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Regional Chapters Question JNF

by Cynthia Mann

NEW YORK (JTA) — Regional leaders of the Jewish National Fund of America are watching and waiting to see whether plans to reform the organization will be carried out and will be sufficient to restore confidence in its operation.

The charity has been scrambling to put its house in order after upheaval over its spending and accounting practices.

At least one regional chapter, New England, has threatened to disband its board unless the principals at the organization resign and other changes are implemented.

The New England chapter's president, Michael Lipof, charged that the organization's reform plans have so far been a "sham."

Lipof said he had even "stopped people from contributing" to the charity best known for its tree-planting and land development projects in Israel.

But other regional leaders say New England's "revolutionary" approach is not representative of the sentiment across the nation and that restructuring the

charity will take time. Such radicalism is counterproductive, they say.

For their part, national JNF officials also defend the reform effort, saying that it is far-reaching and moving as quickly as possible.

"None of the steps can be taken overnight," said Mark Cohen, JNF's spokesman.

Regional lay leaders agreed

"In charities with serious problems, the top people resign."

Michael Lipof

recently during a conference call to wait until Jan. 20 before meeting to evaluate the progress of the reforms and to decide on the next step. They formed a committee to monitor the reforms on behalf of the regional leadership.

An internal problem of JNF led to disclosures in the fall that far less money than expected — at one estimate only 20 percent

— actually makes it to Israel annually for tree-planting and other land development projects. Historically, this has been JNF's central mission.

The probe, which included an independent partial audit of the agency, found no fraud or malfeasance, but said sloppy accounting procedures were rife.

The revelations were a blow to the charity's public profile, apparently contributing to a slight drop in nationwide contributions. They led its lay leadership to undertake a host of measures designed to restore confidence in JNF. The measures were decided upon in mid-November, at the time of the group's annual meeting.

These measures included:

- launching a search to replace Samuel Cohen, who has moved from executive vice president of the agency to the post of senior executive vice president;

- searching for a new chief financial officer and a major accounting firm to audit its 1996 spending and overall accounting procedures;

- forming a new committee



'I've Got it!'

Noah Marwil, grade eight, grabs a rebound during the recent Alperin Schechter Day School faculty-student basketball game. See story on page 13.

Photo courtesy of ASDS

to nominate new lay leaders;

- forming a task force with subcommittees on program priorities, restructuring, fund raising and increasing the flow of JNF money to Israel.

But the New England regional chapter in late November formally rejected the plan, calling it "unacceptable."

The board of directors unani-

(Continued on Page 19)

Red Cross Documents Reveal Knowledge of Nazi Atrocities

by Daniel Kurtzman

WASHINGTON (JTA) — The International Committee of the Red Cross has released a collection of World War II documents showing that the organization knew about the persecution of Jews in Nazi death camps, but

felt powerless to speak out.

One of the most startling revelations contained in the records is that the Nazis agreed to let Red Cross workers into German concentration camps in March 1945 to try to ensure the prisoners' safety.

Relief workers took advantage of the disarray within the Nazi regime weeks before its defeat, pleading with concentration camp commanders to allow them access to Jewish inmates, according to the documents, which were given to the

U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum recently.

But the arrangement prevented the Red Cross from removing prisoners.

After 18 months of prodding from Holocaust museum officials, the Red Cross recently agreed to change a long-standing policy and open up its wartime records to the public.

The 25,000 microfilmed pages turned over to the museum contain Red Cross workers' firsthand accounts of Nazi atrocities.

Red Cross workers "are the most credible witnesses to these crimes," Miles Lerman, chairman of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, said at a ceremony marking release of the documents.

"Your representatives were permitted into the camps and you saw the unbelievable and recorded it and kept it in your files."

The Red Cross has long acknowledged that it knew about the Nazi persecution of Jews. But the organization has maintained that if it had disclosed that knowledge during World War II, its ability to monitor prisoner-of-war camps on both sides would have been compromised.

"The International Committee of the Red Cross has shared responsibility for the silence of the world community," said

Georges Willemin, the organization's archivist. "Could we have gone further? Could we have done more? I don't know."

Lerman said the documents would help answer that question, adding, "How can one be satisfied when a world perished while the other half of the world looked on?"

When asked why it took the Red Cross more than 50 years to make the records available, Willemin said, "It takes time to face your own history."

He added that the decision to release the records "was an important change for an organization that through its history has been inclined to protect the privacy of its records so as not to run any risk of impairing its humanitarian work and its reputation for impartiality and neutrality."

Museum officials have so far only superficially examined the Red Cross records, which are expected to provide details on rescue missions, visits to concentration camps and ghettos, deportation operations and Jewish emigration during and after the war.

The documents will be available at the Holocaust museum and on the World Wide Web early next year. Copies will also be kept at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem and at the Center for Jewish Documentation in Paris.



ADDING TO THE COLLECTION — The International Committee of the Red Cross recently gave a collection of documents to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. From left: Georges Willemin, ICRC director of archives; and Walter Reich, USHMM director, sign a letter of agreement.

Photo by Beth Redlich, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum

INSIDE THE OCEAN STATE

Landmark Laboratory is Accredited

Landmark Medical Center's laboratory, with facilities at both the Woonsocket unit on Cass Avenue and the Fogarty unit on Eddie Dowling Highway in North Smithfield, has been awarded a two-year accreditation by the Commission on Laboratory Accreditation of the College of American Pathologists, based on the results of a recent on-site inspection.

Dr. Augustine Colella, pathologist and director of Landmark's laboratory, was notified of this national recognition and congratulated for the "excellence of the services being pro-

vided." There are 5,000 CAP-accredited laboratories nationwide.

The accreditation program, begun in the early 1960s, is recognized by the federal government as being equal to or more stringent than the government's own inspection program.

Inspectors examine the records and quality control of the laboratory for the preceding two years, as well as the education and qualifications of the total staff, the adequacy of the facilities, the equipment, laboratory safety, and laboratory management to determine how well the laboratory is serving the patient.

Nursing Assistant Classes Starting

Cranston Adult Education is planning its next nursing assistant class. Registration will take place at the Cranston Adult Learning Center, 41 Heath Ave., from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Jan. 21 through 24, and at the Cranston Career and Technical Center, 100 Metropolitan Ave., from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Jan. 21 and 22.

All applicants will be given an appointment for an entrance screening.

The class will begin on Feb. 11 and meet Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Eighty hours of classroom instruction and 20 hours of clinical practice is required.

Upon successful course completion, each student must pass the Nursing Assistant Competency Evaluation given by the R.I. Department of Health to become certified.

For further information, call 785-8166.

Compassionate Friends

The next meeting of the Compassionate Friends (a self-help group for parents who have suffered the death of a child) will be held on Jan. 13 at 7:30 p.m. at Hasbro Children's Hospital, Dudley Street, Providence.

Use parking lot C. The meeting is in Room 151. For further information or directions, call Carol Smith at 885-2900.

Besides being a general sharing meeting the topic "After Death Experiences" will be discussed. The public is invited.

For more information, call Murial Littman at 331-8260.

Volunteers Needed for Children's Crusade

The Rhode Island Children's Crusade for Higher Education is seeking caring volunteers who would like to be that "special someone" who makes a difference in the life of a local child through the end of the school year. Program sites are located throughout the state.

The crusade is a non-profit organization working to expand educational opportunities for children and empower them to stay in school, and pursue a higher education. Crusaders' pledge to finish high school, stay off drugs and alcohol, obey the law, avoid early parenthood and be role models in their community.

In return, they receive many benefits including higher education scholarships if they are income eligible upon high school graduation.

Under the guidance of program coordinators, volunteers encourage crusaders to do their best in school and help them obtain their educational goals by sharing their knowledge and experiences.

Training is provided. Interested candidates should be able to relate to children and parents in a helping and supportive manner and be able to communicate the value of an education.

For more information, call the crusade at 277-6907.

Nature Stories Come to Life

The Audubon Society of Rhode Island and Capron Park Zoo in Attleboro have teamed up to present a series of nature stories for pre-school age children. The story times will feature popular nature stories for young children, activities, and in many cases, a live animal. Space is limited and reservations are required.

All programs begin at 9:30 a.m. Fees are \$3 per child (there is no fee for adult accompanying children).

Programs will include "The Mitten" by Jan Brett on Feb. 5. To reserve space at Capron Park Zoo for this program, call (508) 222-6202.

Story presentations at the Audubon office in Smithfield will include "Owl Moon" on Jan. 17, "The Tree" by Tim Vyrer on Feb. 4 and "The Mitten" on Feb. 21. Call the Audubon Society of Rhode Island's education department at 949-5454 to register, or for further information.

All Survivors of Loss Due to Violence Invited to Event

"Survivors Outreach Services," a support program for survivors of homicide victims, invites all those who have lost a loved one to violence, to attend mutual support sessions on Jan. 16 from 7 to 8:30 p.m., on Feb. 11 from 7 to 8:30 p.m., and on March 12 from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

All sessions will be held at the YMCA of Greater Rhode Island, 1035 Branch Ave., Providence.

For further information, call Debbie Chick at 421-4100 or Anne Marie D'Alessio at 831-9922.

Free Meditation Class Offered

Free meditation classes will be offered by the RIsri Chinmoy Centre, on Jan. 11 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Rochambeau Library on Hope Street, Providence. This intensive session will include basic techniques and philosophy to integrate meditation into daily living.

There is a free six-week follow-up. Call to register, 751-5937.

Cahana and Fine Tapped for Leadership Class

Leadership Rhode Island recently announced the participants of the 1997 Rho Class. Leadership Rhode Island's mission is to improve the quality of life in Rhode Island by developing well-informed, dedicated, existing and prospective leaders who are committed to creating renewal from within.

These individuals are challenged to take on a more active role in their communities. The 52 participants are made up of a diverse group representing a cross-section of the community who will spend one day a month for the next 10 months exploring, discussing, and debating complex issues facing Rhode Island.

Once they are involved in the program, their interest in making positive change for Rhode Island is reinforced by the interaction of the diverse group, giving input from every possible aspect, and forming a broad network of committed individuals.

These individuals serve as catalysts and sustainers in a movement towards the growth of Rhode Island and the preservation of the communities that already exist. Among those chosen to participate in the program this year are Rabbi Michael Z. Cahana, assistant rabbi and director of education at Temple Beth-El, and resident of Providence; Keith H. Fine, associate at Tillinghast, Licht & Semonoff and resident of Rumford.

For more information on the program, call 621-6110.

You Can Nominate Attorney for Community Service Award

Nominations are now open for candidates for the Rhode Island Bar Association 1997 Dorothy Lohmann Community Service Award.

The eighth annual Lohmann Awards will be given in May to attorneys who donate substantial time and work to non-profit Rhode Island organizations on a voluntary, non-paid basis.

Anyone may nominate an attorney for consideration by the awards committee. Nomination forms may be obtained by calling Beth Bailey at the Rhode Island Bar Association at 421-5740. The nomination deadline is Feb. 14.

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THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

Political Pundit's Perspectives Tempered by Ethical Values

by Emily Torgan

Jewish Community Reporter

Whenever *Providence Journal Bulletin* political columnist M. Charles Bakst prepares to meet a president of the United States, he remembers a lesson a rabbi taught him during his Fall River childhood.

"Rabbi Samuel Ruderman was stern," said Bakst in a Bulletin conference room on Thursday morning. "It was a Saturday morning service, and the kids were supposed to be dressed up."

As Bakst and a friend had dressed properly, Ruderman had them stand at the front of the room, then asked the students how they would dress to meet the president.

After they said they'd dress to the teeth, Ruderman spoke.

"Well, just remember, you're meeting G-d every time you come to synagogue. Dress accordingly."

It's a lesson Bakst has never forgotten.

"Whenever I meet a president, I think about that day," he said.

Now 52, Bakst has interviewed Clinton, Bush and scores of other politicians and personalities at Rhode Island's largest newspaper, where he has been employed for more than 30 years.

Bakst's humor and interest in personal detail frequently pervade his political pieces. His readers have learned about how Bush picked up his soup bowl to get at the last few drops of his cream of asparagus soup at a White House luncheon, and how Clinton recently stretched his legs across the presidential limo's jump seat while discussing his feelings about Republican efforts to discredit him.

A Barrington resident who is married with two grown daughters, Bakst appears each week on "A Lively Experiment" on Channel 36 and "6 News on the Record" on Channel 6. But he is best known for his work at the *Providence Journal Bulletin*.

"I have a tremendous luxury here," Bakst said. "Most reporters are expected to be objective. It's unusual to be given a column which gives you a certain visibility and tremendous freedom."

After starting as a summer intern in 1963, Bakst became a full-time staff member in 1968. In 1973, he started covering politics and was made government affairs editor in 1987.

But it was in 1995 that Bakst started the tri-weekly opinion columns that have made him

one of the most visible and influential journalists in the region.

"I don't think about how 200,000 people will read my columns when I write them," Bakst said. "I'd have stage fright."

Bakst was exposed to the media early, for the late Walter Winchell, a world-famous syndicated columnist, was a cousin once removed.

"Winchell was my father's first cousin," he remembered. "A by-product of that relationship was that my father, although a lawyer, had a direct interest in newspapers."

On Sundays, the family gathered to hear Winchell on the radio, and later they watched him on television.

Although Bakst believes that environment helped determine his professional course, he does not strive to be like Winchell.

"Winchell had a gift for language and set a standard for accuracy, but I do not consider him a role model in terms of his personality or values," Bakst said. "I do not think he was a very nice man, and I would not apply the word 'mensch' to him."

Instead, his role models were his late parents. Both were active Conservative Jews.

"My father, Lester, was president of Temple Beth El and my mother, Anna, was very active in Hadassah," Bakst said. "The inscription on my father's grave says he was a believer in justice, and my mother's says she was a believer in charity."

According to Bakst, these principles are part of the Jewish heritage that colors his opinions.

"I try to reflect those values at times in the things I write or how I write about them. Being Jewish is a part of it. At times it shapes what I choose to write about or how I write about it."

This perspective shows in the many columns that do not have distinctly Jewish subjects.

"If I write sympathetically about gay rights or immigration issues, that is a reflection of my understanding of Judaism," Bakst said.

At other times, Bakst selects topics of Jewish interest, and often laces them with anecdotes from his life.

He has written about the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, the black tasseled loafers that pinched his feet at his Miami bar mitzvah, the way he tuned in to a radio station that played Hebrew songs when he drove to a camp reunion and more.

"Sometimes I am sure that I pick topics because they are Jew-

ish, or because I am Jewish," Bakst said.

Bakst did not receive his deeply ingrained Jewish identity from his parents alone.

When his folks sent him off to Phillips Academy in Andover, Mass., Anna made sure he would complete his religious studies.

"She told me that the fact that I went away to school was no excuse," Bakst remembered.

As a student at Andover, where Jews comprised approximately 10 percent of the student population, Bakst finished Sunday school via a correspondence course.

Bakst also spent five summers at Camp Tel Noar, a Jewish camp in New Hampshire, and visited Israel in his youth.

"Growing up, you do not realize the impact these things have on you," Bakst said.

Bakst's strong values help him handle the controversy his writing may inspire.

"I'm not here to elect or defeat anyone," Bakst explained. "My first responsibility is not to any politician or subject, but to the reader and the truth as I can find or guess at it. If that offends a politician or another figure, that's not my problem or my mission."

According to Bakst, his long years of covering Rhode Island politics have not made him completely cynical.

"I should be a little cynical, but I find a lot of decent people in politics," he said. "I think it's important not to expect perfection. Every politician has flaws, and you have to take people as they come. Over the long haul, it's best to judge them on their totality and balance."

URI Trip To Holocaust Museum Sells Out

by Emily Torgan

Jewish Community Reporter

On January 26, approximately 40 young adults affiliated with the University of Rhode Island Hillel and Perspectives, Rhode Island's Jewish young adult project, will embark on a weekend trip to tour the United States Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C.

Many more had hoped to go, but tickets sold out quickly. Waiting lists have formed at both URI Hillel and Perspectives.

"Students have always been interested in learning about the Holocaust," said Ailene Gerhardt, a Jewish Campus Service Corps Fellow at URI Hillel. "I decided to put a trip together as cheaply as possible."

For \$60, young adults will fly from Rhode Island's Green Airport to Baltimore on Southwest Airlines. After spending Saturday night at the Red Roof Inn in Baltimore, the group will spend Sunday at the museum, and will

return that night.

The trip has been subsidized by the URI Student Senate and the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.

According to Gerhardt, the trip was originally made available to Perspectives members in case of vacancies. But because of the high demand for places, only three spots were available for Perspectives members.

"We offered a trip last year, but the transportation was by bus," Gerhardt explained. "An eight-hour bus ride is a lot for college students."

Still, both Gerhardt and Perspectives Chairman Alison Link have been surprised by the very strong response to the trip.

"This generation is very interested in educating themselves," Gerhardt said. "They know they are the last generation to be able to speak to survivors. Their children will not have that opportunity, and they want to be able to teach them."

JORI to Hold Reunion, Jan. 12

All campers and counselors who have shared their summers together at Camp JORI will have the opportunity to renew old friendships and make some new ones when the camp holds its annual reunion from 2 to 5 p.m. on Jan. 12 at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island, located at 401 Elm Grove Ave. in Providence.

