

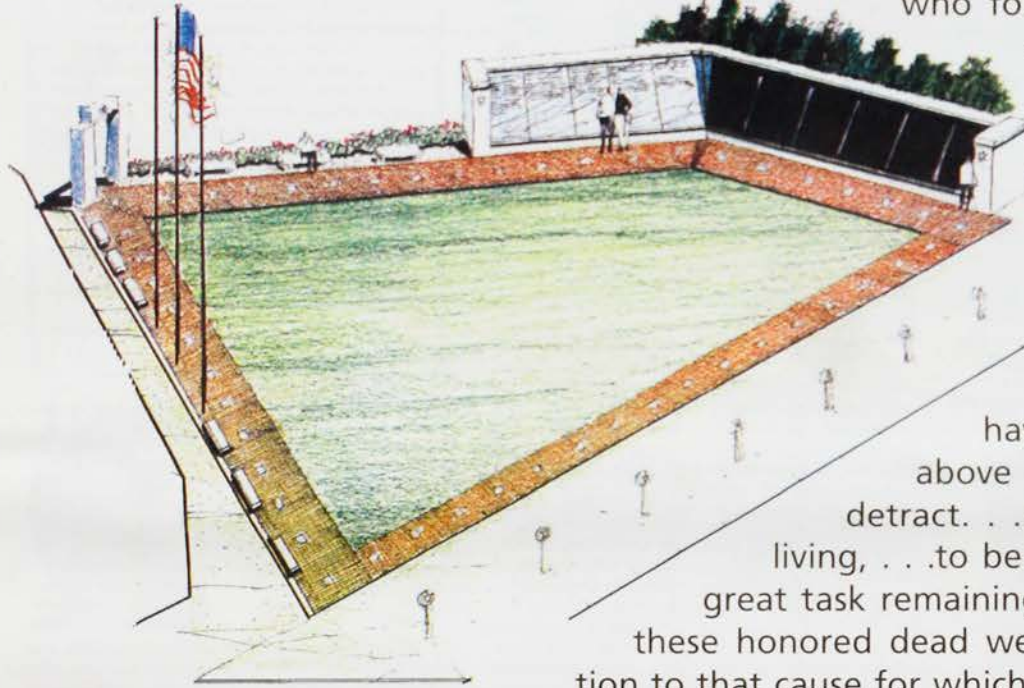
Memorial Day May 27, 2001

The words Abraham Lincoln crafted for his Gettysburg Address can apply to all places which honor those who fought and died for the cause of freedom:

"...we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground.

The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it far above our power to add or detract. . . It is rather for us, the living, . . . to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us, that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion. . .

Story Page 3



Rendering by Architect Norton Salk of the new Jewish War Veterans' Memorial to be built in Lincoln Park Cemetery in Warwick, RI.

How's your marrow? Have you ever had it typed? Now's the time. Cranston resident Max Dwares, 17-years-old, is looking for a match.
Story page 13.

Tracers light up the sky over Beit Jalla as Israel returns fire after Palestinian gunmen shot at Israeli positions in the Jerusalem neighborhood

of Gilo in mid-April.
Feature including Gilo, page 4



Credit: Brian Hender/JTA

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The Jewish Voice of RI

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Briefs . . .

Suicide bomber kills doctor



Israeli medics carry the body of Dr. Mario Goldin from the scene of an explosion at a Kfar Saba bus stop on April 22. A suicide bomber detonated his explosives at the crowded bus stop during morning rush hour, also injuring at least 40 people.

Possible light at end of ME tunnel?

JERUSALEM: It may only be because Palestinian chairman Yasser Arafat wants an invitation to the White House, as one Israeli source has suggested, but the *intifada* appears to have eased up in recent days.

Arafat is virtually the only leader involved in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict who has not yet been invited to meet with President Bush.

Whatever the reason, and despite a number of suicide bomb episodes and resulting Israeli casualties, the two sides are talking with each other, although not without objections from hard liners on both sides. A Jordanian-Egyptian peace initiative that Israel first refused to consider, is now being discussed. The number of mortar shells being fired on Israeli settlements in the Gaza Strip and on Israeli towns near the strip, has dropped off considerably since Arafat denounced such shelling as counter-productive to Palestinian interests.

And Israeli and Palestinian negotiators have been meeting quietly at the home of the American ambassador in Tel Aviv.

Leaders of the settlers movement in Israel are denouncing Prime Minister Ariel Sharon for what they describe as his half hearted responses to Palestinian provocations. On the other side, spokesmen for Hamas are promising additional suicide bomber attacks.

Sharon's son, Omri, is serving his father as an unofficial envoy to Arafat. This has come under fire in Israel where critics note that Omri Sharon has no official position, elective or appointed, and that the use of such mediators is forbidden by Israeli law. Sharon's office responds that the practice has been done by others in the past, most notably by Binyamin Netanyahu who utilized American businessman Ronald Lauder as an unofficial envoy to the Palestinian leadership.

Why Camp David failed

TEL AVIV: An interview in the daily newspaper Ma'ariv with Shlomo Ben-Ami, who headed the Israeli delegation at the Camp David talks in July, 2000, has cast light on why the talks suddenly and inexplicably collapsed.

Ben-Ami, referring to his diary, said that the Palestinians never once showed any willingness to compromise on issues and simply stuck with their maximum demands: return of all lands occupied in 1967, Arab control of the Temple Mount and of East Jerusalem, evacuation of all Jewish settlements and the right of return to Israel of all those who left in 1948.

He described President Clinton's anger with them as it became obvious that no Palestinian was prepared to consider compromising on any of these issues despite a promise made to him by Arafat that he would present "practical proposals" at the talks.

In an interview with Ben-Ami published at the same time, he said that Arafat assumed, when the Oslo agreements were signed in 1993, that he was going to have all of his demands met in full. At Camp David, when he realized that this would not happen, he simply refused to accept it. Asked if he believes that Arafat is capable of negotiating with Israel without a third party mediating, Ben-Ami said, "Arafat is not a leader. He is a myth. A leader makes decisions which sometimes devastate his constituency. De Gaulle was a leader. Arafat is not a leader who faces the waves; rather, he is riding them."

From the editor

I like Shavu'ot! It and Simchat Torah may be my two favorite Jewish holidays. Outside of blintzes, there's no food that's key. Families don't gather for reunions. There are no gifts to give or get. So why do those two Holy Days resonate? One word: Torah.

For those of us who came to Judaism later in life, Torah is the attraction. We don't have childhood memories or cultural traditions to keep us emotionally bound to Judaism. We have Torah. On Simchat Torah we can dance with it, celebrating the end and beginning of the reading cycle.

On Shavu'ot we can recommitt to the covenant we made and the peoplehood we joined. We can read our story, the story of Ruth. Again, we receive the Torah with all its wonder, all its perplexities, all its confusions and all its rules. This is when each Jew, born to Judaism or elected to Judaism, renews the commitment.

As we watch the Torah scroll being dressed, when the velvet band secures it, let us remember that, whether we consider ourselves cultural or religious Jews, it is Torah above all that binds us as one people.

Hag Sameah!

Jane S. Sprague

Will presidents accept Mort?

Opposition is mounting to the choice of media mogul Mortimer Zuckerman as the next chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

Nominated to succeed Ronald Lauder, Zuckerman creates a stir because he owns U.S. News & World Report, for which he writes a fortnightly column, often on Israel, and publishes the New York Daily News.

Would Zuckerman's opinions on Israel and domestic affairs be construed by some to represent the views of the Conference of Presidents?

Lauder was recently scolded by the Conference for speaking at a



rally in Jerusalem and expressing opinions that differed with some of the members of the Conference.

The question is "what kind of Chinese Wall they will erect to guarantee that what Mort writes is clearly not the view of the Conference," said Avram Lyon, executive director of the Jewish Labor Committee. I don't know how to do that, but anything less than that will lead to some sort of confusion down the line."

Table of Contents

Agencies		BJE	25
JCC	28-29, 33	PHDS	26-27
JFS	30, 34	Federation	3,
JORI	27		15-16, 21-23
JSA	33, 34	CRC	23
Community	3, 12-14	Endowment	16
Cultural Arts	32	Women's Alliance	21
Education		Holocaust	10-11
ASDS	26		

International	6
Israel	4-5
Medical Arts	31
National	7
Opinions	8-9
Religious News	24
Seniors	33-35

Special Features

From tennis to dentist
an interview

14

Determined to resolve
conflict
a Marshall Scholar

25

Pulitzer for comic
book hero

32

Madonna? YUK!
As we grow older

35

New ambulance under construction; \$4,000 more needed to outfit completely

Thanks to over 600 Rhode Islanders who had given a total of \$51,000 as of April 24, construction has started on a life-support ambulance for the Afula-Gilboa area of Israel. It will replace one sabotaged by Palestinians in the early days of this *intifada*.

To complete outfitting the emergency vehicle, the community must raise another \$4,000. Campaign solicitors expected to reach the goal by the time this Voice reaches your mailbox. Any extra funds will go into a general fund to buy ambulances.

In February, 37 Israeli ambulances had either been burned or sabotaged by Palestinians. By mid-April that number was up to 50.

The Rhode Island Jewish Community, in a fund drive coordinated by the Jewish Federation and The Miriam Hospital, and the Jewish day schools in Massachusetts were the first two communities in North America to initiate campaigns to buy replacement vehicles for the Israeli communities who had lost theirs. Now, 35 federations are fundraising for ambulances.

According to Jeffrey Brier, JFRI's associate treasurer, who has co-chaired the campaign with his wife, Jessica, a nurse at The Miriam, a number of donors matched or exceeded their



MDA Ambulance torched

pledges to the Federation's annual campaign.

Checks should be made payable to the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island with "Ambulance Campaign" noted on the memo line. Mail them to 130 Sessions St., Providence, RI 02906.

SOLIDARITY RALLY

The Jewish Federation of Rhode Island will join other North American federations at a solidarity rally for Israel, tentatively set for Sunday, June 3 in New York City. Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is scheduled to be at the NYC rally. His speech will be beamed to a simultaneous gathering in Los Angeles.

Look for more information soon on how to reserve a seat on a bus to NYC, or call JFRI at 401-421-4111.

The rallies are intended to send a message to the Arab world: that the Jewish state has strong backing.

RI War Veterans

To honor those who risked their all for us

by Jane S. Sprague

They are part of "The Greatest Generation," the men and women who fought in World War II; who served with Patton in Africa and Italy; who sailed the Pacific and flew from gyrating aircraft carriers in order to stop the Japanese; who stormed, fought on and died on the beaches at Normandy; who penetrated the German lines at last to push the Nazis into submission and to liberate our brothers and sisters in the wretched concentration camps.

They are part of the Forgotten War, the men and women who went to Korea and tried to hold Communism at the 38th parallel; who slogged through muddy fields and froze in their foxholes.

They are part of the Despised War, the men and women who went to Vietnam because their country told them to go; who couldn't tell friend from foe; who fought in rice paddies, who came home to outrageous treatment by a disenchanted public.

They are part of the Short War, the men and women who went to the Persian Gulf in 1991 to drive back the aggressor of the Middle East, Saddam Hussein; to keep him from storming over his neighbors and attempting to destroy Israel.

They are our parents, grandparents, sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts, cousins, neighbors and friends. And they are to be honored with a dignified, elegantly understated memorial.

The Jewish War Veterans of Rhode Island (JWV) invite all members of the Rhode Island Jewish community to join them in creating this memorial, designed by Norton Salk of Cranston, and intended to replace the current, difficult-to-maintain memorial beside the chapel at Lincoln Park Cemetery in Warwick.

Former State Representative Irving Levin, who chairs the JWV and who has devoted his public service and volunteer life to the needs of all veterans in Rhode Island, says his committee is within \$75,000 of achieving their \$175,000 goal, close enough, he says, to break ground in mid-June, hoping to dedicate the wall of names itself on Victory Day, Monday, August 13.

Salk's design incorporates some parts of the current memorial, especially the granite arch which lists the names of the men who were missing in action in World War II or whose remains are interred overseas. The 12 World War II veterans whose bodies were returned to Rhode Island will be honored

with markers spaced along one side of the memorial plot.

Opposite the entrance of the arch will be an angled black granite wall, 52 feet long and seven feet high. On it is to be carved the name of each deceased Jewish man and woman who entered any of the military services from Rhode Island, generals beside privates, army mixed with navy, name after name after name, already nearly 2000 of them.

A brick walk, interspersed with square granite blocks, will rim the rectangular lawn. Granite benches for resting, private contemplation and observing will be spaced along two of the brick pathways. All three elements offer naming opportunities for donors; \$100 for a brick; \$500 for a granite square; \$1,700 for a bench. Major donors' names will be prominently engraved elsewhere within the memorial. There are just two of those at this writing: Alan Shawn Feinstein with a gift of \$5,000 and Richard G. Holland who gave \$25,000 in honor of his father. Irving Levin is looking for more.

The Holland donation is a special gift, honoring a special veteran, deserving special recognition. It is to be commemorated with its own monument on the lawn and will be dedicated to:

Major General Leonard Holland

Adjutant General of the State of Rhode Island

Born April 9, 1916 • Died August 16, 1999

General Holland, a legend in the Rhode Island Jewish community, and beloved by the men and women who served under him, was the longest serving Adjutant General in the nation. Appointed and reappointed by five Governors of both parties, he served for 22 years, from 1961-1983.

A World War II veteran, Holland served with the army's 43rd Division on Guadalcanal and the Solomon Island. He received the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star and the Combat Infantry Badge, among other military honors.

There is a nervousness that underlies Irv Levin's determination to see this project through. "We World War II guys are getting older," the still vigorous Levin admits. "We are hoping that the remaining dollars come in quickly so we can finish the project, and have a memorial to honor the war veterans of yesterday and of tomorrow."

In the meantime, Levin and the Jewish War Veterans have other matters to attend to. On Memorial Day, Monday,



In 1971, Lt. General Claire E. Hitchin Jr. came to Providence to pin the Legion of Merit medal on the uniform of RI's Adjutant General Leonard Holland.

May 27 at 11:00 am, the JWV will honor those veterans who died this last year.

Rabbi George Astrachan, rabbi emeritus of Temple Sinai, and Cantor Remmie Brown, Temple Sinai, will officiate. Invited guests include Governor Lincoln Almond, US Senators Jack Reed and Lincoln Chafee, Congressman Patrick Kennedy and James Langevin, and Mayor Scott Avedesian of Warwick.

Lincoln Cemetery is at 1469 Post Road, Warwick. There also will be a service at 1:00 pm in the RI Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Exeter, RI.

Mission Accomplished

The language, the smells, the beauty, the fragility of it all

by Karen Voci

I never expected it would be the language in Israel that would catch me so completely, even when my eyes were elsewhere. Spoken, everyday Hebrew — vendors hawking strawberries in the market, men shouting into cell phones everywhere, kids debating their choices of Purim costumes — all of these sounds that I, as a 30-year convert, had struggled with just to master a few prayers. A language that had nearly died and been brought back in a country born the same year I was. Sounds that soothed or grated, but turned my head, making me smile just to hear them.

I had wanted to go to Israel ever since Girl Scout camp, when Carol Selman, the first Jew I ever met, slipped me her copy of *Exodus* to read under the covers after lights out. Life and several wars conspired to keep Israel a distant dream until an office colleague mentioned he was going on one of the Federation's Solidarity Missions and encouraged me to go, too. The trip would be quick, it offered opportunities to meet people I'd never know as a tourist, and my mother-in-law

(the saint) could come and help ride herd on my 14-year-old. It was a once in a lifetime chance and I jumped on it.

Faster than our bags hit the floor of the King David Hotel, two of my fellow "missionaries" and I bolted for the Old City. Jerusalem remains indescribable. Photos can't convey the smells of rosemary and lavender carpeting the hillsides outside its walls. What was so wonderful and yet so sad was that we had it all to ourselves. A few lone Christian groups and one class of Italian art students were the only other foreigners we saw who had braved the CNN reports to be there.

The Jewish Quarter was captivating, but after decades of touring abbeys and cathedrals, it was an epiphany to be standing finally at the Wailing Wall, my sacred space — open and beautiful, without tour buses or crowds. At the back of the plaza which fronts the Wall, a group of young Hasidic men embraced and danced in anticipation of an impending wedding. Just behind them stood a troupe of armed soldiers exactly their age. This image of the joys of this holy place framed by the threats was one

that stayed with me, and I wondered when future grooms would celebrate without the army.

With so few tourists around, we felt a special charge to pump as much money into the local economy as we could. The saleswomen and artisans who patiently helped us select gifts for spouses and children seemed so much like my neighbors (one was actually from Fall River), except they told us of friends who wear bulletproof vests when they drive their children to school. If their older ones — my Noah's age — are in the army, they carry several cell phones and dread their rings.

Unlike the policy professionals at the daily Mission briefings, these women felt no need to be diplomatic. They know its their job to keep daily lives going in a place where basic safety is fast disappearing, and they're just furious. Angry to the point of tears, one demanded to know what they have left to trade for peace with an enemy who keeps raising the ante. Giving her a quick hug, I was embarrassed I had nothing comforting to say. As I left her shop, I told her I would be thinking of her, and I hear her question as I watch the evening news.

The Mission's gifts were many

— the kids in Afula, the Seeds of Peace teens, the elderly gardeners at a senior day center, sunset in Jaffa, but the "Ahh" moment as Oprah would say, came at Gilo. This Jerusalem neighborhood sits on a hill overlooking the Arab-Christian houses commandeered by Hamas militia as bunkers from which to shoot at Gilo's apartments and shops. There's no boundary, no protective distance. Except for the steep slope and rough terrain, it's an easy hike. I live in the 19th-century New England version of Gilo. If I walk two minutes up my street to the top of the hill and look across Greenwich Cove, Hamas would be at Goddard Park. So there it is. One day I'm walking my dog, returning books to the library, and the next I'm dodging bullets from Warwick. And no one seems able to make it stop.

As the sun rose on my final morning in Jerusalem, I took one last long walk through the gardens around Montefiore's windmill, up to the Wall and along the ramparts of the Old City. Mostly, I did mental calculations about how long it might take me to get back, but I also considered our group leader's challenge for our education on the Mission. Joshua Karlin (JFRI endowment director, who remained unflappable despite our propensity to wander off) had said that whatever we believed about Israel when we arrived, we would leave with a changed opinion. He was right. My intellectual belief in the always victorious, tough, eternal Israel had been tempered by what I had seen and touched.

Israel is a tiny place. Democracy is a very fragile experiment in this region. Fifty-three years is nothing in the scheme of history, and there are no guarantees. In the long run, I'm with The New York Times' Tom Friedman. This conflict is about modernization more than land or even religion, and my bets are on Wal-Mart and Microsoft. It's just the short run that seems unsolvable.

Next time, I hope the crowds are back and it's possible to get a table on Ben-Yehuda Street. I hope the moms can leave the flak jackets and extra cell phones at home, and the kids in Gilo only hear shots in the movies. I hope that Israel and I celebrate our 100th birthdays together on the terrace of the King David Hotel. I'm planning on a very big cake.

Karen Voci is vice president of special projects and education at the RI Foundation.

OTHER AIRLINES, DELTA FILL IN FOR TWA

El Al and Continental Airlines, as well as a host of European airlines, are filling the void left when TWA suspended flights to Israel after 55 years of service. The bankrupt TWA is being acquired by American Airlines.

Almost simultaneous with the TWA withdrawal, Delta Airlines announced it will begin service to and from Tel Aviv on June 1, operating daily nonstop service between New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport and Ben Gurion Airport.

For more information on travel to Israel, call the Ministry of Tourism InfoCenter at 1-888-77-ISRAEL or visit www.goisrael.com.

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US report blasts PA

by Matthew E. Berger

WASHINGTON (JTA) — A US State Department report analyzing Palestinian Authority compliance with its peace commitments found that the "PA's security forces instigated and participated in anti-Israeli violence," but said it was not clear whether they acted on orders from PA president, Yasser Arafat.

The report has sparked renewed calls by US Jewish groups to downgrade the relationship between the United States and the Palestinian Authority and to place at least some elements of the PLO and PA security apparatus on the State Department's terrorism list.

The PLO Commitments Compliance Report, which analyzed events from June 16 to Dec. 15, 2000, also found that the Palestinian leadership has not tried to stop the current violence.

The Tanzim, the militia arm of Arafat's Fatah faction of the PLO, came in for criticism. "In addition to participating and encouraging demonstrations, stone throwing and shootings, Tanzim leaders incited violence, calling on Palestinians to 'escalate the Intifada (uprising),' 'to take it into every street and every Jewish settlement,' and to continue the violence despite the PLO's agreement at the Sharm al-Sheikh summit to take steps to end it," the report said.

The report, which was held for three months for administration review, does not draw conclusions about possible sanctions against the Palestinian Authority or the PLO for violating the PLO Commitments Compliance Act of 1989. That act recognized the PLO and set parameters for its relationship with the United States.

American Jewish groups believe the findings should lead the Bush administration to review the PA's status in Washington. Suggestions have included downgrading the status of the PLO's local office, not allowing Arafat and other Palestinian leaders to travel freely in the United States and classifying the Palestinian Authority and the PLO as terrorist organizations.

"The report makes it abundantly clear that elements of the Palestinian Authority have been actively engaged in acts of terrorism and violence against Israeli citizens," said Kenneth Bricker, a spokesman for the American Israel Public Affairs Committee. "The appropriate response by the US government at this point is to immediately place Tanzim and Force 17 on the US terrorist list."

