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# Rhode Island Jewish HERALD

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## Jewish Community Stands Up For Immigrants' Rights

by Emily Torgan  
Jewish Community Reporter

Most of the 25 New Americans milling about the State House rotunda looked worried.

"We are afraid," explained the 66-year-old Svetlana Artemova on March 4. "We get benefits as citizens, and we may lose them all."

"I am very scared," said Raisa Lyrlyera, 71. "Three years and five months ago I came to America from Belarus, and I do not understand the language well."

Artemova, Lyrlyera and many other legal immigrants stood quietly in the rotunda while Rhode Island legislators announced new bills proposing state-level assistance to help with the food stamps, cash assistance, and child medical care that the federal government will no longer provide.

Although they appeared confused at the packed rally, the New Americans seemed well aware of the losses they may suffer because of recent changes to the federal welfare system.

On Aug. 22, just months before the presidential elections, President Bill Clinton overhauled welfare legislation, effectively stopping 60 years of federal assistance for the poor.

Although the immigrant population comprised only a tiny fraction of those receiving welfare monies, the new legislation devastated funding for émigrés.

The changes declared that Supplemental Security Income, the federal welfare program that provides cash assistance to disabled and elderly residents who frequently use it for medical care, will not be provided to legal immigrants after August.

Only refugees and asylees will receive the benefits for no more than their first five years in America.

The new regulations slashed food stamps, health care and other vital services as well.

Rhode Island has lost about \$22 million in federal funding that the state will be hard-pressed to compensate for, and émigrés have been severely affected.

According to the Rhode Island Department of Health and Human Services, refugees and immigrants comprise only 8.6 percent of the state's 89,603 food stamp beneficiaries and 15.1

percent of its 24,815 SSI beneficiaries.

Now, however, 3,750 local legal immigrants will lose their SSI benefits by August. Some 8,000 will have to forfeit their food stamps unless they are able to become citizens.

"People are panicking," said Moses Saybe, chair of the Coalition for Immigrants and Refugees, at the rally. "These are not people who can go out and work — they have severe disabilities or they are too old."

According to Alla Goman, the office manager at Jewish ElderCare of Rhode Island, the New American elderly population is fearful.

Because those who enter from the former U.S.S.R. are classified as refugees, they will have the benefits, but only for five years.

Those at that time limit have already received notices from the Social Security Administration informing them that their benefits will soon end.

"People are frantic to pass the citizenship test, but some cannot," said Goman, an émigré from the former U.S.S.R. "My father-in-law, who is 76, has taken the test and failed it twice. He's very nervous and sad. He has been in English classes for 7 years, but he is too old to take a test with 100 questions and go through an interview. His blood pressure is up, and it's a nightmare."

According to Goman, her father-in-law is not alone.

"There are people in nursing homes who will have to pass the citizenship test," Goman said. "Some people are retarded, and they cannot pass this test."

Many are bewildered by the changes, said Goman.

"They were told one thing when they came to the U.S., and now that has been changed," she said. "They feel betrayed."

Ellen Steingold, the resettlement coordinator at the Jewish Family Services, said she was very worried.

"We're concerned about those who will not be able to pass the test," Steingold said.

According to Steingold, her agency, the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island and the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island have pooled their resources to strengthen their efforts.

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MEMBERS OF RHODE ISLAND'S New American community celebrate Victory in Europe Day last year in Pawtucket.  
Herald photo by Emily Torgan

## Augusta Finkelstein, Public Educator and Friend of URI Dies

Augusta Pollack Finkelstein, 89, formerly of Woonsocket, champion of public education and friend and benefactor of the University of Rhode Island, died March 2 in New York City.

The widow of Woonsocket industrialist Robert Finkelstein, she had lived in New York since 1975. She was born there Jan. 28, 1908, the daughter of Harry Pollack and Sophie Klein Pollack.

A graduate of Adelphi University and a high school chemistry teacher in New York, she moved to Woonsocket in the 1930s after her marriage. The Finkelsteins lived in a Harris Avenue home in Woonsocket where her husband later became president of the family textile firm, Jacob Finkelstein & Sons Inc.

She operated the Jack & Jill

Nursery School in Woonsocket and was a substitute teacher in Woonsocket city schools.

While in Woonsocket, she and her husband became heavily involved in helping to improve its public schools.

"We felt we were part of Woonsocket," she said in an interview prior to her being awarded an honorary doctorate of humane letters at URI's 1995 commencement. "My husband had a special feeling for the employees (in his mill)."

Their crusade for improved public education eventually spread throughout the state. "Whenever we had the chance to lift up education, we were there," she said.

In the 1950s and 1960s, Finkelstein and her husband introduced and championed ideas that are now considered cornerstones of public education: high quality textbooks, open meetings of public boards, an end to direct public financial support of parochial schools and increased state and federal aid to education.

She was a charter member of Americans United, an organization dedicated to the preservation of the separation of church and state. She was also a member of the American Civil Liberties Union, both in New York and Rhode Island.

Steve Brown, executive director of the R.I. American Civil Liberties Union, stated "She was

(Continued on Page 18)



POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE: Augusta Pollack Finkelstein, center, is presented with an academic hood during URI's 1995 Commencement.



# INSIDE THE OCEAN STATE

## Dr. Epstein Working on Brain Tumor Therapy

Rhode Island Hospital in Providence is participating in a study of a new treatment of glioblastoma multiforme, a type of incurable brain tumor. The hospital is one of about 40 centers worldwide studying the safety and effectiveness of gene therapy with GLI-328 in delaying progression and maintaining patients' ability to conduct daily activities.

Current treatment options include surgery followed by radiation therapy, and sometimes chemotherapy, to reduce the size of the tumor.

"For the people of southeastern New England who are diagnosed with glioblastoma, maintaining their survival and quality of life are paramount," said Mel Epstein, M.D., R.I.H. neurosurgeon-in-chief. "The search for an effective therapy that can improve the quality of life of these patients, as well as prolong survival, is crucial. Gene therapy represents a promising new frontier in this search."

Therapy with GLI-328 in-

volves the transfer of a gene derived from herpes simplex virus into glioblastoma tumor cells. This therapy has not caused patients to get herpes or any other viral infection. When introduced into the brain during surgery, the gene is incorporated into the DNA of the actively dividing tumor cells. The gene produces an enzyme known as thymidine kinase.

Patients also receive the antiviral drug ganciclovir which interacts with the enzyme to destroy only the cancer cells in the brain. Although glioblastoma is still incurable, it is hoped that treatment with GLI-328 will provide a significant period of remission for people with this type of cancer.

Eligible participants will receive a careful assessment of their condition by medical experts and follow-up attention on an on-going basis. GLI-328 is provided at no cost to the patients. To inquire about enrollment in the GLI-328 clinical trial, call 444-8061.

## International High Tea

Spend a Sunday afternoon at International House of Rhode Island, 8 Stimson Ave., Providence, enjoying the pleasure of an International High Tea. Or March 23 at 4 p.m. Chef Barbara Kuck, curator of the Johnson and Wales Culinary Archives and Museum, will prepare a delightful sampling of sweets and savories, including scones with clotted cream, trifle, hazelnut crescents, a variety of tea sandwiches, quiche, various dips, petits fours, and more. Kuck will also be a guide for a presentation about the customs and etiquette of tea.

The fee for the event is \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members and \$8 for students. International House is a non-profit organization focusing on the needs of temporary international residents in Rhode Island and serving as a center for cultural exchange between international visitors and Rhode Island residents.

For further information, call International House 421-7181.

## URI Course To Help Deal With Patients' Spiritual Issues

The University of Rhode Island is offering a new course for health care professionals this spring that will help them assist patients in dealing with spiritual issues.

"There is growing evidence that faith does play a part in one's health and his or her ability to cope with illness and death," said Jean Miller, professor of nursing at URI who is the Weyker Endowed Chair in Thanatology, the study of death and dying.