All past and present members of the JORI family are invited to come and to bring a friend. Everyone is encouraged to bring their bathing suits and towels for a swim in the pool. A snack of pizza will be served.

Camp JORI, the only Jewish overnight camp in Rhode Island, offers a complete camping experience including sports, arts and crafts, and Jewish culture as well as karate, photography and computer know-how. The camp is located on 13.5 acres in the heart of the state's beach area in Narragansett.

Established in 1937, Camp JORI recently established an association for its many alumni who treasure fond memories of their shared summertime experiences.

For more information, call Camp JORI at 521-2655.



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Have we prepared to support a young couple who wish to build a family while continuing either religious or secular education?

Have we an investment plan to finance our children's Jewish education, or are we hoping for the availability of scholarship funds?

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EDITORIAL

Gilman and Helms Support Netanyahu

Congressman Benjamin A. Gilman (20th-NY), chairman of the House International Relations Committee, has joined with Sen. Jesse Helms, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, in expressing support for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's peace efforts.

Following is the text of a letter the two foreign affairs committee chairmen sent to the prime minister on Dec. 17:

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

There has been some excited discussion in the United States about Israel and its commitment to the peace process in the Middle East. As a new year, and as a new U.S. Congress begins, we believe it important that you be aware of our views.

The State of Israel is a political, strategic and moral ally of the United States in the Middle East. In a region where state sponsorship of terrorism is rife, elections are few and far between and anti-Americanism is a byword, you are a constant and trusted friend. Those facts are immutable, and cannot be altered by changes in government, either in Washington or Jerusalem.

The peace process is indeed very important, and U.S. commitment to it must be unwavering. A just and fair settlement of the conflict between nations and between peoples is a worthy goal towards which we must all continue to strive. Your contin-

ued negotiations on the question of Hebron are a testament to Israel's willingness to work towards a viable agreement with the Palestinians, particularly in light of exhortations to terrorism against Israel from Gaza and Damascus.

There are voices who insist that it is incumbent upon the State of Israel to make all the sacrifices for peace. Do not count us among such people. All parties to the peace process must act in good faith; no one can credibly pretend that the peace will hold or fail on the actions of one party alone.

We would not presume to advise you on specific steps to take, or to refrain from taking, in your pursuit of a just and lasting peace. We do, however, support your efforts to ensure the security of Israel's people and its borders. Security is the foundation upon which the peace process has been built, and without which neither Israel, nor the United States, can be confident of a lasting solution to the conflict in the Middle East.

Rest assured, Mr. Prime Minister, that we will continue to do all we can to support peace in the Middle East, as well as the security of the State of Israel and all its people. We will do so not out of altruism, but because we recognize that strong ties between our nations and our democratic governments benefit all of us.

The Christian Pundits Miss the Plight of the Palestinians

by Norman E. Mann

There was a full-page ad in the Dec. 12 edition of the *New York Times* which read "Christians call for a shared Jerusalem." It was paid for by a multitude of Christian individuals and a multitude of fragmented Christian churches and sects.

It is obvious to me that many of the signers or their representatives have never visited Jerusalem since the city was reunited. If they had visited the city prior to its reunification they could have experienced a divided city.

Since Israel has taken over the administration of the city of David, one can observe that the traditions of all sects, religions and beliefs are respected and honored. They have never had it so good and any thought of turning the city into a municipi-

ality of "shared" responsibility would see an imposition of a nightmarish situation with each and every one of the signers of today's ad individually pulling for their specific rights and pieces of the Holy City.

It is a delicate matter of the polity of religious apportionment as one can see how the Israelis maintain the delicate balance between the Armenian, Greek Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Muslim and Jewish quarter religious sites. They are doing just fine. The "Heritage, Hope and the Home of two peoples and three Religions" are well preserved under the Israelis.

Now if all these do-gooders want to really accomplish some humanitarian purpose, let them start a campaign to encourage the export of Palestinian prod-

ucts from the Authority territories which have achieved some semblance of autonomy.

What's needed are jobs and currency. Time spent in securing the signatures for the ad would have been better spent in advocating "Buy Palestinian" products for the holiday season instead of the good Christians scampering around and madly gobbling up a plethora of Christian look alike products "Made in China."

It's not too late to begin such a campaign. Let's see if their interest is into the human issues or just the political issues. Giving Palestinian jobs now is what is needed.

Their religions have only offered historically turmoil and suffering. Let's put the Palestinians to work with jobs to fill their pockets.

Freda and Abe Landau Honored by Their Granddaughter

The following article is reprinted, with permission, from the *Tifereth Israelight*, the temple bulletin of *Tifereth Israel Congregation in New Bedford*.

Today I am honoring my grandparents, Freda and Abe Landau, who are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. They are two very important and special people who are a part of my life.

Through the years you have watched me grow from a shy little girl into a very self-assured young lady. You both have taught me the importance of my Jewish faith, the Yiddish language, and a lot about your experiences in the Holocaust.

I appreciate and thank you for everything that you both have taught and will continue to teach me. Even though I do not live that close to you, I always treasure our quality time together during our visits.

Grandma, I love when we take walks, dance, talk about

boys, and prepare dinner together. Grandpa, I love when we sing songs, work in your garden, and go to temple together.

Most of all, I love when the three of us joke around and give each other many kisses and hugs.

Grandma, Grandpa, you are like a single rose made up of two colors, red and yellow, which stands perfectly straight in a vase made of gold.

The red part of the rose represents the deep love you have for one another. The yellow part of the rose represents the incredible friendship you share because you never stop giving to one another.

The stem of the rose represents your strength to overcome any hardships that you endure. The vase made of gold represents your solid marriage that you share and will always continue to share.

I have written a short poem for you, Grandmie and Grandpie.

*Fifty roses, all in a row.
My grandparents' love for one another sure does always show.*

Kisses from them I can't do without.

*I love them, that there is no doubt.
They are so cute I always pinch their cheeks*

Over the phone I blow them kisses every week.

Taking walks with them is always a ball of fun.

I drown them with my kisses before our visit is done.

Over the years happiness is what they certainly have won.

No matter what we do together the three of us always have fun!

No words can describe how much I love you! Happy anniversary, Grandma and Grandpa! Mazel Tov!

Love, your granddaughter, Lauren Joy Kantor.

Freda and Abe Landau are well-known members of the Jewish community in New Bedford. Their stories of the Holocaust have been videotaped by the Spielberg Foundation.

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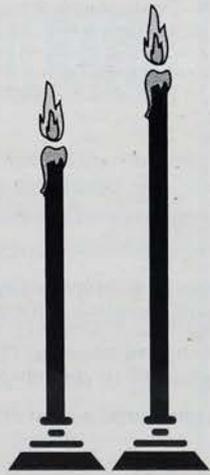
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The Herald is a member of the New England Press Association and a subscriber to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.



Candlelighting
January 10, 1997
4:16 p.m.



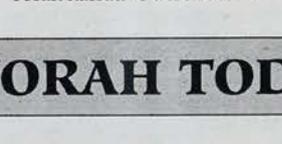
Notice: The opinions presented on this page do not necessarily represent the opinions of this establishment.

Suddenly, Completely Free!

A fascinating aspect of the liberation of the Jews from Egypt (the prelude to which is the subject of this week's Torah portion, Va'eira) is the thrilling and dramatic way in which they experienced sudden and complete transformation in both the physical and the spiritual realms.

In the physical area the change was extremely dramatic. Imagine the bitterness of the Jews' slavery: enslaved in a country from which even a simple slave cannot escape; completely in the power of a Pharaoh who bathes in the blood of Jewish children; in utmost destitution; broken in body and spirit by the meanest kind of forced labor. Suddenly!... Pharaoh's power is broken; the entire people is liberated; the

former slaves emerge from slavery as free men, bold and dignified, "with an outstretched arm" and "great wealth" as the Torah narrative describes it.



Their spiritual liberation was no less sudden and dramatic: After having sunk to the lowest degree of unholy, to the point of pagan idol worship, they suddenly (at the time of crossing the Red Sea) perceive G-d, revealed in His full glory. A few weeks later they all stand at the foot of Mount Sinai, on the highest level of holiness and prophecy; G-d speaks to each one of them individually, without any go-between (not even Moses) and declares: "I am G-d, your G-d!"

The instructions and teachings of the Torah and the Commandments are infinite and eternal. Each chapter is valid for all times and places,

and can be applied to daily life. This is especially true concerning the exodus from Egypt,

an event which we are ordered (by the Torah) to remember every day.

The message to us all, which stands out in bold relief from the events of the exodus, is that a Jew has the inner capacity and actual ability to transform himself, in a short time, from one extreme to the opposite.

From "A Thought for the Week," Detroit. Adapted from the works of the Lubavitcher Rebbe. Submitted by Rabbi Yehoshua Laufer of Chabad House.

Abramowitz Demands JNF Reform

by Yosef I. Abramowitz
The Jewish National Fund marked its 95th anniversary recently. It is a wonderful opportunity to look back on its glorious history, as their public relations department is encouraging donors to do....

Soon, Israeli children will spread out over the land, dig holes and plant saplings to celebrate Tu B'Shvat, the Jewish new year for the trees. In the United States, JNF traditionally raises about \$1 million from school children on Tu B'Shvat.

Recent media reports, and a partial audit of JNF books, revealed that less than a nickel of every dollar raised by JNF in America actually makes its way to Israel. Donors were up in arms, resignations were announced, changes were promised....

Here are the basic facts.

1) At least \$50 million is unaccounted for over the past decade, but it is probably much higher. No one is looking for the missing millions. Nothing has changed.

2) Jack Grunspan, the comptroller, was forced to resign amid the disclosures of financial mismanagement. Yet today he still runs all JNF financial business, but as an independent consultant. Nothing has changed.

3) Following JNF's November board meeting, it was announced that Cohen... would

be relieved of his duties. He is still controlling JNF with a tight fist. No crisis manager has been brought in. Nothing has changed.

4) The nominating committees to appoint a new slate of officers, a new executive vice president and a new president were all constituted by Cohen, and are all filled with loyalists. ...Nothing has changed.

5) Keren Kayemet L'Yisrael, has openly lied to JNF donors about how much money actually arrives in Israel and has actively tried to hide the truth. KKL has not produced an explanation for this deception nor an accounting of the money transfers. Nothing has changed.

On Dec. 18, the presidents of the 24 regions of JNF met by conference call. They overwhelmingly want the current national leaders of JNF to step down. New England, New York, Philadelphia, Los Angeles and others are threatening to close their JNF regional offices and cease their fund-raising if Cohen and JNF president, Milton Shapiro, don't step down immediately.

But Cohen and Shapiro... continue to cling onto power at the expense of Israel.

Since a sacred covenant has been broken between the average Jew and the land of Israel, we must reclaim Tu B'Shvat from the manipulators at JNF.

Call their toll-free number

(800) 542-8733, on Tu B'Shvat (Jan. 23) and demand a clean house.

Give to alternative Israeli or Jewish nature organizations, like Shomrei Adama (212) 807-6376.

Conduct a Tu B'Shvat fruit seder in your homes.

JNF has done much to help transform Israel. But more than 99.5 percent of their budget comes from Israeli taxpayers and donors outside of the United States.

...Only when JNF has truly cleaned house will they merit our dollars, trust and affection.

Yosef I. Abramowitz, an award-winning investigative journalist who broke the JNF financial story in September, is the editor of www.jewishfamily.com

The Editors Comment:

The Jewish National Fund is an old and beloved part of Jewish celebration of Tu B'Shvat. But it is an institution created by humans and run by humans, and "to err is human... to forgive, divine."

Abramowitz deserves our thanks for calling attention to alleged abuses of our trust and JNF power. Sometimes, in his zeal and choice of words, even Abramowitz errs. But his research has been thorough.

So, now we wait, and see if public pressure and media attention will result in JNF taking appropriate action — now.

So far, the JNF response has not been appropriate.

Time for Jewish Peace in Israel

by Rabbi Avi Shafran
Director of Public Affairs,
Agudath Israel of America

Did you know that...

...non-Orthodox Jewish religious movements are illegal in Israel?

...Orthodoxy's authority over Jewish personal status issues in Israel is against the wishes of most Israelis?

...There is a groundswell of Israeli support for the promotion of non-Orthodox Jewish forms of worship and lifestyle?

...if the Israeli Orthodox have their way, Reform and Conservative converts will be unable to become Israeli citizens?

...Orthodox rabbis consider Reform and Conservative Jews to be "less Jewish" than those of their own movement?

If you are like many observers of the contemporary Jewish scene, the above statements might seem almost common knowledge.

Though not a single one of them is true.

Israeli Jews face no impediments on the path of affiliating with Reform or Conservative congregations, a number of which have been established in recent years.

A clear majority of Israelis, which by definition includes a large number of Jews who are not Haredim (or "ultra-Orthodox," the pejorative, misleading term preferred by some), favor the maintenance of Orthodox standards in matters of personal status.

In spite of the investment of great amounts of money and effort to pique native Israelis' interest in non-Orthodox forms of Jewish expression, the venture has not met with much success.

Anyone can apply for Israeli citizenship. At the crux of recent controversy is the "Law of Return" alone, which confers automatic, immediate citizenship on Jews, yet does not clearly define the word "convert."

Orthodox authorities consider non-Orthodox Jews to be every bit as Jewish as themselves. Period. It is only when non-Jews wish to become Jews or Jews marry non-Jews that the question of standards comes, as it must, into play — and the Orthodox, by the very definition of their belief, consider the standards of halacha, or Jewish religious law, to be non-negotiable.

The wealth of subtle and blatant misinformation circulating of late is the result of a determined and unconcealed effort to discredit Orthodoxy in general and the Israeli Orthodox in particular.

And the tirade of intemperance did not begin with Union of American Hebrew Congregations President Rabbi Eric Yoffie's recent accusation that "the ultra-Orthodox" have "caused an entire generation of Israelis to view Judaism with contempt" and "abused Torah for their own selfish purposes and brought it into disrepute."

This past summer, for one example, Central Conference of American Rabbis President Rabbi Simeon Maslin, in an ar-

ticle in *Reform Judaism* entitled "Who Are the Authentic Jews?", concluded that Jewish Orthodoxy is counterfeit.

And several months earlier in *The Forward*, Leonard Fein, the present director of the UAHC's Commission on Social Action, described Judaism devoted to ancient Jewish religious law as "cultic" and "offensive."

Were similar misinformation and invective to be directed at, say, blacks rather than the black-hatted, the perpetrators would rightfully be called racist. Were it targeting Jews or Judaism in general, it would accurately be labeled anti-Semitism.

But since the aim of the animus is only the halacha-observant Jewish population, the distortion and ill-will are, it seems, tolerated by otherwise liberal-minded folk. It is time for non-Orthodox Jews of good will and open mind to speak up.

...Time for them to tell their leaders that calls for tolerance and unity ring hollow when accompanied by the vilification of other Jews for their beliefs, and the condemnation of an entire community for the sporadic misdeeds of some of its individual members.

...Time to inform those leaders that the Orthodox, whether in Israel or elsewhere, will not abandon their fealty to Jewish law, nor should they be expected to.

...Time to tell those leaders, too, that they make a mockery of their own professed concern for Jewish "continuity" when they malign the unarguable engine of Jewish endurance throughout history.

...Time to apprise them of the uncomfortable but uncontested fact that maintenance of a single universally recognized Jewish religious standard in Israel — that of traditional Jewish law — is the best bet, whatever one's personal belief, for preserving the unity of the Jewish people there.

...Time to remind them that, aside from the approximately 25 percent of Israel's population that is practicing Orthodox, 54 percent of the country's Jews (according to a 1993 survey conducted by the respected Guttman Institute for Applied Social Research) define themselves as "traditional," professing belief in the Torah's revelation to their ancestors at Sinai, the defining belief of Orthodox Judaism.

...Time to get them to face the fact that even most self-described "secular" Israelis have no qualms about expressing their Jewishness. It has been estimated that only 5 percent of Israeli "secular" Jews are truly secular in the American sense, limiting their observance to things like circumcision and a Pesach seder.

It is time, in other words, for thoughtful, objective and truly tolerant Reform and Conservative Jews to expose their leaders' latest push for the import of American-style "Jewish religious pluralism" to Israel for what it is: an attack on Orthodox

(Continued on Page 19)

Jennings' Jerusalem Jihad

by Andrea Levin

Say this for Peter Jennings — he's unabashed in placing ABC at the disposal of the Arab agenda. Though the network has been embarrassed in the last year by the need for repeated on-air corrections of reckless inaccuracies about Israel, a recent program, "Jerusalem Stories" (Dec. 19), is testimony that the anchorman's animus toward Israel is undiminished.

The hour-long program offered a propagandist's view of Jerusalem in which aggressive, exclusivist, and apparently fanatical newcomer Jews dispossess moderate and humane Arabs on their property and heritage.

However crude, the segment undoubtedly persuaded many viewers that the Jews are an unreasonable lot and Arabs the victims in this dispute.