Force 17 is Arafat's elite presidential guard. The State Department fingered both Force 17 and the Tanzim for instigating attacks against Israelis. However, citing conflicting reports from Israeli security services, the report said that "it is not clear if Chairman Arafat or other high level PA officials sanctioned such actions."

Some Jewish groups are opposed to adding Arafat and the Palestinian Authority as a whole to the terrorism list because it could sever the US relationship with the Palestinian Authority. A more measured approach, they believe, would be to place just Tanzim and Force 17 on the list, sending a warning to the Palestinian Authority.

But some left-leaning groups say any break in ties with the PA would be detrimental. "There are many other options that those interested in diplomacy should be considering other than trying to isolate and humiliate the PA and the PLO," said Geoffrey Aronson, director of the Foundation for Middle East Peace.

"The reports are not historical, but political," Aronson said, noting that the report criticizes PA elements but reflects the political judgment not to dismiss the Palestinian Authority and Arafat as partners for peace.



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Howard Weiss



Jon Weiss

Jews worry that Russia TV takeover is prelude to anti-semitic crackdown



Counter-demonstrators showed up with anti-semitic posters at rallies during mid-April in Moscow, opposing the government takeover of the independent NTV television channel. Some Jews are worried that the takeover of the station, which had been operated by Russian Jewish tycoon Vladimir Goussinsky, could portend a crackdown on Jews.

Credit: Lev Gorodetsky/JTA

By Lev Gorodetsky

MOSCOW (JTA) — The mid-April takeover of Russia's only independent, nationwide television channel by the state-owned natural gas monopoly Gazprom is being seen here as a crackdown on free speech.

The NTV channel had been the property of Vladimir Goussinsky, the former president of the Russian Jewish Congress — leading some Russian Jews, who flocked to demonstrations in Moscow protesting Gazprom's "coup" against NTV, to worry that a crackdown on the Jewish community might also be in the offing.

"I don't sympathize with the NTV fat cats, including Goussinsky," said Yevgenia Krukovskaya, a Jewish university student. "It is well-known that some of the top NTV people are former KGB officers," Krukovskaya said in a downtown Moscow square full of NTV supporters, expressing a widespread belief. "But I am going to this demonstration because I understand that if they are closing down this independent channel, they are closing down the freedom of speech and democracy — and after that, as usual, they will crack down on the Jews."

As if to support her misgivings, a group of middle-aged women a dozen steps from Krukovskaya carried posters reading "Close Down the Zhids' TV Box" and "NTV People — Servants of Israel."

An elderly man harangued a passerby with the argument that Jews had plundered Russia and that NTV is a platform for Zionists. Some of the thousands of pro-NTV demonstrators quickly tore down the anti-semitic posters. But the small group probably reflected the feelings of many thousands of Russians who viewed NTV as a mouthpiece of Russian Jewry.

Gazprom, NTV's main creditor and shareholder, said it took over the station to improve the channel's management and recoup some of the \$200 million to \$400 million it had lent NTV. Still, the move has been widely understood as having political connotations.

"There is much more here than a simple business deal gone bad," said Mark Levin, the executive director of the Washington-based NCSJ: Advocates on Behalf of Jews in Russia, Ukraine, the Baltic States & Eurasia. "This clearly goes into the issue of whether the government is going to allow an independent voice in the media."

NTV sharply criticized the Kremlin's war against Muslim separatists in Chechnya, and during the last presidential election in 2000, it supported Vladimir Putin's rival, liberal Grigory Yavlinsky. Soon after Putin became president, the Kremlin launched its campaign against Goussinsky, who fled to Spain and is now fighting Russian attempts to extradite him to face embezzlement charges.

Sources say that if Moscow's extradition efforts prove unsuccessful, Goussinsky will move to Israel, where he owns 25% of the Ma'ariv newspaper and has a substantial stake in the country's mobile communications market.

He also is reportedly financing a new Russian-language Israeli TV channel, which could allow him to

become a major player in Israel's huge Russian community.

Some Jewish observers believe the takeover has dashed the hopes of Russian Jewry to become a major player in Russian politics. Both Goussinsky and Boris Berezovsky, another Russian media tycoon with Jewish roots, had played such a role. Unlike Berezovsky, who had himself baptized but never tried to hide his Jewish roots, Goussinsky took a leading role in the Jewish community.

Another Jewish umbrella group, the Federation of Jewish Communities of the Soviet Union, reportedly is considering entering the political fray. But sources say the federation's political activities depend. Please turn to page 21.

Neo-Nazis thrive in Rio suburbs

by Shirley Nigri

RIO DE JANEIRO (JTA) — Rio's most popular newspaper sounded an alarm recently: Neo-Nazism is alive and thriving in the city's suburbs.

The report in the O Dia newspaper confirmed what many in the Jewish community long have feared. Other members of the community, however, believe the report gave lunatic fringe groups too much publicity.

According to the report, some of the neo-Nazi groups are getting stronger. One group, the National Socialist Party, was created in 1988 by a former official in the Brazilian navy, Armando Zanine Jr. It and other similar groups have been creating neo-Nazi Internet sites, and they may be responsible for the recent theft of mezuzahs from local synagogues.

Late in April, neo-Nazis and white supremacists were to meet in southern Brazil for a rock festival celebrating Hitler's 112th birthday, the paper reported.

Those who can't afford to live in the wealthy neighborhoods where most of Rio's Jewish community lives say they are at the mercy of alleged anti-semites.

The Tenenbaums are the only Jews left in their apartment building in a modest neighborhood of Rio. Last year the family received letters under its door with messages such as "Jews out of here, son of a bitch, we are going to kill you pork Jews," signed by Friends of Hitler. The family's mezuzah also was stolen twice, and people sometimes urinate on their door, Ricardo Tenenbaum said. Police did not want to register the case as racial discrimination, Tenenbaum said.

In mid-April the secretary of security, Col. Josias Quintal promised leaders of the Jewish community that all anti-semitic crime would be investigated.

Still, Jewish leaders appear to have little faith in the willingness of Brazilian police to deal diligently with the problem.

For Jewish groups, Bush budget is a case of the glass being half full

by Sharon Samber

WASHINGTON (JTA) — President Bush's proposed budget is not what many Jewish groups had hoped for, but it's a lot better than they feared.

That's what Jewish groups are saying following Bush's recently released proposal, since social service programs of key importance to the Jewish community don't suffer the potentially severe cutbacks they had feared. But Jewish groups say the proposed funding still falls well short of what they want.

Groups that work for refugee assistance and affordable housing for the elderly say their causes would receive a slight increase in funds under the plan, but their needs still far outweigh the money proposed. Other programs, such as health care for the uninsured and environmental programs, are marked for cuts.

Still, Diana Aviv, vice president of public policy for the United Jewish Communities, the Jewish community's central social services agency summed up the reaction of much of the Jewish community: "This could have been much worse, and it's not."

With months to go before a final budget is approved — the House and Senate have passed their own plans in recent weeks, which will need to be reconciled with Bush's proposal — the final budget numbers are far from certain.

The cornerstone of Bush's economic policy is an across-the-board tax cut that he claims will amount to \$1.6 trillion over 10 years. The House budget largely tracked Bush's proposal, while the Senate proposed significantly more discre-

tionary spending than did Bush, along with a smaller tax cut of \$1.18 trillion over 10 years. Many Jewish groups, however, say a tax cut should be placed on the back burner until social service programs are sufficiently funded.

Bush also hopes to set a cap of 4% growth for the budget, released April 9.

Bush's priorities and restrictions leave no room for discretionary spending increases, and will make it difficult for the budget to keep up with inflation and population growth, according to the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism.

"This budget has the feel of a document prepared after the tax cut," said RAC Associate Director Mark Pelavin. "The decisions don't make sense." For example, Pelavin pointed out that despite the nation's continuing energy crisis, funding was cut for research into alternative energy sources.

In addition, the route to a final budget is lengthy and arduous. The House and Senate plans include their own targets for spending, revenues, and the surplus, and the two houses now will set to work on the raft of annual appropriations bills necessary to implement the budget.

Congress will examine the Bush budget in detail, and over the next few months committees and subcommittees will hold hearings on relevant proposals under their jurisdiction. The deadline is Oct. 1, the start of the next fiscal year, but the government can continue functioning under an interim framework if the deadline is missed.

The migration and refugee assistance program, which funds overseas refugee assistance and US admissions, would

increase from \$700 to \$715 million under Bush's budget. But UJC and the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society have been pushing for \$800 million for the program to meet the needs of a refugee population estimated at 14 million worldwide.

Aviv noted that funding for elderly housing would increase slightly — from \$779 million to \$783 million — but that still is far below the \$1.3 billion allocated in 1995. "We're going backwards," she said. If funding had to be cut in 1995 because of the nation's deficit, then it should increase now, when the country has a surplus, Aviv said.

Sammie Moshenberg, director of the Washington office of the National Council of Jewish Women, agreed that the surplus should be invested rather than returned to the public in the form of tax cuts. "A surplus is what you have after all the needs are met, and we haven't met all the needs by any means," she said.

The budget proposal also includes language on helping faith-based organizations that provide social services. The Bush administration wants to encourage more charitable giving to such groups, and has created a federal Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives to foster partnerships between government and religiously based social service groups.

Some Jewish groups are concerned that the government will step back from its role of providing social services, and that the program may cross the lines of church-state separation. Orthodox groups, however, back the faith-based initiative as a way to increase funding for religious-based social service programs.

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The giving community

The tax deadline is past. Many of us now work for ourselves instead of the government, and some among us have received tax refunds. Yet there are needs other than those of the government and ourselves that we Jews must concern ourselves with. We want to point out four.

First, the drive to secure another \$4,000 so this community may outfit an ambulance for our collaborative Israeli community, Afula-Gilboa. As of publication date, the \$51,000 raised was enough for the ambulance construction to begin. As one of the first two communities in North America to initiate a drive to replace ambulances sabotaged or burned by the Palestinians, let's finish the job!

Second, the annual community campaign organized by the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island. Just \$25,000 more will round out this year's campaign at \$4.35 million, making it the best campaign in six years, and helping to support myriad Jewish human services here, in Israel and in over 60 other countries around the world.

If you haven't made your pledge yet, do.

Third, the Jewish War Veterans are \$75,000 away from building a gracious and distinguished memorial to Jewish men and women from Rhode Island who served during this nation's wars. You can buy a brick, a block or a bench, your name inscribed, to help build this memorial.

Fourth, The Jewish Voice is in the midst of its annual Patron campaign, asking our readers to help support the increasing costs of publication, especially this year when we are seeing an increase in postage and the cost of paper. The Voice is our primary communication tool, helping us to build and maintain our sense of community. Please be a patron — publisher, editor-in-chief, editor, reporter or cub reporter.

In just a few weeks we will celebrate Shavu'ot, an important yet neglected Holy Day, commemorating the time we accepted the Torah. *Tzedakah*, meeting community needs, is a key component of our commitment. Here, then, are four opportunities to help you fulfill that *mitzvah*.

Behind the headlines

Jews mute reaction to Powell blast; US still pro-Israel

by Matthew E. Berger

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Jewish groups might have been expected to react strongly to Secretary of State Colin Powell's criticism of Israeli military reprisals in the Gaza Strip as "excessive and disproportionate" — yet few organizations took the administration to task for the harshest American language against Israel in quite some time.

With a few notable exceptions, Jewish organizations let Powell's comment slide, choosing to say little in a situation that might have prompted a harsh reaction under past administrations. The reasons for the muted reaction are complex, Jewish leaders say.

For one, Powell's comments were the first major strike against what has been a surprisingly warm relationship between the Bush administration and Israel under new Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

More importantly, the Bush administration has made it clear to key Jewish leaders — through subtle comments in private conversations — that criticism of Israeli actions may help the United States push its Iraq policy and gain credibility in the Arab world. Yet Bush has made clear that when push comes to shove, America stands firmly behind Israel, they said.

"The State Department feels an obligation to shore up the standing of moderate Arab allies" — such as Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Jordan's King Abdullah — "who are under enormous pressure by their own people in regard to the perceived bias in favor of Israel," said one Jewish source, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "The statement was constructed with an Arab audience in mind."

In private conversations over recent months,

Bush officials had warned American Jewish leaders that Israel was not exempt from American criticism.

"The assurance was that, fundamentally, we're still there and you can count on us," said Phil Baum, executive director of the American Jewish Congress. "There would still be moments of opposition. The question is whether this is just a moment or is it a significant change of attitude."

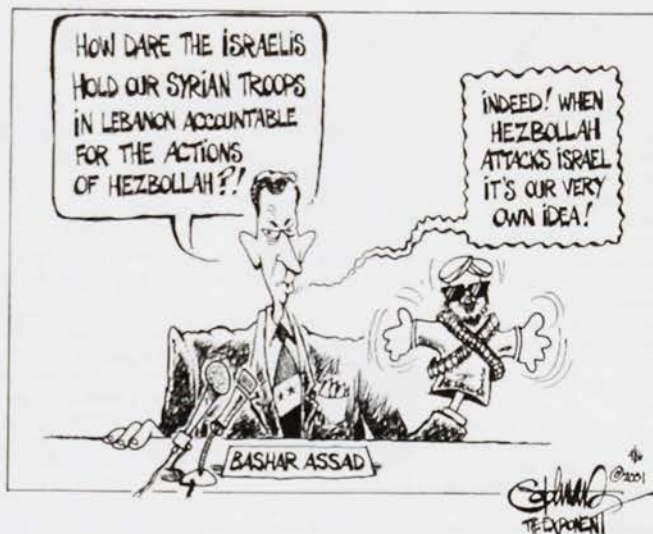
Many Jewish leaders believe the quick escalation of violence in recent days was extraordinary, warranting Powell's comments.

"A lot of people in the American Jewish community have been sobered up by the events," said Lewis Roth, assistant executive director of Americans for Peace Now. "They were surprised by how quickly events could spread out of control."

Roth said Jewish organizations needed to "take a deep breath, count to 10 and get a broader perspective of what the administration is expressing its opinion about."

The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations tried to get more details about Powell's intentions, speaking with White House and State Department officials in the hours after the announcement, said Malcolm Hoenlein, the group's executive vice chairman.

"We told Powell that we felt this language was inappropriate and subject to distortion by the media," Hoenlein said. Still, he said, the Conference reaction was muted because they considered Powell's statement balanced. While criticizing the Israeli incursion into Gaza, Powell acknowledged that it was "precipitated by the provocative Palestinian mortar attacks on Israel."



"He didn't denounce" the Israelis, "he criticized them," Hoenlein said. "By and large, this administration has done the right thing."

Several other Jewish groups agreed with Hoenlein's sentiments — but there were a few exceptions. The Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs (JINSA) came out against Powell's comments, saying the Israeli reaction was both necessary and proportionate to the provocations from Hezbollah and the Palestinians.

Those comments were echoed by the Anti-Defamation League, the Zionist Organization of America and B'nai B'rith. Abraham Foxman, ADL's national director, said Powell's comments were an "overreaction." While the statement indeed criticized the Arab attacks that precipitated the crisis, it also made an erroneous judgment about the Israeli action, Foxman said.

Tom Neumann, JINSA's executive director, said he was concerned about the "timidity" of other American Jewish groups, who may have hesitated to stand up to the Bush administration for fear of losing proximity to the new president. "They're interested in access," Neumann said. "They like shaking hands with the president, they like shaking hands with the senator. They like shaking hands with Arafat, for God's sake."

Ominously, Neumann said, the Arab-American community has recognized the value of speaking with one voice on issues, while the once stable and influential voice of American Jewry has become fractured. Added to that, he said, is the fact that Jewish groups are growing reluctant to speak their minds for fear of losing their place at the table.

For example, the AJCongress did not issue a press release against Powell's comments — in part because they hope to convince Powell to attend the Congress' annual meeting next month, Baum said.

Tom Smerling, Washington director of the Israel Policy Forum, said American Jewish groups never have kept quiet when they feel strongly about an issue, but are sensitive to the current administration's desire to maintain its standing in the Arab world as an honest broker.

"We use this as an opportunity to encourage them rather than to criticize them," Smerling said. "It's more important to build a relationship, and I think people are mature enough to realize that."

Roth said access is important because it allows an organization to make its voice heard. A group that is constantly critical of an administration will be ignored, he said.

Still, Hoenlein cautioned, "you don't lose access for differences if you do it in the right way and on legitimate grounds."

With the Bush administration still finding its feet, most Jewish leaders said it is too early to openly criticize its Mideast policy. Many key administration officials are not yet in place, forcing Jewish officials to take a "wait and see" approach.

Powell's criticism must be viewed as just one statement in nearly 100 days of largely positive stances toward Israel, they said.

"It may well be, from time to time, there will be real differences" between the Jewish community and the administration, Baum said. "That's bound to happen. As long as the direction is clear, we can accept that."

A view from Jordan: Reckless Arafat misses opportunity

Editor's note: The Middle East Media Research Institute forwarded portions of two columns which appeared in the Jordanian daily, Al-Ra'y, and were written by Dr. Fahed Al-Fanek.

(March 2) — In recent months, Yasser Arafat could have, all at once, saved the Barak government, saved the good reputation of President Clinton and turned him from a reckless president into a peace-making president. In return, he could have had a recognized independent Palestinian state, with Jerusalem as its capital, over most of the territory of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Unfortunately, however, Chairman Arafat did not condition the saving of Barak and Clinton — which would have cost the Palestinian people nothing — on achieving an important part of the rights of the Palestinian people, for which much blood was spilt.

As a result, he is facing now Sharon's obstinacy, as well as President Bush's cold shoulder and a future that is unknown.

It is entirely clear that the Palestinian side has made a mistake by missing a rare opportunity that may never return. The best evidence for that is the fact that he has now started to demand, in vain, to return

to the negotiating table on the basis of the point where the negotiations were stopped in Camp David and Taba, meaning, on the basis of Clinton and Barak's proposals. The same proposals that Arafat rejected, he now demands.

In the last century, there has been a sequence of opportunities that the leaders of the Palestinian people rejected in order to avoid being accused of leniency and negligence (of the Palestinian rights). Nobody has learned the lessons from this sequence of missed opportunities.

Last year, Barak was under pressure to agree to one concession after the other. Now, on the other hand, we find that Arafat is under pressure to end the *intifada* for no return, with the exception of renewing the negotiations from square one. Does he expect from Sharon more than what Barak had offered him?

Those who missed these opportunities... bear the responsibility for the failure, especially since they were given sound and loyal advice by people who put the best interest of the Palestinian people on their mind. They chose to ignore this advice and comply with the advice of those who only care for their personal interests and who see the Palestinian problem as a bargaining chip.

(March 22) — In order to pass the peace they sign (in the public opinion)... the Arab ruler names it with adjectives that turn it into a utopian peace, that nobody would even consider rejection or having reservations about: a "just," "comprehensive" and "lasting peace that will satisfy future generations."

The truth is that such a utopian peace does not exist. Furthermore, such a peace cannot be reached by peaceful means. Negotiations, by nature, lead to solutions of compromise and to mutual concessions, so each side reaches essential achievements, but does not get everything it wants.

When the Arab side negotiates with Israel in order to achieve some peace, it must understand that what it wants is a settlement with Israel that will enjoy the support of the majority of the Israeli people. The other possibility is to coerce the other side by the use of force, if the Arab side is capable of doing so.

Since its establishment 52 years ago, the State of Israel has been, and still is, stronger than all the Arab countries combined. It tried several times to use force in order to impose the kind of peace it wanted, but failed because peace requires the consent of the Arabs, once they have achieved the rights that would justify ending the conflict.

Insisting on utopian peace, one that is just, comprehensive and lasting, by peaceful means is a contradiction in terms. Peace is impossible in religious and ideological conflicts where there are no elements of compromise and settlements; it is only possible in political conflicts..."

One of the reasons for the failure of the current peace process was the Israeli insistence on absolute security, which is impossible without defeating the Arabs, on the one hand; and on the other hand, the Arabs' insistence on regaining the Palestinian people's rights in their entirety on their historical land is impossible without militarily defeating Israel.

The Arabs will never agree to be defeated, and the Jews will never allow the shattering of the State of Israel. Hence, the ideologists (from both camps) describe the conflict as an existential conflict, which leads to a party that is defeated and another that defeats, rather than describe it as a border conflict. The pragmatists, on the other hand, describe the solution as mutual concessions from which both sides benefit.

The question is whether the Arab-Israeli conflict is a religious, ideological and cultural conflict, in which case it is insoluble, or a political conflict that requires intelligence, flexibility and good mediation?

A majority of one

Head of chicken cult finds sameness amid changes

by Yehuda Lev

"I'm sorry, ma'am," I said in my most magisterial tones. "But I cannot eat that."

"And why not?" asked the waitress.

"Because I belong to an obscure Himalayan religious cult which worships the chicken. How can I be expected to devour that which might have been a revered ancestor in some previous life? Never!"

But she trumped my ace.

"It's doctor's orders."

In a physical rehabilitation center, two weeks after quadruple-bypass heart surgery, those words had priority even over the requirements of a religious doctrine which, in truth, was simply a desperate attempt to avoid eating daily meals built around desiccated, tasteless chunks of chicken breast.

Several more weeks have now passed and I have returned home to a world which appears to have been unaffected by my involuntary absence. Of course Buddy C has been indicted and our new president is going to help pay for his tax cut by reducing research into alternative energy sources, but neither of those developments was entirely unexpected.

I have been regaining strength by catching up on a month-long backlog of magazines and newspapers, especially those involving Israel and its problems which, as I recall from pre-operation days, were relatively

simple to describe: In Israel there was a right-wing and a left-wing and first one was in power and then the other.

