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January 20, 2006

Olmert faces tough choices

Hebron settler violence, Hamas, elections will test acting PM

NEWS ANALYSIS

By Leslie Susser

JERUSALEM, Jan. 17 (JTA) — Widely praised for the low-key and sensitive manner in which he has taken over ailing Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, Ehud Olmert is the odds-on favorite to win Israel's March 28 general election.

But the acting prime minister faces a number of severe early tests, and his continued popularity depends on how he copes.

Hebron resistance

First there is a potential flashpoint in Hebron, where young, right-wing Jewish extremists have been defying police and soldiers and challenging Olmert's authority. Then there are a number of delicate issues regarding Palestinian elections on Jan. 25. Olmert already has had to make a call on whether there can be voting in eastern Jerusalem, and likely will have to decide in the immediate aftermath on Israel's attitude toward a Palestinian government including or even dominated by the terrorist group Hamas.

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Inside...



Plan a Tex-Mex party for Super Bowl Sunday. See page 16.



Martin Luther King event this Saturday at Emanu-El. See page 18.



An argument against divestment in Israel. See My Voice page 26.



Photo: Amos Ben-Gurion/UPC-AP Images

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, left, and then-Deputy Prime Minister Ehud Olmert during a ceremony at the Prime Minister's office in Jerusalem, Wednesday, Jan. 4. Olmert assumed the position of acting prime minister after Sharon suffered a major stroke later that night.

Katrina fund raises \$173,000

PROVIDENCE — The Rhode Island Jewish community has raised more than \$173,000 for the Jewish Federation's Katrina initiative, to help rebuild Jewish life in the Gulf Coast — \$100,000 came from the federation's endowment fund.

In December 2005, a committee comprised of Katrina donors met to evaluate funding options and make recommendations, which were subsequently adopted by the JFRI board of directors. Approval was given for:

1. \$123,506 to the Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans, to help return 40 Jewish families to their homes. It will cover such relocation costs as subsidizing mortgage or rent payments, moving expenses, groceries, or other start-up expenses that currently overwhelm these families. It is expected each family will be eligible for \$2,000 to \$4,000.
2. \$50,000 to Congregation Beth Israel in Biloxi, Mississippi, to help rebuild its synagogue, which sustained significant wind damage during Katrina. The congregation has

See KATRINA, page 3

Bagels get their marching orders



Photo by Julia McCann

300 Barney's bagels to go to New Orleans

By Julia McCann

PAWTUCKET — Can Jewish comfort food from Rhode Island help save the only Jewish float in a pre-Mardi Gras parade in New Orleans this year?

Julienne and Janna Saslaw

Danny and Lois Kaplan, owners of Barney's Bagels.

hope so. Mother and daughter have teamed up with Barney's in Pawtucket to ship 300 bagels to New Orleans for the parade.

Janna is part of a Mardi Gras krewe (parade organization), the Krewe du

Mishigas, which traditionally hands out decorated bagels to revelers. An associate professor of music at Loyola University in New Orleans, she wanted to revive Jewish spirit in the Crescent City, and since

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Community Calendar

SAT., JAN. 21

ML King sing

7 to 9 p.m. Temple Emanu-El, corner of Taft Ave / Sessions Street, Providence. Jewish, Christian and Muslim speakers and choral groups. Free, refreshments. Presented by the Black-Jewish Alliance of the

Community Relations Council, the Urban League of Rhode Island, and Providence's Temple Emanu-El. Call (401) 421-4111, ext. 172. See Community.

SUN., JAN. 22

Habonim winter concert

3 p.m. Temple Habonim, 165 New Meadow Rd., Barrington.

Winter concert featuring Victoria Lambrozo, piano; Jolie Shushansky, flute; Gohar Manjeliikian, mezzo-soprano, and the jazz combo of Larry Berren & the Be-Bop Docs. Free, open to the public.

MON., JAN. 23

Emanu-El Leisure Club

10—10:50 a.m. Corky Freeman, Esq. "A Mishna discussion group"

11:10 — noon: Dr. Josh Gutman, "Snippets of Pharmacology."

THURS., JAN. 26

Emanu-El Leisure Club

10 — 10:50 a.m. "Meet Thomas Edison." Todd McLeish

11:10 a.m. — noon "American Jewish Personalities" Rabbi Andrea Gouze.

AIPAC speaker

6:30 p.m. At the Phyllis Silverstein Tamarisk Assisted Living, 3 Shalom Dr., Warwick. Derek Shulman of AIPAC will speak on issues of concern to Israel and America. Refreshments. RSVP to Gina at 732-0037.

FRI., JAN. 27

Yiddish shmooz

10 — 11:30 a.m. Jewish Community Center, 401 Elm-grove Ave., Providence. Program of Yiddish humor, songs and stories. First timers welcome. For more information, call Sue

Robbio at 861-8800.

SUN., JAN. 29

Bingo, pizza at Torat Yisrael

3 p.m. at the temple, 330 Park Ave., Cranston: Bingo and pizza \$5 per adult, \$3 children age 10 and under, with a family maximum of \$20. RSVP by Jan. 23 to the temple at 785-1800.

Rabbi/comic at Emanu-El

7 p.m. 99 Taft Ave., Providence. Bob Alper, Rabbi/stand-up comic and author will appear at the temple, with humorous reminiscences of growing up locally, and more. Tickets in advance, \$18; at the door, \$20. Limited seating. Adults and children over 11 are welcome. For information and tickets, call 331-1616. See Community.

MON., JAN. 30

Emanu-El Leisure Club

10 — 10:50 a.m. "Ups and Downs." Rabbi Natan Schaefer

11:10 — noon, Book review "An Hour in Paradise — Short Stories" by Joan Leegant: Toby Rossner.

Rosh Hodesh program

at Habonim

Noon at Temple Habonim, 165 New Meadow Rd., Barrington. Carol Ingalls of the Jewish Theological Seminary will discuss "Gluckl of Hameln." Lunch available for \$14 per person. To RSVP, call Meredith Einsohn at 421-4111, ext. 206.

Interfaith service at URI

7-9:30 p.m. at the Multicultural Center, Hodge Forum, 74 Lower College Rd. on the URI Kingston campus. Students from diverse religious communities come together to share readings, stories, prayers, meditations, testimonies, songs, or dances to celebrate the life and work of Dr. King. Sponsored by URI Hillel.

Jewish Community Day

School open forum

7 p.m. at Congregation Beth Shalom, 275 Camp St., Providence. Participate in conversations about the vision of the Jewish Community Day School. Open to the community. Call 331-0956 for information.

WED., FEB. 1

Cranston Senior Guild

1 p.m. monthly meeting at Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston. Guest speaker Sgt. Michael Kinch, police advocate of the Cumberland Police Dept. He is also an advocate for the elderly and an instructor for other police advocates in the state. Raffle and refreshments will follow.

Film: "Paper clips" at URI

7 p.m. at the Memorial Union Ballroom, 50 Lower College Rd on the URI Kingston campus. Also showing Thurs., Feb. 2 at 4 p.m. Film is a documentary about

See CALENDAR, page 12

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CANDLE LIGHTING

For greater Rhode Island

Dec. 17 3:56

Dec. 24 4:00

Dec. 31 4:05

Jan. 7 4:11



BAGELS

From page 1

all of the local bagel shops were decimated by Hurricane Katrina, she called her mom and asked for help.

Barney's Bagels came to the rescue.

"I just wanted to do whatever I could to help out. The woman who called has a daughter who was directly affected by the hurricane," said Lois Kaplan, who, with her husband Danny, owns the deli and bakery. They agreed to donate 300 bagels, which they will ship to New Orleans.

The Krewe du Vieux parade is usually held three weeks prior to Mardi Gras and is planned for Feb. 11. The krewe parade through the scenic French Quarter with small floats pulled by mules and some members on foot. Krewe du Mishigas distinguishes itself with the decorated bagels, which are baked hard, painted in bright colors, and decorated with the krewe name, the year, and other glittery trimmings. This year's theme is, appropriately, Nosh's Ark.

The float will be a cart fashioned to resemble an ark and members will don animal costumes and walk two by two, some of them carrying blue tarpaulins pulled off their own leaking roofs. The theme will not only represent a biblical story familiar to both Christians and Jews, but will resonate with New Orleans residents. Julienne explains that the spirit in which the "cart-as-ark" should be taken is "irreverent. The parade has always celebrated the spirit of humor."

Janna was comparatively fortunate after the hurricane struck and tries to help others in the community who were not as lucky. She and her husband have a five-bedroom house with four new houseguests living there. Both are musicians who have been making an effort to reunite other musicians with their instruments so that they can continue to make a living.

Julia McCann is a freelance writer and photographer who lives in Barrington.



Stroller stride



Photo by Julia McCann

GO, MOM! — Benjamin Owen (foreground) and Julia Weinsier (background) giggle as their mothers Margaret Owen (foreground) and Lauren Weinsier (background) punch it out at the new Stroller Strides exercise class for new moms at the Jewish Community Center. All Stroller Strides instructors are nationally certified and specially trained in pre- and post-natal fitness. Weinsier leads the program, which meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 9:15 a.m.

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E-mail cover letter and resume to rcki.wasserman@ujc.org

KATRINA

From page 1

continued to meet every Friday night in a Methodist Church that has welcomed them since the hurricane struck. With no Jewish federation in this area, the synagogue serves as an anchor for Jewish communal life.

Doris Feinberg and Susan Froehlich served as campaign co-chairs of the Katrina initiative. For more information, visit the federation's website at www.jfr.org.

Leisure Club meets Feb. 2

PROVIDENCE — The Thursday programs of the Temple Emanu-El Leisure Club will be meeting on Feb. 2 with the following programs: 10 to 10:50 a.m., Gerry Krause of the R.I. Dept. of Marine Affairs will speak on "Rhode Island Wildlife," presented by the URI Speakers Bureau.

A Rabbi series will continue after a coffee break from 11:10 a.m. to noon with "They Did What? — Some of the Odder Stories in the Bible," with Rabbi Elyse Wechsman.

Opinion

A MAJORITY OF ONE

Denial and survival

A Jewish lady I know who shall remain nameless has never understood why her children call her Cleopatra. We, more sophisticated and knowledgeable, recall that Cleopatra was also known, at least to Marc Antony and Julius Caesar, as the Queen of Denial. Well, move over Cleo and make some room on your barge for the rest of us. If ever a community is in denial, it is ours.



Yehuda Lev

Earlier this month the Census Bureau informed us that one day during this coming October the population of the United States will reach 300 million. Of these, we Jews will form somewhere between one and a half to two percent, depending on one's definition of who is a Jew. This is lower by a full point than was the percentage about 30 years ago and it is not only due to the influx of non-Jewish legal and illegal immigrants but also, and perhaps primarily, to the decisions of individual Jews to opt out of their affiliation with the Jewish community. Then, like Cleopatra, we relax against the cushions on the barge and give our attention to Antony or Julius while a major problem confronting our Jewish world slips by,

relatively unnoticed.

As with all sweeping generalizations, there are important caveats attached to this one. Serious efforts are being made to deal with these matters. We create committees to strategize on how best to

The Census Bureau informed us that one day during this coming October the population of the United States will reach 300 million. Of these, we Jews will form somewhere between one and a half to two percent.

stem the flow of young Jewish dropouts. We invest major communal funds in Jewish education.

We provide our youth with guitar-playing rabbis, with trendy services, with free visits to Israel, and with JDate, among other enticing lures. Still the flow continues.

And the result? They will not appreciate this but I need only look to my own four children to find an answer to that question. My older son is married to an attorney who reads Torah in their Conservative synagogue.

Their daughter attends a Jewish day school. Contrary to his secular Jewish upbringing, he davenes at home every morning except for Wednesdays, that being the only day that lox is served with the bagels and cream cheese at the morning minyan.

