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# Rhode Island Jewish HERALD

The Only English-Jewish Weekly in Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts

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VOLUME LXIX, NUMBER 20

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## NEWS AT A GLANCE

• Negotiations between the leaders of the Labor Party's "One Israel" list are still looking for a formula that would enable MK Alex Lubotzky to move over from his current position in the Centrist Party. Lubotzky left the Third Way party but reports indicate he is less than pleased with his current position in the centrist lineup and would be willing to entertain a serious offer from Labor. Lubotzky, a resident of the Gush Etzion (Judea) community of Efrat, is an observant Jew considered to be a political "dove" and a potential attraction for religious votes for the One Israel list.

• Israel on March 25 blocked more than 30 trucks from entering into "Israel proper" from Gaza following the PLO Authority's blocking Israeli trucks at the Karni Crossing. The PA explained their stopping the trucks was an act of protest over the fees being levied against the trucks, ranging from NIS 200 to NIS 500, depending on the size of a truck. They explained the new tax would make it impossible for drivers to make any profit on the loads they were carrying.

• Dozens of new immigrant families from Cuba will be celebrating their first seder in Israel this year, *Ma'ariv* reported. The families arrived in Israel by the Jewish Agency as part of a large operation bringing hundreds of families from Cuba. There are still approximately 1,500 Jews living in Cuba. *The Jerusalem Post* reported that an overwhelming majority of Jewish Israelis (95.8 percent) participate in a Passover seder ceremony, and two-thirds of them read the Haggadah in its entirety, a poll shows. The average gathering for a seder night is 18 people, and appears to be the same in the religious and secular sectors all over the country. Another poll indicates only 27 percent of Jewish Israelis clear hametz (unleavened bread) from their homes for Passover, while 25 percent do not conduct special cleaning for this holiday.

## Protecting Children is Rhode Island's Top Priority

by Kimberly Ann Orlandi  
Herald Editor

Every day in the United States, four children die from child abuse; 8,189 children are reported abused or neglected. In Rhode Island, 37 children are reported each day as victims of



Governor Lincoln Almond

abuse and/or neglect. To combat the growing problem of abuse, the Rhode Island Child Abuse Prevention Coalition, to-

gether with Governor Lincoln Almond, Patriots' quarterback Drew Bledsoe and Nick, Ron and Pete Cardi of Cardi's Furniture came together on March 26, at the Providence Marriott, to foster awareness concerning the growing epidemic and to proclaim April as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

"Our challenge," said Almond, "is to get all Rhode Islander's to step up to the plate and mentor a child. Homes should be a place of encouragement, not where children suffer."

The theme of this year's campaign is "They look up to you. Be a hero to a child!" and in the wake of the recent senseless violence in which a Providence father took the lives of his three innocent children before turning the gun on himself, the message couldn't be clearer. "Every effort to help children should be recognized because the responsibility of being a parent can be overwhelming. We can all use a good team," said

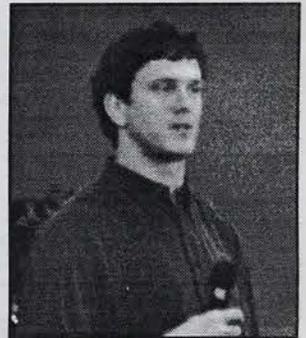
campaign chairpersons the Cardi brothers.

That sentiment was echoed by the campaign's honorary chair, Drew Bledsoe, himself a new father of 17-month old Stu, named after Bledsoe's hero, his grandfather Stewart. Even with all of the luxuries afforded to Bledsoe and his wife, he, too, admits that being a parent can be overwhelming at times, even for a professional football player.

"There are a lot of things you don't understand when you become a parent for the first time," said Bledsoe to a room full of media and invited guests, many fans of his, "especially crying—that can be an unnerving situation since the child can't verbally express his desires. But people need to know that no matter how much stress they're under, it is never acceptable to take it out on a child."

That is the message of the Drew Bledsoe Foundation and the "Parenting With Dignity" program, a video program

which teaches parents how to be a friend to a child and to offer some simple techniques on how



Drew Bledsoe

to raise children, including being a role model to kids. For Bledsoe, his greatest role model and hero was his grandfather Stewart, a man who taught his grandson the real meaning of being a hero. Bledsoe, at times visibly moved when reliving the

(Continued on Page 15)

## RIH and Miriam Hospital Announce Layoffs

Due to severe financial constraints caused by deep cuts in Medicare reimbursement, Rhode Island Hospital and The Miriam Hospital are laying off 269 employees. These changes reflect a seasonal downturn in patient census, as well as more significant cuts made necessary by the economic realities. It is likely that the number of people actually losing their jobs will be smaller, because as many as a third of those laid off are expected to find positions elsewhere in the Lifespan health care system.

"Although significant, the number of employees actually laid off has been minimized through the use of overtime and per diem employees. During the past several months, as turnover has occurred, we have decreased our recruitment of new staff and relied more heavily on these options," said Steven D. Baron, president of Rhode Island Hospital and The Miriam Hospital. "This personnel management strategy has enabled us to reduce the number of full-time and part-time employees laid off," he said.

The reductions include management and non-management, union and non-union employees, representing about four percent of the workforce at the two hospitals. The layoffs and other changes are expected to save about \$16 million annu-

ally. The two hospitals lost \$8.6 million through the first quarter, which ended in December.

"I want to stress that we are not changing the number of patient care hours at the bedside as we make these difficult decisions," said Edward M. Schottland, COO of Rhode Island and The Miriam hospitals. "These layoffs, while unwanted, are necessary to address losses that are unacceptably large. We have no further layoffs planned and we intend to closely manage costs and look to increase revenues where possible."

The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 drastically cut Medicare reimbursement to hospitals. From 1998 to 2002, hospitals in the state of Rhode Island are slated to lose \$220 million. That money is critical to teaching hospitals, such as Rhode Island and The Miriam, across the country. The Medicare cuts come at a time when managed care insurers are also reducing their payments.

"Truly remarkable is that, despite currently high admissions necessitating the reopening of beds at both hospitals, busy operating rooms and growing outpatient services, our revenues are down," said Baron. "This situation is not unique to us, but is a significant problem throughout the Northeast."

## Protect Our Children — Stop Child Abuse and Neglect

Events and educational programs planned for  
Child Abuse Prevention Month include:

"Hero Day" — a child's program at Providence Children's Museum, April 19 from noon to 2 p.m. Through conversation and activities, the children will create the "Hero Wall of Fame" — a mosaic of everyday heroes in their lives. Call 273-KIDS for details.

"I Have A Hero Campaign" — Every elementary, middle school, and high school principal and each library in Rhode Island have been asked to participate in Child Abuse Prevention Month by hosting their own Hero Celebration. Call Kristen Allen at 766-3384 to learn how to get involved.

"You Can Be A Hero Too Campaign" — 1,000 "Hero Bags" will be distributed to women's shelters throughout the state. They will include information about child abuse and neglect, social services contacts, recommended activities for parent and children and food coupons. For details, call PCA-RI at 728-7920.



## Little Showoffs!

ASDS fourth-grade students Rachel Isser, Jason Hochman, Michael Shuster and Jon Wolpert show off their Purim outfits.

Photo by Liz Goldberg

# HAPPENINGS

## Entertainment For Children

The Providence Children's Museum, 100 South St., Providence announces the following activities. Call 273-KIDS.

### April

- 4 **Bell Atlantic Free Sunday.** From 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., kids of all ages are invited to laugh, play, learn, climb, explore and discover for free, courtesy of Bell Atlantic.
- 6 **Sportscaster.** From 3 to 4:30 p.m., kids ages 6 and up meet WPRI/12 Sportscaster Patrick Little, who gives the inside scoop on sports reporting. Little shares some of the great stories he's covered and demonstrates a simulated television sportscast. Hitting the sports beat, "cub" reporters take a microphone in hand and give their own sports reports. Same day registration available at admissions desk. There is no fee beyond the price of admission.
- 7 **Play Ball!** From 3 to 4:30 p.m., kids ages 5 and up celebrate baseball's opening day with a tribute to America's favorite past-time. Young fans hear captivating tales from the diamond and view precious baseball artifacts, including a dynamite baseball card collection. Young sluggers take a swing at indoor "batting practice" then take a seventh-inning stretch, when they nibble on Cracker Jacks. Same-day registration available at admissions desk. There is no fee beyond the price of admission.
- 8 **Play & Learn.** From 3 to 4:30 p.m., toddlers ages 2 to 4 listen to stories, play games and explore the cozy woodland environment of Littlewoods.

## URI Fashion Merchandising Society to Present Fashion Show

### Show to Feature Student-Created Fashions

Do you want to see what designs the University of Rhode Island students have on the world of fashion? Or do you just want to have a fun night out, seeing just how creative URI Textiles, Fashion Merchandising and Design students are?

Then be at the "Millennium" fashion show April 7 from 7 to 9 p.m. in the ballroom of the Memorial Union. Tickets for students are \$3, and general admission is \$5. Tickets can be purchased at the memorial Union Box Office, Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The phone number is 874-2832.

About 70 student-designed and created outfits will be modeled by students in the department

## Calendar: April 1st thru April 7th

- 1 **Rhode Island College Bannister Gallery** presents "Scorched Earth — Changing Concepts in Ceramics." April 1 through 30. 7 p.m.  
**Trinity Repertory Theatre**, 201 Washington St., Providence, presents "A Preface to The Alien Garden." April 1 through 3. Call 351-4242.  
**The Providence Art Club**, 9 Thomas St., Providence, exhibits work by Al Albrekton and Jim Myette. Weekdays 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sat. noon to 3 p.m.; and Sun. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 1 to 4. Call 331-1114.  
**The Newport Art Museum**, 76 Bellvue Ave., Newport, presents works by James Baker, Mon. through Sat., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sun. noon to 5 p.m. April 1 through 18. Call 848-8200.  
**Spring Blossoms:** Seasonal Japanese prints, Museum of Art, RISD, 224 Benefit St., Providence, April 1 through 30. Call 454-6500.  
**Susan Brown Creative Show**, OOP!, 297 Thayer St., Providence. Whimsical and witty chairs, tables, boxes, mirrors and coatracks. April 1 through 30. Call 455-0844.  
**The R.I. Watercolor Society** exhibits works from four artist members April 1 through 23. Slater Memorial Park, Armistice Boulevard, Pawtucket. Tues. through Sat., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sun. 1 to 5 p.m. Call 726-1876.  
**Celebrate the Second Night seder** with Perspectives. A traditional seder and a full Passover feast catered by Izzy's Kosher Catering. \$18, 6:30 p.m., 106 Angell St., Providence. Call Sharon at 863-9357.
- 2 **Sunset Hike With Llamas.** 6:30 p.m. Hike through forest trails accompanied by these savvy South American trail blazers. Groups of six or more required. The Llama Farma, Nate Whipple Highway, Cumberland. Call 334-1873.  
**East Greenwich Photo** presents "Earthway" by Marge Tudino, an exhibit of drawings and paintings, 631 Main St., East Greenwich. Call 884-0220.
- 4 **Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston** presents "Jewish Genealogical Resources in New York City." Lecture presented by Steven Siegel, president of the Jewish Historical Society of New York. Temple Reyim, 1860 Washington St., West Newton, Mass., 2 to 5 p.m., tickets \$3 non-members. Call (617) 796-8522.
- 5 **Providence: A Celebration of City Life.** A selection of 15 works on paper depicting the city as it prepares for the new millennium. Bert Gallery, 540 South Water St., Providence. April 5 through 30. Call 751-2628.
- 6 **"Jekyll & Hyde"** comes to the Wang/Shubert Theatre, Boston, April 6 through 11. A chilling and powerful adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson's story of a man's fascination with evil. Tickets are \$28.50 to \$68.50. Call (617) 482-9393 or telecharge at (800) 447-7400.