"Integrating Faith and Professional Practice" is a 12-hour continuing education course offered jointly by URI's College of Nursing, the URI Graduate Professional Center in Providence and Interfaith Health Care Ministries in Providence. It runs on Mondays from March 24 to April through April 28 at the URI Providence Center. The cost is \$95.

The interfaith organization, part of a national network of 350 centers, provides chaplaincy services and clinical pastoral education. It is located at Rhode Island Hospital and is affiliated with major religious denominations and the Brown University

Medical School.

"This course will help professionals be sensitive to issues ill people might raise and not to let one's biases hinder a patient's inquiries," said Miller, who helped develop the course in her role as the chair in thanatology.

The is for nurses, doctors, social workers, ministers, rabbis, psychologists and others. "It's for anyone who has an opportunity to talk and listen to patients," Miller said.

The course will address the following topics:

Personal beliefs and the factors influencing these beliefs, images of God/higher power, the problem of suffering, hearing the spiritual issues in the secular conversation, praying and incorporating religious issues in a professional situation and end-of-life issues.

For additional information and registration, call 277-5200.

For sign language interpretation, personal FM systems and disability assistance, contact the following with at least 72 hours advance notice: Tonia Fay at the URI Graduate Professional Center, at that number.

## Caution — Kids Zone Under Construction

On March 27 at 10 a.m. the Children's Museum of Rhode Island will announce a new name recognizing the leading sponsor of its expanded facility under construction in Providence's Jewelry District.

Brick by brick, kids will don hard hats and grab their trowels to illustrate the making of a mu-

seum in motion. Mayor Vincent Cianci will join students from the Wellspring Community School in this hands on activity of constructing a masonry wall.

Capital campaign co-chairmen, Johnnie Chace and Tom Skala will make an appeal to the community of southern New England to help meet the Kresge

Grant Challenge. The trustees of the Kresge Foundation have approved a grant of \$300,000 toward the \$3 million capital campaign for the new Children's Museum. Kresge Grants are made on a challenge basis, requiring the raising of the remaining funds, thereby insuring completion of the project. The Children's Museum needs to raise an additional \$300,000 to meet the challenge.

## Rhode Island Project/AIDS

Rhode Island Project/AIDS announced that the statewide education and advocacy organization will award grants to community based groups which provide HIV/AIDS prevention education or direct services to individuals living with HIV/AIDS.

This is the second year which a portion of the money raised from the Walk for Life will be distributed to non-profit agencies.

Available grants will range from \$100 to \$2500. The distribution of funds will be handled by an independent committee consisting of community representatives.

"Rhode Island Project/AIDS is following the lead of other AIDS service organizations throughout the country which have opted to distribute a portion of funds to other non-profit agencies in their communities in order to offer varied programs and services related to HIV/AIDS," stated Ron Platt, executive director of the project. "By reaching out to the community and filling the voids, the project is demonstrating its commitment to the eradication of HIV/AIDS in Rhode Island. To truly be successful, we need to continually create partnerships that provide solutions to everyone who is affected by HIV/AIDS."

The application deadline is April 15. To obtain an application and guidelines, contact Frank Pafume at 831-5522.

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# THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

## New Jewish High School in Planning Stages

by Emily Torgan  
Community News Reporter

A Jewish high school for boys and girls may open in Providence in the fall of 1998.

On March 5, about 100 prospective parents from the Orthodox community gathered for an informational meeting at Congregation Beth Shalom in Providence to discuss plans for the project.

According to presenter Dr. Steven Schechter, the school would be located at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island, where committee members are investigating the possibility of renting classroom and office space.

The proposed school would offer the same curriculum to male and female students in gender-separated classrooms. Under the halachic guidance of Rabbi Mitchell Levine of the Orthodox Congregation Beth Shalom, the school would be strongly Zionist and financially responsible.

"G-d willing, we will open in the fall of 1998," Schechter said. "Right now, we are at the basement level."

At present, 196 students attend pre-kindergarten through grade 12 at the Providence Hebrew Day School and the Conservative Alperin-Schechter Day School has 237 students attending kindergarten through grade eight.

There are 23 girls enrolled in the Providence Hebrew Day School's high school program for female students, but there is no local option for Jewish high school-aged boys.

Some attendees voiced enthusiasm, while others said the proposed girls' high school could have an adverse impact on the Providence Hebrew Day School's girls' program.

"There is an existing girls' school," said Michael Wiener, president of the Providence Hebrew Day School. "Why can't we work together? I find trying to create another school to be very divisive."

Schechter said he and others were trying to create the Jewish high school Rhode Island desperately needs too.

"Are we trying to destroy the girl's school? G-d forbid," Schechter said. "I'm up here saying that there would be another high school."

According to Schechter, the new high school would help the community by giving high school-aged boys a local Jewish option.

"The bottom line is survival," said Schechter. "We are losing our Jewish boys and girls to outside institutions. If you have to send your son out of town for school, the public schools start to look better and better. That's a tragedy."

Many students leave the local Jewish educational system during their high school years.

Parents of male students and those who want an alternative to the Providence Hebrew Day School may choose the Maimonides School in Brookline, the Waltham school or other out-of-town options. A number of students attend high schools that do not have a Jewish affiliation.

"Our students go to high schools throughout the state," said Penney Stein, admissions director of the Alperin-Schechter Day School. "Because the greatest proportion of our students are from Providence, most of them go to Classical High School. They also go to the independent schools such as Wheeler, Lincoln, Moses Brown, Providence Country Day and Rocky Hill."

Though many at the meeting said there was a need for the school, some asked questions Schechter said he was not yet able to answer.

Schechter entertained inquiries about the school's academic standards, religious identity and ability to educate students with little previous experience in Jewish education.

"I can't answer all these questions," Schechter said.

(Continued on Page 19)

## JFRI Women Quilt To Benefit Breast Cancer Research

by Emily Torgan

Jewish Community Reporter

On March 3, women at the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island took up needles and thread to help mend lives that breast cancer had torn into.

About 70 women sewed, listened and socialized at two workshops entitled "Hearts and Hands: Quilt-Making to Benefit the Breast Health Center at Women and Infant's Hospital."

infirm.

"If I got sick, I wonder who would be doing all the things I do," said event co-chairman Amy Sugarman. "Who would go to the cleaner's or help with the dishes?"

As the women trimmed, sewed and chatted, the workshop's environment seemed to reinforce its speaker's message that the afflicted need not feel isolated and helpless.

When she was 37, she discovered a palpable lump that had evaded a mammogram.

"I was devastated," she said. "It was a massive feeling of loneliness, even though I got wonderful help from my husband and two sons."

After an initial lumpectomy, Percival soon learned she would need a mastectomy.

"My husband Bill and I saw the incision together," she said.



"HELPING HANDS" workshop coordinators in front of a quilt by Marcy Padbury. From left to right, Cheryl Granai, a nurse oncologist; volunteer co-ordinator Joyce Percival, event co-chairman Barbara Feldstein, Women & Infants Hospital volunteer co-ordinator Debbi Wasserman.

Herald photo by Emily Torgan

The event, sponsored by the Women's Division and the Business and Professional Women's Affiliate of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, was aimed at promoting breast cancer awareness in Jewish women while creating one of several hand-crafted items to be raffled off at the Roger Williams Casino on May 1.

The proceeds from the quilt will be used to help the hospital's breast cancer patients with non-medical needs, for issues such as child care and housekeeping can become formidable for the

The first time breast cancer survivor Joyce Percival learned about the disease, she felt terror and anguish.

"I lost my mom to breast cancer when I was 12," said Percival, the volunteer coordinator for the Helping Hands project, after the session. "Even though she had good sisters, she did a lot of crying alone before she passed away."

Percival began to live in constant fear of the disease.

Percival practiced self-exams routinely in her Pawtucket home.

"He told me it was okay to cry, because I had had that breast for 37 years. He called the scar a mark of courage."

Percival soon began a course of chemotherapy, and the dark hair that had helped her get modeling jobs as a teenager began to fall out in handfuls.

