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Special
Occasions

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JCCRI Open House Offers a Glimpse at New Programs

Every fall, the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island opens its doors to all, offering members of the community a chance to sample its programs and use its facilities.

This year, the JCCRI fall open house will last an entire week — from Sept. 10 through 15 — and will include use of the Family Fitness Center, classes for different ages, and tours.

Special Sunday events will include arts and crafts, Club 456, and Outdoor Club meetings, children's movies and refreshments and a mock birthday party for children and youth.

For adults there will be Sunday morning step aerobics, body composition profiles, blood pressure checks and a water aerobics class.

The early childhood department, which recently completed a comprehensive survey, has found ways to improve upon its already successful programs. A host of changes in the facility as well as in the curriculum are in place for the beginning of the school year. In addition, the department's new and flexible Kindergarten Options program

is now better structured to fit the varying schedules of busy families.

The first Gallery 401 exhibit of the fall, a photographic exhibit by Eric Gould and Ray Canavan, will be held from Sept. 10 through Oct. 18.

Upcoming shows include a HIAS Means Freedom exhibit depicting the history of Jewish immigration, Lynne Lederman's collages, Carole Cohen's watercolors, and Lori Weinberg's illustrations.

Beginning this year, center members can enjoy lunches and light suppers with the JCCRI's new Café Cart. Food and drink items will be available for purchase mornings and afternoons. For those who enjoy relaxing in a whirlpool, sauna or steam room, or would like to take advantage of free towel service and additional amenities, there is the new Fitness Center Plus+ membership. Full members can upgrade their membership to Fitness Center Plus+ status and also receive preferred rates on many classes.

Toddlers through seniors can take part in a variety of new classes and special events, in-



Back to School

From left, Yisroel Yavner, a 9-year-old entering the third grade, and Yechezkel Vogel, a 4-year-old in pre-kindergarten, pose in front of their Rosh Hashanah bulletin boards at Providence Hebrew Day School. The new school year began Sept. 6.

Herald photos by Neil Nachbar

cluding Beginner Athletes in Team Sports for under age 5, cartooning and clay bead jewelry for preteens, interfaith conferences for teens, a walking club for adults and Alexander Technique of relaxation for mothers.

For more information about the open house, membership, classes or programs, call Evy Rappoport at 861-8800.

A New Perspective for Jewish Young Adults

by Neil Nachbar
Herald Associate Editor

The high rate of intermarriage and assimilation has long been a concern of the Jewish community. Despite this trend, little has been done — at least in Rhode Island — to service the young adult population. The few programs and groups that have attempted to reach out to young adults have failed, or at best, been only mildly successful.

Now, a new group called Perspectives will try to address the needs of this overlooked segment of the population. Perspectives describes itself as a "20- to 30-something group committed to social action, Jewish philanthropy and social opportunities for Jewish young adults in Rhode Island."

The group represents the combined effort of a couple of smaller groups. Within the past year, the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island and the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island have tried to organize events for young professionals. At the same time, Jewish graduate students at the University of Rhode Island and Brown University expressed an interest in meeting young adults from outside of their school.

"The groups were doing similar things," said Garrett Sock, chairman of Perspectives. "We decided that it would be most effective if the groups merged."

Guy Bermel, executive director of URI Hillel, and Alisa Berkowitz, assistant director of Brown/RISD Hillel, submitted a five-page grant proposal to the Jewish Continuity Commission of the Federation. The grant was approved and the group's first meeting was held in mid-July.

On Sept. 17 at 6:30 p.m., Perspectives will hold its first event at J. Elliott's at 959 Hope St. on the East Side. The comedy of Mary-Ellen DiPetrillo will be followed by hors d'oeuvres and refreshments. Those interested should call 863-1591. J. Elliott's holds 60 to 70 people and 350 to 450 invitations have been sent out.

Based on the figures of a 1987 demographic study conducted by the Federation, Bermel and Berkowitz estimated in the grant proposal that at least 2,400 of the 17,000 Jewish people in Rhode Island are between the ages of 21 and 34.

Bermel was instrumental in establishing two young adult organizations in Sydney, Australia. Prior to coming to Rhode Island last year, he also extended advice to the Atlanta Federation Young Adult Division.

Unlike some other organizations in the area, Perspectives is not a singles-only group.

"We didn't want the events to be stressful, where people feel they have to meet someone," said Sock.

The Year in Review: 5755

Part II

by Yosef I. Abramowitz

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Watching the election returns last November, Diana Aviv remembers feeling shocked.

"I, and the Jewish community, had underestimated the amount of anger out there in the general population," said the director of the Washington Action Office of the Council of Jewish Federations. "We were caught off guard."

Dramatic transformations in the political, religious and social climate during the past year affected nearly every aspect of American and Jewish life.

From the cutbacks in elderly housing subsidies to prayer in public schools, from likely reductions in the numbers of refugees permitted to enter this country to a renewed debate on affirmative action, American Jews became keenly aware that their long-standing public policy positions are vulnerable to trends and events outside their immediate control.

As nearly every domestic po-

sition that has defined the organized Jewish community for the past 50 years has come under assault in the 140th Congress, it has become clear that the center of gravity moved to the right and the language and values used in the debate on the future of America are more often those derived from the Christian Coalition than from Jewish sources.

"The best metaphor for what the Republicans have done to the broad Jewish public policy agenda is the Titanic," said Rabbi Sidney Schwarz, president of The Washington Institute for Jewish Leadership and Values.

"The principles and programs that the Jewish community has selflessly supported for many decades are sinking fast."

On Nov. 8, 1994, fully 85 percent of the Jewish electorate typically voted Democrat and against the Republican "Contract With America," but Republicans swept both houses of Congress as well as 30 governorships, radically changing the balance of power in America.

The change coincided with a

time when American Jewish interests had shifted closer to home. And many, though not all, did not like what they were seeing.

"In this past year we have seen a complete sea change in attitudes about what is the proper role of the federal government," says Aviv, referring to the Republican initiatives to shift responsibility for government programs from Washington to the 50 states.

According to CJE, \$3.5 billion of public funds now flow to Jewish institutions in the 50 largest Jewish population centers for a variety of programs. It seems unlikely that Jewish fund-raising — flat for a decade — would be able to compensate for anticipated substantial cuts in federal funding aimed at balancing the budget by either 2002, as the Republicans propose, or by 2005, President Clinton's target date.

Although the full implication of efforts to achieve a balanced federal budget are not yet certain, the assault on another area — the Jewish community's tra-

(Continued on Page 7)

INSIDE THE OCEAN STATE

Learn to Lose Weight

Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island will sponsor a six-week weight loss and fitness program beginning on Sept. 19 and concluding on Oct. 24. The program will be held Tuesdays from 5 to 6:15 p.m. in the hospital's Wood 6 conference room.

The program is specifically designed for those who have failed at past dieting attempts, and will teach participants a safer, more effective way to permanent weight loss. It will help participants reduce their body fat, increase their energy level, and follow an overall healthy lifestyle plan.

Led by a registered dietician, the program will feature guest

lecturers and a healthy cooking demonstration, low-fat recipe revisions, assessments of individual eating habits including stress-related eating, tips for dining out, a workshop on label reading, a guide for making healthy choices in the supermarket, and fitness walks.

The fee for this class, which includes all written materials, food samples, and body fat analysis, is \$60. Registration deadline is Sept. 15. The class will be limited to 20 participants.

For more information, call Lyn Schwartz, M.S., R.D., nutrition education coordinator, at 729-2574.

Model Train Show Pulls Into South County

On Sept. 9 and 10 members of the Mohegan-Pequot Model Train Club will again host the annual Model Train Show at the South County Museum, Narragansett.

The show will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. The display table measures 500 square feet and will display model train layouts in HO gauge. Members of

the club will be on hand to demonstrate and answer questions.

Admission to the show is \$2.50 adults, \$1.50 children 6 to 16. Members are admitted free. The South County Museum is located on Rte. 1A, Narragansett. The entrance is opposite the Narragansett town beach pavilion.

The museum is handicapped-accessible.

Mothers of Twins Club to Meet

The Rhode Island Mothers of Twins Club, Midland Chapter,

will hold their first monthly meeting on Sept. 13 at 7:30 p.m.

The meetings are held at the Shawmut Baptist Church, 1642 West Shore Road, Warwick. A potluck supper will be held, followed by the discussion of the budget for the 1995-96 season.

New and prospective members are welcome. For more information, call Karen Sheldon at 397-7281 or Nahiah Hookway at 461-1504.

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Women With Disabilities to Meet

The support group for Women with Disabilities, sponsored by the People Actively Reaching Independence Independent Living Center will meet on Sept. 13 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the PARI conference room in wing B at Independence Square.

This will be a birthday celebration. Participants are invited to bring a lunch, or to buy one in the building cafeteria.

Transportation is available in a wheelchair lift-equipped van on a first-come, first-served basis. To arrange transportation, call Krista at PARI, 725-1966.

Cicilline Calls Mall Meeting

Rep. David N. Cicilline (D-Dist. 4) of Providence and Pawtucket will host an informational meeting on the proposed Providence Place Mall for members of the public as well as his Community Advisory Committee.

The meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 11, at the Jewish Community Center, 401 Elm-grove Ave., Providence.

Expected to attend the session are Marcel Valois, director of the State Department of Economic Development; Joseph Larisa, the governor's executive legal counsel; and Aram Garabedian, managing partner of the Warwick Mall.

"With legislation concerning the proposed Providence Place Mall apparently coming before the House of Representatives sometime in September, I arranged for this meeting to give my Community Advisory Group some insight into the proposal from proponents and an opponent of the development," said Cicilline.

"Based on the information presented at this session, I will ask the committee to offer its guidance to me so that the position I take on the legislation will be in the best interest of the residents of my district in Providence and Pawtucket," he said.

The advisory committee is a 25-member group composed of Republicans and Independents as well as Democrats.

Support Group for Men with Disabilities

The Support Group for Men with Disabilities, sponsored by the PARI Independent Living Center, will meet on Sept. 11. The meeting will start at 11:30 a.m. and last until 1 p.m.

The group meets in the Capitol Room on the 11th floor of Westminster Towers on Cahir Street in Providence, next to Central High School. Participants are welcome to bring a lunch, if they wish.

Transportation on a first come, first served basis is available from PARI by calling Kris at 725-1966.

Red Cross to Offer CPR Course

The Rhode Island Chapter of the American Red Cross will conduct a Red Cross Adult CPR course on Sept. 11 from 6 to 10 p.m. at St. Martin's Church, 50 Orchard St., Providence.

Students learn rescue breathing, first aid for choking, and administration of CPR to people 8 years of age and older. The course also teaches students what to do in an emergency as well as first-aid techniques that help heart attack victims.

Graduates receive a Red Cross Adult CPR certificate which is valid for one year. Cost for the course is \$30. Advance registration is required.

For more information or to register, call the Rhode Island Red Cross at 831-7700.

Support Group for People With Epilepsy

The support group for people with epilepsy, sponsored by the People Actively Reaching Independence Independent Living Center, will meet on Sept. 12 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Participants are invited to bring a lunch to enjoy during the meeting.

Speaker at the meeting will be Mildred Jacolucci who will speak on how to deal with and overcome memory loss. Jacolucci teaches at the Community College of Rhode Island and has spoken to many groups throughout the state.

Anyone wishing transportation should call Krista or Janet at PARI, 725-1966.

Learning to Balance Work and Family Needs

Busy working parents, forced to juggle home and workplace priorities, often feel isolated and unsupported. Businesses that don't have programs to help employees manage their home and work roles could be losing money and productivity. Work-family consultants Jim Ballard and Barbara Perman, co-creators of a new training program for working parents called "High Performing Parents," have come up with a set of strategies working parents can use to make their time with their kids count the most, so that they are better able to keep their minds on their tasks at work.

Both employers and the working parents they employ will gain skills and understand-

'Cider House Rules' to be Discussed

On Sept. 11 at 7:30 p.m. Books on the Square will resume the meetings of the Second Monday Book Club.

September's discussion will center around John Irving's *The Cider House Rules*. The event is free and open to all those interested. It will take place at Books on the Square, 471 Angell St. in Wayland Square, Providence (331-9097).

Cruise the Info Highway

A seminar designed to introduce participants to methods of searching out information on the "Information Highway" will be given by Peter Haynsworth at the Barrington Public Library on Sept. 20 at 7:30 p.m.

In this program Haynsworth, an operations vice president at Fleet Bank, who also independently provides advice on information system issues, will offer an introduction to using personal computers to locate information through commercial on-line services, the Internet and the World Wide Web. Since searching for information on-line is best demonstrated by using specific examples, Haynsworth will share his personal experience in using the information highway to gather information about cancer.

Registration for this free program begins at 9 a.m. on Sept. 13, in person or by phone at the library's reference desk. For more information on this program, contact Lauri Burke at 247-1920.

ing for managing work-family dilemmas by attending a one-day seminar entitled, "Balancing Work and Family Needs."

The seminar, conducted by Ballard and Perman, will be held on Sept. 30, at the Essex House, 133 Gano St., Providence, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The cost of the seminar is \$175, with a \$25 discount to members of the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce.

R.S.V.P. to Debbi-Jo Horton, accountant, at P.O. Box 14288, East Providence, R.I. 02914, or by phone at 435-4988, fax (401) 434-9203, on or before Sept. 26.

FOR AD RATES, CALL 724-0200

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FEATURE

A Duo of Dark Dramas

by Mike Fink
Herald Contributing Reporter

"Suffering, it's the only promise life always keeps for us." A chauffeur and guide with white hair and missing teeth says this Buddhist thing to the unhappy heroine of "Beyond Rangoon." She has moonlight dreams of her departed son drawing near to her tent, and then vanishing again. "Shadows, that's all we are and all we have," adds her guru-guide.

Those were the highspots of an otherwise undistinguished script hidden under the alluring title of John Boorman's latest screen epic. He films the rivers and forests of Malaysia, standing in for Burma, with lovely lyrical landscape portraiture. Particularly the rafts and galleys, made of bamboo and straw, and the faces of the actual people, not stars, make a proper impression of exotic anxiety.

Other than setting, the magic of the river, and a few phrases of Buddhist poetry, "Rangoon" falls short of Boorman's grandiose schemes. Right off the bat he makes it clear that victims must flee from villains, but he never takes the time to explain historical or political contexts. So we are left in myth and in rhetorical images of violence and bloodshed. I have a cafe chum who saw it at the Showcase, all alone in the cinema except for one other person—his therapist.

"Kids" played at the Jane Pickens and moved right along to stay put for a fortnight at the Avon. The producer, Gus Van Sant, was my student, and so was the cinematographer, Eric Edwards, who also spent a semester in Paris with me. He had a fever, and I had to bring his suppers to his hotel room.

I watched this curious endeavor with an eye for the characters and tastes of the makers.

