

The JEWISH VOICE & HERALD

SERVING RHODE ISLAND AND SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

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Jewish Federation of Rhode Island

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Inside...



REMEMBERING RONALD REAGAN — Even Jewish leaders who didn't always agree with Reagan on political issues are remembering Reagan, who died Saturday at age 93 in California, as a man deeply committed to the issues the Jewish community focused on during the 1980s. Many remembered Reagan as a man who was open and interested in listening to the Jewish community. See Story on Page 27.



JUST DESSERTS — For Dad's Day. See page 20.



MATCHMAKER — Singles column debuts. See page 24.

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Jewish Spain



THE UNEARTHED SANCTUARY of the 14th-century Synagogue Major in Barcelona. Photo by Jonathan Rubin

Barcelona Jews struggle to recapture lost legacy

By Jonathan Rubin
Editor's note: I was lucky enough to spend two weeks in Spain last month.

BARCELONA, Spain — The lock on the door of the Comunitat Israelita de Barcelona synagogue has five massive tumblers and is nearly two inches thick. It transmits the message "do not enter unless invited," which is almost ironic, because as much the synagogue wants to keep some

people out, it entreats others to enter.

History has not been kind to Spanish Jews. The forceful expulsion in 1492 left few traces of Jewish history behind; visiting the country's Jewish history is like going on a scavenger hunt, snaking down narrow corridors to find a snippet of history in the form of a concrete Hebrew slab on a wall, or a hole where an ancient mezuzah once rested. In a country where

the Jewish community once exceeded 500,000, Spain's largest Jewish centers are in Madrid and Barcelona, each with about 4,500 members.

Recruiting efforts are constant in Barcelona's three synagogues, which fight for members with such intensity that almost no coordinated events exist between them.

And yet there is a revival of sorts occurring, a true Jewish Renaissance that is

See BARCELONA, page 12



Robert A. Riesman

Friends bid 'Bob' farewell

(The obituary notice for Robert A. Riesman is on Page 25)

By Mary Korr

PROVIDENCE — On Sunday, the family and friends of Robert A. Riesman, a titan in the Jewish community in Rhode Island and worldwide, bid him farewell at Temple Emanu-El. A soft rain fell on the yellow roses on his casket as an honor guard escorted it into the sanctuary.

His extraordinary life, shaped by events of the 20th century, came to an end June 2, when he died at the Miriam Hospital, where he was a life trustee. He was with his wife of 58 years, Marcia (Stone) Riesman, and his children, Bob Jr. and Jean. He was 85.

It was fitting that Mr. Riesman, a World War II hero who loved the Army, was laid to rest on the 60th anniversary of D-Day. At the service, his daughter Jean recalled a poignant moment with her father.

"He took me to Normandy when I was 14 and said: 'If anyone told me I

See MOURNING, page 3

Sharon's devil will be in details

By Ron Kampeas
WASHINGTON (JTA) — Now that Ariel Sharon has persuaded just about everyone — the Bush administration, its European and Arab allies, and Sharon's own contentious Cabinet that it's time for Israel to leave the Gaza Strip, he needs to fill in the details. But the devil often lies in those details, promising months of difficult wrangling before an Israeli withdrawal from Gaza

and parts of the West Bank, projected by the end of 2005.

At this point, Sharon's Cabinet will not commit to a full withdrawal from Gaza. Yet U.S. officials speak in precisely those terms and want to see maps that will allow for a contiguous Palestinian state in the West Bank.

The Israeli prime minister believes Egypt and Jordan are crucial to the success of his plan, yet those countries want to make sure the plan is as far-

reaching as possible before they commit to it.

Sharon envisions a far more substantive, long-term role for Egypt and Jordan in administering the plan than they currently are willing to accept. Within a day after Sharon succeeded in pushing the plan through his Cabinet on Sunday by a 14-7 vote, signals already seemed to have crossed.

"What the Israeli Cabinet

See SHARON, page 8

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CANDLE LIGHTING

For greater Rhode Island



June 11 8:00
June 18 8:03
June 25 8:04

Community Calendar

Ongoing

Member Art Show

Through June 30. Gallery 401, Jewish Community Center, 401 Elm Grove Ave. See Community.

Sun., June 13

35+ Singles Brunch

11:30 a.m. at the Jewish Community Center, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence. Speaker: Jacki Rose, on "6 Steps to Powerful Public Speaking And How To Use Them On A Date." Brunch buffet. RSVP to Tavlin 861-8800x205 or tavlin@jccri.org by Friday, June 11th at 2 p.m. \$12-15.

"Annie Jr."

2 & 5 p.m. Jewish Theatre Ensemble performance. Jewish Community Center, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence. Tickets (\$10 for adults, \$5 for children) can be reserved by calling 861-8800, Ext. 189.

Mon., June 14

Beth-El golf tournament

1 p.m. Temple Beth-El Brotherhood youth scholarship golf tournament. Triggs Memorial Golf Course, Providence. Cost: \$80 (includes golf, cart & dinner). For more information, contact Steven Botwick at 223-0399.

Ahava night benefit

6:30 p.m. Lumiere Salon, 57 Eddy St. Skin-care program to benefit JFRI. For information, call 521-2777 or visit www.lumieresalon.com.

See Community.

Fri., June 18

Singles Shabbat dinner

6 p.m. Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston. Ser-

vice, Shabbat dinner for Jewish singles, all ages. \$15. RSVP at 785-1800.

Emanu-El Leisure Club

5:45 p.m. Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence. Shabbat service and dinner. \$15. For information, call Beryl Meyer at 274-8745.

Wed., June 23

Light is Heard in Zig Zag

7:30 p.m. at the Leventhal-Sidman Jewish community Center, 333 Nahatan St., Newton. Handicapped accessible. The Jewish Theatre of New England hosts the Israeli theater production *Light is Heard in Zig Zag*, performed by the deaf-blind actors from the Nalaga't theatre company. With voice over narration in English.

Tickets are \$25 general; \$20 students and seniors. Call (617)965-5226, (617)577-5867. or theatermania.com.

Upcoming

Sun., June 27

Hope High '39 reunion

Noon. Laurelmead, 355 Blackstone Blvd. Chair, Stella Pollock. RSVP at 732-8012.

In memory of my good friend

Robert A. Riesman

He touched our hearts and lives

We will all miss him dearly

Congressman Patrick J. Kennedy

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Tockwotton

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Town Wine & Liquors

Cranston:
Borders
Cranston Public Library
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Rainbow Bakery
Shalom Apartments

Kingstown:
URI Hillel - Student Union

Wakefield:
Wakefield Pharmacy

Warwick:
Coffee Grinder
Dave's, Rt. 2
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Community mourns the loss of Robert Riesman

From page 1

would be back here 28 years later with my daughter, I would say they were crazy."

He was a born leader, and no one knew that better than the men who fought under him in the field of battle. At the service on Sunday, Rabbi Wayne Franklin read from a letter written by a sergeant under Mr. Riesman in the 33 Field Artillery. The letter portrayed the then 2nd lieutenant Riesman, who served in North Africa and Sicily on active duty, as a leader who showed no fear, a man they admired and to whom they entrusted their lives. Ultimately, Mr. Riesman received numerous war commendations, including the Purple Heart, the Silver and Bronze Stars and the French Croix de Guerre.

Friends and family portrayed him as a genius in military strategy, with a penetrating intellect and a prodigious knowledge of history. He had a near-photographic memory, his daughter said. "He was my Google before the Internet was invented."

A successful businessman in the family business, the Royal Electric Company, he had a penchant for politics. His friend, attorney Richard Licht, first met Mr. Riesman in 1968, during his Uncle Frank's successful run for governor.

"He was my uncle's closest friend," Licht said. "He was a great gentleman — bright, committed and loyal. He was the last of an era here. Tom Brokaw called them 'the greatest generation,' and Bob was one of them. He fought in the war. He was there at the founding of the state of Israel."

"[Bob] was my hero," Sen. Jack Reed said in his eulogy. "He lived with honor and set an example of decency. He entered the arena to be part of the great issues that shaped his generation. He saw horror but refused to surrender his spirit. When he approved of something I did, he'd say, 'My boy, you're a credit to the Regiment.'"

An active Democrat, Mr. Riesman directed several presidential campaigns in the state, including the 1960 Kennedy-Johnson ticket. Congressman Patrick Kennedy said of the man he called a mentor, "He was one of the very first of the 'Old Guard' here to take me under his wing. He'd take me out to lunch in the Turk's Head building and introduce me to everyone. He only spoke of himself insofar as it was instructive to me. The best advice he ever gave me was, 'Kid, follow my advice.'"

Mr. Riesman served in numerous capacities at the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island in

both campaign and community relations roles. He served as president of the JFRI in 1974, and was instrumental in the creation of *The Federation Voice* in 1973. He served on the editorial board of the *Jewish Voice*, and later of *The Jewish Voice & Herald*.

"He saw the *Voice* as a way to reach into the Jewish community... and to correct any misconceptions about Israel," said Jane Sprague, former *Voice* editor.

Providence attorney Ed Feldstein worked with Mr. Riesman in several capacities — on the state Board of Regents, the President's Council at Providence College, and the two attended a men's Torah study group at Temple Emanu-El for many years.

"We would be reading a portion of the Torah and he would bring in relevant material from



Mourners exit the funeral on Sunday

Photos by Mary Korr



Senator Jack Reed

family dedicated the Riesman Center for Harvard Hillel.

In 2002, Mr. Riesman and his wife, Marcia, were honored at Harvard Hillel's annual Tribute to Excellence event, where he described what it was like to be on the campus on Nov. 10, 1938, Kristallnacht (night of broken glass), when mobs in Germany and Austria went on a rampage, killing Jews, vandalizing Jewish businesses and burning synagogues.

He then said, "We have been living in one of our people's 'golden ages,' the decades that followed the end of World War II and the birth of Israel." But now we hear, once again, the sound of broken glass.

poetry, or Shakespeare, or the classics. Everyone in the group had great respect for his intellect."

Mr. Riesman was born in Chelsea, Mass., to Joseph and Sadie (Finkelstein) Riesman. He was a proud alumnus of Boston Latin School and Harvard University, class of 1940.

In 1978, the Riesman family dedicated the Riesman Center for Harvard Hillel.

In 2002, Mr. Riesman and his wife, Marcia, were honored at Harvard Hillel's annual Tribute to Excellence event, where he described what it was like to be on the campus on Nov. 10, 1938, Kristallnacht (night of broken glass), when mobs in Germany and Austria went on a rampage, killing Jews, vandalizing Jewish businesses and burning synagogues.

He then said, "We have been living in one of our people's 'golden ages,' the decades that followed the end of World War II and the birth of Israel." But now we hear, once again, the sound of broken glass.

This time we hear the glass breaking in Israel's cafes, pizza parlors and markets... And now we hear the breaking once again in Europe itself..."

"Bob Riesman was one of a kind, truly a remarkable Jewish and civic leader. He was extraordinary because he loved both people, especially young people and the unvarnished truth, especially concerning matters of right and wrong, and he typically expressed this rare combination of love through his unfailing humor," said Bernard Steinberg, executive director of Harvard Hillel.

"Bob was one of the giants of our community. He had a real passion for and a deep knowledge of Israel and the entire Middle East and he was willing to bring that passion to the political process," said Howard Kohr, the executive director of American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) in Washington D.C.

Mr. Riesman was a national vice president of AIPAC, America's pro-Israel lobby.

Sheldon Sollosy, who traveled to Israel with Mr. Riesman on federation missions, recalled a recent conversation he had with his friend, who was recuperating from a broken leg. "He asked me what I thought about Sharon's plan for Israel. He was a little apprehensive."

Sollosy said his friend was a great letter-writer, and wrote frequent letters to *The Providence Journal*. "I read an anti-Israel letter to the editor the other day, and I wondered who was going to rebut it now that he's gone."

Mel Alperin, friend and business associate, visited Mr. Riesman at the hospital before he died. "He always wanted to be kept up to date on Jewish issues and the local Jewish community. He asked so many questions, and every time I answered one, there were more. We had two very intense sessions in the last week. Bob had a tremendous mind," Alperin said.

The Alperin and Riesman families were in business for five generations. "Fortunately, six months ago we wrote down our history," he said.

It will be the history of an era. "Bob's generation was the first generation to integrate into the non-Jewish community. These men — Bob, Max Alperin, Merrill Hassenfeld, Frank Licht, Joe Riss — were the leaders my generation looked up to and wanted to emulate," Alperin said.