"When it began to fall out, I put it on a paper towel. My sons came home and saw me," Percival remembered. "I used to cut their hair. That day, my younger son held my hand while my older son buzzed my head."

(Continued on Page 19)

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# EDITORIAL

## Response to Columbia/HCA Purchase of Roger Williams

### Letter to the Editor:

Re: Why Columbia/HCA's purchase of Roger Williams is vital to the citizens of Rhode Island.

I read with disappointment Alison Smith's Jan. 2 editorial "The Wal-Mart of Medical Care Prepares to Move In." This "editorial" merely parrots the views of a large dominant healthcare network (Lifespan) and its administrators. As Ms. Smith rightly states in her introduction it is a "summary of impressions, facts, and anxieties." Unfortunately, it is mostly impression and anxiety with little or no factual evidence.

As a gastroenterologist at Roger Williams since 1990, and the director of the division since 1993, I have been continually pleased by the overall excellence of our small hospital. We have received many "top 100" rankings in national surveys and have many of Rhode Island's top doctors on our staff. Yet, our small to moderate size allows a personal touch to medical care not often seen at larger area hospitals. Many medical students who do rotations at Roger Williams found the combination of excellence and personal attention a near perfect balance in today's healthcare world.

Mr. Baron brags that Lifespan is already a member of the most effective purchasing group in the country. I do not see how a Columbia purchasing system should threaten his buying power. He is clearly defending low cost operations for only his network.

Messrs. Baron, Selya and Fain speak glowingly of the "local

control" executed by the Lifespan Corporation on Point Street in Providence.

They imply a homey "mom and pop" operation. Why then are they considering spending millions of Rhode Island health care dollars to purchase New England Medical Center in Boston? Is it so they can move their center of operations out of state or do they feel that people in the city of Boston will appreciate outsiders from Providence running their hospital?

Messrs. Baron and Fain often speak of the not-for-profit mission when they discuss Lifespan. But, if Roger Williams were to fail financially I could not join either of the medical staffs of Lifespan's Miriam or Rhode Island Hospitals. Their gastroenterology staffs are closed, except to their exclusive clique of full-time staff gastroenterologists and selected private practice groups. Roger Williams has an open staff welcoming all qualified generalists and subspecialists. Really, who is serving the public with this quiet little conspiracy?

The implications that Columbia will not fund free care are outright untruths. I am one of the very few gastroenterologists who accept Medicaid patients and have been assured that I can continue a clinic that serves many of the neighborhood health centers with timely and efficient care.

The other implication that is pure fabrication is that Columbia profits flow "to stockholders in Nashville." Columbia re-invests approximately \$20,000 per hospital bed per year. What

is the Lifespan average? Columbia is a national company with thousands of employees and all 340 Columbia hospitals benefit from the profits earned. And of course, Columbia will pay state and local taxes on its Rhode Island facilities (unlike Lifespan).

The healthcare industry is undergoing dynamic change in the United States. Here in Rhode Island, we should not be dominated by a single network. Local insurers and the people deserve choice and Columbia's presence will insure that one system does not dominate the landscape.

The attorney general and the state legislature should examine the sale of Roger Williams to Columbia/HCA to insure its fairness. My personal view is that Columbia's involvement will insure local competition and maintain and improve Roger Williams' historic excellence.

The motives of those that oppose such competition should be carefully scrutinized as well, especially as their "not for profit" hands extend outside Rhode Island.

Alan Epstein, M.D.  
Director, Clinical Gastroenterology  
Roger Williams Medical Center  
Assistant Professor of Medicine  
Brown University School of Medicine

## Pekude: Half a Shekel of Guilt Money

by Elyse Goldstein

My Uncle Max, of blessed memory, used to put a few coins into the pushke of a little yeshivah in Jerusalem every time its representatives would come to America, knocking on doors. He did this every year for most of his life, but unbeknownst to most of our family, he steadily increased his donations until he was truly supporting this yeshivah. When he found out I was going to Israel to study, he insisted I visit "his yeshivah" and gave me the pile of yellowing Yiddish letters of thanks to him for his generosity. Surely I could take a class or two there! I was Max's niece! So there I stood, in Mea Shearim, and the rosh yeshivah sang my uncle's praises. And then he looked at me solemnly and said, "but there are some things that half a shekel cannot buy."

I think of this story every year at the reading of Parashat Pekude. The children of Israel contribute gold for the building of the sanctuary — gold, Rashi suggests, as atonement for the golden calf. Guilt money. They wanted a G-d they could see, and so they built an idol. Now, to atone for that idol, they want to build a house they can see for a G-d they cannot. So do we, every time we contribute money to places that "seem more Jewish." We see something in that building that we do not see in ourselves.

And why only half a shekel

for each person entered in the records? (Exod. 38:26) Because, a hasidic midrash suggest, the shekel represents the Jewish neshamah, the Jewish "soul." Half is from above, and half is acquired by our own efforts. We must acquire by our own efforts the beauty, strength, and life of our sanctuaries.

When we start seeing ourselves as whole Jews, we will give as much as is needed to our own institutions and stop supporting those that continue to close their doors to our "nieces" and secretly or openly bit the hand that feeds them. Then our leaders, like Moses of old, will say, "We have enough." And then we will be blessed, just as Moses blessed the Israelites who performed the work of building their sanctuary in their time.

Rabbi Elyse Goldstein in the rosh yeshiva of Kolel: A Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning.

### HAVE AN OPINION?

If you have an opinion about something in the Jewish community, why not express your opinion in the Herald?

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## 'Build It And They Will Pray...'

by Loui Dobin

It is fascinating to note the number of individual elements that go into the construction of the works of humankind. Even a simple "tent to dwell in" has a myriad of pieces that must fit together to create a whole that will stand against the wind and the elements. How many more pieces had to fit together to create the house in which G-d dwells! Pekude begins with a detailing of the "parts list" for the Tabernacle. Indeed, partially through the portion, it is once again summarized. (Is this perhaps G-d's attempt to make sure that all the pieces indeed came in the box?)

As modern architecture holds that form follows function so it seems did G-d and our ancestors. Consider:

- It seems as though every color, every texture, and every craft is used in the construction. Why isn't the entire structure made of gold, silver, and copper? Why is wood used as well? Why the need for tapestry as well as structural elements? One cannot build a home based on only the things that one likes the most. Beautiful decoration is needed in the home, but so is plumbing. Love is needed in the home, but so is discipline. Recreation and fun are necessary in a family, but so is homework. What are the different elements needed to create a modern family or synagogue? A modern nation? A modern world?
- Why was G-d so specific in

the design elements of the Tabernacle? Why were things not left to the builders' inspiration?

It seems that G-d was, as always, wise in drawing a "blueprint." G-d must have known that one must begin with the end in sight. We must also have an idea of what we want our family/home and community/synagogue to look like before we begin to create them. If we know what we want to see when the work is done, we can become what we have set out to be. What methods can we use to see the end before we begin? What goals need to be laid out, and what elements need to be taken into account?

- Why were households assessed equally for the gold and silver needed for the construction?

Could it be that this method of financing assured that all members of the community would own an equal share in the project? All would feel as though they had a part of it, that it would belong to them. The only way to engage people in the work of their community is to insure that they are involved directly in its support through their financial resources or through their time and talent. How can we make certain that all members of our family or community have a role in projects, programs, and activities that we are about to undertake? How do we involve the youngest and weakest, as well as the most experienced and re-

sourceful?

- Why are there so many different jewels for the vestments? Why are there so many different colors of yarn?

This structure was to be a Tabernacle for the entire community and Aaron and his sons were to be the priests for the entire people. The Tabernacle and priests were needed to represent and serve all the people. Not everyone is smart or beautiful or scholarly. Not everyone is a good farmer or a strong soldier. Not all are young, and not all are old. It takes all kinds to make a people, and we are all jewels.