## Chai Center Announces Yizkor Service

The special late Yizkor service will be held on April 8, corresponding to the 22nd Nissan, at the CHAI Center, 15 Centerville Road, Warwick, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Mark the date on your calendar, and try to attend.

## Feldman Watercolor Paintings at Library

J.P. Feldman will exhibit her paintings and collages in the Cranston Public Library Rear Gallery, 140 Sockanosset Cross Road, from April 6 through April 30. The exhibit will feature florals and abstract subjects in watercolor and collage.

## John F. Kennedy Library Public Forums

On April 6 at the John F. Kennedy Library and Museum, a forum will be held entitled "Russia's Nuclear Legacy: Coping With the New Threat." A forum on the threat posed by Russia's insecure nuclear stockpiles and the opportunity they provide for nuclear terrorism involving weapons of mass destruction will be held by author Richard Falkenrath of the Kennedy School of Government; Paul Atwood, of the Joiner Center; and Edmund Beard, director of the Center for Democracy and Development.

The time will be 5:30 to 7:15 p.m. The library is located at Columbia Point, Boston. It is free to the public. For more information, call (617) 929-4571.

## Cranston's YMCA Splash Centers on Kids' Safety

For parents, kids' safety is a primary concern, especially when there is an added risk factor. When kids don't know how to swim, water — whether it's a lake, a backyard pool, or somewhere else — is just such a factor. During the week of April 19 through 26, the YMCA of Cranston will be offering YMCA Splash to help lower the risk of 150 kids and set their parents' minds at ease. Splash is a free week of swim lessons for non-member children age 6 and older.

The Splash program will have a different theme for each day — pool safety, beach safety, backyard pool safety, boating safety and the celebration.

Drowning is the third cause of death for children under age 5. In 1993, there were 4,800 drowning deaths nationwide.

Registration for YMCA Splash is open now and is free to non-YMCA members. For more information, call Scott Stevens at 943-0444 or stop by the YMCA at 1225 Park Avenue.

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Barney's, Oaklawn Ave.  
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 Brooks, Reservoir Ave.  
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### Providence and Vicinity

Barney's, East Avenue, Pawtucket  
 Books on the Square, Wayland Square (on Angell)  
 College Hill Book Store, Thayer St.  
 EastSide Marketplace, Pitman St.  
 East Side Prescription Center, Hope St.  
 J. Elliott's, Hope St.  
 Rhoda's Judaica, Hope St.

# JEWISH COMMUNITY

## PHDS Art Classes Focus on Masters

by Emily Torgan-Shalansky  
Jewish Community Reporter

Georgia O'Keeffe's immortal flowers and the creative energies of 12 first-graders blossomed at a Providence Hebrew Day School art class on March 17.

In a sunny classroom filled with bulletin boards and books bearing O'Keeffe's renditions of blooms and bones, youngsters at numerous stations painted, traced, colored, drew, and put together collages that bore the unmistakable imprint of O'Keeffe's style.

"Each semester, we concentrate on one artist," explained

Beverly Hall, who teaches art to grades one through six and secular curriculum to the first and second grades. "We learn about that artist in depth, and also about where their art comes from in terms of the period and history behind it. The whole school studies the same person, and each grade works at its own level."

Hall, who has taught art at PHDS for four years, developed the concept for this unique approach to art class herself.

"I feel that it gives the students an opportunity to connect with the artists in a way that is meaningful to them," she ex-

plained. "They are free to experiment with that artist's technique and style, and they are able to see that they can do work that has merit."

Stepping around a classroom filled with groups of first-graders writing, painting, coloring, and more, Hall said she had opted for workstations to give her students greater flexibility and exposure to a variety of media.

"This way, they can choose what they want to do," she said. "They can stay there until they're satisfied with their projects. Then they can move on to something else."

The color-coded stations included one with books about O'Keeffe and materials to write about her, a crayon and pastel area, and a place for pencil sketching.

"There, they can look at O'Keeffe's paintings and read books about her," Hall explained. "They can do sentence completions about the facts of her life. At the sketching station, they learn to enlarge flowers like she did."

Hall also pointed out an easel where students work on still lifes and a painting area laden with watercolors and acrylic paints.

"We've done some work with looking at flowers," she said. "At first many of the students made them all one color, but as they worked they started to really use their eyes."

Hall stopped under a wall-length bulletin board decorated with pictures of O'Keeffe's work and short compositions about her life.

"This is a mural," she explained. "We always take something from every station and create one big mural that is multi-grade and multi-media."

"We love to color, and we love to make things big," explained Yossi Shriki and Azriel Jakubowicz, who had worked together on a crayon drawing of a red blossom. "Georgia O'Keeffe copied flowers a whole lot bigger than this."

"I had a lot of fun painting this," said Chani Diamond, standing by a bright, multi-colored blossom that she had just completed.

Hall hopes that her approach will enable the students to carry their art lessons beyond the classroom.

"Last year, we did a yearlong project on Impressionism, and the youngsters talked about it at home and brought information in," she said. "The whole school was crazy over Monet. This year, one child who was taking a ceramics class at the JCC made Georgia O'Keeffe-like clay flowers and brought them to class." In addition to helping students connect with the artists they will later encounter, Hall uses the theme-based lessons to help the children relate to each other.

"This facilitates socialization," she explained. "They learn to critique each other's work here. They learn to find positive things, and they tend to be very complimentary."



PHDS ART TEACHER BEVERLY HALL helps first-graders Yossi Shriki and Azriel Jakubowicz emulate the work of artist, Georgia O'Keeffe.

Photo by Emily Torgan-Shalansky

## 'What Is a Jew?' Winds Up at Temple Beth-El

by Emily Torgan-Shalansky  
Jewish Community Reporter

So what is a Jew? Because members of Temple Beth-El's outreach and adult enrichment committees wanted to help themselves and others approach this question, they presented a program entitled "What is a Jew?" on four successive Sundays from March 7 to 28.

The idea for the four-event series, explained outreach committee chairperson, Deborah Johnson, developed at the outreach committee's annual meeting in October.

"Here at Beth-El, we have a sizable number of interfaith memberships," she said. "The outreach committee does programs to accommodate the somewhat non-traditional needs of this group. We also do 'in-reach' programming for Jews who are seeking information about their Judaism."

At the meeting, Johnson said, a large group of outreach committee members discussed what they needed to ask and answer.

"We came up with this four-part program to get to the questions that seemed to be the most pressing," said Johnson, who then approached adult enrichment committee chairman, Doug Blake, about co-presenting "What is a Jew?"

"The first two events were of general interest," Johnson explained.

On March 7, a panel of Beth-El members — Barbara St. John, Judith Lubiner, and Alan Rosenberg — discussed their notions of what comprises a good Jew as David Josephs moderated.

On March 14, Rabbi Michael

Cahana conducted an educational tour of the synagogue.

"I also talked about the services and presented some Jewish ideas," said Rabbi Cahana. "It was open to all and any questions."

On March 21, Rabbi Leo Abrami delivered a lecture that placed Jesus in a historical context.

"Jesus is that kind of rallying point that [interfaith] people really have to wrangle with," explained Johnson. "As Jesus is a key difference between Judaism and Christianity, we looked at the issue from a historical perspective."

At the fourth and final event, psychologist Robert Cable, a Rhode Island-based expert in adolescent development, discussed the effects of dual-religion homes on children.

According to Cable, statistics indicate that children who grow up in homes with more than one faith may experience a greater number of identity-related problems than those in single-religion households.

Teens Alexandra Bolotow, Leah Serinsky, and others from interfaith homes shared some personal experiences.

"These are very important issues," said Rabbi Cahana of "What is a Jew?" and other outreach committee activities.

"There are more and more interfaith families, and a lot of them are operating without a great deal of information. They have to make their own decisions without hearing from others or knowing what the experts have said. We approach these topics from an unabashedly Jewish perspective, and they have been extremely well received."

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## The Feinstein Chronicles

April 1999 No. 21



Latest winning students in our banknote game: Edward Magnotta of Gladstone Street School in Cranston, Adam Emery of Myron Francis in Rumford, Tila Groden of St. Philomena's in Portsmouth, Courtney Hugo of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Bristol, Erika Molignano of Martin Junior High in East Providence, Happyhardy Guinguing of J.H. Gaudet Middle in Middletown, Dean Thurston of Lineham in West Greenwich, and Cynthia Lachapelle of Kickemuit Middle in Warren.

Congratulations! Be sure to let me know the charity you and your classmates choose for your donation.

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20010222	21317452	20465631	21232007	21191006
20014085	20324738	20816005	20679093	20018857

Results of our second annual challenge to raise money for anti-hunger agencies will be coming in next week. We're hoping to better last year's record \$33 million.

Signers to our petition calling on Congress to make a commitment to ending hunger in America now at 203,155. For latest update, see our website at <www.FeinsteinFoundation.com>.

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# OPINION

## Count Your Blessings

by Velvel 'Wally' Spiegler

As I gaze upon those near and dear to me: My wife of 42 years, our children and grandchildren, extended family and friends, I realize I have a choice of two views. I can either take them for granted, as I am sometimes prone to do, or I can count them as blessings. We talk a lot about blessings, but do we really understand what they mean? We know that blessings are the building blocks of prayer — prayer which consists of extended and expanded blessings, that usually concludes with "baruch atah Adonai." Yotzer, for example, the prayer that follows the *Borchu*, the call to prayer, goes on, depending on the particular prayerbook, for pages and ends with "Blessed are you L-rd, Eternal One, creator of the heavenly lights."

So blessing could be a phrase that keeps our mind focused on G-d as we do in prayer. We have choices concerning blessings too. I can bless someone, as I customarily bless my grandchildren on the eve of Shabbat, with the words "May you be like Ephraim and Manasseh..." which is a giving blessing. I can also receive blessings as I might from the Priestly Blessings, "May G-d bless you and keep you." In either case blessings transmit something righteous, something worthy and always benevolent. Blessings include both giving and receiving. We need blessings to live. We ask G-d to provide them and sustenance, healing, forgiveness, knowledge, etc. — in the *Amidah* of the daily prayer service. Whether I bless or am blessed, I am a conductor of G-d's power from which I derive everything I count as a blessing.

In Hebrew they're called *berachot* and in Yiddish they're *bruchas*. Blessings were first encountered when Jacob deceived his father Isaac to claim the bless-

ings intended for his older brother, but the first connection of blessings to prayer goes back to the second century B.C.E. in the Book of Daniel. "And he kneeled upon his knees three times a day and prayed, and gave thanks before his G-d" (Daniel 6:11). The Hebrew equivalent of "kneel" became the word for blessing, a brief prayer acknowledging G-d's role in each act we perform.

When is the proper time to recite a blessing? We are taught to say them before or after special occasions — partaking of various foods and drink or certain rituals of the synagogue — but there doesn't seem to be a definitive prescription for the right time. The sanctioned inventory of Jewish blessings acknowledge certain natural occurrences: — for the delight of food and drink, for wondrous sights, for fragrant aromas and providing safety during travel. While other actions, like "charitable contributions," don't require blessing. It was Abraham Joshua Heschel, after the march with Dr. Martin Luther King from Selma to Montgomery, who proudly proclaimed, "I was praying with my feet." We, too, can make ordinary events special by reciting a blessing and an intention to make it a prayer. Certain activities, particularly artistic endeavors — music, drawing, writing, crafts — lend themselves to prayer as we become totally absorbed in the action after reciting a blessing. These blessings can be recited in English; you can compose your own words as long as the intention is genuine. Reciting the blessings affirms, sanctifies, and creates an awareness of the action as prayer, elevating it to holiness.

The Tree of Life, the diagram that Jewish mystics consider the lowest common denominator of all existence, portrays G-d's light

radiating down upon us and manifesting into all our earthly needs, both physical and spiritual. Yet the mystics say that the Divine light needs to be returned to its source in order to keep the cosmic circuitry flowing. That's what makes the world go round. This clarifies the connection between prayer, blessings and the laws of sacrifice. The destruction of the Temple, 2,000 years ago, ended the system of sacrifices and the rabbis, the early sages, in their wisdom replaced sacrifice with the order of prayer. The most holy sacrifice, the burnt offering, with its "pleasing aroma" rose upwards as a symbolic gesture to return to G-d what we have received.

