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Conservative Movement Reaffirms Strong Stance on Intermarriage

NEW YORK (JTA)—Leaders of the Conservative movement's five major organizations have jointly issued a policy statement detailing what they believe is the proper approach to the high rate of intermarriage.

The six-page statement, which is strongly worded in places, can be read as an affirmation of the movement's long-held standards.

The statement's closing paragraphs say: "In the midst of our confusion and pain we should not ask of Judaism to adopt strategies which do violence to its integrity..."

"At the very heart of this movement stands our belief that we must find the proper application of traditional Jewish norms and values to the modern context."

Publication of the 1990 National Jewish Population Study confirmed what many in the Jewish community had long known in their hearts: There are as many Jews marrying non-Jews as there are those marrying Jews.

Contrasting the Conservative position with the other movements, Alan Ades, president of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, which represents 800 Conservative congregations, said:

"We're not going to go to the extremes that some others might be doing. We respect their feel-

ings, but Conservative Judaism has a different standard."

His movement, he said, emphasizes the importance of Jews marrying Jews, or, as the new statement describes it, "the mitzvah of inmarriage."

Failing that, the statement says, the movement encourages the halachic conversion of the non-Jewish spouse.

If that does not work, the movement focuses on keruv (outreach), which means inviting the family's non-Jewish spouse and non-Jewish children into the life of the Jewish community, but not altering the community's standards or practices to do so.

What is new is the fact that the organizations overcame a history of working independently of one another—and at times, disagreeing with one another—to coordinate a larger effort to communicate a movement-wide approach on intermarriage.

The leaders of the movement's five principal organizations meet regularly in a forum called the Leadership Council of Conservative Judaism.

The participating groups are: the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, the Rabbinical Assembly, the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs and the Women's League for Conservative Judaism.

The first step in the group's new, concerted effort was to issue the six-page statement on intermarriage, basically an explanation and reaffirmation of its approach.

The policy statement ends with a "reaffirmation of standards" including:

- Matrilineal descent, meaning a child's religion is the same as the mother's.

- Prohibition against Conservative clergy officiating at intermarriages and against them officiating or being present at purely civil ceremonies.

- Only Jews may belong to Conservative synagogues and only Jews may be granted ritual honors such as being called to read from the Torah.

- Intermarriages should not be publicly acknowledged in any official synagogue forum. Congratulations on the birth of a child may be extended to an interfaith family if the child is Jewish according to Jewish law (i.e., the mother is Jewish) or if not, if both parents have committed themselves to converting the child.

- Sincere Jews by choice should be warmly welcomed by the community.

- Sensitivity should be shown to intermarried Jews and their families, and they should be offered opportunities for Jewish growth and enrichment.



Congratulations Rabbi!

A special tribute was held on May 10 at Temple Habonim in Barrington for Rabbi James Rosenberg. The rabbi, who recently received a doctorate of divinity honorary degree from Hebrew Union College — Jewish Institute of Religion, has served 22 years at the temple. Rabbi Paul Menitoff (left), executive vice president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, flew into town to pay tribute to his old friend and colleague.

Herald photo by Neil Nachbar.

Israel May Withdraw Support From UNIFIL

by Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — As a result of a controversial report on Israel's shelling of a United Nations base in southern Lebanon, Israel plans to ask the U.N. Security Council to reconsider United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon mandate when it comes up for renewal in July.

Israel has protested that the U.N. report on the April 18 shelling in Kana, in which at least 91 Lebanese civilians were killed, did not take into account evidence provided by the Israel Defense Force, and failed to emphasize the fact that Hezbollah launched attacks on Israel from near U.N. positions.

David Peleg, Israel's top diplomat to the United Nations, told Israel Radio, "We have reported to the U.N. 34 cases in which Hezbollah shelled Israel from less than 200 meters from a U.N. position."

"The question is, what did UNIFIL do to prevent these attacks, and if they didn't do much, why?" he said.

The report, Peleg said "which puts the blame on Israel and suggests that the shelling of Kana base was done deliberately — although it doesn't use these words — will certainly have an impact on the relationship between Israel and UNIFIL."

Some 4,500 U.N. peacekeepers have been stationed in south-

ern Lebanon since 1978. Their mandate is renewed every six months.

Israel has maintained that artillery units were responding to Hezbollah fire and that map errors resulted in the tragic accident. It has denied U.N. claims that a pilotless drone was in the area at the time of the shelling.

Lebanon has asked that actions be taken against Israel in light of the inquiry's findings. However, Lebanon's efforts to pass a Security Council resolution condemning Israel have apparently garnered little support.

Meanwhile, the UNIFIL spokesman in South Lebanon, Timor Goksel, said that without Israeli cooperation, the international peacekeepers would not be able to operate.

Pointing to the logistical fact of where personnel are stationed, Goksel said, "Cooperation is one of the key elements of UNIFIL's existence here."

He also rejected Israeli criticism that the peacekeeping forces were not making efforts to control Hezbollah attacks from near U.N. positions.

He said the troops have sacrificed many victims "trying to prevent the area from being used for armed purposes."

Nearby, he added, there is "a Fijian soldier fighting for his life because he went out to stop a Katyusha from being fired."

Virtual City of Jerusalem to be Launched

The "Mother of All Jewish Websites" will be inaugurated on May 17, to coincide with Jerusalem Day, according to an announcement by Virtual Jerusa-

lem (<http://www.virtual.co.il>), an Israel-based electronic publisher of Jewish websites.

Named The Virtual City of Jerusalem, the premier website

is expected to attract millions of Internet visitors from around the world to experience Jerusalem, Israel and the world's Jewish communities.

Visitors will be able to explore a tremendous volume of information within the city, and benefit from an expansive array of features, including online chat sessions, study classes, and a complete vacation guide, with a searchable listing of hotels in Israel.

They can view an extensive photo gallery of Jerusalem sites and attractions.

The mayor of Jerusalem maintains an e-mail address at the Virtual City and said he will respond to selected e-mail he receives. The City's neighborhoods cover the full spectrum of Jewish life, from arts and entertainment to science and technology to business and finance. Daily news from Israel is available each morning and can be delivered free via e-mail.



Everybody Loves A Parade

Fishel Bresler leads a group of children and adults in a Lag B'Omer parade on May 7. The group marched, with instruments in hand, from Chabad House on Hope Street to the field behind Hope High School, where they watched a kite show.

Herald photo by Neil Nachbar

INSIDE THE OCEAN STATE

Chorus of Westerly Presents Spring Concert

The Chorus of Westerly will present its spring concert on May 19 at 6 and 8 p.m. at the Chorus of Westerly Performance Hall on 119 High St. in Westerly.

The 180-voice chorus and the Boston Festival Orchestra will perform "Requiem," by Gabriel Faure, and "Missa Brevis," by Zoltan Kodaly.

The soloists will be soprano Claire Stadmueller, of Hope, R.I., and baritone Rene de la Garza, of Providence.

Two candlelight dinners will

be offered on the evening of the performance at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Atherton of Sherwood Hills in Westerly.

The dinners, prepared by chef Barbara Blyker, will be served at 6 p.m. for those attending the 8 p.m. concert, and at 7:30 p.m. for those attending the 6 p.m. concert.

The cost for dinner is \$17.50 per person. Concert tickets range from \$8 to \$22. For ticket and dinner reservations or more information, call the chorus office at 596-8663.

Ghost Stories in Newport

"Ghost Tours" will begin May 23 every Thursday at 5 p.m. at Belcourt Castle, 657 Bellevue Ave. (two miles south of Memorial Boulevard.) in Newport. Admission is \$12.50. The pro-

gram, with light refreshments, slide lecture and tour, lasts 90 minutes, plus an optional personal discussion. Because attendance is limited, reservations are required by calling 846-0669.

Class of '46 to Hold Reunion

The Class of June 1946, of Classical High School, will hold its 50th reunion on June 29, at the Brown Faculty Club, 1 Magee St., Providence, at 6 p.m.

Information is needed on the following classmates: Norma-Lee (Baker) Miller, Marian Katz, Jeanne (Piche) Vanasse, Earl Rector, Vincent Ricciutti, Domenic Rossi, and Edith (Turnbull) Farley. If you can help, or need more information, call Mel Zurier at 453-4000 or 272-9571.

Lum to Speak at Library

Marguerite Lum, a Cranston resident, will present a talk at the William Hall Library, 1825 Broad St., on May 23, at 7 p.m. Lum is the author of *From Away*, the story of her experiences in Maine from 1938 to 1945.

Her story covers the period when she was a new bride of a young doctor opening his first practice in a small Maine town. When the war effort took male news reporters away, Lum received a chance to renew her love of writing by becoming a full-time spot news reporter.

The program is free and open to the public.

Making Money

The *Value Line Investment Survey*, a financial newsletter, is now available at the Rochambeau Branch Library in Providence.

Camps Offered at the YMCA

For a summer to remember, enroll your children in the YMCA of Cranston's Specialty Camps. Specialty camps are being offered by the YMCA for children 6 to 13 years old.

These camps are designed to teach specific skills in each of the following areas: theatre, crafts, artistic medley, floor hockey, flag football, dance/gymnastics, soccer, cheerleading, baseball/softball, creative movement medley, basketball and sports medley camp.

Nursing Exam

The Bristol Community College Nursing Program will offer the American Nursing Review (ANR) course on May 23, 24, 28, 30, 31 for nurses preparing to take the Registered Nurse Licensure Examination (NCLEX-RN).

This 35-hour intensive study program focuses on what nurses need to know to pass the exam. Lectures by experienced faculty, special videos that enhance the recall of important nursing facts, and extensive testing are all part of the course.

Each nurse taking the American Nursing Review course receives a free computer disk containing an actual computerized adaptive test (CAT), the format of the NCLEX-RN. This disk gives hands-on experience in taking a CAT prior to sitting for the real exam.

Graduating nurses interested in attending the ANR course at BCC should contact ANR by calling toll free, (800) 526-4643. Information is also available at the college by calling (508) 678-2811 ext. 2141.

Theatre camp is for children who enjoy make-up, costumes, stage production, props and, of course, acting. The dramatic ending to each session will be a theatre production by the children. Campers will have the opportunity to swim daily.

For more information regarding the specialty camps, call or visit the YMCA of Cranston, 1225 Park Ave., Cranston, or call 943-0444 and ask for Paula Taylor.

Library Holds Free Concert

The Providence Public Library will welcome the Ocean State Brass Quintet for a free family concert on May 21, at 7:30 p.m., at the Rochambeau branch library, 708 Hope St., Providence.

The concert will feature such music forms as fanfares, renaissance, baroque, marches, show tunes, Dixieland, jazz and big band.

For more information, call the Rochambeau branch at 455-8110.

N.E. Tech Plans Two Events

New England Institute of Technology's Advisory Committee on Student Activities is planning two upcoming events.

The first is "International Day," which will be held on May 22 and will be open to the public.

Students and faculty at the college will prepare an assortment of international foods, be dressed in clothing representing their countries of origin, along with an assortment of international entertainment.

The second event will be a Whale Watch on June 2, in Gloucester, Mass. The cost is \$11. For further information, call Phyllis Allsworth at 467-7744.

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Directory to this week's Herald

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT	11
CLASSIFIED	15
EDITORIAL	4
FEATURE	5, 10
JEWISH COMMUNITY	3, 6, 7
MILESTONES	12
OBITUARIES	14
OCEAN STATE	2
SCHOOLBEAT	8, 9
WORLD & NATIONAL	13

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THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

New Americans Celebrate Allied Victory

by Emily Torgan
Jewish Community Reporter
Fifty-one years later, Jewish new Americans in Rhode Island still feel gratitude for the victory in Europe that ended World War II.

On May 9, about 160 Russian-Jewish emigres, or new Americans, gathered at Congregation Ohave Shalom in Pawtucket to share the memories of anguish, solidarity and joy that surface when they remember the allied victory.

The somber ceremony began with a procession of medal-decked veterans from the sanctuary into the reception room.

Six women marched at the front of the procession carrying six burning candles, each one a symbol of 1 million Jewish Holocaust victims.

Attendees rose, and the sounds of quiet weeping filled the room.

Speaking in Russian, event organizer Boris Efes spoke of the war, and offered a tribute to family members of attendees who have passed on since their arrival.

Ellen Steingold and Temma Holland of the Jewish Family Service also addressed the attendees.

"Congratulations, and we wish you good health," Steingold said. "We hope to see you a year from now, and we wish you only good things."

As the salutations and tributes ended, musician Felix Wtskiy began to play a lively, upbeat Russian song. Couples and singles began to leave the luncheon tables for the dance floor.