My younger son is married to a woman who teaches drama and is the child of a Jewish father and Christian mother. Thus their two children are *halakabically* defined as non-Jews. But they are being raised in a manner best described as "Jewish light" and regard

themselves as Jews. They will, presumably, be b'nai mitzvah in a Reform temple.

My older daughter is married to a Christian who does not take his religion seriously but who will not convert to Judaism. In their home there is both a Christmas tree and a menorah. They assume that their child will choose one or the other when he matures but given the track record in such situations, it is more likely that he will either reject both or be attracted to a fundamentalist form of Judaism or Christianity if he feels the need for a spiritual connection.

My first three children were born in Jerusalem and their mother is an active member of a Conservative congregation. My younger daughter arrived in Los Angeles and has been raised in the Conservative tradition. Thus she attended

Jewish day schools (including Alperin Schechter) and Camp Ramah, graduated from Brandeis University, has visited Israel several times and is engaged to a young man who has had a Conservative conversion. Her mother is an Orthodox convert, although we do not live an Orthodox lifestyle.

In the finest of religious traditions, you can read anything you want into the choices made by four children of a single family, the common thread being that there is no common thread. Each child has chosen an individual path and the nature of their religious beliefs or the lack of them has never been a cause for friction among my children or with their parents.

On balance, in my family the conversions into Judaism outnumber the probable losses to indifference. (Hostility to Judaism as a reason to drop out is not an issue here.) Nonetheless this particular family situation does not bode well for the future of Judaism as we know it today. In the next issue I will discuss what, if anything, can be done to correct the situation and not create an opening for the familiar Jewish question: What do you call the grandchildren of a mixed marriage? Christians.

Yehuda Lev, a regular columnist, is a retired journalist who has worked in Europe, Israel and the United States. He lives in Providence.

Football and the Jews

By Mark Mietkiewicz

Football fans are gearing up for the Super Bowl, America's largest annual professional sporting event. As the country's best football teams prepare to meet in Detroit for Super Bowl XL, let's look at the Jewish contributions to the game on both sides of the border.

But first, a bit of Torah. A good rabbi is able to look at practically any phenomenon and teach a Torah lesson from it. Simcha Barnett and Eric Coopersmith must be a couple of good rabbis because of the lesson learned from the New England Patriots' surprise win over the heavily favored St. Louis Rams in Super Bowl XXXVI.

"Throughout the entire season, the Patriots players refused to be introduced individually, as is traditionally done at the start of NFL games. Even files from the league office could not deter their statement that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. In the process, the Patriots discovered perhaps

the greatest human tool: the power of unity." The rabbis continue with examples of how the united Jewish people have excelled where they were receiving the Torah at Sinai, fighting in the Six Day War or struggling on behalf of Soviet Jewry. And then, the rabbi concludes, "the most memorable moments in sports are those where the talents of individuals fuse into the almost mystical indivisibility of the whole in harmonious interplay."

The Patriots went on to make

history by winning two of the next three Super Bowls under the leadership of owner Robert Kraft. Shortly after this year's win, Kraft was in Israel to attend the unveiling of the newly refurbished Kraft Family Stadium, donated to the local league, American Football in Israel. As Kraft said, "My mother and father would have been proud of our Super Bowl wins, but much more of the work we've done in Israel."

Former NFL Coach of the Year Marv Levy presided over the NFL's Buffalo Bills (as well as the Canadian Football League's Montreal Alouettes north of the border.) In a 2002 interview with "Sports Illustrated," Levy was asked to name the three other Jewish men in the Pro Football Hall of Fame. He was able to remember two, not including Benny Friedman who was recently elected to the Hall of Fame. Their profiles along with bios of over 400 other Jewish football players are at the JewishSports.org website.

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highways@rogers.com.

ALISON ON ALIYAH



Alison Golub

Alison Golub's column will return soon.

Submission Guidelines

Submissions must be signed and include city of residence and telephone number. Letters should be limited to 250 words, and Viewpoint pieces to 700 words. Submissions may be edited for length. Send submissions to: Jewish Voice & Herald, 130 Sessions St., Providence, RI 02906, or E-mail to: voiceherald@fri.org.

Ariel Sharon: Beyond the image

Many who spent years loathing Ariel Sharon were surprised to find themselves rooting, and even praying, for Israel's prime minister as he struggled for his life following a massive stroke. This concern transcends the humanizing effects of celebrities' illnesses — although it offers a sobering reminder of our own mortality when powerful world leaders succumb to the same pedestrian ailments that strike us commoners. Rather,



Gil Troy

the surprising waves of sympathy for the Israeli whom friends and foes called the "bulldozer," mocks the black-and-white stick-figure coverage we endure about politics. Real people are always evolving and often contradictory; they are more complex than their one-dimensional images suggest.

Five years ago, Ariel Sharon became Prime Minister as a polarizing, seemingly radical figure. His emergence as a centrist reflects Sharon's shift from being the settlers' champion to becoming the unilateralist realist who changed political facts on the ground, building a fence to protect Israelis from terror while challenging Palestinians to govern themselves in Gaza.

Like the Biblical leader Joshua who saw "milk and honey" when his fellow spies were terrified of giants, Sharon taught Israelis — and the world — that democracies could defend themselves against terror, that the Palestinian turn from negotiation toward terror disproved the delusions of Israel's left and right, demonstrating that while pandering to Palestinian terrorists would not bring peace, Palestinian aspirations could not be ignored either.

If Israel's peaceful unilateral disengagement from Gaza was not as momentous as President Richard Nixon's visit to China, Ariel Sharon at least succeeded in confounding his critics. Sharon never explained why he reversed course so abruptly from being the patron saint of Israel's post-1967 settlement movement, and whether he planned more withdrawals. But, gradually, many Israelis and non-Israelis began viewing Sharon as a key to solving the Middle East's problems, not a monstrous warmonger.

More and more people outside of Israel learned what Israelis had long known, Sharon was larger than life — echoing God's promise to Joshua "I will magnify you in the eyes of all Israel." Just as his troops followed him lovingly into battle, most Israelis trusted "Ari" to lead them out of the wilderness. Palestinian terror sowed toward a more peaceful Promised Land.

It is fitting that Ariel Sharon's half-century in history's limelight would end by confusing his enemies. In perhaps his greatest military move, Sharon plunged into Egyptian territory, surrounding Egypt's Third Army during the 1973 Yom Kippur War even as the Egyptians held positions they had just conquered after their surprise attack on Israel's

holiest day. Then, and subsequently, Sharon understood that his plucky little country's security required tactics that violated the conventional wisdom then redefined it.

And if these tactics stunned opponents, even better.

Sharon's reputation suffered most from another incursion on enemy turf, this time during the 1982 Lebanon War. Vengeful Lebanese Christian Phalangist militia-men massacred approximately 700 Palestinian refugees in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps. Sharon, Israel's defense minister and the architect of the Lebanese incursion, failed to stop the slaughter. For that failure to exercise moral leadership, Israel's Kahan Commission investigating the massacre suggested he lose the defense ministry. Israelis were proud that their moral standards were so exacting they punished a leader responsible for failing to stop a reprehensible atrocity. Nevertheless, critics throughout the world blamed Sharon for having orchestrated the crime, when he did not.

More recently, post-disengagement, Sharon flummoxed his own internal party critics by abandoning the Likud. The future of his new party Kadima — forward — is clearly in doubt. The future of the relative calm Sharon succeeded in imposing after much bloodshed on both sides — is also in doubt, feeding the anxiety.

If, as Sharon exits the public stage, his career teaches us to appreciate unconventional tactics, subtleties, complexities, and the need for pragmatism not millennialism, he will have performed a great service. There will be no peace until partisans on all sides can acknowledge



Photo: David Rubin/SPD

Ariel Sharon, center, and fellow army generals arrive in the Negev on June 1, 1967.

the situation as multidimensional, multichromatic and dynamic, realizing that sometimes generals can become statesmen, warmakers can become peacemakers, and longstanding assumptions can become discarded notions.

Ultimately, Sharon's zigs and zags root him in the non-messianic pragmatism that has been the key to Zionism's success.

Palestinians remain addicted to fulfilling their maximalist and unrealistic fantasies.

Zionists have succeeded by solving problems, not seeking messianic justice, even after the monstrous Nazi injustice. That search for solutions, that ability to adjust ideology to fit new perceptions of reality, led David Ben-Gurion to accept the 1947 U.N. partition, led Yitzhak Rabin into the Oslo gambit, and

led Ariel Sharon to re-enter West Bank cities in 2002, build a security fence and leave Gaza.

Ariel Sharon lacked Bill Clinton's charisma, Ronald Reagan's silver tongue, Menachem Begin's principles, and Theodor Herzl's dreams. Toward the end of the Book of Samuel, King David, another imperfect hero compelled to fight from his youth to his old age, thanked God for "enlarge[ing] my steps under me and my feet have not slipped." All of us who seek peace and abhor terror should be similarly grateful for Ariel Sharon's majestic, far-reaching surefooted pragmatism.

Gil Troy, Ph.D., is a professor of history at McGill University in Montreal. He earned his undergraduate, graduate and doctoral degrees in history at Harvard. He is the author of many books, including "Why I Am a Zionist."

VIEWPOINT

Jewish teen on Darfur

By Jessica Louise

The Holocaust has continuously affected my life. It has become a fascination to me. I have read literature on it, spent endless hours sitting and thinking about this mass destruction of a people. However, the thought that keeps resonating through my mind is how anyone could let this happen, and not speak a word.

The Holocaust ended in 1945 with the deaths of six million Jews. With this atrocity over, the civilized world made a sacred promise: "Never again." That promise has been violated over and over again: Bosnia, Cambodia, Rwanda. And now it is happening again in Sudan. It is the largest country in Africa and in the western region, Darfur, an estimated 400,000 innocent civilians have already died because of this broken promise. Where is the merit of our promise now?

As a human race, we have a responsibility to end this massacre. As Jews, who have suffered through a genocide, we have an obligation to end the atrocities occurring in Sudan. There is injustice in our silence when mass murder takes place. The facts are that the Sudanese

'Never again.' That promise has been violated over and over again.

government, led by president Omar al-Bashir, is supporting the ethnic cleansing of its non-Muslim black African citizens. This government is openly supporting an Arab militia called the Janjawed that terrorizes the non-Muslim black citizens of the Darfur region. They rape, pillage, and kill indiscriminately. This is blatant genocide.

And I, why do I care? I am a 17-year-old Jewish girl living in the suburbs of Boston. When the rest of my friends were watching the season finale of *The OC*, I was at the state house in Boston, holding a poster emblazoned "END THE KILLINGS."

Why do I care about these people living thousands of miles away in a world and culture so different from mine? The answer is that in every person I see suffering, I also see myself. I see myself

in the children, orphaned and walking hundreds of miles to refugee camps in Chad. I see myself in the women, mutilated and humiliated by the Janjawed who rape and terrorize them every day. I see myself in every one of their faces. In their eyes, I see the same pain that I feel every time I remember the destruction of my own people 50 years ago.

I started writing this article this week. I would spout out facts and figure: and use those numbers to move and inspire. But, as Jews, we bear numbers all of the time. Six million Jews died in the Holocaust. The six concentration camps of Poland. Numbers is not remembering, feeling is remembering. That is why I make this plea to you. If you, as I do, feel the suffering of the men, women, and children who are dying as you sit here and read this article, then let that inspire you to make a difference, to act, to make your voice heard. I would like to leave you with a quote from Elie Wiesel, "Tolerance, to me, is the epitome of evil."

Jessica Louise, 17, lives in Wrentham, Mass. Her website, www.if-only.org/jewsondarfur and for more interested in the cause.

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Israel

Olmert faces tough choices

From page 1

In the run-up to Israel's own election, Olmert will have to decide how specific he wants to be about the possibility of a second Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank, following Sharon's unilateral withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and northern West Bank last summer.

How Olmert deals with the Hebron challenge could set the tone for something much bigger — future Israeli withdrawals from large parts of the West Bank. The standoff has been over

the government's intention to evict Jewish settlers from Arab property in the town's vegetable market. The settlers say the property originally was Jewish-owned, and therefore claim legal title to it.