**The Jewish Federation of Rhode Island
mourns the loss of**

Robert A. Riesman
Our esteemed former President

**Bob brought extraordinary intellect, passion and
strategic thinking to the important issues for and on
behalf of the Jewish community and Israel.**

**We extend heartfelt condolences to Marcia, Bob
and Jean and the entire Riesman family.**



Jewish Federation
of Rhode Island

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A Majority of One Hollings leads the neo-con blame-game

It took a bit longer than many of us expected, but the Iraqi chickens are finally coming home to roost among American Jews.

This has nothing to do with the torture of prisoners or post-war planning failures or even non-existent WMDs. It has everything to do with the intermix of Israeli and American policies and leadership and the sharing of common assumptions and goals.

Yehuda Lev

On the face of it, there was little to argue about. Israel viewed the Iraqi regime as an enemy dedicated to its destruction, a calculation based on bitter experience. The Bush administration had its own reasons for ridding the world of Saddam Hussein and believed that the Middle East would be a more peaceful place without him.

Israel seemed the big winner. The ouster of Saddam didn't really affect its conflict with the Palestinians except insofar as the presence in force of American troops in Iraq would put a damper on Syrian and Iranian support

for Hamas and Hezbollah. All to the good.

And the Americans stood to benefit by the emergence of a friendly, democratic government in Baghdad which stamped *finis* to the task left unfinished in the Gulf War.

Then it all fell apart.

Part of the fallout, we are now learning, directly impacts on the American Jewish community. This comes as no surprise; we have been warned against the possibility ever since Iraq was added to the list of nations to be occupied by the American military.

But it did come as a surprise to learn that Senator Fritz Hollings (D-S.C.) was the first American politician of note to state openly that the invasion of Iraq was the work of (mainly) Jewish neocons in the Bush Administration whose primary concern, he said, is the security of Israel. Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League, responded with: "We knew that if things went wrong they would look for someone to blame. The more protest, the more politicizing of the issue, people will be sloppier and will not be careful in what they say."

Foxman is holding the wrong end of the stick. It is not sloppiness that led Hollings to his conclusion but the

fact that the erroneous decision to go to war in Iraq was spearheaded by such administration stalwarts as Paul Wolfowitz, Douglas Feith, Richard Perle and Elliot Abrams, among others. And Hollings, while the most prominent of the accusers, has company in his corner, such as retired General Anthony Zinni, Pat Buchanan, Congressman Jim Moran and many American Jews who have been waiting for the shoe to drop.

It is dropping now with a thud. Its downward path is accelerated by Jerusalem's policies which have produced world-wide anger at pictures of Palestinian homes being bulldozed by Israeli tanks in Rafah and of a Palestinian woman searching the rubble for her lost medications. (Nor was it eased by the spectacle, last month, of delegates at AIPAC's annual Washington conference shouting "Four more years!" when President Bush addressed them.)

It does little good to counter these negative images by pointing to suicide bombings, Palestinian intransigence and systemic corruption in the Palestinian Authority. To much of the world, we are Goliath, they are David and that is a conceptualization made to order for serious detachment from Israel and all we claim that it stands for.

It makes even less sense to label

as anti-Semites all those in agreement with Hollings' take on the neocons in Washington.

Certainly the anti-Semites out there are seizing on this as justification for their hatred of Jews. But there was anti-Semitism aplenty long before many of us could find Rafah on a map. The danger for Jews and Israel is that we might hide behind the anti-Semitic excuse and refuse to deal with our problems including, among others, a strong link between a Christian fundamentalist-driven administration in Washington and a government dominated by Jewish fundamentalists in Jerusalem.

This is not a call for an American Jewish abandonment of Israel. On the contrary, we must involve ourselves even more in Israel's issues, as citizens of a Jewish community that prospers because of the democracy in which we live. We had best use our influence in both capitals, not only for Israel's secure future but also for ours. Perhaps if we had acted earlier instead of assuming that those in charge knew what they were doing, we might have been spared both the fiasco in Iraq and the tragedy in Rafah.

It isn't too late to begin.

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

ALISON ON ALIYAH: Holidays in the Holy Land

Lately my Hebrew has been suffering. Although I have improved tremendously from six months ago, I've noticed that my speaking and writing has reached a bit of a plateau as of late. And I think I have pinpointed the reason for my lack of progression: holidays, holidays, and more holidays!

They simply don't stop. We have not had more than seven days of ulpan classes in a row since the middle of March. First, there was Pesach, for which we had a full two weeks' break. Five days after we returned to class, we invested two days preparing a ceremony for Yom Ha'Zikaron La'Shoah



Alison Golub

V'La'Gvurah (Day of Remembrance for the Holocaust and Heroism). Barely a week later we had another few days off for Yom Ha'Zikaron L'Chalalei Tzahal (Day of Remembrance for Fallen Soldiers), and for Yom Ha'Atzma'ut (Independence Day) the next day. Next, there was Lag B'Omer, and last week we had three more days off for Shavuot.

Don't get me wrong, I have always loved breaks from classes. I just don't know how any Israeli teacher manages to teach anything of substance when there is so little continuity for nearly two and a half months. What I have found most amazing, however, is watching the entire country band together to celebrate these very intense, very national holidays. I have been continually struck



CARS IN ISRAEL come to a halt when the siren sounds for two minutes of silence on Memorial Day.

by how differently Israel treats holidays that are frequently quite similar to their American counterparts. There is an even more stark contrast when compared to Jerusalem.

Yom Ha'Atzma'ut, for instance, can appear to the untrained eye very much like July 4th in any American city. Everyone has a day off from school and work; stores are closed; there are lots of barbecues and even a few fireworks. But there is something different here, and it's hard to put your finger on it right away. It has something to do with the Israeli flags hanging from every storefront and clipped to every car window, and with the raging all-night parties starting from sundown, with people dancing in the streets and full neighborhoods metamorphosing into discotheques.

(I say "most" because the extreme ultra-Orthodox Jews do not believe this

is a holiday with cause for celebration. One of my friends, while celebrating in the center of the city, turned to an ultra-religious man who was walking by and exclaimed, "Happy Independence Day!" The man turned back to him and told him, "Shabbat Shalom!" When my friend replied that it wasn't Shabbat, the man retorted, "Neither is it Independence Day.")

This sense of passion and connectedness to the country is, in fact, apparent throughout every holiday, if not every day. One can truly feel our Memorial Day. At 8 p.m. on the night before the holiday, a siren blows throughout the entire country for one full minute, and at 11 a.m. the next day for two minutes. When the siren begins to sound, everyone halts. Cars stop in the middle of the road at green lights. Teachers stop teaching, vendors stop selling, pedestrians stop walking. The entire country is at a

standstill for these powerful moments.

For the two weeks surrounding Pesach, it is impossible to buy bread anywhere in Jerusalem. The *shuk* and all bakeries sell only cookies and cakes that are kosher for Pesach. Whole aisles in the supermarkets are boarded up, and many restaurants and cafes close altogether. Shavuot brings cheesecakes and other dairy products to the forefront of every market and bakery, and many stores have special 2-for-1 offers for anything with dairy ingredients.

Each of our Days of Remembrance are preceded by a night during which all places of entertainment are closed to foster a greater sense of solemnity and respect for the occasion. On these nights all television channels broadcast the same show schedule, which is filled with programs about the relevant events. The night before Yom Ha'Shoah, for example, the entire country was able to watch "Schindler's List," "The Last Days," and a documentary about the Kindertransport all at the same time.

In America, I always felt like people were just glad not to be working on Presidents' Day, or Memorial Day, or even July 4th. There was no sense of understanding of what each holiday truly stands for, and therefore, no real sense of connection. In Jerusalem, however, we all know exactly what we are celebrating and why, and how hard Israel has fought in order to have the right to honor each holiday.

Alison Stern Golub is a graduate of Brown University. She welcomes correspondence at Alison_Golub@hotmail.com.

VIEWPOINT Healing is not curing

By James B. Rosenberg

"I have been one acquainted with the night." So begins a well-known sonnet by Robert Frost. All of us who have survived childhood must from time to time walk through the valley of the shadow. One of the prices we pay for becoming an adult is to become "acquainted with the night." There are times when our grief weighs so heavily upon us that we feel that the darkness will never lift, that dawn will never break. There are times when we feel that our sickness of body, our sickness of soul is so profound that we are beyond all hope of healing.

I walked through such a valley of despair for close to seven years beginning in the late spring of 1987, when my mother, Edith Krouse Rosenberg, began to show the first signs of what was eventually to be diagnosed as Alzheimer's. How many crushed souls are contained in that one word! During this period my entire family seemed to be sucked ever so gradually into the whirlpool of my mother's disintegrating personality. There were times when each of us in the nuclear family — my father, my older sister, my younger brother, and I — wanted to shake our fists at the inscrutable malice that would not stop taunting us from the very core of my mother's dementia. And then we would feel guilty, even ashamed of our rage and

bitterness at what was, after all, nothing more than a natural process of decay.

What was so unsettling to all of us who loved Edith was our sense of impotence, our feeling of utter hopelessness. A disease for which there is no cure was devouring my mother's personality, one savage bite at a time, and there was nothing any of us could do about it. About a year before my mother succumbed to a stroke on April 1, 1994, I finally was able to admit to myself that my mother was no longer housed in the body that happened to look just like her; the truth was that my mother was nowhere to be found.

As the years have passed, I have come to develop greater perspective on my mother's illness and death. What has become clearer to me is that while ultimately curing is never possible — in the end we all die — healing in one form or another is almost always possible. One incident in particular stands out from those days of sorrow and pain. My sister and I brought my mother to the Daughters of Israel Geriatric Center on May 10, 1993, where she was to spend the last 10 and a half months of her life. When I visited my mother a month later, she acted like a frightened deer; she actually began to run away from me. I had to follow her around for 10 minutes or so before I could convince her that I meant her no harm.

Subsequent visits to Daughters of Israel were not so painful. My daughter Karen, who was a 19-year-old undergraduate at nearby Columbia College at the time, taught me a lesson: "Even though grandma doesn't know who we are, I sense that she does know that we are special to her, that we are people who care." It is a remarkable experience to have your own child heal you.

Yes, healing in one form or another is almost always possible, even when there can be no cure. There was no escaping the fact that my mother would suffer from extreme dementia for the rest of her life; nevertheless, those of us who loved her could still bring her the gift of our presence, and in some limited sense she could still be present to us. The healing act of being present, of simply being there, helped me live more peacefully through my father's final months — even though he knew and his three children knew that he would soon die. As the years continue to accumulate, I find myself more frequently at the deathbed of members of my synagogue community, men and women I have known for decades. At such sacred moments, there is no need for words. Being present to each other brings to us a healing that surpasses all understanding.

James B. Rosenberg is the rabbi at Temple Habonim in Barrington.

'If you are Muslim, you are suspect'

Arrest of Oregon attorney in Madrid bombing — was it justified?

By Daniel Pipes

The U.S. government wrongly arrested Brandon Mayfield, 37, of Beaverton, Ore., on May 6. A fingerprint sent from Madrid apparently connected him to the March 11 bombings there that killed 191 people and injured 2,000. When the Spanish government two weeks later identified the fingerprint as that of an Algerian, the Department of Justice requested that Mayfield be released, and he was.

Putting aside the technical mistake, the Department of Justice has come under severe criticism for having built its case against Mayfield in part by noting his Islamic affiliations. "I am an American Muslim," Mayfield declared on release; "I have been singled out and discriminated against, I feel, as a Muslim." His father Bill concurred: "They picked him out because they wanted someone who fit this profile. This was the closest they had, and he was a Muslim."

"If you are Muslim, you are suspect," commented Samer Horani of the Islamic Center of Portland. Dave Fidanque of the American Civil Liberties Union piled on: "as far as the Justice Department is concerned, if you're Muslim and attend mosques that are suspect, you're presumed guilty until you're proved innocent." And the *New York Times* disapprovingly notes that the decision to detain Mayfield "was clearly influenced by his Muslim ties."

But did U.S. law enforcement err in noting Mayfield's identity?

No, this was entirely appropriate. It would have been myopic to ignore Mayfield's many connections to militant Islam and the global jihad.

While studying law at Washburn University in Kansas, Mayfield helped organize a branch of the Muslim Student Association, a group described by analyst Jonathan Dowd-Gailey as "an overtly political organization" espousing "Wahhabism, anti-Americanism, and anti-Semitism... and expressing solidarity with militant Islamic ideologies, sometimes with criminal results."

In common with many violence-prone Islamists in the United States (including Maher Hawash, Mohammed Ali Alayed, Zacarias Moussaoui, and the "Lackawanna Six"), Mayfield went from being a nominal Muslim to one whose Islamic beliefs "got more and more intense."