"This is called 'Day of Victory,'" explained attendee

Tanya Plungy over the music. "This song was written for the day, and we sang it in Russia when it actually happened."

As some guests ate and danced, others told of what they



NEW AMERICAN FYODOR TRIFANOFF wore the medals he earned in the Russian army to a Victory in Europe celebration at Congregation Ohave Shalom on May 9.

Herald photo by Emily Torgan

had actually done on Victory Day.

Through an interpreter, Anatoly Geyshef said he had been a 19-year-old Russian soldier in a tank on Victory Day. Fighting the Germans, Geyshef had travelled all the way to the Reichstag in his tank. At the close of the war Geyshef wrote his name on the Parliament.

When asked how he felt when victory was announced, Geyshef grinned and thrust two thumbs

up into the air.

Other memories were tragic. Now 72, attendee Freida Dorina said she had been 18 on the day victory was acutely declared. As Dorina was a resident of Leningrad (now St. Petersburg), she and her family suffered terribly when the city was under siege by the German army. The army would not let food, fuel or medicine through.

Dorina, who worked as a military secretary, returned home to find that her parents had died of starvation.

"I covered my parents with a sheet and I took them to the hospital," remembered Dorina in a small, tight voice. "I put them on a tall pile of corpses. There were many, many corpses."

On victory day, Dorina said she wept.

"We were very, very glad," Dorina said. "It's wonderful to be in America today with my son and grandson."

Now in his 70s, Fyodor Trifanoff arrived at the function with 24 medals he had won in the Russian artillery pinned to his jacket.

Trifanoff showed the hand problem he still has, years after a German bullet damaged it irreparably.

When asked by an interpreter how he felt on victory day, Trifanoff smiled.

"I was very, very happy," Trifanoff said.

So were many others, for in the reception hall attendees waltzed and spun to Russian folk music.

Felix Wtskiy also played Israeli music, and almost all went to the dance floor for a long, lively, multi-ring Hora.

Alperin Schechter Day School Welcomes Special Visitors

by Emily Torgan
Jewish Community Reporter
Students and special visitors alike enjoyed Special Visitors' Day at Alperin Schechter Day School on May 10.

At about 9:30 a.m., about 200 parents, grandparents and special friends headed into school with friends and relatives who attend the school.

At the Jewish day school for kindergartners through eighth-graders, special visitors got breakfast and an opportunity to see what the students do.

Special visitors and students anxious to show them around soon filled the corridors. Other special visitors headed into classrooms to observe specially prepared lessons.

"I'm decorating the Wall in Jerusalem," explained Ben Froelich, a 6-year-old kindergartner, as he covered a picture of the wall with dried beans while his grandmother, Elaine Odessa, looked on.

"I'm certainly having fun," Odessa said. "This is the third annual special visitors day, and I've been here three times. They really do a lot."

Shoshana Miller, a 12-year-old sixth-grader, took all four of her grandparents around the school. "I really like bringing them here," Shoshana said.

And the grandparents liked coming, for one couple, Cynthia and George Kaitlin, came all the way from New York City.

"We have three grandchildren in the school," Mrs. Kaitlin explained. "It's wonderful to see things through young people's eyes."

As visiting time came to a close, director Myrna Rubel called the event very successful.

"This is our third year, and attendance has tripled," Rubel said. "Our student body has grown. I think the visitors can sense the spirit and the sense of community here. The visitors do not want to go home."



SPECIAL VISITORS watched special friends at an open-house at the Alperin Schechter Day School in Providence on May 10.

Herald photo by Emily Torgan



ROSALIE GERUT AND FRIENDS entertained about 325 senior citizens at Temple Emanu-El on May 9. The spring concert was hosted by senior adult group educators.

Herald photo by Emily Torgan

Dvorah Dayan Club to Meet

The next meeting of the Dvorah Dayan Club of Na'Amat/USA will be held on May 20 at the home of Ceil Krieger, 381 Cole Ave., Providence at 7:45 p.m.

There will be a short business meeting announcing the results of the theatre party which was held recently at Rhode Island College — and which was a great success, thanks to all the members and their friends.

The annual meeting and din-

ner will be held on June 17 at J. Elliot's, 959 Hope St., Providence. Reservations must be made by June 7. Send your check for \$18 to Tess Hassenfeld, 310 Blackstone Boulevard, Providence, R.I. 02906.

The guest speaker for the meeting on May 20 will be Rabbi Gail Diamond of Congregation Agudus Achim, Attleboro, who will discuss "Reconstructionism and Judaism — What's It All About?"

High School Students Perform Original Holocaust Production

by Emily Torgan
Jewish Community Reporter
Drama and acting teacher Tom Marcello wrote the play "We Will Remember" to make sure his students would remain aware of the horrors of the Holocaust long after their high school years.

"I was tired of students in my classes saying that the Holocaust never happened," said Marcello, a 51-year-old Barrington resident who teaches at Joseph Case High School, a public school in Swansea, Mass.

On Monday, Marcello recalled his dismay when, in the early '80s, he showed a Holocaust documentary to a group of students.

"One of them told me the Holocaust was created by Hollywood," remembered Marcello.

The drama and acting coach decided to write a play that would teach his students what had actually happened. By performing the play, students on stage could teach their audiences.

Over the summer, Marcello wrote "We Will Remember," a series of vignettes that show the

origins of anti-Semitism and the beginnings of the Holocaust in Europe. The play takes his student actors into the concentration camps and leaves the audience with an epilogue that asks the audience to understand the awful tragedy, and to examine forces of evil and racism present in the world today.

"We Will Remember" was performed throughout Massachusetts. Students put the play on in regional drama competitions, and "We Will Remember" was one of 15 productions to make the state finals of the 90 productions that entered. "We

Will Remember" was performed on April 30 at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island for Student Awareness Day.

The play involved 230 students including the cast and crew, Marcello said.

"The students were truly moved by putting the play together," Marcello said.

Holocaust survivor Jerry Adler talked to the students who worked on the production.

"He was marvelous," Marcello said. "Many of the students had no idea of the scope of the Holocaust. Now they understand, and they will not forget."



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EDITORIAL

AJC Supports Senate Health Care Bill

by Dr. Martin Hochbaum
Director, Commission on National Affairs, American Jewish Congress

The U.S. Senate and House of Representatives have adopted different versions of legislation designed to make health insurance more readily available to Americans who leave or lose their jobs. While there is much that is similar in both bills, we believe that from the Jewish community's perspective, the inclusion of mental health benefits in the Senate proposal makes it more worthwhile.

Essentially speaking, both proposals include important changes that would make it easier for many people to maintain their health insurance. Among these are guarantees that workers in employer-sponsored plans who switch jobs will not be denied coverage as a result of pre-existing conditions, as well as offers of tax breaks to those who either spend money on nursing home care or buy insurance to pay for such care.

A major difference between the two proposals is that the Senate adopted an amendment sponsored by New Mexican Republican Pete Domenici that would mandate that health plans provide the same coverage for mental illnesses that is offered for physical ailments. For example, if a person suffering from cancer was eligible for 120 days of hospitalization, that individual's coverage for a mental disorder could not be limited to only 30 days of hospital care.

Strongly opposed by business groups, the amendment's ultimate enactment is uncertain since a coalition that includes the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the

National Association of Manufacturers is seeking its defeat because of the fear that it would impose a costly new federal requirement on the private sector.

Moreover, the key sponsor of the overall bill, Republican Senator Nancy Kassebaum of Kansas, chairwoman of the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee, had announced her resistance to all revisions to the basic proposal and sought to table the Domenici amendment.

AJC Congress and other Jewish organizations have long been in the forefront of efforts to enact a program of national health insurance. While we still support the adoption of such comprehensive coverage, it is important that we now weigh in support as well of the more modest health care proposal emerging in the current session of Congress, particularly for the Senate version with its coverage of mental illness.

While much has been written regarding the Jewish view towards emotional health, some of which goes back thousands of years, there is little statistical information available with respect to Jewish accessing of mental health services.

Whether or not there is any disparate impact on the Jewish community, the advantages to all of the proposed expansion in mental health benefits are obvious. All of us have a general interest in a healthy community. Moreover, depressive illnesses alone cost the economy tens of billions of dollars annually. Treating an employee for a mental health problem is likely to

result in improvement in both functional capacity and productivity. From a dollars and cents perspective, improvements in coverage should be applauded.

Moreover, the proposed expansion of benefits could serve especially to encourage greater access by the more traditional members of our Jewish communities, people who are generally more reluctant to seek help for mental health problems...

According to a Yemenite Jewish saying, "A sick person is a prisoner." This is especially true for someone suffering from mental illness. With advances in the last generation in the ability to treat mental illness through psychotherapies and medications, surely it is time that coverage for such care be expanded to place it on a par with coverage for other medical needs. Doing so is in the interest of both the Jewish community and American society in general.

Is Farrakhan a 'Self-Hating Jew'?

by Phil Baum

Executive Director of AJCongress
Now we've heard it all — Louis Farrakhan has gone from being a pathological anti-Semite to what can only be termed a self-hating Jew.

That's because in his *New Yorker Magazine* interview with Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Farrakhan announced that on his father's side, he may be descended from Sephardic Jewish West Indian planters. That, we suppose, gives Farrakhan the right to issue his canards about the Jews, because, hey, he's one of us!

No, he's not. Unlike Farrakhan, we do not believe that race determines character and we do not believe that a few drops of Jewish blood that Farrakhan may or may not have coursing through his veins changes anything. Of far greater importance are the enormous cal-

umnies against the Jewish people that are a product of his heart and mind...

We don't know about Farrakhan's biological genealogy but we do know about his intellectual lineage. It harkens back to the darkest and most monstrous sources of classical anti-Semitism, including The Protocols of the Elders of Zion and medieval fantasies of Jews feasting on non-Jewish blood.

Farrakhan's effort to make it appear that he is merely criticizing the "evil" he finds in his own "Jewish" antecedents is a reflection of the bizarre and ludicrous nature of his entire behavior toward Jews.

In exploring his alleged Jewish roots, Farrakhan has produced a handful of weeds, rank in nature and irrigated with torrents of hatred.

What Do You Know?

If you grew up in the 50s or 60s you are probably familiar with a prevailing belief of the time that we shouldn't question the decision of people like the president, or generals at the Pentagon, because they "know more than we do."

Even if something seemed to be against our best interests, or at least against one's own principles, it was being done for reasons we couldn't possibly understand. And politicians used this philosophy to avoid explaining certain actions.

Of course, those days are gone forever. We now feel comfortable criticizing every move politicians (no longer called "our leaders") make, from military maneuvers to their choice of hairstyle. We no longer endow them with mystical powers beyond the ken of mortals. Is this healthy, or arrogant?

In this season of Lag B'Omer, reading the portions Behar/Bechukosai, we can consider the experience of early Jewish leaders as an example.

Lag B'Omer reminds us of

Rabbi Akiva, because it commemorates the end of a plague among his students. One of those surviving students was Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai, who wrote the *Zohar*, The Book of Brightness. It was the source work of Kabbala, and the basis for the teachings of Chassidism founded by the Baal Shem Tov.

Yet for several earlier generations leaders of the Jewish community did not reveal the mystical concepts of Kabbala to the masses.

"Do not enquire into that which is essentially lofty and concealed from you," they taught. Rather, Jewish practice would be sustained by the power of strong faith in G-d.

But faith is not the unquestioning acceptance of what a person tells you. Faith is the belief that what G-d instructs is the proper way.

And we all have a right — indeed, an obligation — to seek an understanding of His Torah all our lives, both through the wisdom of our saintly sages

combined with our own spiritual search. There is no "secret information" communicated only to leaders that would confuse or dismay "common folk."

We are all alike in His eyes. This is why, in the portion Behar, there are detailed rules about the Jubilee, every 50 the year. It was a grand celebration, but, more than that, it was the triumph of conscience over commerce.

It was a year of liberty, when slaves were freed and land reverted to its original owner: "...the land shall not be sold in perpetuity, for the land is Mine." Property could not accumulate in the hands of a few, and poverty was prevented.

True freedom includes freedom of the mind. These two things are true: we are obligated to respect leadership and we have the right to make our own decisions. In the end, however, there is only one Leader whose word is unquestioned.

Submitted by Rabbi Eliezer Levy of Chabad of West Bay CHAI Center.