Last Friday, young radicals from all over the West Bank converged on Hebron to confront police and soldiers tasked with the evacuation. The radicals, many of them masked, went on

recognize the Jewish state.

There is talk of plans for Olmert to fly to Washington soon after the Palestinian ballot to coordinate positions on Hamas with the Bush administration. Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas has said that to participate in government, Hamas will have to accept all previous Palestinian agreements with Israel, including recognition of Israel.

How Olmert deals with the Hebron challenge could set the tone for something much bigger...

the rampage Sunday, destroying and burning Palestinian property and pelting Israeli security forces with stones and eggs.

Faced with the settler challenge, Olmert has been talking tough. In a government meeting Monday he banged his fist on the table and promised zero tolerance toward the extremists, whom he described as "a particularly violent group."

The immediate result was an army order declaring the disputed market a closed military zone, and instructing soldiers and police to eject anyone who doesn't live there. By Tuesday most of the outside settlers had been sent packing, on the understanding that the eviction of the Hebron settlers who had taken up residence in the market would be postponed for two weeks. Whether this proves a brilliant tactical retreat — enabling the government to go in with much bigger forces next time — or a costly show of weakness remains to be seen.

Visit with Bush?

Olmert's next vital decision may be what to do about Hamas. By allowing Palestinians to vote in Jerusalem and Hamas to participate in the election, he already has laid himself open to a welter of right-wing criticism. The Likud's Silvan Shalom, who resigned on Sunday as foreign minister, charged that Olmert has triggered a process that inevitably will lead to Israel negotiating with a terrorist organization that doesn't

Israel and the United States probably will add two more conditions: that Hamas desist from terrorism and that it disarm its militia. Unless that happens, Israel could well find itself without a peace partner on the Palestinian side.

That leads to Olmert's third big decision. His position on peacemaking with the Palestinians has been to insist that the internationally approved "road map" plan is the only game in town. But if Hamas' inclusion in a Palestinian government makes talks impossible, will Olmert be ready to go into more detail than Sharon about possible unilateral withdrawals from the West Bank?

Former Mossad analyst Yossi Alpher, now co-editor of the Web site www.bitterlemons.org, thinks he will. "Olmert — who, to his credit, started talking about disengagement and the need to avoid a South African scenario at least a year before Sharon — may feel a need to be more explicit on these issues to ensure that the public understands why he is different from Likud and Labor," Alpher says.

So far Olmert is riding high: Polls give his Kadima Party between 40 and 52 seats in the 120-member Knesset. That's more than its two closest rivals, Labor and Likud, put together. Still, mistakes on the key issues could hurt Olmert's electoral prospects — and also prove costly for Israel.

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News Briefs

Sasha Cohen U.S. skating champ

LOS ANGELES — Figure-skater Sasha Cohen is the new American champion and will represent the United States at the upcoming Winter Olympics. The 21-year old skater clinched the championship on Saturday in St. Louis after coming in second in her last four tries. Another Jewish skater, Emily Hughes of Great Neck, N.Y., came in third and normally would have been named to the Olympic team. However, the judges decided to give the spot to Michelle Kwan, who was unable to compete because of injuries, if she recovers sufficiently to skate in Turin during the Feb. 10-26 Games. Hughes was named an alternate to the Olympic team. (JTA)

Jewish teens seek connections

Two-thirds of U.S. teenagers say religion and faith are important to them, a new survey says. But 39 percent of them are not sure how to connect to their religion, according to the 742 teens surveyed in a poll commissioned by the BBYO Jewish youth group. Some 52 percent of respondents said they are looking for less conventional ways to connect with their religion. In other findings, 72 percent of teenage girls say religion is important to them, compared to 64 percent of teenage boys. Also, 92 percent of respondents want a better connection with their religion. BBYO has launched a website, b-linked.org, to provide an online community for Jewish teens around the world. (JTA)

Abramoff 'toxic'

WASHINGTON: American Jewish organizations are being very circumspect about Jack Abramoff, the wheeler-dealer lobbyist who has been indicted on charges of fraud, tax evasion and conspiracy. Abramoff has struck a plea bargain with government prosecutors and agreed to testify against those politicians who cooperated with him. While this is sending shock waves through Congress, it is not likely to have an effect on lobbyists for Israel or the Jewish community. "He was considered toxic; even the Jewish Republicans kept their distance," an experienced Jewish political analyst was quoted in the media. But matters may change. Abramoff founded and funded a Jewish Day School, which may have been involved in his complex financing schemes. (The New York Jewish Week)

Congressional visits to Israel

JERUSALEM: Just before he resigned from the Israeli cabinet, the last of four Likud ministers to do so, the then-Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom gave the cabinet a report card on American congressmen who visited Israel in 2005. More than 100 members of Congress, including 23 senators and 80 members of the House, made the journey, some of them several times. Shalom said: "The legislative branch maintained its unique and long-standing status as a stronghold of support for Israel, transcending party lines and Congressional houses." (JTA)

Looking for love in wrong place

SAFAD, NORTHERN ISRAEL: The belief that deceased, venerated rabbis can help barren Jewish women to bear children is not new in Jewish folklore but a different twist to the ancient custom has been added by childless women living in the Galilee. Authorities at the grave of Rabbi Yenothon Ben Uziel have collected more than 400 pairs of knickers and bras from the grills of the tomb's windows and from nearby trees. Although believers insist that women will meet their soul mates and marry within a year after visiting the gravesite, the local rabbis have had enough of the practice. One of them insists that women are inviting a sort of love curse if they insist on leaving behind such clothing, but apparently he preaches to little avail. The clothes continue to pile up. (The Los Angeles Jewish Journal)

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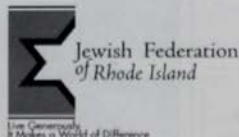
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Mideast

Palestinian elections showdown between Hamas, Fatah

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 17 (JTA) — Palestinian elections, set for Jan. 25, are mainly seen as a race between the ruling Fatah party and the fundamentalist terrorist group Hamas, which is running for the first time in general elections. Some 1.34 million Palestinians are to go to the polls to elect 132 members of the Palestinian Legislative Council. The general elections are the Palestinian authority's first in 10 years and originally were scheduled to take place in summer 2005, but were postponed.

Around a dozen lists are to run, though recent polls indicate that some 75 percent of the vote will be split by Fatah and Hamas.

Hamas, labeled by Israel and the U.S. as a terrorist group, is known for its social and charity programs in the Palestinian territories — as well as its spectacular attacks on Israel — and did well in last year's municipal elections. Opposed to Israel's very existence, Hamas' recent public statements have been slightly less categorical.

Fatah, the ruling party of P.A. President Mahmoud Abbas and his predecessor Yasser Arafat, has dealt with internal problems, almost splitting in late December



Photo: Brian Handberg/JTA

Palestinian children walk past Fatah campaign posters of Yasser Arafat and jailed Tanzim leader, Marwan Barghouti, in the West Bank's Al Aidi refugee camp on Jan. 9.

over its party list. Certain factors, including a large increase in the Parliament's size and a change in the style of the elections, have brought Fatah's internal tensions to the fore.

The elections are seen as a confidence vote on the leadership of Abbas, elected a year ago following Arafat's death. Abbas has not made visible progress on major Palestinian goals such as reaching a peace agreement with Israel that would lead to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, securing Israel's release of Palestinian prisoners who took part in terrorist attacks,

raising international financial support to help the ailing P.A. economy recover and reducing widespread corruption.

Abbas also has failed to curb the internecine violence that has plagued P.A.-controlled areas, with the P.A. security forces fighting armed militants, violent gangs vying for influence and Fatah facing off against its competitors.

Conflict also exists within Fatah, between its younger and older generations. The Old Guard, led by P.A. Prime Minister

See ELECTION, page 9



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Mideast

ELECTION

From page 8

ister Ahmed Qurei, accompanied Arafat through the long years of political exile. The Young Guard is comprised of local leaders such as Mohammed Dahlan and jailed Tanzim head Marwan Barghout, and has been active in the armed struggle against Israel.

Fatah officially accepts Israel's existence and is pushing for a Palestinian state alongside the Jewish state, but it maintains an armed wing and a fierce internal debate rages in the party over whether attacks on Israel are acceptable.

Hamas will run on a ticket of "change and reform." However, many candidates vow publicly to continue attacks on Israel. Gaza Hamas leader Mahmoud al-Zahar told the New York Times last week that his faction will not recognize Israel or disarm, even if it wins the elections.

Other Hamas leaders have made slightly softer public announcements. Sheikh Mohammed Abu Tir, No. 2 on Hamas' national list, did not rule out negotiations with Israel, saying Hamas has adopted "new rules to the game." He told Ha'aretz that "we will negotiate with Israel better than the others." The party's political manifesto is one of the most moderate documents the organization has published since its establishment. Unlike Hamas' 1988 charter, which denies Israel's right to exist and says its land is part of the Islamic trust (Waqf), the new platform suffices with a general demand for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital — the same

election slogan used by Fatah and the PLO.

The manifesto does call, however, for the right to use "all means" to put an end to occupation, implement the "right of return" that the Palestinians demand for millions of refugees, and make Islamic legislation the source of P.A. legislation.

In the upcoming elections, Fatah is fielding 111 candidates and Hamas 115. Other lists include "The Third Road," headed by outgoing Finance Minister Salam Fayad and lawmaker Hanan Ashrawi; "Independent Palestine," headed by human rights activist Dr. Mustafa Barghouti, who won 18 percent of the vote in the presidential race against Abbas last year; the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, headed by Ahmad Sa'adat, who is being held in a Palestinian prison for his role in the assassination of Israeli Cabinet Minister Rehavam Ze'evi; and Badil, a leftist movement. There also are a number of splinter parties that stand little chance.

The legislature approves Cabinet members, oversees the budget, and can issue a vote of no confidence in the government. Although on paper the president has extensive powers and can act freely without parliamentary approval, the legislative branch has proven time and again that it has teeth and can bite.

Abbas wanted to postpone the elections, but bowed to American pressure and Hamas threats of violence. Israel threatened to ban voting in eastern Jerusalem but, it, too, has bowed to American pressure and will allow Palestinians there to vote.

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Location: Temple Habourm
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Presenter: Dr. Carol K. Ingall,
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Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Time: Noon - 1:30 pm

Location: Temple Am David
10 Gardiner Street
Warwick, RI

Cost: \$14.00, lunch included

Presenter: Frieda Soble, Executive Director
RI Holocaust Museum

*Hannah Senesh: A Brave Soldier,
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MARCH Nisan

Date: Thursday, March 30, 2006

Time: 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Location: Temple Emanu-El
99 Taft Avenue
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Presenter: Rabbi Serena Eisenberg,
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NEWS ANALYSIS

With Sharon sidelined, Bush team reaches out to potential successors

By Ron Kampeas

WASHINGTON (JTA) — The Bush administration is juggling two stages of grief in dealing with the absence of Ariel Sharon: denial and acceptance.

Sharon has been the premier agent of change in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict since Bush took office. One message the administration is pushing is to deny that Sharon's disappearance from the political scene substantively changes anything. Two top Bush administration envoys are set to fly to the region Tuesday to remind all parties that systems are still going, despite the massive stroke Jan. 4 that has kept the Israeli prime minister incapacitated and likely has ended his political career.

The other message is to accept the reality that Sharon is gone, establish the same level of trust with his deputy, Ehud Olmert, now the acting prime minister, and feel out the other two leading candidates in March 28 elections in Israel.

It's a delicate balance for a delicate time.

The Bush administration has dramatically increased its investment in the peace process, successfully betting last year that

Sharon's longstanding reputation as Israel's last lion of war would guide the Jewish state through its most searing peace move, evacuating Gaza Strip settlements.

In the coming year, the administration hoped Sharon would begin to evacuate substantial portions of the West Bank.