And when all was finished, when the final product was presented to Moses, it was approved without change. The vestments were put on the priests. The table was laid out with bread, and a cloud settled over the Tabernacle, as G-d took up residence in a new home. The people knew that they wouldn't move onward until the cloud lifted and it was time to go.

How in our time can we be sure of when to move? We have no cloud to guide us. We have no sure and easy sign that the time has come. However, if we have built our community and our family according to G-d's plan, the cloud will lift, and we will know.

Loui Dobin is director UAHG Greene Family Group, Bruceville, Texas, and regional director of youth activities in the UAHG Southwest Council.

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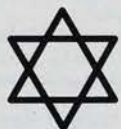
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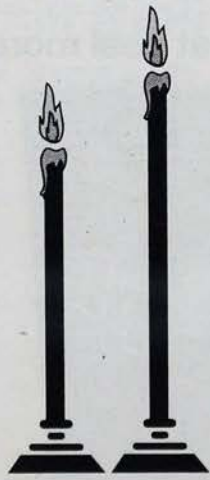
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### Candlelighting

March 14, 1997

5:33 p.m.



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



## FEATURE



## Boys Before Bar Mitzvah

by Mike Fink  
Herald Contributing Reporter

My boy is cramming in all the fun he can get hold of before the big bar mitzvah coming up next year, when he has to take grown-up responsibilities beyond bringing in the recycling bin.

After school he gathers his gang around the basketball hoop in our alleyway, the video stuff in the cellar, or the bedroom with the relics of hobbies spilling out of the closets. There's a Hmong kid, a Black buddy, an Irish lad, a couple of Asian chums, a petit

dip. My own brother now has a similar tiny shore at his property among the mansions near Bailey's Beach and I often think back to Billy's beach.

I didn't see much of my young host in the years that followed, but I heard from him once. I had left Rhode Island and my home base to go away to college. I thought new people would totally replace familiar faces. I got a letter from Billy, but it was an upsetting and garbled message.



garçon with a French name, not to mention Jewish pre-bar mitzvah cohorts whose people recently came from Egypt, Russia, or South Africa. My son is a very friendly guy, and a great collector. They don't all go to Bishop with him. It's after the bells ring that our bell rings. As often as not, one of the select company stays overnight on the rollaway cot. Or he takes off to spend the night away from our haunts. I miss him when he does.

I can't help but recall how different I was from my dear offspring, lost in dreams. I played with models and wrote books in a little chamber built under the cellar stairs. I guarded my privacy, peering through glasses and windows at the world of others.

Oh, I had plenty of pals too, but not like my heir, not all at once and all the time. For some reason, only one overnight stays in my mind. It was at the same age, just prior to giving up your childhood for the teen years. Billy asked me to Newport.

He wore glasses, like me, only his specs reflected light in the opposite way, concave instead of convex or something. His older brothers were so much older, they were already married and out of the house. Mostly I recall the swim off the dock, the deep, dark, cleansing waters of our Touro Island. I'm overdoing it if I say it was like a mikveh, washing away the past and prepping for the future, but it was indeed a strange, eerie

It made no sense. It was a rebuke, a cry of lonely anger. Freshman year can be a very trying time, and you can go off the deep end, an image in words that comes from diving into the sea.

I never saw or connected to Billy again. I bet he remembers nothing of all this, and why should he? You search for a friend all your life, but especially late in boyhood, like a miniature messiah.

He lives as a symbol for me in memory. We studied a limerick in my undergraduate poetry class. It went like this:

Billy, in one of his nice new sashes

Fell into the fire and was burned to ashes.

Now, although the room grows chilly,

I haven't the heart to poke poor Billy.

It was supposed to show the power of incongruity. As my college-bound daughter would say, "Whatever."

Coming back to friends and overnights, I feel at the close of each day blessed by the buoyancy of my boy, the privilege of being his papa, the joy of our living under the same roof. I have to admit though, much as I like all his guests with their gusto and their goodnatured geniality, I am also annoyed by the interruption to my personal space, the privacy and the melancholy which I enjoy by nature. Troops of friends, grapple them to thy soul. Okay, I'll take a walk with the dog. Let's go.

## An 'Aunt' And An 'Uncle'

by Mike Fink  
Herald Contributing Reporter

They drove a coupe, a two-person sedan with a rumble seat, a pale green roadster. We had a clear snapshot of Eli and Hattie in golfing knickers. They had no children: I called them aunt and uncle out of oldtime courtesy. They were neighbors, and friends of my parents. In fact, they had once rented a flat upstairs from my mother and father, before I was born, in advance of the East Side years, when they had settled in town from the area around the nation's capital.

Maybe they represented America to my parents, who were born abroad. Eli had retired into the depression from a career as architectural engineer. I imagined that he had created the bridges and shining highways of the modern era. He smoked a pipe—not a cigar or a cigarette like others of my dad's circle. His hair was fine and white. Eli was distinguished, and his homestead was quiet and placid like his demeanor.

That house, the walls painted glade green in my memory, and the mahogany chairs and desks polished and orderly, giving the indoor rooms a spacious cool woodland serenity. It wasn't a cluttered or noisy space. I used to stop by after school on occasion. Why did I think my job was to stitch grown-ups to-

gether with my goodwill visits?

Hattie's kitchen too was still and calm, and a ceramic sleeping dog served as doorstop. Maybe it was that reassuring sculpture I was looking in on. She was a proud, diminutive lady with the regal air of Queen Victoria. I wasn't a latchkey kid, but my mother worked through the afterschool hours. My search for a cupcake maybe led me to pantry doors around the neighborhood.

Outdoors kept the same quality of pleasant country retreat. Lilacs bloomed by the driveway. Roses covered trellises by the doorways. Evergreens stayed thick and neat against the fences, keeping the rolling lawn framed in place.

Once, I had dinner under the dining room chandelier—with my brothers and my dad. My mother had gone to Montreal for her father's funeral. It was the year of Israel's establishment, and, a surprise to me, Eli and Hattie, the least overtly Jewish of that circle, were Zionists! We spoke about Jerusalem at their table. For my father, Providence was Jerusalem, the haven he had found. I listened and learned. Now, the last name of Hattie and Eli was Viner, and to my boy's mind, they seemed to turn and twist like a vine, growing ideas like the living stems of their plants indoors or out. Eli had felt the anti-semitism of the

state department. He seemed the very ideal of assimilationist thirties Judaism, but in fact, his fate was a Jewish one.

They gave me a year's subscription to the *National Geographic Magazine* for my bar mitzvah. Hattie wanted me to grow up to be a rabbi (what kind of job is that?) or a college president.

Eli died young, the first of my folks' bridge club group to go beyond. A new suit arrived at the house after the funeral. Hattie gave me his leather tobacco jar, pipes and rack. She sent me a leather handkerchief case as fancy luggage for my graduation. I never used it, but it stood for the elegance of her imagination, and her belief in me. Soon, she took off back to her family somewhere at the edges of the southland. She never wrote, even upon the state occasions of major deaths in my family and community.

A colleague of mine bought the house. I gave his artist wife the snapshot of the ghosts of the house. She used it as a motif in a collage.

It was all a very long time ago. There is nothing left of that tie of friendship. I see and smile at their nieces and cousins who remember the old days with me, that vanished, troubled, lyrical, knit-together Jewish world. As I write, I recover their protective and challenging presence.

## The Kingdom of Kashrut

by Mike Fink  
Herald Contributing Reporter

Keep it kosher. The word conveys a kind of honor, a clean slate of conscience. In a game of blurring boundaries, what does the term mean to you?

When they served pork in my Yale common room, I would bury the red meat under a paper napkin, and sip my coffee.

I used to think that the ram whose horns were caught in the brambles around Isaac's altar was the last sacrifice. From then on, even a beast of burden shared in the sense of the sacred. I only turned to vegetarianism for a brief period, but it left me with a sense of regret.

Rabbis often disclaim my boyish notions of the meaning of kashrut. It has to do not with health but with laws and rules. Not so much with kindness to animals but with a concern for the purity and separateness of a people.

