a Chicago-based organization which aims to build unity and continuity through Jewish education.

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Purim Mask Making

From page 15

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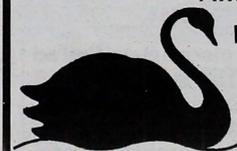
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Stanley Dorsky

FALL RIVER — Stanley Dorsky, 81, of Chester Avenue, founder and president of Reflex Corp., Fall River, died Jan. 28 at home.

He was the husband of Jean (Carey) Dorsky, and the late Janet (Driller) Dorsky. Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., he was the son of the late Abraham and Pauline (Kaminsky) Dorsky. He had lived in Somerset before moving to Bristol 16 years ago.

Mr. Dorsky was a graduate of the Pratt Institute of New York with a degree in mechanical engineering. In 1971, he founded Reflex, a manufacturer of reflectors for the lighting industry.

He was an Army veteran of World War II.

He was a past president and lieutenant governor of the Kiwanis, a member of the Big Brothers Association, a member and board member of Ada Israel Synagogue, and a member of Touros Synagogue of Newport.

Besides his wife, he leaves three sons, Alan Dorsky of Hingham, Mass., Robert Dorsky of Stoughton, Mass., and Hugh Dorsky of Somerset; a stepson, Robert Crausman of Pawtucket; a stepdaughter, Raquel Ramos of Somerset; and 11 grandchildren.

Contributions may be made to National Organization of Rare Diseases, PO Box 1968, Danbury, CT 06813.

Abraham Fine

CRANSTON — Abraham Fine, 91, of Cedar Crest Nursing Centre, a retired salesman, died Feb. 7, at the Centre. He was the husband of the late Lillian (Sullivan) Fine.

Born in Providence, a son of the late Israel and Sonya Fine, he had lived in Cranston for 40 years, moving to East Providence 31 years ago and back to Cranston 6 years ago. He was a salesman in various businesses for 40 years. His last sales position was with the former Peerless Department Store for 20 years, retiring 40 years ago.

Mr. Fine was a member of the Elks Club, the Valley Country Club, the West Warwick Country Club, and the Rehoboth Country Club. He was an avid golfer.

He leaves a son, David Fine of North Kingstown; a daughter, Barbara Jamieson of Cranston; and 3 grandchildren. He was the brother of the late James Fine.

Contributions may be made to the Alzheimers Association, 245 Waterman Ave., Providence, RI 02906.

Celia Kessler

CRANSTON — Celia S. Kessler, 97, of 98 Calaman Road, a retired saleswoman, died recently at Rhode Island Hospital. She was the wife of the late Maurice B. Kessler.

Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Jacob and Dora

(Eisen) Goldstein, she had lived in Cranston for 53 years.

Mrs. Kessler was a saleswoman in the Baby Department of the former Outlet Company for over 5 years, retiring in 1942. She was a member of the former Cranston Jewish Center.

She leaves a daughter, Jill Sidelinger of Cranston and a grandson. She was the sister of the late Abbott, Gilbert, Jean and Hattie Gould, Lillian Gluck and Shirley White.

Hyman H. Levine

SMITHFIELD — Hyman H. Levine, 91, of Putnam Pike, a retired businessman, died Feb. 9 at Our Lady of Fatima Hospital, North Providence. He was the husband of the late Irene (Walker) Levine. They had been married for more than 65 years.

Born in Providence, a son of the late Morris and Minnie (Tolchinsky) Levine, he had lived most of his life in Providence before moving to Smithfield in 2001.

Mr. Levine was the founder of the former Hudson Cold Storage and Hudson Cleaning Co., which later became Hudson Services.

He was a founding member of Crestwood Country Club, and formerly was a member of Temple Emanuel for 25 years. He was a member of Redwood Lodge 35, F&AM, the Providence Fraternal Association, and a 32nd-degree Mason with the Palestine Shrine.

He leaves a son, Norman E. Levine of Coventry; two brothers, Samuel and Abraham Levine, both of Cranston; three granddaughters and six great-grandchildren. He was the father of the late Donald Levine and brother of the late Matthew Levine and Nellie Moseff.

Contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Assn., 245 Waterman St., Suite 306, Providence, RI 02906.

Gertrude Rogers

CRANSTON — Gertrude Rogers, 85, of Cedar Crest Nursing Centre, formerly of Worcester, Mass., a retired Hebrew teacher, died Jan. 30, at the Centre. She was the wife of the late Harold Rogers.

Born in New York City, a daughter of the late Louis and Sadie (Goldman) Furie, she had lived in Worcester for 62 years before moving to Cranston two years ago.