The choice of interviewees and Jennings' manner of relating to them were central to the jaundiced message. Thus, underscoring the theme of Jewish intrusion, ABC notably presented only foreign-born Jews to embody the views of inhabitants of the ancient Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem, while viewers were repeatedly reminded of the long lineage of the Arabs.

This was the case even though Jews have lived almost continuously in the city for millennia, and Jerusalem has had a Jewish majority for more than a century. Jewish Jerusalemites with long family ties to the city were rendered invisible and population figures underscoring the Jews' historic numerical preeminence were omitted.

Who spoke for the Jews? An American rabbi "originally from Brooklyn" described waiting for the Messiah, to which Jennings said: "Do you really believe in the Messiah?" (For Father Jerome Murphy O'Connor, whose foreign origins were obvious but unmentioned, there were no theological challenges. Only respectful affirmations: "You're right, Father," and, "This must be an astonishingly moving experience for a devout Christian.")

A European-born Jew described his feelings of solemn connection to the Jewish people and to Jewish history, explaining the archeological project he'd undertaken. Though his story is inherently touching Jennings' responses are perfunctory, and, in a nasty bit of editing, the ABC anchorman returns to the man's home near the close of the program.

A partygoer there, apparently an affluent American Jew, is heard declaring that Arabs ought to feel "lucky" that now, under Jewish sovereignty, they have "respectable health care" and get their "garbage cleaned up." The man's point, that Arabs enjoy a much higher standard of living than previously thanks to the Israeli administration, is valid and important and totally ignored in the program, but Jennings has turned the moment into an ugly and false caricature of Jewish high-handedness.

Again, in contrast, Arabs are shown in such modest and friendly activities as making Easter cookies and serving coffee. They weep on camera when

they recount their dread of Jewish encroachment in their neighborhoods and of neighbors allegedly being forced to leave Jerusalem. Jennings speaks somberly of "what the Muslims fear."

Jennings turns truth exactly on its head. In fact, since Israel gained full control of Jerusalem in 1967, the Arab population of the city has grown at a greater rate than the Jewish population.

It is the Arabs who have historically sought to drive out the Jewish presence and the Jews who have opened the city to all religions. Indeed, for centuries the Muslim domination of the region had meant inferior status for Jews and Christians, "Dhimmi" people subject to harsh, discriminatory laws and daily humiliations....

...The most jarring scenes in Jennings' propaganda piece are those in which he was loudly accosted on the street by Orthodox, American Jews evidently suspicious of his intentions. Appearing to relish the exchanges, Jennings took the part of ally, friend, and champion of the Arabs. He goaded the Jews:

"You see the guy up there in the dark suit," said Jennings, "the guy in the dark suit with the blue tie on? His name is Ali Kleibo and he's a Palestinian. He happens to be a Muslim. His grandparents came here with the Caliph — his ancestors came here with the Caliph Omar of the Byzantines [sic]. What do you think his rights are here?" (The anchorman got his facts wrong again. The Byzantines were the Christian rulers whom

(Continued on Page 19)

THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

Ex-Christian Minister Tells Her Story at Chabad

At the age of 16, Tonica Marlow, daughter of a Protestant minister and an Egyptian Jewish mother, was accepted as the youngest student at a noted Christian theological college, and within four years she had become an ordained minister.

Yet with all of her successful activities within the church, she could not explain the deep void she felt inside. She asked questions, but the answers she received did not satisfy her.

Therefore, she began a remarkable quest for her true heritage. Tonica Marlow is now Tova

Mordechai. She resides in Safed, Israel, with her husband and three sons. Mordechai has authored an autobiography titled, *Playing with Fire*.

On Jan. 15, the West Bay Jewish Forum, a project of Chabad of West Bay Chai Center will host this remarkable woman as she retells the story of her amazing odyssey.

This event, which is open to the public, will be held at the Chai Center, 15 Centerville Road in Warwick at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$5. For more information, call 884-4071.

Congregation Beth Sholom Offers Course on Prayer

Congregation Beth Sholom, at Camp Street and Rochambeau Avenue in Providence, is offering an adult education course on prayer, starting Jan. 19 from 7 to 8 p.m.

Rabbi Mitchell Levine will lead a weekly study session on prayer which will consider:

Does Jewish prayer work?
What does prayer seek to accomplish?

Why do we need a synagogue?

These related issues will be part of a new ongoing adult education study of the fourth perek of Brachot. This program is intended for the whole family, and supervised entertainment will be provided for the children.

If you have any questions, contact Howie Mintz (751-1251) or Esta Yavner (274-6219).

Zamir Chorale Auditions

The Zamir Chorale of Boston, Joshua Jacobson, music director, announces limited openings for sopranos and tenors.

Sight-reading and previous choral experience are required. Candidates must be willing to learn fall repertoire individually.

Auditions will be held by appointment only on Tuesday evenings at Hebrew College, 43 Hawes St., Brookline. Qualified singers should call (617) 492-3611 for more information. Repertoire includes music from a variety of Jewish traditions.



Post Honored in Israel

Marlene Post, national president of Hadassah and a Jerusalem 3000 honoree, recently returned from a 10-day trip to Prague and Israel. She is shown at the honors ceremony in Jerusalem. From the left are: Susan Weikers-Volchok, Israel Bonds international campaign chairman; Ehud Olmert, mayor of Jerusalem; Post; and Vicki Erlbaum, Israel Bonds National Women's Division and Delegation chairwoman.

Freedom 'Sing' to be held at Temple Emanu-El

"Songs of Freedom, Words of Hope" is the theme of the second annual community sing to be held on the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday weekend.

The sing is scheduled for Jan. 18 at 7 p.m. at Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave. in Providence.

The program is sponsored by the Rhode Island Committee for Non-Violence Initiatives and the Social Action Committee of Temple Emanu-El. It is open to the public. A freewill donation of \$5 adults, \$3 students and senior citizens, is suggested. Proceeds will benefit youth training in Dr. King's philosophy non-violence. Song leaders will include Bill

Harley, producer of an album of freedom songs called "I'm Gonna Let It Shine: A Gathering of Voices for Freedom"; Leroy Thomas Isom, director of the Diocesan Gospel Choir; Dr. Mamie Oliver of Olney Street Baptist Church; Laura Berkson, a well-known vocalist and member of Temple Emanu-El; and members of the Rhode Island Feminist Chorus. Michael Williams, director of the Prism of Praise choir, has also been invited to participate.

This year's community sing will combine songs of the civil rights movement with selected readings by Bernadette Pitts-Wiley from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Pitts-Wiley is a dramatist and director of the Multicultural Center at Johnson and Wales University. The readings will challenge those in attendance to re-commit to the un-

finished agenda of King — the establishment of a "world house" built on the principles of non-violence in which the triple evils of militarism/violence, materialism/poverty, and racism have been eradicated.

The sing, a family event, began in 1996 with the visit to Rhode Island of Dorothy Cotton, education director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference under King.

As Cotton has written, "Music — singing — carried the civil rights movement. Singing out of sorrow, with others of the same predicament, caused a bonding that gave strength to the burgeoning resolve to do something about our plight."

For information, call the R.I. Committee for Non-Violence Initiatives at (508) 336-5457, or Barney Heath at 726-1146.

ANNOUNCING THE RHODE ISLAND JEWISH HERALD

1997 Bridal Issue

FEBRUARY 13, 1997



We are currently preparing for our annual *Bridal Issue*, to be published on February 13, 1997. This year, as in the past, we are encouraging our advertisers to submit display ads, photos and editorial copy for this special issue.

You may not know that our 1994 *Bridal Issue* was awarded *First Place for an Advertising Supplement* in the New England Press Association's "Better Newspaper" contest, and that our 1995 *Bridal Issue* received *Second Place* honors in the same contest. These contests have included entries from 200 small newspapers from New England and the Canadian Maritimes. With your participation, perhaps we can make this year's another *First Place* contender.

Let us know if you are interested in advertising in the *Rhode Island Jewish Herald 1997 Bridal Issue*. We'd be happy to design your ad for you — *free of charge*. All you pay for is the ad space. And remember, we welcome any copy or photos you'd like to submit for inclusion in the editorial portion of this issue. The deadline for both advertising and editorial is Friday, January 31, 1997.

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JEWISH COMMUNITY

Jerusalem is Subject in Exhibition

The land of Israel and its capital city, Jerusalem, boasts the longest unbroken succession of maps of any country in the world, holding a special place in the world of cartography.

An exhibition of ancient maps of the city which King David established as his capital 3,000 years ago is now on display at the Providence Public Library.

Produced by the Public Affairs Division of the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the exhibition comprises maps and views of both the city itself and the land of which it constitutes the heart and soul.

Although the most ancient schematic maps known originated in Mesopotamia, the oldest detailed map in existence is the Madaba mosaic dating from the 6th century C.E.

Its representation of "The Holy City of Jerusalem" is the earliest clean and detailed city map ever found — not surprisingly — as Jerusalem was already then sacred to both Judaism and Christianity. Islam, too, was later to recognize the sanctity of Jerusalem.

However, the holiness of both country and city is reflected in these early maps of the first two religions only. Indeed, it was the mediaeval Christian map makers who introduced the theme of the Holy Land and the Holy City into their maps, many of which were more symbolic and ideological than geographical in character.

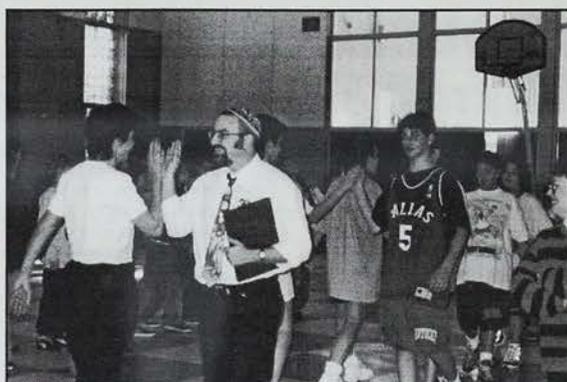
Most of the early maps of the Holy Land and Jerusalem were produced by cartographers who never visited the country,

mainly for religious purposes, often portraying such incongruous details as European-style architecture, with imagination playing an important part.

Visitors are encouraged to not only view each map as a whole, but to decipher some of the place names recorded. The exhibition provides an interesting insight into the cartographer's subjective attitude toward and knowledge of the area, as well as supplying objective information of the geography, culture and history of the region.

The exhibition is on display in the Barnard Room, third floor, of the Central Library, 225 Washington St., now until Feb. 8.

Viewing hours are Monday to Thursday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Sunday 1 to 5 p.m.



Good Sportsmanship

Teachers and students exchanged "high fives" after the recent ASDS faculty-student basketball game.

Photo courtesy of ASDS

Wintertime Assistance for the Elderly

Wintertime in New England evokes visions of snowflakes and icicles glistening in the morning sun.

Then there's the flip side — the frost, gales, sleet, and shivering chill of winter storms, grimy snow and slippery ice-covered walks and roads.

If you are elderly, winters can be especially hazardous. Winter can be a lonely time, too. If you are housebound, or simply unwilling to face the cold outdoors, your opportunities for companionship are diminished.

If you have an elderly relative or friend, now is the time to visit with your children, offer to help with the grocery shopping, arrange for shoveling snow, or suggest a trip to the mall or to a restaurant for a meal. Or per-

haps you could help an elderly person to entertain a few friends for coffee or tea at home.

The elderly services offered by Jewish Family Services of Rhode Island can provide opportunities to beat the hardships of winter.

Depending on a person's needs, a continuum of services for the elderly and their caregivers are available with options including home care services, homemakers, counseling for the elderly, counseling for families and caregivers, outreach for the elderly, outreach for adult children who live out of town, a registered nurse consultant, Lifeline RI personal emergency response system, JFS kosher mealsite in Cranston, Kosher Meals on Wheels, Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island, Fam-

ily Life Education courses on issues of aging and information/referral services.

The goal of JFS is to offer support systems that will enable people to maintain their quality of life and sense of independence. Professional assessments can be made to determine what services are needed.

Fees for service are on a sliding scale, based on ability to pay. If the agency cannot meet a client's needs, other community resources that may be helpful are suggested.

For more details, contact the agency at 331-1244.

Leisure Club to Meet

The Temple Emanu-El Leisure Club will meet on Jan. 12 at 2 p.m. in the temple vestry. The speaker will be raconteur Dr. Burton Fischman, whose topic will be "Laughter is Good for You."

Refreshments and a social hour will follow the program.

Parcell's Good Luck Charm

by Neil Nachbar
Herald Associate Editor

Prior to last Sunday's game against the Pittsburgh Steelers, New England Patriots' owner, Bob Kraft, met with head coach Bill Parcells. The coach reached into his locker and pulled something out to show Kraft.

"I have something you'd like to see," said Parcells.

The coach revealed a button with the Hebrew word "chai" on it. The coach received the button from a Jewish friend, but didn't know what it meant. Since Kraft is Jewish, he was able to read the button and told Parcells

that it meant "life" or "good luck."

However, Parcells ended up wearing the button backwards.

"He had it on left to right, I had to show him that it goes right to left," stated Kraft.

In a press conference the day after the game, Parcells, who is one of the most superstitious coaches around, said he was going to continue to wear it backwards since the Patriots won.

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Faded Photographs...

Do you have any faded photographs that you'd like to share? We're looking for old wedding photos to be published in our 1997 Bridal Issue. Of particular interest to us are photos from twenty years or more ago.

If you'd like us to include your wedding photos, please send or deliver your photos to the Rhode Island Jewish Herald at 99 Webster Street, Pawtucket, R.I. 02861. We promise your photographs will be handled with the care they deserve and will be returned promptly after the publication of this issue on February 13, 1997.

We'd also like to publish small recollections of your courtship or wedding. Do you have an amusing story to tell? If so, please mail a brief description to the address above, or fax it to (401) 726-5820.

The deadline for both items is January 31, 1997.

FROM THE RHODE ISLAND JEWISH HERALD, 1946: BERNICE (MARKOFF) AND ALBERT GEFNER PREPARE TO LEAVE FOR THEIR WEDDING TRIP

SCHOOLBEAT

Applications Available for Yozma Fellowship Program

The Bronfman Youth Fellowships is now accepting applications from Jewish organizations who are interested in hosting a Yozma fellow for 11 months, beginning in the fall of 1997.

Since its inception in 1987, the Bronfman Youth Fellowships in Israel program has sought to enrich the lives of young people and through them, the Jewish people as a whole.

The creation of ongoing opportunities for engagement and leadership in the Jewish community has been a primary goal of the Bronfman Youth Fellowships.

In 1995, the program launched Yozma (Hebrew for Resourceful Initiative), which funds eight full-time, 10-month

fellowship positions within the Jewish community.

Yozma fellows are placed with selected innovative and dynamic Jewish organizations in North America and Israel that share the Bronfman Youth Fellowships' values of pluralism, Jewish learning, and attachment to Judaism.

The organizations must generate and implement creative ideas for Jewish engagement and continuity and must commit to involving the Yozma fellow in significant work.

In turn, the organizations benefit from talents and energies of this highly gifted and motivated group of young Jewish leaders.

Fellowship positions are available to Israeli alumni and finalists who have completed their undergraduate studies, and have demonstrated a desire to apply their abilities and enthusiasm within the Jewish community.

During the term of their fellowship, the Yozma fellows will continue to study and participate in enrichment programs, through networking and collaboration among the fellows themselves and meetings with members of the Bronfman faculty.

All Yozma fellowships are competitive and merit-based, with final selection made by the BYFI selection committee in consultation with participating host organizations.

The Bronfman Youth Fellowships is a program of the Samuel Bronfman Foundation.

For applications: The Bronfman Youth Fellowships in Israel, Yozma Fellowship Program, 17 Wilbur St., Albany, N.Y. 12202-1716; fax: (518) 432-8984, e-mail: acharne@albany.net.

URI's Learning Landscape Offers an April Vacation Program

Scouts, campers, and groups up to 50 children in grades kindergarten through six will have an opportunity to see nature up close and personal during the school vacation this April.

URI's Learning Landscape Environmental Education Program has openings on April 15 and 17.

Young environmentalists can explore the soils, water, plants, and wildlife of Rhode Island in URI's four acres of gardens and greenhouses.

Offered in the spring and the fall, this two-hour, hands-on program is normally open only to school groups. However, during the April vacation week, the program opens to other interested groups.

There is a \$5 fee per child. For more information or to register your group, call 874-5706 or 874-2900.

Adopt a Bit of the Wild West

Since 1971, the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, has had responsibility for the wild horses and burros that roam freely on the nation's western public rangelands.

To maintain the health of the land and to protect these "living legends," BLM periodically gathers excess animals and offers them to individuals for adoption.

BLM will be gathering almost 3,000 horses and burros in the next few months because drought conditions in the West have severely depleted their

water and food sources, particularly in southern Nevada, where the largest herds of wild horses and burros exist.

The gathered animals will be offered for adoption after recuperation at BLM's resting facilities. Interested individuals may obtain an information packet listing adoption requirements and sites by calling the BLM toll-free at (800) 417-9647. The bureau is always looking for caring people to adopt wild horses; but with having to gather additional horses because of the drought, it needs more people to provide good homes for these animals.

Where Are You Headed?