Are government prosecutors, when they have apparently incriminating physical evidence, supposed to shut their eyes and disregard these many connections and patterns? The Department of Justice was simply doing its job in pointing them out. Governments worldwide must take this reality into account.

Daniel Pipes (www.DanielPipes.org) is director of the Middle East Forum and author of Miniatures (Transaction Publishers).

Letters to the editor

Jewish nursery school a good start

Sometimes, it is hard to contain your enthusiasm. Sometimes, you are just so excited about something that you can't help but beam with joy. You want to tell everyone. This is how I have been feeling lately.

As an officer and member of the executive board at Temple Am David, I had been made aware that we are entering into a partnership with the Alperin Schechter Day School. Our president, Ron Freeman, told me Schechter was going to run a Jewish Nursery School in our building. Ron was excited, but I never really asked him why. I thought, "OK, that's nice. It's always good to have educational programs in the shul."

But recently, in my capacity as treasurer, I got a report on the physical changes in the building that we were planning in order to accommodate the program, and I began to ask some questions. "Why do we need another nursery school in the area?" So I requested and received details concerning the program, and boy, did I find out how special it is!

Our temple is not housing a nursery school; it is going to house a Jewish nursery school. The school's curriculum incorporates both general and Judaic studies. Our children will learn the Hebrew language, prayers and blessings, hear Jewish stories, sing Jewish songs, and perform Jewish dances.

As a member of the board of direc-

tors of my temple, I spend a lot of my time thinking about and talking about ways that we can encourage temple membership and participation in temple activities. One of the things that perplexes me the most is the number of unaffiliated, disaffected Jews who live among us. Why don't they want to be part of the organized Jewish community? Why don't they feel the same sense

of identity that others of us do? How can we persuade them to join us in our temple family?

When I learned the details of our new Jewish Nursery School, I immediately saw its tremendous value. How can we expect the Jewish community to flourish if we don't tend the garden at an early age?

Arthur Mossberg
Warwick

'Israel Bonds' photos stir memories

I just read the article entitled, "Bonding with Israel a R.I. Jewish Tradition" in the May 28 issue of the *Jewish Voice & Herald*. I recall as a young boy my father, the late photographer, Fred Kelman, would tell me on occasion he was going out that evening to take photos at an Israel Bonds meeting or event. I remember he also purchased Israel Bonds for our family. When I saw the photos I recollect having seen one of them before.

After my father died in 1997, my

siblings and I donated a full collection of photos taken by him to the R.I. Jewish Historical Association. It would be a great tribute next time a Fred Kelman photo is used to honor the memory of the photographer who took the photo. In my father's case the caption might read, "Photo courtesy of the Fred Kelman collection/R.I. Jewish Historical Association". It would have made my father proud.

David Kelman
West Hartford, Conn.

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

Federation**Jewish Federation of R.I. holds annual meeting**

HIGH HONORS — At its annual meeting May 11, the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island presented its leadership and community service awards. Pictured above center are: Russell Raskin, recipient of the Hassenfeld Community Service Award, with presenter Mindy Wachtenheim. Pictured at left are Norman Orodener, recipient of the Ress Community Service Award, with presenter Joan Ress Reeves. At right is Lisa Davis, recipient of the Riesman Leadership Development Award. Officers for the 2004-2005 year will be: President — Mark R. Feinstein; First Vice President — Herbert Stern; Vice Presidents — Doris Feinberg, Alan Litwin, Robert Starr, DeeDee Witman; Treasurer — Jeffrey Brier; Associate Treasurer — Jerrold Dorfman; Secretary — Sharon Gaines; Associate Secretary — David Yavner.

Photos by Jonathan Rubin

LOJE Program celebrates 10th anniversary

By Josh Korr

PROVIDENCE — The Lion of Judah Endowment (LOJE) program of the Jewish Federation celebrated its 10th anniversary at a private reception on May 24 at the home of Hope and David Hirsch of Providence.

Marking this milestone, LOJE participants Grace Alpert, Roberta Holland, Barbara Levine and Elaine Odessa signed a *ketubah* (contract) to signify the

legacy they have established in perpetuity.

LOJE women not present at the event were Carolyn Cohen, Gloria Feibish, Joyce Hurvitz and one anonymous donor. These women have committed to "leave more than memories" to the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island by endorsing their annual campaign gifts.

The event was part of the JFRI's Women's Alliance donor recognition efforts.

The event featured Dr. Sherry Israel, a visiting scholar at the Women's Studies Research Center at Brandeis University. She spoke about the National Jewish Population Survey of 2000-01. A member of the technical advisory committee to the study, Israel highlighted the survey's results. She said the study represents the best demographic information that has been gathered to date, offering the widest cross section of America's 2.9

million Jewish households and 5.5 million Jews. Among the survey's findings were the following:

- **Affiliations:** 40 percent of Jewish households are affiliated with synagogues. The largest proportion identified themselves as Reform.

- **Mobility:** She said overall lifetime mobility indicates shifts in the Jewish adult population from the Northeast and Midwest into the South and West. Still, Jewish population is concentrated in the Northeast, with nearly 40 percent of Jewish households.

- **Population down:** She said the study showed that the Jewish population in the United States is shrinking for several reasons. For one, higher education causes many young Jewish people to wait longer before starting a family.

Recent college graduates are described as "the wandering Jews," and are the most disconnected from the tradition. In addition, "proportionally more Jewish women than all U.S. women remain childless," Israel said.

Most strikingly, three quarters of Jewish homes do not live with children.

- **Intermarriage:** The survey found the rate of inter-

marriage has risen tremendously over recent decades; such that a third of the Jewish population is currently married outside the faith. The 5.5 million American Jews live in households with over a million non-Jews. In addition, only a third of children from intermarried families are raised Jewish. However, there is a noticeable trend showing rising numbers of youths receiving Jewish education in day schools, religious classes and even college coursework.

Israel said that while the Jewish population seems to be getting smaller, the Jewish education of children on the whole is more widespread.

She also noted that children of all streams of Judaism are receiving more Jewish education, both full-time day school and after school, than their parents did.

For more information on the LOJE program or the National Jewish Population Study, contact Rachel Siegal at the Jewish Federation at 421-4111.

Josh Korr is a student at Hampshire College in Amherst, Mass., with a concentration in music, composition and writing.

In Memoriam

Robert A. Riesman

January 25, 1919 – June 2, 2004

"The bravest are surely those who have the clearest vision of what is before them, glory and danger alike, and yet notwithstanding go out to meet it."

Thucydides

Jack Reed, U. S. Senator

World Briefs

Daniel Pearl's father honored

The father of slain journalist Daniel Pearl said he is working to "turn tragedy into life-affirming" experiences. Judea Pearl made the comment Monday in New York as he was honored by the American Jewish World Service. Along with his wife, Ruth, Judea Pearl has established the Daniel Pearl Foundation in honor of his son, who proclaimed his Jewishness shortly before his throat was slit by Islamic terrorists in Pakistan in January 2002. The foundation promotes cross-cultural understanding through journalism and music programs. Like their son, the Pearls are focused on "changing the world and healing the gross fissures in the world," said the group's president, Ruth Messinger.

Bill would let clergy go political

A new bill in the U.S. House of Representatives would allow church and synagogue leaders to endorse political candidates. The Safe Harbor for Churches amendment to the American Jobs Creation Act would allow religious leaders to make statements supporting candidates, as long as the statements are made as private citizens and not as representatives of any organizations. Religious leaders would be allowed to participate in political activities up to three times a year without hurting their organizations' tax-exempt status. The bill is opposed by many Jewish organizations, who fear rabbis and other clergy could be pressured by politicians and their supporters to engage in political activity.



TWIN CHIMPS — Maya, a chimpanzee at Jerusalem's Biblical Zoo, holds her twin babies born May 17 in Jerusalem. Israeli zookeepers suspected some monkey business only after Maya, a 24-year-old chimpanzee, gave birth to twins despite an apparent lack of virile mates. The happy event at Jerusalem's Biblical Zoo caught everyone by surprise: nobody had noticed Maya was pregnant and Og and Gremlin, the only adult males among 11 chimps at the facility, were sterilized years ago, a zoo official said Tuesday.

Photo by Brian Henderl/JTA

Turkey recalls envoys

Israel played down Turkey's decision to recall its ambassador for consultations. Israeli officials called the move a signal of Turkish displeasure at recent Israeli operations in the Gaza Strip, but said no further diplomatic escalation was expected.

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World

Sharon's devil in the details

From page 1

endorsed and what President Bush endorsed is withdrawal from all the settlements in Gaza and certain settlements in the West Bank by a definite date," State Department spokesman Adam Ereli said Monday.

"That's what we signed up to or that's the plan that we gave our support to in April. And in our view, that continues to be the plan that the Israelis are working on."

Wavering Cabinet ministers, however, insisted on excluding from the Cabinet's resolution the letters that Bush and Sharon exchanged in April. The letters commit to the full withdrawal, while the Cabinet vote vaguely commits Israel only to the principle of disengagement from the Palestinians.

In April, Bush offered Israel major concessions in exchange for Sharon's plan, including recognition of some Israeli claims to the West Bank and a rejection of any Palestinian refugee "right of return" to Israel.

Even after Sunday's vote, the Bush administration was in wait-and-see mode, officials said. That wasn't the only problematic area. Israel has hinted repeatedly that it wants Egypt and Jordan to maintain a substantive security presence in Palestinian areas after an Israeli withdrawal, but Egyptian and Jordanian officials say that's out

of the question because it means Arab forces could be called on to quell Palestinian violence. Furthermore, the assistance that Jordan and Egypt are willing to provide — training for Palestinian Authority security services and pressing and cajoling P.A. President Yasser Arafat to cede power — is contingent on an Israeli return to peace talks.

"The withdrawal should not be unilateral; it should be part of the 'road map,'" said a Jordanian official, referring to the U.S.-led

peace plan that is contingent on Palestinian-Israeli negotiations.

"Israel has no intention of waiting any longer for the Palestinians to rein in terror and incitement," Sharon responded.

President Bush "wants the Palestinian people to have a state of their own, which would include Gaza and significant chunks of the West Bank, with some alignment of the armistice line," U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell said on CNN.

Nation

New York water may be unkosher

NEW YORK — Orthodox Jews in New York have become concerned that the city's drinking water may not be kosher because it contains tiny crustaceans known as copepods, the Associated Press reported.

The organisms, which measure about a millimeter long, pose no threat to human health, according to the city Department of Environmental Protection.

But Orthodox teaching bars the eating of crustaceans — aquatic animals with skeletons outside their bodies, including shrimp, crab and lobsters.

The organisms first came to the attention of Jewish leaders in Brooklyn two weeks ago, *The New York Times* reported Tues-

day. An Israeli produce company that exports kosher vegetables to New York alleged that its products had become infested with insects after being washed in the city's water.

An examination of the water under a microscope revealed the copepods, which are common in unfiltered ocean water and groundwater. The city's supply comes mostly from reservoirs upstate and rates high enough under federal standards not to be filtered.

Saul Kessler, owner of a Queens business that sells water filters, said he had received about 100 phone calls from homeowners eager to weed the copepods out of their drinking water.



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World

Anti-Semitic attacks in France intensifying

PARIS (JTA) — Some Jewish officials are worried that anti-Semites are ratcheting up violence against Jews in France, and that French courts are tacitly giving them a pass with light sentences. In the latest significant attack, community officials said an assailant tried to murder a yeshiva student, who was stabbed last week as he prepared for Shabbat at one of Europe's top Talmudic academies. Yisrael Yiftah, 17, was heading toward a local grocery store across from the Mekor Yisrael Yeshiva in Epinay-sur-Seine, a suburb north of Paris, last Friday when a large man described as of North African origin sprang upon him with a knife. The man screamed "God is great" in Arabic and plunged the knife into Yiftah's chest. Police believe the same man carried out additional knife attacks that night against non-Jewish targets, but Jewish groups are in no doubt as to the anti-Semitic nature of the initial incident. "The yeshiva's in a closed alleyway," Sammy Ghozlan, president of the National Bureau for Vigilance Against Anti-Semitism, told JTA. "If you enter there with a knife in a bag, you're only going there for one purpose." The attack represented a new level of anti-Semitic assault, the first with a deadly weapon, community leaders say. It comes amid an alarming increase in the intensity of anti-Jewish attacks in recent weeks. In the past month, rabbis in Marseille and in the Parisian suburb of Creteil were attacked, and a rabbi's son was severely beaten near his home in Paris over Shavuot.