We are all blessed. We're overflowing with blessings, the power that sustains life. The Divine source is an endless wellspring of blessings. We

(Continued on Page 15)

## Jewish War Veterans Appalled by 'Family Guy'

by Michael B. Berman

Super Bowl Sunday has always been a major television event. Commercials cost millions of dollars just for a 30-second spot, tickets to the actual game costs thousands, and whatever network carries the game plugs its own shows to death.

This year was no exception. Throughout the game, Fox's newest television show, the animated "Family Guy," received multiple previews. After the game ended, the show aired with such "jokes" as GI Jew, a doll that comes with a bagel in one hand and a gun in the other.

"While I did not see the show, I have read accounts of the creators' pathetic attempts at humor and I must say that I am offended as a Jew, as a veteran and as a human being. GI Jew is the most offensive, abhorrent, tasteless product.

"Any cartoon that attempts to be funny by including Adolf Hitler as a victim needing support should be protested vigorously and passionately. There is a large portion of the world's inhabitants that are and will never be able to laugh at Adolf Hitler as a sympathetic character in any cartoon, TV show, novel or book.

"This TV show, ironically called 'Family Guy,' which demeans Jews, African Americans, gays and any other ethnic groups, should be cancelled and removed from the TV lineup. It's abhorrent that such a show would ever make it this far. It's time to make sure that it goes no farther. Weak attempts at humor which are based on intolerance and prejudice must not be allowed on our airways."

Michael B. Berman is the national commander of the Jewish War Veterans.

## The 'Wise' Versus The 'Wicked': A Recipe For Conflict

by David Arnov

If there is one part of the Haggadah that contemporary interpreters have labored to make more attractive, this is it: "The Torah alludes to four sons: One wise, one wicked, one simple, and one who does not know how to ask." A comfortable and common rendering suggests that rather than four types of children, this parable presents us with four tendencies within each of us.

Perhaps instead of trying to make this parable more palatable, we should look at the de-

scription of the wise child (*chacham*) and the wicked (*rasha*) with a more critical eye, as an unhealthy approach to dealing with the differences within our people. In fact, we might use this story as a lesson of what not to do when we encounter Jews with whom we disagree on religious matters.

According to the Haggadah, wisdom means uncritically embracing the framework of Jewish law in all its intricacies — "the testimonies and the statutes and the ordinances" commanded by G-d. Wickedness

involves questioning the meaning of those injunctions.

The ancient argument in favor of the *chacham* and against the *rasha* uses tactics familiar to anyone who has followed the recent strife along the religious divide. It begins with an attempt to commandeer tradition — "The Torah alludes to four sons" — as if those asking certain kinds of questions were singled out for praise or condemnation at Sinai itself. The Torah makes no mention of wise or wicked children. In discussing the celebra-

(Continued on Page 15)

## Regarding Pesach

At the Pesach seder, the number four is a very important number. We drink four cups of wine, ask the four questions and read about the four sons.

Q. What do the four cups of wine represent?

A. Here are some of the reasons. According to one opinion in the Talmud, the four cups represent the four expressions of redemption. When G-d told Moshe that He will take the Jewish people out of Egypt, He said, "And I will bring you out ("V'hotzeti") from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you ("V'hitzalti") from their bondage, and I will redeem you ("V'gaalti") with an outstretched arm and with great judgment. And I will take you ("V'lakachti") to Me for a people..." These four expressions (V'hotzeti, V'hitzalti, V'gaalti, V'lakachti) represent different stages in the redemption. To commemorate them, we drink four cups of wine.

According to another opinion in the Talmud, the reason is that Joseph, who spent many years in an Egyptian jail, was freed as a result of his interpreting the dream of Pharaoh's butler. In describing his dream to Joseph and Joseph's interpreta-

tion, the word "kos" — "cup" is mentioned four times. Because of this dream, Joseph was eventually taken out of prison and given his freedom. Thus, the four cups also represent Joseph's freedoms.

Abarbanel, who lived during the Spanish Inquisition, sees the four cups as assign for the four redemptions spread over the period of Jewish history. The

Matzot, that the Jewish people came out of Egypt.

Q. Why do we recite the blessing "Borei Pri HaGafen" over each of the four cups of wine?

A. Each cup constitutes a separate mitzvah. Therefore, we recite a separate blessing on each cup of wine.

According to the "Code of Jewish Law," one should acquire choice wine for the four cups. It is preferable to use red wine. The red wine reminds us of the blood which Pharaoh shed when he slaughtered the Jewish children.

However, in places where Jews were subjected to "blood libels," the Halacha (Jewish law) states, that one should refrain from using red wine.

On other festivals and Shabbat, one may recite Kiddush and begin the meal while it is still daylight. But, on Passover one is not permitted to begin the seder until nightfall. The reason is that all the mitzvot associated with the seder must be performed at night. Since kiddush is the first of the four cups, we may not recite the kiddush until night.

Submitted by Chabad of We Bay CHAI Center, Warwick, with thanks to Rabbi Zalman Maraza of Montreal, Canada.

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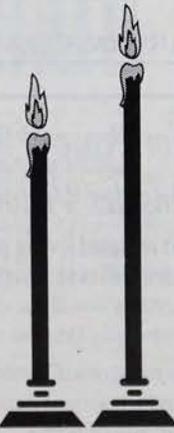
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### Candlelighting

April 2, 1999  
6:48 p.m.



Notice: The opinions presented on this page do not necessarily represent the opinions of this establishment.

### Torah Today

## FEATURE

## Jon at the Juncture

by Mike Fink

Herald Contributing Reporter

"Maybe I'm more obsessive than artistic," disclaims Jon Abedon. "I work as a nurse at Butler Hospital, but I live for my hours in the darkroom with my negatives. They are my resource. That's where the labor of love comes in."

Through the middle of April the collection of traditional silver prints will be shown at the Wm. Turner Art Gallery at 1090 Main Street, Pawtucket. "I had some trouble finding this place," complained several visitors at the opening of the exhibit on a recent brink of spring Thursday evening. It might be helpful to try and explain.

North Main Street goes off in two directions: straight to Pawtucket Avenue, and Korb's, or bearing left onto Main Street, Pawtucket. There's a parking lot right at the juncture. Leave your car and go down the stairway onto Main. You'll see a flag and a sign for the doorway to this rich realm of design and ideas.

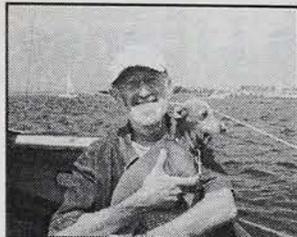
Abedon's pictures deal with several worlds. The gym, where young men work out to sculpt their bodies, brings in Jonas their chronicler and portraitist. "They're narcissists, really, with muscles more developed than minds," says the photographer, who nevertheless respects their efforts. "They repay me with trust, courtesy and invitations to come back." Another category or context is the national park scene, where ancient trees or rocks catch the light and offer texture and mood to the lens. Abedon also displays a close-up of Jonathan Sharlin, who with his wife Olivia McCullough, inspired Abedon in his quest for skill and beauty: He thanks them in print and in person. I make so bold as to reminisce about his

father, his aunts and uncles, even the Sephardic secret of his name.

J.A. is a person of modesty, kindness, and an unusual quality of stillness of spirit, which gives his pieces a painterly personality, a mystery and refinement. "Maybe they're too studied, too finicky," he declares, but I beg to differ. Each and every image commands your

human emotion. Tim spoke of his springtime sighting of red-wing hawks on the East Side, which inspired him to dig into his own pride and passion for life. A compelling contrast of Tim and Jon.

In the center of the hall stood a large banquet table bearing pita breads and tabouleh salads, excellent whiskeys and wines,



## The Building of Books

by Mike Fink  
Herald Contributing Reporter

Have you heard of Rosa Bonheur? We used to read a cheerful orange schoolbook called *Little People Who Became Great*, and the renowned French portraitist of horses and dogs was featured right along with the small boy Michael Angelo. According to my marvellous 1942 Jewish encyclopedia in 10 volumes, Rosa was born "Mazel Tov," which translates, or assimilates, into "Bonheur." Who'd a thunk it? Like Yentl, Rosa dressed as a boy in order to visit the slaughterhouses and study the anatomy of her beloved horses.

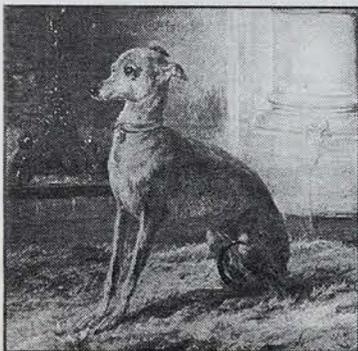
She painted an elegant picture of the stately Italian Greyhound, idealized in French po-

and heartbreaking, alphabetical texts from midwar, to pore over the early life and career of Yehudi Menuhin. In the prewar period, he refused to perform in Nazi Germany. In the postwar era, he became a British citizen, and yet he died in Berlin. His style was described in my source as "aristocratic." Who would use such an "elitist" term nowadays? And yet, the publication project was funded and supported by the W.P.A. of the F.D.R. years, giving dignified employment to scholars, editors, and designers in the wake of the depression. Each page proves to be a work of art, in words, layout, and even quality paper, print and binding. Yet this group

of handsome and stalwart reference treasures came to me via the dustbin! When I asked a class who had ever known of Bonheur or Menuhin, not one soul raised a hand.

Though rich in lore, lovingly detailed, my carrel of careful pages holds the heartbreak of the grave anxiety of the date of its debut—early wartime and the panicky flight of refugees all over the planet. Would the Jews of Poland land in Madagascar? Look under "M." And despair. This March has been a month of mad moods, storm and snow, sunshine and birdsong. I spread

(Continued on Page 15)



Italian Greyhound, 1866, by Rosa Bonheur (French, 1822-1899)

etry, which looks remarkably like my own pet I.G. The oil on canvas is featured in a new book, "Dog Painting, 1840-1940."

I also turned to my lovely,

## Sunshine and Shadow

by Mike Fink

Herald Contributing Reporter

It just won't be the same again for me, having my beard trimmed on Rochambeau. For years, that ritual included the visit of Henry Sunshine—or rather Sonnenschein. This guest from round the corner would never fail to tell me, "Have it off once and for all!" He had read in the pages of a fine text that the beard represents the animal part of us, the lower order. He liked my high brow, created by a receding hairline, but disapproved of those beastly sideburns and nasty mustache.

The last time I saw, and listened to, Lord Henry, he said plainly, "How much longer can I live? It's like sleeping with a time bomb. I know it will go off soon, and it makes me anxious." I took him very seriously indeed, and heard his every word with special ceremony and courtesy. Even as I lay back, head tilted, while Stefano trimmed and cut, buzzed and snipped. "I have outlived my family that died in the flames of hate, in the death camps. By so many years. And here I am still. Why?" I never did get any sort of full account of my street friend's terrible yesteryears. I knew he had been in a camp, resided in Italy,

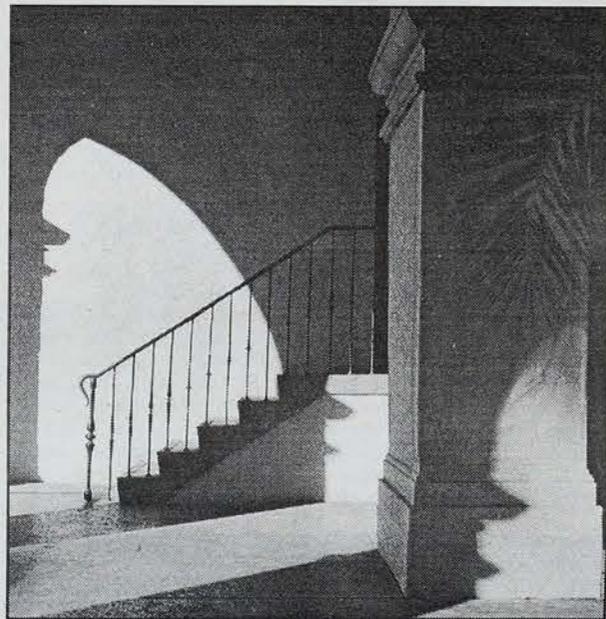
and come here during the year that I was living in Europe. He left a place of both learning and horror. I was visiting that place to study its paintings and its poetry. No, Henry spoke to me in the words of a *luftmensch*, a dreamer. He always carried from the nearby or a farther-off library a bag of books about Buddhism, or Bible studies.