The American Mensa Education and Research Foundation announces its annual Scholarship Essay Contest. Awards are made on the basis of an essay of fewer than 550 words describing the applicant's academic or career goal.

Eligibility requirements are that the applicant must be enrolled in an accredited American institution of post-secondary education for the 1997 fall/winter term and be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.

The general awards are unrestricted as to age, sex, gender, level of education or financial need.

All requests for applications must include a self-addressed, stamped envelope and be postmarked no later than Feb. 5. All submissions must be postmarked no later than Feb. 28.

For application forms, contact: Barbara B. Blackburn, 8 Shadow Brook Lane, #B, Smithfield, R.I. 02917.

Cookie Time

Rhode Island Girl Scouts will be taking cookie orders starting Jan. 18.

There are eight Girl Scout Cookie varieties, including three new items: reduced-fat Ginger Daisies, Five World Cinnamon and reduced-fat Lemon Pastry Cremes. They join the line-up of perennial favorites.

Each box costs \$3. People not contacted by a Girl Scout who wish to order cookies may call the Girl Scouts of Rhode Island, Inc., Council at 331-4550, ext. 0. These orders are credited to the local troop that makes the delivery.

CCRI Offers Windows 95 and Microsoft Office Courses

The Community College of Rhode Island's department of computer studies and information processing is offering micro-computer software courses for personal computer users developed around Windows 95 and Microsoft Office. The five-week classes begin the week of Jan. 21. All courses are one credit. Tuition is \$73 plus other applicable fees.

For dates, times and registration information, call CCRI's department of computer studies and information processing at 825-2155.

Blast Off!

On Jan. 15, between 3 and 5 p.m., the Children's Museum of Rhode Island invites children ages 5 and older to learn why friction is a drag and why gravity is such a downer as they investigate the power of air.

Young scientists explore air pressure and the theory behind jet propulsion. Harnessing the power of their own breath, kids launch balloon rockets of their own design.

Same-day registration. Call 726-2591 beginning at 9 a.m. to register. There is no additional fee beyond the price of admission.

'Physics Days' for NEAT Students

You don't have to be an Einstein to know that each year the University of Rhode Island's physics department hosts physics days.

This year, more than 700 high school physics students from around the state are expected to travel to URI's Kingston campus during the four-day event, scheduled Jan. 7 through 10 from 9:30 a.m. to noon in East Hall.

One of the 17 schools that will be represented is New England Academy of Torah. Eight students from NEAT will participate on Jan. 10.

Students will get to see physics up close and personal through six different sessions. They can participate in a competition involving a scattering of light with lasers, look through the powerful Atomic Force microscope, take part in a hands-on acoustics project, build a bridge, get the picture on holography, and attend an Internet workshop.

Program Offers Help for Teachers

The Bradley School of Middletown will offer a program for teachers on strategies to help children with ADD/ADHD in their classroom. This will be part of the ongoing Speaking of Kids Educator's Series. The program will be held on Jan. 16, beginning at 6 p.m. at the Middletown cam-

pus of the Bradley School (behind St. Lucy's Church at 915 West Main Road).

Robert M. Hayden, Ph.D., director of the ADD and the school problems program, will recommend classroom interventions for children with ADHD.

Hayden, assistant clinical professor at Brown University's school of medicine, will suggest techniques that can be implemented in mainstream as well as special education classrooms in order to address the kinds of difficulties many ADHD children often display.

The program is free and open to educators and interested members of the community. Professional development credits are offered for teachers. Register in advance by calling 444-4800 or (800) 927-1230. You may request a sign language interpreter by calling Health Connection through the Rhode Island Relay: (800) 745-5555.

Wintry White

On Jan. 17, between 9:40 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., the Children's Museum of Rhode Island encourages children ages 3 to 5 to discover delight in wintry white.

They will listen to "One Snowy Day" by Ezra Jack Keats. Preschoolers create paper snow person friends, print snowy scenes to take home, and taste cool snow mound cookies. Same-day registration. Call 726-2591 beginning at 8:30 a.m. to register. There is an additional fee of \$1.50 per child beyond the price of admission.

HENRY BARNARD LABORATORY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS FOR KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT

The Henry Barnard School is accepting applications for admission in September 1997.

The school is a culturally diverse elementary school, kindergarten through grade 6, and a child care program for children age 3 and 4. The school is located on the campus of Rhode Island College and is run under the auspices of Rhode Island College. It is dedicated to excellence in education for children and provides a learning environment for Rhode Island College students.

Applicants for the kindergarten are chosen by lottery. Children applying for kindergarten must be five (5) years of age by September 1, 1997. Kindergarten applications must be received by Friday, January 31, 1997, to be included in the lottery.

There will be a Kindergarten Open House/Informational Meeting on Tuesday, January 21 at 7 p.m. This meeting will provide the opportunity to learn more about the Henry Barnard School and its programs, as well as the kindergarten admissions procedures.

Culturally diverse students are encouraged to apply.

Applicants from the city of Providence, who apply for kindergarten in accordance with current desegregation guidelines, may be eligible for financial aid through the Providence Barnard Plan. More information may be obtained by calling the Office of Equal Educational Opportunity of the Providence School Department at 401-456-9289.

All children attending Henry Barnard School, who are Providence residents, are eligible for free bus transportation to and from school.

Some openings are anticipated in other grades, especially grades 4-6. For additional information and an application, call the school at 401-456-8127.

The Henry Barnard School is committed to equal opportunity and affirmative action. Persons needing reasonable accommodations for the meeting on January 21, should call the school 48 hours in advance.



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Maxine's Message

by Mike Fink
Herald Contributing Report

Maxine made her annual sentimental journey home from the London flat she's had for her 30 expatriate years. She took the New London Connecticut Amtrak just to have lunch with us. Her visit was a birthday and New Year gift to me.

Maxine Howe is a Jewish American Connecticut Yankee in Queen Elizabeth's Court. Born in New Haven, she has actor's English equity status, but a New England accent, holding out in a rent-controlled condo in Dolphin Square, Pimlico. She lived for five years in Providence, working as secretary to the applied math and physics departments in the former Richardson Hall on east Thayer Street of the Brown campus. Levellers and wreckers have erased the site of her desk. The noble Hillhouse clothiers is clos-

Maxine notes. Sure enough, she never fails to send me cards and messages and often invitations as well, from her vacations in North Africa, the islands of the globe, and Club Meds, glamour resorts scattered among the continents. She scrawls in purple ink with cheerful left-handed letters crammed into each corner of the page. She makes fun of her figure and her fate as a wandering minstrel, an actress forever in search of a role.

"I still have my singing voice, and I would like to do more musicals, but I have to do a crash diet first," she complains goodheartedly. Most recently, she joined the crew of a radio soap opera that started just after the war. "Most of my colleagues were into their 80s. I was the youngster among them," she brags with a grin. She has done restaurant theater, and rented rooms in her Pimlico flat, filled in at bookstores, and run travel groups to make ends meet while awaiting auditions.



Maxine Howe
Herald photo by Mike Fink

ing down. Her husband was pursuing a Ph.D. in the mid-'50s, when the street was flourishing. The Elbaums had just arrived to teach there, out of their Holocaust history in Belgium and in Japan. Brown's Friday group and wine-tasting clubs had just begun. Maxine played hostess to this fresh start of a new world.

The train station at which her coach arrives is quite new: It faces our gorgeous State House, gleaming like the Taj Mahal against a turquoise winter sky. Varieties of city centers vie for focus now that the old downtown lies half forgotten. I try to explain to my friend our guest the changes since her sojourn here. We cross Waterfront Park. We motor through Thayer Street and cruise along Wickenden among the coffeehouses.

"Thayer used to be so sleepy, you hunted for a film to see, a cup of tea to sip," she noted, adding, "It looks now like London a generation ago, when punks just started to take over Carnaby Street."

This is not really a nostalgic tour however. Although she made lasting, lifelong friends here, Maxine's life took off after she left our state. Her only daughter, Robin, was born beyond our borders. Maxine lived in D.C., in Texas, California, the Hague, and then royal Britain. "Americans don't travel and holiday like Europeans,"

turning to the world of Jewish ritual and Sabbath observance. Her fiancé cares and practices. Go figure.

Our guest from abroad, Maxine Howe of stage, screen, radio and television, sits and holds forth at our dining room table, lunching upon caviar, soup and salmon, cider and wine, mousse and tea. She makes us laugh and think. "My daughter Robin makes me pledge and promise to act normal, but it's not in my nature... I say what comes to mind in my monologues!" She gossips about the Royals, knowing my fascination with their glorious past.

"The Princess Royal, Anne, actually was my neighbor. She had a flat a few doors down from mine. I ran into her one morning. I was wrapped in a housecoat. She was all in orange satin, the kind of thing only a Windsor would wear. I curtsied! She gave me a regal look of disdain. The truth is, chinless as she is, she's still impressive and glittering, with her bodyguards behind her." More down and dirty tales of the court she spares us, from concern for the sensibilities of our kids at table. But Maxine always makes us giggle and roar, from her self-mocking, spirited fountain of anecdotes.

With her pretty face, shining eyes, shapely, pouting lips, and temperamental warmth, she can set any table afire.

There is melancholy as well in any winter reunion when days are short. We took Maxine for an afternoon coffee on Wickenden before returning her to the train station. Our little dog stayed with us the whole time, seeking warmth among our laps. Maxine brought us cakes and books. I gave her in parting a few tokens to take away as well, a little stationery, a few photos and trinkets.

"I had to come. Time is short." She kisses me goodbye from the train compartment. Our daughter is taking the same train, through Connecticut. We have a very simple station these days, just two tracks face to face. Maxine stays in Stamford with her only brother, who has no children, who plays piano in night clubs and cafes. Robin doesn't have much of an extended family. The hope for tomorrow rests within the nest she is putting together.

Somehow I feel that Maxine's name suits her, big in soul but fragile as well. Like all of us. I translate my dear friend, and her rendezvous with my brood, into a metaphor for our chapter in local history. I feel as though I know her story as well as anyone. She has passed it on, among the rails, to my daughter, and left in Providence, Rhode Island, a blessing, begun more than 30 years ago, and renewed at the start of the winter of '97.

A Friend Named Fred

by Mike Fink
Herald Contributing Reporter

"Don't you dare let anybody help you pick up something you drop, or turn the key in the lock... only to cross a busy street!" Fred Glassman was quoting the words of the Insight representative who came to help him adjust to losing his vision. She gave out her advice even before taking off her coat. "I want you to remember what I say, so you will stay independent."

You may have heard of Glassman. He's done everything in this state, from his headquarters in Pawtucket through the seats of political power and centers of education. He has managed chambers of commerce and political campaigns, served on college boards and counseled political hopefuls. In World War II as a 21-year-old chief of rubber conservation, he saved lives and equipment through the thoroughness of his determined leadership. Current recycling began with Glassman at the helm. Certificates on the walls of his study attest to it.

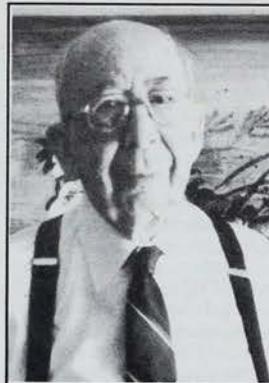
Even before this, he brought boxing to the public with his *Ring* magazine. Glassman took part in every facet of community life. If he has lost his physical vision, he never lost the wider vision of imagination. "My father lost his eyesight at 11, and lived a full life. I have one prosthetic eye, and the other left me one day, but through the wonders of technology, I can still read the letters and articles people send me." He shows me how, with the magnifying power of a video-like screen device.

Glassman asked me to visit his condominium home, now in North Providence, and met me at the front door, all dressed up with a white shirt, necktie, and suspenders. "At first I neglected myself, but then I decided to spruce up every day and make the best of my time. At 85 there isn't much, so I have to squeeze the sweet juice of every moment." Although his wife now lives at Hallworth House, Glassman manages to cook for himself, and keeps in touch often with his Toronto-based psychologist son, who has written a renowned textbook on the history of the science, and his daughter. He hopes to review his career in a book, to share his insights and adventures with his grandchildren. "Nobody has had a fuller life than I have," he claims, in gratitude rather than as boast.

The words he declares as counsel to his grown children

bear repeating. "Don't live my life, find your own." "Be honest and people will trust you." "Love and respect go together." They may sound trite, but think of the alternatives we have all tried out in our culture, and they shine like beacons.

Glassman peppers his conversation with the names of the great elected and appointed figures of our time. He seems to be the Jewish oracle of legend



Fred Glassman
Herald Photo by Mike Fink

among them, who could manage and guide anybody from college president to state governor. He tries to talk tough and badmouth the leaders who blundered, but behind that facade you can make out the profile of a fellow who likes to help, to serve, to take part, to touch and be touched by roads and buildings, programs and events.

But now, his scope narrowed by time passing and light fading, he has to design each day like a kingly artist. "I created what I call my sucker's club. I treat a friend to brunch, lunch or dinner, if he or she will come by, pick me up, and drive. We go to the Cock 'n' Kettle where everybody knows me."

The neat, orderly, cozy Glassman home bears upon its walls many photographs of its distinguished host posing with the captains of Rhode Island destiny, well-known faces smiling around the Glassman grin.

There is a boyish charm that stays throughout the decades. As I drive home and spend the hours of my afternoon, words, images and thoughts come back to me. Modern gadgetry connects us to the passing world through telephones, computers and other marvelous inventions. Maybe Glassman can tell his tales to a tape machine and leave his memoirs to the future.

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HEALTHWISE

Jewish AIDS Patients Look to Doctor-Assisted Suicide

by Teresa Strasser
Jewish Bulletin of
Northern California

SAN FRANCISCO (JTA) — The note on the door said, "Don't come in alone."

Inside, police and coroners found a lifeless body ravaged with AIDS and suffocated with a plastic bag. There was a bottle of Seconal and a handwritten note carefully explaining that this was not an assisted suicide. Stephen, a close friend of the victim, knew otherwise.

He said his suicidal friend had "discussed it with me but I wouldn't help him. I have nothing against the guy who helped him, but it doesn't feel right to me. I believe life is sacred and taking life isn't."

Stephen, a committed Jew who is HIV positive, who prefers that his real name not be used, speaks of a suicide underground that has been operating in the San Francisco area for a decade. It is an underground with careful rules and an argot all its own.

"There's a code," Stephen explained, "when a doctor says, 'Let's make him really, really comfortable.' The more 'reallys,' the more morphine."

Another code: Ask for sleeping pills of increasing strength until the prescription is for Seconal, the brute-strength barbiturate commonly used by AIDS patients to end their own lives.

"There is a lot of this going on," Stephen said. "A lot."

The U.S. Supreme Court recently agreed to decide whether states could prohibit doctor-assisted suicides. Although a ruling on the issue probably will not come before June, Jews in San Francisco already are grappling with the spiritual implications of choosing to die.

Each year, Jewish Family & Children's Services works with some 100 people with AIDS. In support groups, the topic of suicide almost always comes up, said Jody Reiss, coordinator of JFCS's AIDS Project.

The groups exist to help their members with living, not dying, she said.

Her clients talk about how to survive with pain and uncertainty, how to live with the ghosts of lost friends and lovers.

"Reiss, however, knows that information and assistance with the particulars of dying are not hard to find.

"Anybody knows where to go for that, frankly. A lot of doctors are very helpful. Basically, they're not gonna say, 'Here's a lethal dose.' But there are ways of making sure a patient gets what he needs," she said.

As long as physician-assisted suicide is illegal in California, Reiss, a clinical social worker, is supposed to intervene if she knows a patient is suicidal.

It is "a very, very gray area clinically," she said, adding that this is only one of many delicate areas in a wrenching national debate on assisted suicide.

"There's a code,"
Stephen explained,
"when a doctor says,
'Let's make him really,
really comfortable.'
The more 'reallys,' the
more morphine."

Although the upcoming Supreme Court decisions may clarify such protocols, there are deeper issues, she said.

Reiss admits that, sometimes, planning a "rational suicide" gives patients a sense of control over their own deaths. But she worries that it makes life more difficult for those left behind.

"Loved ones go along with the plans, but after the fact, I've always sensed it's very damaging for survivors," she said.

When no one is listening, Stephen still talks to his dead friend, filling him on the details

of life. And sometimes, he still asks, "How could you?"

Jewish law forbids suicide, and there are built-in deterrents: A Jew who has committed suicide can be buried only on the perimeter of a Jewish cemetery and no eulogy may be read. Like most deterrents, said Rabbi Allen Bennett of Temple Israel in Alameda, those do not work.

One of a handful of openly gay rabbis in the San Francisco area, Bennett has often been called upon to minister to those dying of AIDS. They ask about Judaism and suicide. They ask what will happen to them after they die.

"I tell them it's a simple, pragmatic, time-tested process. The body returns to the elements that originally comprised it. The body returns to dust, and the soul returns to the G-d who gave it," Bennett said.

He reminds them that "Judaism is unalterably opposed to the ending of one's own life."

But the rabbi also said, "If one is incapacitated, miserable, with no hope of improvement, if an individual chooses to stop living, I believe they should be entitled to that moral choice."