No more. Now Labor and Likud are partners, Peres and Sharon sit together in the cabinet, the coalition includes a party that favors expelling all Arabs from Israel, while the Orthodox parties, many of which despise each other, nibble happily side by side at the public trough.

One thing is increasingly evident. The Israeli right and its American Jewish allies still have no solutions and the Israeli left and its American Jewish allies still have no direction. I offer as exhibit A for this statement a full-page advertisement published in the New York Times last month and signed by several hundred of my lefty friends. They are asking for money to replace Palestinian olive groves destroyed by West Bank settlers and the Israeli army.

I searched the page for some indication that there might be an appeal for a cause beyond that of olive groves, say money for stress-reduction programs for people who think that raising Jewish children in tiny enclaves in Hebron or in the Gaza Strip exhibits proper parenting skills, but I searched in vain.

And the right is no better, although more in evidence. Suddenly a number of new organizations has arisen to save Jerusalem, not from the Palestinians but from certain Israelis who would, according to these

groups, give the whole city away. Their advertisements, (often without signatures as though the text and the payment were of divine origin), are equally lacking in balance. The presence in and around Jerusalem of a large, permanent Arab population seems to have escaped the notice of defenders of the Temple Mount, as has the fact that the Palestinians have a different religious and historical take on the area.

Furthermore, neither right nor left appears to be living in the real world. The left still claims that Arafat missed his great opportunity to end the conflict when he refused to accept Barak's concessions on Jerusalem. This assumes that Arafat was unaware that when Barak made his offers to share control of the Temple Mount, to evacuate the most indefensible of the settlements, and to exchange land in the Negev for the annexed areas around Jerusalem, he had something like 34 Knesset members still supporting him. In other words, Barak was speaking for himself and not for a functioning government which could deliver the Israeli public on his proposals.

Nor is Arafat blind. He can look around him and see that since 1993, when the peace process began in earnest, not a single Israeli settlement has been evacuated and that the population and the land area of the settlements are continually on the increase, whether an Israeli government emerges from the right or from the left.

Meanwhile, the Israeli right and its Amer-

ican Jewish supporters argue for the deployment of tanks and infantry against Palestinian refugee camps in retaliation for sniper attacks on Israeli towns. But the snipers are gone long before the tanks open fire and have already achieved exactly what they set out to do — increase the fear and hatred on both sides and thus lessen the possibility of a compromise peace. Neither Sharon nor the generals can utilize the awesome firepower available to the Israeli military; if they do, the western world will be handing out invitations to appear at The Hague alongside certain African and Serbian miscreants.

About the only ones unheard-from in the outpouring of newspaper ads are the supporters of chairman Arafat — but what could they possibly add to the discussion? To what extent Arafat controls, or even affects Palestinian violence, no one is certain including, perhaps, himself. But his demand for a right of return of the Palestinians who lost their homes in 1948 is mirror image to the Israeli claim that settlements must remain untouched. Israel cannot live with the former, Palestinian hopes cannot survive the latter.

Like the Jewish left, I have no direction; like the Jewish right I have no solutions. What I do have at the moment is the tempting smell of dinner emerging from the kitchen featuring a healthy serving of chicken breast.

Is nothing sacred?

Searching for the lost souls

by Jane S. Sprague

"How do you know you can trust me?"
"I can trust you."

And with that the late Father Edward Paul Doyle, OP, a Dominican priest and professor at Providence College (PC), handed over to Jane Lunin Perel a gold and black candy box containing his photo collection.

They weren't just any pictures. They were the ones the then young Catholic Chaplain in the US Army had taken when his unit, the 104th Infantry Division, the Timber Wolves, helped to liberate the Nordhausen concentration camp at the end of World War II.

Perel says that at first she wasn't sure who the old man was standing there in her office doorway. "He was so small and he looked like a leprechaun with his startling blue eyes and bowler hat." By the time their conversation ended, Father Doyle had charged Perel, she says, to "do something with the pictures so this campus knows what happened."

She and two others are in the process now of preserving those records and seeking a place on campus for their permanent exhibition. The agonizing pictures have been exhibited at Providence College twice before, in 1996, while Father Doyle was still alive, and again in 2000, each time as an outgrowth of the course Perel teaches on the Holocaust.

Father Doyle was the first recipient of the Never Again Award, given annually since 1984 by the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island to those in the local community who combat the forces of racism and bigotry in our society. Now, Jane Lunin Perel has received the award, on April 18, 2001, during the annual Interfaith Yom Ha-Sho'ah Commemoration Service at Temple Emanu-El.

Perel was nominated in recognition of the impact her innovative course has had on the campus community and, especially, on her students.

While other courses may deal in statistics, numbers and politics, Perel searches to find the souls in the most horrific ordeal of the 20th century. With a master's in fine arts, concentration in creative writing and poetry, this professor of English and Women's Studies, says her course is "completely immersed in individual human records. It is only through that microcosm of one life," she believes, "that we can ever expect to understand all those lives."

She pauses as we talk in her home study where she is surrounded by generations of family photographs; her mother and grandmother, their portraits flank the first piece of fine art that her father gave to her mother, and beneath it a picture of her husband, Morton, draped in prayer shawl, forehead pressed against the Western Wall. Daughter Marissa's pictures adorn a facing wall.

She goes on; "Judaism teaches, if you save one life it is as if you have saved the world. So, if you can really understand one life, emotionally and historically, then maybe you can understand the world, and, in this case, the world that was lost in the Holocaust."

Her course evolved from a one-on-one tutorial she agreed to do in 1995 with a young woman who asked to study Holocaust literature.

Gender and Genocide

After becoming immersed in the literature through the tutorial, Perel designed "Gender and Genocide: A Study of Holocaust Literature" and offered it for the first time in the fall semester, 1996. She expected, at most, six or seven students. The course was oversubscribed and has been so at each of its three subsequent offerings.

Because most of the students are Catholic, she needs to begin with a short course in Judaism. She smiles, "Students always are overwhelmed by the tenets of social justice, which they attribute only to Jesus." She also must teach them about anti-semitism, which the Pope has identified as a sin, but, she says, the students don't really know what it is. Only then can they get to the meat of the course.

Males' memoirs cannot speak for women

She includes a wide range of female and male authors and the memoirs of Elie Weisel, *Night*, and Gerda Weissmann Klein, *All But My Soul*. "By virtue of men sent to the left and women to the right, their experiences were totally different. It was not until the 70s that people began to realize that the male memoirs could not speak for women," she explains.

Of course, students are overwhelmed with guilt and despair, she says. That possibility troubled her from the beginning. She recalled an admonition she had heard from a rabbi who said, "We should not put a stone on the heart of children"



Maxine Richman, who chaired the JFRI Community Relations Council, and Jane Lunin Perel with the "Never Again" Award plaque.

in terms of teaching the Holocaust.

"I do not want my students so guilty that they are blown away," Perel says. "So I tell them, 'Don't lock away how you feel. Write how you feel; write out your rage, your sorrow. If you find hope in anything you read, write out that hope.'"

"Otherwise," she continues, "students feel powerless. I want them to become agents for social change and to value their own energy in terms of what you can do to be transformed by literature."

She has succeeded. That first course in 1996 concluded with a campus-wide Holocaust Awareness Day which the students planned and presented. Perel credits her teaching assistant, Liza Pappas, who had been a student at PC's Feinstein Institute for Public Service, with helping to coordinate this undertaking since Perel's personal time then was devoted to the care of her terminally ill father.

Students read and taped works by authors covered in the class and showed slides of Jewish and Holocaust art, both playing continuously. Father Doyle shared his thoughts and experiences; his photographs and papers were displayed. There were speeches. There was music: *Songs of the Partisans*, *Sabbath Prayers*, *Holocaust Lament*. There were readings: original poems, short stories and scenes from a play written for the course. There were prayers: the Shabbat candle-lighting ceremony and blessings over bread and wine. There was dancing: the Hora.

And last April, there was a four-day commemoration that featured the painful yet beautiful art of Auschwitz survivor Alice Lok Cahana, the gut-wrenching Doyle photographs, plus movies, lectures and music.

Is the impact long-lasting? "My students include kind and flattering remarks in the evaluations of the course," Perel says. "Many have stated that the course changed their lives in terms of understanding. Several are pursuing graduate studies in peace and justice, a few are majoring in art history with

In DP camps, refugees proved "life goes on"

At the Interfaith Yom Ha-Sho'ah Service on Wednesday, April 18, several members of the community who lived in Displaced Person (DP) camps after the war talked of their experiences. Some began to develop a sense that life goes on by teaching Hebrew, participating in camp theatricals, even developing new relationships that led to marriage.

For Aron Trachtenberg is was much more than "life goes on," it was the beginning of life. His mother, Janice, gave birth to Aron in the Degendorf Camp.

She and his father, Samuel, both wanderers from the same, small Russian village, had met again on the streets of another town, furtively trying to stay alive and avoid capture.

Although Aron Trachtenberg has no personal recollection of life in a DP camp, he well remembers his parents' conversations about the camp. Conditions were not perfect, and in some cases Jewish DPs were confined in the same camps as their Nazi tormentors, yet most received medical care and greatly enhanced nutrition. The Jews at Degendorf organized a community governing structure with functioning subcommittees. They produced a newspaper and theatricals, orga-

Deaf Sky

for G.W.K. and D.C.H., by Jane Lunin Perel

It's a Chagall night. The moon's belly sags
over her apron. Her cradle
grazes the graveyard
and shrunken people rise up in me carrying
bundles over their backs, table cloths
and sheets tied together holding
goat's cheese, black bread
Kiddush Cups, inside the hems of some
coats
rubies smolder.

They will never stop running, grunting, chanting
crying, burning.

||

I can never save them, though I carry
them in me shot through
the heads, bayoneted
through the hearts,
burned into
black envelopes out
of which blue shrieks
and purple sobs fly into
the deaf sky where the stars
stoic or psychotic poise themselves
against the immense emptiness of the black
holes that threaten them with accidental extinction.
Herring, I must buy herring and onions before
the stores close, before my exhausted families close
their eyes in my
bones, before it is time for
me to pack up and test
my heavy feet against
the cold, my sac, my
bundle flung over
my chest, babies
children hold-
ing on to me.

"Deaf Sky" is in the permanent collection of the
Rhode Island Holocaust Memorial Museum.

a concentration in art of the Holocaust; a couple were thinking about law school before the course and committed after it." And there are those who have gone on to teach, and are incorporating the Holocaust into the classes they lead.

Perel, who has published four books of poetry, says many of her poems "are about who I am." This is especially true of "The Sea Is Not Full," her 4th book of poetry which was published by Le'Dory Press in Tel Aviv in 1990, and from which she did readings in Israel.

Eighteen years ago, Perel's husband was serving on the Federation committee which was creating an award to be given annually to a Rhode Islander who fought prejudice. He Please go to next page.

nized a library and a school, a synagogue and a community center. They developed their own currency and contributed to funds to send fellow DPs to Israel. They celebrated the life cycle events — brit milah, bar mitzvah, weddings, funerals.

Among those Americans who worked with residents of DP camps were US military chaplains, including Rabbi Eli Bohnen, then of the 42nd Rainbow Division, who later served Temple Emanu-El for many years. In one correspondence, he wrote his wife, Eleanor, "... we can use clothing for men, women and children, and I would like you to continue sending us packages for the people here." The next "package" filled one and one-half railway cars.

L. Jakobson, of the Jewish Central Committee at the Badgastein camp, wrote Rabbi Bohnen, "We, the remnant, who in the terrible years of war, have lost everything and everyone, and have suffered so terribly both in the concentration camps and in the Partisan struggle and battlefield against the common enemy will always see in you, worthy Rabbi, our true friend and brother."

Museum gives fine arts awards to school children

Judges for the RI Holocaust Memorial Museum selected 47 winners from over 200 entries in the Museum's annual student art and writing competition.

Children in junior high and high schools from around the state based their work on the quote by Max Karl Leibman, "The right to be different is a freedom we all should cherish."

The winning students were recognized at the Museum's Student Awareness Day program on April 23.

First place winners, their categories and their school are:

Jr. High School
Poetry Stacy Aston, grade 7, Exeter-West Greenwich Middle School (EWG)

Fiction Melanie Colson, grade 7, EWG
Essay Nicholas Fede, grade 6, Davisville Middle School
Small Poster (5th grade) Kasia Poluyezek, Coelho
Painting Shira Adler, grade 8, Alperin Schechter Day School
Computer Art Tim Dorsey, grade 8, GS
Illustrated Fiction Danny Reinhard, grade 7, EWG
Large Poster Jill Bezila, grade 7, EWG
Small Poster Kelsey Luczak, grade 7, EWG
3-Dimensional Art Verla Dunston, grade 7, EWG
Mobile Art Nadia Alavosius, grade 7, EWG

High School
Poetry Hannah Huling, grade 9, Mt. St. Charles Academy (MSC)
Essay Lisa Hynes, grade 9, MSC

Fiction James Brennan, grade 9, MSC
2-Dimensional Art Caitlin Nuyent, grade 11, MSC
Small Collage & 3-Dimensional Art Erin Mitchell, grade 11,
Gasfreund Award Tal Bar-Zemer, grade 12, Wheeler School

Never Again. . . from pg. 10

came home one evening and reeled off a long and convoluted title for the award. The Perels had been to Israel and Yad Vashem. Jane Lunin Perel thought a moment and said, "Why don't you just call it the 'Never Again Award'?"

"Never, ever would I have guessed," she says, "that I'd be so honored or that I'd even be teaching Holocaust studies."

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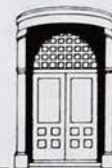
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**IN HONOR OF...
NCJW calls up Mel Alperin**

Melvin G. Alperin, Providence, will receive the Community Service Award from the National Council of Jewish Women, RI Section, during its annual award luncheon on Wednesday, May 9, 11:30 am at the Providence Marriott Hotel.

Alperin is a longtime leader in both the general and the Jewish communities. He has held key leadership positions in Valley Resources, Inc.; United Jewish Appeal; United Israel Appeal; Jewish Federation of RI; Jewish Seniors Agency; Temple Emanu-El; United Way of Southeastern New England; National Conference for Community Justice; the RI Children's Crusade for High Education; the RI Foundation and Dartmouth College, his alma mater.

In addition, Alperin has served on the boards of RI Hospital Trust Bank, Industrial Foundation of RI, American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Jewish Theological Seminary, Jewish Family Service, Jewish Community Center, Alperin Schechter Day School, Miriam Hospital, Wheeler School, Moses Brown School and Pawtucket YMCA.

He is president of Brewster Industries of Pawtucket. He and his wife, Patty, have a son and daughter and several grandchildren.

Susan Resnik and Nan Levine co-chair the luncheon to benefit campships. To make reservations, call Gertrude Gordon at 401-521-2932.



Israel Bonds cites Jeff Brier

Israel Bonds will honor Jeffrey G. Brier, Jamestown, with its Heritage Award at a tribute dinner on Tuesday, May 22, 6:00 pm at Temple Emanu-El in Providence.

Rhode Island Bonds chairperson, Susan Leach DeBlasio, said, "We very much look forward to honoring Jeffrey Brier. He has been an extremely proactive member of the Rhode Island community."

Brier, a partner in the insurance firm of Brier & Brier, is vice chairman of The Miriam Hospital and chairs its professional and academic affairs committee as well as the committee charged with maintaining the hospital's Jewish heritage.

He is also vice president of Temple Emanu-El and chairs its *Bet* Capital Campaign. He is associate treasurer of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island (JFRI) and he co-chaired its December solidarity mission to Israel. Brier also chairs the JFRI Endowment Grants Committee and the Community Division of the Federation's annual campaign.

Brier has taken leadership roles at Hospice of Nursing Placement, Camp JORI, the Jewish Community Center of RI and the Highridge Swim and Tennis Club. With his wife, Jessica, he co-chairs "Save a Life," the joint campaign between the Federation and The Miriam to raise funds to replace ambulances destroyed in the current *intifada* in Israel.

Shifran Horn will be the guest speaker at the event, providing an insider's update on current Middle East tensions.

For further information about the dinner, call Cheryl Learner at 800-752-5651, ext. 126.



Miriam Women applaud Lenore Leach

Lenore Leach, a long-time volunteer for The Miriam Hospital, will be honored with the 18th annual Recognition Award at Miriam's Women's Association's luncheon on Wednesday, May 23 at the Metacommet Country Club in East Providence.

In response to this honor, Leach is creating The Lenore Leach Fund for Heart Healthy Women, which will provide screening, outreach and education.

Leach has chaired numerous fund-raisers and membership drives in the last 40 years, including the Hospital Gala in 1995. While co-president of the Women's Association she created the Recognition Award. She is a member of the Board of Trustees and The Miriam Foundation. She has served on the Clinical Research Review Board for 14 years.

In her other volunteer interests she has been president of the Brandeis University National Women's Committee, Providence, and she has been on the boards of the University of RI Foundation, the Samaritans, RI Philharmonic Friends and the Jewish Federation of RI. She has been state chairperson of special events for the American Cancer Society. The Red Cross, on whose board she still serves, honored her for starting a visual screening program for pre-school children.

The luncheon begins at 11:30 am and is \$18.00. To make reservations, contact the Women's Association office at 401-793-2520.



**Touro Fraternal
expands age limit**

Thanks to advances in medicine and health care, Touro Fraternal Association is expanding its membership age qualifications. This largest independent Jewish Fraternal order in New England will now admit regular members up to age 52, from the previous restriction of 45.

Board chairman Arthur Poulten said, "We felt the time was appropriate to expand that because people are living longer, are healthier and are more resistant to illness. Since we are self-insured those are important factors because of the benefits we offer."

Regular members are entitled to mortuary and sick benefits and cemetery sites.

Under the amendment, men may become regular members if they have not reached their 53rd birthday. Their wives have the same age qualification.

Others may apply for social membership. Current social members, who are not 53, may become regular members.

For membership application and details, call Touro Fraternal at 401-785-0066.

**Feinstein rewards
two RI cities**

The cities of Cranston and Providence have received \$5,000 awards from The Feinstein Foundation for the volume of signatures they generated in the US Conference of Mayors' drive for signers of the Feinstein petition, which calls on the President and Congress to end hunger in the United States.

Cranston was one of four cities raising the greatest percentage of signers with 2,219 signatures. The others were Providence with 5,554, and Leominster, Mass., and Beaumont, Texas.

The petition, initiated by Alan Shawn Feinstein of Cranston, has garnered 853,421 signers.

Cohen to Harvard

Shaye J. D. Cohen, PhD, professor of Judaic Studies at Brown University, was among 51 Conservative rabbis who received honorary degrees from Jewish Theological Seminary on March 14. Each of the rabbis had been ordained for at least 25 years. This is Rabbi Cohen's last semester at Brown. He will join the faculty of Harvard University in the fall.

Mossberg at URI

Warwick native and Wall Street Journal columnist Walter Mossberg will receive an honorary doctor of laws degree during URI commencement ceremonies. He will speak on Sunday, May 20 during graduate ceremonies. Mossberg writes an acclaimed column on computer technology developments that affect consumers, and appears as an expert commentator in various broadcast formats.

Take "Notes" to learn of past

by Stanley B. Abrams
Past President, RI Jewish Historical Association

On October 5, 1970, David Ben Gurion, the first Prime Minister of the State of Israel, wrote a brief letter to Mrs. Archibald Silverman. Addressing her as, "My dear Mrs. Archibald Silverman," he invites her to visit "our Home as soon as possible" and offers to be her guide "to all places you want to visit. . ." The original letter is on display at the RI Jewish Historical Association, and it is reproduced in the most recent issue of *RIJHA Notes* in an article by Alene

F. Silver, PhD, "Ida Camelhor Silverman: The Early Years."

The name Ida Silverman may not be significant to new residents of Rhode Island, but it was prominent in every Rhode Island Jewish home and institution for decades before and after World War II. Silver writes, "Ida Silverman of Providence was probably more responsible . . . than any other individual in Rhode Island" for the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948. Her efforts on behalf of the Zionist movement were publicly recognized by Chaim Weizmann, Israel's first president; Supreme

Court Justice Louis Brandeis, and countless other statesmen and public figures. Mrs. Silverman traveled worldwide, promoting the Zionist cause. "Her intelligence and passion were communicated by her unique oratorical gifts. . ."

In preparing her study, Silver carefully documents and cites local sources and references. These include a 1972 taped interview with Ida Silverman by Florence Markoff, two major articles in the Providence Evening Bulletin, and a wealth of material held by RIJHA's archives.

But to read about and grasp the level of contribution of Ida Silverman, one needs to have a copy of the *Notes*. That same issue includes articles on Touro Synagogue, on the founding and development of four suburban synagogues — Temple Torat Yisrael, Temple Am David, Temple Sinai and Temple Habonim, and interviews with Russian immigrants relating to their World War II experiences.

Members of the RI Jewish Historical Association receive a copy of *RIJHA Notes* as part of their membership benefits. To start receiving your editions of this perfect-bound, 160+ page volume that is published semi-annually, contact the RIJHA office at 130 Session St., Providence, 02906. Office hours are 9:00-2:30 pm daily. Call 401-331-1360.

A final word about Ida Silverman: She accepted David Ben Gurion's call to come "home" by moving to Israel in 1972. She died there a year later and was buried on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem.

Turkey still refuses to admit to Armenian genocide of 1915

by Barney Heath

Before an overflow crowd on a miserable snowy evening in Providence, UCLA professor of Near Eastern Studies and chairman of the Armenian History Foundation, Richard Hovannissian, spoke about the Armenian holocaust and the refusal of the Turkish government to acknowledge its role as perpetrator.

