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The Jewish Federation of Rhode Island's annual community campaign for funds to help **Raise Jews, Save Jews, Care for Jews** had reached **\$4 million** at Voice press time. Have you made your pledge to Campaign 2001?

When 21 Jews from Rhode Island flew to Israel in early December, they found the plaza at the Western Wall, a playground in Gilo and Ben Yehuda Street deserted. Over and over, Israelis thanked them for coming. The travelers' impressions of these troubled times begin on **Page 3**

Israelis and Palestinian Muslims fight hand-to-hand when Muslims try to gain access to the Temple Mount on the last Friday of Ramadan. In the latest peace

proposals, Israel has been asked to give up sovereignty over the Temple Mount.



Photo by Brian Hendler/JTA

You, too, can show Israelis that you care. A 2nd Solidarity Mission is to leave Rhode Island on January 25. **See Back Page.**

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**Editor-in-chief:** Jane Sprague  
**Production Assistant & Graphic Designer:** Leah Camara

**Editorial Board:** Eleanor Lewis, chair  
Members: Stanley Aronson, MD, Alan Axelrod, Patricia Cohen, Mark Feinstein, Linn Freedman, Rabbi Alvan Kauner, Toby London, Doris McGarry, Robert Riesman, Richard Shein, Gladys Sollosy, Joshua Stein, Norman Tilles, Judith Romney Wegner, Alan Zuckerman.

**Advertising Representative:** Seena Taylor

**Correspondents:** Betty Aronson, Stanley Aronson, Cary Eichenbaum, Stuart Goldman, Tema Gouse, Yehuda Lev

**Photographers:** Seymour Glantz, Joshua Karlin, Bill Sprague

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# Briefly . . .

Photos this page from Jewish Telegraphic Agency

## Barak risks all, bets on agreement; Bibi waffles: out, in, then out



Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak (above) took a risk in December. He called for new elections for his job on February 6. The move seems aimed to galvanize the Palestinians into making a peace deal now, with Barak, who most observers think will give the Palestinians more of what they want than a government headed by Barak's opponent, Likud Knesset leader and retired General Ariel Sharon, a man generally despised by the Palestinians.

Under Israeli law, when the PM calls for new elections for his job, but the Knesset does not dissolve itself, only members of the Knesset can run for PM. That left

Benjamin Netanyahu (above right) out. After he complained bitterly, the Knesset passed a "Bibi Bill" to let him run — and he bowed out anyway, saying he didn't want to be PM unless the Knesset dissolved itself and also ran. They refused.

Then, Shimon Peres decided to challenge

Barak, but when, less than 24 hours later he could not garner enough backing in the Knesset, he pulled out, too.

A peace deal, and Barak's reelection, may hinge on whether Israel will relinquish sovereignty over the Temple Mount.



## How strongly will President-elect George W. Bush and Secretary of State-designate Colin Powell back Israel?



President-elect George Bush (2nd from left in left photo) has said his administration will stand by Israel and try to facilitate a peace that is devised by the parties themselves on their own timetable, not the US's. Bush's pick for Secretary of State, retired General Colin Powell (photo at right), has said the issue will be "a major priority." Some observers, however, fear Powell may be reluctant to use American clout. Others say Powell understands fully how important Israel is to the US strategically.



### From the Editor:

This is a time of new beginnings. Some say we are just now at the new millennium; the United States is ready to install a new administration after a mind-boggling struggle to decide just who the new President was to be, and Israel gears up for new elections. There were, at this writing, even new proposals to try to get Israelis and Palestinians to come to a peace agreement. A dramatic start to the secular new year of 2001, which we hope will be safe, healthy, prosperous and happy for us all.

We want to take this opportunity to thank some special people who have been doing extra duty for your editor this past month, and will continue to as I undergo post-operative therapy. This publication has benefitted from their dedication and I have benefitted from their special care: Our Graphic Designer and assistant Leah Camara; the community gadfly and ever-willing correspondent, Yehuda Lev; the Federation staff in general; The Voice Editorial Board, especially Ellie Lewis, the chair, and Judith Romney Wegner, who have done extra proof-reading duty. Bless them all!

Jane S. Sprague

## Orthodox Union pledges to change after sexual abuse scandal

(JTA) — The umbrella organization for nearly 1,000 American Orthodox synagogues is promising to change in the wake of a long-awaited report highly critical of the movement's handling of complaints about the sexual abuse of teenagers by Rabbi Baruch Lanner, a long-time professional with the movement's youth group, NCSY.

The New York Jewish

Week broke the story after interviews with more than 12 NCSY members who told of Lanner kissing and fondling scores of girls, kicking boys in the groin and other abusive acts.

Lanner resigned a day after the story was published. He admitted only to "inappropriate conduct."

An independent commission report supported the allegations.

## Table of Contents

Agencies	ASDS	23	Young Leaders	14
JCC	BJE	21	International	6
JFS	PHDS	22	Israel	2-5
JORI	Federation		Medical Arts	27
JSA	CRC	15	National	2, 7
Community	Endowment	16-17	Opinions	10-11
Cultural Arts	Mission	3, 8-9	Religious News	2, 19-20
Education	Women's Alliance	14	Seniors	29-31

## Special Features

**What's a Rhode Island Jew doing in Syria this last October?**

Page 6

**Interesting influences: Ellie Elbaum in Japan**

Page 12

**What will the RI Jewish community look like in a few years?**

Page 3

**Who got what? Endowment gives over \$396,000 in grants**

Page 16

Calm in a war zone

## Israeli travelers face delays... due to soccer match

by Rabbi Wayne M. Franklin

Before I went to Israel early in December, I was a bit leery about my safety there. I knew there were daily confrontations between Palestinians and Israelis, with people frequently being killed. On our way up to Jerusalem, our guide told us that we could expect a delay in reaching our destination because, as we were approaching Jerusalem, 20,000 Israelis were on their way to a soccer match at Teddy Stadium! I relaxed; life was continuing as usual in Israel.

While the members of our Solidarity Mission felt safe at all times, we were keenly aware that the Israelis we met were upset, depressed, angry and pessimistic over the rioting, stoning and shooting that has occurred since the Jewish New Year began. They are distressed that the media has painted Israel in a bad light. They are confused by the abundance of conflicting opinions coming from their political leadership as to how best to end the "El Aqsa Intifada." They want intelligent solutions and effective action to end the danger and to return the country to the air of normalcy that had begun to hold sway since the Oslo Accords were signed seven years ago.

As I write two weeks after returning from Israel, some of the speeches we heard sound prophetic. Just before we left Tel Aviv to catch our plane home, Prof. Reuven Hazan, a political scientist from Hebrew University, spoke about the pulse of the nation and the subject of peace. He pointed out that Israelis as a people are peace-loving, but they are a conservative nation. In the last 12 years or so, they have been able to think about the possibility of trading land for peace, but they had not seriously thought that some kind of sharing of Jerusalem would be involved. Sharing Jerusalem with the Palestinians is an idea that is a hard pill for many to swallow. Many Israelis reject this idea and others that were proposed this summer at Camp David. But more than half the country wants peace, even if its terms are more generous to the Palestinians than previously proposed.

Prof. Hazan indicated that PA Chairman Arafat could not sell his people an agreement this past summer, even though it was the most generous offer Israel has ever proposed. Areas of dissatisfaction include the right of Palestinians to return to Israel, which was not affirmed, and the extent of their authority in Jerusalem, which remained unsatisfactory. Hazan predicted, tentatively, that Arafat might feel pressure from at least two situations, which could prompt him to return to the negotiating table. The rapidly approaching end of the Clinton administration in Washington and the impending Israeli elections come together to change the political landscape and create a less attractive atmosphere for reaching a settlement.

Hazan felt there was a chance that Arafat might try to strike a deal while the favorable political constellation is in place. By mid-December, his prediction was being actu-

alized. He reasoned, furthermore, that the new round of confrontations would enable the Palestinians to feel that they had fought for their independence and had emerged with a prize, a Palestinian state and more gains than they might have achieved last summer. During our mission, people wondered if Arafat would return to negotiations; the renewal of contact is a hopeful sign. Israelis and Palestinians must talk with each other, since they will remain together as neighbors in the region. Neither nation will eliminate the other militarily; neither will abandon the area.

Whether Israel and the Palestinians will be able to consummate a deal now remains to be seen. The issues are very complicated and go to the core of Israel's existence, and Israel will not commit national suicide to gain a settlement. Knesset Member Naomi Chazan (Meretz) itemized elements that, in her opinion, will have to be contained in an agreement between the two sides. First of all, there will be a Palestinian state alongside Israel, which will follow roughly the 1967 borders between Israel and the West Bank and Gaza. Israel will annex major settlement clusters, particularly in the Jerusalem

On Sunday, December 3rd, 21 Jews from Rhode Island boarded a bus in Providence and began a Jewish Federation Solidarity Mission to Israel. From Jamestown, Newport, Providence, Pawtucket, Riverside, South County and Cranston, from one congregation or another, from the left and the right, and some in between. By the time they returned on December 8, just five days later, they say they were bound as a community. The Voice asked Rabbi Wayne Franklin to write his viewpoint, and we also excerpted, starting at the bottom of this page, from the journals of other travelers.



At the Tali School in Gilo, a Jerusalem suburb, residents tell Rhode Island Jews what life is like under sniper fire.

area, but she will have to compensate the Palestinians with comparable territory elsewhere.

Secondly, some of the settlements, perhaps as many as 50% of them, where about 20% of the settlers live, will have to be dismantled. This is a highly charged political issue, and it will not be easy to convince settlers to move. MK Chazan believes that the third element in the agreement will have to be about Jerusalem. She envisions Jerusalem remaining undivided, but somehow it will have to serve as the capital. Please turn to page 8.

## Community strategic planning underway

by Jane S. Sprague

Doris Feinberg, Newport, has convened the Strategic Planning Steering Committee that was appointed by Jewish Federation of RI (JFRI) President Robert D. Mann to develop a vision for the greater Rhode Island Jewish community in concert with communal agencies, synagogues and Jews living throughout the area.

Mann, seeking a community process, created the committee in conjunction with the rise of various capital campaigns that signify spirit and growth within the community, campaigns that are to fund development of new campuses for Camp JORI, the Alperin Schechter Day School and the South County Collaborative.

"It is time for the Federation to step up to the plate and assume its leadership role for community planning," Mann said. "We will help perpetuate and enhance a vibrant Jewish community to meet the changing needs of Jews locally, nationally, in Israel and worldwide."

Feinberg has filled numerous leadership roles at JFRI. Currently, she chairs the Planning and Allocations Committee. She is a past campaign chair and president of the former Women's Division, now the Women's Alliance; she has chaired the Endowment Grants Committee, and has been an officer of the JFRI Board of Directors and Executive Committee. She is the immediate past president of the RI Hospital Foundation.

Serving with Feinberg on the Steering Committee are Sheila Alexander, Melvin Alperin, Barbara Binder, Amir Cohen, Minna Ellison, Jonathan Fain, Jack Feilbelman, Mark Feinstein, Susan Froehlich, Alan Hassenfeld, David Hirsch, Clifford Katz, Miriam May, Richard Oster, David Resnik, Darrell Ross, Michael Schuster, Mathew Shuster, Joshua Teverow and David Yavner.

When asked why this effort is essential, Feinberg asked, "When was the last time the Federation took a good look at the services we are providing this community? It's time to dust ourselves off. We must look at the needs of the community, the current services and what the statewide community wants to provide in the future. This is the only way we can be sure that we are providing quality services, and that we will meet the future needs of

the Jewish community in greater Rhode Island."

Before appointing the Committee, Mann, along with the Federation's new executive vice president, Janet Engelhart, and Sharon Gray, JFRI's director of planning and allocations, met with agency executives and presidents, the JFRI board, the Board of Rabbis and a group of congregational leaders to discuss the idea for the planning process and to roll out a compressed timeline.

These meetings identified a wide range of critical issues that concern the diverse constituencies:

- Outreach: geographical and denominational
- Jewish education for all ages across the community
- Continuum of services for the elderly
- Improved marketing
- Community planning
- Youth services
- Better Federation/agency/synagogue communication
- Young leadership development
- Improved interface with the non-Jewish community
- Attracting, training and retaining high quality professional staff
- Services for the Russian Jewish community

Through this new planning process, those issues eventually will be addressed after a vision statement is written and submitted to all constituencies for comment and amendment. Once that statement is finalized, current programs and services will be analyzed along with the current structure of the Jewish community. Ultimately, a plan will be formulated which will include goals, objectives and recommendations for action.

According to the committee's timeline, the draft vision statement is to be ready for discussion by late January. The committee is to gather feedback and return to refine the statement in February, after it has been printed in *The Voice*, allowing for general response.

Mann promises to "involve the community in every step of this process, whether it be by serving on a sub-committee, participating in focus groups, completing a questionnaire or responding to information in *The Voice*. Our goal is to build community, and this process will only be successful if we have everyone's input."

## It's not the same without you

Ruth Page, director, BJE Israel Desk

What is the answer? Which way to turn? Meretz or Likud? Land for peace? Who are our partners? Where are the tourists? Who is responsible? What do we do now? How could we have been so naive? What happened to the dream? Will there be peace in our time?

More questions than answers.

Three days in Israel — barely enough time to calibrate my internal clock — yet more than enough time to hear 18 speeches, to travel to four communities and speak with 10 residents, to dialogue with 10 Israeli teens, to converse with countless *madriskim*, educators, shop owners, to eat one *felafel* at Golani Felafel, to buy two kilos of *gar'anim* (sunflower seeds) at the Afula bus station, to connect with eight Rhode Islanders studying and living in Israel, and to walk through endless empty streets.

More than enough time to know that we don't have the answers, and neither do they; to realize that we and they cannot stop searching for solutions; to reaffirm our Please turn to page 8.

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## "Should settlers move on?" now in open debate in media

by Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM (JTA)— Since the outbreak of Palestinian violence in late September, Israeli commentators have adopted a new tactic: publishing open letters to Jewish settlers in Israeli newspapers. Perhaps the most controversial such letter was written by A.B. Yehoshua, one of Israel's leading authors.

Addressing his "brethren" in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Yehoshua urged them to pack their belongings and return to Israel, concede that the settlement movement was a mistake and acknowledge that the settlements are among the chief obstacles to peace.

Not surprisingly, his letter triggered angry reactions from settlers, who say that, more than at any time in the past, they are convinced that they are right. Citing frequent shooting attacks against Jerusalem's



Will this settler couple return to Israel as part of a peace agreement with the Palestinians?

Gilo neighborhood from a nearby Arab town and the terror bombings in Jerusalem and Hadera, the settlers say, Palestinians make no dis-

inction between the settlements and locations inside Israel proper. They contend that if Israel agrees to dismantle the settlements, it would next face Palestinian demands on Tel Aviv, Haifa or Hadera.

More open letters followed Yehoshua's.

Ma'ariv columnist Ya'ir Lapid wrote a letter asking "my brother, the settler" to stop preaching to other Israelis about love of country. "I love this country no less than you do, and I am tied to it and to its landscapes and its historic memories, which grow here like ancient olive trees. We should not compete with each other in love for country, because we shall both lose."

While settlers may have the right to put themselves in the front lines in the fight for portions of the West Bank and Gaza, more and more Israelis are questioning whether they have the right to raise their children in a war zone.

The question became more urgent after a terror bombing in November on a school bus traveling from the Gaza settlement of Kfar Darom left three young siblings severely crippled.

Not all of the estimated 200,000 settlers living in the territories are motivated by ideology. Increasing numbers of "mortgage settlers"—those who moved to the territories because of the quality of life and cheaper housing—have recently returned to Israel, at least until the current fighting ends.

But settler ideologues insist that those returning to Israel represent a small minority of the settler population, and that they have been replaced by other families buying homes in the territories.

The Palestinians have made it clear that the settlements are their prime target. With the exception of the attacks in Jerusalem and Hadera, Palestinian violence has been directed at military and civilian targets in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Palestinians likewise describe their shooting attacks on Gilo as an attack against settlements, since they consider Gilo Please go to next page.

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**WENDY GARF-LIPP** has been a Jewish educator for the past 26 years. Educated in Israel and the United States, she has taught at Schechter schools, congregational schools, and Camp Ramah. She has also taught adults, most recently speaking at the Bureau of Jewish Education's "An Evening of Jewish Renaissance." For the past 22 years she has been a teacher at the Alperin Schechter Day School in RI. Wendy is particularly interested in the teaching of values and ethics within the Jewish context. In her spare time she runs a small business, Kreative Kippot, designing hand-painted suede Kippot.

For more information contact Sylvia Berman-Peck,  
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**Noam** Zion was born to American parents fighting in the Hagana in Jerusalem in 1948. He grew up in an egalitarian Conservative rabbi's home in Minneapolis and studied general Philosophy at Columbia in the late sixties. He was a member of the New York Havurah and was sent by their Israeli Consulate to the USSR in 1968. During the Yom Kippur War, he made Aliyah and since 1978 he has studied and taught at the pluralist Shalom Hartman Institute for Advanced Jewish Studies, headed by Rabbis David and Donniel Hartman. One of Noam's special interest is Jewish Family Education, especially using his, "A Different Night: The Family Participation Haggadah."

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# Bombs explode in Gaza, Tel Aviv

by Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — A fresh wave of attacks against Israelis has compounded the uncertainty that President Clinton can forge a last-minute Israeli-Palestinian peace deal in the days before he leaves office.

In the Gaza Strip on December 28, two Israelis were killed and two injured in an explosion near the border with Israel for which Islamic Jihad claimed credit. The explosion occurred near the Sufa Crossing in southern Gaza. Police sources told The Associated Press that the explosion occurred when Israeli soldiers were attempting to dismantle a roadside bomb.

Hours earlier, at least 14 people were injured, two of them seriously, when two pipe bombs exploded on commuter bus 51 in Tel Aviv during lunch-time traffic on a busy thoroughfare. Police said more serious casualties were averted due to a malfunction in one of the devices, which they said were set off by remote control, an action claimed by the Saladin Brigades.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak described the attack as „deplorable“ and vowed to „reach the perpetrators and those who dispatched them.“ Hours later, Barak renewed a closure on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The attack came just days after Israel relaxed a previous closure and began letting Palestinian workers return to jobs in Israel.

In another incident the same day, an Israeli was moderately wounded when shots were fired at his car near the West Bank settlement of Alon Moreh. In Washington, Clinton condemned the violence, saying it „reminds people of what the alternative to peace is.“ Clinton, who on December 23 had presented Israeli and Palestinian negotiators with the broad outlines of a peace accord, said the terror attack in Tel Aviv was „the best argument for going ahead and finishing“ the peace process.