Bennett admitted that he has been asked to attend suicides, but will not comment further.

Legal, moral, insurance-related and patient-client confidentiality issues all "wrap assisted suicide in a veil of secrecy."

Rabbi Eric Weiss, who min-

isters to AIDS patients through Ruach Ami, the Jewish Healing Center, said, "I uphold the sanctity of life, through prayer, listening and helping someone to identify where they have moments where life has some kind of sweetness."

In fact, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the umbrella for Reform synagogues, is still debating the issue, and to date has no official stance:

Daniel Chesir, a lawyer for Kaiser Permanente in Oakland and member of UAHC's bioethics committee, said, "The committee's general thrust is to emphasize the need for adequate care at the end of life, to alleviate pain and provide emotional support."

Many in the Orthodox movement are taking a harder line.

"You open the door to assisted suicide, you'll wreak havoc on society," said New Jersey Rabbi Maurice Lamm.

Lamm, president of the National Institute for Jewish Hospice and author of *The Jewish Way in Death and Mourning*, said that if this door is opened, then not only will some physicians lose their credibility, but Jews in particular will also give up the power of retaining hope through suffering—a skill that has time and again proven crucial to Jewish survival.

Lamm used the Holocaust as an example.

Jews "were singing in the

cattle cars, 'I believe the Messiah is going to come,' as they looked at smokestacks. They didn't commit suicide. Three years later, you have Israel. The national anthem is 'Hatikvah,' hope.

Jews "were singing in the cattle cars, 'I believe the Messiah is going to come,' as they looked at smokestacks. They didn't commit suicide."

Rabbi Maurice Lamm

"This doesn't mean I don't understand the anguish of AIDS patients. I do. I have deep compassion. I believe people with AIDS should have hospices, guarantees to reduce their pain."

Sometimes, though, there is no guarantee. Even with promising new drug therapies, lives may be longer and healthier, but some deaths will always be excruciating.

Even Lamm, who staunchly opposes legalizing suicide, conceded that there is a very small percentage of AIDS patients whose suffering cannot be mitigated by drugs or counseling.

"That's one hell of a life. I wouldn't choose it either."

He also said, "I'll turn my eyes away from their asking the right doctors the right questions."

That is where Lamm parts company from less moderate Orthodox leaders, most of whom denounce even end-of-life hospice care as a means of curtailing life.

The Conservative movement, however, was quick to accept the hospice concept, said Rabbi Alan Lew, spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Shalom in San Francisco and president of the Northern California Board of Rabbis.

Like Lamm, he said there is not much flexibility in Jewish law on the subject. "Life isn't something that belongs to us, we aren't free to dispose of it as we see fit."

Despite the clear-cut mandate, Lew would also condone "a little creative hypocrisy," for the case of unbearable suffering. "I wouldn't waste too much time condemning someone in hideous pain who couldn't go on living. I've been with too many people like that."

Take Care of Your Hardworking Skin

Did you know that your skin is the largest organ in the human body, covering up to 20 square feet?

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- The skin's outer layer is epidermis, which is about as thick as a sheet of paper on most parts of the body.

- Dry skin is due to a lack of water in the skin's outer layer. Normally, oils or lipids in the skin help trap water in the skin and prevent it from evaporating.

- Causes of dry skin include

low relative humidity levels from indoor heat, cold winter air or even air conditioning, excessive sun or wind exposure, excessive contact with soaps and detergents, heredity, aging, medically related conditions such as eczema, psoriasis, diabetes and contact dermatitis.

- To avoid dry skin, shower and bathe in warm not hot water. Use a mild cleanser.

- If you have dry skin, immediately after showering or bathing, dermatologists recommend that you pat skin dry and apply a moisturizer.

- Other ways to help heal dry skin include drinking several glasses of water a day, using gloves or protective clothing while doing housework or household improvements, and applying a moisturizing sun screen before you spend any extensive time outdoors.

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HEALTHWISE

Jewish Spirituality

On Pluralism

by Velvel "Wally" Spiegler
I took a great deal of interest in an article that appeared in the November 1996 edition of the *Federation Voice*.

It was a transcription of a panel discussion among several local rabbis, ranging from Reform to Orthodox. The topic was on plurality in Judaism or how can the various denominations coexist.

The controversy seemed to be between the Orthodox rabbis and the others, and what it boiled down to was that Orthodox couldn't agree with the other three in matters of halachah (Jewish law). The article ended in a deadlock and each group went on their way with no agreements reached.

This and other such stories validate the obvious split or duality which exists among today's Jews. This issue takes place in America as well as in Israel. It's as if we are at least five or more different people (Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, Reconstructionist and secular). It sounds like the makings of a split personality.

This problem not only exists among us as a culture, it exists within ourselves personally. On a personal level it's called alienation and by Jewish criteria it's called exile. Regardless of what you call it, it means a separation from others, from yourself or from G-d.

The root of all mental illness lies in alienation from yourself.

Just think of the consequences when people are alienated from each other — anarchy, war, ultimate extinction. This is not what the Torah means when it speaks of unity (echad).

Not only shouldn't it be this way, but it doesn't have to be this way. In the past few years I have been involved with a Boston-based group called the Jewish Healing Center of New England. The group consists of a number of spiritually minded people interested in exploring and promoting Jewish healing and who also represent different Jewish denominations.

I can think of no better way of entering the province of spiritual Judaism than by a program of Jewish meditation.

At our very first meeting we decided to honor each other's halachic level regardless what it took. Those, for example, who ordinarily resisted listening to women singing, managed to accept the sound of women singing. We could overcome differences if we really want to.

The one and only route to overcoming these differences is by taking a spiritual stance towards Judaism. This means learning to contact the spiritual

realm.

This is what G-d meant when He said over and over again, "I will bring you to the land." The land being a metaphor for the spiritual domain, a place where loving kindness (chesed), non-judgment and forgiveness rule. It is here where differences disappear.

For the sake of the continuity of Judaism, it is urgent that we partake in our spiritual heritage and start to take specific steps in living a Jewish spiritual life.

I can think of no better way of entering the province of spiritual Judaism than by a program of Jewish meditation. Our long history of meditation was nearly lost partly due to the Holocaust. Today, it is alive and well again and it's truly the route to living a life of love, acceptance and forgiveness.

If you would like to experience Jewish meditation for yourself, there is a group meeting every Wednesday evening in Providence devoted to meditation and Torah teachings around the meditations. Everyone is welcome; for more information, call the phone number below.

As a further development of its spiritual pursuit, the meditation group will include a healing period at each meeting. Meditation for the healing of mind, body and spirit for the entire Jewish community will be included each week.

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

Velvel "Wally" 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.

Chinese Herb May Act as Alzheimer Drug

A new Weizmann Institute study shows exactly how a substance derived from a moss long used in Chinese folk medicine blocks a brain enzyme that may be involved in Alzheimer disease.

In the study, reported in the January issue of *Nature Structural Biology*, the scientists solved the 3-D structure of a complex made up of the natural substance Huperzine A — extracted from the *Huperzia serrata* moss used in China for centuries as a medicine called Qian Ceng Ta — and the brain enzyme acetylcholinesterase.

The determination of the structure revealed a strikingly good fit between Huperzine A and the enzyme and may provide a possible starting point for designing a new generation of Alzheimer drugs with improved properties.

"It is as if this natural substance were ingeniously designed to fit into the exact spot in AChE where it will do the most good," said crystallographer Professor Joel Sussman, one of the authors of the study.

The research was performed by graduate student Mia Raves together with crystallographer Dr. Michal Harel and Professors Sussman and Israel Silman, all of the Weizmann Institute.

According to one theory, memory loss and other cognitive deficits in Alzheimer patients result from degeneration of nerve cells which release the message-carrying chemical acetylcholine. The acetylcholine shortage that ensues is compounded by the action of AChE, the enzyme that breaks down acetylcholine in the body.

Two Alzheimer drugs approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, tacrine (COGNEX) and E2020 (ARICEPT), work by inhibiting

AChE. HupA, which differs from these drugs in chemical structure but also inhibits AChE, is currently under investigation in China and elsewhere as a possible Alzheimer's drug.

The new study — performed by X-ray crystallography — revealed exactly how the blocking of the enzyme by HupA takes place: HupA slides smoothly into the active site of AChE where acetylcholine is broken down, and latches onto this site via a very large number of subtle chemical links. This binding closes off the enzyme's "cutting" machinery and keeps acetylcholine out of danger.

According to neurochemist Silman, "such specific binding means that the HupA could be a potent drug even when used in small quantities, so that the risk of side effects would be minimal."

These risks are relatively small to begin with because HupA is believed to possess very low toxicity.

Get Your Personal Lifeguard

Good news for those who don't trust their swimming abilities but don't want to wear obtrusive lifesavers: a novel inflatable airbag that can be worn on the wrist like a watch and inflated only when needed. The lifesaver consists of a small canister of compressed gas and an air bag that inflates rapidly either automatically or manually, depending on the model. A special child's lifesaver, worn around the waist, inflates automatically. The lifesaver has been patented in the United States. Worldwide patent is pending.

Coming Soon Better CPR

From Technion Research

Cardio-pulmonary resuscitation has saved countless lives. With electronic delivery, it could save many more. CPR is effective if the right amount of pressure is applied at appropriate intervals. Both the pressure and the timing depend on the person or device delivering the treatment. An electronically controlled vest developed at the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology applies the optimal pressure at the optimal rate.

Developed by Professors Uri Dinar and Rafael Beyar of the department of biomedical engineering, the vest senses a signal from an electrocardiograph and adjusts the duration and frequency of pressure accordingly. With this optimal delivery, the vest has been shown to increase blood flow by more than 20 percent. It is also non-invasive and can be quickly applied by non-medical staff.

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MILESTONES

Resolve To Be Healthier In 1997

Lifespan Health Connection has several free seminars and lectures scheduled in January which may help people keep their New Year resolutions.

The programs focus on losing weight, managing time, managing stress, and quitting smoking. There also will be a series of lectures on common vision problems and the latest treatments because January is National Eye Care Month.

In addition, seminars on managing diabetes for senior citizens and several support groups are gearing up.

Jan. 14 — "Diabetic Eye Disease" by J. Ducharme, M.D. George Auditorium, Rhode Island Hospital, 7 to 8 p.m.

Jan. 16 — "Classroom Strategies for Children with ADD/ADHD" by Robert Hayden, Ph.D., Bradley School of Middletown, 6 to 8 p.m.

Jan. 17 — "Narrative Therapy and Readiness to Change" by Robert Cohen, M.S.W., Ph.D., Bradley Hospital, Pine Room, East Providence, Noon to 1:30 p.m. CEU credits offered. \$5 fee payable at door. Pre-registration not required.

Jan. 21 — "Macular Degeneration: Progressive Loss of Sight" by J. Ducharme, M.D., George Auditorium, Rhode Island Hospital, 7 to 8 p.m.

Diabetes Education for Seniors — In this six-week series, diabetes educators, nurses and

dietitians from the Visiting Nurses Association of R.I. and The Miriam Hospital will help you better manage the various aspects of diabetes, such as diet, weight, medication, and your lifestyle. There is no fee, but Medicare information is required. 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Tuesdays, beginning Jan. 21. Conference Room C, Third Floor of Fain Health Centers, The Miriam Hospital.

Jan. 22 — "Losing Weight and Keeping It Off" by V. Pera, M.D., Sopkin Auditorium, The Miriam Hospital, 7 to 8 p.m.

Jan. 23 — "If I Only Had Two More Hours Each Day... Manage Your Time to Manage Your Stress" by S. Jacobs, M. Ed.; Laura Linnan, M.S.Ed., and S. Moriarty, M.S.W., Sopkin Auditorium, The Miriam Hospital, 7 to 8 p.m.

Jan. 28 — "Glaucoma: Sneak Thief of Sight" by S. D. Murphy, M.D., 7 to 8 p.m.

Jan. 30 — "Quitting Smoking is Hard" by William Shadel, Ph.D. Learn about the most effective tools and techniques that can help you stop smoking. Sopkin Auditorium, The Miriam Hospital, 7 to 8 p.m.

Cancer Support Group — On the first and third Wednesday of each month, Rhode Island Hospital sponsors a FREE support group to help cancer patients and their families cope with the emotional, physical, and social effects of cancer. Cooperative Care Center, Room 117, Rhode Island Hospital

Man to Man — On the first Tuesday of each month, Rhode Island Hospital and the American Cancer Society co-sponsor a support group for men with prostate cancer and their families. 7 p.m., George Auditorium, Rhode Island Hospital

Diabetes Support Group — On the second Tuesday of each month, Rhode Island Hospital provides a support group for individuals with diabetes. On Jan. 14, there will be a special presentation, "Food for Thought: An open discussion with a Registered Dietitian." 6:30 to 8 p.m., Cooperative Care Conference Room, Rhode Island Hospital

Seating to programs is limited. Pre-registration is required unless otherwise indicated. For more information or to register for a program, call 444-4800. Toll-free long distance, call (800) 927-1230.



JNF Awards Trump, Again

Leaders of the Jewish National Fund recently made an encore presentation of the organization's Tree of Life Award, JNF's highest honor, to Donald J. Trump. The award, originally presented to Trump in 1983, was lost during shipment to his Palm Beach estate. From left are Malcolm Thomson, JNF New York Region board member; Milton S. Shapiro, JNF national president; Moshe Rivlin, JNF world chairman; Trump; James A. Leberthal, JNF New York Region board member; Bertram L. Podell, JNF New York Region president; and Alan E. Friedberg, JNF New York Region executive director. Photo courtesy of JNF

Wassers Celebrate 50 Years

Raymond and Shirley Wasser of Belvedere Drive, Cranston, R.I., recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at a family luncheon at the Cocks'n Kettle in Uxbridge, Mass.

The couple were married in Providence on Oct. 27, 1946, in a double ceremony with the bride's sister, Ethel, and her husband, Leo Davis.

They are the parents of Howard Wasser of Cranston, Helene Pell of Ashland, Mass., Sandra Wallis of Holyoke, Mass., and Julie Parker of Bellingham, Mass. They also have three grandchildren.

Raymond Wasser is the former owner of Royal Crown Bottling Co. of R.I. and is still employed in the bottling industry. Shirley Wasser is the former Shirley Espstein of Providence, R.I.



Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Wasser

MAZON Awards Grant in Rwanda

MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger recently announced a \$25,000 grant to support emergency feeding efforts in Rwanda.

MAZON's \$25,000 grant to Washington, D.C.-based Africare will fund the distribution of food and water to orphans and unaccompanied children in a Kigali orphanage and provide seeds, tools and firewood to farmers to assist in production of food.

"Beyond addressing immediate food needs, the larger goal is to help returning Rwandan refugee families by providing them with the food, seeds and tools they will need to resettle and resume normal lives," MAZON executive director Irving Cramer said in announcing the grant.

"While the return of Rwandan refugees to their homeland marks the end of one crisis, it is the beginning of an extremely critical period as people begin to reintegrate into their towns

and villages," Cramer said.

In November, more than 500,000 Rwandan refugees began returning en masse to their homeland following the outbreak of civil war in Zaire. Recently, hundreds of thousands of additional Rwandan refugees have begun returning from Tanzania.

MAZON board chairman Mark Levy stressed that, despite occasional grants in response to desperate conditions elsewhere in the world, MAZON's principal mandate remains confronting hunger in the United States.

"Hunger continues to plague poor Americans. The U.S. has more poor children per capita than any other industrialized country," Levy said.

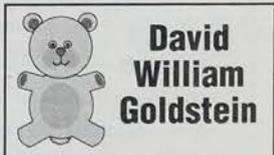
For further information about MAZON, or to contribute to the organization, call or write: MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger, 12401 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 303, Los Angeles, CA 90025; tel. (310) 442-0020.

Reuben Beiser Engaged to Tehilla Achituv

Grace and Ed Beiser of Providence, R.I., announce the engagement of their son Reuben of Jerusalem, Israel, to Tehilla Achituv. Tehilla is the daughter of Esther and Natan Achituv of Jerusalem.

He is a graduate of the Providence Hebrew Day School and Brown University, and is com-

pleting a degree in architecture at Bezalel Art Institute. His fiancée is a candidate for a degree in pharmacy at Hebrew University. Their wedding is planned for March 26, in Israel.



David William Goldstein

Mr. and Mrs. Steven Goldstein announce the birth of their son, David William, on Dec. 11.

Maternal grandparents are Dan Earlie of Phoenix, Az., and Ellen Myer of San Diego, Calif.

Paternal grandmother is Esther Goldstein of Cranston. David is named in memory of his grandfather.

Maternal great-grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. K. Gregory of Sun City, Az. Paternal great-grandparents are the late Mr. and Mrs. Harry Kaminsky.

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SPORTS FEATURE

Hockey Goalie Proves Herself Every Day

by Neil Nachbar
Herald Associate Editor

Sara DeCosta of Warwick has had to prove herself her whole life.

Growing up, she played ice hockey with and against boys. With all eyes on her, she had to prove that she belonged and deserved respect.

Currently, as a freshman on the Providence College women's hockey team, she has to prove every day in practice that she deserves to be the starting goalie of one of the best teams in the country.