I'm writing a cranky editorial here. Maybe I have no right to an opinion, but I have never scorned the guidelines of kashrut. I question the conventional wisdom about what it means. I think it's clear that kashrut has a lot to do with respect for the human body. The Torah passages I go back to time and again ask us to respect the bird in her nest, the burro upon its path, even the tree with its roots in living soil. Life is sacred in all its forms.

What got me going on this theme is a chapter in a book about Jewish ritual. Why do we always compare the Jewish way to the Christian, or to the pagan, always with negative commen-

tary about pagan sensuality and Catholic repression and denial? I don't like the sense of competition, it suggests insecurity.

Kashrut is a noble concept, poised within itself. Dietary commandments have kept us Hebrews bound together against majority culture. And they remind us always to bless what is

palate? Throughout the Sephardic sojourn in Iberia, have we not saved the souvenirs of beautiful recipes? In America, will we reduce kashrut to manufactured labels on mass-produced food? We will have missed the point about the holiness of nourishment.

Good food is kosher. Cruel



before us, to choose wisely what we bring into our homes and our lives. But for me the indifference of the Reform and the obsessiveness of the Orthodox both err in their beaten paths. I'm not going to change anything with these words, nor would I wish to do so. Only to comment.

No matter how separately we may live among our neighbors, we have an equal desire and design to mix in as well. During our sojourn in France, where Rashi penned his elegant thoughts, did we not pick up the poetry of the

food is not. Down with low-fat diets and junk sodas! Away with counting calories and stabbing our veins to check cholesterol. We will live longer and better if we dine upon delicacies whose ingredients come from the blessings of the world. Forget your figure and dwell upon your soul!

Keeping kosher requires vigilance, but it also requires imagination, judgment and taste. Abandon kashrut and you sink into gluttony. Observe it with relish and you rise into the gentle realms of art.



# THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

## Rela Mintz Geffen at Torat Yisrael

The Jewish family — a topic of much research and interest is the focus of the Siperstein Scholar Weekend at Temple Torat Yisrael, March 14 to 16. Dr. Rela Mintz Geffen, noted sociologist and scholar in residence, will address congregants and share in dialogue and discussion.

Professor of sociology at Gratz College and coordinator of their programs in Jewish Communal Studies, she has just returned to Gratz after spending the fall of '96 semester as visiting scholar at Harvard University.

Geffen's major research interests are in the fields of sociology of religion — especially the American Jewish community, gender roles, and the sociology of the family. She has written and lectured extensively in all of these areas. A fellow of the Jerusalem

Center for Public Affairs, she serves on the advisory committee of the national Jewish Family Center for B'nai B'rith.



Rela Mintz Geffen

Topics of her presentation

### JCC Pre-Purim Celebration

Those of you who just can't wait for the Purim festivities to begin can get a headstart on the fun at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island's Pre-Purim Celebration on March 20 at 6 p.m.

A delicious kosher Purim dinner will be served and there will be plenty of merrymaking for all. Be sure to bring your costumes for the parade and be prepared to join in making a giant megillah.

Reservations are required for the event and must be made by March 17. The cost is \$4 for children and \$5 for adults. The JCCRI is located at 401 Elm Grove Ave.

For more information contact Dana Zucker at 861-8800.

## Reform Conference Welcomes Small Congregations in April

From all across the North American continent, hundreds of Jews from small towns and large, urban areas, members of small Reform Jewish congregations, will gather in Dayton, Ohio, from April 11 to 13, for the fourth biannual Small Congregations Conference of the Union of American Hebrew congregations.

Delegates will come together to study, to network, to worship, to sing and to learn new skills that will help make their local synagogues function more effectively.

During the course of the conference, Rabbi Eric H. Yoffie, the new president of the Union of American Hebrew congregations will share his vision of Reform Judaism in the 21st century.

Mr. Jerome Somers, chairman,

UAHC board of trustees, will address the conference as well.

The weekend will conclude with a major speech from Albert Vorspan, senior vice president emeritus of the UAHC and former director of the Joint Commission on Social Action of the Reform movement.

In addition, Professor Michael Cook, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion will give a series of lectures prior to the conference, on comparisons between Passover and Easter.

In keeping with the theme of the conference, "At The Fount of Reform Judaism," the Sabbath will be spent on the campus of the HUC-JIR, Cincinnati, where the delegates will pray, study under the tutelage of the renowned college-institute faculty, meet and eat with rabbinic students and tour the historic campus.

areas follow:

March 14, 8 p.m. — Shabbat Service and first presentation, The Jewish Family in America Today: Is It Jewish?

Shabbat, March 15, 9:30 a.m. — Shabbat service and second presentation, Reinventing the Jewish Family: The Synagogue Community as Mishpaha. Kiddush/luncheon and Dialogue with Rela to follow. (Reservations and pre-payment required.)

March 16, 8 a.m. — Minyan — 9 a.m., breakfast and third presentation, Celebration and Renewal: Rites of Passage in Judaism. (Reservations and pre-payment required.)

The community is cordially invited to share in the scholar weekend. While lectures are open, there is a \$4 per person fee for luncheon Saturday and breakfast Sunday — payable in advance.

Copies of *Celebration and Renewal: Rites of Passage in Judaism* (JPS, 1993), Geffen's highly acclaimed book, are available for purchase at Torat Yisrael's gift shop.

We welcome Geffen's return to Rhode Island and encourage everyone interested to share in the weekend.

Call 785-1890 for more information.

## Documenting Holocaust Testimonies

Founded by Steven Spielberg, Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to videotaping eyewitness Holocaust survivor testimonies worldwide for historical preservations, research and educational use.

By sharing first-hand accounts, survivors play a vital role in making sure one of the most devastating events in human history is never forgotten. The testimonies also honor the memory of the more than 6 million whose stories will never be heard.

The Shoah Foundation is currently conducting interviews with those people affected or displaced by Nazi policy against Jews in any country occupied by the Germans or their allies between 1933 and 1945. Included in the archive are testimonies of those who managed to escape occupied Europe, were in hiding, lived under false identity, joined the resistance, were in ghettos, or were in concentration or labor camps. If you are interested in giving testimony, contact the Shoah Foundation at (800) 661-2092.

"This project stands as a monument to remembering the past, and to always examining our present."

Steven Spielberg,  
Founder and Chairman



### Hard At Work

An eager youngster colors her spice jar at Temple Beth-El's Tot/Havdalah Service.

Photo courtesy of Temple Beth-El

## Jewish Studies Go On-Line

Hebrew College in Brookline, Mass., has been awarded a \$197,000 Covenant Foundation Grant for the Online expansion of its innovative Me-ah Program, a comprehensive course of me-ah (100) hours of intensive, structured, exploration of Jewish religion, culture and civilization.

The Me-ah Program developed at Hebrew College in partnership with the Commission on Jewish Continuity of Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston, has been awarded one of the largest grants in the foundation's six-year history, and joins an elite roster of distinguished organizations and institutions from around the nation in being so honored.

In recognizing that adult Jewish literacy is a cornerstone of Jewish continuity, Hebrew College started Me-ah in 1994 with 50 students. The program has grown to more than 200 students in seven sites throughout the Greater Boston area, with further expansion anticipated for the coming years.

The Covenant Grant will provide Hebrew College with the funds to develop Me-ah Online; to expand the program from the classroom to the Internet, and to provide this ground-breaking adult Jewish education program to thousands of Jews who want to connect to their tradition.

Nathan Ehrlich, director of the Hebrew College Center for Information Technology, will oversee the three-year grant and the development of the Me-ah Online Program, in conjunction with the Hebrew College department of continuing education.

Brand new computer technology and resources will be implemented for Me-ah online but the challenge will be setting up the Me-ah online program so as "...not to lose human interaction" however, there is "...a willingness and sense of excitement" about the program, stated Ehrlich.