## Settlers. . . from pg. 4

— a Jerusalem neighborhood built on land conquered in the 1967 Six-Day War — as a settlement.

The Israeli left has long demanded that Israel dismantle certain controversial settlements like Psagot in the West Bank and Netzarim in Gaza. But most Israelis, even the most enthusiastic supporters of a Palestinian state, will not endorse concessions while the current fighting rages.

As Hirsch Goodman, a leading Israeli journalist, put it, “You do not give in under fire.” But that sentiment could change if the violence subsides.

Recent polls indicate that most Israelis know that dismantling settlements will be part of the price for peace — and they are willing to pay that price.

Clinton said his proposals were based on what he had heard from the two sides during his term in office. „If there is a peace agreement here, I'm convinced it's within the four corners I've laid out,” he said.

A few days before the attacks, Islamic fundamentalist groups had threatened to step up terrorist attacks amid intensified efforts by Israel and the Palestinian Authority to reach a peace agreement. Arafat released scores of terrorists from jail shortly after the Palestinians began their violent uprising against Israel three months ago.

The December 28 attacks came amid diplomatic uncertainty over the future of Clinton's proposals. That very day, Israel approved the ideas, on condition that the Palestinians also accept them as the basis for an agreement. While

refraining from formally rejecting the ideas, the Palestinians raised a series of reservations that they said must be clarified before they make a final decision. As a result of their reservations, Barak canceled a planned summit with Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat in Egypt.

Regardless, Arafat traveled to Egypt to confer with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. Arafat later said an Arab summit would convene in early January to review the US proposals.

Clinton's proposals call for far-reaching concessions by both Israel and the Palestinians. Most controversial for Israelis is a proposal to cede control of Jerusalem's Temple Mount, the holiest site in Judaism, to the Palestinians. The plateau today houses an important mosque.

Israel also would divide Jerusalem into a patchwork of neighborhoods, with Arab neighborhoods coming under Palestinian rule.

In exchange, the Palestinians would scale back their demand that descendants of the Arab refugees who fled or were expelled in Israel's 1948 War of Independence — some 4 million people in all — be allowed to return to their former homes inside Israel. Even the most dovish Israelis consider this a veiled call to eliminate the Jewish state.

Barak has been harshly criticized for conducting negotiations under the deadline of Israel's February 6 elections. His re-election chances are believed to hinge on reaching a deal with the Palestinians before the balloting.

The opposition Likud Party has likened Barak's efforts to a „clearance sale“ of vital Israeli

assets, and said they will not be bound by any agreement if they win the election.

On the day of the attacks, Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert relocated his office from downtown Jerusalem to a building next to the Western Wall in the Old City, despite Palestinian threats to react with violence.

Olmert said the move, to last a week, was meant to underscore the possibility that Jews could again lose the Western Wall. Between 1948 and 1967, when the Old City was under Arab control, Jews were denied access to the Western Wall, despite agreements on free passage to holy sites.

Four of the were Israeli soldiers, including one woman who was put on life support and described as being in serious to moderate condition.

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# Rich tapestry of Greco-Roman ruins amidst Syrian landscape, fear, oppression

by Richard Shein

Much to the consternation of friends and family I recently spent more than two weeks traveling and touring in Syria. Philosophically, there may not be much to be said for a police state like Syria, but one can be certain that one is at risk only if it is government policy. Individual acts of terrorism just don't happen.

Led by a prominent archaeologist, the trip was designed to give us a sense of historical continuity by visiting significant archaeological sites, and they are spectacular. At the same time, having a sense of time and place, one could not be indifferent to the attitudes and opinions of those Syrians with whom we had contact.

### Along the silk, spice route

First, the sites. Just as Israel in ancient times was strategically located along the invasion routes both from Egypt in the south and various empires encroaching from the north, Syria, too, was not neglected by invading armies, but for different reasons. Because of its location as a way station for caravans traveling from the east bearing silks or spices, many civilizations amassed great fortunes by establishing trading outposts there and defending them against all others. Syria, consequently, is a country with some of the most intact Greco-Roman cities and temples in the world.

Of particular interest to me as a Jew was our trip in northern Syria near Aleppo to an area called "cities of the dead." Not cities at all but tiny hamlets, hundreds of them, all built of gray limestone and dating to the sixth century, built by early Christians. Facing persecution in the urban centers such as Aleppo and Damascus, they settled in obscure areas with fertile land and adequate water. Unfortunately for them, it shortly became the major route for invading armies intent on establishing their own trade stations, and so the villages were abandoned.

In one of these tiny villages, Krik Bezeh, at the rear of a private home is a church (for even here in isolation, Christianity was a risky business). In the very center of the church is a raised circular platform called a "bimah," having a rail around a semicircle of stone seats which would have been cushioned. In the middle of the curve of seats was a high backed chair, which was apparently for the priest. It was the custom in early synagogues to have a special highly decorated seat of honor on the bimah for Elijah. We remember from our Passover seder that Elijah is the messenger of God who will herald the coming of the Messiah, and to early Christians, this seat on the bimah went to their representative of God, the priest. The opening in the rail was opposite a niche in the facing wall which, of course, in a synagogue would have held the Torah.

### Similarities gave Jewish, pagan converts comfort

In an attempt to make sense of these similarities one must look to the historical context. At that time, Aleppo had a substantial Jewish population and Christianity (keep in mind that the first Christians were Jews) was appealing for converts. The similarities of these churches to synagogues certainly did not happen by accident, but by design. Since most of this earliest Christians had been Jews it is logical that the sameness of these early church and the familiarity for its Jewish members made for more comfortable and welcoming environment. For Jewish converts, then, any differences would have been outwardly subtle. For pagans, who had sun gods



Far from the safety of Providence, Richard Shein went adventuring in Syria in October so he could explore the ancient Greco-Roman architecture and early Christian settlements, the latter heavily influenced by Judaic heritage. Shein serves on The Voice editorial board, which he chaired for 11 years.

among a panoply of deities, orienting the prayer direction toward the rising sun, the east, was a degree of acceptance.

There were other interweavings of early Judaism and other peoples. There is a neo-Hittite temple called Ain Dara, dedicated to Baal and designed by Phoenician architects. Layout and design and proportions are the same as Solomon's temple, not surprising since the Phoenicians were also advisors to Solomon at that time.

Not far from the Syrian border with Iraq is an ancient fortress high above the Euphrates River. Originally built to protect the advances of enemies up or down the river, it became valuable as a way station for the trade with the east, beginning in the second century, but not before a serendipitous series of events resulted in the preservation of the frescoes from the walls and ceilings of a first-century synagogue. As the Romans prepared to defend this fortress, called Dura Europos, they backfilled with dirt all those buildings abutting the outer walls in an attempt to make it more difficult for the enemy to breach them. One of those buildings was this synagogue, and for almost 1700 years it lay buried, until the 1920s, when a squad of British troops dug a trench in defending against Arab marauders and exposed the vibrantly colored walls with stories from the Bible, depicting human figures in Greek dress. These walls, in all their glory, have been reconstructed in the Damascus Museum. The realization hits you as to how profound an effect the Greeks and Romans had on virtually every aspect of Jewish life and thought.

Discussions about the political situation in the Mideast were predict the elder Assad, father of the present leader, crushed a fundamentalist faction that was challenging his authority by surrounding their neighborhood with tanks and artillery and leveling it, killing, by our guide's account, more than 30,000 men, women and children. Our guide, Walid, kind, warm and sympathetic, was comfortable in justifying this action as an object lesson to those who would attempt to challenge the political situation from without rather than within. As he stated, "All Syrians understand the cost of defying the political system; we have had no more problems."

Whether small town or large city, portraits of the late leader Hafez Assad were everywhere. From elaborate portraits in neon to simple photographs, and even when pictures were absent, black flags flew from private homes. Pictures of his son, Bashar, often were mounted alongside but with a subtle difference: the father had a self-assured expression with a slight smile of benevolence, while the son has a more serious look of dedicated determination. One can read into the difference the insecurity of the not-yet-proven son still in the process of solidifying his position of power.

Bashir, the west hopes, because of his English education, might be more amenable to making peace with Israel. Unless and until he can solidify his leadership of the Baath Party, we can only wait and see.

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## 106th Congress slips off leaving much undone

by Sharon Samber

WASHINGTON (JTA) — In the middle of the night, it seems, Congress slipped away and left many issues undone, including appropriating millions of dollars in special aid for Israel.

After the all-consuming controversy over the presidential election, few seemed to notice that Congress adjourned and left a number of contentious issues for the next legislative session, when the Senate and House will be even more closely divided.

Jewish organizations enjoyed a few successes during the 106th Congress, but endured many disappointments and now face uncertain prospects on some of the more difficult issues.

Israel's annual foreign aid package can be counted as one of last year's appropriations successes, as the entire request of nearly \$3 billion was approved despite diplomatic fallout over Israel's proposed sale of an early-warning radar system to China. The White House also sent Capitol Hill a last-minute request for an additional \$450 million in military aid, primarily to help defray the cost of Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon last May. Under different circumstances the request might have been routine, but the package came under greater scrutiny because of political instability in Israel and the continuing violence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Ultimately, a combination of poor timing and a cut in the American defense budget resulted in the package's defeat, a Jewish official familiar with the aid request said.

Jewish groups also had hoped to see passage of an immigration bill, one of the issues that held up the budget. The bill would have restored certain benefits to immigrants — such as Medicaid and eligibility for food stamps — taken away by 1996 welfare reform laws. In the end, it failed.

In addition, a large-scale amnesty for undocumented immigrants failed to make the final version of the omnibus spending bill. Organizations such as the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society that had hoped for a dramatic shift will have to settle for modest changes in the processing of undocumented immigrants who have resided in the United States for at least 15 years. A more sweeping change would have been of greater help to Jews from the former Soviet Union, among other immigrants.

Compromise language in the omnibus bill did give undocumented immigrants on the verge of getting a green card a four-month window to obtain the work permit in the United States, rather than having to get it in their home countries. In addition, Congress gave the State Department \$700 million — \$42 million more than the administration had requested — to bring in and process refugees and to aid refugees abroad.

Hate crimes legislation did not make it into the spending bill, though it had been strongly promoted by the Clinton administration. Jewish groups were disappointed by the failure of the legislation, which would have authorized federal prosecution of crimes motivated by sexual orientation, gender or disability, expanding current laws that protect victims of crimes motivated by race, color, religion or ethnicity.

The Senate passed hate crimes legislation in June, but the measure was stripped from a defense bill because of objections from the Republican leadership in the House.

Groups like the Anti-Defamation League saw the lame-duck session as a chance to pass the hate crimes legislation, but an expected last-minute surge of support from the White House never materialized.

Michael Lieberman, Washington counsel for the ADL, said the presidential election controversy overshadowed any chance for progress on hate crimes. He believes that more members of Congress will support hate crimes legislation next year, but the leadership will oppose it and the Bush administration is not likely to support the bill as aggressively as the Clinton administration did.

Jewish groups also had looked to stave off provisions for charitable choice, which allows religious institutions to bid for government social service contracts. However, language allowing for charitable choice was included in both health and urban development legislation. Some Jewish groups fear it will be difficult to stop moves toward charitable choice under the new president, since Bush strongly supports the issue. "We have our work cut out for us," Lieberman said.

At this point, most Jewish groups are withholding judgment on the outlook for the next session, which begins in early January. Much of the talk in Washington is about bipartisanship, but Vice-President-elect Dick Cheney said Sunday that Bush does not intend to relent on his agenda.

Jewish organizations, meanwhile, plan to push their own agendas, or at least modest proposals that should get support from both sides of the aisle. Reva Price, Washington representative of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, said they will "hope for the best" for their efforts to increase the minimum wage and pass a patient's bill of rights and a prescription drug plan.

The American Israel Public Affairs Committee said it will lobby for the supplemental aid package, and will press to keep sanctions in place against Iran and Iraq.

The Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society hopes to get benefits restored next year to elderly refugees, and ease legalization efforts for long-term immigrants.

## The Congressman and the Consul

Rhode Island's junior Representative to the US House, James Langevin, met with Israel's Consul General to New England, Itzhak Levanon, in December to discuss the common interests of Israel and the United States. During his campaign, Langevin was a staunch supporter of a secure Israel as a strategic friend and partner to the United States in the Mideast.



Photo by Joshua Karlin

*After treatment for colon cancer, Irma brought home a lot of things including something she never thought she would.*

*Her pride.*

As if cancer wasn't enough to overcome,

Irma Friedlander's illness left her with the terrible uncertainty of wearing an ostomy bag. But just as they helped her

through her surgery, the staff at The Miriam eased her fears about this new

challenge. Irma says she'll never forget how the nurses went above and beyond the call, which helps explain why The Miriam is one of only a handful of hospitals in the country to receive a prestigious national award for Excellence in Nursing Services. "They gave me back my life," Irma says, now that she's settled back home in North Providence. And really, what better gift is there than that?



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## It's not the same. . . from pg. 3

commitment to the land and people Israel; to never give up the dream, yet to understand that they live the reality. More than enough time to know that we must show our support with our presence. We are one. We must be there. If not now, when?

### Michael Balaban, JFRI campaign director

A month prior to the mission I had met Haim Abraham, the father of Benny Abraham, one of the Israeli soldiers kidnapped by the Hezbollah. I had also heard the widow of Yosef Avrahami, one of the Israeli men brutally murdered in Ramallah. Both asked for Americans to show their support by visiting Israel. My going to Israel was as much for them as it was for me.

While in Israel, the warmth and calm of Israel's beauty overcame me. Clearly we know life isn't easier there. However, in Israel, the senses are clearer. The air is sweeter, the sky is brighter, the food is better, the people more approachable. In a land thousands of miles from my family, I am home again.

I was struck by the mood. Life goes on—and it should, with perhaps a greater purpose. Gilo is the southernmost neighborhood of Jerusalem. The families in Gilo who each night fall asleep to sniper fire coming from Beit Jala and Beit Sahour (the neighboring Palestinian villages) wake up and

go to work or school. My friend Michael Yankolovitz lives in Gilo with his family. His children are the same age as mine. They moved to Gilo for better housing and schools. Children play in courtyards because the playground is too exposed. Yet the children play. When I asked Michael what he wanted, he said that on my next visit he hopes to take me to a little shop in Beit Jala—they have the best falafel and the store owner tells great jokes. Michael wants peace with his neighbors.

### Dianne Newman, Providence

This was my first "mission" but my eighth trip to Israel. On the most recent trips, the mood of the country was very upbeat. The economy was booming, and Israelis discussed the "peace dividend" that would result from the treaty with Jordan. Tourism and business travel were at high levels, and Jewish tourists were able to visit Amman and Petra.

In contrast, the mood today is somber; Israelis are worried about security, concerned about the likelihood of further conflict, and worried about both the long and short term impact on the economy. In shops on Ben Yehuda Street in Jerusalem, the news is that the absence of tourists is leading merchants to close shops, combine locations, or at the very least, reduce costs by staffing the shops themselves rather than paying clerks to work in the store.



The Rhode Island 21 pause for a photo before beginning their journey to Israel on December 3. From left to right, 1st row, Lori Nelson, Moshe Mordechai Tversky, Dorothy Fox Levenson, Lisa Bergman, Rabbi Mitchell Levine, David Yavner, Jeffrey Rosenbaum; 2nd row, Rich Walter, Rabbi Wayne Franklin, Jeff Brier, Roger Perlman; 3rd row, Ruth Page, Doris Feinberg, Toby Marwil, Jessica Brier, Diane Newman; top row, Leonid Margolin, Milton Stanzler, Bea Ross and Mike Balaban. Not pictured, Rita Isaacs.



It was "old home week" for these RI students in Israel: left to right Natanya Raskin, Shana Newman, Alan Mizrahi and Daniel Stieglitz.

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**W**ith this blue ribbon **W** i m m e d i a t e Israeli soldiers – Avraham and kidnapped by patrolling the on October

pledge that the commitment to rights, belief in the the pursuit of justice be honored.

we ask for the release of the three young Amar Souad, Benny Adi Avitan – who were the Hezbelloh while Israel-Lebanon border 2, 2000.

**International relief efforts have been denied.**

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## Calm in a war zone. . . from pg. 3

of two states. Jerusalem poses both national and religiously charged issues, which combine to make it a highly emotional problem. Naomi Chazan recognized that in order to conclude these negotiations with a peace treaty, Israel will have to make the most serious and difficult decisions she has ever had to make since the creation of the state.

Opposing Naomi Chazan's views was Knesset Member Limor Livnat (Likud), who argued that the demand for a Palestinian state is a trick designed to help the Palestinians get all of Israel. She contended that she, too, wants peace, but feels that steps toward peace should be taken slowly, so that Israel doesn't find herself in a situation of having given away assets that jeopardize her existence. The Israeli people are divided in their assessments of the best way to resolve their difficulties. Polls that were reported during our visit indicated that Prime Minister Barak could be reelected only if he is able to conclude an agreement with Chairman Arafat before the elections. That view continues to be reflected in reports about the renewed talks which have now begun in Washington.

As of this writing, the resolution of Israel's troubles remains an open question. What is certain is

Hotels are hurting. I remained at the Inbal for three extra nights. Although the hotel was moderately full for Shabbat, by Sunday it was virtually empty. It is clear that Israel needs our visits NOW, and that they help in two ways: boosting morale and keeping the tourism industry healthy.

### Jeff Brier, Jamestown

Unlike past trips, on this one we were constantly thanked by Israelis for coming. Our visit was a sign that Israelis are not alone and if more of diaspora Jewry would visit Israel now, it would further bolster their spirits and send a powerful message to Israel's neighbors. We felt safe the whole time we were there and none of us would be hesitant to go again and again.

In four days we heard diverse political views, spoke with a very high ranking officer in the IDF and also learned from Please go to next page.

that the Israelis are feeling isolated and deeply concerned for the future of their country. They are accustomed to American Jews flocking to Israel in times of trouble. Today, there are virtually no tourists. They are especially surprised and disappointed that American Jews have not come to visit and support them. We were thanked constantly by everyone we met, from national leaders to cab drivers and shopkeepers, as well as personal friends. Future missions are being planned through the United Jewish Communities; call the Federation and find out how you can participate.