Government statistics show a steep rise in anti-Semitic incidents since the beginning of 2004. The 67 incidents reported for the first quarter of the year contrast sharply with the 34 incidents for the last quarter of 2003. The figures also show that attacks against Jews make up the vast majority of racist crime, despite the fact that the Jewish community is one of France's smallest minority groups. Paradoxically, the sharp rise has come at a time when Jewish groups acknowledge that the government has shown real willingness to tackle the problem of anti-Semitism. The attacks have left Jewish community members wringing their hands. "The government has taken all sorts of measures to deal with this, and our synagogues are like fortresses," Ghozlan said. "They've even put on extra buses from railway stations so people don't walk around at night. What more can we do?" Ghozlan has sharp words for the courts, which, he says, hasn't been tough enough with offenders. "People have been arrested, but it's not going to do any good if sentencing is not exemplary," he said. Similar views are being expressed in France's large Jewish communal organizations. In a forceful statement following last week's knife attack, the CRIF umbrella organization of French Jews said that "a new level had been breached" in anti-Semitic attacks in France, aided "by recent court decisions that give the feeling that one can attack Jews with total impunity."

Interior Minister Dominique de Villepin seemed to agree, telling French radio that the legislation was in place, "but it needs to be applied." Events this week seemed to bear him out: When a group of youths pleaded guilty this week to the Shavuot attack on the rabbi's son, it became clear that one member had been involved in another attack on a Jewish youth earlier this year. His penalty? The court instructed the youth to write a project on anti-Semitism.

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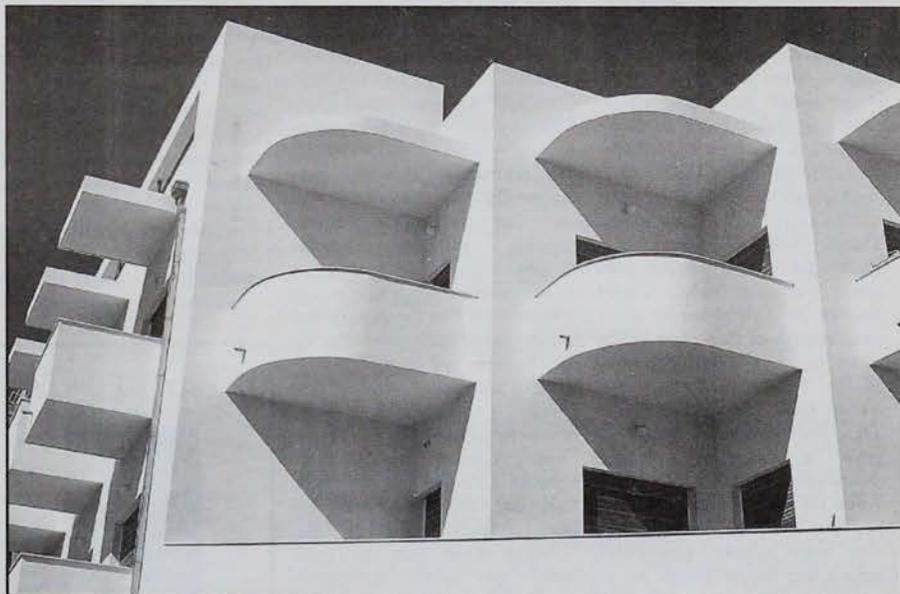
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Israel

Tel Aviv's White City named World Heritage site



BAUHAUS STYLE of architecture in Tel Aviv.

Photos courtesy Israel's Ministry of Tourism

NEW YORK — In recognition of its more than 4,000 buildings representative of the Bauhaus style of architecture, The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) awarded Tel Aviv's White City a World Heritage Site designation.

The White City's architectural style came into being by immigrant architects who moved from Europe between 1931-1956. In pursuing the dream of developing Tel Aviv into the modern metropolis it is today, they brought with them the Bauhaus style of architecture which was prevalent in Europe at the time. The use and premium placed on functionality, cubic design, flat roofs and open space are all key characteristics of the Bauhaus style. These early immigrants' dedication to this style can be seen today in some 4,000 buildings that are representative of this mode of design. More information about the uniqueness of Tel-Aviv and this architecture can be found at the Bauhaus Architecture Center in Tel Aviv's website at www.bauhaus-center.com.

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Mideast Briefs

Israel develops Cruise missile

Israel developed its first surface-to-surface Cruise missile. Officials in Washington confirmed a report to appear in Jane's Defense Weekly next week that Israel modified its Delilah air-to-surface missile to achieve targets 200 miles away when launched from the ground. Israel plans to expand the range of the missile. Such a missile may prove a deterrent to missiles reportedly developed by Iran.

Soup champ feeds terror victims

The woman behind America's best chicken soup fed her winning broth to Israeli victims of terrorism. Rosely Himmelstein of New York, who this spring won the National Jewish Outreach Program's first Chicken Soup Challenge, recently cooked up her winning recipe in Jerusalem for 35 victims of terrorism and their families. "Jewish chicken soup is the ultimate comfort food, and if anyone is in need of comfort it's the people in Israel who live under the daily strain of terrorism," she said.

Pope backs tourism to Israel

Pope John Paul II urged Catholics worldwide to visit Israel to support Christians living in the Holy Land. The Christian communities in Israel "are in great need of your help," the pope said in a recent address to bishops at the Vatican. Christian tourism to Israel has increased dramatically in recent years.

Israel cracks down on soccer racism

Six Israeli soccer fans were charged with incitement to racism for shouting anti-Arab slogans at soccer games. The district attorney for Jerusalem, Eli Abarbanel, said Monday that he has instructed police to crack down on fans who shout "Death to Arabs" at games of the Beitar Jerusalem soccer club.

Barghouti sentenced in Israel

Palestinian militia leader Marwan Barghouti was sentenced to 165 years in prison. A Tel Aviv court sentenced the Fatah leader to five life terms in prison, one for each person murdered in shootings Barghouti was found guilty of planning. In addition to the 25-year life sentences, Barghouti got 20 years for ordering a failed car bombing in Jerusalem and another 20 for belonging to a terrorist organization, the Al-Aksa Brigade.

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Travel

Jewish Spain

From page 1

beginning to take hold, even in the face of adversity. Jews are returning to Spain, both as immigrants and as native Spaniards who are rediscovering long buried Jewish roots. (See *historical sidebar*.)

The 'lost people'

Jews have become the lost people of Spain in more ways than one. Although Jews can no longer be legally discriminated against for being Jewish (they were granted full religious freedom in 1978), the Jewish people have made only a slight impression on the greater community; they are still strange, curious and unknown. Upon hearing that a museum curator was Jewish, one Barcelona resident is said to have exclaimed, "Are you really Jewish? I've never met one before." She reached out her hand, as if she was going to touch some exotic creature. "Can I touch you?"

The history of the expulsion, while prominent in the minds of Jews worldwide, is but a small footnote in the larger history in Spain's education curriculum. Most Catalans (residents of the northeast region of Spain) are somewhat aware of a great Jewish history that existed in their country, but beyond that, in the words of a Barcelona Jew, "they have no idea."

Which isn't to say that being unknown doesn't make Judaism any less attractive; in fact, it is helping it somewhat. At one point Spain's Jews made up about 15 percent of the total population, and many of these Jews converted or practiced Judaism in secret after the expulsion edict; some scholars believe that up to 50 percent of Spain's current population may have Jewish roots.

Many Jews that I met told me stories about families who were excited to suddenly discover their family traditions from generations past were actually covert Jewish practices. Spanish newspaper articles have had a field day with fantastic stories about rediscovered roots through "odd family rituals" like lighting candles on Friday night, or getting together as a family to play cards during the Jewish New Year (Jews who were hiding their religion would often play cards with their prayer books in the laps and talk Torah when the coast was clear). With these new discoveries, many Jews are deciding right now to return to their roots, and some that have been raised as Catholics are formally converting. Stories of Jews "coming out" about their lineage, sometimes at social events, are becoming more and more common.

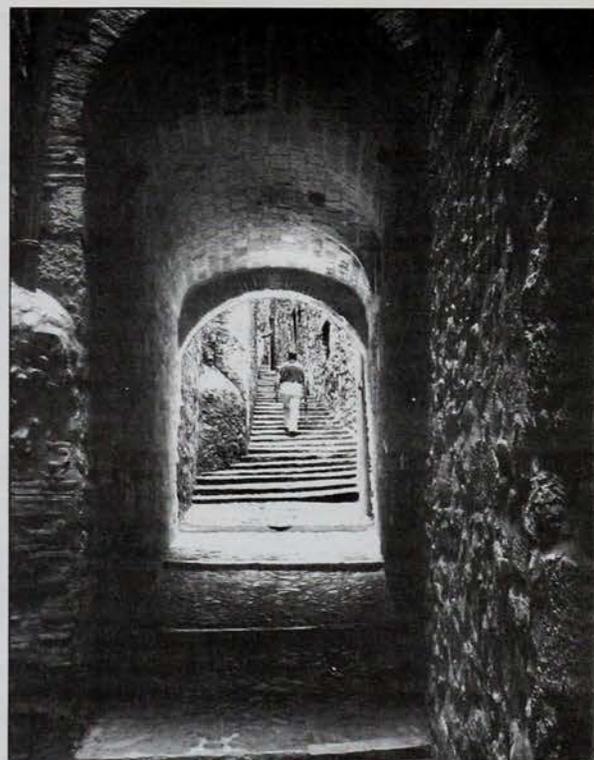
I found a few of these people

at Comunitat Jueva Atid de Catalunya (ATID), thought to be the first and only Progressive (Reform) congregation in all of Spain. The congregation is only five years old and is located inside a modest first floor of an apartment building, whose only hint at the Jewish environment inside is a stained glass window. After speaking to the guard out front (my rusty Spanish failed, but when I ask him in Hebrew if I could enter Shavuot services, he gladly waved me in).

The service was conducted in both Spanish and Hebrew, and Rabbi Ariel Ederly took the large assemblage of Catalanian, Israeli and Argentinean Jews through the special prayers for welcoming in the holiday of Shavuot. Argentinean Jews have been emigrating to Spain in larger numbers since the economic collapse in their home country a few years ago, and some congregations in Spain are more than 50-percent Argentinean.

Capitalizing on Judaism

As Barcelona continues to increase in popularity as a tourist vacation destination, the Barcelona City Government has realized the cultural and financial incentives of promoting Jewish tourism to the region. The relics of ancient Jewish history, which have been neglected for centuries, are starting to be excavated



THE JEWISH QUARTER

Photo by Jonathan Rubin

by private Jewish organizations and touted in travel books. The ancient Synagogue Major on Calle Marlet is one such location, and was opened to the public in 2002. It is a 14th-century synagogue, with foundations that may date all the way back to the 5th century.

Located inside the Jewish Call, or quarter, the synagogue

was recently discovered six feet below the earth, and it soon become a renovation project of a group of historians and professors (www.calldebarcelona.org). Walking through a shabby, narrow street that carries a rank odor of sewage, a small staircase beckons with the words Beit Kneset (synagogue or house of

See JEWISH SPAIN, page 13

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A history of Spanish Jewry

By Jonathan Rubin

From the early 8th century until the devastating Spanish Inquisition in 1492, the Jews in Spain thrived in a dazzling environment unlike anything they had ever experienced before, and whose freedoms had no equal until the modern era. The so-called "Hebrew Golden Age" resulted in a prosperity that allowed cultural and scientific advances to be gained that forever shaped the face of Judaism.

Spanish Jews referred to the Iberian Peninsula as *Sepharad*, Hebrew for Spain, and they became known as Sepharads or Sephardic Jews. Historians estimate that at their height, medieval Jews made up 10 percent of Spain's population, and that in the 12th century Spain was home to almost 90 percent of the world's Jewish population.

And most of the credit goes to the Moors, who freed the Jews from slavery and oppression at the hands of the Christian Visigoths in 711 and 712. The Jews assisted the Arabs

in their liberation, and were allowed to form their own communities.

While the Arabs and Christians warred in the following centuries, the Jews found positions as diplomats, advisors and physicians to both sides. They begin to accrue wealth, and when the translator's school Age" resulted in a prosperity that allowed cultural and scientific advances to be gained that forever shaped the face of Judaism, astrology, mathematics and other sciences into Arabic and Hebrew.

As the Muslim culture continues to expand and advance, the Jews from other regions begin to immigrate to Spain. For centuries afterward, English, French and Moroccan Jews, once expelled from their home countries, traveled in droves to Spain in search of a better life.

In Christian dominated areas, it was believed that money-lending with interest was a sinful act only pursued

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Travel

Jewish Spain

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study) written in Hebrew above. Inside, there are ancient pots in the old antechamber, and a larger, well-kept room holds the Torah scrolls, a few chairs and a large menorah. They have begun to hold irregular services there and have already held a wedding and a few Bar Mitzvahs.