Gus came to town this past spring, and described himself in light self-mockery as a "voyeur," like all movie people. Perhaps more than most in this documentary-style glimpse at the wild world of young teens. Eric's camera traces their forms, brown boys with smooth torsos huddled on couches smoking pot and smiling softly to each other in a cluttered unkempt room. The girls, with haunting, lovely faces, shout uncouth confessions to each other and pay a visit to health centers to confess their secrets. The social workers with impassive faces interview them about their sex lives and take blood tests.

Edwards studies the ignorant faces and lithe forms of these desperate young people with patience and dignity, even with sympathy. He cuts through their guffawing, bragging and posturing with crafted portraits that let you guess at their spirits and souls. Yes, there is a tragic mood in "Kids" below the sensation-alistic surface. It does not make first love look very appealing, tender, gentle, or in any way

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JESSICA AND HER MOTHER, Maria, in their secret garden. Herald photo by Mike Fink

Potluck In Portsmouth

by Mike Fink

Herald Contributing Reporter Maria Van Anglen and her daughter Jessica hosted the annual meeting of the Sousa Mendes Society at their home in Portsmouth. They set up a potluck dinner in their garden just round the corner from the Mount Hope Bridge.

Jessica, who studies Hebrew with Touro Rabbi Chaim Shapiro for an "honorary bat mitzvah," graciously showed guests the treats of their summer spaces. "We made this frog pond from two buckets we found among junk. We put rocks around them and a waterpump inside. I can watch the frogs eat the mosquitos," Jessica says with a soft smile.

The pathway among the patches of herbs in this secret garden is made of broken chips of brick and stone, tossed away by a previous resident. Now this backdoor square sings with life and good humor.

A canary flings its sweet melodies outside through the screened porch and its wicker cage.

At the group meeting, outgoing president Carolina Matos stated that she now lives just a quarter of an hour away from Belmonte, the seat of the longest Portuguese Jewish community, in a mountain fastness. "The rabbi that Israel sent is too strict with them. Perhaps we can help out."

She also presented the new leader, Warren Teixeira, a retired RISD professor of textile design, who set up a program in Israel at Bezalel Institute.

Bernard Kusnitz installed the officers and board, with a word of thanks for the previous officers.

Oddly, among the spoken words, a roar cut through, as the Newport dinner train tooted and clanked along the tracks just a thin line of trees behind the Van Anglen yard, a blast from the past. Something like a fantasy twilight zone railroad, a children's story come to life.

Jessica guided my pooch, my boy and me back over the tracks

to more secret spots beyond the lawn. "We fish among the turtles in this pond. That grove of trees turns gold in the fall."

And then, we were on the beach. "I swim every day, but a man o' war bit me last week." Jessica plays hostess with ease, poise and wit.

A granddaughter of Paul and Evelyn Schultz, she inherits their love of art and flowers. She shows off the cut-out figures of Peter Rabbit that guard the vegetable patch with its vines and beans and bright tomatoes.

Paul shaped the wood statues, and Jessica colored them.

Among the possible pursuits of the Sousa Mendes Society is the proposal to plant trees in honor of Sousa Mendes, savior of some 30,000 souls in 1940, in Israel. Should the club stay local or go national and international? The new president spoke of these matters.

Jessica, a remarkable and reassuring young person, seemed to personify the best laid plans of the organization. She studies the Portuguese root of her family and finds Jewish traces which she develops and researches.

She plants hope, peace and delight in her own backyard. She mixes poetry, earth and the stretching branches of her personality, and helped make the Sunday afternoon meeting a happy event.

Scotti's Work Exhibited

East Greenwich Photo's Upstairs Gallery, 631 Main St., East Greenwich, will exhibit the photography of Eunice Scotti through Sept. 30. A reception will be held on Sept. 14 from 7 to 9 p.m. in the gallery.

Gallery hours are Monday and Tuesday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Wednesday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.

For more information, call Susie Dittelman at 884-0220 or Seena Dittelman at 942-5735.

A Call for Entries

The Rhode Island Open, a juried all media art exhibition, will be held at the Warwick Museum Sept. 29 through Oct. 29.

All Rhode Island residents are invited to enter.

Works should have been completed after January 1994.

The size of a piece is not to exceed 4 x 5 x 6 feet. Works should be prepared for hanging.

The entry fee is \$10 per piece, or three for \$25. No more than two pieces per artist will be accepted for exhibition.

Work may be delivered to the Warwick Museum on Sept. 21, 3 to 7 p.m. or Sept. 22, 12 to 4 p.m.

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EDITORIAL

Opponents Of Circumcision Question Its Necessity

by Luci Scott

PHOENIX (JTA) — Miriam Pollack says she will never stop hearing her two sons' screams as they were being circumcised.

"They were quite different from any other screams these children have ever had," the Berkeley, Calif., educator said.

"I had them circumcised because I felt, as a Jewish mother, this was my obligation and even joy to do, to bring these children into the faith and peoplehood that I love."

But after years of reflection, Pollack has come to a different conclusion.

"How many thousands of Jewish boys and Jewish men did we lose during the Holocaust because they couldn't hide? All the oppressor had to do was pull down their pants," says Pollack, adding that girls carry their Jewish identity without having their bodies altered.

Pollack has written about her new thinking on circumcision in *Jewish Women Speak Out: Expanding the Boundaries of Psychology*, a book that was published in July.

She maintains that issues of gender and power are central to the ritual of circumcision.

"Circumcision functions to bond the baby boy to a male-defined community, a male-defined G-d, over and against the authority of the mother," she wrote in the book.

"Our culture has totally disarmed us as women," Pollack said. "It is a cutting not only of the baby boy, but a violation of the maternal-child bond."

Despite such objections, cir-

cumcision, which is first mentioned in the Bible with reference to Abraham's being commanded to circumcise his sons, continues to be practiced by the majority of American Jews.

"Circumcision and being buried in a Jewish cemetery are two of the most fundamental commandments observed by even the most assimilated Jews who don't observe anything else," said Rela Geffen, a sociology professor at Gratz College in suburban Philadelphia.

"Circumcision is a betrayal of trust that babies have in their parents, and in their mother, particularly,"

Norm Cohen

"Any kind of ritual can be questioned," she said. "But this is so fundamental. Jews have been willing to die to preserve this."

And despite widespread acceptance of the practice, some opponents of the ritual have become increasingly vocal, setting up organizations advocating an end to the practice that has been a central tenet of Judaism.

The Bible tells Jews not to offer blood sacrifices or to harm the body in any way, but "circumcision is largely regarded as blood sacrifice," said Norm Cohen of Birmingham, Mich.

Cohen, a member of the National Organization to Halt the

Routine Mutilation of Men, also known as NOHARMM, has written an alternative ceremony for a bris, which he is offering online.

One-third of NOHARMM's membership is Jewish.

Cohen, the son of a rabbi, also is concerned about the impact of circumcision on the mother-son bond.

"Circumcision is a betrayal of trust that babies have in their parents, and in their mother, particularly," he said. "Whatever happens to the baby, the baby attributes to the mother, regardless of the good intentions that are present."

Other opponents of circumcision contend that there is no sound medical reason for maintaining the ritual.

"It's not over when the cutting stops," said Ron Goldman, a psychologist who runs the Circumcision Resources Center in Boston.

"My choice was to have my son hate me or to do something I think is morally wrong,"

Natalie Bivas

After reviewing medical and psychological literature, he said he found "a lot of information that raises very serious questions about this practice, specifically the literature on childhood trauma."

In the medical world, the view on circumcision is also changing. The American Academy of Pediatrics has said there is no medical indication to support the surgery.

Even the authoritative Dr. Benjamin Spock is changing his tune.

As recently as 1992, "we felt there was no medical indication to perform routine circumcision on newborn boys," said Dr.

Michael Rothenberg of Seattle, co-author of the last two editions of Spock's famous book on baby and child care.

Rothenberg, pediatrics and psychiatry professor emeritus at the University of Washington, adds, however, that he and Spock understand that "there would be families who, for religious reasons, feel it is necessary to perform the ritual."

"I don't see why we can't keep the traditions that are beautiful and drop the ones that are brutal."

Betty Katz Sperlich

An estimated 60 percent of newborn males in the United States are circumcised today, a figure that has been dropping for about two decades, from a high of 90 percent. The United

States is believed to be the only country in the world that routinely circumcises male babies for non-religious reasons.

American Jews who are speaking out against circumcision say many of their co-religionists are repressing and denying anxiety because even questioning the ritual is taboo.

Some who refuse to circumcise their sons say their decision has led to varying levels of ostracism in their communities.

"It put me in the position of heretic, which I don't want to be. I don't think of myself as a heretic," said Natalie Bivas of Palo Alto, Calif., who refused to have her son circumcised.

A rabbi told her that if she did not have the baby circumcised, no Jewish girl would go out with him, other children would make fun of him at camp, and he would hate his body and hate his mother.

"My choice was to have my son hate me or to do something

I think is morally wrong," said Bivas.

Moshe Rothenberg of Brooklyn says he withstood "enormous pressure" and temporary family alienation to have a bloodless bris for his son, Sammy, now 7.

"I only see this issue as one of abuse," he said. "I have a certain loyalty and commitment to my own people, but I'm opposed to do it in all forms. I will not do it to my child in the name of continuing tradition."

Bivas, who once led the area's Alternate Bris Support Group, claims that circumcision is risky and dangerous. There have been cases of circumcision resulting in medical problems, including blood infections and even death, she said.

At some hospitals, Jewish medical personnel are leading the charge in refusing to assist in circumcisions.

Betty Katz Sperlich, a registered nurse at St. Vincent's Hospital in Santa Fe, N.M., risked losing her job when she declared herself a conscientious objector so she would not have to set up the equipment, strap the baby down or throw away the amputated foreskin. The hospital says 40 percent of the maternity nurses are conscientious objectors. They now have legal protection against losing their jobs if they refuse to participate in circumcision.

Sperlich, a member of the national group NoCirc, co-founded another national advocacy organization, Nurses for the Rights of the Child.

"I felt guilty being a Jew and not having my son circumcised," she said. But she has since reconciled her position on circumcision with her Judaism.

"Judaism is a living religion, and as a living religion, we can change our tradition," she said. "I don't see why we can't keep the traditions that are beautiful and drop the ones that are brutal."

G-d's Greatest Commandment

by Shmuel Taitelbaum

There are many commandments which we are instructed to perform. None are of greater importance than bris milah, the mitzvah of circumcision.

Rabbi Yaacov Baal Haturim, in his code of law, writes in regard to circumcision, "This positive commandment is greater than all other positive commandments. Our father Abraham was not considered in a state of perfection until he was instructed to circumcise himself."

What is the importance of bris milah?

Our sages teach that Adam was created circumcised — for he was a superior being. By succumbing to sin he failed to maintain his lofty standing. A barrier was created between himself and holiness causing his physiognomy to change.

Later, Abraham tore down the metaphysical barriers. G-d

recognized this change in his spiritual essence by giving him the mitzvah of circumcision.

Our life's mission is to rise above nature. The seven days of the week symbolize the rule of natural forces, for the physical

From the rabbinic literature we see that circumcision was a critical indication of a loyalty to G-d that transcended the limitations of the flesh...

world was created in seven days. Bris milah, however, is performed on the eighth day to represent the goal of controlling nature.

From the rabbinic literature we see that circumcision was a critical indication of a loyalty to

G-d that transcended the limitations of the flesh and even the strictness of natural law.

In Judah Halevi's classic work, the Kuzari, the Khazar king replies to the Jewish sage concerning bris milah, "Indeed, you have duly accepted this law and performed it with great zeal, with a public ceremony to praise it and to bring out its basic concept. Hence it brings blessings. Other peoples desired to imitate you, but they had only the pain without the joy, which can be felt only by him who remembers the cause for which he bears the pain."

How disheartening it is to see among our very own those who no longer remember the cause and view this 3,800-year-old covenant between G-d and his children as a barbaric mutilation of the Jewish male.

Shmuel Taitelbaum is a certified mohel based in Providence.

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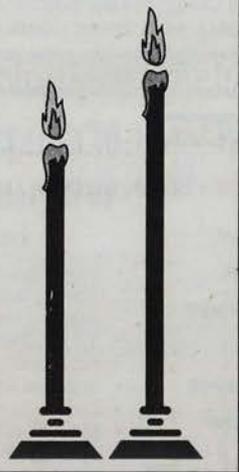
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Candlelighting

Friday, Sept. 8, 1995
6:49 p.m.



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

TORAH TODAY

'We Must Go Out of... Comfort'

"Remember what Amalek did to you on your way out of Egypt. When they encountered you on the way, and you were tired and exhausted, they cut off those lagging to your rear... Therefore, you must obliterate the memory of Amalek from under the heavens. You must not forget."

With these verses, this week's Torah portion, Ki Teitzei, closes. We do not, however, read the command to wipe-out Amalek only during the reading of Ki Teitzei. Every day, at the end of our morning prayers, this command is recited. Who was Amalek and why are we, the Jews — described by the Torah as "compassionate" — commanded to destroy the people of Amalek?

The destruction of Amalek is symbolic of the nullification of a specific negative trait which can manifest itself within each one

of us.

When a person is stirred and wants to go out of "Egypt" — from the boundaries and limitations of the corporeal — "Amalek" comes along and tries to prevent him from doing so.

How does he do this? "When they encountered you" in Hebrew is karkha. The word kar means cold. The commentator Rashi explains that Amalek attempted to stop us with coldness.

Spiritually thrives on warmth and excitement. Amalek cools off a person's spirituality and numbs him from being excited about anything G-dly, by planting seeds of doubt (the numerical equivalent of Amalek is the same as doubt).

The antidote to the actions of Amalek is "remember." One must always have words of Torah engraved in his mind and memory, so that one may medi-

tate and ponder them anytime and in any place, and through this can nullify the evil of Amalek.

But, were not the Jews protected in the desert from enemy attack by the divine clouds? Amalek attacked "those who had no strength." Rashi explains that the cloud cast some of them out due to their sins. They had "no strength" to overcome their desire to sin.

Amalek attacked only those Jews who had transgressed, and whom the cloud had thrown out of the camp. Yet, it was in order to save these very Jews from the hands of Amalek that the entire Jewish people left the protection of the cloud to go out to war.

We can learn an important lesson from this week's portion. When the need arises, we, too, must go out of the comfort and safety of our own "clouds" in order to help another Jew, no matter who he is, where he is, or what he has done in the past.

Adapted from the works of the Lubavitcher Rebbe. Submitted by Rabbi Yehoshua Laufer.

Converting to Judaism: An Unexpected Milestone

Letter to the Editor:

There are certain predictable milestones that we naturally assume will permanently alter our lives. Which college to attend, which career, where to call home. Those moments that represent our choosing the left fork over the right or vice versa.

When I faced the milestone of marriage, I did so knowing I had closed a door to my past, single life. And I was looking forward to a future of sharing, of being a wife. Things were proceeding normally, and my husband Jason and I were married a year ago in October.

The next milestone, of course, would be children. Or so I thought. The next for me would actually turn out to be changing my religion — from Roman Catholicism to Judaism. I had decided to convert around the time that we became engaged. In my mind, it made sense. I philo-

sophically agreed with the teachings of Judaism. And I didn't want to raise my children as Catholics when I myself had long ago parted ways with the religion. It would be relatively painless — a few classes, a plunge in the mikveh, memorizing a little Hebrew.