The soccer game between "Beitar" Jerusalem and "Maccabi" Haifa ended in a zero to zero tie. It's symbolic of the stalemate between Israel and the Palestinians at this moment. We can only hope that cool heads will prevail on both sides so that an equitable resolution to this century-long conflict can finally make it possible for Jews and Arabs to live with each other in security, dignity and peace.

*Rabbi Wayne M. Franklin, Temple Emanu-El, is a past chairman of the JFRI Community Relations Council. He and his family spent this last summer living in Jerusalem and he returned in December as a member of this 5-day mission.*

**It's not the same. . .** from pg. 8

political science professors. We met with teenagers and adults who have been directly impacted by the recent Arab uprising. We felt their anguish over the setback in the peace process and their tremendous disappointment that their neighbors, Israeli Arabs, participated in the uprising. Yet, most of the Israelis we met were still optimistic that peace will be achieved, although divided as to whether peace is imminent or still a generation or two away.

**Jeffrey Rosenbaum, Providence**

The profound message that I was left with after speaking with residents in areas that have been the site of recent conflict as well as in areas that, thank God, have been safe, is that American Jews must not forget that we are *am ehad*, one nation. These people under attack are our cousins. One resident in a settlement in Judea equated the situation to that of a sick relative: "If a relative is, God forbid, sick — even a relative you only see once a year — you would go out of your way to visit her; to comfort her." She said to me, "Tell your friends back home that their brothers and sisters are sick — and feeling all alone."

Everywhere we went we were met with intense gratitude for being there. In a very personal way, we were indeed showing solidarity with the Israelis, and they received that message with open arms.

I will never forget the soldier at the Kotel (Western Wall) with a rifle slung over his back who thanked me for visiting Eretz Yisroel at this time. I strongly urge anyone able to go to Israel. Our cousins are certainly in distress and need our support and solidarity. Please demonstrate in a personal way that we are *am ehad*.

**Lorraine Nelson, South Kingstown**

This was my first mission and my first visit to Israel in 30 years. Israel has changed dramatically since 1971 and the complexity of the problems has grown exponentially.

As a tourist who does not like crowds, Jerusalem was great, but as a Jew in Israel, it was very sad to see so few visitors. The King David Hotel was empty the evening we went for after dinner drinks, as was the Hilton the next night. The Western Wall had few people davening and at the excavation site nearby we were the only brave souls exploring. Walking through Jerusalem by day and in the evening felt very safe, as did driving around in a tour bus that was advertising our mission with a large banner. Everywhere we went



Doris Feinberg, left, and Jeff and Jessica Bryer take a falafel break in Afula.

Israelis thanked us for coming and asked us to bring back the message that visitors are welcome and are safe.

**From Doris Feinberg, Newport**

- It is easy to go in times of peace (or at least, less tension). Now is when it really counts to go to Israel as an American Jew.
- Touching one person, especially a child, who felt moved by our presence was all it took to feel that I made the right decision.
- Our diverse ideas for peace among our own Jewish people are important to understand and to listen to, and is what keeps us vibrant.
- This was the best way to become educated about the situation, even beats reading Tom Friedman in the NYT.

**Mission Conclusion**

During the early 1900s, Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook wrote, "Deep in the heart of every Jew, in its purest and holiest recesses, there blazes the fire of Israel." Today, this remains true. While each participant hopes to return shortly, the message is clear. Please consider going to Israel. It is safe to travel, and you are needed there. Your brothers, sisters, cousins and friends need to know you care and Ben Yehuda Street just isn't the same without you.



Ruth "Duffy" Page, center, and Rich Walter, far right, both of the Bureau of Jewish Education, meet up with Joram Borenstein, now a resident of Jerusalem, the son of Celia Gamm and Bruno Borenstein, MD, Providence; Ofra Ben Hamo of Stern Street, RI's Project Renewal neighborhood, and Rachel Greenblatt, a doctoral student at Hebrew University and daughter of Sam and Judy Greenblatt, of Providence.

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**It's not the same. . .** from pg. 8

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## Tick, tick, tick, tick

The clock is ticking, its dual alarms set for January 20 and February 6.

As of this writing, proposals made by US President William Jefferson Clinton to resolve the differences between Israel and the Palestinian Authority were being debated by the two confronting parties. Mr. Clinton's hope is that there is enough in his unwritten suggestions that the two leaders, Prime Minister Ehud Barak and PA President Yasser Arafat will high-tail it back to Washington, DC, for a final summit and another handshake over an agreement that will put the final luster on the last days of the Clinton presidency — which ends on January 20 when George W. Bush is to be sworn in as President.

Mr. Clinton has expended enormous time and effort in trying to craft compromises that both sides can not merely live with, but will embrace fully enough so that the Palestinians actually will declare that they have no further claims on Israel — for all time.

Even if a covenant is crafted before January 20, the second date, February 6, could derail everything. That is the day Prime Minister Barak is to stand for reelection and ask Israelis to endorse whatever he may have signed. Should the people reject him, it is unlikely that the fractured Knesset, probably then under a Likud-dominated coalition with Ariel Sharon as PM, will accept anything Barak might have signed.

So there is incentive on all sides to agree on something, now.

Barak believes that he can save his prime ministership if he can reach an agreement, almost any agreement, that will firmly establish Israel's borders, retain Jewish dominance of the state and allow Israelis to return to the life of normalcy they were beginning to become so accustomed to in the seven years since Oslo.

Arafat may believe that he can get a better deal under Barak than he could possibly get under Sharon. The question is whether the Palestinians will accept compromise. The rhetoric from various Palestinian fronts is "All or nothing at all." He already has sacrificed over 350 of his people in this latest violence. Is he, and are they, willing to sacrifice more?

And Clinton, looking for that foreign policy coup to bring him lasting fame in the history books, has every incentive to keep the pressure on for the parties to agree now, under the tutelage of an arbiter they know.

Are we optimistic? Not particularly, but we've been surprised before. These latest proposals, as we understand them, are wrenching to both sides.

If accepted, Israel would give up sovereignty over the Temple Mount, the site of the first and second Temples and now home of the third most holy site in Islam. Jews would retain control of the plaza and the Western Wall.

Palestinians would gain sovereignty over some of the Arab neighborhoods in eastern Jerusalem, while Israel would retain control over all the rest of Jerusalem.

The Palestinians would hold 95% of the land east of the 1967 Green Line for their state, as well as Gaza, and they would relinquish the refugees' right of return to Israel. It is likely that Israel would have to dismantle some of the settlements in Judea, Samaria and Gaza.

And then there's that extraordinary pledge the Palestinians would have to make: no more claims against the Jewish state for all time.

There are nay sayers on both sides. Is the urge for peace on both sides strong enough to overcome them?

We don't know, but the clock is ticking.

Change the policy

## Message to Powell & Co.: Concessions aren't working

by Daniel Pipes

It's time for a drastic change in US policy toward Israel.

Since about 1967, the United States has pursued a fairly consistent policy towards Israel in its conflict with the Arabs: help Israel be strong while pressuring it to make concessions to the Arabs. So ingrained has this dual approach become, it is barely even noticed.

But it has not worked. Those concessions — mainly the handing over of territory — were supposed to win a reciprocal goodwill from the Arabs, thereby ending the Arab-Israeli conflict; in fact, they have been seen as a sign of Israeli weakness. Not only have Israel's concessions not achieved for it the expected harmonious peace, but they have actually harmed Israel, making it less scary to its neighbors. The result has been a spike in Palestinian and Arab ambitions that culminated in the round of violence that began in September.

If Israel's concessions have had precisely the wrong effect on Arab attitudes toward the Jewish state, they have won goodwill for the United States. The Oslo process softened some of the anti-Americanism endemic to the Middle East, thereby rendering oil sources slightly more secure, terrorism a bit less likely, and political harangues less long and impassioned.

It would therefore be convenient for the United States if the burgeoning hostility toward Israel were Israel's problem alone. But the point has now been reached where Israeli concessions entail greater dangers to American interests than they bring benefits. Israel's perceived weakness is now an American problem: the aggressive anti-Zionist euphoria being expressed by Arabs poses a direct danger to the United States.

Were the excitement of the Arab "street" and its fury at Israel to lead to war, the United States could experience enormously harmful repercussions in terms of the oil market, relations with Muslim-majority states, and terrorism against American institutions and individuals.

Worse, were that war to go badly for Israel, implications for the United States could become truly dire. Like it or not, the United States serves as the informal but very real ultimate security guarantor of Israel. It is hard to conjure up a prospect that American policy planners would relish less than coming to the aid of Israel.

What is Washington's best course, given that concessions by Israel increase the prospects of an Arab-Israeli war that it urgently does not want?

It should take steps that discourage Israel's potential enemies from starting a conflict with it, something best done by helping rebuild Israel's deterrent capabilities. As I argue at greater length in the December issue of "Commentary" magazine, Washington should urgently adopt four policies:

- No more Israeli territorial concessions. This shift is needed, at least for some years, to staunch the Arab perception that Israel is a weak state pleading for terms. The short-term goal is not to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict but enhance Israeli deterrence capabilities.
- Encourage Israel to appear fearsome. It would have a huge impact were American leaders to call on Jerusalem to reinstate its tough old policies, whereby it punished enemies for assaults on its persons and its property. The goal, again, is to prove that it is not demoralized.
- Maintain Israel's military edge. While US politicians glibly repeat this mantra, their willingness to sell arms to some of Israel's potential enemies (notably Egypt but also Jordan, Saudi Arabia and several Persian Gulf emirates) vastly enhances the latter's military capabilities and so makes war more likely.
- Bind Israel more tightly and consistently to the United States. Washington from time to time permits an ugly, one-sided resolution to pass the Security Council; most recently, it abstained from resolution 1322 on October 7. Another problem concerns the US government's sometime treatment of Israel and its opponents as moral equals. These send a signal of Israeli isolation that might encourage warmongers.

This approach of bucking up the Jewish state may sound like an unlikely one for Washington to pursue, but a dramatic reversal in policy usually seems unimaginable before it actually happens. It also bears note that some important American politicians (notably senators Charles Schumer of New York and Jesse Helms of North Carolina) already have expressed their wish for such a change.

Israel's unwillingness to protect its own interests presents its principal ally, the United States, with an urgent and unusual burden: the need to firm up its partner's will. Never before has a democratic state presented an ally with quite the dilemma that Israel now does.

Daniel Pipes is director of the Philadelphia-based Middle East Forum. E-mail: Pipes@MEForum.org

## A different mindset, where vengeance is paramount

by Mitchell Bard

Some years ago, when I was editing the Near East Report, I got into trouble for running a story about Arab motivations. The controversy was primarily a cartoon (actually an old one by well-known cartoonist Noah Bee) that accompanied the story. It was labeled "Reading the Arab Mind" and showed a stereotypical Arab man's face with his brain exposed and being examined by men with microscopes and magnifying glasses. Different parts of the brain were labeled "No Peace with Israel," "Vengeance," "Double Talk," "World of Fantasy" and so on. Ironically, the person who first objected to the cartoon was a liberal Jewish journalist for the Washington Post.

Looking at it now, I can see how the stereotype would raise objections, but it has also become evident that most Israelis absolutely believe the caricature in that cartoon. I've spoken to people from all different political ideologies and backgrounds, government officials, former heads of Mossad, and they all maintain that Arabs think differently from the rest of us, or at least Western civilization.

The reason the Post columnist was

offended, and that most Americans don't understand the Arab-Israeli conflict, is that they can't acknowledge any differences between people. The liberal tradition is universalist: we are one world, everyone equally values freedom, health and prosperity.

How then do you explain Palestinians sending their children out as cannon fodder to promote Yasser Arafat's political agenda? Well, of course, Palestinians value life as much as we do, so the reason must be that they are so severely repressed that protesting is a reasonable human response.

What Americans believe is irrelevant, and that is one reason our mediation efforts usually fail. Israelis think the Arabs have a language that must be decoded and does not always mean what is said explicitly. As the cartoon suggested, Israelis see Arabs as fanatical, having fantasies, distrusting their brothers.

And this is a two-way street. The Arabs have their own ideas about Jews, which, to our way of thinking are ludicrous, but nevertheless shape their interactions. Consider the prevalence of anti-Semitism in the Arab world, the fact that *Mein Kampf* and the *Protocols of the Elders of*

*Zion* are bestsellers and that it is not unusual to hear Arabs accuse Israelis of infecting them with AIDS or committing blood libels. When some heinous terrorist attack is committed against Israel, the Arabs will frequently say the Mossad did it to frame them.

In that article in NER, I cited the work of Harold Glidden, a former member of the State Department Bureau of Intelligence and Research who argued 25 years ago that Arabs cater to outward appearances and public opinion. Conformity is honored; failure to conform provokes feelings of shame. "Shame," he said, "destroys one of the key elements in the Arab prestige system: the ability to attract followers and clients."

The cure for shame is revenge. Thus, Arab leaders like King Abdullah of Jordan and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat were killed for "failing to conform to the general Arab consensus and thus were guilty of treasonable conduct." Glidden argued that the Arabs feel it is necessary to take vengeance "to restore to the Palestine Arabs what was wrongfully taken" and "eliminate the shame that had been visited on them and the other Arabs by their defeats by Israel."

The conventional view is that Israel's strength is an incentive for the Arabs to make peace, but Glidden argued the opposite was true. Rather than prompting them to make peace, the adverse military balance "produces an emotional need for revenge, and this need is deepened rather than attenuated by each successive defeat." Israel's strength is also viewed as a threat because the Arabs "cannot conceive that any strong state (whether Israeli or Arab) would not use its power and influence to dominate and control the others."

For Americans, peace is a top priority, but Glidden says the Arabs' "emotional need for vengeance" takes precedence. He added that to Arabs time is irrelevant, which is why we hear Arabs talk about the fact that it took centuries, but they eventually defeated the Crusaders.

Here, it may be politically incorrect to believe that Arabs think differently, but it is considered a fact in Israel. If you don't accept this, you will never understand the Arab-Israeli conflict.

*Mitchell G. Bard is a foreign policy analyst. He wrote The Complete Idiot's Guide to the Middle East Conflict.*

### A Majority of One

## Now you're up, now you're down, once you're in, then you're out

by Yehuda Lev

Having dizzied ourselves on our own presidential roller coaster, it ill behooves us to begrudge the same pulsating excitement to our Israeli cousins who are about to undergo an election of their own. Herewith a guide to the candidates for the post of Israel's prime minister and to the Knesset, with which the winner will have to live. Keep in mind that Israeli elections invariably reinforce the impression that Jews can run any government efficiently but their own.

As of this writing (and matters can change rapidly in Israeli politics) there are only two contenders for the title.

The current champ, Ehud Barak. Great military career, excellent classical pianist, pretty good amateur chess player, family man, incorruptible, prepared to wheel and deal with Israel's enemies.

BUT: Unable to delegate authority, trusts and listens to no one, makes political commitments he cannot keep, doesn't even try to work the political structure effectively. Keyword: Arrogant

The principal challenger: Ariel Sharon, of whom it can best be said: At least you know where he stands, which is pretty far to the right.

BUT: Hero and villain of decades past with a lifetime's accretion of enemies who unify at the thought of his coming to power. Keyword: Bullheaded

In fairness to both contenders, the problems they are challenged to solve may be beyond solution. Internally, they are asked to lead a government that seems hopelessly fragmented. One major faction follows a spiritual leader who believes that the Holocaust happened to Jews who deserved it because of sins committed in a previous life! Its land policies are dictated by contracts dating back thousands of years and kept current by direct instructions from a God, whom it is forbidden to contradict.

There is another large group of legislators who believe that the national security, not to mention the national mystique, requires holding on to isolated settlements, whatever the cost in lives, and refusing to negotiate with Israel's enemies, whatever the cost to the economy and Israel's international support.

A third chunk of the Knesset is secular, influential, worldly wise, believes in the free market and scorns believers in anything else as primitives, is in control of much of the nation's wealth and is not about to share it with anyone less fortunate, intelligent and deserving as they.

And these reflect only Israel's internal problems.

Across the border, if you can define the border, is an enigmatic enemy leader whose intentions are unreadable. Is he really practicing the "salami tactic" so beloved of Israel's right-wing parties?

And, biggest question of all, does he retain his popularity only so long as he leads an active resistance and is therefore committed to continual violence?

Without answers to these and other questions, dealing constructively with Israel's external problems is almost impossible. One indication of the frustration Israelis are feeling today is the appearance on walls and placards of the slogan "Let the Army Win," (a point of view shared by both Netanyahu and Sharon, at least while out of power.)

In other words, send in the troops, the tanks and the aircraft with which Israel can destroy rock and grenade throwers.

There is a certain attraction to this. Imagine riding the #18 bus in Jerusalem without fear. Think of the relief it would bring to the parents of children going to schools in the West Bank and Gaza. And the residents of Gilo, a southern suburb of Jerusalem, could sleep through the night unafraid of Arab snipers in the nearby villages.

It would be even more attractive without the lessons of Lebanon and Vietnam, where the powerful armies of democratic, first-world nations were forced to quit the field by the ragged militias of third-world populations. Lebanon and Vietnam demonstrated what will only be learned again if a new Israeli government decides to "Let the Army Win," namely, that democratic societies cannot use the force avail-

able to them if they wish to preserve their democratic way of life. In both the United States and Israel the populations at home rose in rebellion and forced the withdrawals after it became evident that the price of victory was the shattering of the democratic structure of the nation.

Which leaves, finally, the option to negotiate. But probably not until after the election, which, in turn, will determine the possibility and the direction of any negotiations. One could only wish that Israel had more effective leaders to deal with these issues. But then, we could say the same for our own country after the recent electoral circus.

**The Jewish Voice welcomes commentary and letters from its readers. Please try to restrict letters to no more than 300 words. Discuss a commentary piece with the editor in advance.**

**All such materials must be in The Voice office no later than the 20th of the month. Please send them to: Editor, The Jewish Voice of Rhode Island, 130 Sessions St., Providence, RI 02906, or e-mail them to JVoice@aol.com.**

## Crisis in Israel, crisis for Hadassah

When Marcie Natan visited the board of the Rhode Island Chapter of Hadassah, she outlined the highlights of her October trip to Israel during the heat of this *intifada*:

- Visiting the injured who were being treated at Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center in Ein Karem, a facility on 24-hour alert since the crisis began at Rosh Hashanah.

- In the Galilee town of Karmiel, meeting 36 Young Judeans on Year Course who were volunteering as aids in schools and community centers. Natan said that while thousands of young adults had returned to the US when the violence broke out, none of the 200 American and British teens on the Hadassah-sponsored Year Course had left.