Invited to Providence by the Facing History Program and Rhode Island Holocaust Memorial Museum, Hovannissian relayed his personal experience growing up amongst a community of Armenian survivors. The stories and emotions passed on to him as a child by survivors of the Armenian genocide formed the basis for his life-long interest in Armenian history.

Turkey's refusal to acknowledge the Ottoman Empire's role in the 1915 Armenian genocide is neither surprising nor unique, according to Hovannissian. Holocaust perpetrators are remarkably similar in defense of their actions. "Be it the historical genocides of the Armenians and Jews in the first half of the 20th century to the more recent episodes in Rwanda and Kosovo, perpetrators follow the same script — demonize the aggrieved, appeal to patriotism to obscure atrocities, and refuse to acknowledge any wrongdoing whatsoever in the face of mounting evidence.

Fast forwarding to today's political environment, Hovannissian expressed his frustration over the world community's (most especially the United States') failure to acknowledge the Armenian holocaust. Ironically, Hovannissian contrasted this stark refusal of wrongdoing with Germany's admission of guilt following World War II.

Barney Heath is a member of the Social Action Committee at Temple Emanu-El.



Richard Hovannissian, left, with a member of the RI Armenian community.

Looking for the right marrow Youth needs help

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Max Dwares is looking for that 5 or 6 point match that will save his life. Might it be you?

On March 8, the 17-year-old Cranston youth, looking forward to becoming a freshman at the University of Rhode Island next fall, was diagnosed with chronic myelogenous leukemia, a cancer of the blood-producing cells, curable with a marrow or stem cell transplant.

His mother, Barbara Dwares, reports, "He feels good and is going about his normal life right now." It was a general feeling of malaise that led to the diagnosis. Right now, Max takes a pill, a low dose of chemotherapy, that, his mother says, holds his blood counts in check. "We feel lucky because this is not acute leukemia, so we have some time to find the right donor."

But not too long. Finding the right donor is crucial to Max Dwares being able to enjoy a long and healthy life.

Donors are found through a simple blood test for the human leukocyte antigen (HLA). A testing drive was at the Dwares's synagogue, Torat Yisrael, on April 29 and another one is scheduled at Temple Beth-El in Providence on Sunday, May 6. People who missed those opportunities can call the Rhode Island Blood Center and schedule an appointment to have blood drawn. Ask for Doreen Travers or Patricia Lang at 401-453-8564. Medical insurance covers the cost of the test. People who have been tested before for their HLA type do not need to have blood drawn again as their characteristics are already listed in the national registry.

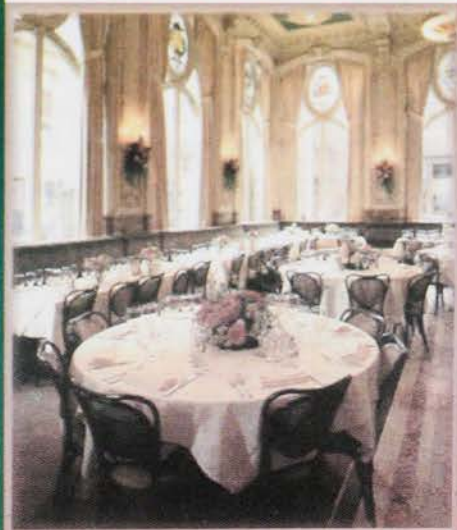
Friends of Max, his parents Barabra and Keith Dwares, and younger brother Jacob have started raising money for a medical fund for Max in anticipation of finding a donor and of Max entering a difficult round of heavy dose, debilitating chemotherapy prior to a transplant. To contribute, send a check to the Max Dwares Medical Assistance Fund, c/o Barbara and Keith Dwares, 60 Packard St. Cranston, RI 02910.

As Barbara Dwares says, "Even if you aren't the match for Max, at least you will be in the registry and may be able to save someone's life."



17-year-old Max Dwares needs a bone marrow transplant as soon as possible.

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Doctor serves dental needs instead of tennis balls

by Cary Eichenbaum

On the surface, Paul — or Moshe — Kaplan is an "average Jewish guy." A 30-year-old dentist from New York, he likes the Yankees and Giants, is engaged to a gorgeous Scarsdale woman and serves as a Cantor on Shabbat and holy days. Not so obvious is that Kaplan was a champion amateur junior tennis player on the United States Tennis Association's Tour.

Kaplan turned down what might have become a lucrative career as a professional tennis player to become a dentist and concentrate on helping people. And when it came right down to the final point, it was "game, set and match" in Paul's decision to take people out of pain rather than running opponents from one end of the court to the other.

Nicknamed Paul "The Wall" Kaplan on the junior circuit because nobody could get a shot by him, he played against some impressive junior players — players who would

go on to be marquis professionals and household names. Moshe recalls taking Todd Martin — then the highest-rated amateur and today still a top-25 pro on the ATP Tour — twice to five sets before losing. Three times Kaplan beat Amos Mansdorf, who would later become Israel's top professional. And he triumphed over reigning Australian Open Women's Champion Jennifer Capriati in straight sets when the two met in a South Florida USTA-sponsored match about 10 years ago.

Paul played in amateur tournaments in Paris, London, Israel, Canada and the United States. He won about 20 tournaments, as evidenced by huge trophies on top of his television at his East Side Providence home.

But unlike many young athletes today, Paul was not lured by the call of fortune and fame. Instead of seeking the millions of dollars and the television spotlight a pro career would offer, he chose

another path. "I believe I can change the face of dentistry and specifically of endodontics (root canal specialty) by taking people out of pain," Kaplan said, "but I think the best way to do so is in a relaxed and enjoyable environment. There is no reason for people to fear the dentist anymore."

Kaplan, who started playing tennis "just by hitting a ball off a wall" at age six and competitively at eight, said he never even considered a professional tennis career because "education and doing well in school were so important in my house and stressed by my parents." It was only natural, Kaplan said, that he go to college and graduate school instead of the pro tour.

But Kaplan did not give up the game altogether. He captained the Yeshiva University Tennis Team for three years while he completed his undergraduate education. But tennis became just a hobby when Kaplan entered three University of Pennsylvania Graduate Schools

simultaneously in 1991. Paul enrolled — for credit — at Penn Dental and the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education, and audited classes at Penn Law School — and graduated with a 3.97 average.

After graduation, Moshe was the only one of 129 post-doctorate graduates of the Penn Dental School to be accepted into surgery (or endodontics school). He acknowledged this "very unusual accomplishment was probably because of my ambitious drive and motivation to succeed." He shuffled off to Buffalo where he entered two University of Buffalo Surgery Schools — the Graduate School of Oral Science, and the University of Buffalo post-graduate school of

Endodontics.

Paul Kaplan came to Rhode Island in 1997. "Just because I wanted to live near the water." At that time, Kaplan had two referring dentists and one office. Today, he has 250 referring dentists and four offices in Cranston and Bristol, RI, and North Attleboro and Milford, Mass.

A kohen, Kaplan frequently leads services at Mishkan Tefillah and Chabad House.

Learning never stops for Kaplan, whether sport or profession. He recently received his green belt in Karate, and is studying head and neck trauma at a Roger Williams Hospital so he can treat people in emergency rooms as well as in dentist chairs.

Klein heads Hasbro's allergy unit

Robert Klein, MD, has been named director of the Asthma and Allergy Center at Hasbro Children's Hospital. Klein, a professor of pediatrics at Brown Medical School, has been charged with creating a major RI asthma center.

The center's primary focus will be excellence in the treatment of asthma, allergies and related respiratory illness, plus wellness and

prevention programs. Research and education will be key components.


Klein came to Hasbro from the University of Texas Health Center at Tyler where he was professor and chairman of pediatrics and director of the Center for Asthma, Allergy and Lung Disease for eight years. He continues cooperative programs between the two hospitals.

MAY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

May 7	JFRI Women's Alliance Executive Committee Brown/RI SD Hillier Annual Meeting Temple Shalom Board Meeting	Noon 7:00 PM 7:15 PM	May 17	The Miriam People Dinner BJE Judaica Course	6:00 PM 7:00 PM
May 8	JCC Brown Bag Club BJE Annual Meeting Temple Beth-El Board of Trustees	Noon 7:00 PM 7:30 PM	May 18	Friday School Temple Beth-El High School Graduation	3:30 PM 8:00 PM
May 9	Temple Emanu-El Leisure Club Board Meeting NCJW Honoree Luncheon JCC Victory Day Celebration BJE HEM Class Touro Fraternal Assn. Board of Directors ASDS Executive Committee JCC Annual Meeting	11:30 AM 11:30 AM Noon 6:30 PM 7:30 PM 7:30 PM 7:45 PM	May 20	Temple Am-David Congregational Breakfast JFRI Breakfast Club - Pawsox Baseball Game Temple Beth-El Annual Meeting BJE HEM Graduation	10:00 AM 1:00 PM 4:00 PM 7:00 PM
May 10	JFRI Women's Alliance Brainstorming Meeting JFRI Endowment Committee BJE Judaica Course BJE JOLT Meeting JFRI Women's Alliance - Young Women's Committee Wine Tasting Event	8:00 AM 4:45 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM	May 21	JCC Jerusalem Day Program Na'Amat Davora Dayan Regular Meeting	6:00 PM 7:30 PM
May 11	WA Babies, Kids, Kibbitzing Friday School Temple Emanu-El Annual Meeting	10:30 AM 3:30 PM 5:45 PM	May 22	Israel Bonds Event Honoree Event Miriam Hospital Women's Assn. Annual Meeting JFRI Executive Committee USY Recognition Night ASDS Executive Committee	6:00 PM Noon 4:30 PM 6:00 PM 7:30 PM
May 13	BJE HEM Sunday Class	9:30 AM	May 24	Touro Fraternal Assn. Installation of Officers BJE Judaica Course ASDS P.T.A. Meeting	6:30 PM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM
May 14	CRC Council Meeting ASDS Grade 6 Tallit Ceremony	5:30 PM 7:30 PM	May 25	Friday School	3:30 PM
May 15	NCJW Meeting ASDS Staff Meeting Temple Beth-El School Board Meeting JFS Board Meeting ASDS Theatre Night - Players Theatre	10:15 AM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM 8:00 PM	May 26	Temple Beth-El Confirmation Dinner	6:30 PM
May 16	BJE HEM Class JFRI Annual Meeting Temple Am David Investment Club Gemilath Chesed Hebrew Free Loan Assn. Board ASDS Board Meeting	6:30 PM 7:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM 7:30 PM	May 27	Temple Beth-El Confirmation Dinner	7:45 PM
			May 28 - Shavu'ot - Memorial Day		
			May 29 - Shavu'ot		
			May 30	JFRI Endowment Professional Advisory Council Seminar Gemilath Chesed Hebrew Free Loan Annual Meeting and Dinner Temple Beth-El Sisterhood Installation	4:30 PM 6:00 PM 6:30 PM
			May 31	JFRI Finance Committee JFS Sage Concert JFRI Women's Alliance Annual Meeting	7:45 AM 12:30 PM 7:00 PM

May, 2001 Candle Lighting Times

May	4	7:29	PM	
May	11	7:36	PM	
May	18	7:43	PM	Shabbat Shalom
May	25	7:50	PM	
May	27	7:52	PM	Shavu'ot
May	28	8:56	PM	Shavu'ot



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BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY!

Diversity, dynamism, no boundaries characterize Jewish communities

by Jane S. Sprague

Jewish communities have an opportunity to build on the "most momentous century in Jewish History," according to Jonathan Woocher who stopped in Rhode Island in early April to talk with community leaders about the future of Jewish life.

Woocher, executive director of the Jewish Education Service of North America and director of the Renaissance and Renewal Pillar of United Jewish Communities, described the 20th century as "changing the map and landscape of Jewish life."

It was the century that witnessed the most horrific of human behavior, the Holocaust; that created the State of Israel and saw the formation of the many institutions in the United States that help to sustain Jewish life.

"One hundred years ago," Woocher said, "we still questioned whether we could live a secure life in the United States. Now, we answer with a resounding 'Yes!' Perhaps the miracle is that with as much freedom as we have, a majority of American Jews still decide to be Jewish."

"Today, our community is marked by diversity, dynamism and no boundaries. We can be and live whatever, wherever we want. That means," Woocher suggested, "that the challenge in this new era is how to have community at all. What's the glue?"

Woocher said that a few decades ago the glue among American Jews was Israel, but not any longer. And although the memory of the Holocaust still unites, "It is a memory; where does it take us?" he asks, then answers, "It doesn't lead

us to the future."

The answers, he suggested, must be found in the community planning process. (The Rhode Island Jewish community embarked on a strategic planning process last fall.)

To some Jews, Woocher said, Jewishness is just not important anymore. "Others are very committed, and many are ready to come in if what we offer will add to the quality of their lives." These Jews are looking for many different things, he said, which means "the community is always playing catch up."

But Woocher did suggest a few "hooks" that can draw these uncommitted but willing Jews to community if the hooks address three basic elements that every human being needs: 1) life makes sense and has a purpose; 2) there are intimate connections in the community, and 3) people are not helpless or powerless but have some level of competence that gives them mastery over their lives.

The community, Woocher suggested, must organize itself to meet those needs, it "must connect to the day-to-day *tabbels* of our lives." The challenge, he said, is how to connect these needs to Jewish tradition.

"Institutions need to be enormously open and welcoming," he said, "yet have a strong enough identity to grab and hold its members." That means responding to diverse needs, being "multi-tasked," and doing it all with high quality.

These institutions, he further suggested, must be "Jewishly serious, entrepreneurial but collaborative, and willing to create new partnerships." Federations, he sug-

gested, should look at synagogues as places for the community to receive wide-ranging services.

Woocher also identified Jewish day schools as "frontiers," noting that across the country 200,000 children are now enrolled in day schools. He asked what kind of a resource the school may be for the entire Jewish community.

Woocher sees changing roles for federations; that they are going 1) from authority to enabler; 2) from allocator to helping institutions perform better, and 3) from fund raiser to investment counselor and manager.

"These are real challenges," he said, adding, "but greater opportunities. It is a time to be excited about what we can do."



Federation VP Mark Feinstein (left), who co-chairs the Strategic Planning, Community Outreach and Engagement Subcommittee, introduced JESNA's Jonathan Woocher.

JESNA seeks vibrant Jewish life through Jewish learning

by Cindy Kaplan

"Vibrant Jewish life through Jewish learning" is the mission of the Jewish Educational Service of North America (JESNA) and also a theme with which the local Bureau of Jewish Education (BJE) can easily identify. These organizations work in tandem to promote a wide variety of Jewish educational opportunities for individuals of all ages.

JESNA has provided many services to the BJE and the Rhode Island community through the years, ranging from feasibility studies and research reports to professional recruitment assistance and conferences for school principals. Several of JESNA's top staff members have spoken at BJE board meetings and leadership retreats during the past few years.

The BJE, likewise, has interacted with JESNA

by sending participants to its conferences and workshops and by promoting its policies and proposals. The BJE and the Rhode Island community recently were selected to participate in two pilot programs sponsored by JESNA: the Jewish Educators Corps (which encourages and trains college students to become Jewish education teachers); and Jskyway (online professional development courses). In the near future, JESNA will be issuing important, insightful reports and recommendations on Jewish youth initiatives and Jewish professional development to be shared with the BJE and the community.

Cindy Kaplan was President of the BJE/RI from 1985-1988, and is a Board Member & past Vice President of JESNA.

Please Join Us
For the 56th Annual Meeting
of the
Jewish Federation of Rhode Island

Wednesday, May 16, 2001

23 Iyar 5761

7:00 pm

Jewish Community Center Social Hall
401 Elm Grove Avenue, Providence

Installation of Officers & Board Members
Dessert Reception

Robert D. Mann, President
Janet H. Engelhart, Executive Vice President

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Sundays in May 11:00 - 3:00

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Age	Annual Yield
60	6.6%
70	7.5%
80	9.2%
90+	12.0%



Want more information?
Call for a confidential conversation with Joshua Karlin,
Director of Gift Planning and Endowment at 401-421-4111, ext. 173.
Visit our website at www.jfri.org

Give and save for your future

by Elisa Silverstein-Heath

What are our goals for the next phase of our lives? How do we want to live? Is it possible to make a difference in our community and still live comfortably? These questions about retirement savings are becoming even more urgent as the stock market continues to wrestle with itself and our assets!

Retirement can be the time about which we all dream, but what does charitable giving have to do with retirement planning? Lots, if you consider the benefits of several different endowment options with the Endowment Fund of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island (JFRI), which can provide supplemental income during retirement years.

We are talking about a "deferred payment gift annuity," and here is how it works: You decide how much you want to contribute. Unlike the \$2,000 maximum allowed for an IRA, you can place as much into your trust or annuity as you want. You can either write a check or transfer stock (while it's still appreciated, hopefully!).

For example, let's say you are 40 years old and you create a \$5,000 Deferred Payment Charitable Gift Annuity (DPCGA) with the JFRI Endowment Fund. You can indicate that you want your annuity payments to start arriving when you reach age 65, or you can leave the date flexible with payments to start no earlier than a specified date. (You can defer the payments as long as you want. The longer you wait the larger your payments.) When you reach 65, you'll start receiving regular payments for as long as you live, and may you live to 120 years! After you die, the fund reverts to JFRI.

Here's another benefit: You'll receive a charitable income tax deduction for a portion of your contribution. For example, if

you give \$10,000, you could possibly receive more than half this amount as a charitable income tax deduction. And if you can't use all the deduction in one tax year, the IRS allows you to carry forward the excess deduction for up to five years.

Want more good news? You can establish DPCGAs — as many as you like — for others as well as yourself. Some wage earners who have maxed out their own annual pension plan contributions establish a DPCGA as a way to supplement their retirement programs. Others use DPCGAs to benefit children, a spouse or other loved one.

Another benefit: Your payments, when they begin, will be fixed and backed 100% by JFRI's own assets. No need to worry about fluctuating payments or a major decline should the stock market seriously drop. You will be able to depend on set payments year in and year out.

We're not finished with the good news! A portion of the payments you receive from your annuity will be tax-free. And, if you have a larger estate, your DPCGA could save major estate taxes.

One final benefit: personal satisfaction. When you "plan for your retirement by giving" through a deferred gift annuity, you provide future resources to further the JFRI mission. While you're enjoying your retirement, you'll have the satisfaction of knowing that the Jewish community will eventually benefit from your wise and generous planning. As Winston Churchill once said, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

To learn more about gift annuities, call Joshua Karlin, Director of Gift Planning and Endowment, or the Endowment's associate director, Trine Adler-Lustig at 401-421-4111, ext. 173 and 174, respectively.

Please join us for two important panel discussions that will save you money!

Session 1: 4:30 – 5:20 PM

Session 2: 5:30 – 6:20 PM

Snowbird Dilemma: Don't get burnt by your time in the sun!

How have recent cases affected the Florida residency rules and what are your tax consequences?

Facilitator:

Peri-Ann Aptaker - Lefkowitz,
Garfinkel, Champi & DeRienzo, PC

Max Kohlenberg
Edwards & Angell, LLP
Stephen Yaras
Yaras, Kaplan, Santilli & Moran
Andrew Gilstein -
Armstrong, Gibbon & Gnys, LLP
Pat Thompson
Piccerelli, Gilstein & Company



Wednesday, May 30, 2001

8 Sivan 5761

Jewish Community Center
401 Elm Grove Avenue
Providence



Those wonderful new IRA rules? Your table is ready

Facilitator:

A. Larry Berren
The Berren Law Firm

Peter Mezei
Lefkowitz, Garfinkel,
Champi & DeRienzo, PC
Paul Silver
Hinckley, Allen & Snyder, LLP
Evelyn Zawatsky
Evelyn Zawatsky, Attorney at Law



To attend — call Carol at 401• 421-4111, ext. 166 or e-mail cbreault@jfri.org

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Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America

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Veterans' Memorial Fund

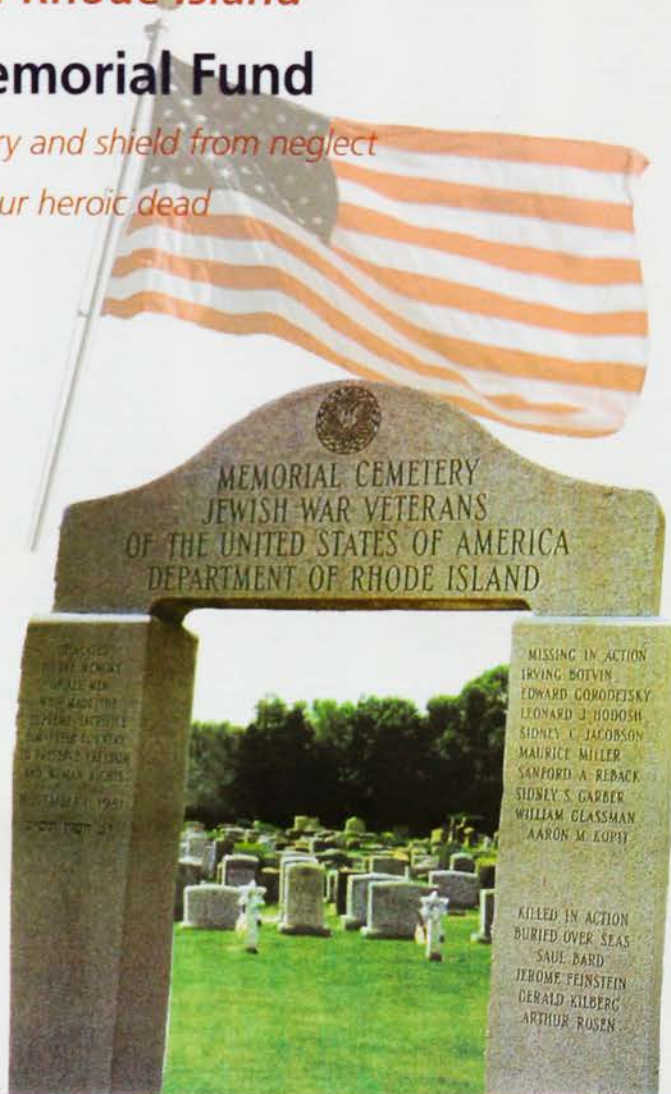
*"... to honor their memory and shield from neglect
the graves of our heroic dead"*

—NOTICE—

Please check the names on this page and the next three for correct spelling and/or correct initials. Once engraved on the wall they cannot be changed. Please contact either person listed below to report any errors or omissions **before June 15, 2001!**

Irv Levin - 941-6032 Charles Abrams - 944-0539

We have made every effort to list all the names of the departed Jewish War Veterans from Rhode Island who served in the U.S. armed forces, including their correct spelling. In the event that the list is incomplete, the names of any Jewish War Veterans are missing or any of the names are misspelled, including any wrong initials, the Jewish War Veterans of the USA, Department of Rhode Island and the Jewish War Veterans of Rhode Island Memorial Wall of Honor Inc., their respective officers, members and trustees shall not be liable or responsible for any such errors or omissions.