But becoming Jewish would be more than completing coursework, more than choosing a Hebrew name. Judaism would come to be a warm arm around my shoulder in the frigid air of negativity; a long, cool drink of water for my parched body. I have come to embrace and depend on my religion, something I never expected or experienced before.

Prior to my conversion, I had not even deemed changing my religion as a milestone.

But a true, life-altering milestone it was. I now delight in celebrating the Sabbath, pore over my Hebrew language les-

sons, seek out opportunities to do mitzvot, and look forward to passing this beautiful religion on to my children. Judaism completes me, makes me proud to say, "I am a Jew."

Travelling happily along the Jewish fork of the road, I can only imagine and await my next milestone.

Michelle Golditch

Religion in Schools Clarified

Citing the "need to find a new common ground" in a sometimes "divisive debate about religion in our public schools," U.S. Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley recently sent a statement of principles to the nation's school superintendents.

Recently, President Clinton expressed concern that some school officials and community members incorrectly assume that schools must be "religion free zones." To clarify the issue, Clinton asked Riley, in consultation with Attorney General Janet Reno, to provide school officials with guidance, describing the extent to which religious expression and activities are permitted in public schools.

In a cover letter, Riley said it is his "sincere hope that these principles will help to end much of the confusion regarding religious expression in public schools and that they can provide a basis for school officials, teachers, parents and students to work together."

Riley said the guidance is based on two basic and equally important obligations established by the First Amendment: (1) schools may not forbid students who act on their own from expressing personal religious views or beliefs solely because they are of a religious nature, and (2) schools may not endorse religious activity or doctrine, nor may they coerce participation in religious activities.

Group Statement Bans Messianics from Jewish Community

Part II

by Debra Nussbaum Cohen
NEW YORK (JTA)—A statement signed by four of the 12 Judaic seminaries (of Reform, Reconstructionist, Conservative and Orthodox designation) was prompted by recent efforts of the growing Messianic movement to become a legitimate alternative to Judaism's religious denominations.

But it is a measure of how deeply divisive Jewish religious life has become that only four would agree to publicly sign their names to the statement. The other eight groups involved, representing the full spectrum of Judaic belief would not permit their names to be released.

According to the statement, "Hebrew-Christianity is not a form of Judaism, and its members, even if they are Jewish by birth, cannot be considered members of the Jewish community."

"Hebrew-Christians are in radical conflict with the communal interests and the destiny of the Jewish people," the statement continued.

"They have crossed an unbreachable chasm by accepting another religion."

"Jewish organizations, both religious and communal, in dealing with Hebrew-Christians or Messianic Jewish groups should use discernment [and] recognize the difference between Jewish rights and Jewish privileges."

"Historically, the belief in or practice of any other religious tradition has been understood to lead to the loss of rights to full participation in the Jewish community, which has the follow-

ing ramifications:

- Denial of membership or honors in synagogue and/or Jewish communal organizations.
- Exclusion from burial in Jewish cemeteries.
- Refusal of Jewish communal funds to support any activities of Hebrew-Christian or Messianic Jewish groups.
- Exclusion from access to Jewish communal facilities or mailing lists."

The statement also says: "Jewish organizations or institutions that open their membership to the general public should consider restructuring their organizations to exclude from their membership those individuals whose presence is disruptive to Jewish continuity."

"When confronted with a group of Jews which has adopted another faith and seeks to convert others, we must stand firm in asserting that this other faith is not Judaism and that its adherents have forfeited their privileges as Jews."

"They (the eight nonsigners) don't want to go public with this because they have religious differences with the other bodies," said Philip Abramowitz, director of communal affairs at the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York, who worked for two years to get the groups' backing for the statement.

"They don't want to be seen as being affiliated with these organizations on a statement which has religious significance," he said.

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By shifting to non-CFC chemicals, equipment owners are doing their part to restore the ozone layer, which protects the earth from ultraviolet rays.

To celebrate the accomplishments of the 150 nations which signed an ozone reduction protection treaty, the United Nations has proclaimed Sept. 16 to be International Ozone Layer Day.

"The benefits of these national and international efforts are beginning to become apparent. Recent data confirms that there has been a substantial decline in the rate at which CFCs are accumulating in the atmosphere," said Mary D. Nichols, assistant administrator at the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Air and Ra-

diation.

But the job is not over. CFC production in the United States was cut by 75 percent from 1986 to 1995; it will end completely on Dec. 31, 1995, but the transition to non-CFC refrigerants will take years.

Equipment manufacturers have already spent millions to re-tool production lines.

Centrifugal chillers used to cool larger buildings are no longer made to rely on CFCs, but replacing them is a big job, and of the 80,000 units currently in larger buildings, about 80 percent will still use stockpiled or recycled CFCs in 1996.

Similarly, 80 million cars will still use CFCs in 1996, down from 130 million. All new cars have non-CFC air-conditioning.

Household refrigerators and commercial equipment used in restaurants, supermarkets, etc., are also being replaced. They too will rely on stockpiled and reused CFCs for servicing. Incidentally, home air conditioners do not use CFCs.

We are making progress, at last.

Chancellor's Monograph Available

Dr. Ismar Schorsch, chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary, identifies and explores the seven core beliefs of Conservative Judaism in his recently published monograph, "Core Values of Conservative Judaism: The Sacred Cluster." Beginning this fall, "Core Values" will be available on tape and on the World Wide Web.

These core beliefs include the centrality of modern Israel, Hebrew as the irreplaceable language of Jewish expression, devotion to the idea of "klal Yisrael," the defining role of Torah in the reshaping of Judaism after the loss of political sovereignty, the study of Torah, the governance of Jewish life by "halakha" and belief in G-d.

Founded in 1886, the Jewish Theological Seminary is the academic and spiritual center of Conservative Judaism.

For further information, or to order a tape or monograph, contact Adina Kalish at (212) 678-8020.

Meal and Milk Eligibility Guidelines Set for School Year

Peter McWalters, R.I. commissioner of education, has announced the income eligibility guidelines for free or reduced-price lunches, breakfasts, or free milk during the 1995-1996 school year.

A household with income that falls within the following guidelines may apply for free or reduced-price meals, or free milk, at the school their children attend.

Family Size	To Qualify for Free Meals or Milk			Reduced Price Meals			
	Year's Income	Monthly Income	Weekly Income	Year's Income	Monthly Income	Weekly Income	
1	9,711	810	187	13,820	1,152	266	
2	13,039	1,087	251	18,556	1,547	357	
3	16,367	1,364	315	23,292	1,941	448	
4	19,695	1,642	379	28,028	2,336	539	
5	23,023	1,919	443	32,764	2,731	631	
6	26,351	2,196	507	37,500	3,125	722	
7	29,679	2,474	571	42,236	3,520	813	
8	33,007	2,751	635	46,972	3,915	904	
	For each Additional member, add to the ceiling	+ 3,328	+ 278	+ 64	+ 4,73	+ 395	+ 92

Additional forms are being sent to all households; additional copies are available at the principal's office in each public school. Applications may be submitted to the principal's office at any time during the school year.

The information provided on the application by a household is confidential and will be used to determine eligibility for the program.

Applications must contain complete documentation of eligibility information requested, including names of all household members, social security number of the adult household member who signs the application, amount and source of income received by each household member, and the signature of an adult household member, certifying that the information provided is correct.

For those families receiving food stamps or Aid to Families of Dependent Children who have submitted cards issued by the Food Stamp or AFDC office to their children's schools, an application is not required.

For families receiving food stamps or AFDC which have not been issued cards, their food stamp program case number or AFDC case number may be submitted on the application in place of household and income information.

Children having parents or guardians who become unemployed are eligible for free or reduced-price meals or free milk during the period of unemployment, provided, that the loss of income causes the household income during the period of unemployment to fall to eligibility levels.

Recipients of free and reduced-price meal benefits must notify school officials during the school year of any decreases in household size or increases in income of over \$50 per month or \$600 per year.

In some instances, there will be verification of the information provided on the application, and social security numbers of all adult household members will be required.

Any eligibility for free or reduced-price meals or free milk for children will cease as soon as a household's income exceeds the eligibility guidelines.

If a parent is dissatisfied with a decision of the school official, as to eligibility, the decision should be discussed with that official on an informal basis.

A formal appeal may also be requested to the school superintendent for a hearing on the decision.

In the operation of child-feeding programs, no child will be discriminated on the basis of age, color, sex, sexual orientation, race, religion, national origin or disability. Civil Rights complaints may be brought to the attention of the Office of Civil Rights in the Rhode Island Department of Education or to the United States Department of Agriculture in Boston, Mass.

Army Officers Support Rabin

by Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Several dozen reserve army officers joined a group of mayors, diplomats and academics outside the Prime Minister's office to show their support for the government's peace policy.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin met with the group recently and thanked them for their support.

"The fact that you are here is encouraging," Rabin said.

He added that anti-government extremists were doing exactly what fundamentalist groups

opposed to the peace process want. Militant Islamic fundamentalists view Israel's right wing "as a lever to achieve their goal," Rabin said.

Shlomo Lahat, former Tel Aviv mayor and army general, said representatives of the Council for Peace and Security, a group of army officers he heads, recently met with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and with the chairman of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Ori Orr.

Lahat said his explanation was reassured by the explanations of the evolving agreement for extending Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank.

"We believe that the government is going in the right direction in regard to security," he told Israel Radio.

The gathering of supporters took place near the same site where opposition Knesset members and right-wing activists held a weeklong hunger strike against the peace process.

TRIVIA

Tiger Woods recently won the United States Amateur Championship for the second consecutive time. Who was the last person to win the golf title in back-to-back years?

Answer: Jay Sigel, 1982-83

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Water Rights Issues Resolved

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Despite the controversy over the closure of Jericho, Israeli and Palestinian negotiators have resumed their talks in Eilat in an effort to complete an agreement for extending Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank. Palestinian officials had threatened to suspend the talks if Jericho remained under closure from the rest of the West Bank.

Israeli officials said recently the agreement would likely be signed in Washington on Sept. 14.

The negotiators reached an agreement in principle on Aug. 25 regarding a long-contested issue: the allocation of water resources in the West Bank.

WORLD AND NATIONAL NEWS

Year in Review

(Continued from Page 1)

ditional stance on a firm wall of church-state separation — appeared much clearer.

"The new Congress is far more ideologically inclined to knock down the wall separating church and state than the country as a whole," says Marc Stern, co-director of legal affairs at the American Jewish Congress.

Not all Jews are opposed to the shifting political landscape taking shape in Washington.

"Many of the positions of the Jewish community are traditional liberal dogma," said Matt Brooks, director of the Republican Party-affiliated National Jewish Coalition.

He, like other Republican Jews buoyed by the power shift in Washington, argue that "what we are trying to do, especially for the needier, is far more compassionate and advantageous than the failed policy of the Great Society and the New Deal."

Brooks warned that if Jewish leaders "continue to declare war on the Republican leaders of Congress and those who are running for president, their ability to have a seat at the table on those issues that are critically important — like Israel, the peace process and foreign aid — it's going to be impossible for them to be effective."

But for the time being, support for Israel continued to be strong. Even in the new budget-cutting atmosphere, \$3 billion in foreign aid to Israel made it unscathed as the overall aid package was cut.

Overall, there were strong indications that Jews feel more secure than ever in this country. A Jewish senator, Arlen Specter (R-Pa.), announced his candidacy for president by attacking the Christian Right. And the late Lubavitcher rebbe, Menachem Schneerson, received the Congressional Gold Medal on the first anniversary of his death.

It was also a year of transformation for Jewish institutions.

The Reform movement named new leaders for its seminaries and for its congregational and rabbinic arms; the Jewish Agency for Israel, which receives United Jewish Appeal dollars, named Avraham Burg, a visionary yet untested manager, as its chairman; and more federations decided to keep a

greater share of the money they raised for growing local needs.

Alternative Jewish movements, like P'nai Or and the National Havurah Institute, attracted record numbers to their conferences and retreats.

The campaign for Jewish identity continued to be a hot item on the communal agenda: CJF decided that federations needed to reach out to intermarried families; UJA sponsored its first intermarried mission to Israel; Hillel launched its Jewish Student Service Corps at two dozen campuses; Hadassah rolled out its "training wheels" parenting program; the Conservative movement introduced its "Jewish Living Now" study program; and the Reform movement conducted a model seder on-line.

Nearly 100 million pieces of Jewish direct mail flowed into more than 3 million homes; more than 250,000 Jews surfed in cyberspace; at least two Jewish Internet networks were formed and hundreds of Jewish home pages appeared on the World Wide Web.

The late Lubavitcher rebbe, Menachem Schneerson, received the Congressional Gold Medal on the first anniversary of his death.

An estimated 77,000 Jewish babies were born, and about 87,000 Jews were buried in Jewish cemeteries. It was the year when an estimated 16,000 Jewish couples and 34,000 mixed-faith couples took vows, and an estimated 10,000 converted to Judaism.

"And that's the way it was," as Walter Cronkite used to say.

Yosef I. Abramowitz, a journalist, lecturer and consultant, is the editor of the forthcoming Jewish Family & Life!, a national Jewish parenting and lifestyles magazine.

He can be reached at:
JFamilyL@aol.com

Syria Warned

by Daniel Kurtzman
WASHINGTON (JTA) — Angered by threats directed at the United States from Palestinian terrorist groups that have offices in Damascus, the Clinton administration has issued a blunt warning to Syria: The continued harboring of terrorists will not be tolerated and Damascus will be held accountable for the threats.

Although Syria denies that it endorses terrorism or harbors terrorist organizations, it remains on the State Department's list of nations engaged in state-sponsored terrorism.

Shin Bet Sweeps West Bank

JERUSALEM (JTA) — In West Bank areas under Israeli control, dozens of Hamas members have been arrested by the Shin Bet, Israel's domestic intelligence agency, in an operation described by Israeli officials as dealing a severe blow to Hamas' terror activities against Israeli soldiers and civilians. Israel also sealed off Jericho from the rest of the West Bank on Aug. 23, after Palestinian police arrested two members of the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas movement.

Israeli authorities then sealed off the entire West Bank from Israel in the wake of the Shin Bet arrests. Hundreds of Jericho residents rioted at a southern entrance to the city on Aug. 28 to protest what they claimed were shortages of food and medicine as a result of the closures.

The head of the Shin Bet said that interrogations of those arrested when a Hamas cell was infiltrated led to more arrests of Hamas operatives in the West Bank and eastern Jerusalem. In the wake of arrests, on Aug. 27, Israeli lifted its closure of the West Bank, which had been imposed after the Aug. 21 bus bombing.

Israeli and Palestinian officials also attended a signing ceremony in Cairo, on Aug. 27, to hand over eight additional spheres of civilian authority in the West Bank to the Palestinians — agriculture, postal services, insurance, gasoline, industry and commerce, labor, municipal affairs and statistics.