- Meeting with military leaders, several of whom had just returned to active duty after being hospitalized for wounds.

Natan concluded, "When Israel has an emergency, it's an emergency for Hadassah — the hospitals and the organization."

# Under the protection of the Japanese

by Yehuda Lev

A young European girl, perhaps 10 or so, is riding slowly down a Japanese country road on her bicycle. On the back of the bicycle is tied a bag of foodstuffs she is bringing to her family. The day is sunny, there is little traffic. She doesn't seem to have a care in her head other than to avoid the occasional chicken or goat in her path.

### CUE: Ominous background music

Slowly, the camera pulls back and now we see, pedaling on a bicycle next to her, a Japanese police officer. They exchange no words. An automobile passes, of pre-war vintage. The two continue on their journey. There is no one else in sight. It is as though the two of them, the young girl and the policeman are isolated somewhere in time.

They round a curve and in front of a small house the young girl dismounts, bows to the police officer, picks up her bag and goes inside. He bows in return and rides away.

### Music out. Fade to black.

A few questions come to mind. What was a 10-year-old European girl doing in war-time, rural Japan? Were Japanese policemen normally so courteous to foreigners? And, perhaps most important of all, what does all this have to do with us in 21st-century Rhode Island?

The last question, first. Ellie Elbaum, the spry retired director of pediatric patient services at Hasbro Children's Hospital, remembers vividly her childhood in war-time Japan, on an extended journey that took her family from Russia to Harbin, China to Kobe, Japan, and finally to the village of Karuzawa on one of the northern islands.

They kept one step ahead of whatever horrors were pursuing them: first the anti-semitic White Russians, then the Nazis and, finally, the rain of American bombs on Japanese cities.

And the policeman? "We were very fortunate," says Elbaum. "As foreigners in Japan we were under the protection of the Japanese Foreign Ministry. Had we gone to Shanghai from Harbin, as so many

Jews did, we would have been at the mercy of the Japanese military."

The Foreign Ministry people did more than act politely to their guests, she continued. "They spoke Russian, so communicating with them was no problem. And they behaved as if we were their responsibility, to be cared for as well as possible. And, as you know, some of them, like Consul Sugihara, gave out great numbers of transit visas and saved thousands of Jews from the Germans."

In fact, said Elbaum, during the war the refugees received the same slender food rations as did the Japanese civilian population. But for the week before Pesah, at their request, bread was replaced by flour so that they might bake matzah for the holiday.

Elbaum's father had business connections in Japan which brought him to Kobe when Harbin's Jews were forced to flee in 1940. By 1943 the Allied bombings of Japanese cities were intensifying and so they moved to the northern village.

Elbaum says that she experienced no harassment as a foreigner living in Japan and that the Japanese were very kind to children. "Their attitude was more one of curiosity than hostility. And the Japanese have a high regard for teachers. When the Mir rabbi and his Hasidim escaped to Japan they were seen as teachers and treated with great respect."

In Harbin and then in Japan, Elbaum attended first an English missionary school and then a Catholic school. After the war her father worked with the occupation forces and that enabled her to enter the high school for American military dependents. By 1951 she was ready to begin college.

She chose Mills College in the San Francisco Bay area and then went on to the University of Toronto to study nursing. There



Ellie Elbaum at Hasbro Children's Hospital.

she met her husband, Charles, now a professor of physics at Brown. They have three sons.

Elbaum, like many retirees, finds her days full. She co-chairs the Federation's Overseas Review Committee, as well as its Partnership 2000 alliance with Afula/Gilboa, Israel, is a co-president of the National Council of Jewish Women and is a member of the board of the JFRI Women's Alliance.

A few years ago she returned to the Japanese village where she had lived during the final years of the war. It has been transformed into a luxury resort. Where the farms once produced food there are now golf courses, and the farmhouses have given way to four star hotels. The path down which she and her police escort rode their bicycles is no more and the Jewish refugees who once were sheltered there have scattered across the world.

Elbaum still wonders at the manner in which she and others were treated by the normally xenophobic Japanese. "Maybe" she says, "it was because the Germans were tall and blond, but the Jews were short and dark, like the Japanese." Maybe.

## Donate a used wireless phone... make a difference in someone's life!

This year, the community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island is joining the Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence in helping women all across the United States of all religions maintain *shalom bayit* (peace in the home).



Please participate in this program.

Your simple act of tzedakah could save somebody's life.

### How to participate...

Bring any old cellular or digital phone that you no longer use to the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island office, 130 Sessions Street, Providence, RI during the month of January.

### How am I making a difference?

Through the wireless industry's **CALL to PROTECT** program, victims of domestic violence receive donated wireless phones and matching airtime. **CALL to PROTECT** wireless phones are pre-programmed to dial 9-1-1 and one non-emergency number to enable a victim to summon help with the simple push of a button.

### How can I find out more information?

You can call either Amy Gross at the Jewish Federation of RI at 421-4111, ext. 172 or Karen at the RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence at 467-9940.

If you are a victim of domestic violence and need help, please call our local Jewish Family Service at 331-1244 or the RI Coalition for Domestic Violence at the number above. *Information will be confidential.*

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## NCJW takes up child care as major project; adds Jewish domestic abuse to agenda

The National Council of Jewish Women, RI Section, is launching a new project for the entire community: the need for quality child care here.

A committee has been set-up to focus on bettering child-care from infancy to school age. It is headed by Co-Presidents Eunice Greenfield and Eleanor Elbaum. Committee members are Marion Goldsmith, Maxine Richman, Celia Dunder, Irma Gross and Linda Kushner.

To better inform the members and the public, a discussion on October 25 featured speakers Nancy Benoit, RI chairwoman of RI Commission on Day Care;

Elizabeth Burke Bryant, executive director of RI Kids Count; Kerry Moser, executive director of Catholic Charities Office of Child Care, and Judy Victor, executive director of Day Care Justice cooperative.

There was consensus that more money and better training of teachers would improve the picture. Speakers noted that standards also must be set so that children at all socio-economic of society will have the best opportunities to develop. Social, emotional, and educational skills are positive results from quality care and parents must investigate and research the best places for their child, the panelists said.

A study conducted in 1999

found that high-quality child care has a lasting effect on children regardless of family background. The aim of NCJW's new project is to see that all children have the opportunity to be exposed to positive learning experiences.

In another area of domestic concern, NCJW will sponsor a program for both the Jewish community and the public at large on violence in the Jewish home. Data

shows that 28% of all marriages have problems with violence, but researchers fear that number may be too low.

On Wednesday, January 31 at 12:15 pm, NCJW will present a video called "To Save A Life" at Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Avenue, Providence, followed with a discussion led by a panel of experts.

Panelists are: Deborah DeBare, executive director of the RI Coalition Against Domestic

Violence; Erin Gisherman Minor, director of professional services for Jewish Family Service, and Rabbi Wayne Franklin of Temple Emanu-El. Questions will be taken at the end of the discussion.

Attendees are invited to "brown bag" their lunch. Coffee and dessert will be served. The program is open to the community.

## Cohen, at 65, passes RI Bar

The newest member of the Rhode Island Bar may be the oldest candidate in Rhode Island's history to pass the exam. It has been close to 40 years since attorney Jerry Cohen of Tillinghast Licht Smith Perkins & Cohen, LLP last took a state bar exam. Yet at 65, Cohen not only passed the RI Bar, but received a score of 12-out-of-12 on the difficult essay portion. Cohen initiated the bar application process soon after his Boston-based law firm of Perkins Smith & Cohen, LLP merged with the Providence firm of Tillinghast Licht & Semonoff in January of this year.


"I was quite relieved to learn that I had passed the exam. Doing something like this at age 65 was not as easy as taking and passing the Massachusetts and DC bar exams at age 25," quips Cohen. "Reconstructing my personal and professional history for the application was a challenge: addresses, jobs, schools, grades and even the

speeding ticket in 1957 in South Carolina as I raced to report to duty at Fort Benning.

"I was, however, fascinated by what I learned of RI law, its tradition and history, and its bright future. It's good for all of us to maintain student roles throughout our law careers, but I wouldn't go so far as to recommend re-certification testing for lawyers, generally," adds Cohen.

Cohen, chair of the firm's Science & Technology Group, has over 40 years' experience dealing with patent, copyright and trademark issues; unfair competition; licensing and franchising, legal ethics and the administration of justice.

A graduate of George Washington Law School and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Cohen is a published author, who also has served on the United States Patent Quarterly Advisory Board since 1987, and was editor-in-chief of the Massachusetts Law Review.



# January

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

<b>January 5</b> Friday School 3:30 PM	Jewish Theatre Ensemble JFS Board Meeting 7:30 PM
<b>January 7</b> BJE HEM Sunday Class 9:30 AM Temple Am David Adult Education Program 9:30 AM	BJE Leadership Development Committee 7:30 PM <b>January 19</b> JFRI Interfaith Leadership Discussion Noon Friday School 3:30 PM
<b>January 8</b> Temple Emanu-El Leisure Club 10:00 AM JFRI Executive Committee Meeting 4:30 PM BJE JOLT Committee 5:30 PM BJE Israel Trip Forum 7:00 PM	<b>January 20</b> Jewish Theatre Ensemble 8:00 PM PHDS Goods & Services Auction 8:00 PM <b>January 21</b> Temple Am David Adult Education Program 9:00 AM BJE HEM Sunday Class 9:30 AM Temple Emanu-El Kulanu Brunch 9:30 AM ASDS Roller Skating Party 10:00 AM Jewish Theatre Ensemble 2:00 PM Temple Emanu-El Leisure Club 2:00 PM Temple Beth-El Service of Comfort 5:00 PM
<b>January 9</b> Camp JFRI Presentation Noon BJE Future Faces Selection Dinner 5:30 PM JFRI/CRC Hunger Initiative 7:00 PM Temple Beth-El Board of Trustees 7:30 PM	<b>January 22</b> Miriam Hospital Women's Assn. Board Meeting 10:00 AM Temple Emanu-El Leisure Club 10:00 AM Camp JFRI Board Meeting 7:00 PM Interdenominational/CLAL Program 7:00 PM URI Hillside Board Meeting 7:30 PM <b>January 23</b> JFRI Florida Event - Palm Beach Country Club 4:30 PM JFS Executive Committee 7:30 PM Temple Emanu-El Adult Institute 7:30 PM
<b>January 10</b> JFRI Women's Alliance Campaign Cabinet 9:15 AM Temple Emanu-El Leisure Club Board Meeting 10:00 AM BJE HEM Class 6:30 PM Temple Beth-El Sisterhood Pot Luck Dinner 6:30 PM Gemilath Chesed Hebrew Free Loan Association of Providence Board Meeting 7:30 PM Touro Fraternal Association Board of Directors 7:30 PM ASDS Executive Committee Meeting 7:30 PM BJE Certification Sub-Committee 7:30 PM	<b>January 24</b> NCJW Board Meeting 9:30 AM JFRI Women's Alliance Board Meeting Noon BJE HEM Class 6:30 PM BJE Board Meeting 7:30 PM Gemilath Chesed Hebrew Free Loan Association of Providence Board Meeting 7:30 PM ASDS Executive Committee 7:30 PM <b>January 25</b> JFRI Finance Committee 7:45 AM Temple Emanu-El Leisure Club 10:00 AM BJE Judaica Course 7:00 PM ASDS P.T.A. Meeting 7:30 PM
<b>January 11</b> Temple Emanu-El Leisure Club 10:00 AM JFRI/CRC Resolutions Process Subcommittee 5:30 PM BJE Judaica Course 7:00 PM JFRI WA Young Women's Programming Committee 7:00 PM Jewish Theatre Ensemble 7:30 PM	<b>January 26</b> Friday School 3:30 PM Temple Beth-El Sisterhood Shabbat 7:45 PM <b>January 27</b> ASDS Grade 5 Shabbat 10:30 AM Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Sing 7:00 PM <b>January 28</b> BJE Zelniker 8:30 AM BJE HEM Sunday Class 9:30 AM Temple Am David Adult Education 9:30 AM
<b>January 12</b> WA Babies, Kids & Kibitzing 10:30 AM Friday School 3:30 PM Temple Am David BET/GIMEL Classes Shabbat & Dinner 6:15 PM	<b>January 29</b> Temple Emanu-El Leisure Club 10:00 AM BJE HEM Committee Meeting 7:30 PM Temple Emanu-El Board Meeting 7:30 PM <b>January 30</b> Temple Emanu-El Adult Institute Registration 7:00 PM Temple Emanu-El Adult Institute Classes 7:30 PM <b>January 31</b> JFRI Strategic Planning Steering Committee 8:00 AM Domestic Violence in the Jewish Home Noon National Council of Jewish Women Gen. Meeting 12:30 PM BJE HEM Class 6:30 PM

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### January, 2001 Candle Lighting Times

Jan. 5	4:12	Jan. 19	4:27	Shabbat Shalom
Jan. 12	4:19	Jan. 26	4:36	

Rosh Hodesh

## Rachel: Was she really just a brat?

"Rachel — Beauty, Bravado or Brat?" How is she to be regarded? Rabbi Mark Bloom of Temple Torat Yisrael in Cranston will help members of the Jewish Federation's Women's Alliance sort out Rachel's various behaviors during the second installment of the 5761 Rosh Hodesh series, "Women in the Bible — How do they relate to our lives?"

The lunchtime program on Rachel will begin at noon on Tuesday, February 13 at Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Avenue, Providence.

"Rachel is known in the Tanach for her physical beauty," Rabbi Bloom says, and "her inability to have children, for taking her father's idols and for weeping without comfort. Rachel is all these things and more," he adds.

Rabbi Bloom joined Temple

Torat Yisrael in July of 1998 after serving in pulpits in South Salem, New York, and Sydney, Australia. He was ordained at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1995 and received both his bachelor's and master's degrees in communication studies from Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill.

He is the author of *Out of the Mouths of Babes: What Children Can Teach Us about Spirituality, Jewish Issues and the Jewish People*. He and his wife, Karen, and their son, Micah, live in Cranston.

The \$8.00 fee for this Rosh Hodesh program includes a kosher lunch. Reservations should be made by February 7. Checks payable to JFRI should be mailed to Rosh Hodesh Series, 130 Sessions St., Providence, RI 02906. For more information, call Sylvia Berman-



Rabbi Mark Bloom will lead the Rosh Hodesh discussion of Rachel.

Peck, Women's Alliance director, at 401-421-4111, ext. 171.

## Young leaders gather for Breakfast Club program



Eric Shorr, co-chair of the Breakfast Club, listens to speaker Michael Brooks' ideas on how to build Jewish community. Seated next to Shorr are (l to r) Karen Bandel, Emily Mathis, Lisa Shorr and David Soforenko, Young Adult Division chair.



Above, Rebecca Lavine, a new member of the community, networks with Michael Simon at the Breakfast Club when it met in December in the home of Hope and David Hirsch. Below, young leaders mix and mingle after the program.



Photos by Joshua Karlin

## Women's Alliance Calendar of Events

Winter 2001

Continue to build your sense of Jewish identity through the Women's Alliance.

Join us for the following planned events.

### January

#### Wednesday, January 10

Women's Alliance Campaign Cabinet Meeting  
9:15 AM - JFRI Board Room

#### Friday, January 12

Babies, Kids & Kibbitzing - Informal Playgroup  
10:30 AM - 12:30 PM - JFRI Board Room  
Bring your own toys & snacks. Everyone welcome!  
No RSVP necessary.

#### Tuesday, January 16

Professional Women's Programming Committee  
How to Integrate Jewish Traditions Into Your Busy Working Life  
7:00 PM - Home of Bonnie Reibman  
With Educator Wendy Garf-Lipp  
RSVP to Sylvia Berman-Peck, 421-4111 ext. 171

#### Tuesday, January 23

Marcia & Bob Riesman invite Snowbirds to "A Rhode Island Get-Together" at the Palm Beach Country Club  
4:30 - 6:30 PM  
Contact Joshua Karlin or Trine Adler-Lustig at 421-4111 for more information.

#### Wednesday, January 24

Women's Alliance Board Meeting  
Noon - JFRI Board Room

#### Wednesday, January 31

Domestic Violence in the Jewish Home  
12:15 PM - Temple Emanu-El  
Brown-bag lunches welcome. Coffee & dessert served.  
No RSVP necessary - open to the public. Co-sponsored with RI Section of the National Council of Jewish Women.

### February

#### Sunday, February 4

Young Women's Programming Committee  
Mitzvah Madness: A Family Learning Experience  
1-2:30 PM - JCCRI Social Hall  
Featuring Rabbi Jonathan Blake of Temple Beth-El  
Crafts & Activities for children ages 3-8  
RSVP to Sylvia Berman-Peck, 421-4111 ext. 171

JFRI Breakfast Club After Hours  
9:30 AM - Home of David & Susan Resnik  
Featuring Noam Zion, Hartman Institute  
RSVP to Amy Gross, 421-4111 ext. 172

#### Wednesday, February 7 - Tu bi'Shevat

#### Friday, February 9

Babies, Kids & Kibbitzing - Informal Playgroup  
10:30 AM - 12:30 PM - JFRI Board Room  
Bring your own toys & snacks. Everyone welcome!  
No RSVP necessary.

#### Tuesday, February 13

Rosh Chodesh Program - Topic: Rachel - Beauty, Bravado or Brat  
Noon - 1:30 PM - Temple Emanu-El, Providence  
featuring Rabbi Mark Bloom, Temple Torat Yisrael  
Fee: \$8.00 - lunch included.  
RSVP to Sylvia Berman-Peck, 421-4111 ext. 171

#### Thursday, February 22

Women's Alliance Executive Committee Meeting  
Noon - JFRI Conference Room

### March

#### Friday, March 9 - Purim

#### Friday, March 9

Babies, Kids & Kibbitzing - Informal Playgroup  
10:30 AM - 12:30 PM - JFRI Board Room  
Bring your own toys & snacks. Everyone welcome!  
No RSVP necessary.

#### Thursday, March 15

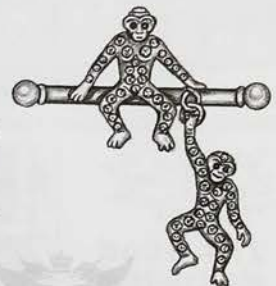
YAD (Young Adult Division)  
Breakfast Club After Hours  
Featuring Dennis Prager  
Time and Place TBA  
Contact Amy Gross, 421-4111 ext. 172 for details.