Memorial Day Services • Lincoln Park Cemetery • May 27

Ceremonies commence at 11:00 am
Lincoln Park Cemetery Memorial Chapel
1469 Post Road, Warwick, RI.

Rabbi Gerge Astrachan, rabbi emeritus, Cantor
Remmie Brown, both of Temple Sinai, officiating.

Irving H. Levin, department commander, master of
ceremonies.

Invited guests: Governor Lincoln Almond, US Senators Jack
Reed and Lincoln Chafee, US Representatives Patrick Kennedy
and James Langevin, and Warwick Mayor Scott Avedesian.

In case of rain, services will be in the Chapel.

There will be commemoration ceremonies at the RI Veterans Memorial
Cemetery in Exeter, RI at 1:00 pm

Veterans deceased in 2000 to be honored May 27, 2001

Melvin A. Bloom
Samuel Bochner
Edward Bomes
Herman D. Brier
Jacob Morris Brill
Albert Chase
David Chase
W. Ernest Chorney
Bernard E. Dember
Charlotte D. Eisenstadt
Sidney Eisenstadt
Max E. Fine
Samuel Fink
Dr. Joseph Jay Fishbein
Newton Frank
James M. Gerstenblatt
Sydney Godfrey
Benton Howard Goldblatt
Irving Goldis

James Goldsmith
Seymour Goldstein
H. David Gordon
Sidney L. Greenbaum
Nathan Grossman
Nathaniel Guy
Meyer Halprin
Charles "Jack" Jacobson
Frank Kassed
Milton Kaufman
Bernard Klemer
Harry Kohl
Bernard Kramer
Jack Kramer
Dr. Herbert Charles Lichtman
Louis R. Liss
Arnold Lovett
Thomas Marks
Dr. Milton Marks
Louis Millen
Charles Henry Miller
Norman Miller

Douglas W. Mushnick
Michael Myers
Arnold Rosenfield
Malcom S. Rosenthal
Gilbert Sachs
Kenneth Sackett
Hyman Schachter
Stanley Moses Schertz
Elias Schwartz
Alex Seligman
Lew Shaw
Mark Spilka
Herbert M. Stolzberg
Sidney Stone
Morris Sweet
Louis J. Weiner
Irving Weitz
Irving J. Weitzner
Bernard P. Wexler
Harry Yoken
Paul Young
William S. Zelnicker

IN MEMORY OF OUR DEPARTED COMRADES

A Harry S. Aaron
Jacob Aaron
Abraham L. Abel
Benjamin Abelson
Hyman Abelson
Samuel Abelson
William Abeshush
Benjamin Abish
Abraham H. Abisch
Jacob F. Ableman
Richard S. Abowitz
Alexander Abrahams

Eli Abrams
Irving Abrams
Mayer Abrams
Morris M. Abrams
Victor Abrams
Jacob L. Abrich
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Abraham Adelman
David C. Adelman
Louis C. Adelman
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Samuel Adolovitz
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Walter Adler
Louis Agronick
Perry Agronick
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Edwin Antin
Norman Antokol
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Gerald S. Arbor
Irwin L. Arden
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Simon L. Aron
William Aron
Edward Aronson
Isidor Auerbach
Leslie August
Herman Austern
Frank Averbach
Paul S. Axelrod
Walter Axelrod

B Benjamin Baker
Louis E. Baker
Morton Baker
Leon H. Bakst
Joseph G. Balow
Abraham Bander
Howard M. Bander
Louis H. Bander
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Morris Bander
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Frank W. Barad
John J. Barad
Morris Baram
David Baratz
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Solomon C. Barber
Saul Bard
Harris Barkan
Martin M. Barnes
Philip Baron
Robert J. Barrie
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Max Basseh
Arthur J. Bazar
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Clarence M. Bazar
A. Lloyd Bazel
Jack O. Bazzle
Morris Bebar
Irving A. Beck
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Morris Beeber
Lawrence Beer
Samuel Beerman
William Beerman
Joseph Belinsky
M. David Bell
Archie Bellin
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Irving Belinbaum
Arthur Bercovitz
Benard Berens
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Harry Harrison
Israel Harrison
John L. Harrison
Melvin Hart
David Hassenfeld
Merrill Hassenfeld
Kurt Hasterlik
Leroy R. Hayes
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Harry Hecker
Lawrence Helfenbein
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Sheldon D. Heller
William P. Herman
Maurice Hermann
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Harry Herz
Joseph Herz
Abraham Herzon
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Harry H. Hirsch
Norton Hirsch
William Hirsch
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James Hochman
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Leonard Hodosh
Nathan Hodosh
Charles Hoffman
Harry Hoffman
Jacob Hoffman
Jordan S. Hoffman
Joseph Hoffman
Melvin D. Hoffman
Manfred Hohenemser
Julian Holland
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Sheldon Horenstein
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Max Horowitz
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Samuel Hunter
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Donald L. Hyman
Steven R. Hyman

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Leo Jacobson
Michael Jacobson
Sidney C. Jacobson
Sidney L. Jacobson
Leo L. Jacques
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David Jagoliner
Stanley I. Jagoliner
Robert Jarcho
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James Jenkin
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Eugene B. Josephson
Joseph Josephson
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Hyman Rosenfield
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Bernard Rubin
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Harold G. Schwartz
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Harold Shapiro
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Lester A. Shapiro
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RHODE ISLAND'S JEWISH WAR VETERANS WANT YOU TO JOIN IN!

The Jewish War Veterans of Rhode Island are working to build a permanent Memorial Wall to honor our Rhode Island Jewish war veterans who served in the U.S. Armed Forces. Won't you join in this rewarding project?

You can be part of this effort by...

- Buying a brick, a block or a bench to honor Jewish War Veterans of RI

Each deceased Jewish war veteran's name will be engraved on a black granite wall to honor service to the United States of America. Your name can appear on your own brick, block or bench by making a designated donation.

I'm joining in to honor our Jewish War Veterans

Please buy in my name:

- A brick \$100
- A granite block \$500
- A bench \$1,700 or
- A donation of \$_____
- Contact me about making a major gift.

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Make your tax deductible gift payable to:

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After seeing through transition, Teverow ends term

by Sylvia Berman-Peck
Women's Alliance Director

May is Cheryl Teverow's last full month as the President of the Women's Alliance of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island. She will "retire" at the group's Third Annual Meeting.

It was five years ago this month that Dee Dee Witman, then President of the Women's Division, first approached Teverow, a promising and dedicated young volunteer, to discuss the future of women in the Jewish Federation. Over lunch, Teverow agreed to chair WD2000, a strategic planning process which would provide a road map to take Rhode Island Jewish women into the next century.

The "next century" is here, and the Women's Alliance is stronger than ever, in no small part due to the energy and enthusiasm of its first President.

Cheryl Teverow has been active in JFRI programs for years, chairing the Young Women's unit and co-chairing Super Sunday with her husband, Josh. The winner of the Ritsman Leadership Development Award in 1998, she participated in the original Leaders Program at JFRI and was a vice president and campaign chair of its former Women's Division. Teverow also co-chairs the RI Chapter of JACAPAC (Joint Action Committee, Political Action Committee) and is a past member of the Young Women's Cabinet of the United Jewish Communities.



An account representative with Forms Plus, Teverow serves on the boards of the Bureau of Jewish Education of RI and the Alperin Schechter Day School. She has long been active in the American Cancer Society and the Providence Library.

Her instrumental role within the Women's Alliance, however, certainly stands as one of her crowning achievements during a rich and on-going volunteer career.

"Helping to form the Women's Alliance into a wide-reaching, inclusive organization has been an honor for me," says Teverow, who lives in Providence with her husband and their two daughters, Erica and Jill. "The variety of women I have met and befriended, and knowing that I have helped meet the needs of Jewish people in Rhode Island, Israel and overseas, has enhanced my life. Thank you for the experience of having been Women's Alliance President."

Flam leads discussion on volunteering

Rabbi Alan Flam and a group of Jewish working women sat around the coffee table in Maxine Richman's living room one evening in April to try to look for ways to integrate community service into their time-pressed lives.

Rabbi Flam, who led the Brown/RISD Hillel Foundation for 18 years, now leads a new collaborative project at Brown between the Sweater Center for Public Service and the Office of Chaplains and Religious Life. The program explores the intersection of religious and spiritual values with community work.

"We make our choices," Rabbi Flam said, "based on the values of how we live our lives. Those values influence what we do with work, home, leisure and service."

Jews also need to understand what *tzedakah* really is. Working from an explanation by Meir Tamari taken from *With All Your Possessions*, Rabbi Flam pointed out

that the root of the word, *tzedek*, means "justice," not charity, a frequent misinterpretation of the word.

Tamari explains that "acts of assistance are looked upon in Jewish thought primarily as a rectification of a social imbalance. They are not merely prompted by mercy or personal pangs of conscience, but rather constitute the fulfillment of the obligations that flow from wealth."

Flam suggested that incorporating service into one's life does not have to be a major time commitment. He noted that a once- or twice-monthly visit to an elderly member of the community who lives in a nursing home, or tutoring a child an hour a week can be meaningful acts of *tzedakah*.

The discussion also noted that Jews often can expand the scope of acts of *tzedakah* by working together in a communal activity through synagogues, social service agencies or Jewish Federation programming.

JSS



At the Barrington home of Maxine Richman, CRC director Amy Gross, (left) checks program details with (l to r) Diane Isenberg, co-chair of the Professional Women's Committee, and committee member Marcia McGovern.

Kremlin crackdown. . . from pg. 6

on the personal relationship between Israeli-based diamond tycoon Lev Levayev and Kremlin official Alexander Voloshin — and that Voloshin's influence is weakening.

Meanwhile, the latest developments have brought long-time foes Berezovsky and Goussinsky closer. Many of the NTV journalists quit the station after the takeover and, with Goussinsky's help, are trying to create a new independent channel at Berezovsky's TV-6.

"We are very different people," Berezovsky said. "But we managed to cut a deal and joined forces at a critical juncture."

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Froehlich, Resnik to receive Riesman, Hassenfeld Awards

Susan Froehlich and David Resnik are two young leaders in the Rhode Island Jewish community who will be honored on Wednesday, May 16 for their dedication and service during the annual meeting of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.

Froehlich will be installed as the new president of the Federation's Women's Alliance during the Alliance's annual meeting the evening of May 31. She has chaired the Women's Alliance campaign for the last two years, taking its annual fund raising to nearly \$1 million.

Described as "always willing to take on new challenges and responsibilities," Froehlich, a speech therapist, is active at Alperin Schechter Day School and at Temple Emanu-El, where she co-chaired the award-winning cookbook project.

As the recipient of the Robert A. and Marcia S. Riesman Leadership Development Award, Froehlich will attend the General Assembly of the United Jewish Communities in Washington, DC next November.

Resnik, a Providence businessman, is to receive the Merrill L. Hassenfeld Award for Community Service. Currently, he is associate treasurer of the Bureau of Jewish Education of RI and chairs its nominating committee. He serves on the BJE board and executive committee, as well as several subcommittees.



Susan Froehlich, president-elect of the Women's Alliance will receive Riesman Award.

At the Federation, Resnik and his wife, Susan, participated in the Young Leaders program, and he serves on the Board of Directors, the Strategic Planning Committee and the Endowment Grants Committee. Also active with Jewish Family Service, he sits on its board of directors and serves on the personnel and Lifeline committees. He has held similar positions at Jewish Seniors Agency.

Resnik is a graduate of the two-year Melton Leaders Institute. His nominators describe him as "diligent and devoted," someone "seeking greater understanding and clarity of purpose."

As president of Emblem and Badge, Resnik also is active in the business and service communities, having been a president of Providence Rotary and a founding director of the RI Printing Industry Coalition. He was named a Commodore by RI Governor Lincoln Almond.

The Hassenfeld Award will fund a trip to Israel for the Resniks.



The Hassenfeld Award for service to an agency will allow David Resnik to travel to Israel.

Annual AIDs Seder focuses on hope



At the 7th annual Seder of Hope on April 1 friends and relatives of victims of Aids gathered at the Jewish Community Center of RI to remember and look forward. Among the organizers were Debbie Blitz and Bruce Page. Cantor Judy Seplowin and Debbie Waldman, both of Temple Beth-El, led the singing. Over 160 people attended the seder, which also featured large sections of the national Aids quilt as backdrops.



Photos by Seymour Glantz

Amos aims for agenda of social justice

by Julie Wiener

NEW YORK (JTA) — According to a popular joke, a group of American Jewish tourists in Israel ask their tour guide, "How do you say *sikkun olam* in Hebrew?"

Tikkun olam, of course, is a Hebrew term, one that describes the Jewish obligation to repair the world. The joke's humor lay in the fact that many American Jews are more literate in social activism than in Hebrew.

According to a new study, however, most American Jews not only don't know it's Hebrew, but aren't even familiar with the term. And with only 31% reporting that Israel is personally very meaningful to their Jewish identity, chances are they won't be asking Israeli tour guides much of anything.

The findings were two pieces of a recent study measuring American Jewish attitudes toward "social justice," a somewhat vague term that can fit a variety of causes, depending on the speaker's politics. The study's major finding — that American Jews remain strongly supportive of predominantly liberal social justice causes — is being used to promote the new organization that commissioned it.

Amos: The National Jewish Partnership for Social Justice, was officially launched in early April. It aims to place social justice higher on the Jewish communal agenda and to provide training and other support for Jewish groups that want to address social justice issues.

Amos' founding comes as a number of people tout social justice and community service as a means of engaging unaffiliated young Jews.

The new study, based on phone interviews with 1,002 US Jews, indicates strong Jewish support for social justice. But it also reveals a fundamental paradox that likely will affect Amos and similar efforts: The overwhelming major-

ity of American Jews say social activism is important to their identity as Jews. But 74% don't care whether their own social activism falls under Jewish or secular auspices.

"If you don't perceive your community as sponsoring social justice activities, you're not going to say you prefer to do them with other Jews," said Leonard Fein, the founder of Mazon, a Jewish hunger-relief organization and one of Amos' architects. Jewish organizations need to address the "big issues of our time" to show Judaism's relevance, Fein said.

Not everyone interprets the survey as a clarion call for more social justice activities.

Elliott Abrams, president of the Ethics and Public Policy Center, a conservative think tank in Wash-

ington who also serves on the advisory committee of the American Jewish Committee, said selection of social justice causes should be done on the basis of the "the higher the Jewish content, the better. Jewish groups have to be very careful not to allow partisan politics or ideological politics to creep in."

In 1999, top leaders with UJA-Federation of Greater New York urged the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, which coordinates the policies of Jewish organizations on social issues, to narrow its focus to issues of direct concern to the Jewish community, such as elder care and Jewish rescue.

The JCPA and the United Jewish Communities, the federation umbrella organization, are still hammering out what role each should play on social justice issues.

THE POWER OF ONE

An unidentified grandmother from Yardley, Penn., took on Toys 'R' Us and Best Buy over anti-semitism and won!

It seems that while shopping at Toys 'R' Us, she stopped to browse through some encyclopedic-style books published by Dempsey-Parr to see if they would be suitable for her grandchildren. She writes, "When I leafed through them, I came upon an insidious pattern in every one. Under the section on the Middle East, all of the flags were shown in a horseshoe shape around the map of this region. Israel's flag was the only one patently missing!" A closer inspection revealed no Israel on the map.

Looking up Jerusalem, she found, "Jerusalem is a holy city for Muslims, the followers of Islam, as well as for Jews and Christians. The Dome of the Rock is the city's most holy Muslim temple."

Glancing through all the books, "Jews, Israel, Hebrew were all conspicuously absent."

A few weeks later, our intrepid shopper found a similar collection at a Best Buy store. "Although these books did list Israel in their indexes, when you turned to the page indicated, there was nothing. The page in each book supposedly with information on Hebrew had Arabic writing on it." More misinformation was in books for older children, mischaracterizing the wars of 1967 and 1973.

Soldiering on, our grandmother contacted Best Buy, who contacted their supplier, who contacted the publishers. The US distributor, Levy Home Entertainment, has notified Paragon Publishers that it is pulling the books from all stores in the US. Paragon has fired the English company that wrote the text for the books.

Paragon is notifying Toys 'R' Us to ship back all of their books, nationwide.

All this at a cost of millions of dollars.

All because of one alert and persistent Jewish grandmother. Hurrah!

Washington report

Delegation supports Jewish causes

by Alan Axelrod

While the Community Relations Council's advocacy addresses a wide range of issues, two measures currently moving through Congress have been the focus of CRC's efforts in the past month. These include the hate crimes bill, this year's version of which is called the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act (LLEEA), and letters from the House and Senate to the President regarding the course of United States' involvement in the Middle East peace process.

The importance of LLEEA is evident in the spate of horrific hate crimes in the last few years. Crimes against persons stemming from ethnicity, religion, gender or sexual orientation are unfortunately recurring with alarming regularity. Such acts of violence undermine the sense of safety and security of the victim and the community, sow the seeds of suspicion and distrust, and ultimately tear at the fabric of our society. While most such crimes are prosecuted at the state level, in some cases state authorities are unable or unwilling to mount vigorous and expeditious prosecution.

LLEEA would address this problem by removing overly-restrictive obstacles to federal involvement, authorizing federal authorities to assist or (if necessary) supplant state prosecutions; promoting coordination between state and local prosecutorial efforts, and allowing the federal government to provide technical, forensic and financial assistance to state prosecutions. All of Rhode Island's congressional delegation has signed on as cosponsors of this legislation.

The letters to President Bush (the "Brownback-Biden" letter in the Senate, and the identical "Hyde-Lantos-Gilman-Ackerman" letter in the House) review the course of the Middle East conflict since the rejection of Israel's extraordinary territorial concession offer last summer and the ensuing outbreak of Palestinian violence. They then call upon the President to:

- Initiate a reassessment of US relations with the Palestinian Authority, in light of Arafat's refusal to renounce terrorism and the ongoing violence;
- Reaffirm the US opposition to a unilaterally-declared independent Palestinian state, and
- Restate the US commitment to Israel's security and to our nations' shared values and interests.

189 House members, including Patrick Kennedy and James Langevin, have signed the letter. 87 Senators, including Jack Reed, have signed on.

With respect to both measures, CRC has written letters and made phone calls to our Senators and Representatives, and during the recent JCPA Plenum in Washington, DC our delegation visited them all to present the Jewish community's agenda. All of Rhode Island's congressional delegation has cosponsored the LLEEA/Hate Crimes bill; and three have signed the Middle East letters — a testament to the effectiveness of our community's advocacy efforts.

We urge everyone in the Jewish community to thank our members of Congress for their support. Addresses for our members have changed (all are in Washington, D.C. 20515) and are as follows:

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Congressman Patrick Kennedy	Congressman James Langevin
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Torat Yisrael: a little contemporary, a lot traditional

by Jane S. Sprague

It's Friday evening and the guitar is out. Rabbi Mark Bloom is leading family services at Temple Torat Yisrael in Cranston. Children and parents, single Jews in their 20s, live up the davening of Shabbat prayers.

It's Saturday morning, the sanctuary a bit quieter than the night before, the audience older, the services more traditional. Twelve or 13 times a year, this service will feature the bar or bat mitzvah of a young Jew making the ritual transition to adulthood.

Every morning and every evening, a minyan will gather in the synagogue's chapel for daily prayers and *yahezzeit*.

In August, when Rabbi Stephan Owen Parnes assumes the pulpit from Rabbi Bloom he will find a congregation of about 325 families with 18 to 19 new families joining each year.

Rabbi Bloom will be returning to his home territory on the west coast, and Rabbi Parnes will be coming to Cranston from Milton, Mass., where he has served Temple Shalom the last five years.

Torat Yisrael is a congregation that its president, Jeffrey N. Davis, describes as "caring, homey and traditional. Its older members are dedicated to helping the congregation survive and its younger families are vibrant and getting more involved."

Rabbi Bloom uses "heimish, dynamic Friday nights, nice people," to describe this 49-year-old congregation at 330 Park Avenue. It also where Jewish Family Service runs its kosher mealsite and programming for Jewish senior citizens who live in Cranston and Warwick, a group that Rabbi Bloom says helps keep the synagogue active every day of the week.