State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said Elliott Abrams, the deputy national security adviser to the White House, and David Welch, the top State Department envoy to the region, would press the Palestinians to hold legislative elections as scheduled on Jan. 25, and would push Israel to open up transit points between the Gaza Strip, Israel and the West Bank.

"We all know that Prime Minister Sharon is in the hospital, and we continue to hope for his recovery," McCormack said Monday. "There are still agreements in place that require follow-up. We are following up, as are others on implementation of those agreements."

Condoleezza Rice, the U.S. secretary of state, stepped in personally in November to broker the transit agreement, and is anxious that Israel has yet to open the transit points. Israel is worried that the Palestinian Authority is not taking control of terrorists in the Gaza Strip.

Yet while it's business-as-usual on the micro level, Bush

administration spokesmen make clear that they understand the tectonic political changes underway in Israel ahead of the March elections.

As Sharon's front man on the peace process, Olmert was already a known quantity to the administration. He has spoken extensively with Rice since assuming the acting premiership. Rice canceled a planned tour of Indonesia and Australia to keep a close watch on developments in Israel.

"We stay in close contact with the government of Israel and we have officials that travel there on a fairly regular basis as well," White House spokesman Scott McClellan said Monday. "I expect we'll be going back there in the near future, too."

A breakthrough in the Israeli-Palestinian peace success might purchase Arab and international goodwill and help the Bush administration navigate its other grand plan loaded with potential booby traps: the transition to democratic self-rule in Iraq.

Sharon broke away from his Likud Party late last year because it continued to defy his plans to withdraw from some Palestinian areas. He established the centrist Kadima party, bringing over leading figures from Likud and Labor.

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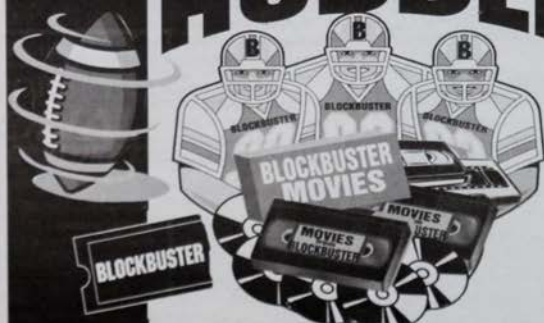
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Community



Photo by R.I. State Council of Churches

Temple Emanu-El homeless shelter volunteers and rabbis were honored at a R.I. State Council of Churches awards night. Sen. Jack Reed was principal speaker at the event.

Emanu-El, Flam honored by Council of Churches

PROVIDENCE — On Dec. 1, 2005, the third annual "Walk the Talk" awards were presented by Rhode Island State Council of Churches to local faith communities and individuals who put their faith into action.

Volunteers from Temple Emanu-El's overflow homeless shelter (above) were among five religious groups honored, for "not only providing a warm home, but also a compassionate hospitality to many."

Rabbi Alan C. Flam received the "Walk the Talk" award for his leadership and spirit as president of the Board of Rabbis and for bringing a joyful presence to interfaith gatherings. Appreciation was also extended for his part and leadership with regards to issues that effect the most vulnerable in our state.

Sen. Jack Reed was the guest speaker for the evening.

JCDS students pray for Sharon

PROVIDENCE — Students in grades 2-8 gathered for a special assembly during the last period last week at the Jewish Community Day School (JCDS). The students were taught about Ariel Sharon, the office of the Prime Minister, and why Sharon's health and the welfare of the State of Israel are important to American Jews. The students recited Tehellim (Verses of Psalms), the "mi-shebrakh" prayer for the sick, and concluded with Hattikvah, Israel's national anthem. The assembly was led by Rabbi Mitchell Levine with assistance from other staff faculty.

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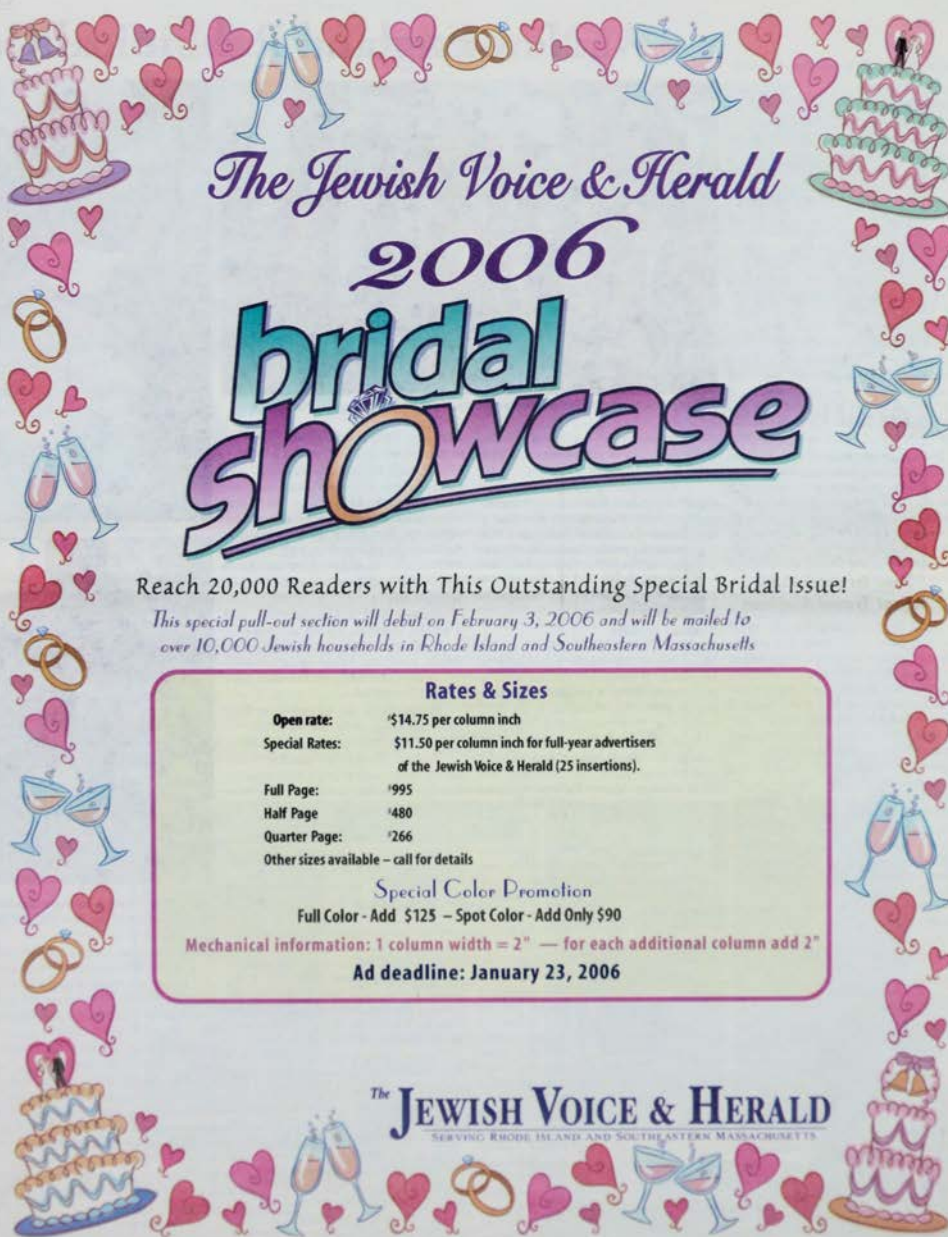
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SPOTLIGHT

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(Part 2. Part 1 ran in the Jan. 6 issue.)

By Jonathan Rubin
jrubin@jvfi.org

PROVIDENCE — In the hallways of the New England Rabbinical College, Torah is alive. Whenever they leave or enter a room, students place their fingers on a mezuza and kiss their fingertips, a custom which, it is said, makes the words of Torah sweet on their lips. They pray three times a day with total intensity. In the kitchen, everything from juice pitchers to tablecloths are painted with either red stripes (for meat) or blue stripes (for milk), to help keep them separate in accordance with Jewish dietary laws. Hundreds of sacred books in Hebrew and Aramaic line the walls of the many study rooms.

Each day, students have group and individual study sessions (see sidebar). Mornings are spent in preparation for a *shiva* (lesson) by one of the yeshiva's two directors, Rabbi Eliczer Gibber or Rabbi Yosef Lipson.

During group study all the students are together in one room with two or three rabbis and any community members who show up. They study in three-hour sessions in pairs called *chevrutas*, either with a learned person, rabbi or otherwise, or with a colleague. *Chevrutas* are the traditional style of serious Jewish learning; the goal is both to test oneself and someone else in order to arrive at an overall deeper understanding of the sacred texts.

"Learning" is usually thought of as something passive, a studious deed accomplished in silence. During a study hall at a yeshiva (also known as beit midrash, or "house of learning"), you might think you've accidentally walked into a baseball dugout in between innings. As one student puts it — "you'd think we were going to kill each other." Indeed, the cacophony of passionate back-and-forth Talmudic discourse is so loud you need to be six inches away from someone to make out what he is saying.

Learning Torah is nearly an act of prayer in itself, so many students sway meditatively as they ponder or debate. Others twirl pens as they stretch, and grab coffee when they need to touch their legs. Some record lessons and listen to them on their iPods later.

The students are sharp. They often answer questions on multiple levels using



THE STAFF AND STUDENTS of the New England Rabbinical College in Providence.

numerous examples — analytical thinking is the trademark of what some call a "classical" Jewish Talmudic education.

Before receiving a degree in rabbinics, after spending four to five years at the yeshiva, some students find the time to take classes at night at Providence College, where the two institutions have a special relationship. When they're done, they may leave the Rabbinical College with an additional secular degree, for example, in accounting or marketing.

Student profiles

What would encourage a student from Baltimore's robust community of thousands of Orthodox Jews to come to Providence, whose Orthodox population is only about 550, according to the 2002 Jewish Community Demographic Study?

For Berish Edelman, 21, it was exactly this "small yeshiva" environment that attracted him. The 1,000-plus students at the yeshiva in Baltimore seemed overwhelming, and he wondered if he could get the individual attention he was looking for. He found a small, nurturing, close-knit environment in Providence where everybody seemed to be in one big family. Edelman is not alone — small yeshivas seem to be growing in popularity nationwide.

He said he chose a yeshiva for higher education because "I've always wanted to know what everything is all about — life, the universe, you know, clichés like that."

He's chosen a Jewish path in this journey through ethics, history, philosophy, law, metaphysics and more.

Edelman takes night classes at Johnson and Wales University towards a degree in computer graphics. He'd like to use his computer

skills part-time, and teach in a Jewish or secular environment, or work at a kollel.

He said he might understand why people believe a yeshiva education produces only sheltered graduates, but he says he's received a huge amount of "real life" experience, from public speaking to building successful relationships with peers and authority figures, and from hard work and community service.

Student life

College food is not something that is usually raved about, but the *bachurim* are big fans of yeshiva grub. Earlier this month, lunch was baked ziti, apple crisp and salad, prepared by its full-time chef, Hannah Rosenthal.

Kosher foods are ordered from New York and shipped to Davia's Dairy on Hope Street. Produce is bought locally.

For the students, it's also like a fraternity. They spend so much time together that they seem like family, and they treat one another like *mispeks*. One student became afflicted with Krohn's disease and had to be hospitalized for a few days. The entire yeshiva — students and staff — stopped by for a hospital visit.

David Insel, 19, was hanging around the upper floors of the Rabbinical College one night with some friends when the phone rang. Apparently, someone had recently passed away and the Jewish burial society needed someone immediately to say with the deceased ("Amever") at the funeral home until help arrived in the morning. So the students took two-hour shifts from midnight to 8 a.m., saying customary *tehillim* (psalms) by the body.

"I was a little scared going in," Insel said. "But it really makes you think about life."

Many students find wives while at yeshiva. Last year, three students were wed in a six-week period.