#### Monday, March 19

Women's Alliance Board Meeting  
5:30 PM - JFRI Board Room

Please save this calendar  
and use for future reference.

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## CRC offers wide-ranging volunteer action

The 2000-01 agenda of the Community Relations Council, which encompasses a wide range of activities that fall into four focus areas—education-literacy, human rights-social justice, government relations, and Israel—offers volunteers numerous options for action.

This winter and spring, volunteers can work with:

### Education-literacy

The Latino-Jewish Alliance continues to work with the Providence School Department to implement Making Books Talk, a program to provide reading kits—books, audio tapes of the books, and tape players—to elementary school children to encourage reading at home.

A breakfast meeting for school superintendents will address the role of religion and religious observances in public schools.

### Human rights-social justice

Call To Protect: CRC is joining with the RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence to make cellular phones available to victims of domestic violence. Jews are not immune from domestic violence; studies suggest the level of violence in Jewish homes is comparable to national averages. This initiative seeks donations of no-longer-used cellular phones, which will be pre-programmed to call 911. (See the advertisement on page 12.)

CRC's Hunger Project will meet with social action chairs, clergy and other concerned community members on January 9 to hear Bernard Boudreau of the RI Community Food Bank speak. Attendees may then brainstorm on how the Jewish community can help end hunger amidst affluence.

To dramatize the message of tolerance, CRC is sponsoring an acclaimed exhibit on the life of Jackie Robinson, a pioneer in the saga of race relations in this country. The exhibition dates are April 22 through May 20. Volunteers are needed for fundraising, publicity, programming and logistics.

### Government relations

To increase the Jewish community's visibility and presence in the State House, a Legislative Day is planned for spring, with the goal of developing or solidifying relationships with state legislators so that Jews can voice positions more effectively on key state-level issues.

In order to advocate effectively for the Jewish community's interests on the federal level, CRC seeks to maintain strong working relationships with RI's Congressional delegation. Volunteers will continue the practice of meeting with Senators and Representatives, and their staffs, in both their Washington and RI offices.

### Israel

In light of the current flare-up of violence between Israel and the Palestinians, a forum to explain and interpret the peace process and the Middle East context is being organized for the spring. AIPAC

may cosponsor this program and/or provide expert speakers.

Linn Freedman, who chairs the CRC, issues an open invitation to members of the community to "get involved. Volunteer opportunities abound, especially in the literacy project (ie, tutoring in a public school) and for the Jackie Robinson exhibit," Freedman said.

To participate in these or other CRC activities, call CRC director Amy Gross at 401-421-4111, ext. 172.

December 1 was World AIDS Day. To commemorate the day, the AIDS Task Force of the Federation's CRC sponsored a healing service for members of the community. This banner was displayed at the service. In November, the AIDS Task Force conducted an educational program for clergy, youth group leaders and community educators in the home of State Representative David Cicilline.



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Jewish Federation of Rhode Island

Endowment Committee

Edward D. Feldstein, Chair

Joshua C. Karlin, Director of Gift Planning & Endowment

Trine Adler-Lustig, Assoc. Endowment Director

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# JFRI Endowment makes \$396,556 in local grants for '01

The Jewish Federation of Rhode Island (JFRI) has awarded a variety of grants from its endowment funds to local Jewish organizations which represent the divergent interests and needs of the local Jewish community. Funded requests range from kindergarten roofs to mikveh renovations to assistance with capital campaigns, subsidization of missions to Israel and underwriting professional development programming for Jewish communal workers.

In September, the Endowment Grants Committee, chaired by Jeffrey Brier, began to review 42 requests for funding, 12 of which had to be rejected because they were outside the published guidelines. The remaining 30 requests totaled \$1,626,545. The available funds for 2001 were \$336,056.

On November 20, the Committee made its final recommendations and they were approved by the JFRI Executive Committee on November 28. The funded programs include:

**Jackie Robinson Exhibit** (JFRI's Community Relations Council) In cooperation with other community agencies, the exhibit, to be housed at the McCoy Stadium in Pawtucket April 22-May 20, addresses issues of justice, freedom, tolerance and diversity for school-aged children. \$5,000

**Demographic Study** (JFRI) This third demographic study of the local Jewish community (last done in 1987) will provide extensive information to help agencies plan, allocate, set policies and develop

fundraising strategies. Multi-year award: Year 1 \$150,000; Year 2 \$20,000

**Development Software** (Rhode Island Holocaust Memorial Museum). Installation of new software that is to provide statistical information for tracking program participation and evaluating efficiency. \$3,590

**Lifeline Office Equipment** (Jewish Family Service) For computers and software which will enable JFS to expand the services provided to Lifeline clients. \$1,316

**New Kindergarten Roof** (Providence Hebrew Day School) To replace roof, skylight and drain over kindergarten. \$13,365

**Mikveh Renovations** (Va'ad) Renovations to include new ventilation, air conditioning, plumbing, tile, carpet, paint and furnishings. \$7,200

**Alperin Schechter Day School** Assistance with plans to develop a property for a new campus and other pre-construction costs, i.e. consultants, engineers, architects and environmental and engineering studies. \$25,000

**Camp JORI** To help raise funds to build a new Camp JORI on the 72 acres acquired at Worden's Pond, enabling the camp to nearly double its enrollment and significantly expand its camp offerings, and to make the facilities available in the off-season to other Jewish organizations. \$66,667 a year for 3 years.

**RI Jewish Historical Association & Heritage Harbor Museum**

To help underwrite the design and development of gallery exhibits and the RIJHA portion of Cultural Crossroads by paying for designers, architects and engineers. \$25,000 a year for three years.

**Seminars for Principals** (Bureau of Jewish Education) To provide training in monthly seminars for two years by a nationally recognized expert to new principals in the Jewish religious schools. Year 1: \$12,700; Year 2: \$10,300

**Jewish Educator Corps** (Bureau of Jewish Education & Brown/RISD Hillel) The funds will be used to recruit a corps of college students who will serve as teachers and youth advisors in Jewish religious schools. Seminars and mentors will help improve teaching skills and students will be encouraged to explore Jewish communal service as a career. Year 1: \$18,218; Year 2: \$14,406

**Tzedakah Project** (Bureau of Jewish Education) This is a pilot project with the Ziv Tzedakah Fund that will include a Tzedakah Conference for the community that will feature trainers and mitzvah heroes to help create a caring community. The project will culminate in a community-wide mitzvah project. The Covenant Foundation is providing \$35,000 toward the project. \$5,000

**Archiving** (Rhode Island Holocaust Memorial Museum) The cost of preserving, cataloguing and displaying nearly 1,000 paper and cloth artifacts that Holocaust survivors have entrusted to them. \$3,000

In addition to these Endowment Grants, the committee recommended that \$5,000 in income from the Joseph Galkin Memorial Fund be used to underwrite a **professional development program for Jewish communal workers**.

The late Joseph Galkin worked in the local community for 44 years, first with Jewish Family Service then as the first executive director of JFRI. He later directed the Federation's Endowment Fund. The professional development program will be cooperatively created by the BJE, the RI Board of Rabbis and the Principals Council.

Each year, the Federation has underwritten missions to Israel for numerous community groups and agencies. These trips are designed to connect youths and adults to the Jewish homeland and to help them see first hand the overseas impact of their donations to the JFRI annual

campaign.

In October, the Missions Committee, chaired by Alan Litwin, reviewed four proposals and recommended funding two of them. The JFRI Executive Committee approved those recommendations on October 17.

**ASDS-Israel Experience:** For an 8th-grade Israel mission which will serve as both a curriculum focus for Middle School children and a culminating activity for 8th graders. \$33,000

**March of the Living** (Bureau of Jewish Education) This biennial educational mission for high school juniors and seniors joins RI area youths with 7,000 others from around the world who meet in Poland during the week that includes Yom HaShoah and then spends a week in Israel over Yom Ha'atzmaut. \$22,500

## You don't have to be a millionaire to set up an endowment!

by Trine Adler-Lustig

"Only rich people can create endowments." Has this thought kept you from considering the creation of your own Jewish Federation for Rhode Island endowment fund? If so, the next few paragraphs may change your mind. You'll discover that nearly anyone, with a little planning, can establish an endowment.

Right up front, you need to know that the Jewish Federation requires a minimum of only \$1,000 to create a named endowment fund. A donor-advised fund for which one can recommend grants requires only \$10,000. This may seem like a lot of money, but consider these options.

### Do It Now

Some folks prefer to establish their endowment now so they can enjoy watching it grow and benefit the Jewish Community.

Consider these possibilities:

**Use Cash.** Sometimes we receive an unexpected windfall through an inheritance or the larger-than-expected proceeds from the sale of a valuable asset. It may also be helpful to know that the Jewish Federation permits a donor to fund an endowment over a number of years. Spreading cash gifts over several years may also have tax benefits for you.

**Use Securities.** Do you have publicly traded stock that is highly appreciated in value but low in dividend return? Why not use this to start your endowment? Since the Jewish Federation can sell your stock without incurring a capital gains tax, it may be the perfect funding method for you.

**Use Tangible Personal Property.** Almost anything of value — cars, boats, gems, etc. — can be given to the Jewish Federation. We will sell the item (s) and place the proceeds in your endowment. Take a good look in your attic; you may be surprised at what you have.

### Do It Later

While it may not be feasible to start an endowment now, you will likely have the means when you die. Here are several options: Please go to next page.

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# Endowment Donors Recognized



**Ruth Goldberg Gift Annuities** — Ruth Goldberg established one of the first life income gifts in 1993, and has since created others. This annuity will provide Goldberg with an income for life and then be used to benefit the community.



**Evelyn & Jack Mellion Memorial Fund** — The Mellion's children, Sybil and Robert and Enid Koffler, and Jacob's brother, Douglas, created a philanthropic fund in their memory. Pictured above is Gertrude Hak, sister to Evelyn Mellion.



**Pepl Silverstein Memorial Scholarship Fund** — When Al Silverstein's mother died, he established a restricted endowment fund to honor a student at URI Hillel annually with a Pepl Silverstein Scholar award.



**David & Nita Pliskin Family Fund** — The Pliskins established a philanthropic fund with a gift of securities. They retain the right to make recommendations for grants with their children. Above, David Pliskin.



**Jay & Judith Rosenstein Family Fund** — The Rosenstein Family Fund will help pass on the family tradition of *tzedakah* through a philanthropic fund. Above, Jay Rosenstein.



**The Stone Memorial Fund** — Etta Stone, who died at 94, left a legacy for the Jewish community and a fund to honor her late husband. Pictured above, Molla Lauett, Etta Stone's sister.



**H. Jack Feibelman** was awarded the UJC Endowment Achievement Award in recognition of creative and outstanding leadership to the JFRI Endowment program. Feibelman has been a generous donor and committed volunteer at JFRI. A Silver Circle member, he chaired the Gift Acceptance Guidelines Committee and was vice-chair of the Endowment Grants Committee. The Feibelman family has created two endowment funds at JFRI.



**Wesley & Grace Alpert Gift Annuity** — Wesley and Grace Alpert established a gift annuity, funded with appreciated securities, which gives them an income and then establishes a restricted fund at JFRI to support Jewish Family Service.



**Stanley M. Goldstein Fund** — Four years ago Goldstein established his first charitable remainder trust with JFRI as Trustee. This year he added to one of them, created a new one and also established a gift annuity. Above (l to r) Evelyn Zawatsky, Goldstein's estate planning attorney, his friend Barbara Mickelson and Goldstein.



**JCC Supporting Foundation** — The JCC turned over \$1 million in assets to be managed by the JFRI Endowment. Above JCC officials (l to r) Vivian Weisman, exec. director, Harley Frank, endowment chair, Bruce Leach, president.

**Congregation Mishkon Tfiloh** — The small synagogue began moving its Endowment to the Federation to be managed as a supporting foundation.

**Malkin Family Fund** — David and Rose Malkin, in planning his father's final affairs, realized that retirement plans are a perfect way to create a philanthropic fund because beneficiaries sometimes receive only 25%.

**Artie & Secky Finer Endowment Fund** — After the Finers died, their nephews, David and Stephen Hirsch, created a fund in their honor. It is the 8th fund established by the Hirsch and Alperin families.

**Carl & Jocelyn Feldman Fund** — Created with a gift of appreciated securities, the Feldmans avoided capital gains and left a legacy to help ensure the future of the Jewish community.

## No need to be a millionaire. . . from pg. 16

**Use the Remainder of a Trust.** Donors sometimes establish a trust during life to provide themselves with ongoing income. After the donor's death, whatever remains in the trust remains to the Federation or other charities.

Trusts are very popular as gift and estate planning tools and may provide you with an excellent means to establish your endowment.

**Use Insurance Proceeds.** Do you have a life insurance policy you no longer need for protection? You could sign part

or all of the policy over to the Jewish Federation for the purpose of creating an endowment when you are gone.

**Use a Bequest From Your Will.** The most popular way to fund a future endowment is to earmark a portion of one's estate for this purpose.

If you do decide to create an endowment through a "deferred gift," be sure to talk with our gift planning director, Joshua Karlin, to make sure your attorney uses our proper legal name and address.

### Do It Now and Later

You may want to start your endowment now, modestly, and then add to it later through your estate plan. This way you would get to see it in operation and enjoy knowing the good it does.

Do you want to learn more about the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island's endowment program and discover additional ways to fund an endowment?

Contact Joshua Karlin, our director of gift planning, or me, Trine Adler-Lustig, associate director at 401-421-4111.



*The Jewish Federation of Rhode Island is proud to recognize Silver Circle donors. Those people who have supported Federation Campaigns for 25 years or more. The legacy of a lifetime of giving testifies to a proud tradition of Tzedakah.*

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## Judy Kaye to spearhead Jewish Renewal discussion at Kulanu brunch

Judy Kaye will discuss "Jewish Renewal" at Temple Emanu-El's Kulanu brunch on January 21. These brunches are co-sponsored with the Koffler Bornstein Institute of Jewish Studies.

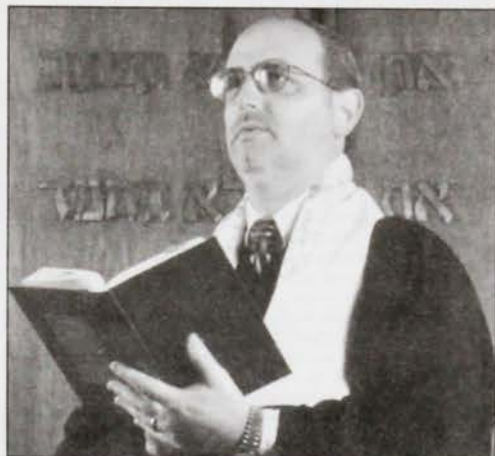
Kaye, president of Judith Kaye Training & Consulting, designs and facilitates workshop for business, government agencies, educational institutions, and non-profit organizations in the areas of prejudice reduction, diversity and sexual harassment prevention.

A graduate of Harvard Law School, Kaye was a legal services lawyer for 10 years, representing low-income individuals and families in landlord-tenant and subsidized housing cases. She attended Brown University, where she majored in religious studies, minored in Hispanic studies and was active in the Brown Women's Minyan.

Active in Temple Emanu-El, she serves on the Social Action Committee, chairs the Religious School Committee, and helped start a meditation group. Kaye frequently leads davening at Kallah retreats and family services and is a lay cantor at High Holidays. She co-founded a Black-Jewish Dialogue Group in Providence, and organizes a community event at the synagogue on Martin Luther King Day in partnership with a local African-American Church.

Other brunch programs are scheduled for February 25; March 18 and May 6. Temple Emanu-El is at 99 Taft Avenue, Providence. Brunch begins at 9:30 am; the program at 10:00 am. The general topic this season is "Judaism at a Crossroads." The series is open to the public. Call Temple Emanu-El, 331-1616, to register.

## Cantor Perlman to be installed at Temple Am David in Warwick



There is a Rhode Island family of cantors who have chanted and conducted services in Jewish congregations throughout the country, earning respect and admiration for their voices and their devotion where they have gone.

And now another of those family members is joining the ranks as a fulltime cantor and spiritual leader.

Richard E. Perlman of Coventry takes the reins as spiritual leader, cantor and religious school administrator of Temple Am David, a conservative congregation in Warwick. In making the announcement, Herbert Singer, president of the congregation, said, "Am David is fortunate to have a man of Cantor Perlman's ability and devotion to fill this position. He brings to us his family tradition of cantorial skills combined with his own interpretations and values."

Cantor Perlman was trained by his father, Cantor Ivan E. Perlman, retired Cantor of Temple Emanu-El, Providence, and past president of the Cantors' Assembly. Cantor Perlman's three brothers — Eli B. Perlman, Emanuel C. Perlman and Josh C. Perlman — all hold cantorial positions at conservative synagogues.

For the last 10 years, Cantor Perlman, who prefers to be called Cantor "Rick," was cantor at Temple Beth David in Narragansett. For six years he taught religious studies at the South County Hebrew School and trained students to become Bar and Bat Mitzvah.

Singer said the Cantor's appointment took effect December 1 and that he will be officially installed in the spring by his father.

## Protests rage at Vatican audience with Nazi-praiser Jorg Haider

by Ruth E. Gruber

ROME (JTA) — The Vatican downplayed Pope John Paul II's audience with a far-right Austrian politician, but the hundreds of rioters who fought with police and the Jewish merchants who shuttered their shops obviously took it more seriously.

The clashes erupted Saturday, December 16 near St. Peter's Square when Jorg Haider took part in a ceremony to light the Vatican Christmas tree. The tree comes from Austria's Carinthia region, where Haider is governor. Earlier in the day, Haider and a 250-member delegation had formally presented the tree to Pope John Paul II in a controversial but low-key ceremony inside the Vatican.

Riot police used tear gas against hundreds of protesters who tried to march on the square during the tree-lighting ceremony. The marchers, many of them militant left-wing students, carried a huge picture of Auschwitz and banners reading "Haider, No Thanks" and "Read Haider, Think Hitler."

The clashes were described as the most violent protests in memory associated with a Vatican event. About 30 people were reported injured, including two dozen policemen and a reporter for a local newspaper.

Peaceful protests took place as well. Among them, Jewish shopkeepers in some of Rome's most crowded shopping streets turned off the lights of their stores for half an hour. Told of the Jewish gesture, Haider made a sarcastic comment to Italian television that outraged public opinion. "If they want to save money on electricity," he said, "let them go ahead."