New Unit to Sniff Out Terror

by Naomi Segal
JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israeli police have added a new terror-fighting unit to their ranks — 15 bomb-sniffing dogs who will go to work to find explosives in public places.

The decision to establish a canine unit came in the wake of a recent wave of suicide bomb attacks launched inside Israel by militant Islamic groups opposed to the peace process.

The dogs took up their duties recently at Jerusalem's mall, at

the Machaneh Yehuda market and at the central bus station.

The dogs are due to begin work in Tel Aviv soon. They will later be stationed at other sites across the country.

The dogs and their handlers were trained in Virginia.

Israeli police officials chose Labrador retrievers for the bomb-sniffing detail because of their nonthreatening presence and their ability to work in crowds of people, Israel Television reported.

Israel, Egypt to Export Produce

by Naomi Segal
JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israel and Egypt have signed an agreement to set up a joint company to export agricultural products to Europe and the United States.

As a result of the agreement signed recently during a visit to Israel by a delegation of Egyptian businessmen, a shipping terminal for the agricultural consortium will be set up in Cairo.

Israel's Agriculture Ministry said in a statement that the joint venture would involve Agrexco, the agency that markets Israeli

agricultural goods abroad, a group of Egyptian exporters, Egypt Air and several banks that will finance the project.

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ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT



Hail To The Chiefs

by Alison Smith
Herald Editor

Rhino Records, the king of archival recording, has just issued a six-volume set of presidential speeches, going back to 1908 and coming up to the present decade.

I truthfully never thought I would hear President Theodore Roosevelt's voice, but now I have...as he spoke in Emporia, Kansas, on why the trusts and bosses opposed the Progressive Party.

"Teddy" has acquired, over the years, this slightly unpresidential persona of the man for whom teddy bears were named, the Rough Rider leading the charge up San Juan Hill, and the dad who said, in response to newspaper criticism of his family, "I can run the country or I can take charge of Alice (his independent daughter) but I cannot do both."

Delivering his speech, he was a man to respect. He enunciated every word carefully, his language was absolutely down to earth, he was deadly serious, and he spoke without the bravado or

machismo we in the '90s might have expected from him. Nothing has conveyed to me what Theodore Roosevelt was all about like actually hearing him talk. And the quality of the recording was incredibly good. Who would have thought?

Herbert Hoover, in Washington, in 1931, spoke to the nation on the radio about unemployment relief, and Rhino's put it on this disc.

For all we've heard about Hoover's inability to take command and actually do something to help the nation in its travail, we might have expected someone with a delivery like Wally Cox. Not so. Hoover was a rapid, smooth and efficient speaker, until he stumbled badly and lost his place in the text, which makes you wonder if he wrote it, or even read it very many times before he had to give it. At other times, his emphasis or pronunciation of words was off, again giving the impression that he was not as familiar with the text as the nation deserved, under those trying circumstances.

Franklin D. Roosevelt, speaking in Madison Square Garden in October of 1936, said, "All immigration has been stopped so that our burdens might not be increased by unemployed immigrants from abroad." The crowd cheered. Can you imagine that happening today? No president would dare to unilaterally take such a step, even if he had the power to do so, and getting a large crowd to cheer such a step would be difficult. We're not discussing immigration policies here, we're just commenting on the scope and reach of F.D.R.'s power at that time.

Harry S. Truman (Give 'em hell, Harry!) is as plain as an old shoe in his delivery. Whereas you can hear Hyde Park in F.D.R.'s slightly nasal speech, you can hear the south and mid-west in Truman's. Everyman. A cross between George M. Cohan of "I'm a Yankee Doodle Dandy," fame, James Cagney, and Ross Perot, but Truman never went for the one-liners like Perot does. He was sharp and witty, sometimes—but he was not interested in making the people laugh.

Unfortunately, from Franklin Roosevelt on, the theme of "them" versus "us" was played over and over again—a subtle or not-so-subtle turning of one class against another. It must be the American way, in this century.

We listened to a sampler of the six-volume set, and it was fascinating. Whether we would be interested enough to buy and listen to all six volumes, I don't know. A student of history would find them invaluable. That such recordings even still exist, in such good condition, is amazing, and a gift to scholars. But if you have a president you particularly admire, or several, or if you are a reader of biographies or world affairs, you may decide to buy one or two volumes instead of the whole set. Each cassette or disc is available singly, and they come in a boxed set.

What an amazing thing—to hear Teddy Roosevelt speaking to us from 1912.

Dark Dramas

(Continued from Page 3)

gallant. Instead, this experimental effort lays bare the morbid truth of our empty culture. Is it a good movie?

"Marvelous!" proclaimed a Providence Journal reporter on the dark strip of Thayer Street. "I had some trouble with a few scenes," I answered. Then a pair of French professors from Brown tapped me on the shoulder



HERE KITTY — Dr. Bhagavan Antle, and a golden tiger, the rarest cat on earth, are featured at King Richard's Faire through Oct. 22.

King Richard's Faire Returns

The pages of history have once again been turned back as King Richard's Faire has returned to South Carver, Mass., through Oct. 22.

The faire is a true re-creation of Renaissance life in England at festival time. From costuming and entertainment to food and fairings every aspect of the faire captures the essence of this historical period.

As this year's 17th annual faire, producer Richard Shapiro presents drummers in native Japanese and African costumes. In addition, the royal zoo will host

the largest collection of animal stars from television and film.

King Richard's Faire is set in a 70-acre pine forest. The scent of scrub pine and bayberry floats through the air. The sounds of tambourines, trumpets, beggars, lutes, horses, singing Gypsies and clashing armor pierces the country silence.

Full price adult admission is \$16; tickets for children 5 to 10 are \$7 and children under 5 are free. Free parking is available. For more information, call (508) 866-5391.

And Away We Go

The Parents, Teachers and Friends organization of Providence Hebrew Day School is starting the new year with a special program on Sept. 17, from 10 a.m. to noon.

Brunch will be served, and a Jewish capella group—six male voices—will perform. The group, Beat' Achon has a repertoire ranging from traditional Hebrew lyrics to music from Jewish rock groups, covering almost everything Jewish in between!

The cost per person, for brunch and entertainment, is \$10, \$18 for a couple, \$36 for a family. Reservations are necessary for the brunch.

The organization would like to remind members that annual dues of \$18 are due—and that those who pay before Sept. 17 will be eligible to win a one-year family membership in Roger Williams Park Zoo.

Deborah Hirschon, PTF president, urges all parents, teachers and friends to attend this first event of the new school year.

Place a classified in the Herald for only \$3.00

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Long time, no see! I was thinking about coming to the Providence area sometime next month to visit and wanted to see what your schedule is.

Ever since Bob and Jill came back from visiting with you they've been doing nothing but talk about the delicious food they have at O-Cha Cafe.

You know how much I love Thai food. I have to go to that restaurant. I'll call you next week to finalize our plans.

Your friend,
Susan



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"THE FALSETTOS," at Theatre by the Sea in Matunuk, doesn't hit a false note once. In this scene, (from the left) J. Timothy Ewing, Daniel Friedman and Jessica Frankel, communicate deeply, and hilariously.

Fabulous "Falsettos"

by Mike Fink

Herald Contributing Reporter

Night life doesn't glitter in South County. By now city folk have flown back to their town roosts. The drought sunburned and faded the wildflowers and grasses.

But it's well worth a beachward drive through September 17 to take in the new musical "Falsettos" at Matunuk's Theatre By the Sea.

The garden gets dark by curtain time, but you still get the ticking cricket music and the dusk perfumes along the wide brick path, until a girl moves among the waiting crowd with a bell to let you know the show is about to go on.

For a moment, the booming voices of the performers overwhelm the small spaces, the intimate audience seats and the almost miniature stage. The Manhattan Broadway style of showmanship jars you a bit here in flat Yankeeland. In our culture, it's people with white hair who keep our culture going. But after the first shock, the fun stays with you all the way through a big three-hour show.

The story itself packs a wallop. A Jewish man divorces his wife to move in with his tennis partner, a blond guy in white shorts. His ex-wife runs off with his shrink. It's time for his son's bar mitzvah. The major guests will be the lesbians next door. Is everybody in New York Jewish and gay?

We are hurled, at intermission, from the late '70s with its life-style experiments to the up-tight early '80s in the second half.

Red portable doorways and odd props help you get from one scene into the next. No words separate the songs that tell the tale, as dark and yet as lively as "Carousel" or "Showboat"—who said musical comedies were light fare?

You can't get up in theater the way you can in cinema, to stretch or roam, until intermission. But you get caught up in

(Continued on Page 19)



BILL HARLEY, the author of *Nothing Happened*, will appear at Books on the Square, 471 Angell St., Wayland Square, at 2 p.m. on Sept. 10. Harley is also a songwriter, singer and storyteller. His performance will be free, and open to the public, young and old.

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Boston Lawyers to Defend 'Shear Madness' Suspects

During the month of September, eight performances of "Shear Madness," America's famed comedy whodunit, will take place onstage at the Charles Playhouse, Warrenton Street, Boston. In the 15 years that "Shear Madness" has played in Boston, four suspects have been accused, interrogated and convicted every night, yet none had the benefit of legal counsel.

Last January this grave miscarriage of justice was rectified when Arthur Miller, Jack Zalkind, Joe Balliro and James Sokolove were invited to defend these suspects. That evening was such a rousing success that the demand

for a repeat event was overwhelming. In response to that demand, eight of Boston's top legal firms have been invited to designate four of their own attorneys to get into the act.

The eight firms participating are Bingham, Dana and Gould; Burns & Levinson; Choate, Hall & Stewart; Hill & Barlow; Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo; Palmer & Dodge; Sherburne, Powers & Needham; Warner & Stackpole. Their top litigators will take to the stage for eight performances between Sept. 10 and 21.

Tickets are available by calling the "Shear Madness" box office at (617) 426-5225.

RISD Museum Seeks Volunteer Tour Guides

The Museum of Art, Rhode Island School of Design is seeking docents and museum volunteers who will be willing to act as tour guides.

To learn more about the museum's docent training program, interested readers are invited to attend a coffee hour on Sept. 19 at 10:30 a.m., at the museum.

Cantor Cahana Featured in Yamim Noraim, New High Holyday CD

Temple Beth-El's cantor, Ida Rae Cahana, is among the featured soloists in the newly released recording "Yamim Noraim." Transcontinental Music Publications has just issued five compact discs which provide more than five hours of High Holyday choral and cantorial music.

This is the most comprehensive

collection available of modern settings of High Holyday music.

The 5 CDs are available at a price of \$90 plus \$3 for shipping through Transcontinental, 838 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y. 10021. Visa or MasterCard are accepted.

Stein Will Sign

On Sept. 8 at 7:30 p.m., Providence novelist Michael Stein will do an author reading/book signing of his new novel, *Probabilities*, at Books on the Square, 471 Angell St., in Wayland Square, Providence (331-9097). The program is free and open to the public.

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JEANNE STEIN

Honey ... A Sweet Rosh

Rosh Hashanah — it's a time of the first day of Tishrei, the first month of the Jewish New Year marks the anniversary of the Jewish New Year and to welcome the new one, Jews eat a special Rosh Hashanah meal. Traditional foods are served on this festive table. Each dish represents a wish for a happy New Year.

Many Jewish families begin the holiday by eating honey to celebrate the bounty of God's creation. The honey-dipped apples are then eaten to symbolize your will to renew unto us a good and sweet year. It is also a tradition with starting this custom of eating honey to "eat sumptuously and drink sweet beverages."

Since honey has played such an important role in Jewish history, it is no surprise that National Honey Month begins on this day. This September, celebrate Rosh Hashanah with the flavor of honey. Easy to prepare Honey Dip is a great way for your family and enhance the holiday meal.

When choosing honey for this recipe, remember that honey are determined by the kinds of blossoms they come over 300 different honey varieties available. Darker honey is stronger in flavor than light colored varieties. Darker variety, has a classic "honey" taste. For a recipe, darker flower honeys are a great choice.

To keep your honey at its best, store it in a cool, dry place. To delay the natural process of crystallization, comes granulated, never refrigerate honey. To make it easier to pour, simply place it in a saucepan and stir every 30 seconds, until the crystals have melted to a smooth liquid.

Whether as a glaze for meat or vegetables, or in breads and desserts, the naturally sweet taste of honey is a staple around the world. Enjoy zesty-sweet honey on your Rosh Hashanah table or anytime you want.

Honey and Orange



1/2 cup chicken fat from skillet. Red wine vinegar, 1/2 cup. Sauté, stirring frequently, 3 minutes. Season with salt. Mix well. Pour over chicken and bake in oven until juices run clear, basting occasionally with pan juices. Transfer chicken juices from platter. Transfer chicken juices over medium-high heat. Season with salt. Serve chicken and orange slices.

Makes 8 servings
Nutritional Analysis Per Serving: 697 Cal., 9g fat, 304 mg chol., 0.410 g fiber and 318 mg sodium

OCCASIONS

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Rosh Hashanah Tradition

Reflection and celebration. Starting on the 15th of the Jewish lunar calendar, the Jewish people reflect on the passing of the year. Jewish families come together for a symbolic meal and ceremony play an important role at the Rosh Hashanah celebration. Optimism and hope for a prosperous and sweet New Year.

The traditional meal by dipping apple slices into honey and to signify hope for a sweet New Year. The accompanying blessing: "May it be a sweet year." The Prophet Nehemiah is credited with the custom of eating honeyed sweets on the New Year, declaring, "The year is sweet as honey."

At the Rosh Hashanah table, it is customary to eat fish. The fish should coincide with the Jewish high holy days. Rosh Hashanah with tradition and the delectable Orange Glazed Chicken will delight everyone at the table.

Keep in mind that the unique flavors of honey are what the honey bees visit. There are many types of honey. Typically, darker colored honeys are more robust. Clover honey, the most common variety, has a mild, pleasant flavor. Buckwheat or wildflower honey has a stronger, bolder honey flavor.

Store honey at room temperature away from direct sunlight to prevent crystallization, in which liquid honey becomes solid. If your honey becomes cloudy or difficult to pour, simply add a small amount of hot water or microwave it on HIGH for 30 seconds. The honey will quickly return to its original state.

Use honey as a sweetener or topping for cakes and breads. The smooth texture of honey graces dinner plates. Honey and Orange Glazed Chicken at the Rosh Hashanah table are in the mood for a scrumptious meal.

Orange Glazed Chicken

- 2 (3-pound) broiler-fryer chickens, cut up
- 1 medium onion, sliced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/2 cup orange juice
- 1/4 cup honey
- 2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
- 1 tablespoon Dijon-style mustard
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon dried thyme
- Salt

Preheat oven to 350°F. Place large non-stick skillet over medium-high heat; add chicken, working in batches, and cook until nicely browned on all sides, about 8 minutes. Remove chicken to a 9 x 13-inch baking dish. Drain all but 1 tablespoon fat to medium, add onion and garlic; sauté in all remaining ingredients except salt. Cover and cook for 45 minutes or until chicken is tender. Remove chicken and onions to a separate baking dish. Pour remaining sauce into a medium saucepan. Cook until sauce reduces and thickens slightly. Pour sauce over chicken.

per serving: 25.4 g fat (34% Cal. from fat), 12.9 g carb.,



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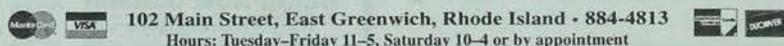
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THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

Peace and Arab-Israeli Ties Strike Harmonious Note at AZM Song Competition

Middle East peace and harmonious relations between Jews and Arabs are themes that have seized the imagination of contemporary songwriters as well as statesmen, say officials of the American Zionist Movement, sponsor of the second annual North America Zionist Song Competition held recently on the campus of the University of Massachusetts.