"I like the eastern religions. They say we should ease the suffering in the world. Our faiths stretch the imagination too far. Why were Adam and Eve tempted by the apple and the serpent? It is a cruel dilemma. There is no free will to help ourselves or others." When we first met, often taking the same Hope Street bus, I would argue with my ray of sunshine speaking in the clear and careful syllables of an English with traces of German and Italian. I would ask him to think of ethical sermons as though they were epic metaphors, figures of poetic speech. But over the seasons I came to recognize he was telling me his life story on an abstract level. He was amazed at his own age, an energetic and zestful figure, only slightly bent with the years, his features carved and sculptured, his hair still vigorous like lines in a strong sketch. I even

wrote a respectful paragraph about our conversations, but I failed to use his name in print. He once reminded me of that. I wish we could send a postcard beyond the grave, to the Eden of souls. I want Henry to know I called his wife to express my sympathy and to tell his family of the power of his personality, the love he had for the life of words and their spirit.

I remember when I got up from that throne at Stefano's, after the barber shook out the cover sheet with its snowfall of grey beard-hairs, I took Henry Sunshine's hand in mine and came up with something as courtly and formal as I could muster. Something like: "It's always a treat to hearken to your wisdom, and I look forward to next fortnight." He would always compliment me in turn. "You are intelligent, but you would look younger without that beard!"

Like everybody else, I hate to lose an ally, a friend, a bright facet of my own life. The only consolation may come from the recall of a happy or a comforting visit, and the melancholy pride of knowing that your partner in providence lives within you, your own Eden, your garden of memories, the Swan Point of view within your mind.



Jon at the Juncture

tight attention to the fine detail and the powerful poetry. There is an enchanted tone which is due to the sincerity of the body of material.

Abedon's wall of work faces a group of recent drawings by Tim McDonald, and a gathering of bas reliefs using natural found things like stones and feathers—dedicated to the "wild heart" both of nature and of

and all manner of generously served treats for the great event of the launching. This was the first time that the Turner headquarter had been included in the trolley tour of the art world. You mix with people across the diversity kaleidoscope of age, gender, class, and creed. It's a splendid scene, and Jon Abedon's charming character embodies its virtues.

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# JEWISH COMMUNITY

## Holocaust and The Arts Examined at Boston College Conference

A Boston College conference — "The Holocaust and the Arts" — will offer a unique approach to fostering an understanding of this tragic period, by focusing on expressions of the Holocaust through art, music, literature and film.

The two-day event, which will be held on April 15 and 16, is open to the public and will include presentations by international speakers and is expected to draw a national audience of scholars, Holocaust and social studies teachers, and the general public. The conference schedule includes lectures, a film and music program, teacher sessions, and an accompanying exhibition.

"Art can often express the depths of the creator's soul," according to conference organizer John Michalczyk, Boston College Fine Arts Department professor. "Holocaust art — be it in the form of painting, poem or film — tries to grapple with

expressing the inexpressible tragedy of the Holocaust, on the personal and collective level. This conference will try to capture the wide range of responses to this artistic expression of the 20th century."

Michalczyk is a filmmaker whose documentary work since 1990 has focused on issues of social justice. His documentaries — which examine painful human experiences to shed light on our humanity — explore issues of discrimination, hatred, war and peace.

For information and a conference schedule, call Professor John Michalczyk, Boston College, at (617) 552-4295.

Directions: Boston College is located in Chestnut Hill, Mass., at 140 Commonwealth Ave. (Via "T": BC Green Line "B" to end, then uphill to campus). Contact website at <www.bc.edu/holarts> (will include conference updates, hotel information, etc).

## Holocaust Remembrance Service at Congregation Agudas Achim

Congregation Agudas Achim of Attleboro, in conjunction with the Attleboro Area Council of Churches, Evangelical Covenant Church and the Immanuel Lutheran Church will sponsor a Holocaust Remembrance Service in honor of Yom HaShoah-Holocaust Remembrance Day on April 11 at 3:30 p.m.

The service will feature Dr. Krister Stendahl speaking on, "Ways to Remember." Stendahl is Professor of Divinity Emeritus at Harvard University and Lutheran Bishop Emeritus of Stockholm, Sweden. He is a renowned biblical scholar who has, throughout his career, sought to redefine the relation between Jews and Christians. From 1975 to 1985, he chaired the World Council of Churches' work on the subject of The Church and the Jewish People in the World. In addition, Stendahl served as co-director of the Osher Center for Tolerance and Pluralism at the Shalom-Hartman Institute in Jerusalem from 1994 to 1998 and was one of the main speakers at the opening of the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C.

The service will also include a candlelighting ceremony, selected readings by representatives of congregations from the Attleboro area, as well as musical selections. A reception will be held after the service. The public is invited to this event. Congregation Agudas Achim is located on North Main Street (Route 152) and Toner Boulevard, Attleboro, Mass. (Exit 5 off Route 95). For more information, call the synagogue at (508) 222-2243.

## The Driver's License

by Rabbi Robert A. Alper  
"That's it. No more driving for me. I've decided to quit."

It was my 80-year-old mother on the phone, announcing a decision she made following a couple of close calls. I'm very proud of her, especially when I hear stories of wrenching family turmoil that sometimes accompanies diminished abilities among the elderly.

Mom has reached one of life's crossroads, making a difficult choice wisely and with grace. She ought to be recognized. And so, I imagined a life cycle ceremony that would go something like this:

The setting: Curbside. Participants: Allyne Alper, a congregation of her family and friends, and an officiant, who could be either a rabbi (must be licensed) or, in the absence of a spiritual leader, an authorized representative of the Department of Motor Vehicles.

OFFICIANT: Allyne, as you face your white 1992 Buick Skylark with blue velvet interior and only 19,541 original miles, I ask: Do you of your own free will and consent hereby surrender your driver's license and promise to refrain from driving?

ALLYNE: I do.  
CONGREGATION: (sighs of relief)

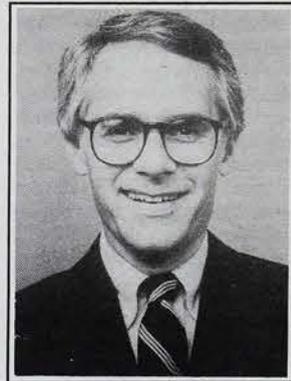
OFFICIANT: And do you, Allyne's family and friends, promise, to the best of your ability, to transport Allyne to various destinations, in fair weather and in foul, in heat and in cold, in daylight or even at night?

CONGREGATION: We do, except for those of us who don't like to drive at night.

ALLYNE: Irma, you and Fred can take me to symphony; I already have a ride to mah jong, and the bridge game is in the apartment next to mine. Debbie

and David and the children said they'd bring me to temple next Friday and...

OFFICIANT: Excuse me. We need to continue. By the author-



Rabbi Bob Alper

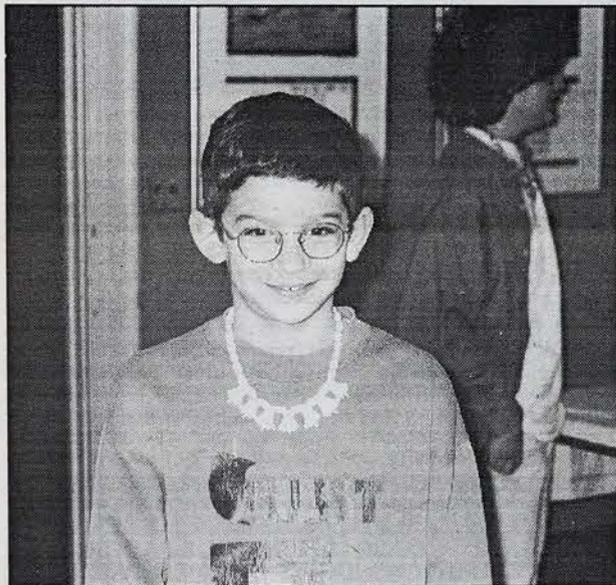
ity invested in me by the Department of Motor Vehicles, and with the consent of these witnesses, I hereby pronounce you "non-driver." We shall now cut your license in two.

ALLYNE: Feh, it was a terrible photo anyway. I'd much rather use my passport.

OFFICIANT: Allyne, to confirm your new status and celebrate this sacred transition in your life, I joyously invite you to assume your place of honor in the passenger seat.

(At this point, windshield washer fluid is squirted festively into the air. In addition, persons of Sephardic background may wish to stroke the car with a cham- ois cloth, as is their custom.)

The horn is sounded.  
Rabbi Bob Alper, a Providence native, is a stand-up comic and author of Life Doesn't Get Any Better Than This. Visit him at <www.bobalper.com>.



### Modeling The Latest in Egyptian Fashion

Jon Wolpert models an Egyptian necklace from the hands-on exhibit of reproduction artifacts accompanying the "Having Fun with Pyramids and Pharaohs" program sponsored by the ASDSPTA Cultural Enrichment Program. Photo by Liz Goldberg

## Narragansett Electric Customers Get 'Energy Smart'

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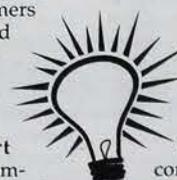
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# JEWISH COMMUNITY

## Present and Former Jewish Boy Scouts Will Gather at Temple Beth El

The Jewish Committee on Scouting of Narragansett Council, Boy Scouts of America, is sending out a call to all present and former Boy Scouts and Scouters of the Jewish faith to attend a first-ever gathering at Temple Beth El, Orchard Avenue, Providence, on April 25 at 9:15 a.m.

A complimentary breakfast, prepared by the Brotherhood of Temple Beth El, will precede a program of "reunion and fellowship," according to Jules Cohen of North Kingstown, chairman of the Jewish Com-

mittee on Scouting. "It's going to be a fun time for all of us to live again the good times of scouting," said Cohen.

In addition to skits by current Boy Scouts, the Shofar Award will be presented to several adults in recognition of "outstanding service in the promotion of Scouting among Jewish youth." Stanley Turco of Cranston, a past president of Narragansett Council, will make the presentations.

Those planning to attend are being asked to bring with them

any photographs or other memorabilia of their days in Scouting to share with others.

Those attending will hear about the building and later expansion of the Jewish chapel at Yawgoog Scout Reservation, the Temple of the Ten Commandments, which has been dedicated to the memory of the late Abraham Aron of Warwick, a former Scout leader.

Call Ryan Haimer, advisor to the Jewish Committee on Scouting, at Boy Scout headquarters in Providence, 351-8700.



### Jewish Boy Scouts

Back Row (left-right) Marvin Naigur, Billy Snell, Harvey Silverman, Center Row: Norman Bolski, Carl Dubinsky, Bruce Land, Larry Halperin, Joel Prebold, Front: Al Krasner ASM, Stan Turco SM, Russell Schwartz CM, Arthur Strauss.

## Teverow Lecture Brings Rabbi Dan Liben Back to Rhode Island

The Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island is pleased to announce that the Joseph Teverow Lecture will have as its featured speaker this year, Rabbi Daniel Liben, currently rabbi at Temple Israel of Natick, Mass. The lecture will be held on April 18 at 7:30 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center in Providence.