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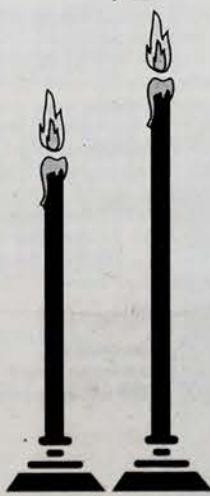
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Candlelighting
May 17, 1996
7:42 p.m.



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

The Giving of the Torah

Coming after 49 days of counting the Omer, the impatiently awaited Yom Tov of Shavuot heralds the giving of the Torah at Mt. Sinai, when the Jewish people became a real nation and their identity was established with their acceptance of the Torah with the words, "N'aseh V'nishmah," We will do and we will hear."

First we accept upon ourselves to do as G-d commands, then we apply our intelligence to learning and understanding the Torah. The entire Jewish nation witnessed an unparalleled revelation of G-dliness at Mt. Sinai and pledged themselves for all generations to fulfill the task of being "a kingdom of priests and a holy nation."

We can see the connection of

the two holidays of Pesach and Shavuot, for the spiritual preparation that takes place during the counting of the Omer shows that the purpose and completion of the exodus from Egypt is our receiving of the Torah and reaching, through it, a spiritual freedom even greater than the physical freedom we had already achieved.

the unique existence of the Jewish people despite all odds.

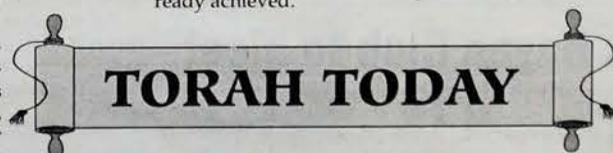
And only the truth of Torah is unconditional, for it was given by G-d to the Jewish people to keep and guard for all generations, wherever they may be.

An interesting detail of the Shavuot story is related in the Midrash. Just prior to the giving of the Torah, G-d asked the Jewish people, "Who will guarantee the Torah? How can I be assured that

the Torah would be cherished and observed throughout the generations?"

The Jewish people offered many possible guarantors, from the patriarchs to the prophets and great men as yet unborn, but G-d was not satisfied. Only

(Continued on Page 15)



FEATURE



The Cantor

by Mike Fink
Herald Contributing Reporter

By Mike Fink
Herald Contributing Reporter
Cantor Brian Mayer said, "The music of the Second Temple was not written down. Instead, the tradition was taught orally, from master teacher to student, throughout two millennia. I am a Levite, so I have received the songs of Jerusalem in a direct line." The cantor is a compact, graceful, cheerful figure, and he enchants the RISD class he is visiting with his crisp and witty words.

He showed the little tropes, with the tiny markings under the Hebrew characters. Then he went on to sing, hum, some melodies. "It was only in the 19th century that cantorial music took off, in Germany, under the influence of Franz Schubert, and the petrified Jewish music began to mix in several influences, ancient and modern.

"Klezmer music is quite different. It lives outside the synagogue, like a sort of East European version of jazz."

"Did Klezmer jazz influence American jazz?" I ask. "Not greatly," he answers, but then

proceeds to tell the story of The Jazz Singer, the Neil Diamond version, rather than the AlJolson version. We don't go into any depth on that one. But the point settles in. A cantor's son joins the street world of American sound and secular spirit.



Cantor Brian Mayer

The truth is, I don't yet know what we learned from this. I hope, that the story of Jewish music is both a cheerful and a

sad one. We chant our sacred stories, we celebrate our rituals with melodic blessings. We mark our seasons with ballads. We look into our souls to the tune of Kol Nidre, in the cantor's words "the only absolute time in the Jewish year. If you come late, you won't hear the precious phrases for another four seasons."

The cantor (and his wife, of course) expect their first child soon. He is a student of music, and a neighbor. Now, for an hour, he has become my colleague as well as my guest, like some fabulous bird alighting in my garden. He brought the

sounds of the Temple to the halls of our museum-school devoted to the muses—and, for a spell, to music. Mosaic music at that.

Rob's Dog

by Mike Fink
Herald Contributing Reporter

The Duart Student Film Award is presented at the Tsai Performance Center of Boston University on May 11. The winner, Rob Nassau, studied film history in my course at RISD. He called from New York to share his happy news.

"Mike, if I send you a video of my project, could you mention it in your column?" he asked. I comply with pleasure at the privilege.

Instead of pursuing obsessive, obscure lore with me, Rob cast me as a hobo in the first draft and version of his prize documentary. On a chill winter's dawn, he dressed me in a shabby coat.

I wandered down Route 95 like an elderly Eskimo among polar bears, and just laid down and gave up. But a greyhound came by, licked my frozen face, and returned me to life.

It's like the close of De Sica's postwar masterpiece "Umberto D" from my course—a humane metaphor of the soul.

The movie Rob sent me goes on from there. A nameless blind black stray dog befriends a Russian immigrant in Coney Island. The dog gets lost and the immigrant seeks her pet.

An odd motorcycle gang and a romantic black couple guide her. Her loyal Russian comrade, a fellow immigrant friend, in despair over her sorrow, walks into the sea to amuse her with his

mock suicide. That's it, less than a quarter hour of cinema time.

RISD film majors work in teams. Photographer Tsuyoshi Kimoto makes Brighton Beach look surreal, sad, and elegant. Son of the department head, Jason O'Neill takes sound and adds a lyric note. Rob, the director/producer, had spent a semester in Prague. He folds ghosts of Kafka's Czech city into his treatment. He titles his senior thesis simply "Dog."

He writes, "I once really did have to search for a blind black dog at night in a country whose language I barely spoke."

Of course, I see in Rob Nassau's success a shaft of light upon the best of my school's studio spaces. We encourage both documentary detail and imaginative shaping of story-line.

Rob gives me his journal account of his final RISD sojourn. "We shot in January of 1995. It was so cold the actors could barely move their faces. The unpaid crew was made up of friends, who braved subzero air and rough seas simply for the love of art."

Rob feels he has depicted the paradoxical plight of the Jews of the former Soviet Union, who arrived late at a sort of party that had already ended. Thus, the melancholy and absurd drama he compresses into a brief encounter. From De Sica on screen, to a sophomore sketch, to a senior finale, and on to a postgrad career—look for the name Nassau among the credits.

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THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

Touro Fraternal Elects Board of Directors

In order to keep pace with its increased activity, Touro Fraternal Association voted to increase the size of its board of directors, effective with this year's annual elections.

Those elected to the board of directors for three-year terms were Milton Bronstein of

Cranston, Charles Dressler and Robert Hodosh, West Warwick; Alan Hochman, Providence; Rodney Locke, East Greenwich, and Michael Smith, Warwick.

Elected to a two-year term was Joel Pressman of Cranston and Peter Traugott of Providence will serve a one-year

Pawtucket Hadassah to Meet

On May 20, Pawtucket Hadassah will present "Challenges Faced by Women Today With Organizations, the Community, and the Workplace."

This topic will be discussed by Judith Kaye. The meeting will take place at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence, at 7:30 p.m.

Kaye is a professional consultant who co-facilitates train-

ing programs which improve organizational and inclusive work relationships through communication and cooperation.

Also at this meeting, six outstanding volunteers (members who have given of themselves above and beyond) will be honored.

A coffee hour will be held in their honor.

Torat Yisrael Men's Club to Honor Past Presidents

The final breakfast of Temple Torat Yisrael Men's Club will be held on May 19 at 10 a.m. at the temple. All the past presidents of the Men's Club will be honored.

Members to be honored are Joseph Postar, Samuel Primack, Rodney Locke, Allan Rosenberg, Frank Prosnitz, Ira Fleisher, Harry Portney and Steve Zeitel. The following will be honored posthumously: John Berger and Al Wiseman.

Guest speaker at the breakfast will be Gershon A. Levine,

director of the community relations council of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.

During the six years that Levine lived in Israel in the 1980s, he served in the Israel Defense Forces as an infantryman in the Golani Brigade and, as a member of the IDF educational corps, was the director of its instructional television unit.

A donation to the breakfast is suggested to defray the cost.

The temple is located at 330 Park Ave., Cranston (opposite Roger Williams Park). For information, call 785-1800.

term.

The candidates for offices of the two Touro Fraternal lodges were unopposed. Elected to one-year terms by acclamation were:

Harmony Lodge — Bruce Weisman, Warwick, president; Alan Lury, Pawtucket, vice president; Lester Nathan, Lincoln, secretary; Peter Hodosh, Cranston, treasurer.

Friendship Lodge — Steven Labush, Warwick, president; Andrew Gilstein, Warwick, vice president; David Fleiser, Warwick, secretary; Jeffrey Goldberg, West Warwick, treasurer.

Sons of Jacob Centennial

The Congregation Sons of Jacob Synagogue will celebrate its 100th anniversary on Oct. 13.

All interested in attending should respond by June 6 by calling Mr. Ross at 781-2478 or Mrs. Friedman at 331-1524.

Congregation Mishkon T'filoh Services

May 23 is Erev Shavuot. Don't forget to make an Erev Tavshlin before Yom Tov, so that you can cook for Shabbos.

Candlelighting for first day of Yom Tov is at 7:48 p.m. Mincha is at 7:55 p.m. followed by Maariv.

May 24 is first day of Shavuot. Shacharis is at 9 a.m. Mincha is at 7:55 p.m., followed by Maariv. Candlelighting for second day of Shavuot is not before 8:52 p.m.

Shabbos Kodesh, May 25, is the second day of Shavuot. Shacharis is at 9 a.m. Yizkor is approximately 10:30 a.m.

Rabbi Berlinsky's Shabbos shiur (class) in Minchas Chinuch is at 7 p.m. Mincha is 7:45 p.m., followed by Sueda Shlishis, Maariv, and Havdalah. Shabbos and Yom Tov end at 8:53 p.m.

For any questions, call the rabbi at 453-1714.

JFS and HIAS Co-Sponsor Naturalization Workshop

Jewish Family Service and the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society co-sponsored a naturalization workshop for New Americans from the former Soviet Union to become naturalized U.S. citizens on April 28. The program was held at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island.

Immigration professionals from HIAS were on hand to provide free assistance for those wishing to complete the INS application for citizenship.

The day's events began at 9:30

a.m. when eight volunteers received HIAS training to act as workshop staff and assist applicants with the application process. From noon to 4:30 p.m., 78 New American participants were fingerprinted and photographed according to INS specifications and also received information about the requirements for naturalization, including the English language and American history and government knowledge requirements.



THIS WON'T HURT A BIT. Nellie Liskovich watches as Logan Jordan, a member of the HIAS naturalization team, applies fingerprint ink to her finger. Photo courtesy of Roberta Segal and Assoc.

Exploring Ruth's Journey

Women of the Jewish community will have the opportunity to explore the incredible life and inner greatness of Ruth, at a special lecture, scheduled for May 19.

The lecture, entitled "Ruth, a Woman's Journey," will focus on one of the greatest transitions in history, from the depravity of paganism to the heights of holiness.

Chanie Levy, who will be

presenting the lecture, explained, "The life of Ruth is truly inspiring as she began as a princess of the pagan Moabites and ascended to remarkable spiritual heights, eventually becoming the great-grandmother of King David."

The lecture is being presented at an auspicious time, a few days before the holiday of Shavuot, which takes place this year on May 24 and 25.

Attendees at the evening will also have the pleasure of listening to Shoshana Feinstein perform a song describing the astonishing transformation that Ruth underwent.

The lecture will be delivered at the Chai Center, 15 Centerville Road, Warwick, at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call 884-4071.

Sons of Jacob Schedule

The two days of Shavuot are May 24, six days in the new month of Sivan; and May 25, seven days in Sivan.

Morning (shacharis) services begin at 8:30 a.m.

Yizkor will be at 10:30 a.m., Shabbos, May 25.

Isru Chag, May 26, seven Sivan is also to be considered an extra day of rejoicing, as taught by the sages (Talmid Bavli, Sukkah 45). This day is observed as a semi-holiday. Services (shacharis) at 7:30 a.m. promptly.

The officers and board of directors of the synagogue wish everyone a pleasant holiday, and a safe and enjoyable summer.

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Taking A Journey

Rabbi Nancy Fuchs, author of *Our Share of Night, Our Share of Morning: Parenting as a Spiritual Journey*, will be the guest speaker at Congregation Agudas Achim in Attleboro on May 17 at 5:45 p.m. Call (508) 222-2243 for more information.