A number of the more than 100 entries in this year's contest, including the winning song, reflected dedication to the goals of the peace process and an idealistic concept of brotherhood between Arab and Jew, according to AZM President Seymour D. Reich. AZM is the umbrella organization of 21 American Zionist groups.

The competition's winner, Chaim Pachi of Newton, Mass., is a composer, choreographer, music teacher and specialist in Sephardic and Yemenite music whose work was chosen from five final round entries.



Chaim Pachi

Titled "MiMoshe Ve'ad Muchamad" — "From Moses to Mohammed" — the song represents an unusual musical effort to bridge the chasm separating Jews and Arabs. It was chosen by a panel of judges representing professional songwriters and leaders of the American Jewish community.

The finals were held at the Conference on Alternatives in Jewish Education which served as a co-sponsor of the competition. As his prize, Pachi has been awarded a round-trip flight to Israel on El Al Airlines, the Tilles Prize — a handcrafted havdalah set by artist Dani Katsir — and free tuition for the 1996 CAJE conference.

Rabbi Daniel Syme, chairman of the Zionist Song Competition, was master of ceremonies for the contest. "Next year, we hope to make this an international event," he said. "We've already received inquiries from songwriters and Jewish leaders in England, Mexico and Uruguay, who have heard about the competition."

Pachi, who was born in Yemen, emigrated to Israel in 1949 and came to the United States in 1980, where he currently serves

as music director of the Solomon Schechter Day School and Temple Emanuel in Newton.

Entries were received from more than 100 amateur and professional songwriters of all ages across the United States and Canada. The five finalists were invited to perform their songs in person and were received enthusiastically by the 2,000 participants in the CAJE conference.

A live recording of the song competition and a lyrics sheet may be purchased from AZM for \$6, including shipping and handling. The audio tape also contains an additional recording, "Now I Live in Tel Aviv," by Leah Abrams, which received a special citation at the competition as a children's song for use by schools, youth groups and other institutions.

AZM's mailing address is 110 East 59th St., New York, N.Y. 10022. For more information, call (212) 318-6100.

Calling for Papers

International Seminar on Jewish Genealogy Set for July 1996 in Boston

The seminar committee will consider, and urges readers to submit, proposals for talks for presentation at the seminar on methodology; newly available, developing or unusual research resources; computer aids; finding techniques; onomastics; relevant history, politics or geography; or other topics of Jewish genealogical interest.

An abstract must be submitted by Jan. 1, 1996.

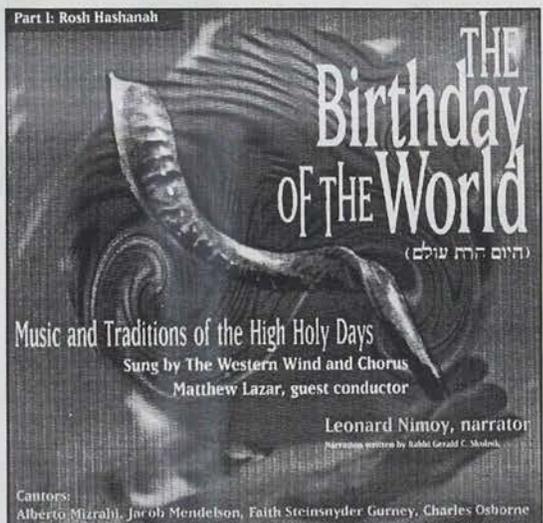
Talks chosen will have hand-out notes included in the published syllabus. Notification of acceptance will arrive by Feb. 15, 1996. Please include a one paragraph autobiographical sketch with the proposal, with full name, address, phone, fax and e-mail address.

For further information on submission and suitability, write to: Edmund U. Cohler, JGS of Greater Boston, P.O. Box 610366, Newton Highlands, MA 02161-0366; or e-mail at: ecohler@cspi.com

Social Seniors Begin New Season

The Social Seniors of Warwick will hold their first meeting of the season on Sept. 13 at 1 p.m. at Temple Am David, 40 Gardiner St., in Warwick.

Ed Demaio, a singer, will entertain. Refreshments will be served.



"Two Thumbs Up!"

Have We Got A Disc For You

by Alison Smith
Herald Editor

Western Wind Records has just released "The Birthday of the World: Music and Traditions of the High Holy Days."

There are 11 narrative tracks on the disc, written by Rabbi Gerald C. Skolnik and read by Leonard Nimoy, and 16 musical tracks, which follow and relate to each bit of narration. Total playing time is 63.21 minutes.

Nimoy's delivery is exactly right — solemn, deep-toned as a bell, straining from the shoulder. Not a trace of theatricality mars his reading.

The a cappella singing by the Western Wind group of eight voices, backed by a chorus of seven voices, is so beautiful, you may choose, sometimes, just to go through the disc with the odd-numbered, all-music tracks. The selections range from old Eastern European traditional numbers to some composed by cantors in this century. Many will be familiar.

With the disc comes a 16-page booklet containing the narrative text, backgrounds on the songs and composers, and an article on the celebration.

The disc is available at record stores, or may be ordered directly from The Western Wind, by calling 1-800-788-2187.

Neil Nachbar and I give this one "two thumbs up." Look for it locally, or order it soon so you'll have it for the holidays.

Senior Center Announces September Activities

All community seniors are invited to participate in a variety of activities Monday through Friday at the Senior Adult Center at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence.

Activities and events planned for September include: a mystery trip, "Ask a Lawyer," line dancing, and super bingo.

Each weekday at noon, the Senior Adult Center serves a hot kosher meal prepared by Izzy's Kosher Catering and sponsored by Project H.O.P.E.

Activities and special events are held before and after meals. Seniors are also invited to join the Golden Age Club. For just \$4 per year, members will receive reduced rates for many trips and events, including spe-

cial birthday parties at the kosher mealsite.

The Senior Adult Center can now provide transportation to and from the JCCRI for anyone needing this service.

For additional information about the Senior Adult Center at the JCCRI, call Lori Broomfield or Sue Robbio at 861-8800.

Garden Club to Tour Greenhouses

The Sept. 21 meeting of the Eden Garden Club will be a guided tour of the greenhouses at Wellesley College, Wellesley, Mass.

Members and guests will meet at 8:45 a.m. at Temple Beth-El in Providence for carpooling. Tour to begin at 10 a.m., followed by lunch at noon. Price is \$16 inclusive. Chairman of the day is Martha Finger. Reservations must be made by Sept. 14. Call 272-0623.

Those interested in the ikebana flower arranging lesson of Sept. 20 at 1 p.m., call 272-0623 for details.

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THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

Temple Emanu-El Leisure Club Opens New Season

The Temple Emanu-El Leisure Club will open its season with "A Summer's End Musicale" on Sept. 10 at 2 p.m.

Marilyn Levine, the artistic director of Ocean State Light Opera, will produce and perform in the production. She teaches theatre and music at the Wheeler School and is the founder and director of the

Wheeler Conservatory.

Sasha Olinick, a Brown University senior, will join the producer in singing longtime favorites.

The singers will be accompanied at the piano by Loren Mitchel.

A social hour will follow the entertainment.

DeBlasio to Address Hadassah

Sept. 11 marks the start of Providence Hadassah's 73rd season. Susan Leach DeBlasio, Esq., a life member of the group, will speak on "Medicare or Managed Care: What are Your Options?"

DeBlasio is a partner in the law firm of Licht & Semonoff and a former president of the Rhode Island Bar Association. She is an expert in business and health care law and legal columnist for the monthly health care professional journal.

The meeting on Sept. 11 will be held at 1 p.m. at Temple Emanu-El, a change from the usual meeting time. The annual

raffle, chaired by Ruth Goldstein, to benefit medical research at Hadassah Medical Center, is going on. Members are asked to bring their ticket stubs and filled Blue Boxes to the meeting. Esther Swartz, Jewish National Fund Blue Box chairman, will give out new boxes for filled ones.

Providence Hadassah will be led by a presidium this year: Claire Bell, Shirley Chernick and Muriel Leach. Members are urged to attend and bring their friends to hear DeBlasio's presentation.

The meeting is open to the public.

The UAHC Press Publishes A Thousand and One Chickens

A Thousand and One Chickens, a new Chelm fable for children and their parents, has just been published by the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

Generations of families have read stories of Chelm, the town where all the foolish souls of the world tackled their problems with foolish solutions that seem to have just a little wisdom, after all.

Chelm, the author writes, is where "everyone smiled, and the town was filled with laughter."

In this volume, the town has become a kingdom. It is the king's dilemma that causes the entire royal court to journey to the farthest corner of the kingdom to find three sages to help him out of his predicament.

Choosing to be Jewish

On Sept. 12, at noon, the Brown Bag Club at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island will welcome Jane Sprague, editor of the federation's *The Jewish Voice*. Sprague will relate her own story, "A Personal Journey: Choosing to be Jewish." A special lunch will be offered for \$5 per person.

The Brown Bag Club is a friendly forum for adults who are free at lunchtime, to discuss current events or topics of interest. It meets at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island, 401 Elm Grove Ave. in Providence, at noon on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month.

There will be no Brown Bag Club on Sept. 26 due to Rosh Hashanah.

To reserve a place for the Sept. 12 event, or for further information, call Evy Rappoport at 861-8800.

From the great sage who "was celebrated as the first man ever to knit his brow" to the tailor who sings to drown out the sound of his wife's gossiping, *A Thousand and One Chickens* is filled with fanciful characters whose traits transcend time and place.

Copies of *A Thousand and One Chickens* may be ordered for \$10 each (plus \$2.50 postage and handling for the first copy and 50¢ for each additional copy) by sending a check payable to the UAHC Press, 838 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10021.

JCCR Offers Fitness Program

This fall, the Family Fitness Center at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence, is offering a number of new programs to help individuals of all ages get in, and stay in, shape.

New fitness programs including Senior Stars Fitness and Silver Sneakers will help adults say fit after 50.

A new Heart Disease Clinic and Cardiac Maintenance program will provide members with workout routines and information on living healthier and longer.

Members can also take advantage of the complete circuit of selectorized weight machines,



TEMPLE EMANU-EL'S LEISURE CLUB will offer a concert program featuring Sasha Olinick, on the left, and Marilyn Levine, on Sept. 10 at 2 p.m.

Temple Shalom Prepares for New Year

The opening late Friday evening worship service will be held at Temple Shalom, the Conservative congregation of Newport County, on Sept. 8 at 8 p.m. in the main sanctuary.

Rabbi Marc S. Jagolinzer will officiate. Cantor Fred Scheff will chant the liturgy. Highlighting the service will be the installation of temple officers and board members for the new season, which will be conducted by the rabbi.

The Oneg Shabbat will be sponsored by the congregation in honor of the newly installed board.

The opening session of the Samuel Zilman Bazarisky Religious School will take place on Sunday morning, Sept. 10 at 10 a.m.

For further information or to register a child, contact the rabbi at 846-9002.

The temple will sponsor two open houses for prospective members on Sept. 17 between the hours of 10 a.m. and noon and on Sept. 20 from 7 to 8 p.m. The rabbi and members of the membership committee will be available to meet with people and answer questions. The temple is located at 223 Valley Road, Middletown.

four StairMaster stepping machines, two Lifecycle stationary bicycles, four treadmills, free weights and a full gymnasium and pool.

For more information, or to register for any upcoming classes or programs, call Jay Snyder at 861-8800.

Temple Torat Yisrael to Hold Open House

Temple Torat Yisrael will hold an open house on Sept. 10 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The open house also is the first day of Sunday school.

It will provide an opportunity for temple members to meet the new cantor, Robert Lieberman, who came on board in August.

Other staff members, including Rabbi David B. Rosen and Lonna Picker, educational director, will be available. Board members will be happy to acquaint visitors with the Temple Torat Yisrael community.

The temple gift shop, under the auspices of the school committee will be open. Tours of the temple will be offered, and re-

freshments will be served.

Temple Torat Yisrael is at 330 Park Ave., Cranston (opposite Roger Williams Park). For information, call 785-1800.

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We invite you to learn more about Temple Beth-El at an Open House on Wednesday, September 13, 1995, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

For more information, call 401-331-6070.

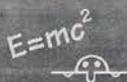


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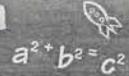
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SCHOOL



BEAT



PHDS Looks Forward to a Successful Year

New President and Executive Director Named

by Neil Nachbar
Herald Associate Editor

On Sept. 6, the Providence Hebrew Day School began its 49th year. This year the school has 193 students and 30 teachers, as well as 22 students and nine teachers in the girls high school division.

While the school remains committed in making sure its students are thoroughly familiar with Jewish heritage, Jewish practice and the Torah, as well as having a strong background in arts and science, there have been some changes in leadership.

Michael Weiner has replaced David Yavner as president of PHDS and Dr. Irving Fried has been named interim executive director, replacing Rabbi Daniel Goodman, who was the dean of the school and is now working in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

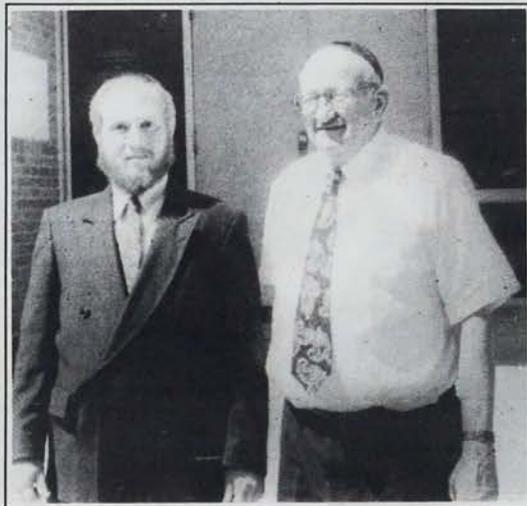
Weiner's roots run deep in the community. He was born and raised in Providence, graduated from PHDS in 1974 and from the New England Academy of Torah in 1978. He is the second person to become president of PHDS after having been a student at the school.

Prior to being elected president at the school's annual meeting on June 20, Weiner served as vice president of personnel and vice president of fund-raising.

Fried is a relative newcomer to Providence, but brings with him a wealth of experience. He's been a Hebrew school principal since 1954, having worked in New Jersey; Columbus, Ohio; Atlanta and for the past six years, Buffalo, N.Y. He was teacher for six years prior to becoming a principal.

Fried, who will soon turn 69, was convinced to come out of retirement to take the position at PHDS. He had retired in 1993 and in 1988.