The synagogue gives out information about the ancient Jewish community and is growing in popularity as a "must see" item for both Jews and non-Jewish tourists. They also sell magnets, postcards and CDs of popular Jewish music, including Roza Saragoza, a Ladino (Spanish-Hebrew) folksinger.

Barcelona Jewish Film Fest

But the Jewish spotlight is also being cast in much more dynamic ways.



Eric Rosenthal

Eric Rosenthal sits in a lounge chair by the beach in Barceloneta, sipping what may be his fifth cup of coffee that day. His baby, the International Barcelona Jewish Film Festival, has just wrapped up its 23 movie run, and, as festival director, he is still handling the media on his cell. After five years of running with uncertain financial backing, the festival recently scored funding from the City of Barcelona, in addition to a grant from an American organization.

"Barcelona is trying to rediscover its Jewish history," Rosenthal says. The film festival is a good way to spotlight Barcelona's Jewish past and present, and it also a handy unifier. "It's the only place where you will see people from all three religious denominations under one roof."

So, even though they finally have their own office space and bank account, it's still a tough charge — 20-or-so unpaid volunteers bring Jewish films from 10 countries to more than 2,000 Barcelonians on a budget of \$55,000.

"The San Francisco Jewish Festival has a budget of \$1.5 million," he says, just to keep things in perspective.

Rosenthal says that the fes-

tival educates the public about Jewish topics while helping to foster a sense of Jewish identity in the Jewish population. This year the festival brought in entries from Russia, Venezuela, France, Morocco, Israel, Spain, Germany and the United States.

Rosenthal was born in Princeton, N.J., and after some adventures in South America ended up in Barcelona acting as a chauffeur for the film festival.

The festival is a fairly hard-hitting, no-holds barred collection of films that ask pointed questions and tackle controversial topics. "7 Million" looks at the pivotal years of Jewish history after the Holocaust, and unearths what they say was a "heated Zionist debate" over to what extent Holocaust survivors should be brought into Palestine. Or "Galut," which covers an Israeli expatriate's cynical look at the Intifada from outside his homeland.

Rosenthal doesn't mind being edgy. "We are a cultural product trying to attract an audience," he says.

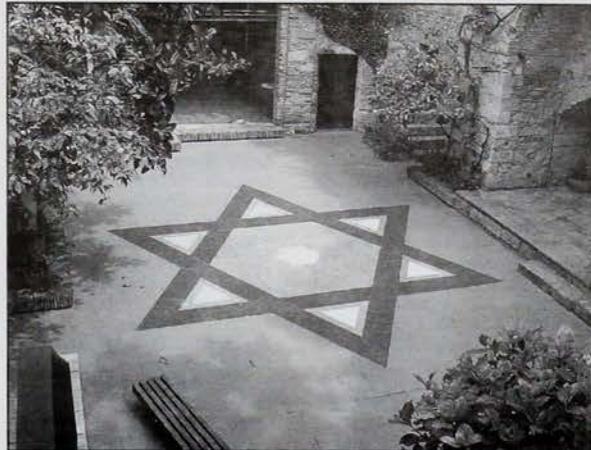
Now in its sixth year, the festival has made quite a few political connections — his request for funding was personally agreed upon by the president of Argentina ("He knows who we are now," Rosenthal said). He's also worked with the Polish Embassy on a film.

"We're trying to say, 'There is a Jewish population in Spain now. We're here.'" (Find out more at www.ficjbarcelona.org).

Security

Security has been heightened in the Jewish community since Al-Qaeda blueprints outlining an attack on Spanish synagogues were discovered in the wake of the Madrid train bombing. There is a growing Muslim population in Barcelona, largely from Pakistan and Morocco, but apparently there has been no significant tensions between the local Muslim and Jewish communities.

More worrisome to Barcelona's Jews is the fact that gentile ignorance about Jews has led them to focus on the most visible nugget about Judaism available — the intense conflict between Israel and the Palestinians. Since most Spaniards are liberal and progressive, especially in light of the election of their new Socialist Prime Minister, they largely support the Palestinian cause. "Free Palestine" graffiti is quite common around the city. Spain's lax hate crime laws have enabled many Neo-Nazi publishing companies to sprout inside its borders, and I hoped that frightening messages such as "Muerto los Judeos" (death to the Jews)



GIRONA NAHMES STAR — The courtyard at the Nahmanides Institute for Jewish Studies, in the Jewish quarter of Girona.

Photos by Jonathan Rubin

came from these groups rather than from the larger population.

The Comunitat Israelita de Barcelona (CIB) synagogue is largely nondescript on the outside, although it makes artful use of the menorah and the Star of David as designs interlaced inside the iron bars over its windows. The congregation was founded in 1918 and boasts both Sephardic services for the Conservative movement and Orthodox Ashkenazic services led by the local Chabad Lubavitch chapter.

Surprisingly, when I asked a member of the Sephardic side if they could find a place for me to have Shabbat dinner, they said they couldn't help me. "That's not something we do here," a representative told me. The Reform community didn't say no, but they initially didn't offer anyone either. I was perplexed at

why this ancient Jewish ritual of having guests for Shabbat didn't seem to exist in Spain. The two most popular explanations for this from those I met were: "The community is too young. They don't have their traditions straightened out yet or it's a security issue," another said. (I was asked to bring my Passport to services on two occasions.)

The CIB has a small Jewish day school, a library, and a refined interior that shows evidence of some of Barcelona's Jewish philanthropy, a trend that is still in its infancy. One man exclaimed with a shrug, "There's a difference between tzedakah and philanthropic funding. There is not a sense of philanthropic giving in Spain."

Hopefully, with many new developments underway, this won't be the case for long.

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Community

JSA honors Waldman

PROVIDENCE — Ellis S. Waldman of Providence received the first Maurice Glicksman Leadership Award from the Jewish Seniors Agency (JSA) at its annual meeting on May 20.

The award was created in 2003 to honor Dr. Glicksman, who was president of JSA from 2000 - 2003. It recognizes an exceptional individual for his or her continuing commitment to the Jewish elderly.

Waldman's involvement with Rhode Island's Jewish elderly dates back to 1975 when he served on numerous committees at the Jewish Home for the Aged. Following its closing in 1993, Waldman became acting president and then president. He said he wanted "to keep the organization alive because it was the only Jewish agency dedicated totally to the elderly."

His long-range objective was to establish another residence for Rhode Island's Jewish elderly. He continued to be active with the



DR. MAURICE GLICKSMAN presents Ellis Waldman the first Jewish Seniors Agency Maurice Glicksman Leadership Award for his commitment to the Jewish elderly.

Home's successor organization, The Jewish Seniors Agency, and worked towards his goal of building an assisted living residence.

"Tamarisk is a dream come true, and our entire Jewish community can be proud of what has been accomplished," Waldman said.

Waldman is an honorary president of the JSA and its Shalom Apartments. Most

recently, he chairs the JSA's human resource committee and its "To Life" capital campaign Dedication and Recognition Committee.

Waldman is President of Walco Electric in Providence.

He was presented a hand-crafted, inscribed kiddush cup made by ceramist Bonnie Cohen, who designed and created the donor recognition wall at Tamarisk.

Gallery 401 at JCC holds member show

PROVIDENCE — Gallery 401 opened an all-member show which will run through June 30. Artists shown will include members of the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island and the artists who are members of the Gallery 401 oversight committee.

Among the artists who will exhibit are Laura Mernoff, Harold Isserlis, Liliana Fijman, Pnina Pressburger, Lev Poplow, Toba Weintraub, and Pat Sch-

reiber. Many of their works may be found in other galleries and exhibits throughout Rhode

Island and New England.

The gallery is located in the Jewish Community Center, 401 Elm Grove Ave.

'Trek Yavneh' hiking camp for youth set for this year

"Trek Yavneh," an outdoor experience for youth in grades six through 10, will be held this year from Aug. 22 - 29.

The camp will be professionally staffed by the Appalachian Mountain Club (Certified Wilderness First Responders) of Pinkham Notch, N.H. It is an exploring, hiking, canoeing adventure in the White Mountains.

Campers will learn low impact outdoor skills along with map-reading, compass, food

preparation and canoeing.

The camp is open to both Yavneh and non-Yavneh campers. No previous camping experience is necessary.

Both kosher and vegetarian meals will be served. The week will conclude with a Shabbat service at the campsite.

For more info, call Debbie Sussman (617)559-8862 or debbie@campyavneh.org or for Trek Yavneh <http://www.campyavneh.org>

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Travel

History of Spanish Jewry

From page 12

by foul and distasteful individuals. Jews were selected to fill this post, and became amazingly successful, although discontent soon followed. In the Middle Ages Spanish Jews in Barcelona were considered to be "property of the King," a semi-demeaning designation which fortunately carried with it the king's protection.

Although most Jews remained in lower-paying jobs such as farming, dyeing and weaving, some rose to very high levels in government and became highly respected doctors and financial advisors, or Court Jews, personal Jewish assistants to the king in legal and financial matters. The Sephardim were able to fund and develop schools of learning and advance their own studies, and were free to focus on scholarship rather than struggling to escape persecution on a regular basis.

The Sephardim were able to fund and develop schools of learning and advance their own studies, and were free to focus on scholarship rather than struggling to escape persecution on a regular basis.

ments of faith (sung on Shabbat in the 'Yigdal' prayer), the eight levels of giving in addition to the Mishneh Torah, a highly consulted and revered repetition of the Torah. The three-star Maimonides Hotel in Cordoba is a visible secular monument to this intellectual giant.

Integration with Spanish society leads to the formation of Ladino, basically 15th century Spanish with Hebraic components. Jews excelled in the fields of astrology, astronomy and physics, and these new fields may have contributed to another development in Jewish philosophy that was at the opposite end of the rational spectrum proposed

by Maimonides — Jewish mysticism, or kaballah. The kaballah was an exciting development in Spain, claiming to be the esoteric lost roots of Jewish spiritual belief, and it was also watched closely and adapted by some Christians. The Zohar, the great book of Jewish mysticism, was also composed in Spain in 1238 by Moses de Leon.

Even in the face of such prosperity, however, it would be wrong to envision the period entirely as peaceful. In the 12th and 13th centuries, fundamentalist sultans rose to power and their harsh edicts forced Jews to move



RELOCATED GRAVE from Barcelona's Montjuic (Mountain of the Jews) rests inside the Museum of the History of the Jews in Girona. Photo by Jonathan Rubin

into Christian dominated areas. Jews were forced to wear identifying badges or sashes on their clothing and were not permitted to display their wealth outside of their homes. Many Jews would "fake" conversions in order to escape harsh punishment, but the Moors caught on and soon imposed restrictions on recent converts as well. The Moors were later removed from power and Jews regained their rights.

In 1263, Jews were handed a decisive victory when the Barcelona Disputation, a theological debate between Christians and Jews overseen by King James I, was won by Rabbi Moshe ben Nachman, also known as the Ramban or Nahmanides. The Christians learned their lesson, however, and Jewish delegates were set up to fail in a similar debate in 1414; thousands of Jews

converted as a result. The Black Death devastated Europe in 1348, slaying 40 percent of the population. Some Jewish communities seemed to be largely spared from the disease (probably due to Jewish laws of cleanliness, including washing before meals, quick disposal of the dead and distancing Torah study from sewers). Christian plague sufferers accused Jews of bringing the plague, and riots followed.

Christians began to outpace the Muslims in many areas during the late 14th century, and pogroms and more unrest befell the Jews. Mass Jewish immigration out of Spain actually began in 1391, but found its zenith in the late 1400s with the New Inquisition, following a period of anti-Jewish sentiment during a period of weakened government. Many Jews converted to Christianity but practiced Judaism in secret, and these "marranos" (pigs, also known as Conversos or Crypto-Jews) were tortured and killed by the Christians whenever discovered.

Then, in the first week of July in 1492, the Catholic

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Monarchs, Isabel and Ferdinand expelled all Jews from Spain and claimed their property as their own. Portugal followed in 1497. The Sephardim, set to wandering once again, brought their rich and unique culture to North Africa, Iraq (Babylon), Syria, Greece, and Turkey.

Some Jews remained in Spain in secret for hundreds of years, and immigration back into Spain did not significantly increase until the 20th century. Spain finally granted Jews full religious freedom in 1978, but has never issued an apology for the expulsion.

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Am David installs new officers

WARWICK — A slate of officers featuring a combination of veterans and new additions to its lay leadership was installed on Fri., June 11, at Temple Am David, 40 Gardiner St., Warwick, as the Conservative congregation enters its 51st year.