Photo by Rita Bernstein

THE JEWISH COMMUNITY



PROUD GRADUATES, front row from the left, Jason Forman, Pamela Sinel, Jonathan Rubin, Abby Berenson, Richard Suls, Joshua Ellison, and, in the second row from the left, Michael Kaplan, Jaimie Labell, Paul Weiner, Matthew Bromberg, Natanya Silverman, Gordon Liss, and Jeremy Sadler, pose for their class picture with Evelyn Brier, secondary education coordinator at the Harry Elkin Midrasha.

Midrasha Holds Graduation

The Harry Elkin Midrasha Community High School of Jewish studies of the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island, will hold graduation ceremonies for 16 seniors on May 19, at 10 a.m., at Temple Am David, 40 Gardiner St., Warwick.

Members of the graduating class will conduct Shoharit services. Graduates include: Abby Berenson, Matthew Bromberg, Joshua Ellison, Jason Forman, Michael Kaplan, Jamie Labell, Gordon Liss, Cheryl Mizrahi, Jennifer Rakitt, Jonathan Rubin, Jeremy Sadler, Pamela Sinel, Natanya Silverman, Joseph Subotnik, Richard Suls and Paul Weiner.

These students have devoted their time and energy to continuing their Jewish education in an intensive supplementary high school program. In a time when Jews are concerned about the commitment of their young people, it is encouraging to see

such dedication.

The Harry Elkin Midrasha, with an enrollment of more than 100 teen-agers, grades 8 through 12, offers classes twice a week.

Among the 40 course topics offered are: Bible, rabbinics, Jewish history, literature, philosophy and Hebrew. A highly qualified faculty provides depth and excitement to these studies.

The graduation ceremony is open to the entire community.

Senior Guild to Meet, May 21

The Majestic Senior Guild will meet on May 21 at 1 p.m. at Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston, at which time leadership of Majestic will be discussed and nominations from the floor will be requested.

Future plans include day trips to Tanglewood, and North Shore Theater, and overnight trips to Pines in South Fallsburg, N.Y., and Wildwood by the Sea, in New Jersey.

Entertainment and refreshments will be provided.

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Shavuot Luncheon

There will be a Shavuot luncheon on May 25 at Congregation Ohave Sholam/Young Israel of Pawtucket immediately following services.

The cost for the dairy luncheon is \$8.50 per adult and \$6.50 per child. Reservations must be made by May 21.

For information and reservations, call Barbara Japhet at 725-4445, Linda Kessler at 736-6633 or Nita Pliskin at 725-3886.

Confirmation

On May 4, Tifereth Israel Congregation and the Rabbi Bernard H. Ziskind School for Judaism in New Bedford held its 1996 confirmation.

The following students received their confirmation: Rachel Castino, Sharon Gottesman, Samantha Gross, Michael Hull, Elicia Kivowitz, David Rosenblatt, Benjamin Rubin, Brooke Rudnick, Rebecca Shwartz, Benjamin Weiss and Melissa Zeitz.

NCJW to Hold Annual Meeting

The annual meeting and installation of officers and board of the National Council of Jewish Women will be held on May 22 at 12:30 at Temple Emanu-El.

Oskar Eustis, artistic director of Trinity Repertory, will be the guest speaker. Eustis was a 1995 member of the Jewish Federation's Community Relations Council mission to Israel.

Ohave Sholam Hosts Dinner

On May 19 at 6 p.m., Congregation Ohave Sholam—Young Israel of Pawtucket will host "Cafe Noorparvar" serving an original Persian dinner including Mediterranean salad, salad olivier, ash-e reshteh, havij polo, babala polo, khoresh-e karafs, khoresh-e bademjan, marinated boneless chicken and watermelon.

The cost is \$18 per person. For reservations and information, call Nita Pliskin at 725-3886.

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SCHOOLBEAT

Temple Beth-El Honors its Religious School Students

Twenty students will complete their first year of Hebrew study at Temple Beth-El in Providence.

To celebrate this occasion, a special program will be held to honor the students. On May 23, the students will participate in a siyum to mark the completion of one book of Torah and the beginning of another book.

The congregation congratulates the following students and their parents: Eve Broffman, Cameron Boucher, Peter Cerep, Stephanie Cerep, Andrew

DiCristofaro, Alex Finkelman, David Goldgaber, Jamie Granoff, David Hirshberg, Andrew Jacober, Nicole Mason, Lauren Miller, Michael Phillips, Mitchell Rose, Max Sackett, Meghan Self, Andrew Slutsky, Emily Walker, Matthew Wilkes and Lisa Winter.

The 63rd post-confirmation high school graduation will take place at Temple Beth-El during Shabbat services on May 24 at 7:45 p.m. At that time, three dedicated 12th-grade students will be recognized and honored.

The congregation congratulates the following graduates and their parents: Beth Brier, Eve Goldberg and Joshua Waldman.

Eight students will be confirmed during the Shavuot service on May 24 at 10 a.m. at Temple Beth-El.

The congregation congratulates the following confirmands and their parents: Irving Fain, Benjamin Garber, Seth Joseph, Joseph Lasser, Jennifer Phillips, Michael Phillips, Daniel Silverman and Rachel Steiman.



It's A Bird, It's A Plane...

No it's kites. At the recent Lag B'Omer activities in Providence, sponsored by Chabad-Lubavitch and Camp Gan Israel, children were treated to a kite show.

Herald photo by Neil Nachbar

New Jewish High School Appoints Headmaster

The New Jewish High School, Inc., recently announced the appointment of Rabbi Daniel Lehmann as headmaster. After completing his responsibilities as principal of the Beth Tfiloh Community Upper School in Baltimore, Md., Lehmann will assume his new post at the future New Jewish High School later this summer.

Commenting on the appointment of Lehmann, Michael Bohnen, chairman of the board and former chairman of the Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston, said, "Combining hands-on experience and broad vision, Rabbi Lehmann is the ideal leader for our new trans-denominational school. Throughout his career, Rabbi Lehmann has sought to

bring intensive Jewish studies to clal Yisrael — the entirety of the Jewish community."

Bonnie Hausman, president of the school, added, "Rabbi Lehmann is an outstanding educator with numerous accomplishments as a high school principal. He aggressively recruited students beyond Beth Tfiloh's Orthodox community, and we were especially impressed with dramatic increases in student enrollment during his tenure. He restructured the school day to accommodate the demands of dual curriculum study, and he adopted the best practices from neighboring private schools."

The New Jewish High School will be a Jewish coeducational high school that integrates in-



Rabbi Daniel Lehmann

tensive Judaic studies with a rigorous college preparatory program.



PETER ZIEGLER gets ready to receive a pitch at the Providence Hebrew Day School Lag B'Omer festivities. Photo courtesy of PHDS

PHDS Celebrates Log B'omer

Lag B'omer, the 33rd day of the Omer period, is known as the "scholars holiday." Jewish schoolchildren throughout the world hold special celebrations on this day. Picnics, sport events, games and races are featured on Lag B'omer.

The Providence Hebrew Day School's celebration was held at Colt State Park in Bristol on May 7. A day full of activities took place. Baseball games, relay races, nature walks and picnic lunches punctuated the day.



MALKA ANTOKOL flings a Frisbee at the PHDS Lag B'Omer celebration.

Photo courtesy of PHDS

Visit the Museum

In celebration of Museum Month, admission into the Museum of Art, Rhode Island School of Design is free for the entire month of May.

For more information, call 454-6500. Located at 224 Benefit St., Providence, museum hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday, noon to 8 p.m.; and Sunday 2 to 5 p.m.

Camp JORI to Host Open House

Camp JORI will hold an open house on May 20 at 7 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island, which is located at 401 Elmgrove Ave. in Providence.

The event will be an opportunity for parents and children to learn about the camp, including its many new activities, such as karate and archery and, offered for the first time this summer, Israeli folk dance.

There will also be an opportunity to meet camp director Ken Abrams, and the JORI staff, and enjoy a video of past campers

and staff members.

Camp JORI's first four-week overnight session, which opens June 30 and runs through July 28, is almost full. There are still some openings for the second session which starts July 28 and ends Aug. 25.

Camp JORI also offers a special two-week session for first-time overnight campers only. In addition, it offers a day camp for residents of South County with limited enrollment.

For further information about the open house and/or Camp JORI, call 521-2655.



Play Ball!

Warwick School Superintendent Robert S. Shapiro, left, accepts 500 Pawtucket Red Sox tickets from Stephan Goldman, president of New England Pest Control. Goldman's company annually donates Pawsox tickets for a May game to various organizations.

Place Names Reflect Bible

There are more than 1,000 Biblical names of towns and cities scattered across the American landscape. In fact, according to *Textures*, a bulletin published by Hadassah, half the states in the United States contain a Bethel, while 20 states have a Goshen or Hebron.

There are about 30 Jerusalems or (a derivative) Salems. Coast to coast from Ararat to Pisgah and from Gilead to Zion, only Hawaii has no place name taken from the Bible.

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1996 COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

Several well-known Jewish figures will participate in local commencement ceremonies

Elie Wiesel to Speak at UMass Dartmouth

Alan Ades to Receive
Honorary Degree

Elie Wiesel, winner of the 1986 Nobel Peace Prize and survivor of Auschwitz and Buchenwald concentration camps, will deliver the commencement address to this year's graduates of the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth on June 2.

The university will confer an honorary doctorate of humane letters on Wiesel during the 96th commencement exercises for some 1,250 graduates in the Vietnam Veterans' Peace Memorial Amphitheater.

Among those to receive honorary degrees are Alan Ades, international president of the United Synagogue of Conser-

vative Judaism.

Wiesel's personal experience of the Holocaust has led him to use his talents as an author, teacher and storyteller to defend human rights and peace throughout the world.

He has worked on behalf of oppressed people for much of his adult life, defending the cause of Soviet Jews, Nicaragua's Miskito Indians, Argentina's "disappeared," Cambodians refugees, the Kurds, South African apartheid victims, famine victims in Africa, and recently the victims and prisoners in the former Yugoslavia.

Wiesel's efforts have earned him the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the United States Congressional Gold Medal and the Medal of Liberty Award, and the rank of Grand Officer in the French Legion of Honor.

He has received more than 75 honorary degrees from institutions of higher learning, and is the Andrew W. Mellon Professor in the Humanities at Boston University.

His more than 35 books have won numerous awards, including the Prix Medicis for *A Beggar in Jerusalem*, the Prix Livre Inter for *The Testament* and the Grand Prize for Literature from the city of Paris for *The Fifth Son*.

A native of Sighet,



Alan Ades

Transylvania (Romania), Wiesel and his family were deported by the Nazis to Auschwitz when he was 15 years old. His mother and younger sister perished there, his two older sisters survived. Wiesel and his father were later transported to Buchenwald.

After the war, Wiesel studied in Paris and later became a journalist in that city, yet he remained silent about what he had endured as an inmate in the death camps. During an interview with the French writer François Mauriac, Wiesel was persuaded to end that silence.

He subsequently wrote *La Nuit* (Night). Since its publication in 1958, *La Nuit* has been translated into 25 languages.

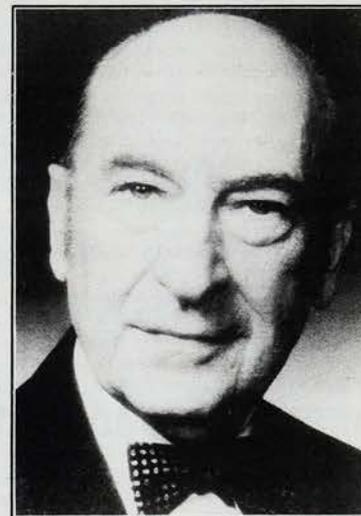
Irving R. Levine to Deliver RIC Commencement Speech

Pawtucket-born, Irving R. Levine, who retired in November 1995 after a quarter century as the chief economic correspondent for NBC News, will deliver the 1996 Rhode Island College undergraduate commencement address on May 18 at 9:30 a.m.

Called "the last of the scholar-journalists," he began his career as a part-time obituary writer for the *Providence Journal* after graduating from Brown University in 1944 and completing a tour of duty with the Army Signal Corps during World War II.

He later received his master's in journalism from Columbia University School of Journalism. In 1950, he was dispatched to Vienna, and later volunteered to cover the Korean War for the wire service. There, he began feeding stories to NBC, which subsequently hired him to a full-time position.