"Eventually, I'll retire from here too," said Fried, who is originally from Brooklyn, N.Y. "But I believe that I still have the



NEW LEADERSHIP—Michael Weiner, left, has been named the new president of Providence Hebrew Day School and Dr. Irving Fried has been named the interim executive director.

Herald photo by Neil Nachbar

skills and knowledge to help the school."

Because Fried's son, Rabbi Mordechai Fried, has been a teacher at PHDS since 1978, Fried has visited the school from time to time and he has always been impressed with what he's seen.

"With the possible exception of Scranton, the quality of kids here is the best I've seen," said Fried. "They are totally immersed with society and the essence of Judaism."

Fried believes the future of the Jewish community is in the students of PHDS.

"I see the future of Judaism ensured in this building," said Fried. "Other programs haven't elevated a single Jew."

One of Fried's responsibilities will include fund-raising. Although the school has a \$2 million endowment fund, the boys high school was forced to close last year because it was in so much debt and PHDS' opera-

tional budget has been strained, according to Weiner. At least \$200,000 is needed to reopen the boys high school.

However, Weiner is optimistic about the coming year. "Our goal is to be the highest in terms of quality of education and to provide the community with many needed services that they couldn't get from another source," said Weiner.

Weiner said he decided to bring Fried in as interim executive director this year, rather than hastily choose a permanent director from a limited list of candidates.

According to Weiner, while PHDS is "Orthodox oriented," children of all Jewish backgrounds would feel comfortable at the school.

"We maintain the highest of standards while being tolerant of religious differences," stated Weiner.

Boys and Girls Clubs to Hold Dinner

The Boys and Girls Clubs of Providence will sponsor its fourth annual steak and burger dinner on Oct. 19 at 5:30 p.m. at the Providence Marriott.

This evening will bring together deserving young club members, who represent the five Providence clubs, and community leaders in an evening of dinner and conversation.

Table sponsorships are \$850; individual tickets are \$100 each. Tickets are available by calling the B&GCP office at 444-0750. Proceeds will benefit the activities and facilities of the B&GCP.

Keynote speaker for the event will be Lawrence K. Fish, chairman, president and CEO of Citizens Financial Group, Inc.

Fish will share some of his personal stories to help demonstrate that obstacles can be overcome and that each of us can re-chart our personal course.

South County Hebrew School to Host Open House, Sept. 10

The South County Hebrew School will begin the year 5756 (1995/1996) with its annual open house and registration on Sept. 10, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The open house will be in White Hall on the Kingston campus of the University of Rhode Island.

Children will meet their teachers, receive their books, and learn what to expect in the year to come. Formal registration will take place during the open house. At the same time, the school will hold its annual meeting, including the election of officers.

As part of the open house there

will be a kippah (yarmulka) decorating project. Each child will purchase a suede kippah and decorate it with fabric paints. This project will enable the students to personalize their kippot, which will be brought to each class.

The South County Hebrew School provides Jewish education for children in kindergarten through grade seven. If you would like information about the school, call the director, Rabbi Benjamin Lefkowitz, at 732-4797 or Len Newman, president of the board, at 783-8461.

Local Hillels to Participate in Jewish Campus Service Corps

by Neil Nachbar
Herald Associate Editor

The Brown-RISD Hillel Foundation and the Hillel Foundation at the University of Rhode Island announce their participation in the 1995-96 Jewish Campus Service Corps, an opportunity for recent college graduates to return to campus and work with their peers to make Jewish campus life more exciting and relevant for larger numbers of Jewish students.

Serving 46 campuses this academic year, the Service Corps has, in only its second year, doubled the number of campuses it serves.

Thanks in part to the generosity of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, Brown University and the University of Rhode Island welcome Glenn Dubin and Aileen Gerhardt, respectively, to the campus and the corps this fall. Dubin and Gerhardt will spearhead creative ways of attracting students and not yet involved in Jewish campus programming.

Neither Dubin nor Gerhardt are strangers to campus activities. A graduate of the University of Miami, Dubin worked in the campus' Office for Campus Volunteers, and was a member of the National Youth Action Council of the Youth Service America. In addition, he was involved in coordinating United Way activities on campus.

"I'm looking forward to integrating volunteerism and community service into campus life," said Dubin.

AIDS and Habitat for Humanity are two of the causes that Dubin has in mind for Hillel to help out.

Dubin will also try to involve more Jewish students at Johnson & Wales University and Roger Williams University. Those students will have the opportunity to attend High Holidays at

Brown.

Gerhardt is a graduate of Clark University and comes with a strong background in Hillel where she held an extensive range of executive positions including president. Gerhardt also interned at the Worcester Jewish Federation.

"It's going to be a very exciting year," said Gerhardt. "There are so many avenues to explore with the students."

Last year, Guy Bermel, director of URI Hillel, was the organization's only full-time staff member. The addition of Gerhardt should help tremendously. Approximately 18 to 20 percent of URI's students are Jewish.

Gerhardt's primary responsibility will be to develop programming in the residence halls. She already has in mind an adoptive grandparent program and an apple-picking trip prior to Rosh Hashanah.

The Jewish Campus Service Corps is part of a larger national effort by Hillel to reach students not yet connected with Jewish campus life. This idea of engagement has led to the creation of the Center for Jewish Engagement, a new department within Hillel's organization. The center is responsible for national initiatives and programs that implement the techniques of engagement locally such as the Service Corps at Brown and URI.

Last year, Hillel launched the JCS through the generosity of a challenge grant by Michael Steinhardt of New York. Additional support was provided by Jan Mitchell of New York and philanthropists in participating campus communities. Steinhardt, Mitchell and countless others have once again made it possible for this program to continue.

Lesley College Hosts Meetings

The Lesley College School of Management will host information meetings at the Foxboro Days Inn on Sept. 14 and Sept. 28 at 6 p.m.

The meetings will provide working adults interested in continuing their education this fall with information about Lesley's unique management programs, including an accelerated B.S. degree program in management and an accelerated

M.S. degree program in management. Classes are offered in the Foxboro area and meet just one night a week.

For more information, about Lesley's programs in the Foxboro area or to receive a free information packet, call Rob Elkin, marketing and recruitment specialist at (617) 349-8683.

An R.S.V.P. to the Sept. 14 or Sept. 28 meeting is requested. Call (800) 999-1959, ext. 8170.

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THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

Memorial Appoints Meisels to Nephrology

Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island has appointed Ira S. Meisels, M.D., to its staff of physicians in the department of medicine, division of nephrology.

Meisels received his medical degree from Yale University School of Medicine in 1990 and his undergraduate degree from Yeshiva University in 1985. He served an internship and a residency in medicine at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston from 1990 to 1993. Meisels also served a fellowship in the renal division at Harvard Medical School and Beth Israel Hospital from 1993 to 1995.

A clinical instructor in medicine at Brown University School of Medicine, he currently is board eligible in the subspecialty of nephrology. He is a diplomate of the National Board of Medical Examiners and a diplomate of the American Board of Internal Medicine.

JNF Announces Poster Contest

The Jewish National Fund will hold a competition for the creation of a poster highlighting Gan Yaldei Yisrael, the Garden of the Children of Israel, which will be built in the Jerusalem Peace Forest.

The "Gan," a gift to the city of Jerusalem from Jewish children all over the world, will encompass a beautiful scenic site, plus eight "milestones" with historically accurate period gardens, each overlooking a different part of Jerusalem and each symbolizing a specified epoch in

Julie Silver to Perform at Brown-RISD Hillel

The Brown-RISD Hillel Foundation has announced that Julie Silver, the nationally recognized singer, songwriter and musician, will be performing at the Hillel Foundation at Brown and RISD, 80 Brown St., at 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 10.

Appealing to people of all ages, Silver's music has made its way into Jewish camps, homes and synagogues and continues to weave its way into American Jewish life. Since the 1992 release of her first album, "Together," Silver has come to be recognized as one of the top performers of contemporary Jewish music.

She has released a second equally successful album, "From Strength to Strength," and has recently released her third collection of original Jewish songs, entitled "Walk With Me."

"Julie Silver passes her original Jewish music through her loving Jewish soul and what comes

out is nothing less than a festival of the spirit for young and old alike," said Rabbi Cary Yales, Temple Isaiah, Lexington, Mass. "I'm not sure what captures the audiences first—her energy, creativity, or her enormous charm, but what lingers long after the performance is the feeling that you've been touched by talent, we have a rare gift."

Silver is currently serving as music educator at Temple Isaiah in Los Angeles, and Temple Beth Haverim in Agoura. In addition to her work in the Los Angeles area, she performs for a variety of national organizations, such as CAJE, CJP, and MAZON. Also she regularly serves as a guest cantorial soloist and artist-in-residence for Jewish communities throughout the United States.

The cost is \$2 for students, \$5 for the general community. For more information, call Hillel at 863-2805.



Ira Meisels, M.D.

Congregation Agudas Achim to Hold Pre-School Program

A monthly pre-school program for children ages 3, 4 and 5 will be held at Congregation Agudas Achim in Attleboro. This year's program will begin Oct. 2 and will meet the first Monday of each month through June.

The children participate in hands-on activities to learn about Jewish customs and holidays. The cost of the program is \$65 for synagogue members and \$80 for non-members.

For further information, con-

tact the synagogue office at (508) 222-2243.

Congregation Agudas Achim Religious School is dedicated to Judaic education from a Reconstructionist perspective seeking to promote a positive Jewish identity within a challenging, caring and supportive learning environment. Hebrew language, Jewish culture and history are taught in an environment which integrates home, synagogue and school.

Samuel Zilman Bazarsky Religious School Commences Seventh Year

The Samuel Zilman Bazarsky Religious School at Temple Shalom, 223 Valley Road in Middletown, is beginning its seventh year of providing a Jewish education for area children. The school approaches Judaism with an understanding of and sensitivity to Jewish heritage, and an awareness of contemporary needs and concerns. It is the school's aim to foster in its students the ability to make responsible and informed decisions about their Jewishness.

The school is located in a modern building. The curriculum begins with Sunday morning classes for ages 4 and 5 in the Toy Program (Teaching Our Youth) and the pre-school program for ages 6 and 7. These classes focus on teaching, on a graded level, Jewish history, customs, ritual practices, ceremonies and the Bible. Hands-on art projects, stories, videos and creative lessons are used to challenge and stimulate students.

The weekday school meets on Monday and Wednesday afternoons from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.,

and on Sunday mornings, and covers a full spectrum of Jewish learning.

Throughout the year, there will be holiday workshops for the entire family, as well as monthly Sabbath learning and worship experiences for students and parents alike.

Registrations are now being accepted for the 1995-96 school year.

For further information, contact the educational director, Rabbi Marc S. Jagolinzer, at 846-9002.

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The first-prize winner will receive a free round-trip ticket to Israel. The runner-up will receive an Israel Bond. Reproductions of the winning poster will appear at Jewish day schools and Hebrew schools throughout the United States.

Cranston-Warwick Hadassah to Sponsor Women's Panel Program

On Sept. 18 at 1 p.m. a general membership meeting of the Cranston-Warwick chapter of Hadassah will be held at Letter Carriers Hall, 174-A Mayfield Ave, Cranston.

Helen Abrams, American affairs chairperson, will preside as coordinator. Selma Price and Ruth Siperstein, vice presidents of programming, have arranged for an unusual program: a women's panel of three professional women who are successful in their career fields. They will discuss

"A Woman's Journey Through Life." Their program will cover three areas: youth through school years, young adulthood and mature women.

A question and answer period will follow, refreshments will be served, and there will be door prizes.

Members may bring a prospective Hadassah member.

Children must appear in the poster, and artwork should clearly show a garden, as well as special places in Jerusalem. There is no restriction on the use of colors or selection of media in making the posters, but only 11 x 17-inch poster board will be accepted. Submitted posters must be mailed flat, not rolled, and braced by cardboard.

Each JNF region will select first-, second- and third-place winners. The deadline for entries is Sept. 29. Regional winners will be announced on Oct. 6. All first-place regional winners will then become finalists in the national competition, which will be judged by a distinguished panel that will include renowned artist Mordechai Rosenstein. The national first-place winner will be announced on Oct. 19.

For further information, call JNF at (800) 700-1312.

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FEATURE

African Tribe Adheres to Judaism

by Avi V. Stieglitz

NEW YORK (JTA) — When world Zionist leaders rejected Uganda as a possible Jewish homeland at the turn of the century, they probably never imagined that one of the native tribes in the eastern African nation would adopt Judaism.

In 1919, the Buganda tribe in western Uganda began to follow the Old Testament.

The tribe leader, Semei Kagungulo, had been struck by the special relationship described in the bible between the Jewish people and G-d, said Jacques Cukierkorn, the rabbinic adviser to Kulanu, an organization now aiding the tribe in their quest to become more knowledgeable about Judaism.

As a result, Kagungulo abandoned the New Testament and lived a Jewish lifestyle by adhering to the scriptures of the

Old Testament.

The Buganda tribe in western Uganda had initially been converted to Christianity by European missionaries who frequented the region.

Kagungulo took to heart the apocalyptic passages in Isaiah about how the people of the world will want to be Jewish.

Kagungulo also was a highly respected general and an adviser to the king of Uganda.

After he wrote a book of religious guidelines based on the Old Testament for his 500 tribal members, they decided to start calling themselves the Aba Yua Daya — or "I am a Jew" in their native Luganda.

The book included traditional Jewish practices such as ritual circumcision and separation of milk and meat.

"Evidently, he didn't know

of rabbinic Judaism and actually composed a primitive prayer book," Cukierkorn said.

Every time they came into contact with Jews, they would change their ways and adopt new practices, he said.

The group has expressed an interest in converting to Judaism and moving to Israel.

In the mid-1920s, a Jew known only as Joseph, spent time with the tribe teaching them more about prayer and about the different holidays, he added.

There was little contact between the Jewish world and the Aba Yua Daya from that point until the early 1990s, when two

graduate students happened to stumble upon them.

While visiting Kenya, the two American graduate students, Matthew Meyer and Julia Chamowitz, met one of the leaders of the Aba Yua Daya in a synagogue in Nairobi and were invited by him to visit the tribe.

The visit was so inspiring that upon returning to the United States Meyer wrote more than 150 letters to different organizations about the Aba Yua Daya.

"When I read the letter I immediately saw that Kulanu could play a pivotal role," Cukierkorn said.

Kulanu, based in Silver Spring, Md., is dedicated to helping Jewish fringe groups in different regions of the world learn more about Judaism and possibly undergo conversion, said

Cukierkorn, who was born in Brazil.

In June, Cukierkorn was part of a 14-member delegation Kulanu sent to visit the Aba Yua Daya and distribute prayer books, tapes and a Torah to them.

The tribe's current population is between 500 and 600, below the 2,000 Aba Yua Daya members the tribe had before Idi Amin took over Uganda and made life difficult for them through his brutal regime.

The group has expressed an interest in converting to Judaism and moving to Israel.

When asked by Cukierkorn why they wanted to convert, they said they rejected the practices of those around them such as female circumcision.