Mrs. Rogers was a Hebrew teacher at Temple Emanuel in Worcester for 50 years. She was a past president of B'nai Brith Women, and a volunteer at Christopher House Nursing Home and the former Rutland Heights Hospital.

She leaves a daughter, Linda Goldman of West Warwick; a brother, Dr. Robert J. Furie of Frederick, Md; and one grandson. She was the sister of the late Dr. William Furie.

Contributions may be made to Temple Shalom, 223 Valley Rd., Middletown, RI 02842.

William Russian

WARWICK — William Russian, 77, of Metacom Ave., Bristol, formerly of Warwick, a retired salesman, died Feb. 2, at Rhode Island Hospital. He was the husband of Cynthia (Stone) Russian.

Born in Providence, a son of the late Israel and Sarah (Pablinsky) Russian, he had lived in Warwick for 41 years before moving to Bristol eight months ago.

He was a general merchandise salesman for 40 years, retiring 13 years ago.

He was a Navy Veteran of WWII, serving in the Pacific Theater. He was a member of the Rhode Island Jewish Fraternal Association and the Jewish War Veterans.

He leaves two daughters, Linda Russian of Warwick and Nancy Nouriel of Worcester, Mass; two brothers, Samuel Russian of Willimantic, Conn. and Louis Russian of Cranston; a sister, Anne Grossman of Delray Beach, Fla.; and two granddaughters. He was the brother of the late Meyer Russian, Mary Turck and Hazel Goldberg.

Contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Assoc. or your favorite charity.

David L. Semonoff

PROVIDENCE — David L. Semonoff, 72, of Randall Street, a chess player of note and a tournament organizer, died Feb. 9 at Miriam Hospital.

Born in Providence, the son of the late Noah and Ida (Sutton) Semonoff, he had lived in California, New York and Newfoundland before moving back to Providence.

Although he had no formal education past high school, he was a self-educated man of letters and was well-read and astutely aware of current events.

He was an excellent chess player and organized tournaments for the Rhode Island Chess Society. He also sponsored scholarships for promising chess players.

Mannis Shapiro

FALL RIVER, MA — Mannis Shapiro, 92, of Courtney Street, a retired teacher, principal and School Department administrator, died Feb. 9, at South Point Nursing Home.

He was the husband of Gladys (Dashoff) Shapiro; they had been married for 68 years.

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., a son of the late Jacob and Matilda (Charish) Shapiro, he had lived in Brooklyn and in Linder, N.J. for several years before moving to Fall River in 1944.

He was a graduate of New York University, where he received a bachelor's and master's degrees and a certificate of advanced graduate studies.

Mr. Shapiro had worked in the Fall River High School Department, as a teacher, principal and administrator for many years before retiring in 1973. He had previously been a small-business owner.

He had also served as a director of Camp Vacamas, in New York; Kiddie Kamp, in Sharon, Mass.; and Adult Basic Education, in Fall River.

He was a member of the National Teacher's Association of Principals.

In his retirement, he was a volunteer for the Fall River Library and Charlton Memorial Hospital.

Mr. Shapiro was a member and a former vice president of Temple Beth-El, and a member of the Fall River Jewish Home for the Aged.

Besides his wife, he leaves two sons, Jack Shapiro of West Chester, Pa., and Norm Shapiro of Newington, Conn.; five grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Michele Silverman

PROVIDENCE — Michele Silverman, 56, of Howard Avenue, died Feb. 3 at Eleanor Slater Rehabilitation Hospital.

Born in New York City, a daughter of the late Philip and Trudy (Berger) Silverman, she had lived in New York and Oregon before moving to Rhode Island in 2001.

Miss Silverman had attended the University of Indiana and the University of California at Berkeley.

She leaves a sister, Sue-Rita Goldstein of Providence, a brother, Kirk Silverman of Queens, N.Y., and four nieces and nephews.

Ida Weingeroff

PROVIDENCE — Ida S. Weingeroff, 94, of Glen Drive, died Feb. 8 at home.

She was the wife of the late Louis Weingeroff.

Born in Hartford, Conn., a daughter of the late Louis and Yetta (Kassif) Goldberg, she had lived in Hartford, and Buffalo, N.Y., before moving to Providence 52 years ago.

Mrs. Weingeroff was a member of Crestwood Country Club, Rehoboth, where she enjoyed playing golf and bridge.

She was a former member of Temple Beth-El and Hadassah.

She leaves a son, Frederick L. "Skip" Weingeroff of Providence; a brother, Barney Goldberg in Florida; three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She was the sister of the late Bessie Pattison, and Morris, Jack and Sam Goldberg.