Ronald Freeman begins his third term as president of the congregation. The installation ceremonies will be presided over by the Temple's spiritual leader, Cantor Richard Perlman.

The special Sabbath service will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the main sanctuary of the Temple. It will be preceded by a traditional Sabbath dinner. The congregation and the community are invited to attend.

Freeman and his suite of officers were elected at the congregation's annual meeting May 16. The other officers, all of whom serve one-year terms, are May-Ronny Zeidman, first vice president; Roberta Duhamel, second vice president; Beth Veltri, third vice president;

Richard Levenson, fourth vice president; Paula Olivieri, financial secretary; Arthur Mossberg, treasurer; Garrett Sock, recording secretary, and Herbert Singer, corresponding secretary.

Veltri, Olivieri and Levenson are serving first terms in their respective positions.

Elected to three-year terms on the temple's 18-member board of directors were Kevin Dwares, Lisa Labitt, Robert Sand, Mona Scheraga, Jeffrey Stolzberg and Maxine Wolfson. All are serving first terms on this board.

Ahava skin care program to benefit JFRI

PROVIDENCE — An Ahava skin care program to benefit the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island will be held on Wednesday, June 16, at 6:30 p.m. at Lumière Salon, 57 Eddy St., Providence.

Ahava representative Karen Weiss will introduce the line of products derived from the shores of the Dead Sea.

Products include bath salts, mineral rich mud masques, soaps and lotions.

In addition to the Ahava program, Lumière will offer door prizes and raffles for gift certificates and other products such as Garrison Confection Chocolate, a line of fine chocolate products made in Providence.

Lumière is located one (1) block from Kennedy Plaza and the Biltmore Hotel, directly behind Providence City Hall.

For more information about the program, call 521-2777 or visit www.lumieresalon.com.

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Volunteer Center of Rhode Island honors Ellie Frank

PROVIDENCE — The Volunteer Center of Rhode Island (VCRI.org) named Ellie Frank as an Outstanding Volunteer for 2004.

Frank was chosen for her work of 15 years with the Rhode Island Holocaust Museum, where she has been vice president, program chairperson and endowment chair.

She has done everything from driving Holocaust survivors to their speaking engagements, to hanging artwork for winners of the museum's art and writing contest, to chairing an ice cream party and opening her home for the museum to use for events and meetings.

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Arts

Hollywood and the Holocaust

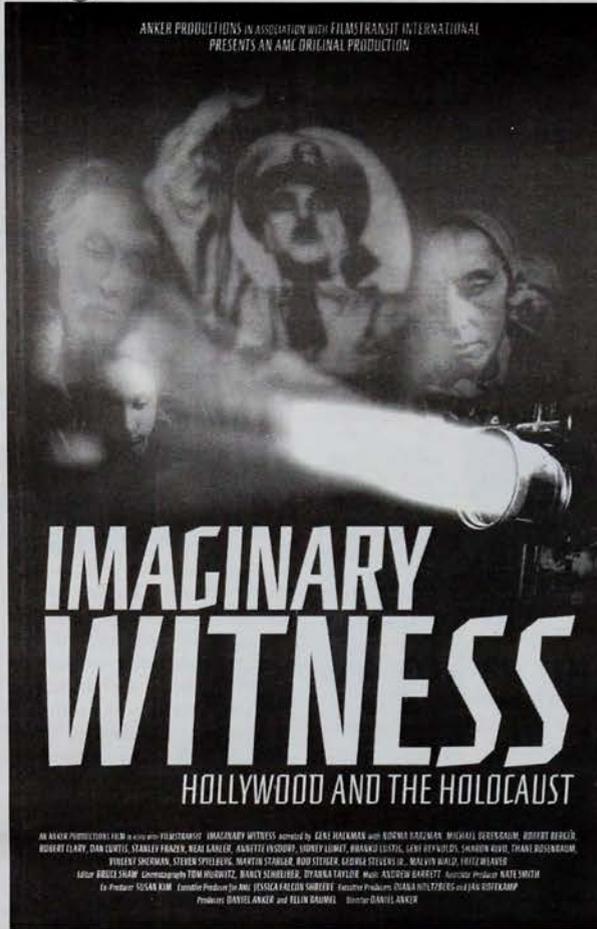
"Imaginary Witness: Hollywood and the Holocaust," will be shown at 5 p.m., at Opera House 3, 19 Touro St.

From the cleaned up versions to the graphic portrayals of intense suffering to farcical comedies, Hollywood has taken all sorts of approaches to dealing with the Holocaust over the past 60 years. With help from commentators like Steven Spielberg, Sidney Lumet and Rod Steiger, and rarely seen footage, director Daniel Anker probes the anxieties and fears that have gone into making movies from the Holocaust and how the concerns have changed with the times.

The 90-minute documentary tells the story of the American film industry's complex response to the horrors of Nazi Germany. Utilizing excerpts from extraordinary and in some cases rarely-seen films, and told through the first-hand accounts of the directors, actors writers, and producers, the film covers some of Hollywood's most important movies, including *The Mortal Storm*, Charlie Chaplin's *The Great Dictator*, *The Search*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *The Pawnbroker*, *Judgment at Nuremberg*, *Sophie's Choice*, and *Schindler's List*.

"Checkpoint" will be shown the same day at 3 p.m., Opera House 3, 19 Touro St.

The absurdity of daily life at border crossings provides a microcosm of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Yoav Shamir's



NEWPORT — The following films will be shown Saturday, June 12, at this week's Newport International Film Festival.

camera captures the essence of what life is like for both sides.

For more information, visit www.newportfilmfestival.com.

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Food



Desserts for Dad

By Marylyn Graff

This Father's Day give Dad what he really wants — a great dessert or two! The wonderful summer fruits and berries are coming into season, just in time for the all-American favorite dessert: pie.

For each pie, make your favorite two-crust pastry or follow recipe below. Roll out one half of dough to fit a 9 inch pie pan, while wrapping the rest in plastic wrap and refrigerating. If you don't have time or are not good with pastry, buy two ready-made frozen pie shells (If using frozen shells thaw one and carefully flatten to use as top crust.)

Brush bottom crust in pan with beaten egg or egg white to seal out juices (optional).

Processor Pie Crust

To make in food processor
 2 cups all purpose flour
 12 tblsp. shortening, cut into small chunks
 1/4 cup ice water,
 3 tblsp. low-fat plain yogurt.
 1 lg. egg
 1/2 tsp. salt

Put flour, salt and shortening into processor and pulse until pea-size (less than 1 minute.)

Put in beaten egg, then yogurt, pulsing after each. Gather dough into 2 balls, wrap in plastic and refrigerate for 10 minutes or so. Roll one ball out on floured surface and fit into pan., brush bottom crust with beaten egg or egg white, and put in filling (I like to roll out top crust and have it ready before filling so juices don't soak into

bottom crust.) Put on top crust, crimp, trim and bake.

If you don't have a processor, cut shortening into flour with pastry blender or two knives, sprinkle on ice water and mix with fork, then mix in yogurt and egg in order.

Strawberry-rhubarb pie

(This two-fruit combination is actually a misnomer — there is an extra red variety of rhubarb called strawberry rhubarb. However, the mixture is a delicious and popular pie, so we will stick with it.)

2-3 cups strawberries. Wash, and hull, cut in half if very large.

2 cups rhubarb cut into 3/4 inch pieces

3/4 — 1 cup sugar, depend-

ing on sweetness of fruit (rhubarb is very tart.)

1/4 cup plain tapioca or corn starch.

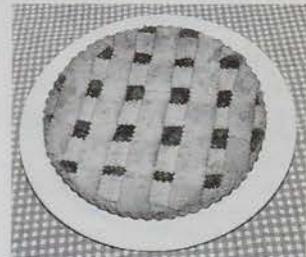
Use baking instructions for blueberry pie, below.

Glazed strawberry pie

1 pie shell, prebaked, or a graham cracker crust.

1 qt. strawberries
 1/2 cup sugar
 squeeze of lemon juice
 3-4 tblsp. cornstarch

Wash and hull berries. Select 1 cup of the least attractive ones. Mash them in a strainer over a bowl and strain off juice, pressing to get as much juice as possible. If it doesn't come to one cup add some orange juice. Put into a small saucepan with rest of ingredients. Bring to a simmer and stir until clear and thickened. Pour over berries, mix gently and put into shell. Decorate and serve with whipped cream or topping.



Blueberry Pie

4-5 cups blueberries, washed and picked over for stems and bruises.

1/2 — 3/4 cup sugar
 Juice of 1/2 lemon
 1/2 tsp. allspice or cinnamon

1/4 cup plain tapioca or cornstarch

Mix all together, put into shell and cover with top crust. You can cut it into strips and make a lattice or decorate any way you wish, being sure to cut vent holes. Flute edges.

Fill and put into 400 degree oven and immediately turn down to 350. Bake for about 45 minutes until bubbly, and lightly browned.

Leaping locusts, that's fine kosher dining

NEW YORK — At \$161 a head, most people paying for dinner at an upscale Manhattan restaurant would be upset to be served dessert while eyeing a locust crawling around not far from their plates.

But that's exactly what diners sought when they signed up for the Orthodox Union's (O.U.) exotic kosher event held in May at Levana Restaurant, in New York.

Diners paid for a multi-course meal which included cow udder, wild turkey, quail, bison, venison, goat, sheep stew, pigeon, dove and sparrow. In between courses, O.U. kosher officials explained what makes the animals kosher, why they are rarely eaten and how to identify and prepare them.

"The whole point of this event is to keep the mesorah

alive," said Menachem Genack, head of the kosher division at the O.U., as waiters collected plates of cow udder from diners. "Mesorah" is Hebrew for "tradition." The aim of the dinner — and a daylong conference that preceded it — was "to eat animals to re-establish the fact that they are kosher," he said, so that the tradition of what animals are kosher can be passed on to a new generation.

While some animals can be identified as kosher, using empirical characteristics, beasts that chew their cud and have split hooves are considered kosher — others, such as bird species, are kosher only because they traditionally have been known to be so and have been eaten by observant Jews.

Diners ate quail and dove and sparrow to ensure that the memory that these birds are kosher is not forgotten, Genack said. If reaction to the food was any indication, that memory is safe. "I'd never eaten quail before," said Frada Nager, from Manhattan's Upper East Side, a kosher observer who said she came because she wanted to taste something unusual. "Being kosher, you don't have that much choice," she said. Though Nager was not so impressed with the taste of the exotic meats she was served — when asked what she liked best, she noted that the seven-grain bread rolls had been good — she said she nevertheless was glad she came.

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Medical Arts

What makes a disease Jewish?

By Stanley Aronson, MD

In a synagogue class on genealogy some weeks back, a student asked the following question, "Are there Jewish diseases?"



Stanley Aronson M.D.

A good question, but one which cannot be readily answered. It is a question which gives rise to still further questions. For example, what quality must a disease possess before it can be called Jewish? Certainly if a thousand Jewish youngsters contract measles, that doesn't transform measles into a Jewish disease.

In the broadest sense, diseases may be classified as those which are strictly inherited: the so-called genetic diseases, and those which arise because of some ecological factor, perhaps an infectious agent, an environmental pollutant or even the lack or excess of some dietary component. Of course, these two categories of organic disease—hereditary and environmental—are not mutually exclusive. Certain combinations of genes, not by themselves causative of disease, will nevertheless render their carriers more or less vulnerable to particular extrinsic agents such as viruses.

Let us first consider environmental disease. Prior to 1860, the great majority of Jews survived under primitive circumstances in the Pale of Eastern Europe. Asked then what the "Jewish diseases" were they would have

responded, "tuberculosis, typhus, ringworm, trachoma and rickets." Ask the same question of the Jews living on the lower east side of Manhattan in the 1930s and their answer would probably have been kidney failure, Buerger's disease, obesity and diabetes. A survey of critical diseases in the Jews of New York and New England today would likely identify cardiovascular disease, Alzheimer's disease and certain forms of cancer as the leading threats to their lives.

Living conditions have drastically altered for American Jews in the past 150 years. The skills of medicine have advanced, the standards of living for American Jews (and their levels of education) have risen dramatically, and accordingly their profiles of illness, as well as their life expectancy have been profoundly altered.

The Jewish population of New York City in the 1920s and '30s was largely working class, living, for the most part, in tenement houses. There certainly was talk then of "Jewish diseases" but there was also a pervasive feeling that denied their existence. The German propaganda apparatus in those days proclaimed the degeneracy of the Jew in appearance, morality, miscegenation and spectrum of illnesses. The American Jews, on the other hand, sought assimilation and the defensive belief that they were indistinguishable from their non-Jewish neighbors. Acknowledging the existence of "Jewish disease" meant a tacit acceptance of the biologic separateness of

Jews and perhaps their genetic inferiority.