One of the group's leaders added, "A Jew has the potential to make the world a better place."

Crypto-Jews May Transform Portuguese Jewish Community

by Ruben Vis

LISBON — (JTA) At first glance, it appears that the future of the Portuguese Jewish community is bleak.

Of the few hundred people who were born Jewish and live in Portugal, most are in the capital city of Lisbon. But they are in a country whose Jewish presence, which was strong at times, goes back to at least the year 300.

Lisbon has its "Judaria" Street. However, nothing else shows that once, a large synagogue and a thriving Jewish community in Portugal's capital existed.

Most Jews in Lisbon show little interest in Jewish community affairs. Synagogue attendance is at an all-time low and only a handful of families keep kosher. Three years ago, the Lisbon community welcomed a new rabbi, but he is leaving this fall.

However, some hope for the Portuguese Jewish community flickers in the distance.

In increasing number, members of Converso population are making formal conversions to Judaism.

This group — also known as crypto-Jews, New Christians or Marranos, which is considered a derogatory term — stems from the Spanish and Portuguese inquisitions of the Middle Ages, when thousands of Jews who were forcibly converted to Catholicism secretly continued to practice Judaism.

The private practicing of Jewish customs while outwardly practicing Christianity has been passed down from generation to generation.

According to one estimate, thousands of Conversos live in Portugal. The number is difficult to pin down because of the secretive nature of crypto-Judaism.

In Portugal today, families with crypto-Judaism in their background carry out a few Jewish customs, often with a twist, in a clandestine manner. For instance, Shabbat candles might be lit, but the windows are shut while the candles burn inside a closet.

In villages such as Belmonte and Braganca in Portugal's rural northeast, conversions back to Judaism already have oc-

curred.

As these conversions continue, these people may become the new Jewish community of Portugal.

In the mountain village of Belmonte, where about 10 percent of the 3,500 inhabitants used to fall under the category of crypto-Jews, a man in traditional Jewish garb sat on his porch, reading from a Jewish book.

In Portugal today, families with crypto-Judaism in their background carry out a few Jewish customs... in a clandestine manner.

This out-of-place man was Rabbi Samuel Sebag, who took responsibility four years ago for the Belmonte conversions under the auspices of the Jewish agency for Israel.

One by one, the crypto-Jews were converted to Judaism in Belmonte, whose crypto-Juda-

ism was discovered in 1917, a time when other historians supposed that the last of the New Christians had disappeared. Apparently, the community continued because it existed in a remote area, away from the courts of the Inquisition, and because marriages took place within the community.

In the Belmonte of 1995, Sebag has taught the Jews how to observe Shabbat, hold a Passover seder and has a kosher household.

For centuries, the Jews of Belmonte never saw Hebrew, much less read it. The text of the prayer books used by Belmonte's Jews are in Hebrew and Portuguese as well as phonetic Portuguese.

They do not show much interest in Jewish history. Most interesting to them is the story of Esther, who kept her Jewish faith in a non-Jewish society. The Holocaust and the State of Israel elicit little concern.

Roots of Judaism exist in other villages as well. In Tomar, a synagogue recently reopened as a museum, which is run by

one of the few Jews who inhabit the town.

In the village of Castel de Vide, the local tourist office offers a full color brochure depicting how the old quarter contains a Jewish section. The owner of the Hotel Garcia d'Orta says he traces his roots back to Portuguese Jews who were forced to convert by the Inquisition.

At the outbreak of World War II, Portugal had an organized Jewish community of about 380 in addition to another 650 Jews, many of whom were refugees. After the fall of France, thousands of refugees, including a large proportion of Jews, entered as immigrants.

Portugal saved many Jews during the war by granting consular protection. But in the 1970s, a large part of the Jewish community left the country because of political unrest.

In recent years, increasing numbers of dignitaries, even the former cardinal of Lisbon, have proudly made their crypto-Jewish histories public. Politicians have specifically made their backgrounds known in their election campaigns.

Spielberg Goes High-Tech for Holocaust Education

by Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES (JTA) — The making of "Schindler's List" was a triumphant milestone in the life of Steven Spielberg, but to the 47-year-old director the film is but a prelude to "the most meaningful thing I have ever done."

The "thing" is a global, high-tech project, formally known as the Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation, to record the testimonies of as many as 150,000 Holocaust survivors.

During the shooting of "Schindler's List," and since its release, countless survivors "have come up to me and said, 'Let me tell you my story,'" he said in an interview in the office of his production company, Amblin Entertainment.

"But what they were really saying is, let me tell a camera, let me tell history my story."

With most survivors now in their 70s and 80s, time is running out, but "as long as there is somebody who wants to tell their story, there will be a camera and microphone for them to tell it," Spielberg said.

On the back lot of Universal Studios stand four large trailers, crammed with state-of-the-art computers and video processors, operated by 75 professionals supported by 1,200 worldwide volunteers.

One trailer holds 32 cataloging stations, where computer programmers and three full-time historians break down each interview into its precise components.

Through a menu of thousands of key words, futurescholars will be able to learn, for instance, how many survivors were chemists, came from a certain town, attended Hebrew school, played a musical instru-

ment or mentioned latrine facilities at concentration camps.

In another section, experts work at the cutting edge of digital video technology, so that in a couple of years they will be able to transmit by on-line computers thousands of interviews to educational institutions, museums or individuals.

Plans also call of the production of documentaries, books and CD-ROM applications for schools, in which students will virtually "walk through" a concentration camp barrack, see different faces and click on a face to hear that person's story.

Interviews with survivors are supplemented by documents, photo albums, maps and optional appearances by the survivor's family. None of the testimony is edited and every survivor receives a free tape of his or her interview.

Interviewers, who attend a

20-hour training program and are paid \$50 per interview, include rabbis, lawyers, psychiatrists, teachers and survivors.

The visual history project began in Los Angeles in June 1994. Spielberg's goal is to collect and process 50,000 testimonies by the end of 1997, and have an on-line, multimedia database of close to 150,000 interviews by 2004.

The current number of survivors in the world is estimated at between 250,000 and 350,000, though Ari Zev, the project's research director, now believes that the number may be as high as 400,000.

The visual history project includes in the term "Holocaust survivor" all Jews who lived under Nazi rule in Germany and the rest of Europe between 1935 to 1945. Under this broad definition, Jews who left Germany as refugees

LOOKING FOR SURVIVORS

Anne Marie Stein, public relations director for the Shoah Visual History Foundation, said project leaders want to hear from as many survivors as possible. In the United States and Canada, the toll-free number is (800) 661-2092. The mailing address is P.O. Box 3168, Los Angeles, Calif. 90078-3168.

High Holidays Features

Part II

The Challenge of Religious Renewal

Excerpted from a Message by Eric H. Yoffie

NEW YORK (JTA) — In a period of barely five years, every organizing principle of American Jewish life has been shattered. Our community finds itself in extraordinary disarray, with neither road map nor guide. We agree neither on our destination nor on the principles that guide our way.

Why this upheaval? For the last century, two themes have dominated the agenda of American Jewry: Jewish integration and survival. But, while they remain on our agenda, the urgency surrounding them has evaporated.

The State of Israel is secure, although the status of the peace talks is uncertain.

The Holocaust fast recedes from memory.

Anti-Semitism is not a significant factor in our lives.

...Our acculturation process is essentially complete — we need only note the four Jews who sit in the cabinet, and the two most recent Supreme Court appointees.

The story of the American Jewish community is a story not of failure but of triumph. We are a community that has defended Jews against their enemies, supported Israel, enhanced its political power, and provided help to Jews in need. We are activists, pragmatic, and superbly organized.

However, having accomplished all this, our communal talents may not be appropriate to confronting the very difficult challenges facing us in the new century. Having provided compelling answers to the questions of the past, we now must deal with an entirely different set of questions. And the most dramatic of these is: how do we deal with an intermarriage rate which in the last 30 years has increased by a factor of 10?

There is good news. At the grassroots, tremendous religious energy has begun (to power) a revival of text study, the thirst for heartfelt worship, and the desire to celebrate community and mark sacred time...

How do we explain this phenomenon?

Perhaps the explanation is simply that there is a unique Jewish destiny. In times of religious crisis Jews always respond with renewal...

Perhaps what we are seeing is a generational phenomenon: Aging baby boomers can no longer postpone the inevitable. Confronting their own mortality, they turn to Judaism looking for purpose, historical depth, and a sense of the sacred.

Perhaps what we are seeing results from displaced energy. Without a pressing community agenda... as Leonard Fein has reminded us, the question now becomes: "What will my religious tradition do for me? How will it meet my needs?"

And perhaps what we are seeing is a by-product of the technological revolution. The fax, modem, and Internet create

new opportunities, but they are also alienating; they create a pseudo-community rather than real community. ...Jews are looking for alternatives to Judaism-on-a-screen.

This religious resurgence has elicited a variety of responses, but the Reform movement, the most optimistic of the religious movements, responds with hope and faith in the future.

We look at American Jewry today and we see a community that is physically and financially secure, exercising unprecedented political influence, free from systematic discrimination and anti-Semitism, opening itself to Torah and mitzvah, and beginning to experience a deepening religious consciousness — that senses, in numerous ways, the touch of Shechinah. We look at this and say: there are enormous opportunities here.

But congregations cannot just add a program here or there to their arsenal of activities. What is required is a transformational mentality — a new way of looking at ourselves and the Jewish world.

Education is key. If we do not give Jewish children the gift of Jewish competence, there is precious little that we can expect of them.... Virtually everything else that we do is pointless if 50 percent of our children have no Jewish education at all, and if most of those who do attend our schools have no Jewish skills to speak of.

...If Jewish education is religious school for children and a few adult education classes, we are lost. Our only hope is to revive the ideal of lifelong learning, creating expectations and opportunities for study for every Jew.

Our only hope is a new kind of congregation, with Torah at the center. Our only hope is a Judaism directed at adults no less than at children — at the very people in their 30s and 40s who are experiencing this resurgence of religious feeling.

I believe all of this is possible. I am encouraged by the results of a pilot project with our seminary, the Hebrew Union College, to help synagogues rethink their relationship with Torah. We are convinced that synagogues are open to thinking of Jewish education in radically new ways. And we are committed to restoring the universal Jewish literacy which was a commitment of every Jewish community since Second Temple

times, but which unfortunately evaporated in the last century.

...We are committed as Reform Jews to tikkun olam, the absolute equality of men and women, and to an inclusive definition of Jewish boundaries — we recognize that the greatest challenges we face are common to all religious streams: to teach the values of Torah and Jewish peoplehood; to concern ourselves with the spiritual fate of every Jew; and to fortify our shared religious heritage. There is much wisdom in the words of Daniel Elazar, who suggests that the most important divisions in Jewish life in the future will not be those between the movements, but those within the movements — between the Jews who are committed and those who are not....

...We need not surrender to cynicism or despair. We can save our children and preserve our people if we sustain our hope, develop our religious lives, and carry out the work of touching Jewish souls.

"...We are committed to restoring the universal Jewish literacy which was a commitment of every Jewish community since Second Temple times, but which unfortunately evaporated in the last century."

Seminar on Bladder Health to be Held

In Providence, Sept. 10 to 16 is Bladder Health Week. In recognition of the fact that one out of 10 adults suffers from loss of bladder control, The Summit Medical Center will feature a seminar on bladder health on Sept. 13 at 7 p.m.

This seminar is open to the public and will feature Dr. Jacques Susset as the guest speaker. Susset is a professor of urology at Brown University, and is the medical director of Rhode Island Urodynamics, Inc. He specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of both male and female bladder problems, nonsurgical approaches to urinary incontinence, and gerontological urology.

The Summit Medical Center is located at 1085 North Main St., Providence. The seminar will be held in the main dining room. Reservations are necessary — please call 273-2220.

Refreshments will be served following the program.

Absolut Toasts Readers

Poster Sales to Benefit Lubavitch Community Center

The work of Judaic artist Michel Schwartz will appear in a new advertisement for Absolut Vodka which will premier in the August/September issue of *Lifestyles Magazine*, and later, in *New York Magazine* and the *Jerusalem Report*.

Titled "Absolut L'Chaim," the ad combines Schwartz's signature style of creating images out of Hebrew letters with the shape of the widely recognized Absolut bottle.

Proceeds from the sale of posters and limited edition lithographs of "Absolut L'Chaim" will benefit the Lubavitch Educational Center in Charlotte, N.C., an institution devoted to promoting Jewish culture and heritage in the area.

The posters will be sold for \$38 each and the 380 lithographs, which will be signed and numbered by the artist, will sell for \$380 each.

Schwartz explained that the number 380 is significant to him

and to the Lubavitch community because it is the numerical equivalent of the Rebbe's initials, Mem-Mem-Shin, Menachem Mendel Schneerson.

"The Rebbe was an important influence in my life," says Schwartz, "and in 1991 directly provided the inspiration for one of my most ambitious works, 'What the World Will Look Like When Moshiah Comes.'"

At 14, Schwartz began working directly with the Rebbe, illustrating a variety of Lubavitch publications. His works can be seen internationally, including a sculpture in the White House. One of his best known works, the "100th Anniversary Portrait of David Ben-Gurion," fashioned of the text of Israel's Declaration of Independence, hangs in the Ben-Gurion Museum in Sde

Boker, Israel.

Absolut Vodka's commitment to the arts began in 1985 and included a wide range of works by more than 500 established and emerging artists.



Prestigious Publisher Will Speak Locally

Publisher David Richard Godine of the Godine Press, a prestigious small publishing house in Boston, will visit Books on the Square to speak about the publishing business, particularly small publishing, on Sept. 13 at 7:30 p.m.

This talk will be of interest to anyone who loves books. It will be free and open to the public. Books on the Square is located

at 471 Angell St. in Wayland Square, Providence (331-9097).



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OBITUARIES

FRANCES 'FANNY' BLOOMBERG

WARWICK — Frances "Fanny" Bloomberg, 97, of 650 East Greenwich Ave., West Warwick, died Sept. 2 at the Brentwood Nursing Home in Warwick. She was the widow of Harry A. Bloomberg.

Born in Chelsea, Mass., a daughter of the late Charles and Sarah (Levy) Andelman, she lived in Providence and Cranston until moving to West Warwick in 1991. She was a member of the Providence Fraternal Association.

She leaves a son, Sheldon O. Bloomberg of West Warwick; a daughter, Gertrude B. Bowen of West Warwick; four grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. She was the mother of the late Rodney Bloomberg, and the sister of the late Leo, David, Murray and Bess Andelman and Rose Richman.

The funeral was held Sept. 4 at the Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery in Warwick.

PEARL FINE

ATTLEBORO — Pearl Fine, 87, of 359 Smith St., a supervisor in the school lunch program in Attleboro for 47 years before retiring seven years ago, died Sept. 2 at Sturdy Memorial Hospital. She was the widow of Samuel Fine.

Born in Worcester, a daughter of the late Elias and Ida (Levinson) Heitin, she lived in Attleboro for 65 years.