Student Menachem Weisman, 21, was humbled by the close connections he immediately established. "In my first two months, I went to three funerals," he said.

As full-fledged members of the community, rabbinic students always have something to do. Students will fill in for



BERISH EDELMAN, left, plays handball with Aryel way after class at the New England Rabbinical Col

minivans at local synagogues, or read Torah on Shabbat. When someone passes away, they will gather at someone's house to help with the *shiva* prayers. The yeshiva also assembles the largest Orthodox community minyan in town during Rosh HaShanah.

"This place is like 1-800-rent-a-bosher," said Weisman with a laugh.

The students also update the school's website, send out a newsletter on the weekly Torah portion, and, if they're so inclined, help out around the yeshiva by binding books, fixing furniture, fiddling with computers or building shelves.

The college has a few computers and internet access, but random net surfing is discouraged.

"The internet can be powerful, or dangerous," a student said, paraphrasing a strict nationwide stance that many American yeshi-



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GHT e: A life of study and community



Photos by Jonathan Rubin

BERISH EDELMAN, 22, above foreground, debates Rabbi Naftali Karp during a *chavruta* (paired study) session at the New England Rabbinical College in Providence.

"We're always thinking about it. Maybe we'll do Star Wars this year," said Noach Karp.

Through their tutoring and volunteer efforts, the *bocharim* became intimately acquainted with most of the Orthodox families in the city. As a result, when Shabbat rolls around, students are rarely lacking an invite to someone's house for a meal.



YESHIVA STAFF AND STUDENTS pray together three times a day.

Shabbat is a true celebration of song and joy that students look forward to all week. On many Friday evenings, the entire yeshiva is invited to Rabbi Gibber's house, where his wife Marsha cooks up enormous quantities of cholent, the traditional Shabbat stew of meat, grains and potatoes. She is also a teacher at the girls' Orthodox high school, and she and Miriam Lipson run the Women's Auxiliary as well.

While the vast majority of their time is spent inside the yeshiva, students still walk to CVS to pick up essentials, or pick up some supplies at a mall or Home Depot. Some will use the occasional free weekend for a day trip to Mystic, or the Basketball Hall of Fame, or Roger Williams Park Zoo.

A typical day in the life of a Yeshiva student:

6:30 a.m.	Wake up
7-8 a.m.	Morning prayers
8-8:30 a.m.	<i>Halakhah</i> (laws)/ blessings
8:30 a.m.	Breakfast
9:15 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.	<i>Chavruta</i> (paired) study and lecture
1:15 - 1:30 p.m.	Afternoon prayers
1:30 - 3:15 p.m.	Lunch, relax
3:15 - 6:30 p.m.	<i>Chavruta</i> study
6:30 - 8 p.m.	Dinner, relax
8 - 8:30 p.m.	<i>Halakhah</i> / dietary laws
8:30-9:30 p.m.	Mandatory study of any subject, or study for secular college degree, or tutor community children
9:30-10 p.m.	Ethics
10 p.m.	Evening prayers
10:15 p.m. - 12 a.m.	Optional study



Leib Englander in their dorm hallway

as are currently adopting.
Down time

Life at the yeshiva is mostly study, but not all. To wind down, students might play handball in the dormitory floors upstairs, lift weights, or play football outside in the snow. Some nights, they rent the basketball courts at the Jewish Community Center. Or, in a scene somewhat reminiscent of the movie, "The Chosen," you might see them playing some pretty decent baseball in the JCC fields.

And then there's the annual Purim parade, a massive social event planned by a few students. Some attendees have been the mayor of Providence, Rhode Island's own "dancing police officer," Providence firefighters, DJs and musicians.

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Food

Tex-Mex/Super Bowl party, *ole!*

By Marylyn Graff

The following mostly Mexican menu will be appreciated by Super Bowl Sunday fans.

It serves 8 to 10.

Guacamole

- 3 ripe avocados (will yield slightly when pressed)
- 1 medium tomato, diced fine
- 1/2 of a red onion,
- Or two scallions, white and most of green parts, trimmed
- 1 jalapeno pepper, seeds and membranes removed (Use rubber gloves and keep your hands away from your face.)
- 1 clove garlic, peeled
- 1 or 2 tbsps. cilantro
- juice of 1/2 lime
- salt to taste

Finely chop tomato, onion or scallions, jalapeno, garlic and cilantro and combine.

Cut avocados in half and scoop flesh into a bowl (saving pits); mix in lime juice and mash as smooth as you like (many people like it a little lumpy.) Stir in rest of ingredients. Put pits into guacamole (some people think this keeps it from browning). Put into a serving dish and press plastic wrap right onto the mixture.

Serve with parve corn chips or cut parve corn tortillas into triangles, spray lightly with oil non-stick, salt, spread on a cookie sheet and bake at about 275 until crisp.

(For another dip, you can buy good salsa — I recommend the fresh kind.)

While you are chopping tomatoes, onions and jalapenos for guacamole, make enough for:

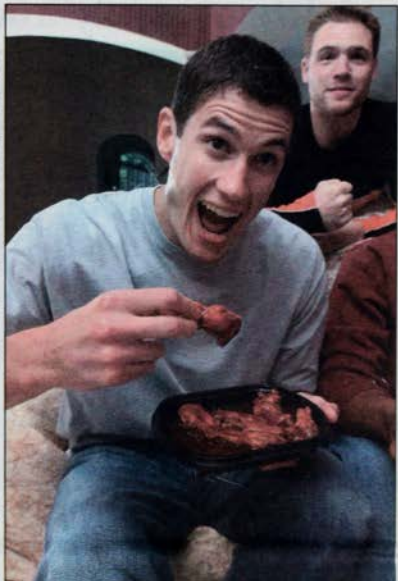
Nachos

In addition you will need:

A can of pitted black olives, drained and sliced

About 8 ozs. soy cheese, shredded

Spread your corn chips or tortilla triangles on an oven-proof platter, sprinkle the chopped tomatoes, onions jalapenos and



See Tex-Mex, page 17



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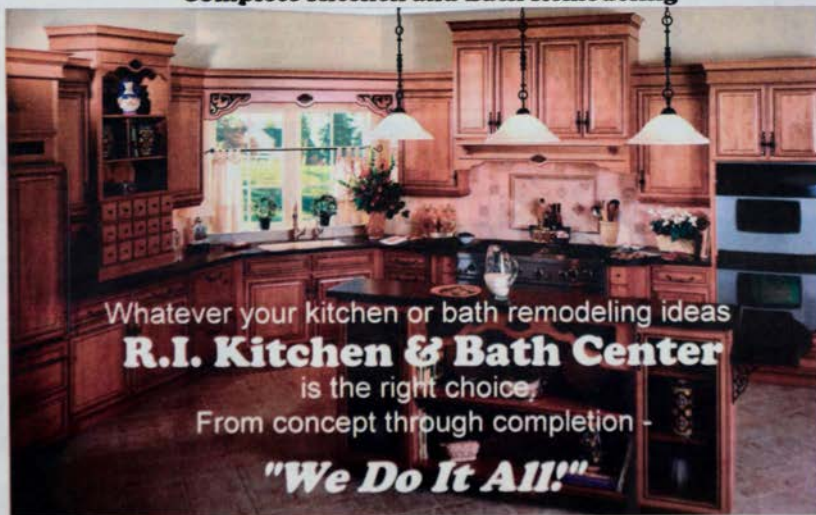
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Food

TEX-MEX

From page 16

olives evenly over it and sprinkle the soy cheese on top. Bake at 350 until the soy cheese is well melted. Garnish with guacamole or non-dairy sour cream.

Raw veggie platter — Baby carrots; red, green, yellow or orange peppers, cut into strips; celery stalks, in 2-3 inch lengths; cherry or grape tomatoes etc. Just arrange nicely on a platter.

Spinach dip (for the milder tastes)

1/2 pkg. frozen chopped spinach, well drained

2 pkgs. "Better 'N' Cream cheese

1 clove garlic, crushed or more to taste

2 finely chopped scallions

Non-dairy cream

Salt and pepper

Cook spinach. Blend with "Better 'N' Cream Cheese," scallions and garlic. Stir in enough non-dairy cream to thin as a dip. Put in refrigerator for a couple of hour to blend flavors.

Tex-Mex chicken wings fajita-style

5 lbs. chicken wings trimmed and separated.

3 tbsps. chili powder

1 tbsps. ground cumin

1 tbsps. oregano

2 cups tomato sauce

12 oz. can or bottle of beer

1/2 cup honey

Trim off end pieces of chicken wings (Save in the freezer for your next pot of chicken soup) and separate at the joint the two parts left.

Mix chili powder, cumin and oregano and sprinkle over wing sections. Let sit in refrigerator several hours or overnight.

Cover a shallow baking pan with foil and oil or spray with non-stick. Arrange wing pieces and bake in a 400-degree oven until nicely browned, turning once. Pile onto a warmed platter.

Meanwhile, put the tomato sauce, beer and honey in a pot, with any leftover spice mixture to taste, (if none is left, make more,) bring to a simmer, stir well and cook for about 15 minutes until well blended. Serve in a bowl, preferably over an electric or candle warmer, as a dipping sauce for the wings.

(Have a big bowl handy for the bones.)

Chili "lasagna"

1 pkg. of 12 6- to 8-inch corn tortillas

1 lb. ground beef or turkey, or substitute diced eggplant and/or mushrooms

1 medium large onion, chopped, about 1/2 cup

1 green pepper, finely diced
3 cloves garlic, crushed
2 1 lb. cans of beans; kidney, black or other of choice, drained and rinsed

1 small can corn (opt.)

2-6 oz. cans tomato paste

2-8 oz. cans tomato sauce

1 small can green chilies, diced

Chili powder to taste, at least 1 tbsps.

Ground cumin to taste, at least 1 tsp.

2 tbsps. salad or olive oil

Several slices of soy cheese

Sauté onion and green pepper in oil in a heavy pot, adding garlic for the last minute or so. Add meat or other veggies and stir until browned (meat should be well-browned up). Stir in beans and rest of ingredients and simmer slowly for about an hour.

Oil a 9 x 13 baking dish and arrange tortillas on bottom, trimming to fit. Spread on a layer of chili, more tortillas, more chili, ending with chili. Arrange soy cheese on top and bake at 350 degrees for about 30 minutes or until bubbly.

Pumpkin Doodles — Big, fat spice cookies

(From Susie Fishbein's "Kosher by Design")

These cookies have pumpkin or squash, pure vanilla and cinnamon in them, all products we owe to our neighbor to the south.

1 cup parve margarine (2 sticks) softened at room temperature

1 1/2 cups sugar

1/2 cup canned pumpkin or squash puree (not pie filling)

1 large egg

2 tpsps. pure vanilla extract

1 tsp. cream of tartar

1/2 tsp. baking soda

1/2 tsp. salt

2 3/4 cups all-purpose flour

1/2 cup additional sugar

1 tbsps. ground cinnamon

In the bowl of an electric mixer on medium speed, cream the margarine with the sugar until combined. Mix in the egg and vanilla. In a separate bowl,

mix the flour and other dry ingredients. Slowly mix it in to the batter, which will be sticky and light orange in color. Place in the refrigerator for at least an hour or the freezer for about 15 minutes.

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees and line two baking sheets with parchment or foil, and oil lightly. Mix the 1/2 cup sugar with the cinnamon in a shallow bowl. Scoop up batter with

a tablespoon and form into a ball, about the size of a golf ball, roll in cinnamon-sugar and place on the prepared pan about 3 inches apart. Bake about 15 minutes, until firm around the edges. Cool on a wire rack. Makes about 3 dozen.

Variation: You can add 1/2 cup raisins to the dough.

Marylyn Graff writes a regular food column for the Jewish Voice & Herald.

Throw a winning Super Bowl party

Sports fans and nonfans alike anticipate the winter event that is arguably the biggest sporting event of the year: the Super Bowl. And besides the big game, what else is associated with the day? A party, of course!