Rabbi Liben's topic that evening will blend the high level of scholarship for which the Teverow Lecture has long been a benchmark, with the *tachlis* ("nuts and bolts") for which Rabbi Liben is so fondly remembered. Many in the state have their own special reminiscences of his tenure as assistant rabbi at Temple Emanu-El in Providence from 1983 to 1991.

The integration of this style and substance would, no doubt, please Joseph Teverow, z"l. A former president of the Bureau of Jewish Education, a longtime member of its Israel Study/Travel Committee, and a stalwart of Temple Emanu-El's BMB Program, Teverow was a man of substance and style, one devoted to children and teens. It is a fitting tribute to Teverow, the *mensch*, that Rabbi Liben will speak at the Teverow Lecture on "It Takes a Shtetl To Raise a Child...": How Jewish Parents and Grandparents Can Transmit Values in the New Millennium.

The Teverow Lecture is open to the community. A dessert reception will follow. For details, call the BJE/RI at 331-0956.

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## Service of Comfort at Temple Beth-El

A Service of Comfort will be held on April 18 at 5 p.m. in the Bennett Chapel at Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave. in Providence. The Service of Comfort is designed for those struggling with chronic illness, their caregivers, and anyone seeking spiritual solace.

This brief service incorporates music, prayer, and reflective readings that focus on the Jewish road to healing.

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## B-17... Bingo!

Harold Fishman was the caller at a recent bingo game at the Jewish Family Service Kosher Mealsite in Cranston. Bingo is just one of many pastimes enjoyed by participants at the mealsite, which is located at Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Avenue.

Other activities include dance therapy, Tai Chi, writing class, visits from the Bureau of Jewish Education Bookmobile, birthday parties with cake and entertainment, exercise class, blood pressure screenings with the registered nurses from Jewish Family Service, men's/women's discussion groups and a weekly Shabbat meal.

Programs usually begin at 11 a.m. and a nutritious, hot kosher lunch is served at noon. Transportation is available every day for residents of Cranston and areas of Warwick. For reservations and information, call mealsite coordinator Ronda French at 781-1771.



Harold Fishman

## Aleh Launches Emergency Campaign to Build Sealed Rooms

To safeguard its severely disabled youngsters in the wake of Saddam Hussein's renewed threats to attack Israel with chemical weapons, the Aleh Foundation has launched an emergency \$1.5 million campaign to build an additional floor with sealed rooms to insulate against germ or gas warfare at its main facility in B'nei B'rak, where 110 children are housed.

Meeting at the office of Brooklyn Borough President Howard Golden earlier this month, representatives of the world's foremost center for the rehabilitation and treatment of developmentally disabled children in Israel informed borough leaders that the urgent need to protect the youngsters in Brooklyn's "sister city" against chemical attack has strained the agency's limited budget "to the breaking point — and beyond."

Rabbi Yehuda Marmonstein, executive director of the Aleh Foundation, noted that the agency had incurred debts of more than \$500,000 in renovating and equipping the B'nai B'rak facility to provide specialized care for its multiple-handicapped children. "It would be unconscionable if this facility, which is meeting such a profound human need, would now be forced to close because it lacks the funds to provide these essential safety measures that all schools and children's facilities must have."

Rabbi Shlomo Braun, director of Aleh's New York office, outlined a series of fund-raising proposals involving the participation of borough officials. Brooklyn philanthropist Israel Lefkowitz, another meeting participant, pledged his "unstinting support of this worthy cause."

Founded in 1982, Aleh currently nurtures more than 300 severely disabled youngsters in three state-of-the-art facilities in B'nai B'rak and its newest residential home and treatment center in Jerusalem. The emergency campaign is being coordinated by Aleh's U.S. office, 5317 13th Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11219 (718) 851-4596.

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# JEWISH COMMUNITY

## Seder of Hope Inspires Those Touched by AIDS

by Emily Torgan-Shalansky  
Jewish Community Reporter

Although members of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island's AIDS Task Force began their fifth annual Seder of Hope by pointing out parallels between the Passover story and the AIDS epidemic, it is the differences between them that call for the interfaith healing service.

According to the ancient text, when G-d sent the 10th and final plague down to Egypt, He instructed the Israelites to mark their homes with lamb's blood to keep the plague at bay while they awaited their deliverance.

However, those facing the modern AIDS virus have no way to ward off death and seem far from any safe passage, and on March 28, the 200 guests who gathered at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island were well aware of that.

Still, AIDS Task Force Co-chair Roberta Lisker-Goldsmith opened the seder by encouraging the afflicted to respond to the incurable disease by supporting each other with the humanity that it so often destroys.

"As the [Passover story] celebrates the transition from slavery to freedom and from despair to hope, the Haggadah has become meaningful to any oppressed group," explained Lisker-Goldsmith. "The word 'Egypt' translates as 'tight, nar-

row place.' Since you are here tonight, at some point AIDS, with its illness, grief, anger, sadness and secrets, has locked you in a personal Egypt of your own."

Some of those private places seemed less confining as participants rose and clasped hands while a process of AIDS Task Force members draped red ribbons across chairs left vacant in memory of the dead.

"Remember their faces and their laughter, and what was in their hearts," said Lisker-Goldsmith to the audience, some of whom were weeping openly. "Feel them — let the space be empty no more."

Next, Providence resident Phyllis Potash stepped to the front of the room to dedicate a panel of the AIDS quilt to the memory of her son, David P. Potash, who died in 1993.

The striped blue fabric was decorated with a picture of David, two of his drawings and three quilted cats.

"That was his favorite photograph," Potash said, wiping her eyes. "His pictures are there because he was an artist who was never without a sketchpad. There are cats because he loved cats, and they also symbolize the respect he had for all living things."

AIDS activist and seder leader Marc Paige then addressed those in the very quiet room.



BETH MILHAM (left) and Abe Gershman display a panel of the AIDS quilt as Phyllis Potash dedicates it to the memory of her son.  
Herald photo by Emily Torgan-Shalansky

After speaking of the drugs that were saving lives in the West and rising rates of AIDS infection across the world, Paige began an interactive service that combined music, prayer, text and the use of Passover rituals to respond to the fatal virus.

The responsive readings that bounced from table to table were interspersed with music performed by Cantor Ida Rae Cahana, Cantor Brian Mayer, singer/songwriter Laura Berkson, and Rabbi James Rosenberg.

As they read from a Haggadah put together by members of the AIDS Task Force, participants experienced some traditional Passover themes presented in a new context.

In addition to the traditional four questions about the holiday, the Haggadah also included four questions that revolved around AIDS.

"How is this seder different from all other seders?" inquired the leader.

"At every seder, we remember the oppressed among us and pray for their redemption," responded the crowd. "But this seder is different because we focus on people oppressed by the plague of our time — AIDS and HIV... We sadly acknowledge that people touched by AIDS are carrying two heavy burdens — the burden of illness and the burden of hatred."

Another question asked why

AIDS was different from any other illness.

"In America, AIDS has hit hardest gay men, I.V. drug users and people of color," the crowd read back. "Because AIDS has devastated these already oppressed groups, the haters of the world have used AIDS to advance their own intolerant beliefs."

The Haggadah handled the traditional four sons in a similar way, but expanded their numbers to include a fifth, a child who did not survive to ask any questions.

After the participants rose together to say the Kaddish, they sat down to share a seder meal.

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## Grief and Loss Workshop Offered at JFS

The death of a loved one can leave a person feeling hollow. An important part of one's life has been forever altered. Feelings of sadness and isolation can exacerbate the pain. Sometimes talking about it with others in similar circumstances can provide a measure of comfort and solace.

Family Life Education at Jewish Family Service is offering a discussion series for the recently bereaved where they can share their feelings and begin to heal. "Grief and Loss: A Workshop for the Recently Bereaved" will meet on April 20 at 1:30 p.m. The sessions will be held at the Jewish Family Service offices, 229 Waterman St. in Providence.

The group discussions will be facilitated by Jewish Family Service clinical social worker Dan Kane, MSW.

Registration is requested by April 13; the fee for the four sessions is \$20 per person. Call Jewish Family Service at 331-1244 for details.

## Rhode Island Welcomes Itzhak Levanon

Congregation Ohave Sholam, East Avenue, Pawtucket (also known as Young Israel of Pawtucket) announces that on May 2, Itzhak Levanon, Consul General of Israel in New England, will be speaking to the congregation. His topic will be "Israel at The Eve of The Upcoming Elections." A brunch will be served at 11 a.m. and the charge will be \$7.50 per person. Reservations may be made by calling: Linda Kessler, 726-6633; Nita Pliskin, 725-3886; or Jerry Snell, 751-6859.

Checks are to be sent to Linda Kessler, 9 Blodgett St., Pawtucket R.I. 02860. Make checks payable to Congregation Ohave Sholam and make a notation on the check "for the brunch."

## Social Seniors of Warwick Announce Next Meeting

On April 14 a meeting will be held at Temple Am David. Ray Remzi will entertain.

At our March 17 meeting, Carole Panos, the nurse of the Pilgrim Senior Center, with Kim Pastore, who spoke about elder information, and Linda Kanuttan, who spoke about Blue Chip, gave us a very informative meeting.

A play, cabaret at Rhode Island College, and lunch at Julio's is scheduled for April 25. A trip is planned for May 19 to White's of Westport. The Paramount Hotel in the Catskills is planned for July 19 to 22. Contact Estelle Miller or Tillie Orleck for information.

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*Women  
in  
Business*

The Rhode Island Jewish Herald

April 1, 1999

# Women in Business

## High Style, Low Maintenance

This soft, airy shape flatters delicate, petite features. The style narrows toward the bottom of the chin to slenderize it, while fullness and fringes enhance the eyes and cheekbones.

### Style Variation

For special occasion drama, slick hair back with Regis Shining Pomade.



This classic style has been tailored to the '90s with shape, color and texture working together to project strength and boldness. It's an ideal look for women with naturally wavy

hair, but the same look can be achieved through texture services using contoured weaving with medium rods. Regis Design Gel holds the style, while Shining Pomade creates smoothness and vibrance.

### Style Variation

This bob has a myriad of styling options. Blow dry smooth, using a large round brush to curl the ends under for a classic bob. Create a funky, festive look by twisting small pieces of hair away from the face and securing with small rhinestone clips.

This cut proves that short, straight hair can be very versa-



tile. A combination of scissor- and razor-cutting creates texture and movement. The edgy look was designed by using Regis Sculpting Lotion on wet hair, shaping with fingers and air-drying (or blow-drying with a diffuser).

### Style Variation

Create a sleeker, shaped look by parting hair on the side, blow-drying and smoothing with a round brush.

For the nearest Regis Hair-stylists Salon, call (800) 777-4444



or check out the website at [www.regishairstylists.com](http://www.regishairstylists.com).

Photos courtesy of Regis Corp.

## Mix And Match: Key to Wardrobe Success

Taking advantage of the season's newest fashion trends doesn't mean you have to invest in a whole new wardrobe.

The key to successfully updating your wardrobe is being able to mix and match the best and most flattering looks. Off-price shopping allows you to purchase the latest designer trends, without exorbitantly high price tags.

"It makes sense to buy quality brand merchandise when you're building a versatile wardrobe, however, budget constrictions can be a consideration," said Laura Cervone, fashion consultant for TJ Maxx. "Off-price shopping allows you to afford the latest fashions at well below retail prices, saving as much as 20 to 60 percent on every item."

Here are some effective ways to create a stylish, updated wardrobe:

### Tips For Putting Together A Versatile Wardrobe

- Sweater dressing is the basis for today's modern wardrobe — soft, sophisticated, yet relaxed. Look for boat neck cardigans, twinsets and sleeveless turtlenecks.

- Try a new contoured, pleated knee-length skirt. It epitomizes the season's best looks and goes effortlessly from day to evening. (They look perfect with today's shapely sweaters.)