She was a member of Congregation Agudas Achim and of its Sisterhood. She was a past president of the Quota Club, and a member of Hadassah. She also was a member of ORT, and of the Worcester Jewish Home for the Aged.

She leaves a son, Harold J. Fine of Rehoboth; two brothers, Harry Heitin of Worcester and Jack Heitin of Milford; seven grandchildren and a great-grandchild. She was the mother of the late Gerald Fine.

A graveside service was held Sept. 5 at Dodgeville Cemetery, Attleboro, Mass. Arrangements were by the Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

MORRIS S. KURTZER

EAST PROVIDENCE — Morris S. Kurtzer, 77, of 45 Sinclair Ave., founder and proprietor of Sharon Creations, a jewelry manufacturing company in Providence, until selling the business 20 years ago, died Aug. 31 at the Evergreen House Health Center in East Providence. He was the husband of Minnie (Strauss) Kurtzer.

A lifelong Providence resident, he was a son of the late Eli and Sadie Kurtzer. Besides his wife he leaves two daughters, Ellen White of Providence and Sharon Kurtzer Sand of Warwick; a sister, Ethel Bernstein of Providence and four grandchildren.

The funeral was held Sept. 3 at Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery in Warwick.

ESTELLE SALTZMAN

CRANSTON — Estelle Saltzman, 80, of 200 Hoffman Ave., died Aug. 29 at home. She was the wife of Joseph Saltzman.

Born in Portland, Maine, a daughter of the late Abraham and Edith (Levy) Freedman, she lived in Cranston for 10 years. She previously lived in Providence and Florida.

She was a nurse at Mercy Hospital in Maine and the former Lying-In Hospital in Providence, now Women & Infants Hospital. She was a member and former board member of Temple Torat Yisrael, and a member and a past president of its Sisterhood. She was a member of the Aventura Turnbury Jewish Center-Beth Jacob, and its Sisterhood, Hadassah, ORT, the Red Mogen David of Yisrael and the Jewish Home for the Aged.

Besides her husband she leaves a son, Richard Saltzman of Cranston; two daughters, Karen Lubin of West Warwick and Beverly Feldman of North Miami Beach, Fla.; a sister Lillian Schlafman of Sharon, Mass., and six grandchildren.

The funeral was held Sept. 1 at the Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery in Warwick.

MICKEY SMITH

BRAINTREE, Mass. — Mickey Smith, 48, of 143 Main St., Somerset, died Sept. 1 at the Franvale Nursing Home in Braintree. A salesman, he was the husband of Corrie (Veenstra) Goldsmith.

Born in Fall River, he was a son of Frances (Sandler) Goldsmith-Lifrak of Newton, formerly of Fall River, and the late William Goldsmith.

He was a member of the Kiwanis of Somerset and Temple Habonim of Barrington.

Besides his wife and mother he leaves two sons, Abraham and Jonathan Goldsmith, both at home; a brother, Jerry Goldsmith both at home; a brother, Jerry Goldsmith of Orlando, Fla.; two sisters, Bayla Cornell of Cambridge, Mass., Jill Goldsmith of Chelmsford, Mass., and several nieces and nephews.

A graveside service was held Sept. 3 in Beth El Cemetery, North Main Street, Fall River. Arrangements were by the Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

TOBIE WEXLER

WARWICK — Tobie Wexler, 95, of 109 W. Shore Road, died Sept. 3 at the Warwick Health Center. She was the widow of William Wexler.

Born in Russia, a daughter of the late Max and Mary (Wexler) Peskin, she lived in Warwick for two years. She previously lived in Cranston and Providence.

She was a sales clerk for the former Gladding's Department Store for 15 years before retiring. She was a member of the Majestic Senior Guild, the Cranston Senior Guild and the former Temple Beth-Israel.

She leaves a son, Philip Wexler of Pacific Palisades, Calif.; a sister, Pauline Kaufman of Cranston, and two grandchildren. She was a sister of the late Bessie Yaras, and three brothers, the late Samuel, Milton and Irving Peskin.

A graveside service was held Sept. 5 in Lincoln Park Cemetery. Arrangements were by the Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

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Blatt Named President of Jewish Military Museum

Edward D. Blatt was elected to be the next president of the National Museum of American Jewish Military History on Aug. 26, during the national convention of the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. in Charleston, S.C.

During 1993 and 1994, he served as the national commander of the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. He has worked on behalf of JWV and NMAJMH for 36 years.

Blatt, a native of Philadelphia, served two years in the United States Navy and was stationed aboard the U.S.S. Iowa during World War II. He is currently

employed with Joseph Levine and Sons Funeral Directors and is vice president and director of the Haym Salomon Memorial Park in Philadelphia.

Blatt served as a Commissioner of Veterans Affairs for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania under former Gov. Milton Shapp. He is presently a commissioner of Veterans Affairs, having been appointed by Philadelphia Mayor Edward Rendall.

As an active member of JWV, Blatt has held every major leadership position at the local, state, and national levels and was a national adjutant.

Founder of Brigade is Dead

NEW YORK (JTA) — The leader of a renowned brigade that rescued hundreds of Jews during World War II died Aug. 18 of a cardiac arrest at his home in Brooklyn.

Alexander Bielski, the head of the Bielski Brigade, was 83.

The brigade, which carried out guerrilla war against the Nazis, saved hundreds of Jews from Nazi execution in Byelorussia, now the independent nation of Belarus.

Beiski was born in the tiny village of Stankiewiczze, near Novogrudok. The area was assigned to Poland in 1921, reannexed by the Soviet Union in 1939 and invaded by the Germans in 1941, *The New York Times* reported.

When the Nazis took over the village, Bielski and his brothers, Eshahol and Aaron, reportedly hid in the surrounding woods, founding the brigade upon hearing of relatives killed by the Germans.

During the war, The Bielskis, now joined by another brother, Tuvia, and 300 fighters, fought the Nazis, stealing German weapons, ambushing German patrols, derailing troop trains and blowing up bridges and electric stations.

Wellness Programs

Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island will hold a free Community Wellness Program on Preparing for Pregnancy at 7 p.m. on Sept. 12 in the Sayles Conference Center. Patrick J. Nugent, M.D., obstetrician-in-chief at Memorial, will discuss prenatal planning and preparing for motherhood and childbirth.

Other programs include Cardiac Catheterization on Oct. 17 with Anthony Cannistra, M.D., chief of the cardiac catheterization lab at Memorial; and Advance Directives on Nov. 7 with Elise Coletta, M.D., Memorial's chief of gerontology. Coletta will discuss the living will and durable power of attorney for health care.

All programs are free to the public and will be held at 7 p.m. Preparing for Pregnancy and Advance Directives will take place in Memorial Hospital's Sayles Conference Center, and the program on Cardiac Catheterization will be held in Physicians' Auditorium.

Register by calling 729-2459, in advance.

Compassionate Friends to Meet

The next meeting of The Compassionate Friends (a self-help group for parents who have suffered the death of a child) will be held on Sept. 11 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Brendan's Church Hall, 33 Turner Ave., East Providence.

Guest speaker at this meeting will be Ray Cooney, Ed.D., NCC, CCMHC. Cooney is a bereaved parent and nationally certified clinical mental health counselor. Cooney is currently employed as a full-time psychotherapist at Harvard Community Health Plan in Providence.

The topic will be the Differences in Grieving Between Mothers and Fathers after the death of a child. Cooney will also discuss some common myths associated with parental bereavements.

For directions or further information, call Carol Smith at 885-2900.

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CLASSIFIED

"Falsettos"

(Continued from Page 9)

the fervor of live performance, human voices and movements upon the planks of a stage, artists giving you their professional best, with wit and force. It's more moving than movies.

Part of the good time in fact comes from the mid-break in Matunuck. You hear the comments of your neighbors.

"It's more intense than I bargained for. I thought it would be like 'La Cage aux Folles,'" we overheard.

One couple stomped out to their car in horror about "homos." We strolled that brick walkway and my wife picked up the phrases of South County theatergoers. "What can the locals think of Jews after this?" she added.

"This is my first visit to the theater, and I've lived here for many years," a stranger said to me.

For me "Falsettos" did a great service for our tourist terrain, adding courage and color to our coastline. I want to plug this marvelous event, a real authentic theatre treat in a very romantic setting, better, and easier, than a journey to New York City, an almost secret and magic treasure close to home.

You'll never see a livelier child actor than Nick La Roche, in a tallis and kipa, or a more vigorous presence than Jodi Capeless as the lesbian, Gertrude Stein-type doctor.

Tim Ewing and Jessica Frankel make the Jewish parents caring and loving, and they sing and dance with grace and guts.

Kevin Bailey carries off the role of the gay lover with simple appeal, Dan Friedman does the shrink with panache, and Jeanne Montano handles the slight part of the lesbian "housewife" with diminutive charm. Direction and costumes are smooth and stylish.

"Falsettos" might not speak to the Orthodox community. "Why can't somebody make a play that pleads their cause with beauty? American show business has always been on the side of mixing in," I murmured on the long, ribbon road back.

But I'll tell you, you can't do better for a splendid September evening than the current and final show this season in Matunuck. It's really a fabulous offering!

Rabbi Weiss Recovers

by Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — New York Rabbi Avi Weiss, 51, was reported to be in good condition after suffering a heart attack Aug. 22 in Israel.

Doctors at Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Hospital said the political and social activist was in intensive care, but that he could be released soon.

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Congregation Agudath Achim to Hold a Gleaning Program

On Sept. 10, children and parents of Congregation Agudath Achim in Taunton will have a gleaning program starting at 10 a.m. at the Community House.

What does gleaning mean? The Torah (Leviticus 19:9,10) instructs us that when we grow food we are not to pick the field clean at harvest time, but to leave some of the growth for the needy. The poor were able to

come into a field and glean, that is gather up the leftovers after the reaper.

Parents and children will assemble at the Jewish Community House, at 10 a.m., for a brief explanation of gleaning. From there the group will go to Reed Bros. Farm and pick leftover corn, pepper, and squash and bring it back for use by the local soup kitchen.

Dress appropriately for walking on a farm and be sure to bring several plastic bags for the produce. The program will be postponed only if there is heavy rain that morning.

The Community House is located at 133 High St. in Taunton. For more information, call (508) 822-3230.

A Special Evening

Congregation Agudath Achim in Taunton will host a special evening on Sept. 16.

At 9 p.m. there will be a reception for Rabbi and Mrs. Weisenberg. At 10 p.m., a showing of a recent video on High Holiday themes will be presented. Refreshments will be served. At 11 p.m. there will be a Selihot service.

The synagogue is located at 36 Winthrop St. For further information, call (508) 822-3230.

Spare a Child, Bowl a Strike

The Rhode Island Committee to Prevent Child Abuse will hold its fourth annual "Spare a Child" bowl-a-thon on Oct. 1.

If you would like to bowl and/or organize a team, call Michelle Moniz at the RI-CPCA office at 728-7920.

Carol Esterman's Work on Display

Sept. 12 at 7:30 p.m., Carol Hunstad Esterman, painter-curator and architect, will visit Books on the Square, 471 Angell St. in Wayland Square.

During the month of September, Esterman's work will be on display in the store. She creates unique architectural watercolors which highlight the details of many of Providence's famous (and infamous) buildings. This program is free and open to the public.

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This Must be the Place

by Alison Smith
Herald Editor

This must be the place — The Chalet, at The Village at Waterman Lake — where you retire when you want to remain independent, but want everything you'll need at arm's length. Golf, anyone? There's a beautiful little putting green overlooking most of northwestern Rhode Island. Want to play some pool? There's a poolroom, complete with golf prints on the wall and lots of solid-looking chairs. Would you like to workout? Just step down this corridor and into the gym.

The Chalet sits on top of a hill, off Route 44 west of Greenville. You can go up a curving drive-through lawns and woods, and be at The Chalet in a minute. Once you're up there, you become almost unaware that there is a busy road so nearby.

Each unit at The Chalet is private, and offers a bathroom and a convenient kitchen area, plus whatever sleeping arrangements are designed into that size apartment. The studio apartments have space for one bed (the kind that masquerades as a sofa during the day) and living room appointments, plus kitchen and bath. The larger units have one or two bedrooms.

Almost every room I saw — whether it was the game room, a studio apartment, the tea room or a conference room, had large windows in one wall, which created a feeling of spaciousness, and brought the best of the outside world indoors.

The building was carpeted, deeply, throughout. A sweeping stairway rose in two stages from the first to the second floor, but an elevator is available for those who've climbed long enough.

There is a beautifully appointed dining room, and an elegant lobby. Pictures are hung on the corridor walls, and there is lots of comfortable seating in the group rooms. It is clear that the owners have made it a top priority to help their residents sustain an active and social life.

This is the kind of place that will make your friends turn just slightly green with envy as you greet them graciously at the front door and show them to your apartment.

If, as eventually does happen with most of us, a resident becomes more dependent on others for help, it is just one curve down the drive to the assisted living building — The Lodge. A building specifically devoted to the care of Alzheimer's Disease patients, The Courtyard, is also available on the same hilltop.

For those who can afford it, this is one of the most inviting options available to people who no longer want to be responsible for a piece of property but wish to remain fairly independent. Ability to care for one's self is a prerequisite for The Chalet. There are residents in their 60's, and one who is 100 years old.

Go west on Route 44, through Greenville, and continue till you see the big sign on the right — The Village At Waterman Lake.



MORNING SUNSHINE floods the entrance to The Chalet.

Herald photo by Alison Smith



THE CHALET crowns a hill in northwestern Rhode Island, offering a 180-degree view of the countryside.

Herald photo by Alison Smith

Atocha Sunken Treasure Collection Coming to Auburn Mall

The \$40 million collection from the treasure ship Atocha, the world's most famous Spanish shipwreck, is coming to the Goldstein Swank & Gordon jewelry store in Auburn Mall, in October.

The bounty of silver and gold bars, silver pieces of eight, diamonds, emeralds, cultural artifacts and ornamental jewelry will be on display, free to the public, Oct. 19 through 22.

This showing is the Atocha treasure's only visit to southern New England this year, and only the second Massachusetts stop in four years of the tour.

More than a million visitors have seen the roving museum collection during the past four years. The shows have drawn more than 15,000 visitors at individual sites.

The Nuestra Senora de Atocha, a royal Spanish treasure galleon, sank in a hurricane off the coast of the Florida keys in 1622. The ship was loaded with bounty bound for the King of Spain. Centuries later, Mel Fisher, a Florida ex-

plorer who spent 16 years on the search, discovered the legendary wreck.

This presentation of "Treasures of the Atocha" will include many never-before-seen items from the personal collection of Mel and Dolores Fisher. Divers from the Atocha expedition will be on hand to talk with visitors and answer their questions.

The Atocha collection is valued at up to \$40 million.

Pieces ranging from \$50 to \$5 million will be available for purchase, with part of the proceeds going toward ongoing treasure salvaging operations.

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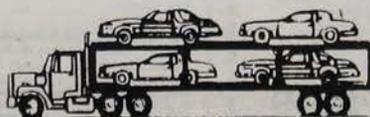
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