Instead of waiting for an invite from someone else, host your own party. A Super Bowl party is hands-down the easiest party you can host all year. The decor and food are always casual, low-maintenance and hassle-free. Here's how to score a touchdown of a gathering:

The room: The TV should be front and center. For ample seating, set up folding chairs, or consider lining up couches against the wall so guests can sprawl out on the carpet.

Decorations: Adorn your home in the colors of the teams or whomever guests are rooting for. A fun way to decorate is to draw a line down the middle of the room with masking tape. Then decorate each side with banners, pennants, streamers and balloons in one team's colors.

Food: Super Bowl food is all about ease and simplicity. See our sample menu suggestions.

Arrange the food on a table near the TV. That way, guests can grab food fast during commercials or between plays. Store drinks in a cooler so guests can just help themselves when they want one. Restock the cooler during halftime. When serving, don't feel the need to use your everyday flatware or plates — paper and plastic goods work fine. Get festive with party-store plates adorned with footballs.

Games: Hold a contest. Have guests guess the final score and see who comes the closest. You can add on other contests, like MVP or who wins the coin toss. Award the winner a football-related prize, such as a helmet, jersey or a football.



Kids: Give the kids their own play area. You can also set up a kids' area in front of another TV or in one of your own kids' rooms. Stock it with food, games, videos or DVDs, and a VCR or DVD player.

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Community/Arts

King 'sing' to be held at Emanu-El

PROVIDENCE — On Sat. Jan. 21, the Black-Jewish Alliance of the Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of R.I., the Urban League of Rhode Island, and Temple Emanu-El will join to present the annual musical event, "Songs of Freedom and Justice," celebrating the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King. This year's host location will be Temple Emanu-El from 7 - 9 p.m.; the community-wide celebration will feature local musical groups and audience participation, led by Barbara Morse-Silva.

Admission is free, and refreshments are provided. Show date, same place and time on Sat. Jan. 28.

Guest artists include Walid

Mohammed, the Kol Kesem Youth Choir, Ebenezer Baptist Church gospel choir, Martin Luther King School Glee Club, Temple Emanu-El Choir, and others.

A tradition since 1996, the event welcomes all people in the community, and has been especially important in bringing together the state's Jewish and African-American communities.

As Dennis Langley, executive director of the Urban League of Rhode Island and co-chair of the Black-Jewish Alliance, has said, "Both our peoples know the sting of discrimination, as well as the power of faith to bring us through the darkest times. We also know the power of music to unite people in both praise

and fellowship, and we know the power of working together to advance everyone's rights."

The Black-Jewish Alliance seeks to eliminate prejudice against both African Americans and Jewish Americans and to bring the two groups together to address issues of mutual concern.

For more information, call Kevin Olson at the Jewish Federation, 421-4111, ext. 172.

Auditions to be held for 'Grease'

PROVIDENCE — The Jewish Theatre Ensemble will be presenting an all-teen version of the popular Broadway musical "Grease" as its annual spring production. Temple Emanu-El is co-sponsoring this year's theatrical offering. All teens, ages 13 to 18 who can "sing and move" are encouraged to audition. Participants do not have to be members of the JCC or Temple Emanu-El. Auditions will be held at the meeting house of Temple Emanu-El at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 5 and at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 6.

Grease will be co-directed by the husband-wife team of Andrea and David Champagne. Andrea recently directed the well-received children's production of "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown" at Temple Emanu-El.

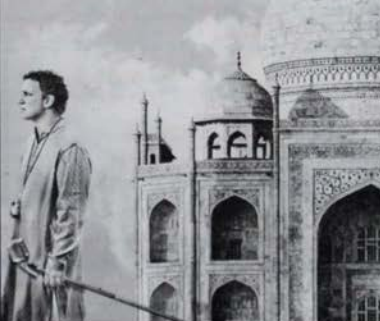
The show will be performed May 11 to 14.

For more information, contact Don Kieffer at 751-9357.

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AS WE GROW OLDER

The Contest

First I must provide you with a little background material. I come from a family of good cooks. My mother and her five sisters were all good cooks. Three



Tema Gouse

of the six were f a b u l o u s bakers. Each created dishes not found in cook books. My sister can prepare a feast that all will relish. And no one (except my children) has ever complained about meals I have labored over.

My mother-in-law was an Old World cook who made the best traditional foods — gefilte fish, chopped liver, matzo-ball soup and cabbage borsht you have ever tasted. Beyond that, everything else she cooked was famous only for providing nourishment.

Since I became the family cook at age 14 I brought better (or at least more experienced) cooking know-how to the marriage. My husband quickly took for granted that meals would be acceptable even if I never mastered the art of making gefilte fish, which he does not like anyhow. Through the years if I gained any kind of fame as a hostess, it was because I made rich desserts that most people did not indulge in at their own homes.

So I was astonished when one day, about 25 years ago, my husband suggested that I enter a

cooking contest sponsored by a popular women's magazine. The contest was to see who could make the best, most unusual salad. I asked him which recipe I should submit, knowing that while I could produce abundance, I was not famous for cooking originality. His response to my question was "Make one up."

Being a compliant wife, I sat down and did just that. I made up a recipe for a salad. Pen in hand, I made a list of ingredients. Salads are not difficult to make, so basically my instructions were to combine all of the ingredients. I added a few ingredients and spices I do not usually use and then embellished the product by suggesting food decorations that improve the appearance of the serving platter.

I typed my recipe (pre-computer days) and mailed it and promptly forgot it. Two months later I was notified that I had won 3rd place in the contest. We roared with laughter.

Before you get too excited I must tell you about the 3rd place prize. There was no cash involved in the 3rd place award. Instead, I won one of the most beautiful (and probably costly) picnic baskets you have ever seen. Again we roared with laughter.

Anyone who knows me knows I am not a picnic-type person. I prefer air-conditioning and soft seats to picnic benches in the woods. The kids were grown. The grandchildren had not been born yet. What was I to do with

this piece of art that contained a woven tablecloth, napkins, and service for six made of pottery or glass — not paper, of dinner-size dishes, cake plates, bowls, glasses and cups, stainless steel knives, soup spoons, coffee spoons, dinner forks and dessert forks. And, of course, multiple serving pieces. The works!

This masterpiece probably cost hundreds of dollars in some fancy house-wares shop. We got \$5 for it in the yard sale we had when we sold our house. It had never been used.

By now you are probably frothing at the mouth, waiting to hear about my culinary delight. Face it. How many people do you know who have won a prize in a cooking contest? (Even if it was 3rd place). Remember, I had never prepared or tested the salad. I had created it only on paper. It was, to the best of my memory, an embellished chicken salad. I didn't know if there was a copy of the recipe. (Remember again that this was pre-computer).

Fifteen years later when I was cleaning out an old desk, lo and behold, there was a copy of the recipe. But when I went to prepare the dish to learn what had merited the prize, we laughed loudest. What I had vaguely recalled was a chicken salad was in fact a tuna salad and on reading the ingredients, I was so unimpressed that I never prepared the dish!

Tema Gouse, a regular columnist, lives in Cranston.

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Community

Am David plans June mission to Israel

WARWICK — Cantor Richard Perlman, spiritual leader of Temple Am David, has announced a family mission to Israel from June 18 to 28.

"The entire community is invited to join the mission," Cantor Perlman said. "This is an opportunity to be inspired and to visit Israel for all the right reasons."

The tour will highlight Tel Aviv, Jaffa, Ayalon Institute and Caesaria, as well as visiting the Rhode Island Partnership 2000 community of Atula - Gilboa, and many more sites of interest.

Cantor Perlman said that this trip was planned after he returned from a cantors' tour last year when *tzodkas*, toys and clothing were delivered to Israeli charities and families. The plan is to make similar contributions this year. The cantor is asking that congregants, whether attending or not, assist with donations of clothing or other needed items.

"I visited Meir Panim (a soup kitchen) in Jerusalem last year, and saw the hunger that exists in Israel. When I told our students about it, they raised over \$1,200 in

contributions. The goal is to raise thousands more, collect toys and other items and bring smiles to as many faces as possible," he said.

For information, call Temple Am David at 463-7944. Limited places are available. RSVP no later than February.

Habonim to hold camp fair

BARRINGTON — Temple Habonim has invited several Jewish overnight camps from the surrounding area to come and share information about their camping experiences. The event will take place at the temple, 165 New Meadow Rd., Barrington on Sunday, Feb. 12 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Representatives from many camps will be available to speak with children and parents during this time and provide literature and applications.

Confirmed participants include Camp Avoda, Camp Bauercrest, Camp JORI, Camp Kingswood, Camp Laurewood, Camp Pembroke, Camp Tel Noar, Camp Teyva, and Camp Young Judaea.

Written literature will be available from URJ Crane Lake Camp, URJ Joseph Eisner Camp Institute, and Camp Yavneh.

Anyone with an interest is invited to attend and bring others. Temple members and non-members are welcome.

For more information, contact 245-6536 or www.templehabonim.org.

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Community

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Photo by Julia McCann

The first of four yearly blood drives was held on Sunday, Jan. 8, at Temple Torat Yisrael in Cranston. Despite the snow and rain, both temple members and the general public came out to donate. At left: Wendy Marmol stands proudly over Ruth Ross, considered "the challenge of the day." Although nurses often have trouble finding her veins, Ross comes back again and again to perform the mitzvah of being able to save up to three lives with one pint of blood.

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Rabbi/comic at Emanu-El

PROVIDENCE — Bob Alper, a rabbi and stand-up comic, who grew up in Providence and has fond memories of Temple Emanu-El, will appear there on Sunday, Jan. 29 at 7 p.m. Called "The world's only practicing clergyman doing stand-up comedy — intentionally," his is a warm type of humor that goes back to the comedians of the 1950s and early '60s. He is also the author of two books of humor, a cartoon book, and has made two comedy albums.

All adults and children over 11 are welcome. Tickets are \$18 in advance and \$20 at the door. Seating is limited. Call 331-1616. Temple Emanu-El is at 99 Taft Ave., Providence.

Youngsters celebrate with Tamarisk residents

WARWICK — On Dec. 20, special friendships were established between the second graders of the Jewish Community Day School and the residents of the Phyllis Siperstein Tamarisk Assisted Living Residence.

Directed by Susan L. Adler, their Judaic studies teacher, they sang Hanukkah songs and told the residents what they have learned about Hanukkah customs around the world. One of the Hebrew songs was written by the students.

During the year the students are engaged in around the world studies with general studies teachers Nicole Dunn and Marie Lyons. This ties in with Jewish holiday customs.

The program ended with everyone singing Oseh Shalom and according to an observer, "there wasn't a dry eye in the dining room."

Plans are underway for the students and residents to become pen pals and to join the second graders for Visitors' Day and Grandparents Day at the school.

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Obituaries

Jordan Agronick, 70

WARWICK — Jordan Agronick, 70, died Jan. 8. He was the husband of Cynthia (Rosenberg) Agronick. They were married for 40 years. Born in Providence, he was the son of the late Benjamin and Nathalie (Popkin) Agronick.

He graduated from Johns Hopkins University with a degree in engineering, and most recently worked for Citizen's Bank.

A devoted father and grandfather, he was an avid collector of cameras and a connoisseur of music.

He was a member of Temple Sinai.

Besides his wife, he leaves a son, Benjamin Agronick of Rochester, N.Y.; two daughters, Gail Agronick of Greenville, and Ruth Boyd of Sacramento, Calif.; a sister, Paula Agronick Reuben of San Pedro, Calif.; and four grandchildren, Zoe, Addie, Sadie and Sam.

Contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society.

Marjorie Bernard, 96

PROVIDENCE — Marjorie Alice Johnson (Turk) Bernard, 96, died Dec. 25. She was born on July 23, 1909 in Metomora, Ohio.

A former vaudeville dancer with the B.F. Keith and Lowes Circuits, she performed in theaters throughout the United States and Canada, including the Albee Theater in Providence and the Palace Theater in New York City.