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# THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

## Local Groups Celebrate Jewish Women's History Week

by Sara Wise  
Herald Editor

Hundreds of Jewish communities across the country celebrated Jewish Women's History Week March 3 through 10.

The commemoration of Jewish women's contribution to his-

tory of the Upper West Side in New York City.

Here in Rhode Island, the Brown-RISD Hillel Foundation, along with several other University organizations, sponsored an extensive program celebrating Jewish Women's His-

community members. This is the fourth year that the Brown-RISD Hillel has organized campus activities related to Jewish Women's Week.

Elanna Rippas, coordinator of the week's events, said that she was particularly enthused by the inter-generation dinner that brought together Jewish women in the community and Brown students. "I was worried that we wouldn't have much to say to each other, but we never stopped talking."

Rippas said that after dinner the conversation shifted to a wider discussion of pressing issues in Judaism, such as inter-marriage and relationships between men and women.

Many of the older women were Brown alumnae who had been active in Hillel and were eager to share their experiences with the students.

Another highlight of the week was the Jewish Women's Cultural Celebration held in Andrews Dining Hall at Brown University on March 8.

More than 200 people attended an evening of song, dance, poetry and spoken word performances. Many of the pieces were original student works, including a creative video by Liz Campbell reflect-



AT MY BAT MITZVAH — Students at Brown perform an original dance piece at the Jewish Women's Cultural Celebration on March 8.

Herald photo by Sara Wise



ACTS OF POWER — Images of strong Jewish women greet guests at the Jewish Women's Cultural Celebration.

Herald photo by Sara Wise

tory was organized by the Jewish Women's Archive, a center for public programming and research in Boston, and Ma'yan, the Jewish Women's Project of the Jewish Community Center

tory Week. The wide range of cultural and educational events included a feminist Shabbat service, two daylong service projects, and an inter-generation dinner with students and

ing on her summers at Montauk.

Students at Alperin Schechter Day School learned about the contributions of Jewish women in a library studies program developed by librarian Carolyn White. Teachers at the school

volunteer organization in the United States; and Rose Schneiderman, a labor activist in the early 1900s.

Posters of the women were distributed to many Jewish schools.

Jewish Women's History Week is the first week of March, which for 10 years has been designated as Women's History Month. This falls at a particularly appropriate time in the Jewish calendar for focusing on the achievement of Jewish women, since March generally coincides with Adar, the Hebrew month containing the festival of Purim.

Purim, the holiday on which the Book of Esther is read, is the single Jewish holiday which has always been clearly associated with women.

According to Gail T. Reiner, director of the Jewish Women's Archive, "The heroism of Esther creates a context within Jewish schools and communities for recognizing other significant Jewish women whose stories and accomplishments are also part of the Jewish legacy."

Purim is the single Jewish holiday which has always been clearly associated with women.

also highlighted both biblical women and Jewish women in the news today in their classroom studies.

Jewish students across the country learned about the contributions of three women in particular who best represent the achievements of Jewish women:

Glikl bas Judah of Hameln, who lived in Germany during the 1600s and was the first woman to keep a journal of the lives of Jewish women; Henrietta Szold, founder of Hadassah, the largest women's

## Do We Make Ourselves Invisible?

Aviva Cantor Speaks  
on Ethnic Amnesia

by Sara Wise  
Herald Editor

One of the highlights of the Jewish Women's Week celebration at Brown was a dynamic presentation by Aviva Cantor, co-founder of the Jewish feminist magazine *Lilith*.

Speaking to a largely college-aged audience, Cantor's remarks focused on the exclusion of Jews from mainstream U.S. culture and why Judaism deserves a place in a multicultural curriculum.

Cantor claims that Jews are excluded from both Eurocentric and multicultural curricula. "Jewish literature and law are traditionally not integrated into studies of world literature and law, Jewish history is not integrated into the study of world history," said Cantor. "In the Eurocentric tradition, we are invisible in world history until World War II, when Jews arrive in the texts just in time to be massacred."

Jewish invisibility in curricula is emblematic of Jewish invisibility in U.S. culture. According to Cantor, we make ourselves culturally invisible as a survival mechanism. After centuries of physical oppression, Cantor claims that we are now subject to subtle psychological oppression that makes many of us avoid expressing our Jewish values and customs in our daily lives.

**Just how Jewish do we allow ourselves to be?**

Cantor claims that Jews learn early in life that we can't come across "too Jewish." She said, "It's OK that people know it, but don't bring it to work." Societal pressure toward assimilation is a large part of the psychological oppression. By adopting a low profile and not expressing our Judaism in public life, we create a vacuum for others to fill with recycled myths.



AVIVA CANTOR contemplates an audience question following her presentation on "Jews, Multiculturalism and Ethnic Invisibility" at Brown University.

Herald photo by Sara Wise

ation is a large part of the psychological oppression. By adopting a low profile and not expressing our Judaism in public life, we create a vacuum for others to fill with recycled myths.

"Invisibility makes Jews appear unreal, because real people do have cultures that are alive and expressed," said Cantor. "Stereotypes seep into this vacuum when we do not provide a realistic picture of who we are."

Cantor used many current examples of Jewish invisibility in entertainment and the media. "No Jew on TV is as obviously Jewish as Kojak is Greek. Few athletes, artists or comedians discuss their Jewishness and TV shows, for the most part, do

not have non-assimilated characters."

Cantor pointed out that even the records at Ellis Island do not list Jews as a group of arriving immigrants.

The most important thing we can do, according to Cantor, is to hold on to our culture and not allow it to be downgraded or eroded. "Don't buy into deals that make you give up your cultural memory; any chipping away of culture leads to cultural amnesia."

After the speech, students shared their reactions. "It really sparked a lot of thinking about when I choose to express or subconsciously suppress my Judaism," commented one female student.

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# THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

## Israel Grants Program

The Jewish Federation of Greater New Bedford has established an Israel Grants program for local Jewish high school students who wish to experience Israel this coming summer. Grants will be awarded based on the content of the program and not on financial need. The program must be at least four weeks long and be sponsored/administered by a nationally

recognized Jewish youth serving organization. Students will be required, upon their return, to write an article for the *Jewish Messenger* and to talk to local Jewish groups about their experience.

Application information can be obtained by calling Wil Herrup at the federation, 997-7471. The deadline for applications is May 1.

## Spring Program for Jewish Culture at University of Mass. Dartmouth

• March 17, 7:30 p.m. "Exodus, 1947," an acclaimed 50th anniversary documentary, and "Second Watch," an award-winning short subject. Hillel students will be serving refreshments at this event!

• April 1, 7:30 p.m., Shulamit Reinharz, Brandeis scholar, author, researcher and director of the International Institute for the Study of Jewish Woman. "Your Jewish Future/Our Jewish Future."

• April 13, 2 p.m., Rosalind

Bresnick Perry, Yiddish storyteller, co-sponsored with New Bedford Jewish Community Center.

• May 1, 7:30 p.m. and May 2, 9 a.m. to noon, Shawn Israel Zevit "Tikkun Nefesh: Renewing the Soul," an interactive program of original and traditional Jewish music with a follow-up workshop.

The film program is a gift. There will be modest charges for other events. For information, contact (508) 999-8765.

## Arab-Jewish Relations Photo Exhibit

The David Winton Bell Gallery at Brown will present "Neighbors: Relations Between Arabs and Jews in Israel" from March 29 through April 15. The exhibition, on view in the foyer of the List Art Center, includes works by American photojournalist David H. Wells and is mounted in conjunction with "Israeli and Palestinian Identities in History, Literature and the Arts" (April 13 to 15), a conference organized by the Thomas J. Watson Jr. Institute for International Studies.

The Bell Gallery is located in the List Art Center, 64 College St., Providence. Gallery hours are Monday to Friday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. This exhibition is free and open to the public.



## Children's Day

Youngsters at Temple Beth-El make spice jars, candles and challah covers at the Tot-Family Havdalah Service on Feb. 22.