The Italian government, Israel, leftist groups and local and international Jewish organizations repeatedly had called on the Pope not to meet with a man they consider the symbol of resurgent European

racism and xenophobia.

Israel's ambassador to the Vatican, Yosef Lamdan, told JTA that Israel recognized that the Vatican downplayed the encounter with Haider and tried to limit its importance by, among other things, reducing the one-on-one contact between the Pope and Haider to two minutes. Nonetheless, Lamdan said, Israel feared that Haider would try to use the papal audience to rehabilitate his image.

Under intense international pressure, Haider stepped down earlier this year as leader of Austria's Freedom Party, which is known for its anti-immigrant stands. Years ago, he praised Hitler's employment policies and members of the Nazi SS, though he has repeatedly apologized for the remarks.

Vatican officials suggested that Pope John Paul II does not share Haider's political views.

During the formal Vatican ceremony Saturday morning, some observers thought the Pope gave Haider a frosty welcome. At the close of the audience, a Vatican official gave Haider and his group copies of a papal message released last week that strongly condemns racism and xenophobia.

Jewish leaders in Rome sharply criticized Haider's visit. Amos Luzzatto, president of the Union of Italian Jewish Communities, said he felt bitter and disappointed over a string of Vatican actions that has thrown Catholic-Jewish dialogue into crisis.

"Over the past six months, we Jews have been bombarded by a series of actions and positions on the part of Vatican authorities that seem to have been planned out," he said. "We wonder where it will end."

Earlier Vatican moves included its beatification of the anti-semitic Pope Pius IX and a Vatican document implying that other religions are not equal to Catholicism.

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# Modest modern Orthodox shul getting younger

by Yehuda Lev

In an unpretentious building on East Avenue in Pawtucket, near the Providence city line, stands Ohawe Sholam, an 80-household, modern Orthodox synagogue with a long history, an interesting present and an optimistic future.



Until the 1980, members of Ohawe Sholam prayed in this downtown shul.

Mordechai Torczyner is the shul's rabbi, looking younger than his years, which are 28, including four at his present position. This will be his final year; he has already notified the congregation that he is interviewing for a position at a larger synagogue out of state. Members of Ohawe Sholam with whom one speaks are full of praise for what he has done for the shul, including doubling its membership in four years.

Ohawe Sholam is five years short of a century in age and spent its earliest decades in downtown Pawtucket. But Orthodox synagogues must be within walking distance of member's homes so when they began to leave that area, so did the shul. In 1980 its members opened its present building which permits its members to live in Pawtucket, with its lower

housing prices than Providence, and still benefit from the Jewish amenities on Providence's East Side.

The shul has one full time employee, Rabbi Torczyner, aided by some part-time staff and a goodly number of volunteers. These last include its current president, David Pliskin, a retired school-teacher who spent 10 years as synagogue treasurer, a task for which people should be awarded medals. To forestall any doubts about the importance of the role of women in the congregation, its past three presidents have all been women.

Pliskin moved to Rhode Island 15 years ago from his home in New Bedford because his children were all commuting to Providence Hebrew Day School and the family decided that the commuting would be easier the other way around. (Today their youngest son commutes daily to the Maimonides high school in Brookline.) Pliskin and his wife made the rounds of the Orthodox synagogues in the area and decided on Ohawe Sholam as the warmest and most inviting of all. To this day, he says, they have never regretted their decision.

Rabbi Torczyner shares this appreciation for the warmth that Ohawe Sholam extends to newcomers and points out that half of its members are *ba'alei teshuvah*, Jews who came to orthodoxy as adults. Pliskin, for instance, was raised in a Conservative family. The secret of creating a successful blend of the two groups, the rabbi adds, lies in the understanding that newcomers to orthodoxy must not be rushed into it but moved grad-



The synagogue's newest quarters on East Avenue in Pawtucket.

ually toward an increased level of observance.

This, of course, is a process of education and education is the element of synagogue life that Rabbi Torczyner most stresses. At the moment he and the board are preparing to deal with a growing but positive problem: what to do about the crawlers and toddlers who should not be left at home on Shabbat morning. The synagogue is now instituting both baby care and a Junior Congregation, elements that become increasingly important as new and younger members join the shul. (Rabbi Torczyner and his wife, Caren, have added their own contribution to the ranks, 18-month-old Amram.)

The big news this year at Ohawe Sholam has been the completion of the first of two Torah scrolls being prepared for the synagogue. The shul made do for years with five scrolls and then discovered, to its dismay, that four of them were no longer fit for use. The five ranged in age from 50 to

100 years, so retirement was called for and the final letters of the first new Torah scroll were filled in just weeks ago.

The question that hangs over the head of any Orthodox synagogue in a state the size of Rhode Island, concerns room for growth. How many Orthodox Jews live in Pawtucket-Providence and do the existing synagogues suffice for their needs? Both the rabbi and his synagogue president are certain that 80 does not represent the maximum number of households that can be attracted to Ohawe Sholam. Rabbi Torczyner points out that there is considerable participation in shul activities; people attend classes, take on projects and show their enthusiasm most effectively in the high percentage of volunteers that keep its single full-time employee busy.

Education is the rabbi's main interest. "People have to know which way to go," he told The Voice. "If you have something worthwhile, people will come to see it."

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## Leading Jewish scholars to lead teacher conferences, Braude lecture

The Bureau of Jewish Education's *Israel Trips Forum*, where last year's Israel student travelers will speak about their experiences, is scheduled for Tuesday, January 8 at 7:00 pm at the Jewish Community Center.

Information on grants and scholarships, and brochures about Israel programs — from summer to academic year options — will be available. Details on the Israel Test, required of all grant recipients, will be explained. The Israel Test will be on Monday, March 5 at 7:00 pm at the JCC.

Call Ruth Page, Israel Desk, at 401-331-0956 for more information.

Two leading scholars will address local Jewish teachers in the coming months. Dr. Saul Wachs will speak at the Joseph and Leba Zelniker Conference, and Noam Zion will speak at the Principals' Retreat and at the teachers' workshop.

Spirituality in the Classroom is the topic of this year's Joseph and Leba Zelniker Conference which will convene at 8:30 am on Sunday, January 28 at the Jewish Community Center. The Bureau of Jewish Education (BJE) sponsors this annual event for the teachers of affiliated schools.

Wachs will discuss how teachers can create a spiritual environment in the classroom. A professor at Gratz College in Philadelphia, he is a leading Jewish educator,

rabbi and cantor. His expertise is in teaching prayer and spirituality. Following his keynote address, teachers will attend breakout sessions on introducing spirituality in various classroom subjects.

Wachs was selected as the Zelniker Scholar after he was the scholar at the Principals' Retreat last year. Lawrence Katz, who oversees professional development for the BJE, said, "His ideas were so well received that the participants suggested that he be invited to address all of the teachers of the community."

Zion will be featured at the Principals' Retreat this year on Monday, February 5th. This annual event allows the education directors of the religious and day schools to meet together for an extended period to explore an area in depth. Zion will also speak to teachers at a workshop that day, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. His topic is "Teaching Holidays and Texts, a

Family Approach."

Noam Zion is a scholar at The Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem. He is shedding new light on Hanukkah and Pesah with several recent books. Katz notes that, "Their impact is profoundly changing how people understand and celebrate the holidays."

In addition to these pedagogic program, Zion will present the annual Rabbi William G. Braude Memorial Lecture on Sunday evening, February 4th at Temple Beth-El in Providence. This event will begin at 7:30 pm and is open to the entire community.

"Both of these scholars are concerned with *tachlis* — the practical aspects of what we can do as teachers with our students in the classroom," Katz said. "We are fortunate that they are available to join us this year."

For more information about these programs, contact Katz at 401-331-0956.

## Midrasha opens 2nd semester with new classes for 200 teens

The Second Semester of the 5761 school year of the Harry Elkin Midrasha Community High School begins Wednesday January 17 and Sunday January 21.

New classes include Joseph and his Brothers, The Ethics of Speech, Issues in Israel, Jewish Journalism, and The Jewish Theatrical Tradition. These new classes join regulars such as Internet and Technology, American Jewish Film, Talmud, Kol Kesem Choir, and Conversational Hebrew.

HEM is a community Jewish high school program for students in grades 8-12 that meets Wednesday nights in Cranston and Sunday mornings in Providence. Students choose their own classes and are eligible to participate in a wide variety of educational and social programs. Nearly 200 Jewish teens from throughout Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts participate in HEM.

Rich Walter, teen education director for the Bureau of Jewish Education, tells teens that the high school program will "Expand your social network, deepen your understanding of the Jewish religion, and make a connection to ancient Jewish texts. This is your chance to learn with an incredible faculty and a diverse student population."

For more information about HEM or any teen programs offered by the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island, contact Walter 401-331-0956 or [rwalter@bjeri.org](mailto:rwalter@bjeri.org).

## Bronfman applications due

Applications are now being accepted for Bronfman Youth Fellowships, which finance a 5-week Israel experience, July 2-August 8. The program includes meeting with a wide range of Israeli thinkers, public personalities, religious and communal leaders, travel within Israel as well as study of Jewish texts and meeting with Israeli teens.

"The Bronfman Fellows are typically young people who are thinking seriously about issues of Jewish identity, are open to hearing many voices and are not shy about having their voice heard," according to an announcement about the applications.

Applicants must be entering the 12th grade of school in the fall of 2001. The Fellowship covers roundtrip transportation, room and board and travel within Israel. Selection will be based on merit.

For details write or call Bronfman Youth Fellowships in Israel, 163 Delaware Avenue, Suite 102, Delmar, New York 12054, 518-475-7512 or fax 518-475-7207. The electronic addresses are [YFI@bronfman.org](mailto:YFI@bronfman.org) or [www.bronfman.org](http://www.bronfman.org). Application deadline in January 31.

## NCJW offers scholarships for academics, volunteerism

Students who have good academic records, are involved in community services and have financial need may want to apply for a college scholarship from the National Council of Jewish Women, RI Section.

The deadline for requesting applications is April 2. Contact Joan Isserlis, 280 Slater Avenue, Providence, RI 02906, or call 401-751-1271.

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7:30 P.M.

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Noam Zion, of the Shalom Hartman Institute in Israel, is the author of *A Different Night: A Family Participation Haggadah* and *A Different Light: The Hanukkah Book of Celebration*.

Free and open to the public

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CALL THE BJE/RI AT 331-0956

Detail from a Jewish miniature, courtesy of the Shalom Hartman Institute, Jerusalem, Israel. Photo: D. J. Cooney. (The Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America)

## Hebrew Day joins international competition

Rabbi Mordechai Nissel, Dean of the Providence Hebrew Day School recently announced the school's intention to enter the International Competition on Jewish Identity.

The competition was initiated by Bar-Ilan University's International Jewish Identity Center in coordination with the Ministry of Education's Youth and Society Administration, and the Education Departments of the Jewish Agency for Israel and the Keren Kayemet Le Yisrael (Jewish National Fund).

The Jewish identity competition is designed to nurture and enhance Jewish identity among Jewish youth, both in Israel and abroad. The competition consists of study materials covering such topics as Jewish history, bookshelf, calendar, Jerusalem, and the history of Israel and Zionism. The competition culminates in a series of events in Israel, to which top scorers of each country will be invited. Scholarship, for one year of study at Bar-Ilan University, will be awarded to the top three winners in the international finals in Israel.

Although only 16 winners from the United States will be invited to Israel for the international competition, Rabbi Nissel thinks that the PHDS children will gain from learning and reviewing the test materials. The school will provide study sessions to help students and to discuss the topics in the material. The date of the test on the material is February 8th. It will be administered at PHDS.

## PHDS special events: raffle, open house

Providence Hebrew Day School will open its doors so the community can visit and see its facility, faculty and still while school is in session on Monday, January 15 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Parents and children will be able to visit the pre-school, kindergarten and classes from grades one through eight. School administrators and faculty will be available for consultations.

Over 50 value-packed gift packages will be raffled off at PHDS on Saturday evening, January 20, amidst musical entertainment, refreshments and door prizes — at the free-admission event.

Raffle prizes include a complete computer system, two roundtrip tickets on Southwest Airlines, a sterling silver menorah, a sofa and a family vacation packages to New Hampshire and Newport.

For a Winter Extravaganza booklet that details all the gift packages, call Marvin Stark at 401-331-5327.

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By: Noam Zion and David Dishon

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#### *A Different Night* The Leader's Guide

A Companion piece to the Family Participation Haggadah, this Leader's Guide will help you to facilitate a truly memorable Passover Seder experience for your family.

Cost: \$8.00

All proceeds from the sale of a Different Night support the Harry Elkin Midrasa Community High School of the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island

## From the PHDS Scrapbook



Fifth grade pupils became teachers when they presented all they had learned about volcanoes to the PHDS 1st graders. Above, Benjamin Bharier and Michael Mintz demonstrated volcanic eruption.



Children in 1st and 2nd grade at PHDS put on a special Thanksgiving Day production with the theme of "corn" and how the Native Americans introduced the Pilgrims to different varieties of the vegetable staple.



Each year at Veteran's Day PHDS commemorates the sacrifices of America's military with a special assembly. This year 5th graders produced a skit about the day, other children told of relatives who have served in the armed forces, but the highlight was when Jonathan Cohen spoke about his grandfather, Carl May, who served in the Philippines during World War II. May is pictured here with Jonathan (right) and his other grandson, Ezra.

### On the shelves

## Dynamic CD, women's tales ready to borrow

by Toby Rosner  
BJE Librarian

Many in the community were enchanted when storyteller Vered Hankin visited Rhode Island last March, bringing with her creative and dramatic stories of the Women of Valor. Now you can hear Vered in your own home on a brand new CD, "The Day the Rabbi Disappeared: Jewish Holiday Tales of Magic." Winner of numerous awards, this CD features stories and background music from every corner of the world.

The staff of The Forward said of the disc, "Small Boys. Young female scholars. Wise rabbis. These characters spring alive from the versatile voice of storyteller-actress



Vered Hankin, who on a new compact disk performs seven tales from folklorist Howard Schwartz's "The Day the Rabbi Disappeared." With an enchanting score by Bruce Ditmas (who has toured with Bar-

bara Streisand and Judy Garland) Ms. Hankin holds both adults and children (ages six and up) rapt.

"The Day the Rabbi Disappeared" is available at the Bureau of Jewish Education Library, 130 Sessions Street, Providence. Order forms are also available at the library for those who would like to purchase a CD.

The Jewish Women's Archive (JWA) has become a vibrant force in the preservation and dissemination of the historical record of American Jewish Women. This fall JWA has launched a reading and discussion series, "A Place in History: Jewish Women Tell Their Stories." Please go to next page.

ב"ה שנת ה'תשס"א



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7:00 pm-9:00 pm

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- Learn about scholarships and grants available
- Hear about the Israel Test

Monday, March 5, 2001 7:30 pm

Call Ruth Page — BJE/RI, 401-331-0956



## From the ASDS Scrapbook



Just what do those oxen want in the photo at top? Plenty, learned 4th and 5th graders on their trip to Old Sturbridge Village in Massachusetts. The olden days of the 19th century came alive as the children learned how families and villages lived and endured in less convenient times.

Hands-on learning came to 3rd grade pupils, too, when they stuck their hands in the salt-water pool at Mystic Aquarium.

"Back at the ranch," Channel 12 weather-anchor Tony Petrarca gave 2nd graders high marks for "intelligent questions" when he visited ASDS. Petrarca told vivid stories of tornadoes and pupils peppered him with questions about satellites, the atmosphere and the role of the weatherman. Later that day, Petrarca showed on air the ASDS sweatshirt the children had given him.

### Ready to borrow. . . from pg. 22

The series is dedicated to the experiences of Jewish women in the US whose lives were as distinct as the regions they settled. It includes four books: *Rachel Calof's Story: Jewish Homesteader on the North Plains*; *Heart of A Wife: The Diary of a Southern Jewish Woman* by Helen Jacobus Apte; *Out of the Shadow: A Russian Jewish Girlhood on the Lower East Side* by Rose Cohen, and *A Joyful Noise: Claiming the Songs of My Father* by Deborah Weisgall of Baltimore.

The BJE Library has copies of each of these books and of the outstanding JWA-created background

material and discussion questions prepared by leading scholars.

Taken together, these four books indicate how complex, rich, and varied Jewish women's lives in the United States have been. Told in the distinctive, expressive voices of authors who intuitively understood why their private experiences as Jewish women ought to be set down and recorded, these memoirs open a window onto the wider experience of Jewish and female life in America.

Providing glimpses into the perennial struggles between Old World tradition vs. New World cul-

ture, the processes of settlement, acculturation, and the often hard-fought struggles between the generations and between genders, they offer suggestions about what was unique—and what universal—about Jewish female experience in the different regions of the United States. Most especially, they give us a deep insights into the ways in which different generations of American Jewish women lived out their lives in the midst of families and communities as they carried out their daily tasks and dreamed of a brighter future.

Contact *Toby Rosner* to check out the books and discussion guides.

## Alperin Schechter taking applications for 22nd year

Entering its 22nd year of educating Jewish youth in Rhode Island and helping them develop leadership skills, the Alperin Schechter Day School (ASDS) is currently accepting applications for the 2001-02 school year. Serving nearly 200 students in grades K-8 from throughout greater Rhode Island, ASDS considers itself a distinctive academic institution.

Head of School Penney Stein, PhD, says that the school is "Noted for its strong parental involvement. ASDS has been growing steadily over the last five years to meet the needs of families of all levels of Jewish observance and knowledge."

One current ASDS parent said, "Three years ago, I would never have dreamed I'd be sending my son to Jewish day school, but at Schechter we both feel at home."

"Award-winning faculty teach a rigorous curriculum, which is fully accredited," Stein said. The core disciplines, including English, social studies, math, science are taught in conjunction with music, art, computers and physical education. Additionally, ASDS provides a curriculum of modern Hebrew and traditional Jewish texts, and the school also features a community service program.

Parents of ASDS alumni attest that these leadership skills last a lifetime. "Kids come from Schechter with no idea that they have limits. There is nothing they believe they cannot do," says a parent of two ASDS alumni.

Applications for all grades are currently being accepted. Families with no prior Jewish day school experience are also encouraged to apply. For application information, call Ruth Berenson at 401-751-2470.

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## Winter classes expand to chase away blues

If the holidays just past have left many with those nasty 15 extra pounds from all those scrumptious meals, if the children are already bored with all the gifts they just had to have, and it's too cold and icy to go outdoors, what do you do to chase away those post-holiday winter blues? Come to the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island!