She appeared in the 1920s and early '30s with a number of well-known entertainers including Ethel Barrymore, Milton

Berle and Edgar Bergen. She was well-acquainted with Edward R. Murrow and Howard Hughes, who frequently visited the theaters in which she performed.

She married the late Sol Turk of New York City, a former U.S.O. theatrical agent who booked acts for overseas troops during World War II. They had two children.

After her husband's death in 1969, she married the late Roland Bernard of Cranston.

Mrs. Bernard leaves a son, Stephen C. Turk of Oradell, N.J.; a daughter, Beatrice (Turk) Robinson of Rehoboth, Mass.; a brother, Howard Johnson of Toledo, Ohio; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Contributions may be made to the Mendell Robinson Surgical Research Fund at the Miriam Hospital, Providence.

Lena R. Fagan, 91

CRANSTON — Lena R. "Belle" Fagan, 91, died Dec. 26. She was the wife of Joseph Fagan. They were married for 70 years. Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Samuel and Rose (Mover) Sandler, she had lived in Cranston for 70 years.

She worked as a hairdresser in Cranston for 10 years before retiring many years ago.

Mrs. Fagan was a former member of Temple Sinai.

She leaves a sister, Sophie Greene of Edgewood and East Greenwich. She was the sister of the late Irving and Sydney Sandler.

Contributions may be made to Temple Sinai.

Anna Halsband, 92

WARWICK — Anna Hals-

band, 92, of the Fall River Jewish Home, formerly of East Greenwich and Warwick, died Jan. 12 at the Home. She was the wife of the late George M. Halsband. Born in Reading, Penn., she was a daughter of the late Abraham and Gussie (Bereson) Goldstein. She was a salesperson for Ann & Hope and previously worked with her husband in the family business, Halsbands, in East Greenwich.

Mrs. Halsband was a member of Temple Am David and its Sisterhood, Warwick Social Seniors, the former Women's Association of the Jewish Home for the Aged and the former East Greenwich Jewish Women's Club.

She is survived by her sons, Sidney Halsband, and his wife, Fay, of Southbury, Conn.; Alan Halsband, and his wife, Marcia, of Warwick and a daughter, Joan Dellicarpini and her husband, Pat, of Fairfax, Va. She was also the sister of Leon Goldstein of Cranston, Betty Lovitt of Florida, Dorothy Kravitz of Providence and the late Julius, Paul and Harold Goldstein. She leaves seven grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery in Warwick. In lieu of flowers, contributions in her memory may be made to the Fall River Jewish Home, 538 Robeson St., Fall River, MA 02720.

Louis Horvitz, 94

NORTH KINGSTOWN — Louis Horvitz, a retired real estate developer, died Jan. 4. He was the husband of the late Ruth (Waldman) Horvitz. Born in Central Falls, a son of the late Samuel and Pearl (Shaw) Horvitz, he had lived in North Kingstown for the past two years, having moved there from Florida.

He leaves a daughter, Jane

Dampier of North Kingstown; two grandchildren, Keith and Janell; and a brother, David Horvitz of Providence. He was also the brother of the late Abraham and Leo Horvitz and Theresa Nalibow.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. Contributions may be made to a favorite charity.

Kate Kaplan, 79

ATLANTA, Ga. — Kate Kaplan, formerly of Providence, died Jan. 11.

Born in Poland, she with her family, moved to West Warwick when she was three. She was the wife of the late Dr. Irving Kaplan and a daughter of the late Morris and Helen Markel Kaplan.

A graduate of the University of Rhode Island, she did research in biochemistry at Sloan-Kettering Hospital in New York City.

She returned to Rhode Island to marry and raise five children.

Mrs. Kaplan volunteered for numerous organizations including the National Council of Jewish Women, and served as state president of the League of Women Voters of R.I. She helped organize the "Shalom Israel" program to introduce Rhode Island high school students to Israeli history and culture.

She played tennis and belonged to several bridge and book clubs. She enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren.

She leaves four sons: Dr. Andrew Kaplan and his wife, Sandra, of Scarsdale, N.Y.; Drs. Richard Kaplan and his wife, Sharon Neulinger, of Atlanta, Ga.; Jeff Kaplan and his wife, Ellen Cohen-Kaplan, of Newton, Mass.; and Peter and his wife, Joyce, of Needham, Mass.; a daughter, Lisa Lubka of Valley Village, Calif.; two sisters, Ann Schusselberg and Thelma Rod-

bell, both of New York City; and 13 grandchildren. She was the sister of the late Frieda Markel and Joseph Markel.

Contributions may be made to the NCJW, 53 West 23rd St., 6th floor, New York, NY 10010-4204.

Rabbi Philip Kaplan, 88

PAWTUCKET — Rabbi Philip Kaplan, a respected educator and volunteer in Rhode Island, died on Jan. 2. He was born in Albany, N.Y., the son of Anna and Abraham Kaplan. He grew up in Brooklyn, N.Y., attended Yeshiva University High School and College and received rabbinical ordination from Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik at the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary in 1942.

In 1945 he married Esther Koffler, daughter of the late Sarah and Charles Koffler of Providence.

He served as a congregational rabbi for 36 years. He was a judge on the Rabbinical Court at the Rabbinical Council of New England in Boston for 40 years, and served as the president of the council for eight years. He served as a chaplain for 20 years at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Providence and at the Walpole Prison in Massachusetts.

Rabbi Kaplan was a member of the Rabbinical Council of America, and the Yeshiva University Alumnae. He served on the board of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, was a charter member of the Artleboro Ministerial Association, president of the Artleboro Mental Health Association, and president of the Big Brothers of Artleboro. He received awards from the Israel Bonds Association. In 1959, he and his wife were presented to Queen Elizabeth and Prince

See RABBI KAPLAN, next page

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Obituaries

RABBI PHILIP KAPLAN

From previous page

Philip on their visit to Sarnia, Ontario where he had a pulpit.

Besides his wife, he leaves a daughter, Andrea D. Lieberman and her husband Dr. Michael J. Lieberman of North Bellmore, N.Y.; a son, Dr. Allan S. Kaplan and his wife, Cheryl, of Toronto, Ont.; a brother, Dr. Solomon Kaplan of New Rochelle, N.Y.; six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Contributions may be made to the Rabbi Philip Kaplan Memorial Fund of Yeshiva University, c/o Rabbi Herbert Dobrinsky, 500 W. 185th St., New York, N.Y. 10033.

Charles A. Koirth, 97

SCARBOROUGH, Me. — Charles A. Koirth, 97, died Dec. 7. Born in Providence, he was a son of Samuel and Etta Koirth. He was the husband of the late Eva (Shepard) Koirth. They were married for 65 years.

He left Classical High School in the 1920s to work with his father selling fruits and vegetables from a horse and buggy.

He served in the U.S. Army for two years.

He progressed from car salesman to building and owning a Dodge-Plymouth dealership in Exeter, N. H., with his brother-in-law. After selling that business, he became a well-known real estate developer in Exeter.

Upon retiring, Mr. and Mrs. Koirth moved back to Providence.

He leaves a daughter and son-in-law, Sara and Daniel Boxer of Cape Elizabeth, Me., several grandchildren and great-grandchildren: Elisa and Doug and Evan Boxer-Cook of Scarborough, Me., and Andrew Charles, Adrienne and Owen Charles Boxer of Portland, Ore.; several nieces and nephews; and a dear friend, Frieda Boxer.

Contributions may be made to Hospice of Southern Maine, 901 Washington Ave., Portland, ME 04103.

Norman L. Levine, 85

PROVIDENCE — Norman L. Levine, 85, died Dec. 31. He was the husband of Barbara (Manheim) Levine. Born in Woonsocket, the son of the late Samuel and Minnie Levine, he had lived in Providence for more than 50 years.

He served in the U.S. Air Force during World War II.

A graduate of Union University in Tennessee, he managed the former Robert Hall Clothes in North Attleboro before retiring.

Mr. Levine was a member of Temple Emanu-El, Cranston Senior Guild and a former

member of the Bridge Club on Wayland Square.

Besides his wife, he leaves two daughters, Fredda Kearney and her husband William, of Seekonk and Joan Bookbinder and her husband, Jeffrey, of Warwick; and six grandchildren, Jennie, Michael, Jonathan, Karen, Laura and Rebecca. He was also the brother of the late Florence Golden, Ruth Golden, Ida Levine and Belle Rosner.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

Contributions may be made to Make A Wish Foundation, 757 Park Ave., Cranston, RI 02910.

Joyce Moretini, 73

CRANSTON — Joyce E. Moretini, 73, died Dec. 26. She was the wife of Anthony B. Moretini, for 24 years, and previously of the late Mitchell Kuhn. She was a daughter of the late Edward and Ida (Kamins) Schwartz.

She was a Cranston resident for over 40 years.

Mrs. Moretini worked for the tax collection office in Cranston, retiring in 1997.

She was past president of the Cranston Municipal Employees Association and a past president of Duteple P.T.A. An avid bridge player, she also enjoyed square dancing.

She leaves two daughters, Shelley Kuhn of Dallas, Texas, and Donna McDevitt and her husband William of Cranston; three step-daughters, Lynda Regine of Cranston, Carolyn Spring of Richmond, and Susan Moretini of Rumford; two step-sons, Anthony Moretini of Bristol and Mark Moretini of Chicago; a brother, Edward Schwartz of Walpole, Mass.; 11 step-grandchildren and six step-great-grandchildren.

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

Lillian Perlow

PROVIDENCE — Lillian (Rosenberg) Perlow died Jan. 7. She was the wife of the late Dr. Milton Perlow. Born in Boston, a daughter of the late Hyman and Ray (Seltzer) Rosenberg, she had lived in Pawtucket most of her life.

She leaves two daughters, Gail Perlow of East Providence and Mary Ellen Lee of Stroughton, Mass.; a sister, Jeanette Forman of Somerset; and two grandsons, Ryan and Jeffrey.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

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

Norma Robinson, 78

WARWICK — Norma Robinson died Jan. 14. She was

the wife of Harold Robinson. They were married for 57 years. Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Mark and Rebecca (Levin) Goldis, she had lived in Warwick for 51 years.

Mrs. Robinson was a member of the former Women's Association of the Jewish Home for the Aged.

Besides her husband, she leaves three daughters, Lisa Dowd of Cranston, Jill Eidam of Warwick and Jody Robinson of Narragansett; a sister, Elaine Brudner of Lompoc, Calif.; eight grandchildren, Mark, Shannon, Ryan, Hedy, Zach, Sarah, Samira and Sajad; and three great-grandchildren, Ruby, Celia and Wolfe. Contributions may be made to Care New England Hospice.

Eva Sapolski, 88

WARWICK — Eva (Rosenthal) Sapolski, 88, of Tamarisk, died Jan. 8. She was the wife of the late Asher Sapolski.

She was a community volunteer and teacher as well as devoted mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

Contributions may be made to the Leisure Club of Temple Emanu-El.

Edith Schiff, 88

PROVIDENCE — Edith Schiff, 88, died Jan. 12. She was the wife of the late Dr. Benzel L. Schiff. Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Harry D. and Minnie (Pritzker) Jagolinzer, she had lived in Pawtucket for 43 years before moving to Providence 13 years ago.

Mrs. Schiff was a columnist for the former "Rhode Island Jewish Herald." She was a member of Hadassah, Temple Beth-El and its Sisterhood and the Miriam Hospital Women's Association.

She leaves a son, Barry Schiff, and his wife, Pamela, of Cranston; a daughter, Susan Shapiro and her husband, Jeffrey, of Marlborough, Mass.; a brother, Norman Jagolinzer of Barrington; and a grandson, Bennett Schiff. She was the sister of the late Ruth Biller.

Contributions may be made to Temple Beth-El Brotherhood.

Bernard Zisman, 76

BARRINGTON — Bernard Zisman, 76, died Dec. 25. He was the husband of Marcia (Cohen) Zisman. Born in Providence, a son of the late Nathan and Charlotte (Shaefter) Zisman, he had been a resident of Barrington since 1972.