Photo courtesy of Temple Beth-El

## Brandeis Sets Up Institute on Jewish Philanthropy

The Fisher-Bernstein Institute for Leadership Development in Jewish Philanthropy at Brandeis University has been established with a major endowment from Max Fisher, Brandeis president Jehuda Reinharz announced recently.

"Max Fisher is without a doubt

the most distinguished lay leader of American and world Jewry," said Reinharz. "Irving Bernstein is one of the most outstanding professionals in the American Jewish community. To link these two names at Brandeis is a powerful way of teaching future professionals about the bond between the two worlds — the lay and professional worlds."

Among numerous leadership positions within the Jewish community, Fisher has served as past president of the Council of Jewish Federations; founding chairman of the board of governors for the Jewish Agency for Israel; co-chair of the board of overseers, B'nai B'rith International; and as chairman for the American Jewish Committee, United

Israel Appeal, United Jewish Appeal, and the National Jewish Republican Coalition.

Bernstein served as executive vice chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, the principal fundraising organization of the American Jewish community, from 1969 to 1984. He has been a visiting professor at Brandeis where he has taught fund-raising.

The Fisher-Bernstein Institute will provide graduate level courses in the area of fund-raising and Jewish philanthropy. In addition, the institute will host an annual conference on Jewish philanthropy, offer continuing education for lay and professional leadership development, and provide consulting services to Jewish organizations.

The endowment also provides for the establishment of the Fisher-Bernstein Archive of American Jewish Philanthropy that will contain the combined collections of both men.

## Religion and Social Activism

Brown-RISD Hillel presents a discussion on religion and social activism on March 18 at 5 p.m.

Though often overlooked by the media, among the most compelling messages of social and political activism have emerged from men and women of faith who have used their religion as frameworks for crusades for peace and justice. Join Rabbi Sidney Schwartz in a discussion that will draw some lessons learned from Gandhi, Desmond Tutu, Mother Theresa, Martin Luther King Jr., and Abraham Joshua Heschel. Schwartz is the founder and president of The Washington Institute for Jewish Leadership and Values, an educational foundation dedicated to the renewal of American Jewish life through the integration of Torah, Judaic study and Tikkun Olam, repair of the world.

Brown-RISD Hillel is located on the corner of Brown and Angell streets.

## Rhode Island Glass Artist at Jenks Gallery

The Jenks Gallery at Moses Brown School features recent works in glass by local artist Michael M. Glossop, now through April 11. The gallery is located in the Jenks Center at Moses Brown School, 250 Lloyd Ave., Providence. The show is free and open to the public weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Employed by Riker Art Glass since 1983, Glossop has focused his talents on glass art since 1970. He has studied and worked at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association (Michigan), the Toledo Museum of Art and the Penland School of Crafts (North Carolina). Glossop is a resident of Pawtucket.

Watch  
the

## Jewish Community News

This Week... March 18

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# JEWISH COMMUNITY

## 102-Year-Old Birthday Celebration

Ida Shushansky, who will be turning 102 and still leads an active life, is one of many seniors who will be celebrating with a one-for-all birthday party at 11 a.m. on March 20 at the Jewish Family Service Kosher Mealsite in Cranston. Warwick and Cranston area seniors are invited to attend. Entertainer Ken Bryant will sing and the festivities will include cake and all the trimmings.

At noon a hot meal will be served, with a suggested donation of \$1.75. Reservations can be made by calling the JFS kosher mealsite at 781-1771.

The JFS Kosher Mealsite in Cranston is open to men and women Monday through Fri-

day, with activities, exercise trips, movies, bingo, speakers, holiday celebrations, blood pressure screenings, concerts, men's and women's discussion groups and more. Programs usually begin at 11 a.m. and a nutritious, hot kosher lunch is served at noon. Every Friday, there is a special Shabbat meal, complete with candles, challah and kiddush.

Call Mealsite coordinator Gladys Kaplan at 781-1771 for reservations and information. The Kosher Mealsite in Cranston is located Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave. Transportation is available every day for residents of Cranston or Warwick.

## Attention R.I. Female Field Hockey Players

Applications are now being accepted for the 15th World Maccabiah Games which will take place in Israel on July 5 to 25.

Jewish female field hockey players are invited to tryout for the United States Maccabiah Team. Tryouts will be held on April 5 to 6 at Montclair State College (Upper Montclair, N.J.).

Interested athletes need to complete an application and mail it in to the national office before tryouts in order to be a part of this world-class athletic competition.

"The Maccabiah Games create the opportunity for Jewish athletes to compete in a world-class international sporting event and to travel to Israel and explore their heritage," said Landau, the U.S. Maccabiah field hockey chairman. "We encourage field players to send in their applications and be a part of the Maccabiah experience."

The U.S. Maccabiah Field Hockey Team made its much awaited debut at the 1993 Games and captured the bronze medal.

The quadrennial Maccabiah Games, the world's fifth largest international athletic event, are sanctioned by the International Olympic Committee and bring Jewish athletes together from around the world for competition in 32 official sports in four divisions: juniors, masters, open

and disabled.

Cultural and educational activities are also an important component to the Maccabiah Games. Opening ceremonies are scheduled for July 14 at the Ramat Gan Stadium in Tel Aviv, and closing ceremonies will take place in Jerusalem on July 24.

Maccabi USA/Spots for Israel is a non-profit organization based in Philadelphia. Best known for their sponsorship of the American team to the World Maccabiah Games, the organization seeks to enrich the lives of Jewish youth through athletic, cultural and educational programs.

For more information, contact Maccabi USA/Spots for Israel at 1926 Arch St., 3rd Floor, Philadelphia, Pa. 19103 or call (215) 561-6900. For an application for the 15th Maccabiah Games, call (215) 561-6181. And please let the *Herald* know if you attend tryouts!

## PTA Purim Fundraiser

Once again the PTA is sponsoring a Purim fundraiser, an alternative to the Purim mitzvot of sending food to friends and gifts to the poor. For each \$3.00 donation, you can honor a person or family. A portion of the proceeds will go to Mazon, the Jewish response to hunger. The remainder will be used to fund special school programs.

For more information, contact the Alperin Schecter Day School at 751-2470.

## Feminism and Judaism

The Impact of Feminism on Contemporary Jewish Life will be the topic of an adult education discussion at Congregation Agudas Achim on March 16 from 7 to 9 p.m. Participants will explore the changes that the women's movement has brought about in Jewish life and ritual. A short film will be viewed. The discussion will be led by congregant Sharon Friedman.

The program is the sixth part of a series entitled "Where Have We Been and Where Are We Going: Jewish Experience on the Verge of the 21st Century." For information, call the synagogue at (508) 222-2243.

## Spring Learning Classes

Temple Emanu-El is offering the following Spring Leisure Learning Classes:

Mondays, March 3 to April 7—10:00 a.m. Chesed — The Jewish Path to Compassion, Gail Diamond.

11:00 a.m. "Let the Earth Teach you Torah", Judaism and the Natural World, Robin Damsky, Bureau of Jewish Education.

Thursdays, March 6 to April 10—10:00 a.m. Musicals: Past & Present, Bert Silverberg, Professor CCRI.

11:10 a.m. From Russia with Love: Look and listen to the famous and not-so-famous Russian cantorial composers, Cantor Brian Mayer.

For more information, call Carolyn Weiser at 724-7024.

## Moscow Conservatory Trio at Brown

The Moscow Conservatory Trio will play at Alumnae Hall, 194 Meeting St., Providence, at 8 p.m. on March 19, in the second R.I. Chamber Music Concert of the season.

The musicians, all born in the Soviet Union, were students at the Moscow Conservatory and now live in the United States. Especially cited for their performances of Russian music, they will perform Rachmaninoff's Trio No. 1 in G Minor; Shostakovich's Trio No. 2 in E minor and Beethoven's "Archduke" Trio No. 6 in B-flat Major.

For ticket information call 863-2416.