- Color is perhaps the quickest way to update your wardrobe. Pastel hues are hot: the right shade of pink or lavender can dramatically alter your overall look. Gray is still a major player in the color game, especially when paired with the beautiful pastels.

- The options in pants are endless, so wear only those styles that flatter. Capri pants

offer versatility: wear with tees and sweater for casual chic, or pair with bandeau or dressy tank top for nighttime glamour.

- The best way to find your own special look: experimentation! Be open to fresh ideas, unusual colors and the latest fashion trends. Dressing in a new and unexpected way can alter your mood, and as a result, your self-image.

- Do mix the old with the new. Often, a few well-chosen separates can totally transform your wardrobe. The key to success: mix and match...blend the rules... and save money by shopping off-price.



It's easy and and inexpensive to update your wardrobe with a few stylish pieces purchased at an off-price store.

Photo courtesy of TJ MAXX

## Of Balabustas and Breadwinners Jewish Women in Post-War America

The lives of American Jewish women have taken some interesting twists and turns over the past 100 years. Their impact on the American scene, as well as how their changing roles at home and in society have affected religious practices and communal structures, is the topic of this year's Solomon and Rose Becker Lecture and the Jewish Theological Seminary. Riv-Ellen Prell, an anthropologist and professor of American studies at the University of Minnesota, will explore the dynamics of post World War II American Jewish life in "Memory, Mobility and The Millennium: How Jewish Women's Lives Have Shaped Post-War American Jewish Culture" on April 22 at 7:30 p.m.

Known professionally for her focus on gender issues in community, ritual and culture, Prell is the author of the just-released *Fighting to Become Americans: Jews, Gender and the Anxiety of Assimilation*. She has also written the award-winning *Prayer and Community: The Havurah in American Judaism* and co-edited *Interpreting Women's Lives: Personal Narratives and Feminist Theory*.

The lecture, followed by a reception, is open to the public free of charge. No tickets are necessary, but reservations are required. Call (212) 678-8070 for more information.

The Jewish Theological Seminary, located at 3080 Broadway at 122nd St., is the spiritual and academic center of Conservative Judaism worldwide. Visit the JTS website at <[www.jtsa.edu](http://www.jtsa.edu)>

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# Women in Business

## Women Inventors Make Impact

The role of women inventors and their many contributions to American society have been underrecognized for many years. Their achievements have been all the greater for the gender bias they have had to overcome.

At one time, women were thought not capable of doing much more than raising children and keeping house. But their innate ability to conceptualize and analyze enabled them to rise above forces that would hold them down.

From the ironing board and the baby carriage to a torpedo discharge system and a triggering device for underground nuclear tests, inventions by women have had a major impact on our lives.

At the core of all inventions is motivation.

By acknowledging history and the impact women have had and continue to have on fostering technological advancements, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers hopes that today's youth — particularly girls and young women — will be motivated to transcend whatever social, economic and educational barriers they confront.

Women long have been inventive in all fields of endeavor. Women engineers especially have made great strides in improving the conditions of society as a whole and of the labor force in particular.

When public high schools

began admitting women in 1852, women's role in society changed drastically — as did the scope of their innovations. With access to public high schools, women began to make significant contributions to industry. Some of their inventions revolutionized entire industries; others created them.

Typical was Kate Gleason's design of a worm gear for the automotive industry in 1884, an invention that won her election as the first woman member of ASME.

Olive Dennis, the first female member of the American Railway Engineering Association, invented a ventilator system that allowed passengers to control air flow and protected them from the elements — a crucial advance in passenger comfort. She was awarded a patent in 1928.

In more recent times, women's inventions have included data processing system improvements, methods of reducing X-ray exposure times and a process to get cleaner photographs from old negatives.

In the next 15 years or so, 25 million new jobs will be created in the United States. Forty percent of them will be technical or professional positions in fields such as engineering, physics, chemistry and computer technology. According to the American Association for the Advancement of Science, an estimated 65 percent of these new jobs will be held by women.

## Don't Let Job Stress Take Over Your Life — Know the Warning Signs

by Kimberly Ann Orlandi  
Herald Editor

Did you ever just have one of those days when nothing seemed to go your way—from the moment you stepped out of bed? Your alarm clock went off late, you miss a very important business meeting, the project you worked on for 72 hours straight has somehow vanished from your computer. We've all had these stressful days, but when these events take over your life and prohibit you from performing everyday functions, such as relating to family and co-workers, then it's time to address the problem with a professional.

Dr. Laura Giusti, Ph.D., a clinical psychologist in private practice in Providence, counsels women dealing with stress to examine their lives and determine what they perceive as the areas of pressure and conflict within their lives. If left to fester, stress can cause physical problems including migraines, ulcers, nervousness, a loss of temper and, in severe cases, may lead to drug and alcohol abuse. Although stress in both men and women may originate from similar experiences, the physical and psychological effects are quite different.

"Women may become more anxious than men," said Giusti. "They may experience more stress than men with regard to their job and starting a family, beginning a relationship or raising children."

Since stress and its effects will differ from woman to woman, the best way to identify the problem is with a physical examination, since, according to Giusti, that's usually the place where the first signs of stress will be visible. Just going to the doctor, for some women, may be a cause of stress. And some women may have an experience with a male doctor who brushes off these symptoms by saying, "There's nothing wrong with you. All you need is to go shopping or go to the spa." Then, according to Giusti, that's the cue to find a

second and sometimes even a third opinion. Once a diagnosis of stress is identified, the next step is to treat it.

"Some approaches," said Giusti, "include muscle relaxation, talking about the problems which may be the cause of stress, something as simple as daily affirmations, and, in severe cases, even medication. Depending on where you hold your stress will depend on the places throughout the body in which the signs show themselves. Some may hold their tension in their backs and have chronic back pain, others may hold it in their neck or head and experience headaches and migraines and yet others will develop such serious signs of stress, including eating and sleep disorders, that they would require even more therapy."

"If left untreated," said Giusti, "stress can ultimately destroy a person's psyche. Instead of saying to yourself, 'I'm worthless, I can't do anything right,' simply look in the mirror and say 'I know I can't do everything perfectly but I accept myself for who and what I am.'"

Giusti further recommends resisting the urge to regret what you haven't done or events that you should have done differently. Living in the present, as taught by Eastern philosophers, rather than dwelling on events of the past that can not be changed will limit the stress one is under. Stress is something that everyone, at one time or another, finds themselves in the midst of. It is inescapable—the trick comes in dealing with it.

"We all have goals we set for ourselves, things we want to accomplish and a time span we want them in. But to the extent that they [goals] take over our lives, causing us to lose sense of the present and we begin obsessing over what we want to happen, we miss out on won-

derful things which are happening now," said Giusti.

She is quick to embellish on the statement that women should not set goals for themselves, they should just be realistic and learn to be flexible and relaxed when things don't go the way they were planned.

Much of the ways we deal with stress, according to Giusti, can be inherited through our parents because it is from our parents that we learn the coping strategies to deal with stress. So, if you watched your mother or father always repressing their anxiety rather than verbalizing their feelings, chances are that's how you'll learn to deal with your own anxiety and stress. To combat that, Giusti, will often get the parents, the husbands, wives, children and family involved in an effort to bolster the support unit around the patient.

"Without the support and guidance from family to get you through and alleviate the stress, a person may never develop proper coping skills which, in the long run, may allow the stress to spiral out of control," she said.

Since the beginning of the women's movement, women have been taught that they can do anything they want to do: have a career, children and a family. But, it's that extra freedom, according to Giusti, that causes women the most stress.

"The freedom we've achieved has brought us more conflict because it's allowed us the opportunity to make more choices, and, ironically, those choices can bring us more conflict in terms of having to defend ourselves for the choices we've made," said Giusti.

Generally, most of us get through our day more or less coping adequately — but most could benefit from learning coping skills, whether a type-A personality or not.

## The Hope Center Presents A Day in the Barn



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donation of \$10 to \$50 is requested; no one will be refused for lack of funds. HOPE is located at 297 Wickenden St., Providence. Call 454-0404. Pre-registration is requested, as space is limited. Facility is wheelchair accessible.

### Laura M. Giusti, Ph.D.

Licensed Clinical Psychologist  
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# Women of Business



Belle Frank, bookkeeper at her father's business - Union Paper Co., Canal Street, Providence, about 1910. Her father was Moses Frank. She later married Carl Goldblatt.



Rebecca (Betty) Berger, nurse at both Miriam Hospital and Jane Brown Hospital from 1936 on.



Irene Finklestein  
real estate agent, Narragansett Pier, 1912.



Mamic  
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Stories written by Kimberly A. Orlandi

## All in The Family



In today's corporate society of mega deals, takeovers, and Wall Street money makers, it is rare to find a business which is still operated and owned by a family. As generations got older, many moved on to different interests, leaving their family legacy to fall into the hands of a conglomerate or to fall by the wayside altogether. Keeping traditions in the family is something that is very important to Jill Sugarman. Now a fourth generation funeral director, that's one of the reasons she took over the leadership role at Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel.

A 1985 graduate of Moses Brown and a 1989 graduate of George Washington University, Sugarman received her juris doctorate in 1993 from Suffolk Law School. She spent several years working at firms in both Massachusetts and Rhode Island, concentrating on elder law, among others, before settling back into her roots.

"I knew I was going to make a move from the firm I was with and I was thinking about the future of the family business, so I made the move," said Sugarman, who had to go through even more schooling to become a certified funeral director.

For Sugarman, allowing outsiders into

the family business just wasn't an option for her. This was the business her father had built and she was going to see that it stayed intact. Little by little, Sugarman assumed numerous roles in the business, starting with the administration and eventually the directorship. Although she admits that the legal profession may be, at times, a bit more "intellectually stimulating," she enjoys the freedom that her new job affords her and, most of all, the families which have become extensions of her own.

"I love my job and I really enjoy my families," said Sugarman. "In many ways, it's not much different that what I was doing practicing elder law. I'm still very concerned with how funeral costs effect families and how families need to be prepared in terms of probate and estate planning."

Sugarman believes that her legal experience is a tremendous asset to her role as a funeral director, giving her both added experience and a greater sense of respect within the community. She isn't a person who was groomed to take over the family business, rather, she went out and made a successful career for herself before coming home.

Although, in certain instances, being a woman in such a visible role may require Sugarman to step back and bow to tradition, as in cases of an Orthodox funeral where the man plays a larger role than a woman, she points out that such instances "do not preclude me from doing my job."

"I never really gave it a second thought," she said. "Probably because I don't think that it is an issue and never

should be. So, if I'm dealing with an Orthodox family, I would never do anything to show disrespect to them."

Sugarman believes that women have a tremendous advantage over men in the funeral business, especially when it comes to talking with families. Women, according to Sugarman, were raised to bond with women and men were brought up with their mothers, so there's a greater sense of communicating on a personal level. In recent years, the business has seen a greater number of women becoming involved at the directorship capacity, something Sugarman hopes to see more of.

The most difficult part of the job for Sugarman is that her personality is one that is very outgoing, friendly and personable—three qualities not always looked upon as appropriate in the funeral business. But, Sugarman has learned to make it work for her, and with a smile or a softly spoken word, she can make even the saddest of situations seem all right. Although there are days when she herself wants to cry, it's the families that get her through her rocky roads.

Still at an age where she can switch gears several more times in her life, Sugarman may, one day, return to the practice of law, but not within a firm. Perhaps she'll practice independently, but she is insistent on one thing, she's not leaving her new position any time soon.

"If you asked me years ago if I saw myself getting into the family business, I would have said 'no way.' But it's a good business to get into and I'm very glad I did."

## Living out a Dream



When Wendy Buckler decided to start a family, she took time off to raise her two children. That was 15 years ago. Today, after a successful career in marketing and public relations and after taking care of her husband and children, Buckler now has the opportunity to do something for herself and has embarked on a new life adventure—she became an attorney.