He served as chief correspondent for three NBC foreign bureaus — Moscow, London and Rome — throughout

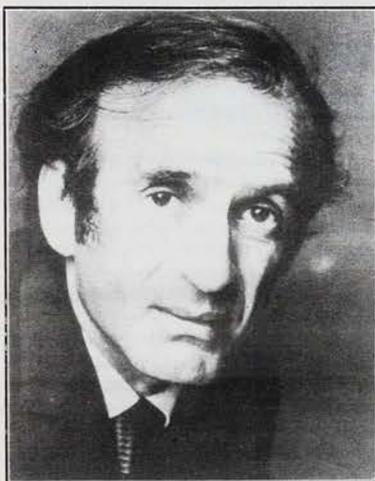


Irving R. Levine

the critical Cold War years of 1955 to 1970, finally to return to the United States in 1971 where he was named chief economic correspondent, a post he has held at the network until this year.

Currently, Levine is dean of international studies at Lynn University in Boca Raton, Fla.

Commencement will be held on the lawn in front of the "New Building."



Elie Wiesel

Justice Ginsberg to Receive Honorary Degree From Brandeis

Brandeis University will hold its 45th commencement exercises on May 19.

The following people are among those who will receive honorary degrees: Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg (laws); author and Holocaust survivor Aharon Appelfeld (humane letters); and Leonard Zakim, New England regional director of the Anti-Defamation League (humane letters).

Ginsberg took her seat on the Supreme Court on Aug. 10, 1993, after being nominated by President Bill Clinton.

She previously served as a judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia circuit, to which she was appointed in 1980.

In 1971, she was instrumental in launching the Women's Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union, and served as the ACLU's general counsel from 1973 to 1980.

Appelfeld is a Romanian-born Israeli short story writer, novelist, essayist and poet.

He was placed in a concentration camp in Transnistria, Rumania, in 1940. He escaped in 1943 and survived the rest of

World War II by hiding and scavenging in the forests of the Nazi-occupied Ukraine.

He went to Israel in 1947 and wrote poetry in several languages before opting to write fiction only in Hebrew.

Zakim, an attorney, is one of the most visible and quoted Jewish civil rights leaders in the region.

In 1986, Zakim traveled to Poland at the invitation of Boston's Bernard Cardinal Law where they participated in historic meetings on Catholic/Jewish relations and led a memorial service at Auschwitz.

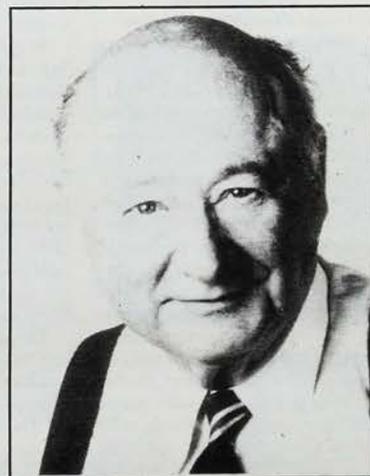
Koch to Address RWU

The Honorable Edward I. Koch will offer the principal address at this year's Roger Williams University undergraduate commencement exercises, scheduled for 10 a.m. on May 18, on the Bristol campus.

More than 700 students will be presented as candidates for baccalaureate and associate degrees.

Koch, the former mayor of New York City, is a practicing attorney with the law firm of Robinson, Silverman, Pearce, Aronsohn and Berman. He will receive an honorary doctor of public administration degree.

Among others on the program will be Joshua Weiner, president of the Alpha Chi Honor Society.



Edward I. Koch
Photo by Konstantin

Katz to Address Students At Brown University

Brown University will hold its 228th commencement on May 27.

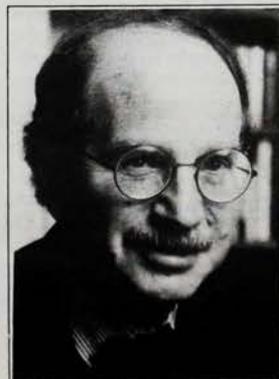
At 9:15 a.m., Stanley Katz, president of the American Council of Learned Societies and senior fellow at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School, will address candidates for advanced degrees during the Graduate School's convocation on Lincoln Field.

At Princeton, Katz is also the co-director of the Center for Arts and Cultural Policy Research.

From 1979 to 1986, Katz was a visiting professor of law at the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

Before that, Katz worked at the University of Chicago, where he was a professor of history and legal history, associate dean of the law school and he was on the committee on Public Policy Studies.

Katz has had more than 60 articles printed in a number of different publications. He's also delivered more than 60 lectures.



Stanley N. Katz
Photo courtesy of ACLS

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FEATURE

Jewish Spirituality

by Velvel "Wally" Spiegler

Last summer in Israel we met a psychotherapist, a close friend of my brother-in-law, who told us that many young Israelis, after completing their military service, travel now to the Orient in pursuit of spiritual inquiry from some of the Eastern religions.

From my own experience of visiting ashrams and Buddhist monasteries in this country, I found a disproportionately large number of devotees to be of Jewish birth.

Often you can see a group on a street corner of a major city, dressed in saffron robes chanting "Hare Krishna." Isn't it interesting how Jewish their faces seem to be? What's more, the American superstars of the Eastern religions — Swami Ajaya (Allen Weinstock), Ram Dass, Sensei Bernard Glassman, Rudinanda, Jack Kornfield, Stephen Levine and so many others are Jewish.

What is this lure that the Eastern religions have for Jews? Simply put, Jews are a spiritual people seeking spiritual experiences. I am often asked what does spiritual mean and how does it differ from being religious?

There is a difference. Religion is about the rituals, the literature, the rules and the morality of a society. Spirituality is about personal experiences in search of the divine.

Those embarking on a spiritual path usually find something lacking in their lives: purpose, meaningfulness, physical or emotional health, etc. and having exhausted conventional sources of help often turn toward a spiritual refuge.

But why must so many Jews seek solace in other religions when Judaism has a spiritual tradition far wider and as effective as can be found anywhere else?

The Jewish Renewal movement spearheaded by Aleph, an organization based in Philadelphia, performs remarkable work calling upon Jews throughout the country to carry out the work of Tikkun Olam — repair of the world, repair of the breakage within ourselves and our relationships.

So what I propose here and in this series of articles on Jewish spirituality is a Judaism built upon our heritage of Torah and mitzvot, but with a slight change of focus; a change similar to the little switch we have on our rear view that deflects the blinding brightness of headlights behind us.

That switch is something we call, in Hebrew, kavvanah. It means intention, attention or awareness.

It is a powerful spiritual tool. It compels us to become aware by focusing completely and paying careful attention to the mitz-

vot we choose to do, to Torah, to prayer.

Through this simple, yet effective practice we can eventually learn to bring this awareness quality of mind to our most mundane activities — paying bills, taking out the garbage, etc.

As a result, we can make the ordinary extraordinary, and can find G-d in our everyday experiences. This is the beginning of living a spiritual life, a meditative life that hallows our everyday activities.

In future articles, I hope to explore more of the wonder and mystery of Jewish tradition with particular concern for its hidden aspects, its symbolism, its depth of understanding about life and our lives in particular.

I hope to touch on those aspects of Judaism that still remain clouded. These include Jewish meditation, Jewish healing and other areas that are of concern to us all.

For further information, comments or questions, you can reach Velvel "Wally" Spiegler by calling (508) 252-4302 or Email to DSpieg5411@aol.com.

Spiegler is a certified polarity therapist, registered with advanced standing in the American Polarity Therapy Association, a student and teacher of Jewish mysticism whose primary interest is in Jewish approaches to the healing of mind, body, and spirit.

Hadassah Volunteers Return to Bosnia With 75 Tons of Aid

Three Hadassah volunteers fulfilled their promise by returning to Sarajevo to deliver 75 tons of humanitarian aid, and to assess what new measures can be taken to help the people of Bosnia rebuild their lives.

The three women were Elsie Roth, a 67-year-old grandmother and registered nurse from St. Louis, Mo.; Sherry Hahn, a mother of three from Arlington, Mass.; and Safeta (Sada) Ovcina, a Bosnian Muslim nurse who now lives in St. Louis, for whom this mission was a brief return home.

For the last eight months, they worked tirelessly to obtain the aid and make arrangements for its shipment. To ensure that the aid was distributed to those who needed it most, they traveled more than 15,000 miles to see that it reached its destination.

"Life has definitely improved since our last trip to Sarajevo," said Roth, remembering their second mission to Bosnia more than a year ago when they had neither heat nor running water and visited hospitals with skeletal staffs and no working equipment. "Yet food is scarce everywhere, including in the hospitals. Medical supplies, even with our aid, are barely adequate. Trained hospital personnel are needed, and the equipment is virtually useless. We saw 10 non-functioning dialysis machines, one working incubator and a single EKG monitor."

This is the fourth mission for Roth, and the second for Hahn, both of whom collected and delivered a previous shipment of 33 tons of aid to Bosnia in February 1995.

Deeply moved by the continued devastation, they immediately initiated another communal, grassroots effort under the

auspices of the Hadassah Nurses Council. More than 100 communities across the nation rallied to obtain pharmaceutical and medical supplies, linens and blankets, winter clothing, shoes and toiletries.

The Hadassah volunteers worked closely with La Benevolencija, the Jewish organization which has provided non-sectarian aid to the people of Sarajevo since the turn of the century.

In addition to assisting with the ground arrangements, La Benevolencija also organized two seders led by Rabbi Moshe Tutnauer from Jerusalem — one for the Jewish community and one for Jews and non-Jews alike. They were attended by more than 300 people, including the Archbishop of Bosnia, leaders from the Catholic, Serbian Orthodox and Muslim communities, and three Jewish IFOR soldiers.

La Benevolencija also arranged for the women to visit the Isak Samokovlija Elementary School, named for the nationally respected 20th-century Jewish physician and poet. Twelve hundred children from all faiths attend the elementary school.

For most of the war the school was in the direct line of fire. During one four-month period, 5,000 shells landed in the area of the school. Thirty-three children were killed, although none while they were attending the school, and 84 students have been orphaned by the war.

Hadassah is exploring the possibility of creating a special program between the 6,000 youth members of Young Judea, Hadassah's youth movement, and the children attending that school and other schools in the Sarajevo area.

Saudade Bittersweet Longing

by Mike Fink
Herald Contributing Reporter

"We swept the floor from the corners toward the center, on Friday afternoons. We didn't know why we were so shy about cleaning up before the weekend. Of course, it meant we had been secret Portuguese Jews preparing for the forbidden Sabbath, concealing our rituals from the neighbors, real or imagined."

"Nobody quite recalled why you salted the meat, or avoided butter with it, or turned away from pork. Why were shellfish considered unclean?" Maria Van Anglen and her mother Evelyn Schultz told their Newport tales of how they connected with

Touro Synagogue and Rabbi Chaim Shapiro.

It was the event planned by Steve Gorban of the New Bedford Jewish Federation, the Saudade series of programs connecting the roots of Jewish, Azorean, Cape Verdean and mainland Portuguese practices, beliefs and art forms. "Saudade" is a term that tries to capture the bittersweet longing both for the past and the future, the nostalgia and hope of the common bond among these peoples.

On a Sunday afternoon in the main auditorium of the U.Mass at Dartmouth, groups of musicians and dancers from all these groups performed.

Scholars and speakers presented their accounts. The group Voice of the Turtle played



Peter, from Cape Verde

pieces from Turkey, Bulgaria, Spain, Portugal, and Provence, mostly witty love ballads. "O mother, nothing is as dreadful as a bad husband. A new lover is better." "O daughter, don't marry a drunk! Dearest Mother, I already have!" The Fado and Mouro melodies of Coimbra, Lisbon, and Mindelo filled the afternoon, sunny outdoors but lit by spotlight in the dark auditorium.

Southeastern Massachusetts is a shoreline upon which these peoples have landed, long ago and also recently. They tie their traditions together again.

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The Mitzvah Man

by Cindy Halpern

Today I attended the funeral of a very dear man. Long ago, I secretly nicknamed him as "the mitzvah man" because I had never known such a giving man before I met him, and I doubt that I will meet such a man again.

He was one in a million. He first became known to me as my mother described her "Meals on Wheels" partner. She told me how Murray took in people's mail and helped them sort out their lonely lives.

Then one day, Murray touched my life. I suddenly became violently ill at work and no one was available to drive me home... except Murray. I remember warning him as he drove me home, "I might vomit at any minute and ruin your car's upholstery." He simply smiled and answered, "I can

always buy another car."

More recently, when my sister died of a massive stroke, Murray and his wife Annette were both there for my family to help us weather our storm, while he waged his own private battle against cancer.

He never complained about being ill while he continued to help others as he had always done.

For his funeral, people gathered from as far away as Vienna and as near as his own beloved synagogue to pay tribute to his memory. But it was his beloved 13-year-old grandson, Brandon, who best described who Murray Perelman was: He was always there to help and he always kept his promises.