In 1942, many young Jewish families, unable to afford to live in the Jewish enclaves in Providence, had migrated a bit south to the more open spaces of Cranston. Seeking

community, 35 of them banded together to create the Cranston Jewish Community Club, which "initially met at Lindy's diner, then at Legion Hall in Cranston," according to a short history published in the 40th-anniversary booklet.

Within three years there were 125 member families, many of them World War II vets and their wives with small children in tow. The club moved to the American Legion Hall. Members from those years describe lively meetings. Harold Tregar told the RI Jewish Historical Association, "We ran everything like open forum meetings. . . Everyone had an opinion and expressed it."

Tregar said that at first his family was not interested "in the Jewish factor." They liked their neighbors and their children played freely with one another. But when daughter Betsy came home singing Christian songs, they decided they had better do something, so they joined the Community Club.

Soon, the name was changed to Cranston Jewish Center and in 1948 a religious school started. Five years later, it had 200 children enrolled, and they were attending classes in a new synagogue.

As Tregar describes it, that was not an easy road. The "club" now had to establish a dues structure, write by-laws and elect directors, "all this while debates still raged regarding what kind of a facility their new building would be": community center, synagogue, religious school, or a combination? Orthodox, Conservative or Reform? Tregar told RJHA, "the intensity of those endless meetings was like nothing he had ever experienced."

They bought the Park Avenue land in 1951 and engaged their member Sidney Markoff to design an all-purpose building with classrooms in the basement and a small kitchen. With financing for \$60,000 in place, because 100 members signed the mortgage

application, construction began and they were in the new building for the High Holy Days in 1952. Within 10 years, they had outgrown the structure and put on an addition that doubled its size.

According to the 40th anniversary publication, "The congregation, now bearing the name Temple Beth Torah, enjoyed sustained growth throughout the 60s and 70s. . . In 1981 Temple Beth Israel (Providence's original Conservative synagogue) merged with Temple Beth Torah, resulting in the establishment of Temple Torat Yisrael."

Membership apparently peaked in the early 90s at 650 families, and although Torat Yisrael draws today from Providence, Cranston, Warwick, East Greenwich and North Kingstown, it is only about half as large as it was 10 years ago. From time to time, there have been conversations about merging with Temple Am David in Warwick, but the congregations, each debt free, are holding on to their own identities. Proposals also have been made for the two synagogues to build a new facility on land owned by the Jewish Seniors Agency which is adjacent to Shalom Apartments on Route 5 in Warwick, thus perhaps creating a mid-state Jewish "campus."

Education remains an important component of Temple Torat Yisrael. Rabbi Bloom has led a lunch and learn program in downtown offices and conducted some exchange programs with Temple Emanu-El in Providence. This year there was a Sunday series, "What does Judaism say about. . ." and a week-night program "Ask the Rabbis," which focused on questions assigned to Rabbi Bloom to answer as part of the internet service by the same name.

Two members of the congregation lead the religious school. Jeanie Charness and Susan Sugerman have organized classes for about 90 pre-Kindergarten through

7th grade children. Youths who become bar or bat mitzvah can continue their Jewish education through the Harry Elkin Midrashah, the high school program conducted by the Bureau of Jewish Education (BJE), and which rotates classes between Temple Torat Yisrael, Temple Sinai, Temple Emanu-El and the BJE.

Youths at Torat Yisrael also have an unusual opportunity. Each year, four college-bound children of men and women who are active

in the synagogue's men's club and sisterhood, may receive college scholarships — \$5,000 each — from an endowed fund created by and in honor of Fred and Larry Cohen and their parents.

Temple Torat Yisrael begins a new phase with a new rabbi as it approaches its Golden Anniversary year. It seems to have the history and the enthusiasm to continue to make a Judaism filled with vitality available to current and future members.

Rabbi Stephan Parnes accepts Torat Yisrael pulpit

Jeffrey N. Davis, president of the congregation of Temple Torat Yisrael, has announced that Stephan Owen Parnes will become the synagogue's rabbi in August. He will succeed Rabbi Mark Bloom who has accepted a position in his home state of California.

Rabbi Parnes has served Temple Shalom in Milton, Mass. since 1996. While there he helped develop a new religious school curriculum and expanded the school's hours and offerings. In the style of Rabbi Bloom, Rabbi Parnes emphasized more teen participation in Shabbat services and introduced new, upbeat music in youth-oriented services.

Adult education also has been an important component of his rabbinate, including film festivals, endowed lectures, Holocaust exhibitions, adult bar/bat mitzvahs and Talmud study.

Rabbi Parnes created intergenerational programs as well through Shabbat dinners that featured singing and Israeli dancing, a Shabbator for children and adults, and, among others, a multimedia program on finding Jewish roots.

He has previously served congregations in North Adams, Mass., Torrington, Conn., New York City and two in New Jersey. In all these communities, Rabbi Parnes has been active in civic organizations as well.

For four years, he worked for the Rabbinical Assembly in New York City, helping to produce Siddur Sim Shalom and serving as managing editor of Conservative Judaism Magazine. Other liturgical publications he has written for or edited include Prayer Book for Jewish Personnel in the Armed Forces of the United States, and the first unified prayer book acceptable to Orthodox, Conservative and Reform Jews in the US.

In addition, Rabbi Parnes has written all or portions of The Jewish Engagement Calendar, The Art of Passover, The Jewish Book of Days, The Jewish Calendar and several articles for Funk and Wagnall's New Encyclopedia, 1983 edition.

He graduated cum laude from the University of Vermont at Burlington and was ordained a rabbi by the Jewish Theological Seminary.

Rabbi Bolton's voice to ring out during Agudas Achim program

Rabbi Elizabeth Bolton, director of the music and liturgy project for the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation (JRF) and rabbi of Congregation Beit Tivah, Baltimore, will present a program at Congregation Agudas Achim on Friday evening, May 11.

Focusing on Jewish Liturgical Music: Past and Present, Rabbi Bolton's program will follow regular Friday evening services and will include lecture, performance and discussion.

Rabbi Bolton is also a cantor and educator, a profes-

sionally trained singer, voice teacher and choral director. She holds a BFA degree from Concordia University, Montreal, and studied voice and opera at McGill University, Branf Centre for the Performing Arts and in Graz, Austria.

Her appearance is part of the synagogue's series on Jews and Music which is funded in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council and the Yad Mordechai Education Fund from the JRF.

The program is open to the public. Services begin at 7:30 pm. An Oneg Shabbat will follow her program. For more information call 5088-222-2243. Congregation Agudas Achim is at 901 N. Main St.,

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MEDITATION & HEALING WORKSHOP

On Wednesday May 23, the Rhode Island Center for Jewish Healing's workshop, "An Introduction to Jewish Meditation" will begin at 7:00 pm in the Club Dining Room of the Jewish Community Center of RI, 401 Elm Grove Avenue, Providence.

Howard Brown of North Kingstown will teach participants in this session about the history of meditation in Judaism. Various specific meditations will be reviewed. To pre-register call 401-286-3833 or e-mail hbrown@jamestown.com. There is a fee.

First, to Ireland Alexander to use Marshall stipend for conflict resolution studies

by Matthew S. Robinson

PROVIDENCE — Home-town *menuch* Ari Alexander has been selected from over 1,000 applicants to be one of 40 recipients of the 2001 Marshall Scholarship, one of the nation's highest undergraduate honors.

"I didn't believe it when I heard it," Alexander says.

Though he admits that the phone call announcing his acceptance changed his life, Alexander maintains that he has not changed. "I tend to live in the short-term and to find out that in a year from now I will be doing something that will take me out for three years more is exciting, but also a bit complicated," Alexander adds.

A son of Sheila and Paul Alexander of Providence, Ari, whose mother is interim director of Brown/RISS Hillel, has been involved in Jewish life and issues for years. Now, he is preparing to pursue these issues on his own.

Alexander's interest in intercultural affairs was sparked while living in Israel on a United Synagogue Youth-sponsored trip. "I did a lot of thinking about Israel from a new perspective," he recalls. "I did a story on the roots of the Palestinian refugee situation and that opened my eyes to looking at Israel and Zionism in a whole new way."

This new perspective soon

grew outside of Israel's borders and got Alexander looking at the entire world differently.

Upon returning to the States, where he is a senior at the University of Pennsylvania, Alexander put his new views into action, founding both the Arab-Jewish Dialogue and Confronting Cultural Issues on Campus Organization at Penn. He also served as co-chair of the group Alliance and Understanding, which is devoted to establishing dialogue between African-American and Jewish groups on campus.

"I really started to take a good look at conflict in America and elsewhere," Alexander explains, "so when the opportunity arose to go to Ireland, I was excited."

Even in the international microcosms of academia, Alexander realizes that conflict exists. "This is a divided world," he says. "Even here at Penn, people hang out with people who are like them. While it's nice and important for people to be comfortable with who they are and who they are with, it can lead to separation and conflict. We need to figure out how to look at each other in different ways and how to get together, and that's what I want to work on."

While many Marshall Scholars go on to further study, Alexander is presently interested in taking it one day at a time. "Right now,

I'd like to work in a non-profit which is involved in some area of conflict," he says, "but you never know how life will turn."

Alexander hopes that this experience will prove personally enriching and allow him an even broader perspective. As for what he does with it in terms of his career or his future, Alexander is in no rush to decide. "Unfortunately," he says, "conflict is not going away anytime soon."

One thing that Alexander is sure of, however, is that, at least right now, he is very interested in issues related to international conflict and the wages of peace. "I know I am interested in these topics and that I want to see more of the world," he reasons, "so this should be a good next step for me, wherever it leads. There will be a lot of learning and excitement and I am looking forward to it."

Named for former US Secretary of State George C. Marshall, the scholarship allows recipients to study for two years in the United Kingdom. "Unlike the Rhodes, which goes to Oxford, this scholarship allows me to go to any school in the UK and study in any degree program," Alexander explains.

Alexander will take his scholarship to The Queen's University of Belfast, where he will pursue a master of arts degree in comparative ethnic conflict. He is also considering pursuing a master's of science in comparative politics at the London School of Economics.

"A lot of people take scholarships in Oxford or Cambridge because they are so prestigious," Alexander notes, "but what I want to do is in Belfast. It looks to be just what I want."

However, as the master's is only a one-year program, Alexander will have to decide again what his subsequent step will be.

"I might go to London or I might go to Scotland and find something there," he muses. "So even though my life is planned, I still have a lot of choice."

Music, music and more music integral to Jewish heritage

Ari Savitzky
Youth Correspondent

I love music. I love listening to it, dancing to it, singing it, writing it and playing it on several instruments. At a tense crescendo or when a tight rhythm is grooving, I almost invariably get either chills or the urge to bust a move.

I cannot sit near any sort of instrument, even one completely foreign to me, without fiddling with it, attempting to figure out how it's tuned or simply play it with wild abandon. Moreover, I do not believe for one second that my passion for music is a random or an inexplicable one. The fact that some of my earliest memories are of singing around the Shabbat table, or in a *havurah* group, prove that Judaism nurtures musicality.

Jewish tradition utilizes music to the utmost. Songs and chants are essentially what comprise a service, and, consequently, the melodies that we hear in synagogue almost instantly conjure a sense of spirituality. Young children are far from invulnerable to this effect, perhaps more so than adults. The quality of music that enables it to crystallize an emotion into a series of notes, and thus a common tongue, in turn makes it an almost ideal form of communication with children. A melody, for young kids whose comfort level with spoken

words is not so high, sends a clear message of reverence, awe, sorrow, joy, etc.

Tunes to prayers from the service, *niggunim* and *zemirot* become, after repetition, mentally associated with the emotions they conjure. When a group gets together, with the same songs and free associations in their heads, spirituality is essentially inevitable. The most exuberant, joyful "Adon 'Olam," the slowest, most mournful "Kol Nidrei" — they transport the listener, and to a much greater extent the participant to a place in which emotion is more pure — a spiritual experience. Many USYers attest to their most spiritual moments occurring at the Saturday night post-shabbat *ruah* and singing sessions, in which the bittersweetness of another sabbath gone is absolutely pervasive, and in which a hundred or so voices harmonize and crescendo, filled with a passion described best by the words that they are singing.

When I play music with friends, and we get really into a groove, I at times get that feeling, in which the mood of the song is too thick not to notice. This particular feeling usually is accompanied with chills. When this happens, however, I can look back to my past, and point out other times when such feelings have been fomented. Please go to page 27

BJE to reinstall Feibish as president

The 50th Annual Meeting of the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island will be Tuesday May 8, 2001 at 7:00 pm at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island. Gloria S. Feibish will be installed to serve a second term as President of the Bureau. The meeting will also feature the presentation of the annual educator awards, recognition of Israel travelers and honoring of past presidents.

The Program Chairs for the evening will be Selma Stanzler and Erica Teverow. For additional information contact the BJE at 401-331-0956.

Officers and board members to be installed include:

President, Gloria S. Feibish; Vice Presidents: Pat Cohen, Eleanor Lewis, Selma Stanzler; Treasurer, Robert Greenberg; Associate Treasurer, David Resnik; Secretary, Steven Schechter; Associate Secretary, James Pious.

Directors whose term expires 2002: Lana Israel, Karen Jacober, Barbara Jagolinzer, Jane Kaufman, Cantor Richard Perlman, Leonore Sones, Joyce Steingold, Irving Waldman, David Yavner, Charles Ziegler.

Directors whose term expires 2003: Sheila Alexander, Paula Bodo, Michael Goldenberg, Sergey Goldgaber, Joan Gray, Bill Kolb, Howard Mintz, Mark Ross, Wendy Spellun, Michael Weiner.

Directors whose term expires 2004: Allan Brenman, Howard Bromberg, Barbara Feldstein, Linn Freedman, Sharon Gaines, Ken Hersh, Rabbi Mitchell Levine, Karen Ostrowsky, Arlene Rogol, Cheryl Teverow.

FIFTIETH ANNUAL MEETING



BUREAU OF
JEWISH EDUCATION
OF RHODE ISLAND



TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2001
15 IYAR 5761
7:00PM

AT THE
JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER
OF RHODE ISLAND



Selma Stanzler, Annual Meeting Chair
Erica Teverow, Annual Meeting Chair
Gloria S. Feibish, President
Minna Ellison, Executive Director

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ASDS students face off against parents. . . and win

A crowd gathered to support the fifth annual Parent/Student/Alumni Basketball Challenge at the Alperin Schechter Day School, but the students had it all over the parents.

For much of the game, students led by a wide margin. Under the watchful eyes of referees Larry Wacks and Bruce Wolpert, parents rallied close to the end of the game and did narrow the score, but in the end the youths prevailed, 61-60.

Student players were Ben

Beraha, Ilana Eides, Erik Kerzer, Josh Lentz, Eitan Levine, Olivia Lichaa, Jay Rodrigues, Jimmy Rotenberg, Nina Winkler and Jonathan Wolpert. Pitted against the children were parents Howard Bronberg, Fred Rotenberg, Stuart Schwartz and Bruce Wolpert.

Alumni players included Jonah Gabry, David Goldgaber, Alex Hershey, Noah Jablow, Spencer Kurn, Zachary Lichaa, Richard Maidman, David Miller, Benton Odessa, Ben Savitzky, Michael Wolpert.

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Do not separate yourself from the community

Please join us in celebration as our children graduate from the Harry Elkin Midrasha Community High School of the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island.

Temple Am David • 40 Gardiner Street, Warwick
Sunday, May 20, 2001 • 27 Iyar 5761
Seven o'clock in the evening

A dessert reception will follow

— The parents of the Class of 2001/5761

Daniel Abrams	Ezra Lipp
Ben Clark	Noah Marwil
Max Dwares	Elyssa Monzack
Jessica Fain	Kira Neel
Jesse Goldberg	Danielle Ostrowsky
Johanna Goldberg	Louis Ostrowsky
David Greenberg	Michael Radparvar
Eliana Gutman	Marina Shayevich
Ilana Guttin	Stephanie Steingold
Eitan Hersh	Joshua Swift
Adam Kaplan	Erica Teverow
Rachel Lieberman	Arielle Wachtenheim

Butterworth puppets, masks at Arts Week

Visiting artist Dan Butterworth made puppets and masks, dancer Nitza Katzoff led Israeli dancing, paper artist Karen Schneider designed with decorative paper, music teacher Jane Revkin had children moving in percussion and rhythm sessions, Cadence Dance Project performed, and so did the All Children's Theatre, doing the Anne Frank Story — all of it incorporated into the Alperin Schechter Day School's Arts Week, March 12-16.

At the end, children demonstrated what they had learned in a gala performance.



Shira Adler, an 8th grade pupil, helps a child in one of the lower grades with a project during the week-long arts program.



Middle School pupils worked on a variety of arts projects during Schechter's Arts Week.

Kindergartners celebrate 100th day at Alperin Schechter



ASDS kindergartners celebrate 100 days of learning at ASDS with activities to mark the day, including popping 100 balloons, making a floor graph of 100 objects and guessing which basket contained 100 objects. Here the children cut out feet to tape to the floor — 100 footprints leading from the kindergarten room to Head of School Penney Stein's office.

ASDS puts out honor roll

Head of School Penney Stein, PhD, has announced the Middle School honor roll for the first semester at ASDS:

Grade 6: Anna Belkin, Rachel Isser, Sophie Kieffer, Jay Rodrigues, Micha Schwartz, Shayna Weinschel, Nava Winkler, Jonathan Wolpert.

Grade 7: Abraham Aron, Susan Landau, Nathaniel Levine, Julie Link, Nathan Weissburg.

Grade 8: Aaron Abrans, Shira Adler, Ruth Furman, Tanya Goman, Miriam Klein, Chloe Licht, Maia Masuda, Hannah Mellion, James Rotenberg, Jessica Spellun and Shira Tevah.

Brown violinists perform at Hebrew Day



Students from Brown University gave a 40-minute concert recently at Providence Hebrew Day School under the sponsorship of Edward and Grace Beiser, who fund a performance annually in honor of Grace Beiser's mother, Bertha Fischer. Two violinists, shown, and two French horn players performed a variety of classical selections and answered questions from the young audience members.

PHDS to honor Schechters with Amudim Award

Steven (MD) and Naomi Schechter will receive the Amudim Award from Providence Hebrew Day School (PHDS) at the celebratory dinner on Sunday, June 17.

The award recognizes a couple for their service to the school and to the Providence Jewish community as a whole.

Steve Schechter serves on the PHDS executive committee and chairs the scholarship fundraising campaign. Naomi Schechter is a member of Parents, Teachers and Friends and volunteers frequently. Both are active members of Congregation Beth Shalom. Steve has been president from 1993-95. Currently, he is president of the Va'ad HaKashrut and is active in the Jewish Federation's Maimonides Society. He also is recording secretary at the Bureau of Jewish Education of RI. Naomi is a member of N'Shei Hessed, an Orthodox women's community organization. They often make their home available for meetings and special events.

Schechter recently opened a new medical practice in colon and rectal surgery. Naomi is the bookkeeper and office manager.

Both of Naomi's older children, Akiva and Dena, attended PHDS through 8th grade. She and Steve met in Providence and married in 1991. Today, their two children, Aaron and Avi, are students at the Day School.

Anyone may honor the Schechters by buying advertising space in the PHDS Yearbook and by attending the dinner. For more information, call the school at 401-331-5327.



The hospitable Schechters, Naomi and Steve.

Thank you, Ma, for enabling me to reach this defining moment

By Cary Eichenbaum

Although I am positive that my late father, Ray, will be *shep-ping naba* and the happiest person in Heaven this May 20th, it is with all due respect to him that I say it is my mother, Alice, who is the primary reason that I will be fulfilling a lifelong aspiration that day — graduating from the University of Rhode Island. For had it not been for Ma's loving yet firm coaxing to return to school and "make something out of my life" soon after Dad died in late 1993, I would not be marching in Kingston as a proud graduate of the same University from which my father graduated 41 years ago.

With Mother's Day just a week before my graduation, what more perfect gift could Frau Eichenbaum receive than having a front-row seat on a glorious Southern Rhode Island day and watching her second son finish his post-secondary education — with honors. I just want to let her know there is absolutely no way I could have accomplished what I have without her. Without Ma's steady encouragement when I tired of writing papers or studying for exams, and without a curt "sit still and do your homework" every once in a while, God only knows if I would be in Kingston to receive my diploma.

Ma knew about my checkered past in higher education, dropping out of three other universities or generally underachieving in school and in life. But she also was aware that I possessed some genuine abil-

ity, and when I expressed interest in going back to college, she encouraged me wholeheartedly. I went back first to Johnson & Wales in March, 1995, under my Mother's advice of "taking one easy class a semester." I got an A in a Freshman English Composition Class, received B+ or above in my next five classes at Johnson & Wales and transferred full-time to URI in the spring of 1997. The rest, as they say, is history — with a 3.28 average, nearly four years of part-time work and plenty of friends in tow.

If I had to thank every person who has helped me reach this pinnacle, the list would be too long for the Sunday New York Times. But above all, I have my beloved Mama who believed in me when nobody else did and when most wondered if I would ever become a good student — if not a good person. Ma had no doubt that with the proper attitude toward education and a ton of good, old-fashioned hard



The graduate's mother, Alice Eichenbaum

work, I would eventually succeed.

The 2001 URI Commencement will belong as much to her, Alice Eichenbaum, as to her graduating son.

JSA services. . . from pg. 33

and, most importantly, a much-needed link to their Jewish traditions and heritage. JERI coordinates Sabbath services, holiday observances and gift giving to all of these residents.