"I'm like a kid in a candy store," chuckles Buckler about her new position within the litigation department of Adler, Pollack and Sheehan, a Providence law firm.

Buckler graduated in 1998 from Roger Williams Law School in the top 10 of her class. According to Buckler, although her class wasn't evenly divided when it came to numbers of men versus women, she does say that it was nearly even. When she sat for the bar examination in July 1998, she was one of 48 women, according to the Rhode Island Supreme Court, of the 98 men and women who sat for the examination. Today, she has risen to the

rank of one of 1,200 female attorneys in the state.

"The first year of law school, I wasn't too sure how I'd compare to my younger classmates," said Buckler. "But I think you come at it with a motivation you wouldn't have had at an earlier age."

Her enthusiasm for the law didn't begin with her older brother, an attorney in Maine, it started when she was called to jury duty and sat, for 2 1/2 weeks, on an attempted murder trial. "It opened my eyes and really started me thinking," said Buckler.

But, she never thought that just because she was a woman she should think twice about going to law school. Yes, for centuries, the profession has been heavily dominated by men, but for Buckler at Adler, Pollack and Sheehan, the stereotypical attorney doesn't exist. There are several women executives including the head of both the corporate and litigation departments. The atmosphere, according to Buckler, is gender neutral.

"I think that they've done a wonderful job in making this a gender-neutral work environment. When I approached this, I didn't perceive that my being a woman either helped or hurt me. I believe it was my qualifications and background that made a difference."

Buckler believes that people want to hire attorneys based on their "experi-

ence, the fact that their sexes are different should be irrelevant."

Her background is impeccable, serving as clerk for Justice Victoria Lederberg, working insurance defense and criminal defense at a local clinic.

"Having worked in other fields is a plus," said Buckler. "It gives you another perspective, and an understanding of how to manage people, clients and files another person may not have had."

Buckler credits much of her success to her family, who lent more than a hand when it came to helping out around the house.

"I went back to school full-time during the day," said Buckler. "They not only helped out around the house, but helped me stay focused."

She also believes that her success has been a positive influence on her 12-year-old daughter, in whom she's tried to instill that it is possible to have it all. She hopes, that by the time her daughter reaches that age where she has to make a decision on what she does and doesn't want to do with her life, that she'll look to Mom for inspiration.

"Absolutely," said Buckler when asked if women truly can have it all. "I think that it's been a big benefit to both of my children to see me doing this, but in particular my daughter. They don't just hear about it, but they actually see it in action."

## The Angel of Cancer

There are no such things as incurables; there are only things for which man has not yet found a cure.  
—Bernard Shaw

Those who enter into the profession do so by a higher power. Their purpose is to assist those who are suffering, and to help with disease has overtaken them.

Strenger, an oncologist at the Miriam Hospital, New York, until coming to Providence.

One may wonder why someone would choose a grave illness as cancer, but it was never a choice. After earning her degree from Barnett College in New York, Strenger entered Brigham Young University where she studied hematology. After completing her fellowship at the Miriam Hospital, New York, until coming to Providence.

"When I was in medical school, I thought I was going to be a pediatrician," said Strenger, "but when I had a child, I realized I wanted to be a doctor." When she initially went into practice between general medicine [internship] and oncology, she found that oncology can be quite grueling and can't be done without a strong support system. Strenger can't see herself doing anything else. Her patients are young women with breast cancer, Strenger, being 25 years old. After looking for a job in medical school, Strenger feels that she has found her calling.

"I found that although I loved taking care of patients, it was really towards the oncology side that I found my calling," said Strenger.

As a female, Strenger believes that she brings a different light than a male doctor; she is more patient and understanding. The men in her group are wonderful doctors, but Strenger finds herself with a few patients who are young women with breast cancer. "Who will take care of you during your treatment?" She realizes that it's not just the doctor, but the person who runs the business, the person who brings the patient to the hospital.

Becoming a doctor wasn't just a dream, it was a family tradition. Her father and father, both of whom are Holocaust survivors, accepted into medical school in Russia during the war.

"I think my becoming a doctor was the result of the circumstances it was something that was always there."

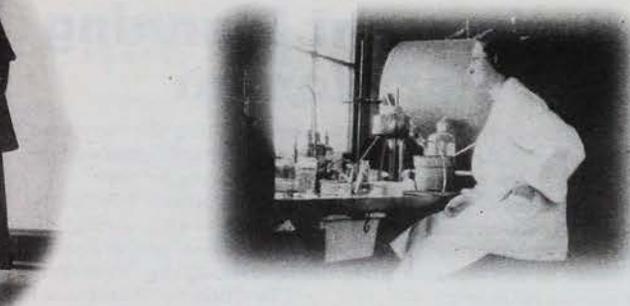
But, the road to success wasn't always easy. During her medical school and her internship, Strenger dominated field wasn't going to be easy. Strenger welcomed with great enthusiasm. Strenger describes an incident in which she was embarrassed by her father's behavior in the locker room. At 25 years old, and despite her father's behavior, Strenger went on rounds, despite the embarrassment.

"Well, if I can't be in here, you'd better be in here. I fail the class and I'm not giving him a chance to pass." In another instance, Strenger was in a room and for three hours was the only person in the room. She should be in Scarsdale playing tennis with her friends, but Strenger made a comment about her parents. They want you to have a family, she replied, "Listen, my parents survived the Holocaust, they could ever imagine..." and with that, she was back to work.

With the help and support of her family, Strenger meets and conquers obstacles head-on. She treats her patients, and although the nature of each patient with laughter and a smile, she looks as well as her own. There are times when she feels that she is tired, but at that same time she is happy.

"I love taking care of these patients, it could eliminate it altogether even though it's a long time. It would be worth it," she said.

# Past & Present



Sarah Olch Webber, bacteriologist and serologist from the mid 1910s.



Rena Rose Shapiro Malin worked in Biller's Market, located on the corner of Robinson and Gay streets, 1940s.



Rose Goldsmith Kunstler, pharmacist at family drug store at the corner of Camp and Lippitt streets as well as other pharmacies including the Miriam Hospital Pharmacy from the 1930s on.

## From Cars to Politics and everything in between



Every male loves automobiles. Whether it's a sporty 1957 Chevy Camaro or a sleek and elegant 1962 Mazaratti, men can't help but salivate at the sight of a beautiful car—they even refer to it as if it were a person, giving it the persona of "she." In 1955, two young brothers, Ted and George Leonard, took their youthful passion for classic automobiles and turned it into what is today, Auto Show Volvo, in Seekonk.

"We've always been in the car business," said Elizabeth Leonard, CEO and senior vice president of Auto Show Volvo. "I think that Ted's love of cars is something that is still evident in the business today."

The family's enthusiasm for cars is visible in their antique car collection, which, according to Leonard, includes 21 vintage cars, many with ties to Hollywood's golden era, including the car from the motion picture 'The Great Gatsby,' a Rolls Royce which belonged to Woodrow Wilson and a car given to Clark Gable by the love of his life, Carol Lombard. The family also raced cars during the 1960s and 1970s at tracks around New England (Limerock, Thompson and Seekonk). So

one might say that grease was in their blood!

Leonard is probably best known to many Rhode Islanders as the woman who challenged the ol' boys political system of Rhode Island for the gubernatorial race in 1992. Although she did win the Republican primary, something unheard of for a newcomer, she did lose the race—but received nearly 36 percent of the vote, something, to this day, she is very proud of.

"I have no regrets about anything that I've done in my life," said Leonard. "The only people who lose are those who never try and I had the courage to try." She hopes that courage will inspire other women to follow their dreams regardless of barriers.

Leonard says that she took away many warm and positive feelings from her political experience, especially of those who stood by her and came out to support her. She reflects back on it with fondness and continues her political endeavors—be it on a smaller scale—working with Operation Clean Government, she is still very active with the Republican State Committee and the town committee as well.

"You keep working and chiseling away, hoping that someday you'll make a difference."

Now, Leonard knows what it's like to be a woman in two areas where men seem to dominate, politics and automobiles. But, Leonard is quick to point out that it wasn't until she entered politics that she realized the sexist stigma was alive and well.

"What really opened my eyes," she said, "was a headline which appeared in *The Providence Journal* ... 'Is Rhode Island Ready for a Female Governor?' There really shouldn't be a difference between

men and women. That headline should have read, 'Is Rhode Island Ready for a Change?'"

As she speaks with other female executives in the industry, she believes that the stigma of being female is still very relevant and that women, in general, are not taken as seriously as their male counterparts.

"We all enter into the work force because we have something to offer," said Leonard, "and we want to pursue our area of interest and if we can excel in it and rise to the top, then we should be afforded the same salary and benefits."

When a female customer enters Leonard's showroom, she can be assured she'll be taken just as seriously as the men—she sees to that personally.

She says the greatest compliment she ever received was when a female customer wrote her a lovely letter after being in the showroom saying that 'as soon as she walked in the door, she could tell that the business was run by a woman.'

"With more and more women buying cars, making the decision as to what to buy and how much, I've made sure that my female clientele feels comfortable and not pressured by a pushy salesman."

The question Leonard is most often asked is not with regard to her political career, it is "When are you going to retire?" Her answer is simple—not until she's done everything there is to do. "When you look at retirement as the end-all to your life, that's not retirement. Sure, there is a lot I'd like to do but when I look back at it, I've loved everything that I've done and to think of retirement as the culmination of that, for myself, that's just not me."

## From a Two-Person operation to a Salon Dynasty



Twenty-one years ago, Elaine Shapiro opened a small hair salon in Cranston. There were two chairs and one other woman besides herself. As business grew, so did Shapiro's need for space.

Shapiro admits that she never wanted her own salon, she would have been quite content working with someone else and if she hadn't taken the chance on herself she might have gone in a totally different life direction. But, fate had something else in mind. When one door closed on her career, after she left one job to raise a family, another quickly opened and showed Shapiro

that even the bleakest of situations can have a happy ending. At first, she wasn't going to work, then when many of her old clients would call her asking when she was opening her own salon, she took that as her cue to do so.

"It was never my intention to have a salon," admits Shapiro. "But I am delighted that I do."

Elan Salon and Day Spa, located on Bald Hill Road in Cranston, is a far cry from the 500 square feet she worked out of in the strip of storefronts adjacent to Mustang Sally's in Cranston. Today, her new shop boasts 4,500 square feet, 40 employees and Shapiro is currently taking over another space where she will expand some of her skin and spa services. She admits that she never thought it would become as large an operation as it has.

Since she was young and playing with dolls, she had always wanted to be a hairdresser and is very thankful for her success.

"Not in a lifetime do people ever find what they love to do and I absolutely love my industry," said Shapiro.

Her daughter Elisa, introduced as "the next generation" for the salon, is a graduate of Simmons College where she received her degree in education. While attending school, she had been working at a salon on Newberry Street in Boston in an effort to earn some extra money. One day she called her mother and said, "You know what, Mom, if I can do this here, I'd much rather be doing it for you," and home she came.

"She's been weaned on this business," jokes Shapiro, who really knows the meaning of keeping it in the family. Her 85-year-old mother still comes in every day to take care of the books and deposits, and she credits her husband with giving her much of her inner strength.

Shapiro runs her business as an extension of her own family. She's very sensitive to the needs of her female staff, be it a sick child or a vacation with the family. For Shapiro, life is all about family being together.

"There is nothing you can't do if you put your mind to it and try extremely hard," said Shapiro. "I'm proof of that."

# Women in Business

## What Do Young Women Want Out of Life?

Health and financial success are the two top concerns faced by many of today's 20-something women, according to a recent survey commissioned by Coors Brewing Company's Women's Program.

Asked about the challenges in their daily lives, women in their 20s most often mentioned financial success (83 percent) and health (82 percent). Less important were personal or spiritual growth (63 percent), relationships (62 percent) and appearance (54 percent). Among the 17 specific challenges, finding a mate ranked last, at 18 percent.