Your community will both miss and remember you, Murray Perelman.

A subscription to the Herald makes a great gift.
Call 724-0200 for more information.

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT



...And on June 4 A Velvet Fog Shall Spread Across the Land

America's premier musical archivist, Rhino Records, and America's premier jazz vocalist, Mel Tormé, have teamed up for the June 4 release of "The Mel Tormé Collection (1942-1985)," a box set chronicling more than four historic decades of recordings.

Containing 93 tracks of four CDs, with a suggested retail list price of \$54.98, "The Mel Tormé Collection" features a broad scope of this two-time Grammy award-winning vocal master's work, including all of his hits, and several unreleased tracks.

At least 21 songs will make their debut on CD, and seven tunes will be available on CD for the first time in the United States.

"I'd like to call this collection 'Mel Tormé: The First 40 years,'" laughs Tormé, who recently cel-

brated his 70th birthday. "I'm thrilled at the absolutely stellar job that Rhino did in preserving the quality and integrity of the original recordings. It's great to listen to these tunes again, a lot of memories, a lot of memories."

Included in the collection are such Tormé standards as "Careless Hands," "Blue Moon," "The Four Winds and The Seven Seas," "Got The Gate on The Golden Gate," "Again," and "Comin' Home Baby."

Additionally, Rhino will offer four previously unreleased tracks: "Walkin' Shoes," "Theme From Arthur (Best That You Can Do)" (interpolating "New York State of Mind" and "For Once In My Life"), "Three Little Words," and "Love Me or Leave Me."

Accompanying this outstanding package will be a 64-

page liner note booklet written by renowned musicologist and Tormé expert Will Friedwald. As Friedwald states in his essay, "...Tormé is a master technician, instrumentalist, composer, and arranger, in addition to his life-long career as a singer. But the artist formerly known as The Velvet Fog is foremostly a master showman, a show-stopping, crowd-pleasing entertainer who eats standing ovations for breakfast."

Walk Through the Woods

A "Musical Walk Through the Woods" will be the theme when the Rhode Island Philharmonic presents its Educational Concerts on May 21, 22, 23, and 28, at Veterans Memorial Auditorium in Providence.

Conductor F. John Adams will take schoolchildren on a unique journey as they listen to music depicting nature. Tickets for the concerts are \$4 and \$6 and can be purchased by calling the Rhode Island Philharmonic office at 831-3123.

Rachleff Named Director of the R.I. Philharmonic

The Rhode Island Philharmonic announced recently the selection of its new music director, Larry Rachleff, as the fifth music director in the orchestra's 51-year history.

Selected from a substantial field of applicants, and five final candidates, Rachleff will assume his new duties as music director effective June 1. His first concert as new music director will be the opening night concert of the 1996-97 Classical Series on Oct. 19.

Rachleff has appeared as guest conductor with such pres-

tigious orchestras as the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Houston Symphony, the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra and the New World Symphony.

In 1993 he received the unique honor of being chosen as one of four American conductors to conduct the Cleveland Orchestra at Carnegie Hall under Maestro Pierre Boulez.

A champion of 20th-century music, Rachleff has collaborated with composers Samuel Adler, John Harbison, Morton Subotnik and Richard Wernick, to mention only a few.

Brave the North Atlantic

Dr. John R. Bockstoce will present an illustrated lecture at the New Bedford Whaling Museum titled "High Latitude, North Atlantic," based on his most recent experiences along the Greenland coast aboard his 60-foot, steel-hulled vessel "Belvedere."

Admission to this lecture is free to members, \$5 to non-members.

The 32-foot umiak which Bockstoce used in 1971 to traverse the Great Northern Waterway is on display at the Whaling Museum until Labor Day of 1996. It is on loan from Mystic Seaport.

Bockstoce, the former curator of ethnology at the New Bedford Whaling Museum built the umiak while he was a graduate student in archeology at Oxford University.

Museum hours are 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. seven days a week. Admission is \$4.50 for adults, \$3.50 for senior citizens, \$3 for children (6 to 14).

For further information, contact Lee Heald, deputy director of programs, at (508) 997-0046, ext. 33.

The Music School Presents Spring Folk Fest, May 19

For folk music enthusiasts the place to be on May 19 is Nathan Bishop Middle School for The Music School's annual Spring Folk Fest.

The lineup includes a wide array of singers and instrumentalists: Fishel Bresler, Jon Campbell, Jimmy Devine, Mike Fishman, Skip Healy, Michelle Kaminsky, Rick McKinney, David Rimpler & Friends, Lisa Schmidts, Marcia Taylor and Mary Wheelan.

Workshops include "Carrying a Tune in a Bucket" (for singers and wanna' be singers), "Fifes, Flutes & Pennywhistles," "An Introduction to Appalachian Clogging," "Strings & Frets, Frets & Strings," "Fiddle for Violinists" and even "What is it?—A Demonstration of Unusual Folk Instruments."

Old-Timey, Celtic and bluegrass jams will give aspiring folk

instrumentalists (even beginners) a chance to sit in. There's even a Songwriter's Swap and Critique and a demonstration of Brazilian Choro music.

Those who want some hands-on participation should bring their instruments: guitars, violins/fiddles, banjos, mandolins, pennywhistles, flutes, fifes, dulcimers, concertinas and any other folk instrument, plus hands, feet and voices. Others may come and just listen, learn and enjoy.

The fest is \$7 for adults, \$3 for children with a \$15 per family cap.

Nathan Bishop Middle School is located at 101 Sessions St., on the east side of Providence. It is wheelchair-accessible. For more information, call The Music School at 272-9877 or 273-8475.



Glass In Motion

The works of former grand prize winner, glass artist Neal Drobnis of Scituate, will be among pieces by more than 100 artists exhibited at the Thayer Street Art Festival on May 18 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 751-9211 for more details.



KLEZMER MUSICIAN Fishel Bresler will be one of more than 10 folk artists at The Music School's Spring Folk Fest on May 19. The event is for musicians and non-musicians of all ages. Call 272-9877 for more information.

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MILESTONES

Joy Caslowitz Weds William Weinbaum

Joy Caslowitz of Stamford, Conn., daughter of Monroe Caslowitz of Providence, R.I., and Hollywood, Fla., was married to William Weinbaum of New York, N.Y., son of Samuel and Alice Weinbaum of New York, N.Y. The bride is also the daughter of the late Esther

Caslowitz. The wedding took place May 5 at Temple Emanu-El of Providence and a reception followed at the Providence Biltmore.

Rabbi Wayne Franklin officiated at the ceremony and the cantor was Brian Mayer.

The bride was given in mar-

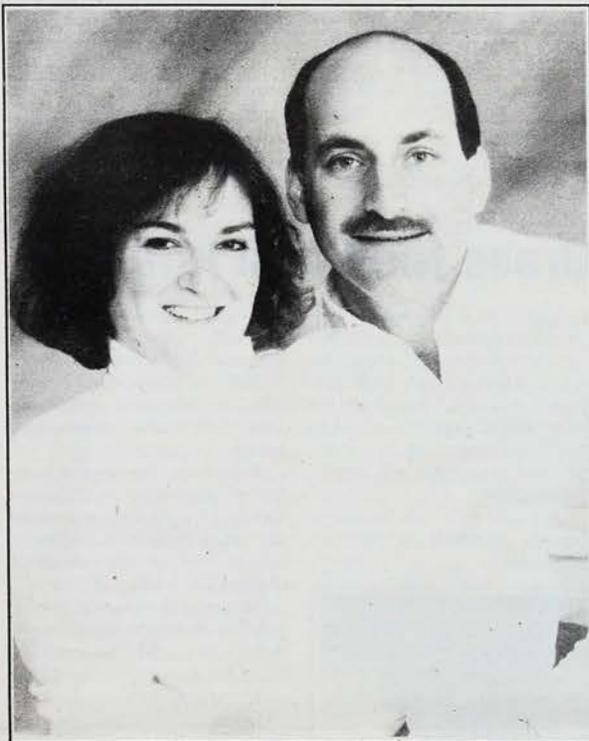
riage by her father. The maid of honor was Roberta Morgestern. Bridesmaids were Holly Rothemich, sister of the bride, and Jill Caslowitz, sister-in-law of the bride. Mary Rothemich, niece of the bride, was flower girl.

Laurence Weinbaum, brother of the bridegroom, was best man. Ushers were David Rothemich, brother-in-law of the bride, Andrew Caslowitz, brother of bride, and Perry Fain, Jeffrey Varsa, Dr. Steven Hanberg.

The bride graduated with a bachelor of science from the University of Rhode Island, and a master of business administration from Bentley College. She is employed as a product manager for Hyperion Software.

The bridegroom has a bachelor of science and a master of science from Medill School of Journalism, Northwestern University, New York. He is a bureau producer for ESPN.

After a safari to Kenya, Africa, the couple will reside in Stamford, Conn.



Mr. and Mrs. William Weinbaum

Hirsch to be Honored

Marianne Hirsch, B.A./M.A. class of '70 at Brown University, Ph.D. in '75, will receive a Distinguished Graduate School Alumnus Award on May 27 at the Brown graduation ceremony.

Hirsch, professor of French and Italian and of comparative literature at Dartmouth College, is a respected scholar of feminist criticism. At Dartmouth, where she joined the faculty in 1974, her teaching has been honored by parents, who endowed her position as the Parents Humanities Distinguished Professor. She is the author of *The Mother/Daughter Plot: Narrative, Psychoanalysis, Feminism*, which won her second *Choice* magazine Outstanding Academic Book of the Year award.

Her recent work has expanded into the area of photography, in part along the lines of

exploration of gender and exploitation of children.

She is also exploring the Holocaust and her own Jewish European past.



Mr. and Mrs. Edward M. Deluty of 90 Sheffield Rd., Cranston, R.I., announce the birth of their second child, and first son, Evan Alexander, born April 20. Their first child is a daughter, Alana.

Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Herbert L. Bloom of Cranston and Boynton Beach, Fla. Paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Deluty of Cranston and Boynton Beach, Fla.

Amy Cohen Weds Howard Blustein

Amy Sue Cohen, of Providence, R.I., was married to Howard Scott Blustein, of Providence, R.I., on March 23 at 8 p.m. at Temple Emanu-El, Providence. The bride is the daughter of Gerald and Esta Cohen of East Greenwich, R.I., and the bridegroom is the son of Sheldon and Ruth Blustein of Providence.

Rabbi Wayne Franklin officiated at the ceremony and the cantor was Brian Mayer. A reception followed at Temple Emanu-El.

The bride was given in marriage by her parents. The matron of honor was Rina Vertes, sister of the bride. Bridesmaids were Lisa Benatovich, Marcy Cohen and Susan Gastel.

Best man was Neal Blustein, brother of the bridegroom. Ushers were Daniel Cohen, brother of the bride, Neal Halperin, Michael Kortick, Steven Kortick, and Roger Vertes, brother-in-law of the bride.

The bride graduated from East Greenwich High School and Rutgers University. She is employed as manager of Media Relations at Charlton Memorial Hospital, Fall River.

The bridegroom is a graduate of Providence Country Day School and the University of Rhode Island. He is the owner of Darling Cycle & Lock Shop in Woonsocket.

The couple honeymooned in Barbados and St. Lucia, and now reside in Pawtucket, R.I.



David Eric Jayson

David Eric Jayson is Bar Mitzvah

David Eric Jayson, son of Jay and Gail (Lyons) Jayson of Plant City, Fla., was called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah on May 4 at Congregation Beth Shalom of Brandon, Fla.

He is an eighth-grade student at Tomlin Middle School, a Junior Honor Society student, and he loves sports, especially tennis. He holds a tennis ranking in the state of Florida.

Guests at the event included Leonard Lyons, grandfather; Eddie Lyons, uncle; Ardene Chodosh, aunt, of New Jersey; and Harold and Gwen Jayson, grandparents, of Sunrise, Fla.

Gail Lyons Jayson, David's mother is the daughter of Leonard Lyons and the late Louise C. Lyons of East Providence.



Mr. and Mrs. Howard Blustein

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WORLD AND NATIONAL NEWS

Arafat Forges Ahead Toward Statehood

by Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has gone farther to fulfill the demands of the Israeli leadership during the past month than he has ever done before.

His recent efforts to destroy the military infrastructure of the Hamas militants have won praise from Israeli policymakers.

As part of their ongoing crackdown, Palestinian security forces have arrested Adnan Goul, the No. 2 man on Israel's most-wanted list after the series of terror attacks in February and March against Israel.