To further expand its services, the JSA collaborates with other community organizations such as the Jewish Community Center. For Your Information (FYI), a monthly public affairs series, is a joint pro-

gram of the two agencies designed to provide seniors with a venue to help them keep abreast of current issues that affect their lives.

By the year 2030, more than 88 million Americans will be age 65 or older. Here, JSA plans to address their needs.

For more information on JSA programs, call 401-351-4750 or visit our web site at www.jsari.org.

Sign up for JORI day camp

Camp JORI is still accepting registrations for the eighth season of its day camp — two-week sessions for children 6-9 years of age. "The day campers enjoy the same sports, games, arts and crafts and other activities that our overnight campers have always loved, making JORI an excellent first camping experience," says Camp Director Ronni Guttin.

JORI offers a full sports program, including tennis, boating, water polo, swimming, softball, karate, soccer, miniature golf, basketball and sports workshops. The Narragansett-based camp also has arts and crafts including ceramics, instrumental music and theatre; nature programs; aerobics; special events and field trips. JORI observes kashruth and features a strong Jewish cultural component.

Day campers join the program at 9:00 am and end at 4:30 pm for the following weeks: Session I — June 25 to 29 and July 2 to 6; Session II — July 9 to 13 and July 16 to 20; Session III — July 23 to 27 and July 30 to August 3, and Session IV — August 6 to 10 and August 13 to 17. The fee is \$425 per two-week session. Transportation for no additional fee is available in Kent County, and should be requested when registering.

Camp JORI, the only Jewish overnight camp in Rhode Island, offers children ages 7-13 two four-week sessions, and, for first-time campers only, four two-week sessions.

For more information or for registration materials, contact Camp JORI office at 401-521-2655.

Music. . . from pg. 25

from within me.

Singing "Yibiyeh Tov" at the ASDS Zimriyah, for instance, in fourth grade, I distinctly recall being moved to a state of extreme passion belting out the words to Broza's tune in my high pitched 10-year-old's falsetto. Or rocking out to "Who Knows One" this year at the seder table, complete with percussion jam. It could be that the emphasis on connections, interpersonal connections in Judaism just warrants musicality, because music tends to augment human emotion and thus to connect. Whatever the reason, Judaism and music share a close bond. Ezra Lipp, a musician and Schechter grad, cites Camp Ramah as a beginning of his love for melody and rhythm. "It was the Jewish songs we did," he joyfully explains. "They were so fun."



CAMP JORI



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Boys and girls ages 6 to 9 will build memories, confidence and friendships to last a lifetime in a summer of fun filled with sports, nature, arts and crafts and cultural programs.

Four two-week sessions, starting the week of June 25 through the week of August 13.

9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. / \$425 per two-week session

Registration open to all who wish to apply.

Day and overnight campers fully integrated.

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Camp Director: Ronni Guttin

For information, call (401) 521-2655.

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Family drama



Parents and children in the JCC Early Childhood program were planning, moving, bending and stretching when the Julia Gabriel Speech and Drama Center of Singapore presented "Exploring the jungle through sound, rhythm and rhyme," an interactive drama. Designed to build confidence with language and free inhibitions in order to let the imagination flow, the program also teaches about jungle life. Families who missed this program may have another chance in the fall.

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Family dinner on Shabbat at JCC June 1

A traditional family Shabbat dinner at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island will begin at 6:00 pm on Friday, June 1st. Catered by Izzy's Kosher Catering, it will include all the traditional foods and trimmings of a Friday night Shabbat meal. Accommodations will be made for children enrolled in both Kidspace/PTC and the Early Childhood Center to be supervised until 6:00 pm that evening.

There will also be plenty of Shabbat *raah* (spirit) with explanations of various customs. Singing will follow the meal.

The cost of the dinner is \$25.00 per child and \$12.00 per adult. Make reservation by Friday, May 25 by calling 401-861-8800.

Art history, Jewish fiction final Brown Bag topics for year

The JCC's Brown Bag Club, open to all Jewish adults, presents the following programs in May:

Tuesday, May 8th: Dietrich Neuman, Professor of Art History at Brown University, on the architecture of Providence. Learn how to appreciate the rich history of the Renaissance city.

Tuesday, May 22nd, Daniel Jaffe will present his new work, "With Signs and Wonders: An International Anthology of Jewish Fabulist Fiction," a collection of 24 contemporary Jewish-theme stories from seven languages.

The Brown Bag Club is a casual social group that offers a forum for adults who are available for lunch and are interested in discussing current events and a variety of other topics. It meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month at noon. Participants are encouraged to bring a brown bag dairy lunch. Beverages and dessert are provided. For further information, contact Sue Suls at 401-861-8800, Extension 108.

Human Services' Christine Ferguson gives Sue Connor "Feather Award"

Sue Connor, Director of Early Childhood programs at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island (JCC), was recognized by the RI Department of Human Services Director, Christine C. Ferguson, with the Feather Award for her leadership in co-chairing the Starting Right Accreditation and Professional Development Committee.

TO YOUR HEALTH & FITNESS

Tee off

Annual Golf tourney June 18

Play by day, bid by night.

Golfers can spend a day in the sun on Monday, June 18 playing the 18-hole course at Ledgemont Country Club in Seekonk, Mass., during the Jewish Community Center of RI's annual charity golf tournament. The tournament includes prizes in categories including best gross and net scores and closest to the pin.

Not a golfer? Not a problem. Community members who don't play, may join the golfers in the evening for dinner *bors d'oeuvres*, dessert and the annual auction. Bids will be taken on restaurant certificates, artwork, jewelry, sports and entertainment memorabilia and much more. Proceeds from this charity tournament and auction fund scholarships.

The Golf Tournament committee members are Jeff Vogel, Alan Litwin, Stephen Litwin, Cindy Feinstein, Doug Emanuel, Harley Frank, Linda and Richard Mittelman, Rose Mossberg Malkin, Paul Formal and Marjorie Rubin. To register or to purchase tickets for the evening events, call Cory Diamond at 401-861-8800, extension 149.

Take the challenge

Youth Maccabi games in August

All Jewish youth athletes between the ages of 13 and 16 have an opportunity to participate in the 2001 Maccabi Youth Games at the JCC of the Jersey Shore from August 19 to August 24. Players can compete in basketball, tennis, swimming, and track & field.

The JCC Maccabi Games is the largest gathering of Jewish teens in North America and features young Jewish athletes from over 100 communities from the US, Canada, Israel and other countries. Teens meet their peers in this annual Olympiad, blending sports, Jewish culture and community service for each participant.

For details, call Cory Diamond, JCC Director of Health & Physical Education, at 401-861-8800.

Carbs or proteins?

End nutrition confusion

Confused by so much conflicting diet information in the media? Does one magazine article contradict another? Do each of your friends and family have a different opinion? Whom or what to believe? Come to the JCC on Wednesday evenings through June 6 for answers to many diet questions. All presentations will begin at 6:30 pm.

May 9 Supplement Overuse May 16 Good Fat vs. Bad Fat
May 23 How to Interpret Media May 30 Portion Control
June 6 Calcium: Why it is Important?

JCC members receive a reduced rate, \$5 per class. The fee for non-members is \$12. Sign up for the whole series or attend only a few. For more information or to sign up, call Lisa at 401-861-8800, Extension 210.

For those 6-packs

Collegiate summer membership

When they are not working this summer, the area's returning college students will be working out and staying fit at the JCC — up and down the pool, on the cardio machines, in the weight room and fitness classes, on the basketball court. The Center is once again offering a special College Student Summer Membership.

Returning college students may buy a summer membership for only \$110. For details, or to arrange a tour of the facilities, stop by the Center or call Lyn Schaffer, membership director, at 401-861-8800, ext. 117.

tain high standards and continuous improvement are evident here at the JCC," noted Vivian Weisman, the Center's executive director, "as she sets the example through this statewide effort as well as her own continued learning, and in providing excellent in-service training opportunities for her staff."

"Sue's determination to main-

JCC summer camp offers great variety



JCC Summer Camps basically are divided in two sections, one for pre-school children and the other for older youths.

This summer the JCC Early Childhood Camp will focus on gardening (How Does Your Garden Grow?, June 25-July 13), visual arts (Tea in Monet's Garden, July 10-August 3) and the Ocean (A Trip to the Ocean, August 6-24). The curriculum will foster new educational experiences and field trips related to the themes.

The JCC learning center approach provides challenging opportunities for extending vocabulary and developing friendships. Indoor as well as outdoor programs are designed to stimulate children's thinking. Special visitors will add to the program.

Children may enroll for two weeks or the whole summer. For details call the Early Childhood Department 401-861-8800, ext. 130.

Registration also is underway for the other camps. Programs are available on a per-day basis the first week that school is out, June 18-22, and the week before school begins, August 27-31.

Children attend Camp *Haverim* (friends) a week at a time through the rest of the summer, with activities based on weekly themes: Creatures Great and Small, June 25-29; Hurrah for the Red, White and Blue, July 2-6; *Mitzvah* Magic, July 9-13; Water, Water Everywhere, July 16-20; Israel — the Land of Milk and Honey, July 23-27; Where in the World?., July 30-August 3; *Tikkun Olam* — Renew, Reuse, Recycle, August 6-10; Native American Adventures, August 13-17, and Maccabiah Week, Famous Jewish Athletes, August 20-24.

Weekly field trips include a visit to Theatre-By-the-Sea and a cruise aboard the Southland Riverboat.

Each day, children select a special activity that interests them such as newspaper, games of strategy, arts and crafts, gymnastics, cooking, and additional sports and games. There also are week-long speciality camps.

Orientation for campers and parents will be Wednesday, June 20 at 6:45 pm in the JCC Social hall.

For more information, call Charli Lurie at 401-861-8800, ext. 147.

Emanuel to chair annual meeting

Stacy and Douglas Emanuel will co-chair the 76th annual meeting of the Jewish Community Center of RI on Wednesday, May 9 at 7:30 pm in the Center's Social Hall. The meeting will celebrate and highlight the multiple "communities" in the JCC family.

Slated to be installed as officers and directors are: President, Bruce Leach; 1st Vice President, Jenny Klein; Vice Presidents: Douglas Emanuel, Cindy Feinstein, Paul Formal, Bertram Lederer; Treasurer, Jeffrey Vogel; Secretary, Harley Frank; Associate Secretary, Deborah Rosenfeld.

Directors to be elected to 3-year-terms: Daniel Kaplan, Laura Merhoff, Linda Mittleman, Richard Mittleman, Barbara Schneider, Gerald Shapiro, Tina Odessa, Pam Vogel.

Director to be elected to a 2 year term: Debra Page.

Other features of the meeting and celebration include a special thank you to outgoing officers and directors, and recognition of Volunteers of the Year and staff of the JCC. A dessert reception will follow.

Was that Moses or Elijah at JCC children's model seder?



To help children enrolled in the Early Childhood Center prepare for *Pesah*, Rabbi Alvan Kaunfer of Temple Emanu-El donned a white beard and robe to dramatize the events that the seder commemorates, helping the children feel as if they, too, traveled from Egypt and wandered in the desert. Children discovered seder plates and matzah boxes in house-keeping centers, frogs in the water tables, pyramids in the sand tables, frog puppets in the drama centers and books about Passover in their libraries. They even made *haroset*, meringue cookies and *matzah brei*.

Food, singing, dance band all part of Israel party at JCC May 21

The community can gather at the Jewish Community Center on Monday, May 21, *Yom Yerushalayim* (Jerusalem Day) to join in an Israeli celebration.

Young, old, and in-between, especially Israelis living in Rhode Island, are invited to the JCC. The celebration will begin at 6:00 pm with an Israeli supper buffet featuring traditional Israeli fare — falafel, tebhina, hummus, Israeli salad and more. Crafts for children, storytelling, singing by school children from the day schools, and special Jerusalem "theme" activities, are part of the evening's program.

At 7:00 pm, Israeli dancing to live music of the Netsach Band will continue the festivities. The Netsach Band features trumpet, keyboard, guitar and drums. The band performs music ranging from jazz to klezmer.

This program is funded in part by the Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island. For supper reservations and more information, contact Linda Singer-Berk at 401-861-8800, ext. 100.

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Gutterman lecture

Technology hits home

A young man keeps his beeper on the pillow so he will not miss a call... his wife stays up late working in bed on her laptop computer. Both complain of distance in their relationship. This is an example of a case cited by Peter Fraenkel, PhD.



Peter Fraenkel, PhD

in his work as a family therapist.

Family therapy innovators Fraenkel, Evan Imber-Black, PhD and Peggy Papp, MSW, all from the Ackerman Institute for the Family, will be the guest speakers at Jewish Family Service's (JFS) second annual Julie Claire Gutterman Memorial Lecture for mental health professionals. The day-long symposium runs from 8:00 to 4:00 pm on Friday, June 8 at the Providence Marriott.

The workshop, "The Impact



Peggy Papp, MSW

of Technology on Families and Family Therapy," will present various ways technology affects family relationships. All three speakers have published widely, lectured and consult nationally and internationally, and have received honors for their work in family therapy. Papp is the Institute's Senior Training Supervisor and Director of the Depression Project; Imber-Black is the Institute's Director of the Center for Families and Health, and Fraenkel is the Ackerman Institute's Director of Research and Program Evaluation.

Technology and its effects on families has been a special concentration for Fraenkel. His article, "Beeper in the Bedroom," was featured in the March/April issue of the professional journal, "Psycho-



Evan Imber-Black

therapy Networker," which carried the theme of how the digital revolution is changing psychotherapy.

In his article, Fraenkel says, "This technology is altering our very consciousness, our sense of identity and personal integrity, how we form and sustain our most intimate relationships, how we balance our work lives and our home lives, our material existence with the pursuit of spirituality. We are forced to reexamine our fundamental values — to redefine who we are, what we do, whom and what we care about and what we stand for."

He goes on to say, "If anything, the explosion of information and stimulation now at our fingertips requires that, more than ever, individuals, families and communities step back and take stock of who they are, what they wish to become and how technology can help or hinder those goals." Go to bottom right of this page.

That's Life

All About Adoption, Part IV: Finalization and Beyond

by the staff of Adoption Options at Jewish Family Service: Betsy Alper, Shelley Katsch, Peg Boyle and Patty Harwood

When a child is placed with parents through adoption, they become a "forever family." Despite the bonding that may occur between family members, however, a legal procedure must take place in order for the adoption to be final. In Rhode Island finalization can occur once the child has resided in the adoptive home for six months.

Finalization of a domestic adoption in most states, including Rhode Island, involves a court appearance by the family accompanied by an agency representative or adoption attorney. Paperwork is submitted attesting to the parents' ability to care for the child financially, physically and morally. The judge decrees that from that day forward the child becomes the legal child of the adoptive family and reads aloud the name chosen by the adoptive family. This name may or may not include, by choice of the family, one given to the child by the birth parents. Judges usually enjoy this aspect of their work and are happy to pose for pictures with the family. Grandparents, friends and cousins sometimes attend these brief but highly significant ceremonies. The "adoption day" is celebrated for years to come.

Each child's story of how he or she joined the family, whether by adoption or by birth, is different, and, hopefully, is celebrated as such. All children have areas of vulnerability, and adoption can magnify identity, attachment and other issues. (Difficulties in these areas happen to biological children as well.) While it is critical to know the place of adoption in someone's life, it is equally important not to assign responsibility to adoption as the source of an issue when it may not be the case.

Adoption adds a component to a family's life that is enriching and compelling, affording families a special opportunity. It gives parents the ability to watch a child grow and develop without the expectations that he or she will have "Mom's knack for science" or "Dad's artistic talent." Attributions such as these can be burdensome, and can mask a child's individuality. Celebrating the unique child who is brought into a family through adoption provides new opportunities for healthy parenting.

Adoption Options' next two monthly meetings will be June 7 and July 5 from 6:00 to 7:00 pm in the offices of Jewish Family Service, the sponsoring agency, on the second floor of 209 Waterman St., Providence. These informational meetings are free and open to anyone interested in pursuing an adoption. 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.

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The loss of a husband or wife can be devastating. Sometimes a simple incident can spark a memory that ignites pain. Not only is one's soulmate gone, there are mundane considerations — how to do the finances, make social plans, maintain the house and other tasks the spouse used to do.

Men and women who find themselves in this situation can attend a free JFS workshop on Thursday, May 31 at 7:00 pm at 229 Waterman Street in Providence. The program will be led by Erin Gisherman Minior, JFS Director of Professional Services. Minior, a therapist, says, "The goal of this group of people with a mutual problem is to create an atmosphere of trust and caring where participants can discuss their common concerns and methods of coping."

To attend, call her at 401-331-1244. This initial workshop is free; subsequent meetings will cost \$5.00.

Technology...

Lecture participants will learn practical strategies to help families use new technology as a resource — creating new and meaningful daily rituals that connect people rather than separate them.

The program will offer Continuing Education Units for professional development for psychologists, social workers, licensed

marriage and family therapists and nurses. The fee for the day is \$75 and includes lunch. To register, call JFS at 401-331-1244.

The Julie Claire Gutterman Memorial Lecture was established to honor the memory of Julie Gutterman, who served as the Director of Professional Services at the agency for six-and-a-half years until her death in 1999.

Medical commentaries

A disorder much like any other

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

The Bible describes Saul as a deeply troubled monarch subject to spells of melancholy and intervals of manic behavior. "An evil spirit from God came mightily upon Saul" (I Samuel 19:9). And once, too, there was an episode when he fell to the ground and lay there for both day and night.

Biblical scholars, including Dr. Julius Preuss, have interpreted these episodes to suggest that Saul was a victim of the falling sickness, the name given to the disease known currently as epilepsy.

There is, in truth, no authentic description of epilepsy in the Hebrew Scriptures. Certainly it takes a substantial measure of imaginative credulity to accept the descriptions of Saul's distress as clear proof of his epileptic status. A skeptic, religiously observant or not, could offer many alternative reasons why Saul fell to the ground. It might have been fatigue, grief, remorse or even an overwhelming humility in the presence of a higher authority.

Some interpreters of the Bible also point to the description of Abram falling before the vision of the Lord (Genesis 17:3) as an example of an epileptic equivalent. The evidence is at best meager, as is the reference to Balaam when he saw the vision of the Lord (Numb. 24:4) "... falling into a trance but having his eyes open." This is a frail bit of evidence upon which to hang a diagnosis of epilepsy.

Epilepsy is not that rare, and it is therefore curious that the Hebrew Bible provides no reliable description of the disease. There are few human diseases which arise so abruptly, speak so boldly, and define themselves so readily as epilepsy. There is little clinical subtlety when the major form of epilepsy descends upon its victim.

The unbidden affliction announces itself explosively with altered consciousness (with the eyes usually remaining open), inarticulate cries, diminished motor control, convulsions and incontinence followed by an amnesic interval of variable length.

The early Greeks called it *Herakleia nosos*, the illness of Hercules, since the legendary hero had been prone to seizures. Ancient Rome was well acquainted with epilepsy. They called it *morbus caducus* (the falling sickness), *morbus sacer* (the sacred sickness), *morbus demoniacus* (the demonic sickness), or *morbus comitialis* (sickness of the assembly hall) since it was customary to shut down the public assembly site (*comitia*) for ritual purification whenever any Roman legislator experienced a seizure.

In Act 1, Scene 2 of Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar," Casca recounts one of Caesar's many epileptic attacks: "He fell down in the market place, and foamed at the mouth, and was speechless." Brutus responds: "Tis very like, he hath the falling sickness."

Chapter 9 of the Gospel according to Luke, begins with Jesus assembling his 12 disciples, giving them "power and authority over all devils and to cure diseases." This story then unfolds: "And, behold, a man of the company cried out, saying, 'Master, I beseech thee, look upon my son: for he is my only child.' And lo, a spirit taketh him and he suddenly crieth out; and it teareth him that he foameth again, and bruising him hardly departeth from him. And I besought thy disciples to cast him out; and they could not." (Luke 9:38-40) It is a poignant story easily understood by any diligent parent. And it describes a disease that did not then respond to casual therapies.

While many feared epilepsy as a demonic possession, rational voices were also heard. Hippocrates wrote that epilepsy was not a spirit-possessing disease but a disorder much like any other. "And they who first referred this disease to the gods, using the divinity as a pretext and screen of their inability to offer any assistance, have given out that the disease is sacred. . . . Neither truly do I count it a worthy opinion to hold that the body of man is polluted by god."

Epilepsy seemed to have been so common

amongst the leaders of antiquity (eg. Caesar, Alexander the Great, even Caligula) that some thought it to be a necessary attribute for military greatness. Some feared and avoided the epileptic. Others believed that the seizures stemmed from a body occupied by divine sources; and accordingly the epileptic was often treated with respect, even homage.

A gradual transformation took place in the medieval era when epilepsy increasingly was viewed as a manifestation of satanic possession and therefore required theological rather than medical intervention. John of Gaddesden, the famous 14th-century English court physician, when confronted with an epileptic patient, advised that the physician whisper into the patient's ear: "Depart demon, and go forth!" He commented further: "This species of devil is not cast out save by prayer and fasting. The patient should then write out this gospel and wear it about his neck and he will be cured."

Before the 19th century, therapy for epilepsy varied from the bizarre to the ineffectually innocent. The blood of gladiators or executed criminals was frequently recommended as a preventive measure; and Hans Christian Andersen recalled seeing parents force their epileptic children to drink the warm blood of recently beheaded criminals. A standard anti-epileptic decoction, in those days, consisted of the boiled and macerated leaves of elder, garlic, peony and mistletoe. Why mistletoe? Because it tenaciously clung to the upper branches of the oak tree, never falling to the ground, and hence it must be helpful in the falling illness.