We now come to the hereditary diseases. After the many diasporas, the forced migrations, the involuntary conversions, the premature loss of lives during the past three millennia and the generations of intermarriage, can there still be some genetic continuity in those who call themselves Jews? There is ample genetic evidence that the current population of Jews shares certain constellations of genes and, as an identifiable ethnic group, is therefore prone to certain illnesses; and some of these genetic clusterings may then lead to lethal diseases.

Consider, as an example, Tay-Sachs disease (TSD), which is, in the minds of many, the pre-eminent Jewish disease. TSD is what geneticists call a recessive, autosomal disorder. This means it requires both parents to be carriers of the uniquely abnormal gene and that the resultant disease may arise in either male or female offspring of the marital union. A TSD carrier, however, is clinically indistinguishable from a non-carrier. TSD is uniformly fatal, with death occurring well before the fourth birthday.

Is TSD a Jewish disease? It was first described in 1881 when Warren Tay noted some abnormal eye findings in two "Hebrew infants" in London. In 1887 Bernard Sachs provided a more comprehensive clinical and pathological description of the disease, again in children of Eastern European origin. It would be another decade before

the disease was identified in a non-Jewish infant. In one extensive study, 104 of 111 kinships were Jewish. Clearly, TSD was a Jewish disease.

However, when pediatricians developed a greater awareness of TSD, it became apparent that many non-Jewish infants were afflicted with it, but that the disease had gone unrecognized. The sensitive awareness of TSD in the Jewish community had not yet spread to the majority population.

The development of a blood test to detect carriers of TSD changed the nationwide perception of this disease. The carrier rate among American Jews was one in 30. In certain clusters it

was as high as one in 19, while the carrier rate in American non-Jews was about one in 300. It thus became a nonsectarian disease. Therefore, in a comprehensive national survey undertaken in 1960, there were about 165,000 Jewish carriers and 521,000 non-Jewish carriers of TSD.

With the advent of routine blood testing for the TSD carrier-state, particularly in young Jewish populations, followed by appropriate genetic counseling, most cases of TSD were prevented. At the present time, nationwide, infants born with TSD are largely non-Jewish.

Dr. Stanley Aronson is Dean Emeritus at Brown University Medical School.

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— Lawrence. H.

Dear Lawrence: According to a recent survey, more than 7.2 million Americans received home care in 2003. This is roughly 2.5% of the total U.S. population. Among all the home care recipients, 69% are over the age of 65, and 64% are women.

The number of home care recipients is about 38% of the total number of people who receive treatment in a skilled nursing facility, and about 60% of the number of people who receive dental care. So as you can see, home care is much more common than you might have imagined.

What's great about home care is that it gives seniors an alternative to nursing homes and assisted living facilities. And its especially popular for those seniors who prefer living at home rather than in an institution.

Our view on home care is this. Seniors have worked hard all of their lives. So they have earned the right to be pampered. And that's what home care is all about! It's about pampering people and making their lives easier.

Dear Cathy & Kathy is written by Catherine Phan and Kathy Johnson. Send questions to kathy@homecareassistance.com

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Dear Fellow East Siders,

My name is Howard Schulman, and I am running for **State Representative** in the **Democratic Primary** on **Tuesday, September 14th**.

I'm 39 years old and have been a practicing general internist in Rhode Island since 1995. I graduated from **Princeton University**, and in 1990 I came to the **Miriam Hospital** to train after finishing medical school.

I am running because I know that our state would benefit from having a **practicing physician** as a member of the legislature. There has not been one for 12 years. I hope to bring **fresh insights** and a **fresh voice** to the legislature. We need leadership to **computerize** and integrate the health care bureaucracy and make it more user friendly and efficient. The health insurance and pharmaceutical drug companies must be removed from medical decision making and prevented from looking at your chart. We are obliged to attract and retain the best medical talent, and we are failing.

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Simchas

Mazal Tov!



Jeffrey Reuter and Amanda Cohen

CRANSTON — Bruce and Karen Cohen of Framingham, Mass., and Ronald and Ellen Reuter of Cranston announce the engagement of their children, Amanda Cohen and Jeffrey Reuter.

The future bride received a bachelor's degree from the University of Delaware and a master's degree in social work from Simmons College. She is employed as a foster care clinician at the Groden Center in Providence.

The future bridegroom received a bachelor's degree in business administration from Nichols College in 1997. He is employed as the rental manager at Bald Hill Dodge in Warwick, R.I.

A Nov. 2004 wedding is planned.



Gordon Buchsbaum and Elisa Lavine

PROVIDENCE — Barbara and Jerry Lavine of Providence, announce the engagement of their daughter, Elisa Heather, to Gordon Robert Buchsbaum, son of Selma and Sanford Buchsbaum, of Greenwich, Conn.

Elisa is a special education teacher in the Wellesley Public Schools. Gordon is an associate with Towers Perrin in Boston.

An Oct. 30 wedding is planned.

Send your Simchas to: Jewish Voice & Herald, 130 Sessions St., Providence, RI 02906 or E-mail to: voiceherald@jfri.org.

Birth

PROVIDENCE — Annabelle Lily Raz, 7 lbs., was born June 2 to Rebekah and Liran Raz.

Master's degree

CRANSTON — Daniel J. Gertsacov, son of Karel Gertsacov of Narragansett and the late Alan A. Gertsacov, received a master's degree in business administration from Harvard Business School on June 10.

He received a bachelors degree with honors from the University of Richmond, Va. in 1997. He was a Fulbright scholar in Chile and spent five years doing international development work in Latin America prior to entering Harvard. He plans to continue his work in the media-entertainment industry in Latin America.

Promotion

BARRINGTON — Joe Friedman of WLNE-TV ABC6 has been promoted from Account Executive to Local Sales Manager. He lives in Barrington with his wife, Lisa, and their three children.

A graduate of URI, he is a member of the board of trustees of Temple Habonim and coaches for the Barrington Little League.



Justin Schneider

Bar Mitzvah benefits Big Brothers

RUMFORD — Justin Schneider, son of Ken and Roberta Schneider of Rumford, celebrated his recent Bar Mitzvah by arranging for sports balls to be donated to Big Brothers of Rhode Island as his *Tzedakah* project. He and his guests contributed 39 balls of various sports.

Justin also raised funds for Big Brothers by donating sports memorabilia for auction at their summer golf tournament.

Say 'congrats' to your grads

As graduation season is already upon us, The Jewish Voice & Herald encourages its readers to submit notices and pictures of local graduations from high school, college, and elsewhere. Send them to voiceherald@jfri.org.

New!



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- D. Divorced n/drugs no drugs
- F. Female n/s nonsmoker
- H/W/P Height P Professional
- weight proportionate S Single
- J. Jewish TLC Tender
- LTR Long-term loving care
- relationship W White
- M. Male WW Widowed

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Seeking love, romance. DWJM, 58 (look mid-40s), 5'8", 175 lbs, fit, n/s, varied interests, open-minded, emotionally and financially secure, seeking a WF, slim, 40-55, emotionally secure. Let's talk soon! 49002

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52-year-old WJPF enjoys theater, walking, the ocean, movies, honesty and traditional values. Seeking a partner who would like to share life's pleasures. 49003

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Obituaries

The community mourns the loss of a leader, friend and colleague

Robert Riesman

PROVIDENCE — Robert Arnold Riesman of Providence and Middletown, R.I., and Palm Beach, Fla., died June 2. He was the husband of Marcia (Stone) Riesman. They had been married for 58 years.

Mr. Riesman was born in Chelsea, Mass., on Jan. 25, 1919, the son of Joseph G. and Sadie (Finkelstein) Riesman.

He was a graduate of Boston Latin School. In 1940, he graduated with honors from Harvard University. As an ROTC commissioned officer, second lieutenant, field artillery, he then went on active duty with the First Infantry Division and served for five years, three of them overseas, in North Africa, Sicily and Europe, reaching the rank of lieutenant colonel. He was awarded the Silver Star, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal, six battle stars, the Assault Arrowhead, numerous campaign ribbons, and the French Croix de Guerre and Medaille de Reconnaissance.

He joined the family business, the Royal Electric Co. in Pawtucket, in 1945, and when it was acquired by ITT in 1956, served as president until 1961, when he resigned to pursue private interests.

Active in politics

Active in Democratic politics, he was co-chairman of the 1960 Kennedy-Johnson presidential campaign in Rhode Island, and chairman of the Johnson-Humphrey campaign in 1964. He was finance chairman for Frank Licht's successful bid for governor of Rhode Island in 1968, while serving as



Robert A. Riesman

co-chairman of the Humphrey-Muskie presidential campaign the same year. In 1976, he was Rhode Island chairman of Senator Henry "Scoop" Jackson's bid for the Democratic presidential nomination. Since 1960, he had been active in fund-raising for Democratic candidates for state and national offices.

From 1963 to 1969 he served as Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army and, when he left the post to become a member of the Rhode Island Board of Regents for Education, he received the Distinguished Civilian Service Medal, the highest award the Army can give a civilian. He served on the Board of Regents until 1973, and was its chairman in 1972. He also served as trustee of the Association of the United States Army for 10 years and also chairman of its finance committee.

Mr. Riesman served as general campaign chairman of the United Way of Southeastern New England in 1972 and remained active in that organization as a member of the executive committee and board, as well as vice president for a number of years.

He was active in the affairs of Providence College since 1964 and received an honorary doctorate in business administration from that institution in 1972. Elected to its corporation in 1974, he became a trustee in 1992, chairing its finance committee for many years, as well as the President's Council, and becoming trustee emeritus in 1998. From 1971 to 1977 he served on the Visiting Committee of the Board of Overseers of Harvard University for the Graduate School of Education. In 1981 he was elected a corporator of Northeastern University. He was a founding trustee of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

Active in local and national Jewish communal affairs, he was general campaign chairman of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island in 1964, 1967, and 1968, and after serving as its vice president since 1970, was president from 1974 to 1977. He was a member of the National Council of the American Jewish Committee, was Rhode Island chairman of the Israel Bonds campaign in 1961 and served on its executive committee and on the board of the Development Corporation for Israel. He was a life trustee of the Miriam Hospital, the Jewish Home for the Aged, and the American Technion Society, an overseer of the Jewish Theological Seminary, a past board member of the Council of Jewish Federations, and an Honorary Alumnus of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. A former vice president of Temple Emanu-El, he was an honorary life trustee. He was a national vice president of the American Israel Political Affairs Committee, having served as regional vice president for New England, a member of the National Executive Committee of the American

Jewish Committee, and a trustee of the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs. He was a member of the Jewish War Veterans, B'nai B'rith, and the Anti-Defamation League. In 1979 he and his family dedicated the Riesman Center for Harvard-Radcliffe Hillel in Cambridge, Mass.

In 1976 he received the Brotherhood Award from the National Conference of Christians and Jews and the following year was a recipient of the Hope Award from the Rhode Island State Council of the Knights of Columbus. In 1977 the Rotary Club of Providence honored him with its first Distinguished Citizen Award.

He was a director of the Old Stone Corporation and Old Stone Bank from 1967 to 1990, and a director of Narragansett Electric Co. from 1979 to 1989.

He was a member of the Turks Head Club, the University Club, the Hope Club, the Harvard Club of Boston since 1946, the Harvard Club of Rhode Island, the Harvard Faculty Club, the Palm Beach Country Club and the Clambake Club of Newport.

Beside his wife, he leaves a son, Robert A. Riesman Jr., of Oak Park, Ill.; a daughter, Jean A. Riesman, of Jersey City, N.J.; two brothers, Martin Riesman of Newton, Mass., and Eugene Riesman of Montreal, Canada; a grandson Abraham, a granddaughter, Clare and 11 nephews and nieces.

Burial was in Sharon Memorial Park, Sharon, Mass.

Contributions in his memory may be made to Miriam Hospital, 164 Summit Ave., Providence, RI 02906.

Robert Berlinsky

PROVIDENCE — Robert Berlinsky, 92, a retired meat cutter and merchant, died May 25. He was the husband of the late Rose (Schwartz) Berlinsky.

Born in Colchester, Conn., a son of the late Harry and Fay (Gordon) Berlinsky, he lived in Providence most of his life.

He was the owner of the meat department of the Elmwood Public Market, and of Singer's Market in East Providence. He had also worked for Cape Kosher Market and Marty's Kosher Market.