Then Arafat fulfilled the promise he made in a letter to

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on the eve of the historic September 1993 signing of the Declaration of Principles, which is the basis of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

He convinced the Palestine National Council to revoke the anti-Israel clauses in its charter in a resounding 504-54 vote with 14 abstentions.

Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres hailed the PNC action, but Arafat did not secure the vote merely to satisfy Israel.

He knew that if the offensive clauses were not annulled, there would be no chance of fulfilling the dreams of Palestinian inde-

pendence, there would be no peace process, no Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank town of Hebron.

The PNC was officially the supreme apparatus for shaping PLO policy.

But it lost some influence after the establishment of the Palestinian Authority, and after the January voting for the Palestinian Council, which represents Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The more recently elected council does not represent Palestinians in exile so the PNC will continue to exist as a Palestinian version of the World Zionist Organization until a Palestinian state is created.

A special task force, under the direction of Mahmoud Abbas, Arafat's second-in-command, spent weeks contacting PNC delegates, persuading them to support changing the charter.

Abbas, also known as Abu-Mazen, had also played a key behind-the-scenes role in 1993, when he participated in the secret negotiations held in Oslo that led to the Declaration of Principles, which he and then-Foreign Minister Shimon Peres signed on the White House lawn.

Israel permitted all PNC members, without exception, to enter the territories to participate in the crucial vote.

They adopted this policy to make sure that no one would blame them if there was not a quorum for the vote.

As a result, a stream of former terrorists flowed into the administered territories to attend the PNC session.

Arafat could have made their return for the vote in Gaza into a dramatic spectacle, but he chose not to, primarily because he wanted something else even more: a vote that went his way.

There were celebrations marking the return of the aging terrorists, but the spectacle did not get out of hand.

Islamic Jihad and Hamas representatives were not present, indicating that the rift between Arafat and the Islamic militants was as deep as ever.

But to Arafat his relations with Hamas were secondary. He had more important goals: to bring an end to the 2-month-old closure Israel had imposed on the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the wake of the Hamas suicide

bombings; to make sure that Israel redeployed its forces in the West Bank town of Hebron, which redeployment had been postponed after the bombings; and to make a contribution toward a Peres victory in Israel's May 29 national elections.

His primary goal, above all, was the creation of a Palestinian state.

A day after the PNC vote, Arafat began to reap the rewards of his efforts: Israel's ruling Labor Party approved a platform that no longer expressed objection to the creation of a Palestinian state.

And days after that, Israeli officials said the redeployment from Hebron could come before the Israeli elections.

Even Likud opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu described the PNC vote as a "positive step," adding that if he were elected prime minister, he would meet with Arafat.

The wording of the resolution was intentionally obscure. "The Palestine National Council decides to amend the Palestinian National Charter by canceling clauses which contradict the letters exchanged between the PLO and the Israeli government."

Arafat was facing opposition not only from hardliners but also from within his own camp. The vaguer the phrasing of the resolution, the greater the likelihood of its passage.

On May 5, the Israeli and

Palestinian delegation started meetings on permanent status in Taba, Egypt, which may last up to three years. The most difficult issues will come up, including the status of Jerusalem and the issue of Palestinian statehood.

Bank of Israel to Raise Interest Rates

by Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The Bank of Israel has said it plans to raise interest rates by 0.8 percent in May in an effort to keep down inflation.

The decision to raise rates followed a 1 percent increase in the cost-of-living index in March — a relatively high increase that fueled concerns that inflation in 1996 would exceed last year's 9 percent.

The central bank has kept interest rates high and the Israeli shekel at about three to the dollar for more than two years as part of its ongoing campaign to fight inflation.

These moves have drawn criticism from industrialists, who say the monetary policy is responsible for Israel's high trade deficit, which reached \$2.9 billion in the first three months of 1996.

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None Were Safe

(Submitted by C.N. George, of Cranston, who felt that this story of persecution of the Armenians, particularly those who later lived in Rhode Island, might be of interest to the people who suffered through the Holocaust.)

...I found that none were safe, not even when they were given visas. I began to use the consulate as a place of refuge and kept many Armenians in it during the next two years.

The first person who sought refuge there was a woman from the village of Morenik, whose husband, an American citizen, had died of typhus the preceding winter. This was Mrs. Varter George to whom the State Department later issued a passport and concerning whom there was other correspondence through the department. She rushed into the consulate one day that week with her four small children, three of whom had been born in America, where she had lived for a number of years, and asked if I could keep her there. I had already obtained a visa for her, but she said the gendarmes, who were deporting the Armenians of Morenik that day, paid no

attention to it and drove her out with the others.

She had slipped a little money to one of the gendarmes, however, and he let her leave the lines. She then ran across the fields to Mamouret-ul-Aziz, a distance of about two miles, and succeeded in coming around by a back way and reaching the consulate, terror-stricken and worn out.

I told her she might remain there and later obtained permission from the Vali for her to remain permanently in Mamouret-ul-Aziz. She stayed at the consulate about three months, after which I rented a house in the neighborhood. As she had lost all her money, I advanced her funds until I was able to get word to her father (Marders Mermerian died 1942 and was buried in North Burial Ground in Providence, R.I.) in America and obtain money for her, which came about six months later.

This was the beginning. From that time on I had men, women and children in the consulate for protection and helped as many as possible in that way, trying all the time not to attract the attention of the police.



SURVIVORS of Armenian genocide, Leo and Harry George, sons of Varter George, stand outside their grocery store, long ago.

Printed by permission of H. George family.

EI AI Flies High Financially

JERUSALEM (JTA) — EI AI Israel Airlines has reported a net profit of \$15 million for fiscal year 1995, the company's 10th consecutive profitable year.

EI AI revenues totaled more than \$1.2 billion for the year, a 17.5 percent increase over 1994.

The airline's number of passengers reached 2.93 million, an 18 percent increase over the previous year.

In February 1995, EI AI ended a 12-year period of temporary receivership and began to operate under a new board of directors.



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OBITUARIES

M. DAVID BELL

PROVIDENCE — M. David Bell, 72, of 56 Pratt St., a teacher and writer until retiring in 1985, died May 7 at Miriam Hospital. He was the husband of Laura (Martin) Bell.

A lifelong resident of Providence, he was a son of the late Joshua and Annie (Burke) Bell.

He was a political ghost writer, and had worked at the Providence Journal-Bulletin in the 1960s. He suffered for many years from Parkinson's disease.

He was a member of Temple Beth-El in Providence, the Boy Scouts of America, and was president of Ecology Action of Rhode Island in the 1960s. He was a veteran of World War II.

Besides his wife, he leaves three sons, Joshua Bell of Providence, Jonathan Bell of Cranston, and Michael Bell of Ames, Iowa; a brother, Bernard Bell of Providence; a sister, Miriam Smith of Miami, Fla.; and six grandchildren.

A memorial service was held May 9 at Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. Arrangements were by the Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

BELLA CORIN

WARWICK — Bella Corin, 80, of 4851 Boxwood Circle, Boynton Beach, Fla., co-owner of Office Appliance Co. in Cranston for 20 years before retiring two years ago, died May 7 at the Kent Nursing Home in Warwick. She was the wife of Benjamin Corin.

Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Isaac and Rebecca Corich, she lived in Providence for many years before moving to Boynton Beach.

She was a member of Temple Am David in Warwick, and the Sisterhoods of Temple Emanuel and Temple Sinai. She was a life member of Hadassah.

Besides her husband, she leaves two sons, Warren "Bob" Corin of Warwick and Alan Corin of Atlanta; a brother, Paul Corich of Stamford, Conn.; three sisters, Minnie Summers of Boynton Beach, Fla., Rose Corich of Pawtucket, Beatrice Barshay of Cranston, and six grandchildren. She was sister of the late Ida Frank and Celia Nelson.

The funeral service was held May 10 at the Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

ROSE GOLDBERG

PROVIDENCE — Rose Goldberg, 95, of 670 North Main St., died May 9 at Miriam Hospital. She was the wife of the late Harry Goldberg.

Born in Russia, a daughter of the late Ann and Samuel Lipson, she came to Rhode Island many years ago.

She leaves a son, Murray Goldberg of Providence and Long Boat Key, Fla.; a daughter, Barbara Rubin of Fort Lee, N.J.; a sister, Frances Rutman of Manchester, N.H.; and five grandchildren.

A graveside service was held on May 12 at Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. Arrangements were by Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

NATHANIEL LONDON

SMITHFIELD — Nathaniel London, 85, a resident of Hebert Nursing Home for the last 15 years, died at the home May 6.

Born in Chelsea, Mass., a son of the late Jacob and Bessie London, he lived in the greater Boston area and in Pawtucket before moving to Smithfield.

He was a machinist for 10 years for the former Royal Electric Co., Pawtucket. He was a furrier for seven years for the former I.J. Fox Furriers, Boston.

He leaves two brothers, Melvin London of Boca Raton, Fla., Milton London of Delray Beach, Fla.; and nieces and nephews. He was brother of the late Norman London.

A graveside funeral service was held May 8 at Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. The service was coordinated by Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence.

DOROTHY MEDOFF

RIVERDALE, N.Y. — Dorothy (Kaplan) Medoff, wife of Abraham S. Medoff, died May 11 at the Jewish Convalescent Home, Riverdale, N.Y., after a lengthy illness. She was 89 years old.

Surviving are two brothers,

Rabbi Phillip Kaplan of Pawtucket, R.I., Dr. Sol Kaplan of New Rochelle, N.Y., and two sisters, Libby Chill of Jerusalem, Israel, and Rose Baruch of Brooklyn, N.Y. She was also the sister of the late Ida Zorn and David Kaplan.

Funeral services and burial took place at Beth David Cemetery, Elmont, N.Y., on May 12. Arrangements were by Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

RUTH MERSMAN

GRISWOLD, Conn. — Ruth Mersman, 90, of the Summitt Nursing Center, Griswold, Conn., formerly of Bristol, died May 8 at the nursing center. She was the widow of Dr. Oscar M. Mersman.

Born in Bristol, a daughter of the late Fred and Sadie (Solomon) Suzman, she lived in Bristol for many years, and lived in Oak Park, Mich., for 30 years. She lived at the Summitt Nursing Center in Griswold for the last three years.

She was a member of the United Brothers Synagogue in Bristol, and the Women's Auxiliary of the American Legion.

She leaves a brother, Maynard Suzman of New Seabury, Mass., and four nephews. She was the sister of the late Robert Suzman and Charlotte Makowsky.

A graveside service was held May 10 in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. Burial followed. The service was coordinated by Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence.

MURRAY J. PERLMAN

PROVIDENCE — Murray J. Perlman, 71, of 27 Church St., East Providence, a sales manager for the Providence Newport Distributing Co., for more than 20 years, retiring 12 years ago, died May 6 in the Jane Brown building of Rhode Island Hospital. He was the husband of Annette (Wintman) Perlman.

Born in Providence, a son of the late Sidney and Minnie (Klein) Perlman he lived in East Providence for 18 years, previously living in Providence.

He was a former member of Temple Emanu-El. He was a member of the Touro Fraternal

Association, the Providence Hebrew Free Loan Association, and Roosevelt Masonic Lodge. He was an Army veteran of World War II and received the Purple Heart.

Besides his wife, he leaves two daughters, Marsha Covitz of Melrose Park, Pa., and Bonnie Jaffe of Barrington; a sister, Gloria Jarcho of Providence, and five grandchildren.

The funeral service was held May 9 at the Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

ANN ROSENBERG

NEW BEDFORD, Mass. — Anne Rosenberg, 84, of 360 Hawthorne St., New Bedford, died May 7 at St. Luke's Hospital in New Bedford. She was the widow of Dr. Robert Rosenberg.

Born in New York City, a daughter of the late Louis and Esther (Birnbaum) Auerbach, she had lived in New Bedford for 52 years.

She was a graduate of the Julliard School of Music and was honored as the most outstanding graduate in her class and was awarded a scholarship to continue her studies of piano in France.

She had been a concert pianist for many years and appeared as soloist with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra and other orchestras throughout New England.

She was a member of Tifereth Israel Synagogue in New Bedford.

She leaves a son, Steven Rosenberg, of Hartsdale, N.Y.; a daughter, Janet Kramer, of Swampscott, Mass.; a sister, Eleanor Reich, of Boynton Beach, Fla.; a brother, Harry Auerback of Dartmouth, Mass., and one grandson.

Funeral services took place May 9 at Tifereth Israel Synagogue in New Bedford. Burial took place at the Plainville Jewish Cemetery in New Bedford. The service was coordinated by Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence.