Gradually, the neurophysiologists explored the nature of normal brain impulses and the manner in which certain segments of the cerebrum held dominion over motor activity in the limbs.

Epilepsy was then conceived of as an explosive event in which ungoverned impulses were initiated from an abnormal cerebral locus. The idea of out-of-body possession was now replaced by the more secular concept of abnormal, involuntary excitation arising from a pathological segment of the cerebral cortex. And gradually, too, effective therapies, both medical and surgical, were devised.

Studies have demonstrated that there are many forms of epilepsy, not all convulsive, caused by a spectrum of unrelated ills including birth injury, vascular disorders, metabolic changes and even brain tumors. Current treatment has evolved to a stage where the great majority of epileptics may now lead productive lives unburdened by the threat of seizures. But society's memory is long, and there are still those who think of epilepsy as possession by demonic forces.

Jewish Hospice offers training, certification

The National Institute for Jewish Hospice (NIJH), headquartered in Englewood, NJ, has developed an accreditation program to educate, train and guide institutions directly involved with the treatment and caring of the Jewish terminally ill, whether they are hospitals, nursing homes or freestanding non-profit or for-profit institutions.

To achieve accreditation an institution must complete a specialized Jewish training program for health professionals and volunteers. Once completed, the palliative care institution commits to follow guidelines that focus on responsive end-of-life care within a framework of Jewish values and traditions.

NIJH was established to help alleviate suffering in serious and terminal illness. Its 52,000 members include business and professional leaders and a consortium of endowing foundations. For more information, contact Shirley Lamm, executive director, at 1-800-446-4448.

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Pulitzer for fiction Comic book hero tops

by Peter Ephross

NEW YORK (JTA) — Michael Chabon's sprawling novel about a young Jew who escapes from Europe on the eve of World War II and makes it big in New York's comic book industry has made him a literary superhero.

Chabon's *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay* won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction this week, earning the 37-year-old Jewish author one of the world's top literary awards.

The 659-page book is full of magic, both literary and literal.

Joe Kavalier, who apprenticed to a magician, escapes from Czechoslovakia in a coffin after a scene involving the legendary Golem of Prague.

After he arrives in New York, he and his cousin Sammy Clay thrive — for a while, at least — by creating a character, "The Escapist," a young hero rescued from an orphanage in Central Europe who derives his powers to fight evil from a golden key.

The creative forces behind the comic industry in that era — considered the Golden Age of comic books — were mainly Jewish men: Superman creators Joe Shuster and Jerry Siegel and Captain America and Hulk creator Jack Kirby, for instance.

Chabon himself was a big comics fan as a kid. "I grew up steeped in comic books," he once told an interviewer. Like his father before him, Chabon's father would bring him comic books every Friday after work.

As an adult, Chabon re-opened his old collection. "When I opened it up and that smell came pouring out, that old smell, I was struck by a rush of memories, a sense of my childhood self that seemed to be continued in there," he has been quoted as saying.

The page-turning novel, replete with Jewish themes, comes after Chabon has moved closer to Judaism. After a childhood he describes as a "standard suburban Jewish upbringing" spent partially in the planned community of Columbia, Md., Chabon earned a bachelor's degree at the University of Pittsburgh.

He made a literary splash in the late 1980s with his highly acclaimed debut, *The Mysteries of Pittsburgh*. His second novel, *Wonder Boys*, about a college professor undergoing a midlife crisis, was made into a movie starring Michael Douglas.

While *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay* is a much more ambitious and wide-ranging work than his first two novels, it shares the element of men struggling with relationships that also appeared in his earlier books.

After his first marriage, to a non-Jew, dissolved, Chabon married an Israeli lawyer and writer Ayelet Waldman. The two live in Berkeley, Calif., with their two children. Chabon has joined a Jewish Renewal synagogue there and sits on its board.

For someone who has been called an "American Vladimir Nabokov," Chabon appears to think of himself in a different light.

Chabon — who turned down an offer to appear in *People* magazine's "50 Most Beautiful People" list — describes himself as "nebbishy." Perhaps that's why, despite the comic feel of the novel and some initial triumphs for its heroes, Joe Kavalier and Sammy Clay face multiple struggles. First they lose control of their comic creation. Then, after Joe learns that his younger brother died before he could leave Europe, he joins the army — and disappears.

Sammy, meanwhile, faces his own personal demons.

Despite his great success, Chabon appears to be struggling with some demons as well.

He told *The Associated Press* after he won the award that "For some reason, the idea of failure is never very far from my mind, especially when I turn to thinking about writing and literature."



Gallery 401 presents four artists on Sho'ah

"Four Views/The Holocaust," will be the featured exhibit in Gallery 401 of the Jewish Community Center of RI from May 6-31.

Harriet Goldman Caldwell, of Connecticut, has focused her art on the effects of the Holocaust on children. An instructor at the University of Hartford, Hartford Art School, Caldwell has participated in many Holocaust related exhibitions throughout the East Coast.

Berta R. Golahny, of Massachusetts, came to her current "painterly dialogue" after a trip through the Sinai Desert. She uses oil on linen and engraving on boxwood and copper to express how form and color unite. Her work may be found in public collections in the Library of Philadelphia, MIT, Harvard and Boston Athenaeum, as well as in many publications.

Sandra Aarons Krupp is from Rhode Island and has found herself creating Holocaust themed artwork in response to the need to evoke true feelings of horror and grief. Deeply affected by the poetry of Paul Celan, Krupp's work reflects the cruelty of the Nazis. Her work has been seen throughout Rhode Island and New England.

Caroline Novak, of Toronto, Canada, has worked extensively on the theme of Holocaust art for many years. Her oils reflect her interest in the documentation and interpretation of the Holocaust and Jewish culture. She has exhibited throughout Toronto.

The opening reception will be Thursday, May 10, 5:00 pm-8:00 pm. Gallery hours are Monday-Friday 9:00 am-5:00 pm. Admission is free.

"They came for good" PBS to air history of Jews in United States

by Peter Ephross

NEW YORK (JTA) — A Jewish mother reacts to the news that her daughter has married a non-Jew: "My spirit was for some time so depressed that it was a pain for me to speak or see anyone. My house has been my prison ever since."

Sound like a contemporary lament?

These words come from colonial America in a letter written by Abigail Franks about her daughter's marriage to a prominent French Huguenot.

The tale of Franks' timeless worries is just one of many in a two-part documentary, "They Came For Good: A History of the Jews in the United States," which will be aired on public television stations across the nation during the next few months.

The film traces the first 200-plus years of Jewish life in the New World from 1654 — when 23 Brazilian Jewish refugees landed in Dutch New Amsterdam in what is present-day New York — to 1880, the beginning of the massive Eastern European Jewish immigration.

Amram Nowak, the documentary's producer and director, is currently at work on the next installments in his series, which will bring the story of US Jewry to the present day.

The documentary — which uses a mixture of scholars and actors speaking in the voices of historical characters — frames American Jewish history as a struggle to maintain "identity while assimilating into a welcoming culture," as narrator Mason Adams says at the beginning of the first part.

That idea stands as the framing device for the American Jewish experience, Nowak says. "Will there be a Jewish community outside of the strictly Orthodox 50 years from now? It's a big question that nobody can answer," says Nowak, who made the film along with his wife, Manya Starr, who died before the project was completed.

The documentary highlights the Jewish experience in the major events in American history — the Revolution, the westward expansion, the Civil War.

The film's strength stems from the fact that its story is told through the lives of individual Jews, both well and little known.

Long life means more services

Not so long ago, all the care a senior could need was provided by the family doctor and loved ones. But today, as people live longer, healthier, more active lives, their medical and social needs have become increasingly complex. This longevity, while welcome, does offer a unique set of challenges.

The diversity of the elder population and the challenges of serving seniors are realities that Jewish Seniors Agency has been aware of for quite some time. In fact, its programs and services were specifically designed with these new realities in mind.

"We have always tried to tailor our programs to address the many needs of our community," says Susette Rabinowitz, Jewish Seniors Agency (JSA) executive director. "As a result, our services are quite varied and reach a wide range of people."

The faces of older Americans have also changed. Today's elderly population may be babysitters for their grandchildren, or part of the "young-old" caring for the "old-old" as baby-boomers become the caregivers for their parents. Some seniors are still in the work force while others live in older adult communities. In response to this multi-

generational aging population, May has been designated Older Americans Month, 2001. The Many Faces of Aging by the Administration on Aging.

The programs at the JSA reflect this year's theme, with an emphasis on diversity and individualized care. For caregivers, the agency offers InfoQuest, the Jewish seniors' information and referral line. While the dynamics of care giving has changed, the need for information has not. InfoQuest can provide caregivers and family members immediate access to a wide range of medical and service providers, as well as answer questions about everything from financial assistance to transportation needs.

"The caregivers' job is tremendous. They do what they do out of love, and are often unassisted," said Susan Adler, InfoQuest information specialist. "We want them to know that there is support available right in their own community, and InfoQuest can help put them in touch with these services."

Caregivers and elderly who do not need 24-hour care but still need some daily assistance can also benefit from the JSA's Comprehensive Adult Day Center, which is open

weekdays from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm. The Center provides medical monitoring, case management and a variety of therapeutic and recreational activities.

"The Day Center is a wonderful alternative for caregivers who want to keep loved ones at home, but cannot care for them all day long," explained Sharon Rice, the Day Center's director. "We provide a safe and nurturing environment for our clients."

Another option offered by the JSA is Shalom Apartments, an affordable housing complex for the elderly. At Shalom seniors can live independently, but still remain part of a community. Amenities include daily lunches, organized activities such as conversational activities and an on-site store. Tenants find the friendly atmosphere and central location to be two of the complex's greatest assets.

Those requiring skilled nursing care, such as that offered at nursing homes and assisted living facilities, are not forgotten by JSA. The Jewish ElderCare of Rhode Island (JERI) program visits all Jewish residents at these facilities throughout Rhode Island. JERI staff and volunteers offer residents companionship, spiritual guidance

Please go back to page 27.

SAGE concert

Klezmer Conservatory Band with Bressler, Stahl to play for seniors



Vocalist Judy Bressler

Sometimes soulful, sometimes joyous, always mesmerizing, an ensemble from the Klezmer Conservatory Band will entertain at the SAGE concert on Tuesday, June 5, 12:30 pm in Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Avenue, Providence.

The ensemble program invites listeners to dance, tap their feet, clap their hands and participate in a celebratory atmosphere.

Many will be familiar with the featured vocalist, Judy Bressler, who is a founding member of the Klezmer Conservatory Band. A native New Yorker, Bressler is a third generation entertainer who has performed with Itzhak Perlman and Joel Grey. She teaches and leads Yiddish song and dance, plays tambourine and a traditional style drum and cymbal called a 'poyk.' Beyond her superb vocal talents, Bressler has a gift for telling the story of the music and a lively sense of humor.

Another popular and integral performer in the ensemble, clarinetist Ilene Stahl, has received rave reviews for her technical artistry and her ability to communicate with her audience. The ensemble also includes Art Bailey, on piano and accordion, bassist Jim Guttmann, trombonist Mark Hamilton and Grant Smith on drums.

Tickets are \$3.00; the concert is open to all seniors. For tickets or information, call Jewish Family Service at 401-331-1244.

SAGE is a collaboration among the professionals who work with the elderly from the Bureau of Jewish Education of RI, Jewish Family Service, Jewish Seniors Agency, and the Leisure Club at Temple Emanu-El. SAGE provides cultural programming for seniors, plus education about issues facing the elderly and services available to them. It is funded by a grant from the Jewish Federation of RI.



Clarinetist Ilene Stahl

A gift from Golden Agers



Tanya Plungyan (right), president of the Golden Age Club at the Jewish Community Center (JCC), presented a \$100 check to Janet Engelhart, Jewish Federation executive vice president. The donation was ear-marked for the campaign to replace an ambulance in the Afula-Gilboa region in Israel. Over 50 ambulances throughout Israel have been burned or sabotaged by Palestinians. The Golden Ageers also make a donation to the JCC.

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Does someone you know need help with personal care, but not want to leave home? There are many factors to consider in making a decision to use Jewish Family Service's (JFS) Home Care. For instance:

- Would the person be able to stay at home with a little help?

To remain in one's own home, surrounded by all that is loved and familiar, is the dream for many people. JFS Home Care Service can help people maintain their quality of life and sense of independence through assistance with personal care and practical matters.

- Are you caring for an older relative and need a break?

JFS Home Care can provide a respite that allows you to find the balance you may need.

- Is a loved one not eating properly because of difficulty cooking?

The JFS Certified Nursing Assistants (CNA) can shop for groceries and prepare nutritious meals. If Kashruth is requested, all CNAs are trained in dietary laws.

- Need assistance with personal care while recuperating?

CNAs will help with bathing, dressing and grooming.

- Are relatives who could help too far away?

JFS Home Care provides a link to out-of-town relatives, keeping them informed of the person's

needs and choices.

- Do you know someone who is isolated because of frail health?

CNAs also provide companionship and the opportunity to get out and socialize when possible.

- Does an older relative need help keeping track of medications?

The JFS Registered Nurses will monitor medications, health and medical conditions of all Home Care clients and alert family and doctors when situations may warrant adjustments.

- Are housekeeping tasks becoming too much?

CNAs will make sure that the person's home is tidy and laundry is done.

- Do you or someone you know need a little help to remain independent?

Sometimes a little help is all it takes to be able to stay at home. JFS Home Care can give that help.

The JFS Registered Nurses will assess a client's needs and provide a plan for their care, monitor health and medical conditions, supervise the CNAs and provide information and referrals when appropriate.

In addition to Home Care Service, JFS offers: counseling, the JFS Kasher Mealsite in Cranston, Lifeline /RI personal emergency response system, outreach for the elderly and for their families, Kasher Meals on Wheels in the Cranston and Warwick areas, and information and referrals.

For information and assessments, call JFS Home Care at 401-331-1244, ext. 29 or 32.

Harold Fishman and Shirley Weiss at the Passover celebration at the JFS Kasher Mealsite. Rabbi Mark Bloom, of Temple Torat Yisrael, led the model seder. For information about the JFS Mealsite at



Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Avenue, Cranston, call mealsite coordinator Ronda French, 401-781-1771 during Mealsite hours, or JFS, 401-331-1244, ext. 42.

Volunteers bedrock of JSA programs

Hundreds of volunteers work together to serve Rhode Island's Jewish community. At the Jewish Seniors Agency volunteers are an essential part for success.

"Empty-nesters and retirees make up most of our volunteers at the JSA," says Susette Rabinowitz, executive director. "But many professionals and stay-at-home moms do a lot to help us, too."

"The wonderful part about volunteering is that anyone can do it," she adds. At JSA, no age requirement or special skills are necessary to get involved.

Volunteering gives someone the opportunity to match their skills with the needs of the community, the chance to try out something new, or perhaps pursue a calling they never followed.

People volunteer for a wide variety of reasons, but most commonly out of a sense of altruism, or wanting to help others.

"But it's OK to want some benefit for yourself from volunteering," says Rabinowitz. "In fact, while most people perceive volunteering as a charitable act, it is usually most successful when the volunteer benefits along with the recipient. It's almost like an exchange," she adds. "Many people volunteer out of a sense of civic

duty."

Opportunities abound to volunteer at JSA, including working one-on-one at the Day Center or through monthly visits to a nursing home resident as part of the JERI program. Volunteers can also help in a group setting, such as sharing a special talent or chaperoning a field trip for Day Center clients.

The new spirituality-based CHAVER (Caring Helpers And Visitors Enliven Residents) will train prospective volunteers to be spiritual care visitors to nursing home or assisted living residents. The program is designed to encourage long-term relationships between the CHAVER volunteers and the nursing home residents.

"CHAVER has a formal training program, so there's no experience necessary," Susan Adler, JERI director, said. "The only thing required is the desire to make a difference in someone's life."

Volunteers also assist the JSA through their roles in the Women's Association by knitting pieces for the group's store. Other opportunities include helping out with special projects or providing administrative support at the agency's office.

To learn more about the JSA and volunteer opportunities, call Joyce Spemulli at 401-351-4750.

In collaboration

Crafts with Martha, ideas with Natan, singing with Stan added to programs

Collaborative programs between the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island and the Jewish Seniors Agency are expanding with two new programs.

Rabbi Natan Schafer, a pastoral counselor in the JERI office, will lead a discussion group at the JCC on the 3rd Friday of the month. This group may talk about such subjects as "Journey of the soul — from womb to tomb and beyond." The next discussion will be on Friday, May 18th.

Another program is "Crafts with Martha." Martha Wexler, a staff member in the JERI program, led the class in making *matzoh* covers for Passover. The next craft class will be on Friday, May 25th.

Center Singers, a long-standing program of the JCC, is now led by Stanley Freedman, a former music teacher at Hope High School. The Center Singers sing out each Thursday at 11:00 am.

As we grow older

Ah, Larry, where is your ilk now?

by Tema Gouse

I have some confessions to make. I have never heard Ricky Martin sing. (He is a singer, isn't he?) I am not sure if Britney Spears is male or female. I know how to spell Gwyneth Paltrow and Keanu Reeves but I have never seen them at the movies and I think their names are silly. (This from someone named Tema Raisa Potrenze Gouse).

Where did someone dig up these modern day icons? And if they are really as talented as their ridiculous incomes imply, how does it happen that my generation, certainly the wisest, has not become enamored of them?

Now MY generation had favorites who truly merited the favor. Public figures, singers, actors, athletes of the 30s, 40s and the 50s were truly deserving of stardom. By the 60s, celebrity was already reflecting declining tastes. Let me elaborate.

Let's begin with my all-time favorite. With absolutely no reservation or embarrassment I will tell you of my long-time love (unreciprocated, of course) of Lawrence Olivier. As I watched "Wuthering Heights" and "Rebecca" multiple times I was convinced that he epitomized manliness, honor, talent and, face it, sexiness.

When, years later, I learned that he abandoned Vivien Leigh for an adulteress I suffered grave disillusion. When rumors of his bisexuality surfaced I did not believe them but still transferred my fantasies to that then-emerging sex symbol, Paul Newman. Take it from this old lady — that's a HUNK!

Dance bands of the 40s have never been duplicated. The music of the Glenn Miller, Tommy Dorsey and Benny Goodman bands was music to dance to and you could even touch the arms and back of your dancing partner while doing so. It had rhythm and melody, not cacophony. The words of their singers were enunciated and we learned to sing along with them. Try figuring out what today's star noisemakers are saying!

First we loved Bing Crosby. Then we realized Frank Sinatra sang better. Skinny, not handsome. Often a very bad boy. Too many wives and questionable associates. But when he sang "My Way" we all owned the sentiment. With increasing popularity across all age groups he remained in the limelight for over 40 years. Do you think that Eminem will last four years?

I must admit that I never appreciated the talents of Bette Davis, Joan Crawford or Katherine Hepburn. Their exaggerated grimaces were more theatrical than sincere. But when Ingrid Bergman or Sophia Loren lit up the screen, they could shut out the real world. Can Gwyneth Paltrow make that claim? Or Madonna? Madonna — YUK!

The sports figures of the past have become legendary. Many had personal problems but the media concentrated on their accomplishments. Public disillusionment was minimal. They became role models. Today's athletes may be applauded but it is the rare one who becomes a role model. After Michael Jordan and Tiger Woods, I cannot think of another sports role model.

We had heroes in every field. FDR took on the stature of an omnipotent god at a time when life was tough and idols were needed. His wars were not exposed until late in his presidency and after his death. Lucky guy — they hadn't invented TV yet.

Marion Anderson stood 10 feet tall when her voice enchanted us and her courageous stances were inspiring in an era when bigotry was rampant and undisguised.

Lou Gehrig's abilities on the ballfield were admired. But he became a model of strength when he left the ballfield knowing his once-robust body had been attacked by a cruel, debilitating disease.

So these are my impressions of the standards of today's seniors as we reflect. How will our grandchildren view their favorites 40 or 50 years from now? Will they still idealize them, or will they feel they were duped? Or just lacking in taste? Or worse yet, will they still admire loud, word-jumbled music, violent movies, orange and blue hair, and football players who feel that 10 Sundays on the field entitles them to multi-million dollar salaries?

I should have started this commentary by suggesting that anyone under 30 not read it. They would never understand my biases.

May line-up wide ranging: music, politics, environment

The Leisure Club, which meets at Temple Emanu-El, has a line-up for May of environment, remedies, music and Torah that should appeal to a wide range of Jewish seniors.

On Mondays through May 21, from 10:00-10:50 am, Michael Sheff will discuss "Jews and the Natural World" followed by a 50-minute program on "The World of Pharmaceuticals and Herbal Remedies," a subject which will feature different speakers each week.

On Thursdays, seniors get a "Musical History Lesson with Lloyd Kaplan," followed by Rabbi Jonathan Blake of Temple Beth-El, Providence, discussing "The Ten Commandments: A New Approach."

The Sunday program will be part of the club's annual meeting on May 20 and will feature M. Charles Bakst on "Politics up to the Minute."

Afternoon excursions in May are also on the docket beginning with a Trip to Newport on Thursday, May 17. Participants will visit Touro Synagogue, ride around Ocean Drive and shop at Brick Marketplace.

A week later, on May 24, they will travel to Foothills Theatre in Worcester to see "Man of La Mancha," the Tony Award-winning musical about Don Quixote and his love for Dulcinea, which features the song, "Impossible Dream."

The club also announces that it will sponsor a special Shabbat dinner on Friday, June 29 beginning at 5:45 pm.

For more information call 401-826-0771.



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