"Today's women in their 20s may have more opportunities, but they also feel a lot of pressure," said Maria Yoos, corporate relations manager, Coors Brewing Company's Women's Program. "The good news is that physical fitness seems to help women negotiate this turbulent decade."

At least two out of five 20-something women surveyed found the following challenges very stressful or somewhat stressful: managing time (59 percent), budgeting (57 percent), making money (57 percent), being physically fit (55 percent), getting ahead in their careers (43 percent), eating healthy (42 percent) and maintaining their health (41 percent).

Health-related stress may result in part from the demands of entering the work force. When it comes to managing stress, however, fit women seem to fare better than people who don't exercise.

Moreover, 20-something women who consider themselves physically fit — 53 percent of the women surveyed — have a more positive self-image than those who are not physically fit.

To help women in their 20s

learn more about the benefits of sports and fitness, Coors Brewing Company and the Women's Sports Foundation have co-produced a free consumer brochure and web site. *Go Get Fit! A Woman's Guide to Finding The Right Sport* is available by calling (800) 227-3988.

<www.gogetfit.com> on the Women's Sports Foundation's web site includes a quiz to create your own personalized sports and fitness profile. The site also includes a list of more than 50 sports and information on estimated startup and equipment costs, strength/endurance and skill levels required, recommended books/videos and hyperlinks to other web sites involving that sport.



**Go Get Fit** — A new consumer brochure is designed to help twenty-something women determine their sports and fitness profile.

## Retirement Planning For Women

Studies show that about 90 percent of American women will be solely responsible for their finances at some time in their lives. Research also reveals that many women may be in danger of having inadequate funds for retirement.

There are several reasons for this. Women generally earn 30 percent less than men, leaving less income available for saving. Because women tend to change jobs more frequently than do men — averaging 4.8 years per employer compared to 6.6 years for men — they frequently miss out on pension benefits.

Women's attitudes toward investing may also play a part. They tend to prefer low-risk, low-return, conservative savings vehicles, such as money market accounts and certificates of deposit, while often avoiding higher risk investments, such as stocks.

Financial experts at one of America's leading financial services providers and the world's largest pension system, TIAA-CREF, suggest women take several key steps toward attaining a more secure retirement.

1. Start saving early — or at least, start now. The sooner you

begin investing, the more time tax deferrals and compound interest can work for you.

2. Save regularly. You'll probably need to save at least 10 percent of your annual income to have enough for retirement.

3. Don't touch your retirement funds ahead of time. They're not intended for current expenses. Plus, if you withdraw the funds early, you'll pay a substantial penalty.

4. Invest, don't just save. To amass sufficient funds for retirement, you probably have to invest at least some of your money in stocks. Although past performance does not guarantee future results, over time, stocks have historically produced rates of return above inflation and better than bonds and other interest-earning securities.

5. Take your tax advantages. Saving through an employer-sponsored retirement plan such as a 401(k) or 403(b) can reduce your current taxes.

6. Educate yourself in financial matters. Newspapers, magazines, books, newsletters and the Internet are all good sources of information on personal finance.



## MAKING STRIDES

The Sexual Assault & Trauma Resource Center of R.I. will hold the 4th Annual Making Strides Against Violence 5K Run/Walk on April 24 at 9 a.m. in Colt State Park in Bristol.

The entry fee is \$15 per person. Post entries are \$18.

Children under 12 are free.

Cash prizes awarded to the top male and female runners.

In addition, gift prizes will be awarded to the first place team and to the first place finishers, M/F, in the several age groups.

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All proceeds from Making Strides benefit the SATRC.

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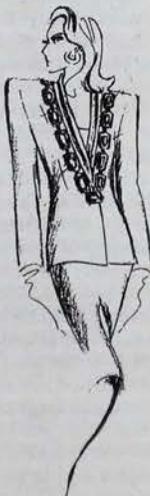
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Photo by Carl Keitner

# Women in Business

## A Conversation With Lorraine Webber

by Emily Torgan-Shalansky  
Jewish Community Reporter

Lorraine Webber seemed troubled.

Although she was fully prepared to explain how she had become president of the Rhode Island Chapter of Hadassah, radio news about Kosovo was blasting across the dining room that she had readied with coffee, pastries and notes.

"I wish they'd get rid of the euphemism 'ethnic cleansing,'" she said, lowering her head and voice with a deep, characteristic empathy.

As Webber went on to describe a career that included decades of intense social activism, her powerful empathy emerged countless times in numerous forms.

"I learned it from my mother," she explained. "She instilled in me a recognition that each of us has an obligation to right the injustices we see."

Webber admitted that her mother had had little time for social involvement. "My father died when I was 5 years old," Webber explained. "Shortly thereafter, we moved from Amsterdam, N.Y., to Rhode Island, where her parents were. She always had to work to support me and my sister, Gloria."

Now a grandmother of two, Webber looked about the comfortable Warwick home she shares with her husband, Harold, and said she has never regretted her difficult early years.

"I think the kinds of hardships I had to go through gave me a much deeper comprehension of what it means not to be able to fulfill your potential," she explained. "I know what it's like when what you want to accomplish for yourself has to be set aside just to get along."

As a married young adult raising two sons on the east side of Providence, Webber found numerous ways to act on her social conscience.

She got involved with the League of Women Voters and eventually became its president. She and a group of friends founded the Rhode Island Minority Caucus. She volunteered within the Rhode Island public school system.

"Those were very activist times," Webber remembered of the 1960s. "People felt that it was essential for them to get involved. My door was always unlocked, and people would come in and out while my sons did their homework in the other room. It was a good neighborhood feeling."

Webber giggled as she remembered the pillbox hats League of Women Voters members once donned for meetings, and looked thoughtful as she recalled encouraging minority groups to vote.

"I enjoyed the intellectual curiosity that I found in the League of Women Voters," she said. "I worked with the superintendent of public schools and with the mayor. I tried to impress upon minority communities that their political power

rested with their votes. I just cared and cared — I cared a whole lot." Deeply concerned about women's rights, Webber soon combined her administrative and social skills to pursue reproductive rights.

"Along with Dr. Charles Potter, I started the first hospital-based family planning clinic in Rhode Island," Webber said. "It was at the Lying In Hospital."

After an assassin's bullet killed Dr. Potter, Webber served as director of education at Planned Parenthood.

"The murder was terrible, just terrible," she remembered. "There were people who really needed our help."

Webber's work on numerous committees that studied and evaluated the public school system also attracted attention.

"My volunteer work led to a career in government," she explained. "When Fred Burke became the commissioner of education he needed an assistant, so I went to work for him."

Although she was involved in as many as 17 volunteer organizations, Webber did not begin to work with Jewish groups until she retired from the Rhode Island Department of Education in 1989.

"Unfortunately, I was not involved with Jewish organizations during my formative years or young adulthood," she said. "But then, my cousin was serv-

ing as president of the Hadassah Cranston and Warwick group, and she asked me to be on her board. I jumped in with both feet."

Webber became the group's next leader and was later elected president of the 1,700-member Rhode Island Chapter.

"Leading Hadassah has been a major gift to me," Webber explained. "It's made me feel more comfortable with who I am as a Jewish woman, and it has given me a greater appreciation of my heritage. It has also exposed me to the leaders of the Jewish community, people whom I have never known before. I really appreciate what they do."

Webber's two years as president have included implementing the national organization's suggestion that the Rhode Island group restructure by uniting its seven long-standing groups into a single chapter.

"There were some adjustments to make, but things are going very well at this point," Webber said. "Hadassah is alive and strong. It's vital that we get across our message that it is imperative to support Israel and the programs we maintain there. I want to increase our membership and set up special interest groups. Our members know what they have to do and they do it. We've got some great programs planned."



Lorraine Webber

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# Women in Business

## The Foremother's of the Jewish Women's Movement

by Kimberly Ann Orlandi  
Herald Editor

### Poet Emma Lazarus 1849-1887

Known as the "poet of the oppressed," Lazarus was the voice of those who had no voice. The poor, the immigrants, and the sick, Lazarus took it upon herself to bring recognition to those people who often fell by the wayside. She learned late in life about the horrors Jews faced in Russia during 1881 and 1882, and it was from this that she discovered a greater sense of being Jewish. She worked tirelessly with im-



migrants coming into Ward's Island near New York City and it was through them that she found the inspiration and subjects on which to write. One of her most famous poems, "The New Colossus," which includes the lines.... "Give me your tired, your poor/Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free..." is inscribed on the base of the Statue of Liberty.

opportunities afforded her, she found the greatest satisfaction in helping the poor who lived on New York's Lower East Side. Her desire to do something more meaningful with her life came as a result of her older brother's death while she was a young girl. "My life hitherto has been—I presume—a type of modern American young womanhood, days devoted to society, study, and housekeeping duties... This does not satisfy me now. I feel the need of serious, definite work." Her work was nursing and after graduating from nursing school in 1889, she began knocking on doors and trenching through some of the most unsanitary conditions in an effort to get to the sick. But the job was too big for her alone, so, with the help of Jewish financier Jacob Schiff and his mother-in-law, Betty Solomon Loeb, they established, what is today known as the Visiting Nurses Service.



### Advocate Gloria Steinem 1934-

One of the greatest voices of the women's movement, Steinem rallied American women to stand up and reject

the sexist image brought forth by men and to demand equality in terms of rights, career advancement, education and political freedom. Steinem made a name for herself when she, as a writer for a magazine, went undercover as a Playboy bunny and exposed the "deplorable and demeaning" conditions under which they worked. Constantly at odds with Playboy's chief, Hugh Hefner, the two often made for colorful debates within the press. During the 1970s, she became active in the Democratic party speaking out on the United State's involvement in Vietnam, the lack of legal abortion services, and in 1971 she joined forces with Bella Abzug, Shirley Chisholm and Betty Friedan to form the National Women's Political Caucus—an organization to bolster women in politics. In 1972, she helped found Ms. magazine, the first major publication with a feminist slant.



### Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg 1933-

She is only the second woman to sit on the prestigious Supreme Court of the United States and

she got there the hard way — she earned it. A 1954 graduate of Cornell University, she was one of only 9 women of 500 students to enter Harvard Law School, graduating in 1959. Ginsberg learned early that being a woman was a disadvantage — at least that's what the male-dominated society kept telling her. Despite graduating first in her class at Columbia, the law firms of New York City were not interested in hiring a woman attorney. In 1960, she was recommended for a clerkship with Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter, but her impeccable academic record aside, was turned down by Justice Frankfurter because she was a woman. It was through these negative experiences that Ginsberg decided to dedicate her career to raising the status of women within society. A clerk for a district court judge in New York, Ginsberg went on to teach at Harvard and Columbia, work with the ACLU, was named to the U.S. Court of Appeals in 1980 by President Carter and in 1993, after being nominated by President Clinton, Ginsberg was sworn in as the 107th member of the Supreme Court.



### Astronaut Judith Resnick 1949-1986

On January 28, 1986, the world watched in horror and disbelief as the space shuttle Challenger exploded in the sky above Kennedy Space Center, Florida. On board were seven astronauts — men and women, among them Judith Resnick.

In 1984, as a member of the Discovery crew, Resnick became the first Jewish astronaut and only the second woman to be thrust into space. Born in Akron, Ohio, her parents divorced when she was 17 years old. Studious and successful when it came to academics, Resnick graduated valedictorian and entered Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh as an engineering student—graduating in the top five within the department. She and her husband, also an engineering student, took jobs with the Radio Corporation of America where she worked while studying for her Ph.D. at the University of Maryland. The two divorced in 1975, and Resnick graduated in 1977 after which she entered the NASA program in Houston, Texas.

"First is only the means to the end of full equality, not the end in itself," said Resnick after being asked how it felt to be the first Jewish astronaut.

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From information gathered from *Extraordinary Jewish Americans*, by Philip Brooks, 1998, Children's Press.

### Nurse Lillian Wald 1867-1940

Lillian Wald grew up with all of the advantages of a well-to-do family, but with all of the



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