He was a graduate of the University of Rhode Island with a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering. He worked as an engineer in the helicopter industry before becoming

proprietor of the BZ Engineering Corp. for 15 years, retiring in 1998.

He was stationed in Austria during the Korean War, serving as a helicopter chief in the U. S. Air Force.

Mr. Zisman was a member of the Rhode Island Chapter of the National Tooling and Machining Association and was an active board member.

He was an avid sailor and

tennis player.

Besides his wife, he leaves a son, David Zisman, and his wife, Maria, of Palm Bay, Fla.; a daughter, Stacey Carter and her husband, Scott; three granddaughters, Aliya, Ava and Sofia; and an aunt, Sophie Blisten of Providence.

Contributions may be made to the Philip Hulitar Hospice Center, 50 Maude St., Providence, RI 02908.

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My Voice

Green Party errs on divestment policy

Daniel Orenstein in Sede Boker, Israel. At Brown, he is investigating the demographic, policy and economic drivers of land use in Israel and the environmental/ecological implications of those changes. He lived in Israel for 10 years.

By Daniel Orenstein

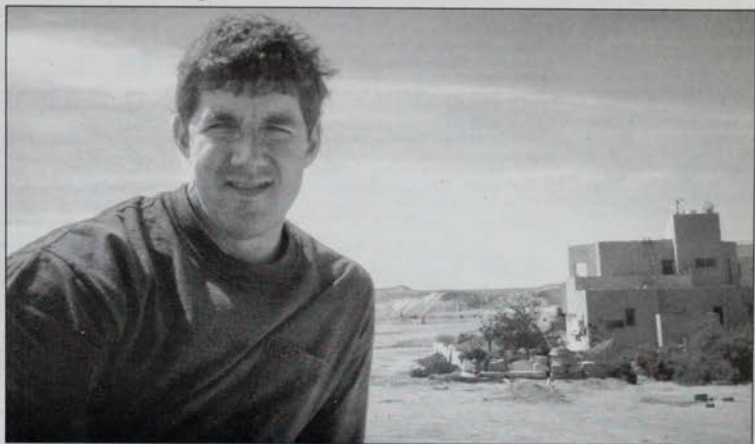
The Green Party of the United States (GPUS) publicly calls for divestment from and boycott of the State of Israel until such time as the full individual and collective rights of the Palestinian people are realized... The party calls on all civil society institutions and organizations around the world to implement a comprehensive divestment and boycott program. Further, the party calls on all governments to support this program and to implement state level boycotts.

— Resolution adopted by the Green Party of the United States, Nov. 21, 2005

On a research trip to the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in the winter of 2002, I passed through three security checks to enter the campus, and a fourth to get into the cafeteria. Six months earlier, a bomb planted by a Hamas member had exploded in a crowded university cafeteria, killing 10 people and injuring 85. As I visited the site, I thought of the boycott of Israel being planned by two French universities. The irony of this two-front assault on Israeli academia — bombs and boycotts — was hard to process. Many foreign universities were advising their students to avoid Israel due to terrorism risks, other universities were considering a comprehensive boycott of Israeli universities for alleged compliance in Israeli human rights abuses.

The university conundrum is a microcosm of the situation facing Israel in general; violence at home and repudiation abroad. Kassam rockets from Gaza and a nuclear shadow from Iran are causing increasing consternation in Israel. Meanwhile the boycott, which was generally unsuccessful in American and European Universities, has spread to the Presbyterian Church, other churches and now to the Green Party of the United States.

It would be relatively simple for me to write an editorial about the Green Party accusing them of myopia, (why only Israel when there are so many more heinous and racist regimes across the globe?); one-sidedness, (why do they fail to hold the Pal-



estinians accountable for their violent acts?) and extremism, (why a broad attack on all of Israel, rather than a pinpoint attack on the occupation?)

The situation, though, is not so simple: Israel is not devoid of blame in our violent conflict with the Palestinians. Our Jewish democracy has its failings; some in the form of institutionalized prejudice in laws pertaining to land use and immigration, others in the form of discrimination in government funding and occupational opportunities. As an Israeli and a Zionist, I am proud of Israel's democracy; as such,

Divestment a 'punishment'

I do not buy the argument, however, that divestment is the appropriate response, for several reasons. First, divestment is a collective punishment, not against settlers who break the law, soldiers who abuse their positions, or even politicians who perpetuate the occupation but against all Israelis. If the Green Party opposes occupation, why have they not taken the same tactic as Gush Shalom and the Israeli peace movement and called for a boycott of products made in the West Bank? The answer is that divestment (regardless of the intent)

Divestment (regardless of the intent) is a tool designed to punish a nation and not a policy.

desire for significant and swift improvement of her institutions is borne of my desire for a better nation.

An interrelated failure is Israel's 38-year occupation of the West Bank and (until last summer) Gaza, which gave rise to the Jewish settler movement, two Intifadas and the increasingly brutal realities of Palestinian life under occupation. Israel's inability to extricate herself from the territories has not only exacerbated the conflict, but has affected both Palestinian and Israeli life detrimentally in countless ways. Most Israelis and American Jews understand that it is in Israel's interest to end the occupation.

The Green Party boycott, according to one local Green Party activist I spoke with, is primarily a protest against Israel's occupation. As progressive Americans, viewing what they perceive to be a heavily armed and funded Israel violating the human rights of Palestinians, they simply do not want their money funding the abuser. The boycott is also a method to draw attention to the issue. Protesting, writing letters, and petitioning have had little impact: the occupation continues. Divestment is a non-violent strategy to resolve the conflict where no other strategies have worked. I share many of the activist's frustrations with Israel's policies, if not his interpretations of how those policies came about.

is a tool designed to punish a nation and not a policy. That is the message advocates of divestment are promoting: that Israel is an apartheid state that should be rejected by the global community.

Second, this step against Israel assumes that Israel is responsible for perpetuation of the conflict. Reading the Green Party electronic bulletin boards and press releases reveals a biased perspective: that Israel is only interested in colonizing the Palestinian land, and the peace process is a sham. They systematically disregard Palestinian obstinacy and violence as a logical, however unfortunate, reaction to Israeli oppression. Likewise, they disregard corruption in Palestinian leadership. In fact, a consistently high proportion of Israelis have always sought a way to leave the territories occupied in 1967, and this proportion has grown to a majority in recent years. Further, both the Rabin and Barak governments made sincere efforts towards a negotiated two-state settlement with the Palestinians, rejected by Yasser Arafat who was unwilling to take the final steps towards coexistence with Israel.

Third, the Greens have taken this step against Israel because they reason that we in the United States have leverage against Israel, and that we cannot influence Iran or Sudan or the Palestinians in the same way. Israel is a recognized, "Western"

state, they say, and should be held to a higher standard than any of its enemies. This line of reasoning is ludicrous, as it justifies reprimanding Israel because it is democratic and then punishes it for not being democratic. Green Party member Fred Hoseny III writes: "We should reject strategic violence of all parties, and assert a higher standard of accountability for Israel, as a duly constituted state, than for the fragmented Palestinian society and the chaotic gangs that have resulted from Israel's corruptive occupation." The Palestinians, in this Green narrative, are just automatons that respond to Israel, but make no independent decisions regarding their fate.

Fourth, the Green Party has taken no major initiatives on terror, racism, or military of any other country aside from Israel, other than their protest of U.S. foreign policy. While they make taken condemnations of terrorist violence in Egypt, London or Palestine, it is always in the context of explaining terrorism in terms of Israeli (or U.S.) actions. The Greens have adopted a concrete measure designed to isolate and punish Israel. The United Nations once suffered this chauvinism, culminating with the infamous "Zionism is Racism" proclamation. The UN threat that resolution out 15 years after its adoption; this gives hope that the Greens will do the same with their equally prejudicial proposal, and in much less time.

Finally, the absurd bias against Israel spoils the Green Party's credentials to be an influential player in the conflict. They could have chosen to engage both sides, and bring them together, but instead they've chosen to rally around their favorite. This tactic, unfortunately, emboldens the most extreme anti-Israel elements. As for the Israelis, a majority of whom want to leave the territories, they will leave when they feel their security is assured, not when they feel threatened.

Daniel Orenstein is a Ph.D. candidate at Brown University in the Center for Environmental Studies and co-chair of the Green Zionist Alliance, www.greenzionism.org (in relation to the Green Party of the United States).

Mazal Tov*Simchas***Births**

Zachary Hastings Nedell

Karen and Stephen Nedell of Malden, Mass., announce the birth of their first child, Zachary Hastings Nedell on Dec. 29, 2005. He weighed 8 pounds, 6 ounces. His Hebrew name is Moishe Herschel.

His maternal grandparents are Barbara and Louis Newman of Poughkeepsie, N.Y. His paternal grandparents are Doris and Edward Nedell of Manlius, N.Y. His maternal great-grandmother is Gertrude Newman of Providence and his paternal great-grandmother is Charlotte Nedell of Rochester, N.Y.

Joseph Spraragen and Pam Scheininger of Teaneck, N.J., announce the birth of their son, Shalom Yoel, on Dec. 13. He was welcomed by his two sisters, Bruria and Tamar.

Shalom is the grandson of Dr. and Mrs. Sanford C. Spraragen of East Greenwich and Mr. and Mrs. Les Scheininger of Toronto, Canada.

Graduation

Benjamin Kaplan, son of Gladys and Jerome Kaplan of Cranston, graduated summa cum laude from Johnson & Wales University with a bachelor of science degree in accounting. He was also

Engagements

David and Nancy Mills of Cranston announce the engagement of their daughter, **Jamie Beth Mills**, to **Carl Russell Sisson**, son of Patricia Sisson of Westerly and the late William Sisson.

Jamie is a graduate of Cranston High School West and Rhode Island College. She teaches special education in the Cranston School Dept.

Carl is a graduate of Westerly High School and Rhode Island College. He is an associate producer at WPRI/WNAC TV in East Providence.

A wedding is planned for July 4, 2006.



Jamie Mills and Carl Sisson



Robert Brooks and Margaret Landman

University with a degree in civil engineering; he is national design manager for the Parsons-Brinkerhoff Sports and Entertainment Group, located in Boston.

The couple plans a May 2006 wedding.

Margaret Landman of Warwick and **Robert (Bob) Brooks** of Hamilton, Mass., announce their engagement. She is the daughter of the late Raymond E. Johnson and the late Lily F. Johnson of Warwick. He is the son of Vivian K. Brooks of Cambridge, Mass.

The bride-to-be graduated from Brown University with undergraduate and doctoral degrees in economics; she is chairperson of the Dept. of Economics at Bridgewater State College. The bridegroom-to-be graduated from Northeastern

University with a degree in civil engineering; he is national design manager for the Parsons-Brinkerhoff Sports and Entertainment Group, located in Boston. The couple plans a May 2006 wedding.

inducted into Alpha Beta Kappa, a national honor society, by the Johnson & Wales Alpha chapter.

Kaplan is presently attending the Johnson & Wales graduate program for his M.B.A., and currently

works as a client advisor for the CPA firm Restivo Monacelli, LLP, in downtown Providence. He is married to Rachael Roberts and resides in Warwick.

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**Wedding**

David Robinson and Sharon Stern

David Robinson and **Sharon Stern** were married Oct. 15, 2005 at Temple Beth-El in Providence. Rabbi Leslie Gutterman and Cantor Judith Seplovnik officiated.

Marc A. Robinson was best man for his father, and Hollie A. Palombo served as maid of honor for her mother.

The bridegroom is the son of the late Lester and Janet Robinson of Providence. The bride is the daughter of the late Sidney and Hannah Stern of Cranston.

The couple honeymooned in France and Italy. They live in Cranston.

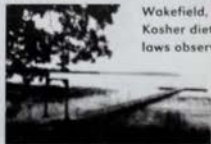
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