Over the next year, DeCosta hopes to prove that she deserves to be on the first women's ice hockey team to represent the United States in the Olympics.

To have such high expecta-

"I remember we'd go to tournaments and the other teams would laugh at us because we had a girl goalie," said Cavanaugh in a *Providence Journal-Bulletin* article last year. "Then we'd beat them because of her."

If any players tried to intimidate DeCosta or take a cheap shot, her brothers would take care of the matter.

"I played with my two brothers — Matt and Frank," said the goalie. "If anyone hit me, they were right there."

It was at Toll Gate that DeCosta gained statewide recognition and respect for the first time.

In her junior year, she earned the position as the Titans' starting goalie. In doing so, she became the first female to play in the Championship Division.

She would later become the first female to earn All-State hockey honors, the first female goalie to start in the New England High School Championships and the first female goaltender to beat Mount St. Charles during the regular season.

DeCosta has played in many important hockey games in her career, but none were bigger than when she faced Mount in the title series last year.

The Mounties entered the series with an 18-year reign as state champions, the

longest winning streak in American interscholastic sports history. They also finished the regular season 17-0-0, compared to Toll Gate's 10-9-0 record.

Toll Gate was the first public school to reach the finals of the state's top division since Cranston East in 1984. No public school had won the title since East Providence in 1975.

Although the Titans were huge underdogs, they had at least one thing going for them — they believed in themselves.

In the first game of the best of three series, Mount St. Charles won in overtime, 4-3. In the second game, DeCosta made history. She shut out the Mounties, the best team in New England,

3-0. It was the first time in 18 years that Mount St. Charles was shut out in the finals.

"The whole team got the shutout," recalled DeCosta modestly. "It was gratifying because we didn't have that great a season."

DeCosta remembers the excitement leading up to the third game of the series.

"The final game was unreal. It was chaotic," stated DeCosta. "Each person was only allowed to buy one ticket. We had so much support throughout the state. Everyone wanted us to win. It's something I'll always remember."

Through the first two periods, Toll Gate kept Mount off the scoreboard. DeCosta made 30 saves, many of them in spectacular fashion.

The Mounties poured it on in the third period, however, and won 5-2. But after every save, and even after the game, the crowd chanted, "Sa-ra! Sa-ra!"

Because of her spectacular performance, and the media attention it attracted, DeCosta became a local celebrity. She's been the marshal of a parade, she's given talks to 11 different elementary school classes and Girl Scout troops, and to this day, kids (especially girls) ask her for her autograph.

"It's fun when kids come up to you and want to meet you or get your autograph," said DeCosta. "I try to give them a lot of attention. I'll do anything for them, especially since they supported me."

DeCosta's stellar play in high school enabled her to receive a full athletic scholarship in college. In fact, she was in the position to choose which school she would like to attend.

She picked PC over the University of New Hampshire, Boston College and Northeastern University.

"I felt that PC would give me the best chance to improve academically and as a hockey player," said DeCosta. "Also, PC is known for its hustle and tradition."

Jackie Barto, PC's head coach, first heard about DeCosta four or five years ago. She saw the goalie play for the first time two years ago.

"Sara is a great kid," said Barto. "She works very hard on the ice and in the classroom. PC was a good match for her."

DeCosta, whose mother is Jewish, plans to take at least one class in Judaic studies at PC. Although she didn't grow up in a religious household, she does attend High Holy Day services at Temple Sinai in Cranston with her family.

Her parents, Frank and Nancy, have been very supportive of her involvement in hockey.

"My parents never miss a game," said DeCosta. "I feel like that gives me an advantage."

DeCosta has made an immediate impact at PC. She's earned a starting position through her hard work in practice.

"She's a gamer," said Barto. "I was hoping she'd make an impact right away. She's quick,



TIME OUT — Sara DeCosta briefly takes a seat near the bench during a recent practice. She doesn't sit much during the games, as the freshman has started almost every contest for Providence College.

Herald photo by Neil Nachbar



Sara DeCosta

Herald photo by Neil Nachbar

tions of herself might seem like a lot of pressure, but DeCosta has been playing hockey since she was 5 years old and she doesn't get rattled too easily.

"When I first started playing, for a couple of years, people thought it was a joke, but I gained respect quickly," said DeCosta. "By the time I got to high school, it was easy because I had played with all my teammates growing up and I played with the guys from other teams in all-star games."

Paul Cavanaugh, who played hockey with DeCosta since age 8 and was a teammate at Toll Gate High School, was glad he played with her, rather than against her.



TAKE YOUR BEST SHOT — Sara DeCosta guards the net during a recent practice. The goalie is currently ranked fourth in the Eastern College Athletic Conference in goals against average (1.70) and second in save percentage (.946).

Herald photo by Neil Nachbar

she's a good skater and she has a great presence in the net."

Providence has won six championships in the Eastern College Athletic Conference, including four in a row from 1991-95. Last year, PC lost in the finals to UNH in a record five overtime periods.

With DeCosta in net, the Lady Friars are sure to get back to the finals soon. The rookie is ranked fourth in the conference in goals allowed per game (1.70) and second in save percentage (.946). At the time of this interview, PC was 6-0-0.

While she's focused on her

role at PC, she can't help but think about the possibility of playing in the Olympics in 1998.

"Right now, I'm concentrating on PC, but my dream is to play in the Olympics; that's what I'm working toward," said DeCosta.

According to Barto, DeCosta, who has played briefly with the national team, is a strong candidate for the Olympic team.

Considering the fact that DeCosta improves every time she steps on the ice, and that she's relentless in pursuit of her goals, you should probably watch for her in next winter's Olympiad.

Upcoming PC Games

Jan. 17	Northeastern*	5 p.m.
Jan. 18	Concordia*	4 p.m.
Jan. 19	New Hampshire*	3 p.m.
Jan. 25	at Brown	4 p.m.

*Home game — played at Schneider Arena on the PC campus.



ASDS Faculty and Students Tip Off

The second annual faculty-student basketball game, held recently at the Ruth and Max Alperin Schechter Day School, was a rousing success.

The faculty team, made up of more than 15 teachers and administrators, was an energetic and willing group who gave their all to the game.

These dedicated professionals were well matched by the skill, determination and speed of the student team made up of those who had played in intramural basketball games this season.

Coaching their team was Judaic studies teacher, Steven Jablow. Referees were Alex Groag (grade six) and Harry Matusow, Schechter parent.

The score was very close for

much of the game, with the teachers leading in the first period, the students in the second period and the score a tie, 30-30 at the end of the game.

In a 30-second overtime, students gave their all in an effort to overpower the teachers, but it was to no avail. The teachers won by two points. The final score: 32-30 in favor of the teachers.

As part of its ongoing community service program, the "price of admission" was one non-perishable food item per person. Thanks to this effort, ASDS collected more than five crates of food to donate to a shelter.

"Fabulous!" "Tremendous!" "Exhilarating!" said parents and teachers. "Rematch!" said the students. Same time next year!

FEATURE



A FAMILY OF LATINO JEWS, the subject of "La Plaza" airing soon. Photo courtesy of Isaac Borenstein

Latino Jews: Journey to the Americas Explores Their History, Culture, Identity

From the late 1800s through World War II, Eastern European Jews fled from the persecution and violence of their homelands to the safe shores of America. Many of them found refuge in Latin America.

"La Plaza," a two-part Channel 2 presentation, explores the assimilation process of Jews in Latin America and of Latin American Jews in the United States. It will air on GBH/2 on Jan. 11 at 6:30 p.m. (Part I) and Jan. 18 at 6:30 p.m. (Part II). (Part I repeats on GBH/44 on Jan. 15 at 10:30 p.m.; Part II repeats on GBH/44 on Jan. 22 at 10:30 p.m.)

Jewish immigration to Latin America — primarily to Argentina, Cuba, and Mexico — was sometimes accidental and sometimes the result of being turned away by the United States.

Through personal anecdotes and family histories of Latin American Jews now living in Massachusetts, Part I of "Latino Jews" looks at the experiences of several Jewish families as they adjusted to life in primarily Catholic Latin America.

Isaac Borenstein, whose family left Cuba for Boston when Castro came to power, recalls Cuba as being very welcoming of Jews.

For Jaime Gerson's family, who escaped the pogroms of Russia in the early 1900s, Mexico was paradise. He tells of his family's success in education

and business, and of his grandfather's transition "from vodka to tequila."

Jaime Wursell, the son of Holocaust survivors, remembers more suspicion in Argentina: He tells of being baptized when he first arrived there, so he could pass as Catholic.

The United States did not accept many Jews from 1935 to 1945, so many... Jews fleeing the Holocaust went to Latin America...

Jewish men and women who opposed the military junta in the 1970s were more severely punished than non-Jews, and recent bombings of Amia buildings, Jewish community centers, remind Argentine Jews like Alberto Limonic that anti-Semitism thrives in his homeland. Argentina has the largest Jewish community in Latin America.

Part II of "Latino Jews" looks at the experiences of Latino Jews now living in the U.S. While in Latin America, most people of Jewish descent were identified as Jews first and foremost. Upon arriving in the United States, however, they are often consid-

ered Latinos first, Jews second.

"La Plaza" speaks with several Boston-area Latino Jews about their dual — or triple — identity. Rosita Fine, who left Chile when Salvador Allende came to power, has assimilated to the American Jewish community and is happy to be Jewish without reservation.

In contrast, Sandra Mayo, an Argentinean Jew who passed as Catholic in her homeland, has found a place in the Latino community.

Lucia Mayerson-David, from Chile, notes that Latino Jews often have a different perspective than American Jews because they or their families are more likely to have lived through the Holocaust.

The United States did not accept many Jews from 1935 to 1945, so many Eastern European Jews fleeing the Holocaust went to Latin America instead.

For this reason, said Mayerson-David, Latino Jews have a stronger sense of having been persecuted than their American counterparts. Likewise, Ester Shapiro from Cuba identifies more with Latinos and other people of color than with American Jews, who she thinks identify themselves with White America.

Jennifer Nieman, a young Puerto Rican Jewish woman representative of a new generation of Latino Jews, sees herself as a "mutt": She considers herself Cuban Jewish, although she's never lived in Cuba or been to Israel. She embraces her blended identity and her "differentness," and feels that she is better off for it.

Conference Will Ponder Genetic Testing for Breast Cancer

To raise consciousness about the complexities surrounding gene testing for breast cancer predisposition, the Jewish Women's Coalition on Breast Cancer will present "The Breast Cancer Epidemic and the Pitfalls of Genetic Testing," on Jan. 15 in Brookline, Mass.

The purpose of such testing is to identify gene alterations which may indicate an increased likelihood of developing breast cancer. For now, this information is only significant for women with a strong family history of the disease; testing is not applicable to the general population.

available to the general public. Unfortunately, the ability of medicine to make practical use of this genetic information is not advancing at the same rate.

"Until there are effective prevention strategies and really early detection — earlier than mammography currently offers — genetic testing may benefit only a very few individuals and may actually put many others at serious risk for discrimination."

Former U.S. Congresswoman Bella Abzug will be keynote speaker of the event. Abzug, a women's rights proponent, civil rights lawyer, public speaker and writer, is also the founder and president of the Women's Environment and Development Organization, an international network that works to help save the planet from worsening environmental threats, pollution and poverty.

Amy Caplan, women's rights advocate, says, "What has gratified and impressed me is the incredible support so eagerly offered by our extended community — there are extraordinary women committed to this effort. To have Bella Abzug at the event only increases its significance."

As women, we must advocate for measures that will prevent and someday cure breast cancer. We must learn more about this disease — the causes and risks, the facts and myths."

The Breast Cancer Epidemic and the Pitfalls of Genetic Testing begins at 7 p.m. at the Veronique Ballroom in Brookline (20 Chapel St., at the corner of Longwood Avenue and Chapel Street, across from the Longwood Green Line "D" T stop).

Cost to attend the program is \$10; dessert and coffee will be served.

Space is limited. Register by calling (617) 457-8572. For more information about genetic testing for breast cancer, call Jane Matlaw, director of Community Relations at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, at (617) 667-4524.

Potentially negative consequences, such as job discrimination and soaring health insurance costs for women who test positive for gene alterations, are dynamic issues.

The presence of an alteration does not mean that a woman will actually get breast cancer, and in the same regard, a negative test does not mean that a woman will not develop the disease.

Unfortunately, this fact has been obscured in the literature disseminated by companies now marketing the tests.

Potentially negative consequences, such as job discrimination and soaring health insurance costs for women who test positive for gene alterations, are dynamic issues.

And even if such alterations are detected, there are few options for the prevention of breast cancer.

According to Cathie Ragovin, M.D., a board member of the Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition, "Advances in scientific research and biotechnology have now made genetic testing



Bella Abzug

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ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT



Starr Gallery Hosts 'The Unique Print'

The Starr Gallery at the Leventhal-Sidman Jewish Community Center will present "The Unique Print: Six Innovative Approaches to the Monotype" from Jan. 16 to March 9.

"The Unique Print" brings together a select group of important artists who employ unconventional, creative methods and modern applications within the monotype medium.

Traditionally, printmaking techniques such as lithography, etching and silk screening have enabled artists to reproduce multiple images to create an edition of prints with predictable, continuous characteristics.

The monotype, however, is a unique, single print which can only be produced once.

Participating artists include: Roselyn Karol Ablow, Meryl Brater, Aaron Fink, Richard Jacobs, Michael Mazur and Matt Phillips.

Phillips was one of the first 20th-century artists to explore the monotype process extensively beginning some 40 years ago. His collaged figurative work is brightly colored, executed with a loose, painterly hand.

Fink's specialty is counter proofs, works created by printing from a painting made on canvas, not on a plate. After he has pulled a print, he often re-

works the surface, creating an image which has been altered from the original painting.

The monotype is also a flexible medium in terms of the material onto which the image can be printed. Mazur's delicate, ethereal images inspired by nature are printed on silk which lends the work a sense of luxury and fluidity.

Ablow prints her abstracted landscapes by hand, without a press, integrating collage and reworking the surface after the print has been made.

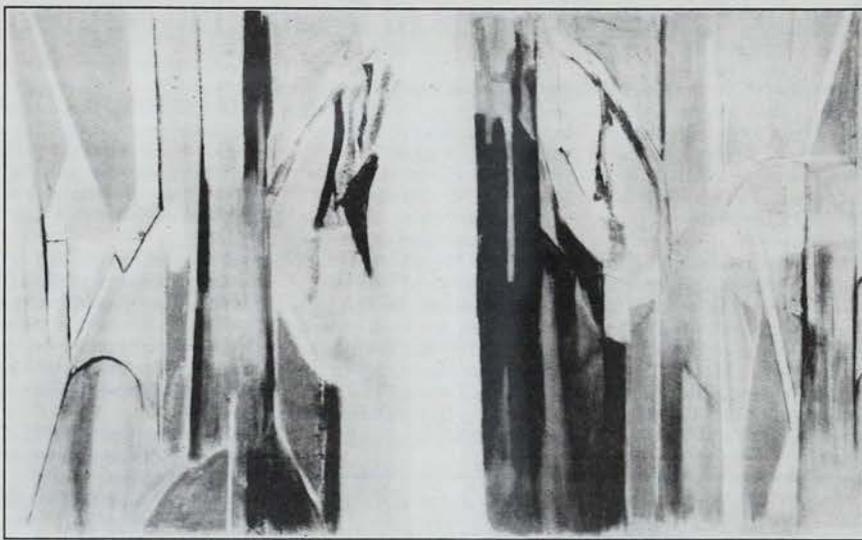
Bookmaking techniques are employed by Brater in the creation of her free-standing, accordion style pieces with monotyped surfaces.

Jacobs integrates international patterns via carved wood block and fabric stamps which he adds to his prints after they have been pulled.

Starr Gallery hours are Monday through Thursday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday evenings 6 to 9 p.m.

Most of the work in the exhibition is available for sale. For more information, call Almitra Stanley at (617) 558-6484.

The Starr Gallery is located at 333 Nahant St., Newton Centre, Mass.



ROSELYN KAROL ABLOW'S "Trees Into Collage II" (Diptych), 1996, monotype, collage, pastel, is an example of the artwork that will be on display at the Starr Gallery. Photo courtesy of the Starr Gallery

Have Winter Fun in Blackstone Corridor

The Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor is always sponsoring events of interest to families with children. Winter is no exception.

The beautiful and rustic Chase Farm, located in Lincoln in the Great Road Historic District, is the setting for free horse-drawn rides on Jan. 11, from noon to 3 p.m.

If there is snow, there will be sleigh rides. If there is no snow, enjoy hayrides around this scenic farm, with its gently rolling

hills and picturesque setting. For details, call the Lincoln Town Hall at 333-1100.

On Jan. 12, celebrate Founders Day at the Higgins Armory Museum, 100 Barber Ave., Worcester, Mass.

The museum, which turns 60 years old this year, has the largest on-display collection of medieval and Renaissance armor in the Western Hemisphere, set in a Gothic castle setting.

For information on activities, call (508) 853-6015.

art and design schools, Rhode Island School of Design, located in the National Heritage Corridor, on Providence's historic College Hill, offers two programs for teen-agers and their families.