Mr. Berlinsky was a founder of Providence Hebrew Day School, vice president of Congregation Mishkon Tfiloh, and vice president of Congregation B'nai Zion.

During World War II he did defense work at the Gorham Silver Mfg. Co., where a statue of Abraham Lincoln was being made.

He was a graduate of the former Technical High School.

He leaves a son, Rabbi Ephraim Berlinsky of Providence; three daughters, Gloria S. Redlich of Block Island, Cynthia H. Osit of Plantsville, Conn., and Sasha (Sylvia) J. Cantor of Brighton, Mass.; a sister, Arlene Cherlin of Warwick, nine grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. He was the brother of the late George, Samuel and Esther Berliner.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

Isadore Berstein

PROVIDENCE — Isadore

Berstein, 86, a former realty company owner, died May 26. He was the husband of Dorothy B. (Bornstein) Berstein. They had been married for 53 years.

Born in Providence, a son of the late Jakob and Rose (Wallach) Berstein, he lived in Pawtucket and Providence most of his life.

Mr. Berstein had been the proprietor of the former Acme Bag Co., and the former Ruth Realty Co., both real estate businesses, for many years before retiring recently.

He was a life member of the Providence Hebrew Free Loan Association and the South Providence Hebrew Free Loan Association.

He was a member of Temple Emanu-El, the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Society and the

Chased Schel Amess Association of Lincoln Park Cemetery.

Mr. Berstein was a graduate of Classical High School and had a lifelong interest in Jewish studies. Besides his wife, he leaves a son, David L. Berstein of Mays Landing, N.J.; two daughters, Rose Sue Berstein of Bethesda, Md., and Jane C. Berstein of Mays Landing; a brother, Dr. Bernard L. Berstein of Narragansett and Florida; a sister, Eleanor Krasner of Cranston; and three grandchildren. He was the brother of the late Ruth Fink.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery. Contributions may be made to the American Parkinson's Disease Assoc., R.I. Chapter, P.O. Box 41659, Providence, RI 02940, or Camp

Yavneh c/o Hebrew College, 160 Herrick Rd., Newton Centre, MA 02459.

Milton H. Bloom

WARREN — Milton H. Bloom, a retired state worker, died May 23. He was the husband of Dorothy (Kaufman) Bloom. They had been married for 64 years.

Born in Fall River, a son of the late Oscar and Fanny (Kaufman) Bloom, he lived in Providence and Cranston before moving to Warren in 1993, and had wintered for many years in Daytona Beach, Fla.

An Army veteran of World War II, serving from 1943 to 1946, he received a Silver Star and a Purple Heart.

Besides his wife, he leaves a son, Jerry Bloom of Bristol; two daughters, Freda Ceike of Townsend, Mass., and Elaine Preskens of Warren; two sisters, Ruth Filler of Fall River and Martha Levy of Providence; and four grandchildren. He was the brother of the late Helen Gottlieb.

Vivian Fitzer

WARWICK — Vivian Fitzer, 92, died May 19. She was the wife of the late Sidney Fitzer.

Born in New York City, a daughter of the late Morris and Lena (Lutker) Casanove, she had lived in the Bronx, before moving to Warwick 20 years ago.

She was an office worker for the Rhode Island Department of Elderly Affairs for five years, retiring 12 years ago. For the previous five years she worked for the United Way of Rhode Island.

She was active at the meal-site at Temple Torat Yisrael in Cranston and was a member of the Pilgrim Senior Center in Warwick. She leaves two sons, Stephen Fitzer of Columbia, S.C., and Allen Fitzer of Brooklyn, N.Y.; a daughter, Linda Pimley Hamaker of Walpole, Mass.; a brother, Lewis Case of Marlboro, N.J.; five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. She was the sister of the late Jack and Benjamin Case and Stanley Casanove.

Irwin Grant

EAST GREENWICH — Irwin Grant, 78, a retired ladies accessories manufacturer, died May 28. He was the husband of Sissel (Hagen) Grant. They were married for 44 years. Born in New York City, a son of the late Dave and Betty (Scherker) Goldberg, he lived in New York City until moving to East Greenwich 10 years ago.

He was the owner of the former R and I Products in New

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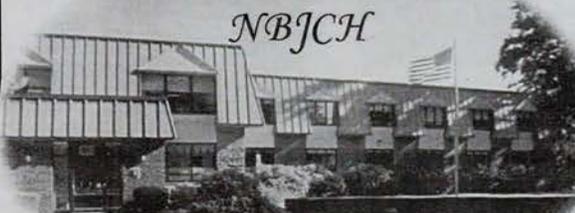
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Obituaries

Irwin Grant

From page 25

York for 50 years, retiring 12 years ago

He was a WW II Navy veteran serving in Cuba and stateside as a Pharmacist's Mate 2nd Class.

A member of Potowomut Golf Club in Warwick, he also served as a past member and tournament chair of Old Westbury Golf and Country Club in New York. He was a past president of the Pine Glen Condominium Association.

Besides his wife, he leaves a son, Richard Grant of Chestnut Hill, Mass.; a daughter, Dawn Keiper of Saratoga Springs, N.Y.; a sister, Annette Rosenfeld of Boynton Beach, Fla. and five grandchildren.

Burial was in Mt. Ararat Cemetery, Pinelawn, N.Y.

Contributions may be made to Philip Hulitar Inpatient Center, 50 Maude Street, Providence, RI 02908.

Eddy Mamaysky

PROVIDENCE — Eddy (Kravets) Mamaysky, 86, died June 6. She was the wife of the late Lev Mamaysky.

Born in the Ukraine, a daughter of the late Faivel and Frima Kravets, she came to this country in 1979, and lived in Providence and Pawtucket.

Mrs. Mamaysky was a member of Temple Emanu-El and the Jewish Community Center and a supporter of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.

She leaves a son, Arkady Mamaysky of West Warwick, a brother, Elia Kravets of Los Angeles; and three grandchildren. She was the sister of the

late Naum, Isaac, and Gezle Kravets and Sonia Modieviski.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

Contributions may be made to P.E.F. Israel Endowment Fund., Inc., 317 Madison Ave., Suite 607, New York, New York, 10017.

Albert Mills

WARWICK — Albert "Babe" Mills, 80, a retired real estate company owner, died June 1. He was the husband of Rena (Lucksniansky) Mills. They were married for 54 years. Born in Providence, a son of the late David and Ida (Nager) Mills, he had lived in Warwick for 54 years.

He was the owner of Albert Mills Realty for 15 years, retiring a year ago. For the previous 31 years, he was the co-owner of De Mills, Inc. and Mills Brothers Auto Top. He was a member of Temple Sinai in Cranston.

Besides his wife, he leaves three sons, Barry Mills of Brunswick, Me., David Mills of Cranston and Ira Mills of Branford,

Conn; a brother, Irving Mills of Warwick and eight grandchildren. He was the brother of the late Morris, William and Sanford Mills, Celia Fleisig, Lillian Chernov and Reta Roseman.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick

Charlotte Moore

NARRAGANSETT — Charlotte Z. Moore, 61, a cashier, died June 2. She was the wife of Wayne Moore.

Born in Hartford, Conn., a daughter of the late Max and Tillie (Cohen) Kaufman, she lived in Narragansett for 17 years, previously residing in San Jose, Calif.

She was a cashier at the Mohegan Sun Casino in Uncasville, Conn., for over two years. Besides her husband, she leaves a son, Joshua Moore of Peace Dale; a daughter, Rachael Moore of Tennessee and four grandchildren.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

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Remembering Reagan

Reagan fought for freedom of Soviet Jews

By Ron Kampeas

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Ronald Reagan's presidency was a time when U.S. Jewish power grew to new levels of influence — and when Jews learned of its limits.

Thanks to Reagan, who died Saturday at age 93 after a long struggle with Alzheimer's, the years 1981-1989 saw the consolidation of bipartisan support for the causes Jews held dearest: a secure Israel and the freedom of Soviet Jews.

It also saw the Republican Party become an acceptable option for Jews, ensuring that no single party could take the Jewish vote for granted.

"Historians will look back and say the Reagan years were the years the Jewish community looked back and tried the Republican Party on for size," said Marshall Breger, Reagan's liaison to the Jewish community from 1983 to 1985. "That began the process of developing a comfort level which is now only coming to fruition. The Reagan administration turned the Jews into a two-party community."

Yet Reagan also dealt the Jewish community two severe blows when he triumphed in pushing through Congress the sale of powerful spy planes to Saudi Arabia and when he delivered a forgive-and-forget paean at the Bitburg cemetery in Germany, where Nazi SS troops are buried.

Despite such issues, Reagan's presidency now is seen by many as halcyon days for Jewish issues in foreign policy, principally because of the effects of Reagan's greatest triumph: the collapse of the Soviet bloc.

"The end of the Cold War was important not just for the free world but for diminishing the cause of rejectionist Arab states and enabling Soviet Jews to be free," said David Makovsky, then a leading

Soviet Jewry activist and now a top Middle East analyst at the Washington Institute for Near East policy.

Mark Levin, also a prominent Soviet Jewry activist in those days, emphasized that the benefits the struggle for Soviet Jewry derived from Reagan's crusade against the "Evil Empire" were not incidental; for Reagan, Soviet Jewish freedom was central to the struggle.

Reagan made sure Soviet Jewry was a priority at each meeting between U.S. Soviet officials, along with nuclear disarmament and economic assistance, recalled Levin, now the executive director of NCSJ: Advocates on Behalf of Jews in Russia, Ukraine, the Baltic States and Eurasia.

"He was someone who was truly committed to overturning the Communist system and gaining freedom for all people, but he had a particularly soft spot in his heart for Soviet Jewry," Levin said.

Reagan also earned Jewish admiration for appointing secretaries of state who were sympathetic to Israel. Alexander Haig and George Schultz both broke with the traditional "bad cop" role that the Cabinet officer usually plays with the Jewish state.

But the president's visceral sympathy



President Reagan and Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres hold a press conference at the White House in 1986.

Ya'acov Sa'ar/Israeli National Photo Collection

for Israel was undermined by his uneasy relations with Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin.

When Begin said "no problem" about settlements in the West Bank and Gaza, Reagan assumed Israel was agreeing to a freeze; but Begin merely was saying, with characteristic confidence, that the settlements should not pose a problem.

The first crisis of Israel ties during Reagan's presidency was occasioned by Israel's attack in June 1981 on Iraq's Osirak nuclear reactor.

Reagan, a proponent of nuclear power in the United States, was upset that an ally ostensibly was reinforcing perceptions that all nuclear power posed dangers, and he suspended arms shipments to Israel in response. Reagan said Iraq, which the United States then supported, may have been persuaded to use the nuclear reactor for peaceful purposes.

Reagan also resented the lobbying by Israel and its supporters against the sale of AWACS spy planes to Saudi Arabia in 1981. The American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), outraged that Reagan was reneging on a campaign promise so soon after his election, got the House of Representatives to oppose the sale.

"The administration was out there saying 'Reagan or Begin,'" recalled Ria Forman, then a political director for AIPAC and now the executive director of the National Jewish Democratic Council.

Begin's opposition to the sale especially peeved Reagan, and on Oct. 1 of that year, Reagan famously said, "It is not the business of other nations to make American foreign policy."

That set off a wave of anti-Semitic hate mail to senators. The AWACS sale triumphed in the Senate, and the apparent succumbing to warnings about excessive Jewish influence was a shock for a pro-Israel community that had been confident in its influence since the Yom Kippur war.

Reagan attempted to make amends after the vote by proposing a strategic relationship with Israel in November 1981. Begin and the Knesset surprised Reagan a month later by annexing the Golan Heights, territory claimed by Syria.

It didn't help Israel that when a suicide attack the following summer in Lebanon killed 241 U.S. Marines, some blamed Israel for dragging the United States into the conflict there. In truth, Israeli officials had tried hard to persuade Reagan not to deploy troops to the region.

The attack on the Marine barracks created an impression that would dog Israel throughout the 1980s: Israel somehow was responsible for anti-American terrorism.

Despite such tensions, affection for Reagan persisted among Jews. He earned a respectable 31 percent of the Jewish vote in the 1984 elections, though it did not match the 39 percent he had won in 1980, when the pro-Reagan Jewish vote largely was the result of voter backlash against the policies of President Carter.

The My Voice section of the Voice & Herald will return next week.



President Reagan and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin in 1982.

Ya'acov Sa'ar/Israeli National Photo Collection



President Reagan walks with General Matthew Ridgeway through the Bitburg Cemetery in Berlin on May 5, 1985.

Photo courtesy Reagan Presidential Library



President Reagan with Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev at their summit in Iceland in 1986.

Photo courtesy Reagan Presidential Library