Beginning this month, adults and children can join a variety of classes. In addition to the tried and true programs, the Center is offering some new classes, such as:

### Early Childhood Program:

**Parent/Child Multi-Media Adventures in Art** (ages 3-5) Parent and child create original multi-media works of art using different materials and techniques.

**Journey Through the Jewish Life Cycle** (ages 3-5) Young children will explore Jewish life cycle events on their own level; from how babies get their names to bar/bat mitzvah to the cherishing of grandparents.

**The Wonderful World of Eric Carle** (ages 3-5) Young children delight in the world of Eric Carle through storytelling, creative arts and crafts.

**Indoor Soccer** (ages 4-5) Soccer skills and game play introduced in a low intensity, fun environment.

### Children and Youth Program:

**Drawing and Painting Explorations** (ages 6-9) Children learn and explore the fundamentals of drawing and painting through sketching, landscape, still life and portraiture.

**Performing Arts Workshop** (ages 8-12) Children build self-awareness and confidence by exploring theatrical principles. A range of exercises will culminate in a final presentation for parents and friends.

**Private Music Lessons** (ages 7-10) Children choose from piano, violin, or other stringed instrument (no guitar), and learn how to play.

**Fencing** (ages 8-12) Introduce your child to a new sport emphasizing balance, fitness and concentration.

### Adult and Senior Adult Programs:

**Introduction to Acrylic Painting.** Learn painting basics of acrylics.

For information on these classes and others, call the Center at 401-861-8800.

## Open House Parents to visit JCC as they weigh options

As 2001 begins, parents begin to contemplate their children's educational options for the 2001-2002 school year. The open houses for the Early Childhood Program at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island (JCC) can help parents weigh their choices.

The Open Houses give parents and children an opportunity to learn more about the programs offered for children ages three through kindergarten, including the philosophy behind play-based learning and the mission of a Jewish curriculum.

Parents and children will visit classrooms, meet the director, teachers, administrative staff and parents who have been a part of the program. Curriculum activities and displays will highlight the Early Childhood Program. Applications are being accepted now through the deadline in February.

Options also extend to open house times:

**Sunday, January 17th** — 11:00 am to 1:00 pm

Brunch of bagels and cream cheese

**Tuesday, January 2nd** — 7:00 to 9:00 pm

Evening sweet treats

**Sunday, January 21st** — 2:00 to 4:00 pm

Afternoon snack of hallah & cheese

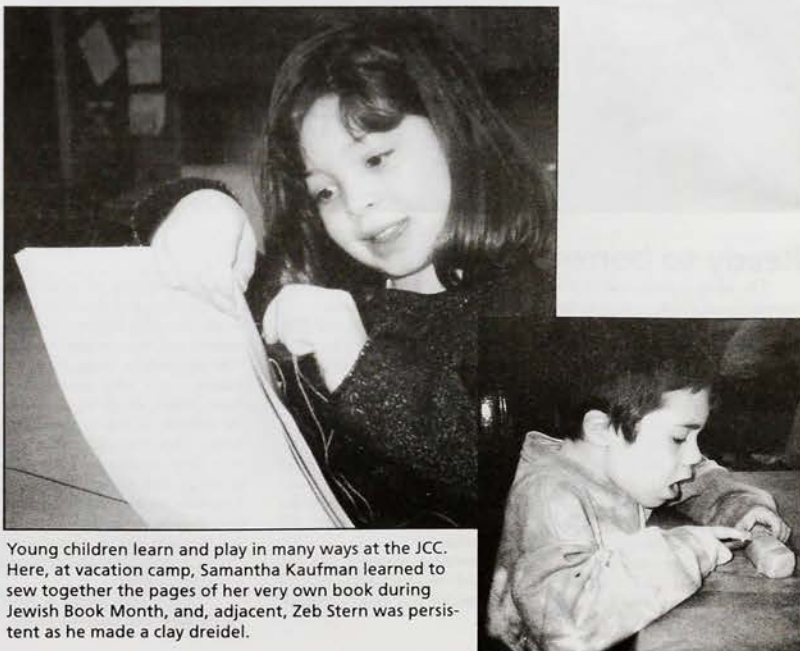
**Thursday, January 25th** — 7:00 to 9:00 pm

Evening sweet treats

In addition to the Open Houses, Sue Connor, Early Childhood director, will make a more formal presentation that focuses on the components of the early childhood program on February 8th from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Jewish-related issues will be addressed, including specifically how a Jewish curriculum is implemented, how it fosters Jewish growth through integrating Jewish values and how the celebration of the weekly Shabbat as well as the many Jewish holidays fosters a Jewish identity for Jewish children. Connor will also address the unique experience this provides for children who are not Jewish as they learn the value of community and respect for diversity.

For more information on the scheduled Open Houses or the February 8th presentation, call the Early Childhood Office at the JCC at 401-861-8800, extension 130.

## JCC vacation camp play and learn



Young children learn and play in many ways at the JCC. Here, at vacation camp, Samantha Kaufman learned to sew together the pages of her very own book during Jewish Book Month, and, adjacent, Zeb Stern was persistent as he made a clay dreidel.

# Jewish Voice Professional Directory

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## JORI puts out call to alumni for memorabilia, remembrances

Do you have memories of The Jewish Orphanage of Rhode Island?

Do you have letters, photographs or papers that date back to the early days of The Jewish Children's Home and Foundation of Rhode Island?

Did you attend Camp JORI long ago?

If you or someone you know can say "Yes" to any of those questions, the Camp JORI board would like to hear from you. The board is putting together an archive of historical papers, remembrances and objects to celebrate the organization's long-standing service to the Jewish community in Rhode Island. The history project corresponds to a time of unprecedented growth in the camp as it looks to the utilization of its new property.

The organization began in 1909, when a group of community leaders responded to the sad plight of orphans early in this century by founding The Jewish Orphanage

of Rhode Island, later known as The Jewish Children's Home and Foundation of Rhode Island. The Home was enlarged and expanded its mission to take care of the needy, indigent and neglected children in addition to orphans.

Through 1942, the Home cared for hundreds of children aged three to 17, with a staff of trained social workers. Many of these children later became community leaders — doctors, lawyers, successful business men and school teachers. Many raised families of their own. A history of the organization says, "It can be said truthfully that no child of ours ever became a problem or reflected any discredit upon the Orphanage at any time."

During the 1929-1939 administration of board president Walter I. Sundlun, Camp JORI was established at Narragansett Pier. Benjamin Brier chaired the Camp JORI Committee which directed the establishment of the camp.

The camp was designed to provide a healthy summer vacation for orphans and children whose families could otherwise not afford this luxury. In 1942, the orphanage closed, as its functions were taken on by government social service agencies. With the advent of World War II, Camp JORI began providing a peaceful summer interlude for children who were refugees from war-torn Europe. Later,

as children from the former Soviet Union came into this country, Camp JORI offered them the opportunity to immerse themselves in American culture and eased their acclimation.

In 1999, the camp acquired property, in a partnership with The Nature Conservancy, on Worden's Pond which makes possible the expansion of the small-craft boating program, fishing, hiking and environmental programming, as well as adding more cabins for more campers. Plans for development of the new property are underway.

Today, the camp hosts children from a variety of family situations and financial backgrounds. An annual community appeal for funds for camperships assures that financial need will not keep a child from enjoying the Camp JORI experience.

As the camp plans for the future, it wants to build upon the past. To share reminiscences or memorabilia, call Camp JORI at 401-521-2655.

## That's Life! Ways of communicating with hearing-impaired people

by Patricia Harwood, MSW  
JFS Clinical Social Worker

Communicating with a relative or friend who has a hearing loss can be difficult and frustrating. It is estimated that 20% of people between the ages of 65 and 74 experience significant hearing loss and 25% of people age 75 and older are severely impaired. Although hearing aids may be helpful to some, many are annoyed by background noises which also are amplified. The latest improvements in hearing aid technology have reduced those sounds, but may cost several thousand dollars. Because there are so many people with hearing loss who cannot afford or are bothered by hearing aids, the following strategies may be helpful when trying to communicate:

1. Make sure that you have the person's attention before beginning to speak.
2. Speak face to face. Do not speak into the person's ear, because he or she will be unable to see visual cues.
3. Maintain eye contact.
4. Speak clearly and slowly. Pause between words.

5. Do not shout, but try to speak in a louder tone than normal.
6. Check in with the person to see if he or she understands what you are saying.
7. If the person does not understand, try to communicate through writing or drawing.
8. Be patient. Remember that the person with a hearing loss is more frustrated than you are, and has difficulty communicating with everyone.
9. Avoid speaking with your hand in front of your mouth, while eating or chewing gum, or trying to speak in a noisy environment. These habits can interfere with intelligible communication.
10. Try to include the person with a hearing impairment in conversations with others. Help educate other people about good communication skills.

### Safety Aids

In addition to hearing aids and communication strategies, there are other aids which can improve the quality of life and safety for individuals with hearing loss:

1. Text telephone for the deaf (TTD), in which the telephone is connected to a keyboard and display screen.
  2. Television caption device, which displays sentences at the bottom of the screen indicating what is being said.
  3. Smoke alarm repeater, which flashes lights on and off to alert the person when there is smoke in the house.
  4. Doorbell flashing light system, which alerts the person that someone is at the door.
  5. Alarm clock flashing light system, which wakes the person with flashing lights.
- For more information on communicating with people with a hearing loss, call JFS at 401-331-1244.

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## Adoption Options meetings

Anyone interested in exploring the possibilities of adoption is invited to attend informational meetings offered by Adoption Options at Jewish Family Service (JFS). The meetings are the first Thursday of every month from 6:00 to 7:00 pm at the JFS office on the second floor of the United Way Building at 229 Waterman St, Providence. The next meeting will be February 1 and March 1.

Lillian Zhang, from China Adoption with Love, is available to speak with those interested in adopting children from China.

Call Adoption Options at 401-331-5437 or toll-free at 1-800-337-6513 for information or to arrange a confidential consultation. Or visit the web site at [www.adoptionoptions.org](http://www.adoptionoptions.org).



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## Medical Commentaries

## In sorrowful labor

by Stanley M. Aronson, MD and Betty E. Aronson, MD

In the beginning "The LORD God said, 'It is not good for man to be alone; I will make a fitting helper for him.'" (Genesis 2:18) "So the LORD God cast a deep sleep upon the man; and while he slept, He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that spot." (Genesis 2:21)

Both loneliness and pain are grievous things; and it was therefore a consummate act of divine mercy to cast a deep sleep upon this man while a part of his body was removed so that he might then be blessed with the companionship of woman; an intimate companionship, since they were both of one flesh.

The compassionate specialty of anesthesiology, a science that has made deliberate surgery possible, looks to this Scriptural reference as its origin and justification.

What physiological characteristics did medicine demand of a general anesthetic? First, that it rapidly render the patient unconscious; but an unconsciousness deeper than normal sleep since it must also be accompanied by a total insensitivity to pain. Second, that the process be quickly and readily reversible. And third, that it cause no harm to the brain or other vital organs. It must therefore be a procedure which is rapidly induced, safe and without long lasting complications.

Conquest of pain and the induction of insensible sleep had been the conscious goal of medicine for millennia. And over the centuries an impressive array of herbal preparations have been tested to induce stupor and insensitivity to pain. Opium products, mandragora root, cannabis and even hemlock were empirically employed to lessen pain and encourage sleep. Prisoners about to be executed by crucifixion were said to be given a concoction of hyssop, mandragora and myrrh in wine or vinegar. Alcohol, too, was widely used to diminish the agonies of orthopedic procedures such as the reduction of bone fractures or joint dislocations.

These various medications were given orally, which meant that their desired effects took time to achieve and sometimes, unexpectedly, produced states of agitation rather than stupefaction. In 1659, Christopher Wren, architect and amateur physiologist, observed the problem of unreliable absorption of orally given drugs by injecting a combination of opium and wine into a dog's veins, producing a deep stupor. But there were too many hazards encountered with intravenous administration and so this line of research was abandoned.

Induced unconsciousness, for purposes of undertaking some surgical intervention, could also be achieved by temporary compression of the carotid artery in the neck. Intentional blood loss also resulted in collapse and unconsciousness. But these reckless techniques carried such great risk of damage to the body, if not death, that they were also abandoned as ways of producing anesthesia.

It was not until the characteristics and physiological responses to volatile gases were explored that true anesthetic states could be established. Humphrey Davy's primitive experiments with nitrous oxide, in 1800, showed that certain gases might rapidly produce a reversible unconsciousness. Within decades nitrous oxide proved to be of great value in reducing the pain and terror of brief surgical interventions such as dental extractions.

Ether had also been known as a gas capable of producing transient senselessness. Indeed, sniffing vials of ether was a common form of entertainment at medical student parties. And following the success of nitrous oxide, some had suggested that ether, too, might allow more planned surgery measured in minutes rather than seconds. On March 30, 1842, a young Georgia surgeon named Crawford W. Long resected a neck tumor from a patient who had been rendered unconscious by ether. The operation was successful but Long failed to grasp the historic significance of his act and did not report it immediately to his profession. Only four years later, when ether had been employed at Massachusetts General Hospital, did Long belatedly describe his anesthetic experiences.

Ether was administered quite simply by a con-

trolled drip of the fluid upon a cloth pad applied to the patient's nose. Ether vapors were then inhaled, rapidly absorbed through the lungs thus resulting in a quick suppression of consciousness. Open-drop ether anesthesia was then widely adopted; and the character, status and capabilities of surgery were changed forever.

The success of ether encouraged a search for other volatile fluids which might safely induce unconsciousness. David Waldie, a Liverpool chemist, suggested chloroform to Dr. James Young Simpson, Scotland's leading obstetrician. It was at a dinner party, history tells us, when Simpson fell senseless to the floor after sniffing a small bottle of chloroform. He then successfully eased the pains of childbirth by having women in labor inhale the fumes of chloroform. Simpson announced his findings to the world only to be confronted with a virulent outburst of condemnation, largely from the clergy of Great Britain.

These ministers argued that painful childbirth was biblically ordained and that measures undertaken to lessen this anguish were contrary to divine commandment. The unambiguous line, "I will make most severe your pangs in childbearing; in sorrow shall you bear children" (Genesis 3:16) was widely quoted. Simpson was denounced in a blizzard of sermons declaring that his attempts to contravene this scriptural injunction were nothing less than heresy.

But these clergy, scholarly though they were, had not reckoned with the learned Dr. Simpson who was well schooled in both obstetrics and Biblical Hebrew. Simpson responded promptly, pointing out that the Hebrew word often translated as sorrow also meant labor; that the act of delivery required much labor, and further, that chloroform did not lessen this labor, it merely subdued the subjective appreciation of it.

He further observed, "Those that urge, on a kind of religious ground, that an artificial or anesthetic state of unconsciousness should not be induced... forget that we have the greatest of all examples set before us (Genesis 2:21): 'And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam; and he slept'... This passage is principally striking as affording evidence of our Creator himself using means to save poor human nature from the unnecessary endurance of physical pain."

The outcry against Simpson was promptly stilled in 1853 when he used chloroform to ease the birth of Queen Victoria's son.

## Mor-Yosef to head Hadassah Medical

(Jerusalem) Shlomo Mor-Yosef, MD, has been named Director General of the Jerusalem-based Hadassah Medical Organization (HMO), effective January 21. He will replace Professor Avi Israeli who recently resigned as head of the largest medical, treatment rehabilitation, research and teaching facility in the Middle East.

Mor-Yosef, who is currently director of the Soroka Medical Center in Beersheva, is 49 years old and a native of Jerusalem. He is a graduate of the Hebrew University-Hadassah School of Medicine, board-certified in obstetrics and gynecology, and holds a Masters Degree in Public Administration from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Prior to his current appointment, Mor-Yosef served as deputy director general of the Hadassah Medical Organization, the umbrella administration for Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center in Ein Kerem, the Hadassah University Hospital on Mount Scopus, five related medical schools, the Kiryat HaYovel Community Health Center and various outpatient clinics.

Mor-Yosef is a physician with the rank of lieutenant colonel in the Israel Defense Forces Reserves; he is married with four children.

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## "Lost in Yonkers" found at JCC



Looking as if they really are members of Neil Simon's dysfunctional Kurnitz family, Eddie Barber of Warren, Carol Barden of Pawtucket and Douglas Young of Smithfield, grandsons and grandmother, pose for a family portrait. In the back row, the other key players line up: Janette Gregorian, Cranston; Fred Kahr, Providence; Chuck Reifler, Warwick, and Karen Gail Kessler, Barrington. The Jewish Theatre Ensemble's production of "Lost in Yonkers" opens at the JCC on January 11.

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"Lost in Yonkers," the funny and poignant Neil Simon play that grapples with the most painful family scar — what happens to children in the absence of love — will open on the stage of the Jewish Community Center on Thursday, January 11 when the Jewish Theatre Ensemble begins a six-day run of the Tony award-winning show.

Set during World War II, "Lost in Yonkers" follows the lives of two young brothers who must live with their formidable grandmother in Yonkers. A refugee and a widow, Grandma Kurnitz has steered her heart against the world, and her coldness and cruelty have crippled her children. The boys' father lacks self-esteem, their Aunt Gert suffers from a nervous speech impediment, their uncle is a petty gangster, and their warm and bubbly Aunt Bella, who has never quite grown up, is hungry for experience, starved for affection.

"Lost in Yonkers" is directed by Vincent Lupino (see photo for cast members).

Performances are scheduled in the JCC Social Hall, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence, January 11, 13, 14, 18, 20 and 21 with the Thursday curtains at 7:30 pm, Saturdays at 8:00 pm and Sundays at 2:00 pm. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$10 for senior citizens and children age 12 and under. There are discounts for JCC members and for groups, plus a 2-for-1 discount on opening night. For tickets call 401-861-8800, ext. 108.

## Hail, Caesar! NFJC pays tribute

by Peter Ephross

NEW YORK (JTA)—When the dean of Jewish comedy took the stage December 11, he spoke French, German, Italian, Japanese and Yiddish.

The problem is, Sid Caesar doesn't really speak any of these languages. He just imitates their sounds — perfectly.

That comic genius earned Caesar the Third Annual Alan King Award in American Jewish Humor, sponsored by the National Foundation for Jewish Culture.

Caesar earned the adoration of millions of television viewers in the early 1950s — the Golden Age of Television — when his "Your Show of Shows" aired on Saturday nights. Caesar was known for an impeccable sense of timing, and for his intelligence and versatility.