From Jan. 11 through Feb. 15, Young Adult Workshops for ages 12 to 17 are being held in sculpture, computer animation, cartooning and fine arts.

And, from Jan. 12 through 26, a series of Family Art Workshops will be held on the art of the circus.

To register for workshops, and for times and workshop locations, call RISD at 454-6100.

Art Activities

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Bookstore to Host Programs

Books on the Square, 471 Angell St. in Wayland Square, Providence, has several upcoming programs, including:

- Local author Ilse Kramer will be present for a book signing on Jan. 11 at 2 p.m. The German-born Kramer is the author of *Pimpinella* (Commonwealth \$4.99), a new novel in which the letters from 10 different suitors over four decades to the bewitching and elusive heroine of the title form the basis of the tale. Meet Kramer and get a signed copy of her romantic new novel.

- Lazy Sunday Story Hours will continue on Jan. 12 from 2 to 3 p.m. with guest storyteller, Brian Mulvey. Mulvey will appear as The Fabulous Aesop in an audience-participation presentation featuring the fables of Aesop and Mulvey himself as the 2,000-year-old Greek storyteller.

- The Second Monday Book Club will be held on Jan. 13 at 7:30 p.m. Slated is a discussion of Kenzaburo Oe's book, the winner of the 1994 Nobel Prize for Literature, *Nip the Buds! Shoot*

the Kids, an uplifting but ultimately tragic tale of 15 reformatory boys caught in wartime.

- Author Ann Harleman and her new novel, *Bitter Lake* (Southern Methodist Press, \$22.50 hardcover, \$12.95 paperback), will be featured on Jan. 13 at 7:30 p.m. Harleman will lead a discussion and sign copies of her book. Told from the alternating points-of-view of a strong and resolute 14-year-old girl, and her confused mother, *Bitter Lake* is the story of their struggles with a wayward and mostly absent father/husband, and a chronicle of the growth of the daughter and her determination to bring her father to account.

- The bookstore will sponsor its first Local Author Symposium on March 15 from 2 to 4 p.m. The bookstore is looking for authors from the area who would be willing to read from their work as well as discuss writing and getting published with other area writers and readers. All interested in attending should contact Sarah Zacks at the store by Jan. 15.

All of these events are free and open to the public. For more information, call 331-9097.

Whaling Museum Presents Quintet

On Jan. 12 and April 6, the Fanfare Brass Quintet will be performing in the museum theater of the New Bedford Whaling Museum from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

The Jan. 12 concert will feature "Winter Classics" with the Fanfare Brass performing in concert favorite classical pieces written for brass as well as great works from the choral, chamber and orchestral music traditions.

To round out the performance, the quintet will perform some modern classics not usually heard in the concert hall.

The April 6 concert is a spring concert where the quintet will demonstrate the diversity of their repertoire. The concert will feature a broad spectrum of musical styles from Dixieland to Broadway in a concert that will include something for everyone.

Each concert is \$5 per person at the theater entrance on the corner of Johnny Cake Hill and Williams Street.

For more information, call the museum at (508) 997-0046.

The Magic of Disney

by Neil Nachbar
Herald Associate Editor

As a child, and as an adult, I've been a big Disney fan. I've read the books and I've watched the movies, but I've never seen a live performance of one of the Disney stories, until last weekend.

The Walt Disney's World On Ice version of "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" came to the Providence Civic Center. While the entire audience seemed to enjoy the show, it was interesting to note the differences in the reactions of the children and adults.

The adults applauded politely whenever a skater performed a difficult maneuver. The kids seemed to care less about the ice skating; they just wanted to see their favorite Disney characters.

This was evident when the show's narrator, Mickey Mouse, appeared at the start of the production — the children practically jumped out of their seats as they screamed "Mickey!"

Following the famous mouse,

several other popular Disney characters made their entrance, including Donald Duck, Goofy, Belle from "Beauty and the Beast," as well as the stars of "The Jungle Book," "The Little Mermaid," "The Lion King," and other stories.

The "Snow White" characters skated well to the story and the music. They didn't perform too many "difficult" moves, but that was understandable considering the show lasts more than two hours.

The costumes, voices and props closely resembled those in the movie. One noticeable difference in the show was the size of the Seven Dwarfs, who were larger than Snow White.

The special effects, which included pyrotechnics and dry ice, added a level of excitement.

During the playing of "Hi Ho! Hi Ho!..." you couldn't tell the adults in the audience from the kids — everyone got swept up in the music (and the magic of Disney).

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WORLD AND NATIONAL NEWS

Bardot Faces Charges of Promoting Racism

by Lee Yanowitch

PARIS (JTA) — Brigitte Bardot, France's former screen icon who now devotes her life to animals' rights, is facing charges in court of inciting racial hatred for writing that Muslim immigrants are polluting French society.

In an opinion piece in the daily *Le Figaro* last April in which she harshly condemned the ritual slaughter of sheep for the Muslim festival of Id al-Khebir, Bardot wrote that the French were being forced to "submit against our will to a Muslim overflow."

In a rare public appearance, the 62-year-old former actress was in court recently to deny the accusations leveled by three anti-racist groups.

She told the court that her editorial, "My Cry of Anger," was an attempt to convince French authorities to bring a halt to the "barbarity of this bloody festival."

On Id al-Khebir, which falls in the spring, the head of each Muslim family slits the jugular of a sheep and bleeds it to death to celebrate Abraham's sacrifice of a sheep, rather than his son, to honor G-d.

"I've watched from afar. I even cried in front of [Muslims] and begged them to knock the animals unconscious first so that it will be more humane," said Bardot, who retired from acting in 1972 to become France's most outspoken animal rights campaigner.

She was accompanied in court by her husband Bernard d'Ormale, a member of the National Front party, which advocated expelling France's 4 million immigrants, most of whom come from its former colonies in North Africa.

She also told the court that kosher slaughtering entailed suffering for animals.

Although Bardot denied she was racist, her language in court was similar to that used in the column, and at times resembled the anti-immigrant rhetoric of National Front leader Jean-Marie Le Pen.

"There are more and more Muslims in France. These people come to live here and they don't respect our laws," she said. "I am only saying out loud what every one thinks quietly."

Le Pen, who frequently makes anti-Semitic statements in public, won 15 percent of the vote in last year's presidential election.

Philippe Coen, a lawyer for one of the plaintiffs, the League Against Racism and Anti-Semitism, said Bardot was "surfing on the wave of intolerance that is sweeping across our society."

If found guilty, she faces up to one year in prison and a \$60,000 fine.

Strike Disrupts Ben-Gurion Airport

by Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Hundreds of travelers were stranded at Israel's Ben-Gurion Airport on Dec. 26 after airport workers staged a strike.

All services for outgoing and incoming flights were suspended. Most travelers spent the hours wandering the duty-free shops and snack bars.

The airport strike was one of a series of actions planned by the Histadrut trade federation to protest proposed government budget cuts and privatization plans.

The Histadrut maintains that the government is reneging on wage agreements and has not included employees in plans for privatizing state companies.

Telephone, port and rail services were also disrupted by the strike.

Organizers said they were planning to hold strikes at hotels and banks in January.



Israel Bonds Scoops CNN

Linda Scherzer of Israel Bonds is the new director of the North American New Leadership Division. She is a former CNN correspondent.

Photo courtesy of David Karp

Ordeal Ends for Jewish Hostage in Lima

LNS — Among the hostages captured in Lima's Japanese embassy recently was a Jewish couple, Samuel and Evelyn Gleiser. Gleiser, a prominent member of the Jewish community, presides over Peru's Association of Industrialists.

Israel's ambassador to Peru, Yoel Salpac, was also among the guests at the Japanese reception, but left the embassy moments before the takeover.

On Dec. 20, the rebels released a group of hostages which included mostly women, among them Evelyn Gleiser. Shortly after her release she knocked on the door of Lima's Chabad-Lubavitch center, located a few short blocks from the Japanese embassy. A prominent Ashkenazic synagogue stands on the same block as the embassy.

Rabbi Shneur Zalman and Shterna Blumenfeld, the Chabad-Lubavitch representatives in Peru, had been closely following the events at the embassy. They invited Evelyn Gleiser and her family to join them for the Shabbat meal.

The next day, Samuel Gleiser was among another group of hostages released from captivity.

"Years ago the Rebbe told us that many miracles would take

place in Peru," Rabbi Blumenfeld confided. "We were fortunate to see one of them unfold right before our eyes."

Blumenfeld reported that "just when the hostage crisis started a large meeting was taking place [a block away from the Japanese embassy] at the synagogue. The police helped the participants leave unharmed."

During the on-going crisis, Blumenfeld said, "Lubavitch has been providing the large number of Jews among the international media with challah and candles for Shabbat. And the synagogue is running normally."

Of Peru's population of 23 million, only about 3,000 are Jews, most of whom reside in Lima. Jews first entered the country during the Spanish invasion, in 1532.

With the start of the Inquisition, many were subjected to persecution and converted to Christianity. Many others refused and were executed, some of them burned at the stake.

Modern Jewish immigration began around 1870, with waves of immigration following each of the World Wars, until the community reached its peak of 6,000 after World War II. More than 1,100 Peruvian Jews have emigrated to Israel since 1948.

Lima's Jewish community boasts a Sephardic and an Ashkenazic synagogue, a school with some 400 children from nursery-age through high school, a mikvah built by Lubavitch and a Jewish sports club. Some of the Jewish children receive their schooling at the American School and supplement their education with Jewish study classes provided by Lubavitch.



New Director General of ORT Israel

Haim Ben-Ami has been named director general of ORT Israel, to succeed Israel Goralnik who has held the post since 1983.

Study Estimates World Jewry at 13 Million

A study conducted by Hebrew University Professor Sergio DellaPergola estimates the population of world Jewry at 13 million, *Yediot Aharonot* reported.

According to DellaPergola's findings, 35 percent of Jews reside in Israel and 47 percent live in the United States and Canada. In addition, half of Jews live in metropolitan centers such as Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, New York, Los Angeles and Paris.

The study also concluded that 70 percent of Jews have received some form of Jewish education.

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Grad Student Uncovers Jews Who Fought for Adolf Hitler

by Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES (JTA) — Thousands of soldiers and officers of Jewish descent fought in Hitler's armies, with his full approval, while their relatives were transported to extermination camps.

In one instance, Hitler personally suspended his Nuremberg racial laws to designate a list of 77 high-ranking Wehrmacht officers of "mixed Jewish race or married to a Jew" as pure, German-blooded Aryans. The list included 15 generals.

Goering falsified Milch's birth record and then said, "I decide who is a Jew and who is an Aryan."

These incredible tales were unearthed by Bryan Rigg, a 25-year-old Yale University graduate. Rigg has spent four years scouring German army records and interviewing more than 300 Jewish or partly Jewish people who fought under the swastika in World War II.

The Texas-born Rigg is now a graduate history student at Cambridge University in England, where he was interviewed by the London correspondent of the *Los Angeles Times*.

His research has impressed historians.

Jonathan Steinberg, a professor at Cambridge, said, "When I saw Bryan's archive, I couldn't believe it. He's like the sorcerer's apprentice, calling these sources up from the depths."

Rigg said he had documented the Jewish ancestry of 1,200 of Hitler's soldiers, among them two field marshals. Twenty of these men were awarded the Knight's Cross, Germany's highest military decoration.

One of the field marshals was Erhard Milch, deputy to Luftwaffe Chief and Gestapo founder Hermann Goering. Rumors of Milch's Jewishness — his father was Jewish — circulated widely in Germany in the 1930s.

In one of the most famous anecdotes of the time, Goering falsified Milch's birth record and then said, "I decide who is a Jew and who is an Aryan."

From his interviews, Rigg culled stories that defy belief. One was about a German officer, in full uniform, who visited the Sachsenhausen concentration camp in 1942 to see his Jewish father, one of the inmates.

Another story was about a Knight's Cross holder who, as a prisoner of war in England, was reunited with his Jewish father, who had earlier fled Germany.

Many of the veterans Rigg met indicated that they had hoped through their military service to save the lives of relatives classified as Jews.

But in analyzing one group of 1,000 such soldiers, Rigg

found that nearly 2,300 of their relatives were killed in the Holocaust.

Rigg's research also shed light on stories surrounding the rescue by German soldiers of the Lubavitcher Rebbe of that time, who was trapped in Warsaw when war broke out in 1939.

Joseph Isaac Schneerson was spirited to safety after an appeal to Germany from the then-neutral United States. Tradition has it that Schneerson was rescued by a German Jew. Rigg has identified the man as a highly decorated professional soldier, Maj. Ernst Bloch, whose father was a Jew.

Rigg started his quest at Yale while digging into his own family's German roots. His first discovery was that his great-grandparents, who arrived in the United States as Protestants, had been born in Germany as Jews.

Next, he happened to see the film, "Europa, Europa," the true story of a Jewish teen-ager who saved his life by posing as an ethnic German and serving in

the Nazi army. Afterward, Rigg struck up a chance conversation with an elderly German Jew, who spoke about his own service in the Wehrmacht, and Rigg was hooked.

With hardly any financial resources, Rigg conducted his interviews by crisscrossing Germany, often by bicycle, carrying his clothes, computer and docu-

ments in a bulging knapsack.

He has 400 more interviews to go on his current check list. "The thing is, I don't give up," Rigg told the *Los Angeles Times*. "If I have to carry 60 pounds on my back, I do it. If I have to sleep

in train stations, I do it. I do it to get to these people."

The initial reports on Rigg's findings in the British media have provoked debates among historians.

Most agree that while the fact that Jews served in the Wehrmacht has been known for some time, the story has never before been documented in such intimate detail.

There has also been criticism. David Cesarani, a professor of modern European Jewish history at Southampton University, said it is fundamentally incorrect to describe the soldiers studied by Rigg as Jews.

These soldiers "didn't think they were Jewish and wanted to prove they weren't Jewish by fighting for the Fuhrer," Cesarani claimed.

"Posthumously declaring them Jews is denying the way in which they defined themselves and conceding the way the Nazis defined them," he said. "It was their tragedy, but not the tragedy of the Jews."

The Jewish Garden

by Michael Brown

As you look outside at the cold bleak landscape, it's hard to imagine that Tu B'Shvat is just around the corner. We associate this holiday with planting trees in Israel, and indeed, in Israel the holiday falls during an ideal planting time. In New Jersey Tu B'Shvat comes at the perfect time for planning your own Jewish garden.

A Jewish garden is more than just plants. It includes plants that add something to your life. Some will help transport you to different times or places, all will enable you to experience a more personal involvement with G-d and with Judaism. They can be trees, herbs, vegetables or even flowers. You can use them in celebrating the holidays and in your everyday Jewish life.

If you haven't had a garden until now, this is the time to do it. You don't need a large plot of land. For many plants, even a small patio or balcony will do. All you need is the desire to deepen your awe of G-d's creation and the curiosity to see how gardening can add to your life.

Following are some suggestions as to what you can include in your Jewish garden:

Parsley. One of the easiest plants to grow, they can be purchased at any garden center. Put them in pots or in the ground in early spring. Parsley is great as greens on the seder plate during Passover.

Horseradish. Another easy

plant to grow. You start this plant from root cuttings. Either order from a catalog, find a friend who can give you a cutting, or plant the roots you find in the supermarket. Store-bought horseradish is a pale imitation of the home grown thing.

Wheat. You don't need 100 acres in Kansas to grow wheat. Winter wheat grows easily in New Jersey. Plant it in early October and harvest in late June or early July. From the wheat you can make flour to use in your challah, and tie yourself into the cycle of harvest holidays.

Figs. Yes, you can grow figs in New Jersey. (You can grow figs in a protected spot in Rhode Island or Southeastern Massachusetts, too. We checked with the horticulturalist at Weston Nurseries, Route 135, in Hopkinton, Mass., (508) 435-3414, and he said that while "Turkey figs" are most often grown here, other types survive as well. They must be wrapped during the winter, or laid in a trench and covered, till spring. Cutting off much of the root system on the upper side of the trunk is suggested.) They're one of the seven fruits (Shivat HaMinim) with which Israel is blessed. You can sit under your own tree and experience the

subtle aroma of the tree. Besides having to protect them in the winter (no big deal), they require very little work. They can be grown in pots. The trees are beautiful and the fruit is delicious and healthy.

Corn. Doesn't sound Jewish, but it's part of our Jewish garden. Corn is great for decorating your sukkah. It beats buying corn stalks at the local garden center.

Grapes. If you have a bit more room, consider grapes. Few things are more meaningful than using your own grape juice for the kiddush on Friday night.

So, this is the beginning of your Jewish garden. Around this time of year the seed companies start mailing their catalogs. Send for a few (most are free) and browse through them. Think of ways you can incorporate your garden into your Jewish observance. Perhaps you'll grow some flowers to press for Rosh Hashanah cards, or grow gourds along that back fence to decorate the sukkah. We use chives every year as greens for the seder plate.

Whatever you do you'll be outside in the fresh air, eating healthier and getting an added bonus by having a more meaningful relationship with G-d and Judaism. Enjoy!

'These Are The Names'

by Peter S. Knobel

The first five chapters of the Book of Exodus commence the account of our enslavement in Egypt and the steps required to liberate us. Exodus begins with the words Ve'eleh Shemot, "These are the names."