CARLYN WEINSTEIN SUMMER

PROVIDENCE — Carlyn Weinstein Summer, of 10 Intervale Road, died May 8, at Miriam Hospital. She was the widow of Harold Summer. She was also the widow of William P. Weinstein.

Born in Minneapolis, Minn., a daughter of the late Albert J. and Carolyn (Stern) Kayser, she lived in Providence for 61 years.

She was a member of Temple Beth-El, and its Sisterhood. She was a past president of the Miriam Hospital Women's Association, and a member of the Women's Association of the Jewish Home for Aged, the Council of Jewish Women, and the Ledgemont Country Club.

The funeral service was held May 10 at Temple Beth-El, Orchard Avenue. Burial was in Temple Beth-El Cemetery. The service was coordinated by Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence.

MIRIAM WEIN

PROVIDENCE — Miriam Wein, 88, of Highland Pavilion, North Main Street, died April 26 at Rosewood Manor. She was the widow of William Wein.

Born in Poland, she was a daughter of the late Alter and Reva Leah Mechanik. She lived two years in Providence, previously living in Randolph, Mass., for 15 years. She lived in Newburyport, Mass., for 40 years.

She was a member of Temple Emanu-El, Providence, and Congregation Ahavass Achim and its sisterhood in Newburyport, Mass. She was a life member of Hadassah.

She leaves two daughters, Betty Levitt of Lincoln and Dorothy Lezberg of Randolph, Mass.; two sisters, Chana Berlin and Yoheved Broyd, both of Israel; three grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. She was the grandmother of the late Eric Lezberg.

The funeral was held April 28 at Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence. Burial was in Newburyport Hebrew Cemetery, Shrewsbury, Mass.

Maurice Weiss, Philanthropist who Fought Hunger, Dies at 81

by Tom Tugend
LOS ANGELES (JTA) — Maurice Weiss addressed by everyone as Mickey, started selling fruits from his father's truck at age 12, and in 40 years built up a successful wholesale produce business, which earned

him the title of "Mushroom King of California."

But his most lasting monument is the Charitable Distribution Facility, through which millions of pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables, previously

(continued on Page 15)

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(Continued from Page 14)

wasted at wholesale food markets, are saved and distributed to the hungry and needy.

Started in 1987 in Los Angeles by Weiss and his wife Edna, the concept has spread to 30 American cities and Australia. A total of 100 million pounds of produce is now distributed each year.

He also became involved with the Weizmann Institute in Israel, served as national president of the American Committee for the Weizmann Institute and, with his wife, endowed a \$500,000 chair, there, in Interferon studies.

Torah Today

(Continued from Page 4)

when the little children were suggested did G-d accept. It is only in the merit of children that the Torah was given to us, and it is due only to their merit that we have this guide to live by. Giving our children as our guarantors for the keeping of the Torah is a sign of our pure commitment to the Torah, and the transmission of it from generation to generation.

Shavuos Customs

Shavuos is the Yom Tov of our accepting the Torah itself as a whole. It is one of the Shalosh

Regolim (Pilgrimage Festivals). Many interesting customs are observed on this day.

On the eve of Shavuos it is customary for all men over 13 to stay up all night absorbed in the study of Torah, to show our eagerness to receive the Torah. The Torah reading on Shavuos is about the giving of the Ten Commandments at Mount Sinai.

When the reader comes to the actual Ten Commandments, all congregants stand up.

On the first day of the Yom Tov it is customary to eat a dairy meal. (Many people complement the dairy dishes with a complete Yom Tov meat meal, after a one-hour interval.)

If the meat meal is eaten first, one must be careful to observe the six-hour waiting period before eating dairy. Cheese dishes, particularly blintzes, are traditionally served. Many reasons have been put forth for this, one being that on Shavuos the Jews had just received the Torah which contain the laws of what one may and may not eat, and as they were not yet well-versed in the laws of shechita (kosher slaughtering), they refrained from eating meat.

Shavuos is also the festival of fruits. On this day, the first fruits were brought to the holy temple in beautifully arranged baskets, and offered with great pageantry and an inspiring ceremony. For this reason, some

people also have the custom on Shavuos of eating for the first time that year one kind of fresh summer fruit and saying the blessing shehecheyonu.

Many people observe the custom of decorating their homes with fresh flowers on Shavuos in memory of Mount Sinai, a once barren spot which came into full bloom when the Torah was given on its summit. (Of course the flowers are cut before Shavuos.)

Shavuos is also the anniversary of the passing away of King David, who descended from Ruth. Ruth was a modest, righteous woman who, because of her true love for Torah and mitzvahs, accepted this Torah despite many difficulties and converted to Judaism.

It was because of her honest convictions and humble conduct that she had the merit to become the mother of the kings of Israel. From this line of great kings our righteous Messiah will be born and will redeem us from exile.

Like Ruth, we, the people of Israel, accepted the whole Torah and all its mitzvahs wholeheartedly and in complete faith. For these reasons, Megillas Ruth (the Story of Ruth) is read in shul on the second day of Shavuos in many communities.

Submitted by Rabbi Yehoshua Laufer of Chabad House.

Police Warn of Pre-Election Attacks

by Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Police Commissioner Assaf Hefetz has warned that terrorist groups may launch attacks in order to change the course of Israel's May 29 national elections.

Addressing a meeting of police commanders in preparation for the elections, Hefetz said that even though Israeli security forces have cracked down on terrorist groups, some groups may still be able to carry out attacks.

Special security measures are being taken to prevent such attacks.

Support for the government of Prime Minister Shimon Peres slipped after the series of suicide bombings in late February and early March.

Political observers contend that another terrorist attack could cause Israeli voters to support Peres' more hardline opponent, Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu.

Islamic militants believe that a Netanyahu victory could seriously impede the Middle East peace process, which they staunchly oppose.



Prayer For Peace

Nava Winkler, 6, recites a special prayer for peace with Rabbi Eliezer Levy (left) at Lag B'Omer festivities held recently. Rabbi Yehoshua Laufer (right) takes a picture in the background.

Herald photo by Neil Nachbar

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'I Guarantee Satisfaction...'

by Alison Smith
Herald Editor

Neil Greenfeld of Greenfeld Construction has been in the business of carpentry and construction since "I was knee-high to a grasshopper."

His grandfather was a carpenter, and his father was a carpenter/builder, and Greenfeld literally grew up in the business. When he was old enough, he began running the shop while his dad did the selling. He's been doing it now for 19 years.

He is a man of all trades. He says, "I've learned all the aspects of remodeling and homebuilding." He also does tile work, painting, and, if the need arises, snow plowing. He has trained crews working under his direction, but he can do, and has done, everything his men do.

Greenfeld enjoys building custom homes, particularly contemporary ones. He helps customers design their homes, and assists in the selection of cabinets, materials, etc. Since he paces the construction of a home to allow for things like the

proper drying out of the wood used, so it won't shrink and cause cracks later, he figures that building a house from start to finish will take six months.

He says, "I guarantee satisfaction — definitely." And he tells of meeting former customers at places like the beach and having them come over and give him a hug and introduce him to their friends. "This is my builder!"

In fact, his advertising in the *Herald* is the only advertising he does. He is constantly busy, but the bulk of his business comes from repeat business, and word-of-mouth advertising.

If you are thinking of doing your kitchen over, or adding a wing to the house, or building a new home from the ground up, call Greenfeld. He'll come over and sit down with you, and, if you wish, give you a free estimate.

Once he's working for you, he is always on call. His paging system keeps him in touch 24 hours a day. When you have a question, he'll be getting back to you pronto with the answer.



Profile of Shimon Peres

Shimon Peres was born in 1923 in Poland and immigrated to Israel with his family, as a child. He studied at the Ben Shemen Agricultural School, and was one of the founders of Kibbutz Alumot in the Jordan Valley. In 1943, he was elected secretary of the Hano'ar Ha'oved youth movement.

In Israel's War of Independence (1947-48), he was responsible for arms purchases and recruitment, and in 1948 was appointed head of the naval services. In 1949, he headed the defense ministry's procurement delegation to the United States.

Peres was appointed deputy director-general of the ministry of defense (1952-53), and later director-general (1953-59). He reorganized the defense ministry, initiated the establishment of the Israeli aircraft industry and Israel's nuclear project, and fostered relations with France. He was instrumental in planning the 1956 Sinai Campaign.

Peres has been a member of Knesset since 1959, and served as deputy minister of defense (1959-65). In 1965 he left the Mapai Labour Party with Ben-Gurion and became secretary-general of Rafi. In 1968 he was instrumental in bringing Rafi back to Mapai to form the Israel Labour party.

Peres became minister of immigrant absorption (1969), and later served as minister of transport and communications (1970-74). In 1974 he was appointed minister of information and later minister of defense (1974-77). Highlights of his tenure as defense minister were the signing of the Interim Agreement with Egypt (1975), the Entebbe rescue operation (1976), and the opening of the Good Fence on Israel's border with Lebanon.

In 1977, Peres was elected chairman of the Labour Alignment. In 1984, a National Unity Government was formed, and Peres served first as prime minister (1984-86), and then as vice premier and minister of foreign affairs (1986-88). During his term as prime minister, Israel withdrew from Lebanon (1985) and an economic stabilization plan was implemented.

In the following National Unity Government (1988-90), Peres was vice premier and minister of finance.

In 1990-92, he was leader of the opposition in the Knesset.

In July 1992, Peres was appointed minister of foreign affairs.

On Nov. 5, 1995, following the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, he assumed the position of acting prime minister and minister of defense.

Profile of Benjamin Netanyahu

Benjamin Netanyahu was elected to the leadership of Israel's Likud Party in 1993 and is a candidate for the office of prime minister in the upcoming national elections.

Netanyahu served as Israel's deputy foreign minister (1988-1991) and as deputy minister in the prime minister's office (1991-1992). He was a member of Israel's delegation to the Madrid Peace Conference in 1991, and to the subsequent peace talks in Washington.

Elected to the Knesset in 1988, his previous posts were Israeli ambassador to the United Nations (1982-84) and deputy chief of mission to the United States (1982-1984).

Netanyahu was a member of the first Israeli delegation to the U.S.-Israel strategic talks (1984). As U.N. ambassador, he led the movement to open the U.N. Nazi War Crimes Archives (1987).

Before entering public life, he served as a soldier and officer in the Israel Defense Forces (1967-1972).

A graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, he held consulting and management positions in industry, in the United States and Israel. Since 1976 he has been a director of the Jonathan Institute, a foundation studying ways to combat terrorism.

He has written numerous articles in the American press and has appeared often on American television programs dealing with the Middle East. He is the editor of several books, including *Terrorism: How the West Can Win*, published by Farrar, Strauss and Giroux in 1986.

Most recently he has authored *A Place Among the Nations: Israel and the World*, published by Bantam Books.

Schlesinger Named a Partner

Progressive Financial Strategies, Inc., a comprehensive financial advisory firm on the east side of Providence, has announced that Jill Schlesinger has become a partner in the firm.

Schlesinger, now vice presi-

dent of Advisory Services, joined the firm more than a year ago as a licensed investment adviser representative. Schlesinger will continue to serve as a financial adviser, offering financial planning advice and strategy implementation in the areas of investments, insurance, taxes, education funding, retirement, benefits analysis, long-term care, estate preservation and asset protection.

In addition, Schlesinger is a licensed registered representative of Commonwealth Equity Services, member NASD/SIPC.

A graduate of Brown University, Schlesinger spent four years trading commodity futures and options on the floor of the Commodities Exchange in New York, and more recently was director of Capital Development at Federal Investment Co., Inc. in East Providence.



Jill Schlesinger



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Lladro Offers New Model of Moses

After the Anti-Defamation League raised concerns about what appeared to be horns on a porcelain figurine of Moses, the manufacturer apologized "for any misunderstanding" and told ADL it now has "a new Moses figurine" in the 1996 brochure.

The League praised the Spanish company, Lladro, for its prompt, responsive action.

The League said, "As you may know, for centuries the archetypal anti-Semitic image was that of a Jew depicted as a demonic creature complete with horns. Lladro's apparent portrayal of Moses perpetuates this pernicious image."

Glenn Conciatori, marketing director of Lladro USA, Inc., wrote back, "This figurine was

inspired by the sculptor, Miguel Angel who tried to symbolize, not horns coming out of Moses' head, but rather rays of light." He said he hoped the "new figurine meets your satisfaction."

(Ed. note: The new figure, in fact, has a much more appealing and impressive face, and should meet everyone's satisfaction.)

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