Contributions may be made to the Lillian Zarum Oncology Fund, c/o Miriam Hospital Women's Association, Summit Avenue, Providence, RI 02906.

Mildred Yanoff

HOLLYWOOD, Fla. — Mildred Yanoff, of Leicester Way, formerly of Providence, died recently at Memorial Hospital, Pembroke Hospice, Hollywood. She was the wife of the late Louis Yanoff.

Born in Rhode Island, she was a daughter of Jacob and Rebecca (Sandberg) Samas. She lived in Providence for 35 years before moving to Florida.

She leaves a son, Michael Yanoff of Las Vegas, Nev.; a daughter, Joanne Summer of Pawtucket; four grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Burial was private.

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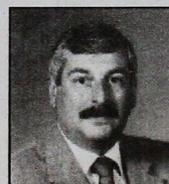
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Pre-Need Programs Available

Jewish preschools emerge

From page 1

formed," the JECEP study said. They "have the potential to have the same, or even greater impact than the day schools."

Currently, there are three Jewish preschools in the Providence area—at the JCC, Alperin Schechter and the Providence Hebrew Day School, while only one, Temple Sinai in Cranston, exists outside of Providence.

This, however, was not news in itself—for years many Rhode Islanders have been complaining that the majority of Jewish services are located in Providence, leaving the rest of the state largely under-served. With two preschools on the horizon, however, the tides may be beginning to change.

JCC preschool at Temple Habonim

Construction is in full swing at Temple Habonim, where a \$75,000 grant from the JFRI Endowment helped to complete the temple's capital campaign. An expanded facility, once completed, will be able to house a number of community services, including the incoming preschool.

The Habonim preschool is intended for 4 year olds, and potentially for 3 year olds as well. It will offer education in the style of the Jewish Community Center system, which is traditionally based on Jewish values and practices and taught in a nondenominational setting where both Jewish and non-Jewish children are welcome. The JCC's preschool is the larg-

est in the Jewish community, and has regular success in integrating unaffiliated and interfaith families into its programs.

Rabbi Jim Rosenberg, of Temple Habonim, says that the situation is ripe for a preschool in Barrington. For one, many of the preschools in the area already can't meet the needs of parents, he said. And the interest for a Jewish preschool is

ASDS pre-kindergarten at Temple Am David

Temple Am David seemed primed for the Alperin Schechter school expansion. The synagogue had already been achieving great success with its Shalom Friends program, whose educational and musical introductions to Judaism met twice a week for preschool chil-

"The success of this program shows that there's need for educating children right here in our community... "When we go after these people, and give them programs, we're going to see a revitalization in the Jewish community here." — Am David's Cantor Rick Perlman.

certainly there as well. "People always call us asking about this... many were people I've never heard from before."

Rick Nelson, executive director of the JCC, said that he hopes that the program will expand and be able to incorporate additional ages in the future, and possibly in different locations around the state as well. He said that the preschool is a perfect example of what the JCC wants to accomplish with its up-and-coming "JCC without Walls" program, which will bring childhood and other activities outside of the Providence facility to other areas in the state.

dren.

"The success of this program shows that there's need for educating children right here in our community," said Am David's Cantor Rick Perlman. "When we go after these people, and give them programs, we're going to see a revitalization in the Jewish community here."

The ASDS school at Am David will enroll 4 year olds and will meet five mornings a week with afternoon options. The curriculum will be taught in the Conservative Jewish day school



THE PRESCHOOL COMETH — Rabbi Jim Rosenberg stands outside the new expansion at Temple habonim in Barrington that will house their new preschool.
Photo by Jonathan Rubin

philosophy of the Schechter school system, which integrates general studies with Judaic studies. The school will be open to community members of all denominations. Temple Am David already has classrooms available for the preschool, and classes will begin in the fall. An open house will take place on March 2 at Temple Am David in Warwick.

"The idea of a satellite school has been in the air for a long time," said Dr. Penney Stein, head of school at ASDS. Their pre-kindergarten program, while only in its second year, has already reached maximum capacity, and the extension in Warwick would be

a way to serve more children and increase the school's profile in the West Bay, acting as a potential feeder school for the ASDS kindergarten class.

In addition, it brings preschool education closer to home for Warwick residents. "Some of our parents have a long drive to Providence every morning," Stein said. "I think parents are reluctant to send their young kids far from home."

Risa Walter, who is the director of the ASDS pre-kindergarten, will also serve as director at Am David.

For more information, contact The Alperin Schechter Day School at 751-2470 or the Jewish Community Center at 861-8800.

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