What names are listed? Only the names of Jacob and his sons. Their wives and children are unlisted. Jacob and his sons and their families totaled a mere 70 souls who, in a relatively brief span, multiplied and prospered until the new Pharaoh "who knew not Joseph," fearing that the Israelites will become a fifth column in war, issues a genocidal decree to kill all newly born males.

In this atmosphere, Moses is born and set afloat in the Nile, watched over by his sister, Miriam, rescued by Pharaoh's daughter, and nursed by his own mother, Yocheved.

Raised as a prince of Egypt, Moses rediscovers his Jewish identity when his compassion for the slave overwhelms his (sense of his) own security, and, in an act of rage, he slays the Egyptian taskmaster.

In fear, he flees; he marries, becomes a shepherd, and is called by G-d at "the bush that burned and was not consumed" to be the shepherd of Israel.

The text also details Moses' reluctance to accept leadership, and the commissioning of his brother, Aaron, to be his aide.

The parasha concludes with a description of the Jewish people's own resistance to

G-d's offer of freedom and Moses' first fruitless encounter with the hard-hearted Pharaoh.

Moses is the hero of the narrative. His presence looms large from the moment of his birth to his death at the end of Deuteronomy. He gets credit, along with G-d, for the Exodus from Egypt, and well he should.

But there are other heroes uncommissioned by any specific divine call whose insight and bravery made possible our continued existence and liberation.

Shifrah and Puah come to mind. They were the midwives who refused to carry out Pharaoh's murderous demand to kill all male babies.

Were they Jewish women or were they Egyptian women? The text is unclear. Yet without them, would there have been a Jewish future at all?

Next there was Pharaoh's daughter who defied her father's decree, drew Moses out of the Nile, and raised him as her own. We do not even know her name. The hearts of these Egyptian women had not been hardened.

Then there is Yocheved, Moses' mother, identified here only as a Levite woman, who bore him in defiance of the deadly decree. She did not agree, tradition tells us, with her husband, Amram, who convinced all the Jewish males to divorce their wives and cease bearing children so as not to provide Pharaoh with further victims.

With stealth and in faith, she casts Moses upon the waters in

(Continued on Page 19)

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OBITUARIES

ROSE BELLIN

PROVIDENCE — Rose Bellin, 100, of the Oak Hill Nursing Home, Pawtucket, co-owner of the former Met Photo of Providence before retiring 25 years ago, died Jan. 4 at Miriam Hospital.

Born in Romania, a daughter of the late Asher and Gittel (Manness) Adler, she lived most of her life in Cranston.

She was a member of the Miriam Hospital Women's Association, the Pioneer Women, and Temple Torat Yisrael and its Sisterhood. She was a member of Hadassah and ORT.

She leaves two sons, Arthur S. Bellin in Florida, and Albert N. Bellin of Cranston; a daughter, Trudy Katz of Cranston; six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

The funeral service was held Jan. 7 at the Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Post Road, Warwick.

ROSA GULMAN

PROVIDENCE — Rosa Gulman, 64, of 73 Roger Williams Green, Providence, a dietitian in Russia before moving to Rhode Island four years ago, died Jan. 1 at Miriam Hospital.

Born in Russia, she was a daughter of the late Rosa B. Gulman of Providence, and the late Samuel Gulman.

Besides her mother, she leaves a brother, Leonard Gulman in Israel; and a sister, Elena Liskovich of Providence.

A graveside service was held Jan. 2 at Lincoln Park Cemetery,

Post Road, Warwick. Arrangements were by the Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

EDYTHE S. KAYE

WARWICK — Edythe S. Kaye, 79, of 1139 Main Ave., formerly of Providence, died Jan. 2 in the Greenwood House Nursing Home, Warwick. She was the widow of Daniel Kaye.

A lifelong resident of Providence, she was a daughter of the late William and Frances (Flink) Israel.

She was a graduate of Bryant College, and a member of Temple Beth-El and its Sisterhood.

She leaves two daughters, Marty Hurley of Stow, Mass., and Judy Benson of Hingham, Mass. She was the sister of the late Elaine Torman.

A graveside service was held Jan. 5 in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

BEULAH LEVENSON

PROVIDENCE — Beulah Levenson, 75, of 44 Chatham Road, Cranston, died Jan. 5 at Miriam Hospital after a four-year illness. She was the wife of Ronald Levenson.

Born in Bridgeport, Conn., a daughter of the late Judge Samuel Mellitz and Sadie (Silverman) Mellitz, she lived in North Dartmouth, Mass., and Fairfield, Conn., before moving to Cranston in 1970.

She was a member of Hadassah and ORT.

Besides her husband, she leaves three sons, Joel Framson

of Encino, Calif., Martin Framson of Bangkok, Thailand, and Jay Framson of Los Angeles; a sister, Barbara Krentzman of Natick, Mass.; and three grandchildren. She was a sister of the late Jack Mellitz.

The funeral service was held Jan. 8 at the Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence. Burial was in Bikur Cholim Cemetery in Bridgeport, Conn.

SHIRLEY R. LEVINE

FAIRFIELD, Conn. — Shirley R. (Weber) Levine died at her residence in Fairfield. She was the wife of the late Arnold Levine.

She is survived by her daughter, Jacqueline Gillett and four grandchildren. She was the mother of the late Richard Levine.

Funeral services were held Jan. 6 at Tifereth Israel Congregation, New Bedford, Mass. Arrangements were by Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

DAVID SACHS

NEW BEDFORD, Mass. — David Sachs died Jan. 5 at Hathaway Manor, New Bedford.

He is survived by two sons, Stuart Sachs of Maine and Barry Sachs of North Dartmouth; two brothers, James Sachs of New Bedford and William Sachs of Georgia; a sister, Ann Preblub of Wisconsin. He was the father of the late Irma Sachs Samet.

Graveside services were held Jan. 6 at Plainville Cemetery,

New Bedford. Arrangements were by Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

CORA SCHENCK

WARWICK — Cora Schenck, 86, of the West Bay Manor, a secretary for Hercules Inc. in New York for many years, died Jan. 1 at Kent County Memorial Hospital. She was the widow of Leonard Schenck.

Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Samuel and Annie (Maker) Kotler, she lived in New York City most of her life before

moving to Warwick four years ago.

She leaves a daughter, Naomi Duchin of Sarasota, Fla.; a sister, Zeldia Hanson of East Providence; four grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren and a great-great-grandchild. She was sister of the late Max and Albert Kotler, Irene Cokely, Faye Paull and Mollie Kotler.

The funeral service was held Jan. 3 at the Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Post Road, Warwick.

Harry Kemelman, Jewish Sleuth, Dies

by Fredda Sacharow
Jewish Exponent

PHILADELPHIA (JTA) — Truth be told, Harry Kemelman did not like David Small very much.

Admired him, yes. Respected his scholarship and his humanity, sure. But like him?

"He's not a very likable person," Kemelman said of the fictional rabbi who, from his first appearance in *Friday, The Rabbi Slept Late*, catapulted the author to fame more than 30 years ago and who — like his creator — grew older and more curmudgeonly as the years went on.

Kemelman died Dec. 15 at the age of 88, leaving a legacy for a whole new generation of whodunit writers: mystery novelists for whom being Jewish is more than just a turn of the plot.

Many of the authors turning out Jewish sleuth fiction today say they learned their craft at the feet of such masters as Raymond Chandler, Ross McDonald and Dashiell Hammett, but that they took their "permission" to create Jewish characters from Kemelman.

Faye Kellerman, author of the popular Rina Lazarus-Peter Decker series, is one such spiritual heir.

She calls the late Massachusetts author "the granddaddy of us all." Under his tutelage, she said, American Jewish authors gradually became more comfortable turning out heroes who are proudly, visibly Jewish.

Kemelman professed to be bemused by his reputation — "A role model? Good L-rd, no!" he said upon hearing Fay Kellerman's assessment — but he never wore the mantle lightly.

Through all 11 of the Rabbi Small books, he continued to fine-tune his fictional hero, infusing him with compassion, intelligence and righteousness.

"He's a traditional rabbi, sufficiently learned in the law to be able to sit in judgment," Kemelman said two years ago while he was deep into the writing of what would be the last Rabbi Small volume, *That Day the Rabbi Left Town*.

He's a teacher, not in the sense of a melamed, a teacher of children, but in the sense of someone who steers his community in the right direction.

Kemelman's editor, Leona Nevler, speculated in *The New York Times* after the author's death that what made the books

work so well was partly the Kemelman's depiction of "the character of the rabbi, who was a kind of younger version of Harry himself."

Kemelman had a love-hate relationship with his alter ego right up to the end.

"No congregation would tolerate him," the author said of his unbending, inflexible cleric. Jewish residents of the fictitious Barnard's Crossing often went head to head with their uncompromising rabbi over matters of religious policy and law.

"I wish there were more rabbis like him," Kemelman said wistfully.

That easy-to-read style readers so appreciated was hard won.

For instance, for every character he introduced — even the most minor of cameos — the author would prepare a full biography. Ten pages, single spaced.

"So I know each character intimately even before he says one line," Kemelman said.

It never just flowed for this best-selling author. Every word was a struggle. When he would sit down at the typewriter his mind would send out the message: "Get me outta here."

That is one reason Kemelman used to get more work done in Jerusalem, where he and his wife, Anne, spent five months of every year. Back home in Marblehead, he had perfected the art of avoidance. He would decide to get a cup of coffee, drive to the nearest McDonald's and stop at the library to schmooze with the librarian.

"I can kill about three hours," Kemelman would admit. "But in Jerusalem, I can't do that, so I reheat the morning's coffee and proceed to write."

Millions of readers are profoundly grateful that he did.

Both Jews and non-Jews admire the talmudic wisdom of the Rabbi Small series and soak up the learning Kemelman would so skillfully weave in. The author frequently said he was amazed that his books sold well in Japan, hardly a nation with a large Jewish population.

New legions of readers will likely stumble on one of the 7 million copies of Kemelman's books in existence.

As Fay Kellerman did, they likely will fall in love with Rabbi Small's shtetl-born logic, his cerebral approach to mystery-solving and his ornery impatience with lesser mortals.

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Personal Residence Trust Q & A

This is another article in the series highlighting estate planning sales concepts.

Q: Why is a Personal Residence Trust useful in estate planning?

A: A PRT is the only type of Grantor Retained Income Trust that still is available for reducing gift taxes on transfers. It enables you to transfer your personal residence to a trust without paying gift tax on the full value of the home.

During the term of the PRT, you may remain in the home. After the term expires, the ownership passes to the remainderman, but you may still live there if you pay a fair rent.

This rental fee would help to further reduce the level of assets subject to estate tax.

Example: You are a widow with a \$400,000 home that you wish to pass on to your only child. Instead of an outright transfer of ownership, which would cause you to use up two-thirds of your unified credit, you decide to establish a PRT with a 15-year term so that the gift-tax value is only \$157,738.

Not only have you greatly reduced the amount of gift tax but you have also eliminated a \$400,000 asset and all its future appreciation from your estate (assuming you live beyond the 15-year term).

If the value of the home grows at 5 percent per year it will be worth \$831,571 in 15 years,

which would cost \$276,272 in estate taxes in a 41 percent estate tax bracket.

Even if you died during the 15-year term and the date of death value of the home is included in your estate, you still avoid the probate costs because title to the home passes automatically without probate.

Q: What are the requirements of a PRT?

A: To have a value for the retained interest so that the gift has a lower value for gift tax purposes, the PRT must meet the following conditions:

1. It is an irrevocable trust.
2. Only you, your spouse, or dependent may be a resident of the home.
3. After the term of the PRT expires, a written lease should be executed and rent payments made.
4. The house may not be used for anything other than residential purposes and may not be sold during the term of the PRT.
5. The PRT does not include any furnishings or other personal property.
6. There is an unrelated independent trustee.
7. The transfer is a future interest gift so the annual \$10,000 gift-tax exclusion is not available.
8. The remainderman receives a fraction of your basis (there is no step-up in basis because the property was not in your estate at your death)—the

fraction equals the value of the gift divided by the total value of the property.

Example: In the first example, assume your basis is \$100,000. Since your gift is 39.43 percent of the value of the home (\$157,738/\$400,000), your donee's basis will be \$39,430 (39.43 percent of \$100,000).

Fortunately, the income tax on the gain is usually far less than the gift or estate tax rate the transfer of the home would have been subject to if it were not for the PRT.

Q: Who pays the life insurance premium?

A: The trustee of your irrevocable life insurance trust should be the premium payor as well as the applicant, owner, and beneficiary. The gift tax dollars you save will cover the premium for your new insurance.

Since it would be logical to leave a home to only one person, you may want to have the trust purchase insurance to provide an equitable bequest for your other children.

Example: You have three children: two daughters who are married and live out of town and a single son who still lives at home. You establish a PRT with a 10-year term, transfer your \$300,000 residence to it, and designate your son to receive the remainder interest.

To be fair to your two daughters, you make a gift of \$20,000 each year to your irrevocable life insurance trust which purchases a \$600,000 LFP100 contract (assume Male 54 Preferred) on your life.

At your death, your son will have the home and your daughters will each have \$300,000 in cash.

Joy of Cooking Recipe Leaves Bad Taste in the Mouths of Conservationists

An entry in the famous book *Joy of Cooking* that includes suggestions for cooking and eating endangered green sea turtles has left a bad taste in the mouths of conservationists.

Listed under the heading *Turtles and Terrapin*, the entry tells readers that because "handling and cooking these monsters," is not a usual household procedure "most of us are content to enjoy their highly prized, highly priced gelatinous meat ready-diced and in cans."

All species of sea turtles are listed as either endangered or threatened and protected by laws in the United States and many other countries, as well as international treaties. Green turtles, hunted almost to extinction over the last few centuries for their meat and eggs, are federally listed as an endangered species. Importing green turtle products or those of any other sea turtle species is illegal.

Ironically, the book mentions Dr. Archie Carr's classic book *The Windward Road* as a source of information about green turtles. Carr is known worldwide for drawing attention to

the plight of endangered sea turtles and calling for conservation of the reptiles. *The Windward Road* told the world about imperiled green turtles and was the catalyst behind the founding of the nonprofit Caribbean Conservation Corporation and its Sea Turtle Survival League program.

"For *Joy of Cooking* to use Dr. Carr's book in this context is in very poor taste," said Sue Ellen Smith, of the Sea Turtle Survival League. "His life's work was based on saving sea turtles and their habitats. Without his calls to conservation it's very likely there would be no green turtles left today."

Smith said she sent a letter to *Joy of Cooking* publishers Penguin Books, USA, asking them to remove all references to cooking sea turtles from the book. She has not received a response.

To learn more about endangered sea turtles or Sea Turtle Survival League, call (800) 678-7853 or visit STSL's web site at <http://www.cccturtle.org>. Sea Turtle Survival League is a program of the nonprofit Caribbean Conservation Corporation.

CCRI Plans Busy Spring

Community College of Rhode Island will offer more than 300 credit and non-credit courses this fall at its campuses in Warwick, Lincoln and Providence and at off-campus locations in East Providence, Middletown, Newport and Westerly.

Classes begin Jan. 21. CCRI will offer credit courses in accounting, art, astronomy, biology, business administration, chemistry, chemical technology, computer studies and information processing, dental hygiene, economics, electronic engineering technology, electronics, engineering, engineering technology, English, fire science, French, geology, German, health, history, humanities, Italian, law, liberal arts, machine design, manufacturing technology, manufacturing, mathematics, mechanical engineering technology, medical laboratory technology, music, nursing, oc-

cupational therapy assistant, oceanography, office administration, philosophy, physical education, physical therapist assistant, physics, political science, Portuguese, process control technology, psychology, radiography, retail management, sociology, Spanish, speech, and theater.

Also non-credit courses in appliance repair, assertiveness training, ballroom dancing, money management, self-defense, and more. For details on non-credit courses, call 333-7070 in Lincoln or 825-2000 in Warwick.

For more information on credit courses, call CCRI's office of enrollment services at 825-2125 in Warwick, 333-7097 in Lincoln or 455-6017 in Providence.

Scleroderma Group Meets

A Scleroderma Support Group meeting is planned on Jan. 22 at 7 p.m.

Leonard Martin & Associates will be in charge of the program.

The meeting will be held at Roger Williams Hospital, Chalkstone Avenue, in Providence in the first floor, day-treatment room.

For more information, call Gail at (508) 695-1058.

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Mel & Me Hosts Trunk Show

On Jan. 13, Mel & Me in Garden City, Cranston, will be hosting a trunk show of Pamela Dennis fashions.

Mel Baker of Cranston and Brenda Bedrick have planned a day of informal modeling, and a representative from the designer will be on hand from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. to help customers make their selections and place special orders.

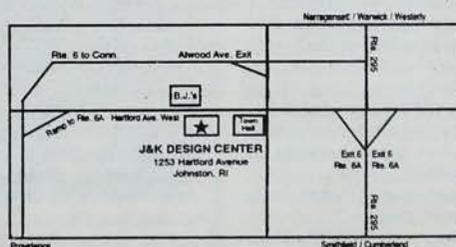
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