"You only had to tell him that you needed a Hindu with a bad back, sore feet and a twitch, and that was it," comedian Alan King said. "There was nothing he couldn't do — from an Italian actor to a gladiator to a baby."

A live variety show with no TelePrompTers, "Your Show of Shows" set a standard for excellence that some believe has never been equaled. "It makes 'Saturday Night Live' look like a kindergarten Christmas pageant," said Rabbi Andrew Bachman, who is helping to create a Jewish comedy Web site



at yap.cat.nyu.edu.

Caesar's story is similar to those of so many great Jewish entertainers of the 20th century. He was born in Yonkers, NY, to immigrant parents from Poland and Russia. In the summer of 1942, while performing as a saxophonist, he began doing comic routines.

During World War II, he wrote and performed musical comedy revues for the US Coast Guard in Brooklyn, and by 1947 he was headlining at New York's Copacabana.

Mel Brooks, who was one of Caesar's writers, presented Caesar with the award, as Jerry Stiller, who most recently played George Costanza's father on TV's "Seinfeld," looked on. Actor Carl Reiner paid tribute by video, as did writer Larry Gelbart, who helped to create the television series "M\*A\*S\*H." Woody Allen and playwright Neil Simon also worked for Caesar.

As Caesar's fellow stars took the microphone, the *shrick* came fast and furious. Actress Joy Behar, who is Italian, joked, "Everyone thinks I'm Jewish. My mother calls me up a few years ago and says, 'Happy Hanukkah. I said, 'Ma, I'm not Jewish.'"

But for all the Borscht Belt-style routines, there was a bitersweet edge to the celebration at New York's tony Pierre Hotel. Caesar himself was known to be an intense, difficult person to work with. He would sometimes punch through walls with his fist, and once reportedly punched a horse in Central Park that was giving his wife a rambunctious ride. Brooks said he once told Caesar he needed a breath of fresh air, and Caesar obliged by picking him up and hanging him outside the 11th-floor window. The tension of producing a liveshow eventually got to Caesar, and he struggled for years with addictions to alcohol and pills.

Caesar rarely performs anymore. He is little known to people under 50, though that may change with a three-part video and DVD of his work. "The Sid Caesar Collection," just released.

In more recent years he underwent heart bypass surgery, and his once-robust figure has shriveled.

And when Caesar himself took the stage to receive his award, he needed assistance because of a broken hip. The audience responded in a way that the comedy maestro understood and appreciated — with a standing ovation.

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*Henry's sister lies in a coma. If she is the instrument of the Virgin's divine mercy, will he become the instrument of God's terrible vengeance?*

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## Be a *chaver* Volunteers to befriend nursing home residents

The JERI program of Jewish Seniors Agency (JSA) is initiating a new volunteer opportunity that will train members of the community on how to become spiritual care visitors to Jewish residents who live in nursing homes.

**CHAVER** — Caring Helpers And Visitors Enliven Residents — is designed to help nursing home residents feel more connected to the larger community, according to the JSA executive director Susette Rabinowitz, and to help them form spiritual relationships with the trained CHAVER (Hebrew word for friend).

CHAVER volunteers will all be trained during eight, 90-minute sessions that will meet once a week and focus on how to listen, respond and be a spiritual visitor, and then will be assigned to a nursing home near where they live.

Under the tutelage, mentoring and coordination of Rabbi Andrea M. Gouze, the volunteers will visit Jewish residents on a regular basis as a way of forming long-term relationships that bring a sense of connection to the residents.

Rabinowitz said that research shows "that it is through these types of relationships that nursing home residents feel a sense of belonging and worth; they feel re-connected to the community and gain more of a sense of purpose and that life is worth living."

Rabbi Gouze, who also is chaplain at The Miriam Hospital, has been trained through the Interfaith Health Care Ministries and is certified as a chaplain.

Rabinowitz said JERI is looking for volunteers "who want to be involved in something that is larger than themselves and from which they can gain meaning and spiritual satisfaction. Volunteers shouldn't worry that they may not have the skills or emotional ability to do this type of visiting," she said. "CHAVER will train you, we will mentor you and we will provide the structure and the support necessary so that you will have the ability to reach out to those nursing home residents who are feeling isolated and alone."

To learn more about CHAVER and to request an information packet, call JERI at 401-621-5374 or JSA at 401-351-4740.

## Need drivers for meals in Cranston/Warwick

Jewish Family Service (JFS) needs volunteers in the Cranston/Warwick area to deliver hot, kosher noontime meals to homebound elderly through the Kosher Meals on Wheels program. Drivers may choose to deliver meals on a specific day of the week or more than one. Monday through Friday. The need is greatest for drivers on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Volunteers need only commit a few hours. Substitute drivers are also needed to fill in occasionally.

JFS also needs more volunteers at its Kosher Mealsite. Mealsite Coordinator Ronda French says, "We especially need people for about an hour to help serve meals on Fridays, when we have large attendance for our Shabbat meal." The JFS Kosher Mealsite in Cranston is open Monday through Friday.

It offers a variety of programming including exercise, movies, bingo, informational speakers, holiday celebrations, concerts, men's and women's discussion groups, blood pressure screenings by the JFS Registered Nurses and eyeglass adjustments. Dance therapy, writing class, Yiddish, visits from the Bureau of Jewish Education Bookmobile and birthday parties round out the popular programs.

Programs begin at 11:00 am unless otherwise stated and lunch is served at noon. The JFS Kosher Mealsite in Cranston is located at Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Avenue. Transportation is available every day for residents of Cranston and areas of Warwick.

To volunteer, please call French at 401-331-1244.

1900 to 1920 vintage

## How To Make Mama's Chicken Soup

by Minnie Somer

*Note: Minnie Somer shared this entertaining recipe with the writing class at the JFS Kosher Mealsite in Cranston, just before she passed away last year. Honoring her memory, her family has given permission for its publication. With colder weather and cold and flu season upon us, it seemed like the appropriate time to share it with the community.*

First you must pick a nice live chicken out of the coop. You examine it. It must be a nice, fat, healthy looking bird. Brown is a good color.

Then, carry the chicken to the *Shofibid* who would say a prayer as he severed a vein in the neck of the chicken.

After the chicken stopped wiggling, it was handed over to the "Chicken Plucker." It was worth 10¢ not to have to bother removing the feathers.

Then, you bring the chicken home. Since the bird was not completely plucked, you start to tweeze the leftover pinfeathers. After that is done, you light a fire and singe off the hair that remains.

When the chicken is smooth and clean, you split it down the middle. You remove all the insides. Nice and clean. You put the little yellow eggs aside and also the throat, liver, and the *pupik* (gizzard). You also cut off the chicken's feet, pour boiling water over the feet and peel the skin.

You then remove every bit of fat that remains to be used to make *gribenes* and chicken fat. You use every bit of skin.

When that is done, you cut the chicken in about eight pieces. Now you start the kashering pro-

cess. You take a pan of cold water and place the chicken in for one half-hour and remove.

You then take a kashering board and place it in your sink. Place all of the chicken pieces on the board. Then, take heavy salt and salt each piece. After an hour, wash off all of the pieces under the faucet and say "Kosher, Kosher, Kosher."

You then take the boiling water and pour it over the chicken. Handle each piece with a sharp knife and scrape off all remaining scum to be sure it is good and clean.

You then place the chicken inside a large kettle and cover with water. Also, place a large onion, a couple of carrots, a nice big parsnip and a celery stalk (with the leaves!). Don't forget to put in the eggs, gizzard, feet, and the *hetzel* (the neck). It is also nice to put in a few marrowbones.

You then remove the chicken and vegetables. Strain the soup and let it cool. Serve it over homemade noodles adding the little *ayzelech* (eggs) and the *pupik* and *fielach* (feet).

Then, when the children are served the soup, you ask them what they desire:

"Who wants the *pupik*?" —

"Me, Ma!"

"Who want the *ayzelech*?" —

"Me, Ma!"

"Who want s the *fielgel*?" —

"Me, Ma!"

Now I have given you my mother's recipe for chicken soup! If you feel this is too much work, you can buy a can of kosher Rokeach soup. Open with an electric can opener, warm and serve over Grandma's noodles.

*Es, gezunte heit, kinderlich!*  
(Eat in good health, children!)

\*Jewish popcorn.



JFS nurse Deborah Lamberton, RN, checks Kitty Coken's blood pressure during a screening at the kosher Mealsite in Cranston, which is open Monday-Friday. Call 401-781-1771 for details on programs and transportation.

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## Adult Day services give relief, stimulation in win-win concept

Families trying to provide care and nurturing to both children and elderly parents face daunting challenges, according to Susette Rabinowitz, executive director of the Jewish Seniors Agency (JSA). While elderly family members benefit by staying in their familiar surroundings and living among their loved ones, she says, their requirements for more and more assistance many stretch their caregiver's personal resources too thin.

"And, contrary to the family's best intentions," Rabinowitz adds, "the elderly person may actually grow more dependent and isolated."

Fortunately, there are options, and JSA has been providing one of them for over 20 years: adult day care, or adult day services as it is now known, located in bright and airy quarters of the United Way Building at 229 Waterman Street in Providence.

No baby-sitting service this. Rather, adult day services is a structured program designed to meet the medical, functional and emotional needs of adults who are functionally or cognitively impaired. An individual plan of care is developed for each participant.

In addition to providing a safe, secure and nurturing environment for frail and disabled adults, the JSA Comprehensive Adult Day Center focuses on wellness and strives to enrich the lives of participants, according to director Sharon Rice. "And that brings peace of mind to their families," she adds. These goals are met through physical therapy and mental exercise plus therapeutic programs in art and music, occasional field trips, a daily hot kosher lunch and a low client/staff ratio that guarantees individual attention.

Rice's staff includes a certified geriatric physical

therapist, registered nurses and others who are trained specifically in caring for the elderly.

Rice suggests that families use adult day services to "broaden the choices for your family member. Remember that things work in combination." She explains that by complementing other care options, day service programs provide possibilities for friendships, therapy and a sense of fulfillment for the seniors, and, for the caregivers, offers the precious possibility of time for routine daily tasks and respite, or the ability to continue their own employment.

What many people don't understand, Rice says, is that adult day programs "often contribute to the well-being and health of elderly participants in ways that families alone cannot. By providing social and creative opportunities, plus medical supervision, adult day programs promote renewed independence and connection to the community. They make life happen for all parties involved," she emphasizes.

Rick Ryan, immediate past president of RI Adult Day Services, urges families caring for a frail or disabled senior to visit an adult day center. "Ask questions, see whether people are enjoying themselves," he suggests.

Rice adds that participation is voluntary, but it also may take a senior a visit or two to become acclimated and begin to enjoy participating.

To learn how JSA Comprehensive Adult Day Services can serve your family, call 401-351-2440.

## Youths from Beth-el put zing in holidays for nursing home residents

During the holiday season, when many organizations solicit donations for the less fortunate, 142 children from the Temple Beth-El religious school remembered one group that is often forgotten — Jewish elderly. These seniors may not need food, clothing or toys, but they do need companionship to help ease the loneliness and help them remember the happier times.

On Sunday, December 17, the children spent the morning visiting the Jewish residents of six local nursing homes. They sang Hanukkah songs and gave residents homemade artwork to decorate their rooms.

Their visit, through Jewish Elder Care of Rhode Island (JERI), a program of the Jewish Seniors Agency (JSA), is just one of the outreach programs the agency provides.

"It is wonderful to see young people act so selflessly," said Susan Adler, JERI director. "The children gave up their Sunday morning, not for their school or their family, but for their community. That is the true spirit of the holidays," she added.

Prior to their visit to the nursing homes, the children participated in a JERI sponsored training session, which focused on such areas as memory and hearing loss, age differences and disabilities.

JERI sponsored Hanukkah parties at 27 nursing homes and assisted living facilities and distributed gift bags to over 250 Jewish senior residents. The gifts were made possible by a donation from the JSA's Women's Association. Residents lit menorahs and ate latkes and jelly donuts. Among the 24 volunteers who helped deliver the gift bags, were the members of the Jewish Scout troop.

JERI also provides Sabbath services for the residents and in-service training to help sensitize nursing home staff to their residents' heritage. Staff and volunteers visit each Jewish nursing home and assisted living resident in the state, helping seniors to remain connected with their Jewish traditions.

To learn more about JERI's programs, or for information about volunteer opportunities, call Susan Adler at 401-621-5374.

## InfoQuest leads to answers

Although the holidays just past bring most of us joy and optimism, they can often create "seasonal blues" in the elderly and their caregivers and family members.

According to Susette Rabinowitz, executive director of Jewish Seniors Agency (JSA), the holidays can be a trying time for many seniors. "This is the time of the year when people miss their loved ones the most. No one likes to be away from their loved ones, especially during the holidays, but for the elderly it is particularly difficult," she said. "The cold, dark winter months just compound these feelings."

For seniors and their families who do not know where to turn, there is InfoQuest, the Jewish seniors information and referral resource. A program of the JSA, through InfoQuest, with just one phone call, callers can speak with an information specialist who will answer their questions and steer them to the appropriate social service or religious agency. Whether it be questions regarding transportation in the snow or a way to get out of the house and meet new friends, InfoQuest can help the elderly avoid the winter blues.

InfoQuest can help family members as well. Common mental health conditions experienced later in life such as dementia and depression have not only a great effect on a senior's quality of life, but on the caregiver's too.

"The demands on caregivers can oftentimes be overwhelming," said Rabinowitz, "and InfoQuest can help take away some of that burden. It is a wonderful resource."

InfoQuest's information specialist can ease the caregiver's burden by helping them identify resources, connect them with the proper agency and give them somewhere to turn, or provide an out-of-state family member with list of agencies to help their loved one.

To reach the toll-free InfoQuest line, call 888-593-2293.

## As we grow older Make the effort, keep learning

by Tema Gouse

Just back from my 37th (!) Elderhostel I realize how fortunate I have been to have had a lifetime of learning. I am not referring to the years spent in classrooms. The first 12 were mandated by the government. And the next six were the basis of my professional qualification.

But that is not what I think of as I pack my suitcase. Rather, I dwell on the less formal, often accidental, avenues of acquiring knowledge. They are varied, and, I hope, never-ending.

Learning comes in many forms, all meaningful. When not under the demands of the classroom they can be amusing and exciting, rarely boring.

Though I enjoy writing, I have never had an impressive scholarly vocabulary. I rarely added new words or definitions to my college-level vocabulary — until recently, when, in my dotage, I became addicted to crossword puzzles. Being a late starter I acknowledge that I will never master the New York Times puzzle. But having more modest aspirations, simpler puzzles have taught me that an *adit* is a cave entrance and an *etui* is a small case to hold needles. I now know the names of 17 rivers in Europe and eight deserts in Africa and Asia. Not essential to senior living, but still nice to know.

Reading biographies is another addition to my retirement activities. The biographies of John D. Rockefeller, the early Rothschilds, Ted Kennedy and LBJ have added more to my awareness of the periods in which they lived than other, more academic reading. And, without tests or teacher-demands, reading is pure pleasure; learning is the bonus.

Expanding awareness of the arts is a result of visiting museums and attending concerts and plays. From these pleasurable resources, I have learned to identify and appreciate new artists and composers, really enriching the experience.

Seniors have so many opportunities to continue learning. Time is more available and learning has no age limits. Elderhostel is certainly the shining star of education and stimulation we seniors can experience. The scope of subject matter keeps expanding and the process is non-demanding. No prerequisites, no exams, just absorbing new ideas and data.

Many state universities now offer Senior Summer School. No sunrises, no golf competitions, no excessive costs. Just listening, comingling with older students and undergrads and acquiring more facts.

The emergence of book clubs in our libraries and throughout our community gives us a chance to interact with other mentally alert seniors who share our love of the written word. They provide the incentive to read and share varied perspectives on the literature.

Newly acquired knowledge eliminates boredom, which often accompanies retirement. Newly acquired skills provide the same relief. Learn to paint — a canvas or your house. Learn to play golf or scrabble or bridge. Competition fosters alertness. If medical problems limit your physical activity, master the demon — get on the Internet, where you can actually learn about anything that interests you. And things you never knew you wanted to know about.

When intellectual curiosity stops, you are not only bored, you are boring, which can result in your isolation. But initiatives for learning must come from you. The book club will not come to you. Elderhostel may send you a catalog, but you must enroll and get there. The (sometimes free) courses in the local junior college are advertised in the newspaper but require your follow-through. Interesting courses are available to the handicapped on public television stations but the home confined who are interested must seek them out and follow their schedules.

The new hobbies of golf, bridge, handicrafts and gardening have multiple resources for development, but levels of interest and ability vary so the individual must find the right fit and pursue it.

It is so worthwhile. Get out of that overwhelmingly comfortable chair and follow your interests or stop complaining that life is not interesting for the aged.

If aging has not been kind and you are restricted to that comfortable chair, read. And then read some more. And then read a type of book you never read before. And if it isn't interesting, don't finish it. Find something that does stimulate. As I tell my grandchildren — if you learn the pleasure of reading, you will never be lonely.

And if you want a really rewarding experience, write about your family or your friends. (Publishable talent is not essential.) Or your travels. Or life's tribulations. Or life's joys. Or wonderful things you learned in books or museums or classrooms. Writing can be fulfilling. I know; it works for me.

## Congress tacks Return to Home on budget bill

WASHINGTON, DC — President Bill Clinton signed into law legislation preventing HMOs from blocking elderly Jews and members of other religious groups from returning to Jewish and other religious nursing homes after hospitalization. The legislation, for which United Jewish Communities (UJC) was the leading advocate, won Congressional approval at the end of its 106th term.

UJC made remedying the problem one of its top legislative priorities in 2000, and galvanized efforts in Congress to pass needed "Return to Home" legislation, as it is known. It "corrects a gap in public policy under which managed care providers could arbitrarily require many elderly patients to live in nursing homes outside of their community even when local Jewish nursing homes were available to them," according to Diana Aviv, UJC's vice president for public policy.

"Under this legislation, most elderly patients of all faiths living in senior facilities and temporarily hospitalized will not be prohibited by their HMOs from returning to their local communities for post-hospitalization recovery and rehabilitation," Aviv explained. "The result for Jewish patients is that they will be able to heal in community-based skilled nursing facilities that comply with Jewish dietary laws, holiday observances and other essential religious or cultural practices that are central to their mental and spiritual well being."

The Congress passed "Return to Home" as part of the year-end omnibus budget bill. It had wide bi-partisan support and more than 100 co-sponsors.



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