## Everyone Agrees About the JNF

During a recent tree planting ceremony, Moshe Rivlin, world chairman, Jewish National Fund (middle), flanked by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (left) and former Prime Minister Shimon Peres, found that JNF brings out the spirit of unity in political opponents.

Netanyahu offered to contribute his salary increase to the Jewish National Fund if the increase was mandated by the Knesset. The Knesset subsequently rescinded the pay raise.

*Photo courtesy of the Jewish National Fund*

## Mike Fink to Speak at Leisure Club

On March 16 at 2 p.m., Temple Emanu-El Leisure Club will feature the well known columnist, Michael Fink who writes for the *Providence Journal* and a multitude of magazines and newspapers ranging from the *Jerusalem Post* to *Organic Gardening* and *Bird World*.

Through the years, Fink has written essays for the alumni bulletins of Brown, Harvard, Yale and R.I. School of Design where he has been a professor since 1957.

For more than a decade he has been the contributing re-

porter and feature writer for the *R.I. Jewish Herald*. His topic will be Columns of Memories.

A social hour will follow.

## Majestic Senior Guild

A meeting of the Majestic Senior Guild will be held on March 18, at 1 p.m. at Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston, R.I.

Entertainment will be provided by Myron Arnold and his wife, followed by "Coffee and."

## Calling All Bookworms

Borders Books of Garden City, Cranston offers "Great Books for Girls," March 22 at 11:00 a.m. Meet Kathleen Odean, librarian former member of the prestigious Caldecott and Newberry Award committees, and author of the nationally acclaimed "Great Books for Girls", the first reference book of its kind. "Great Books for Girls" is an invaluable list of more than 600 titles that will encourage and nurture children from toddlers to age 14.

Kathleen Odean lives in Barrington, R.I. and had appeared on the "Today Show".

On March 24 at 7:00 p.m. Border's offers a "Writer's Workshop" where you can share your original work, listen to other writers' work and develop your own skills.

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# HEALTHWISE

## Jewish Spirituality

On Purim

by Velvel "Wally" Spiegler  
It was on March 19, 1984, that I arrived in Jerusalem on my first trip to Israel. The smell of spring was in the air and the streets were littered with the remains of holiday parades. It was the conclusion of Purim, a strange, yet joyous holiday. One couldn't help feeling that everyone had been out having a grand old time. There were posters and banners still hanging from lamp posts, even my hotel room had a holiday greeting with the story of Purim.

This year it falls on March 23, the 14th day of Adar II. We celebrate with the mitzvot of a Purim seudah, a grand family feast; *mishloach manot*, giving food gifts to friends and relatives; *mattanot le'evyonim*, money to the poor and the grand mitzvah of all hearing the Megillah, the Book of Esther read. Purim means lots; it was Haman, the evil advisor to King Ahasuerus who drew lots that was to decide which day the Jews exiled in Persia were to be killed.

Purim is truly Mardi Gras, but what is it about this cherished story that invites such frivolity with masquerades, parodies and parades? The Rabbis stated, *mi'shenikhnas adar marbim be'simchah* — with the start of the month of Adar we greatly increase joy. It's an exalted joy which calls for letting loose, feeling good and consuming sufficient amounts of liquor as not to be able to tell the difference between "Blessed be Mordechai and Cursed be Haman."

The Book of Esther is a farce in the most literal sense of the

word with men issuing decrees that their wives must be obedient to them. It smacks of the Jewish people's experience in exile. We listen to the story, some of us in outlandish costumes, patiently awaiting "Haman" to be uttered so we can drown out the name with our gragers and noisemakers to fulfill the curse, *yimach shmo-may* his name be erased. What fun!

From a deeper perspective, Purim consummates the cycle

With the start of the month of Adar we greatly increase joy. It's an exalted joy which calls for letting loose, feeling good.

of Jewish festivals. The cycle begins with Pesach, where G-d is the principal player. Pesach is intimately connected with the Giving of Law at Shavuot. Moses went up to Mt. Sinai on Shavuot to receive the Tablets; he remained there for 40 days and as the people grew impatient for his return they began to worship the golden calf. This marks the beginning of three weeks of mourning culminating on Tisha B'av. What follows in the ascent to Elul (the period of repentance), Yom Kippur when Moses descends with the second set of tablets, then on to rejoice on Succot to conclude the festival cycle with Purim. A midrash tell us that on Purim, the children of Israel, having gone through the experience of all

these festivals, fully accepted Torah (a higher spiritual level), even if for a brief moment before beginning again. A joyousness of endings like New Year's Eve. The Book of Esther teaches that since G-d is not mentioned in the story, Israel is now fully matured, capable of handling its own destiny. Through this story, we can all experience our maturity. Isn't that worth celebrating?

Purim also gives us free rein to that part of our personalities signified by the phrase — *ad de'lo'yada* — the state of not knowing the difference between Mordechai and Haman. It is not a primitive state of stupor, but rather a higher degree of consciousness. A mystical moment, a spiritual maturity where there is no difference between Mordechai and Haman. It is not a primitive state of stupor, but rather a higher degree of consciousness. A mystical moment, a spiritual maturity where there is no difference between Mordechai and Haman, good and evil, for both are found in the Holy One "who created light and darkness, made peace and created evil" (Isaiah 45:7).

For further information, comments or questions, you can reach Velvel "Wally" Spiegler by calling (508) 252-4320 or Email 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.

## Help for Those With Parkinson's

### Parkinson's Research Study

Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island's division of neurology is recruiting participants for a six-week, phase II study of a new medication which may help to slow the progression of Parkinson's disease.

Beginning in March, the study will test Remacemide, a glutamate antagonist drug, on individuals mildly affected with Parkinson's disease. Remacemide has been tested on more than 2,000 subjects with epilepsy, and about 50 with Huntington's disease. The medication is well tolerated by most individuals.

Joseph H. Friedman, M.D., chief of Memorial's division of neurology and professor of neurology and clinical neurosciences at Brown University School of Medicine, is principal investigator for the study. Friedman also is director of the Brown University Parkinson's disease and movement disorders unit. Memorial is one of 20 test centers in the United States to participate in the Remacemide study, and the only test site in New England.

According to Friedman, individuals with mild Parkinson's disease who are not taking any medication other than Eldepryl (generic name selegiline) to treat Parkinson's are eligible to take part in the study. Participants will be given either Remacemide or a placebo during the course of the study. They will have weekly office visits during the six-week trial, and laboratory tests will be performed. All test results will be made available to participants' physicians. Enrollment in the study, including all office visits, laboratory tests and medications, is free to participants.

The phase II portion of the Remacemide study is primarily a safety study in preparation for a larger, longer phase III trial in which Remacemide will be studied to see if it slows the progression of Parkinson's disease.

The study is being funded by Astra-Merck and coordinated by the Parkinson Study Group.

Individuals interested in further information or participating in the Remacemide study should call Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island's division of neurology at 729-2483.

Memorial Hospital is located at 111 Brewster St., Pawtucket, R.I.

More than a million Americans have Parkinson's, a neurological disease characterized by shaking, stiffness and slowness in movement. Support groups provide information on the latest developments in treatment and offer an opportunity to share experiences and coping strategies.

The American Parkinson Disease Association Information and Referral Center, based at Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island, will sponsor a number of support groups in March for individuals living with Parkinson's disease and their families.

**Work Force Group** — On March 18, the Parkinson's Work Force Group will meet in Memorial's Sayles Conference Room 1 at 6:30 p.m. The meeting is designed for those who have been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease and are working in the community. Topics to be discussed include adapting to the workplace, child care, career strategies, and retirement planning.

**Newly Diagnosed Group** — The Newly Diagnosed Parkinson's Group will meet at 10:30 a.m., March 15 in the hospital's Dining Room 3. Individuals who have been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease within the last year and family members are invited to attend.

**Friends & Family Group** — Restricted to spouses, children and friends of those diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, this group will meet at Memorial in Dining Room 3 on March 28 at 10:30 a.m. Discussion will focus on coping strategies for family members and friends as well as how to best support the person with Parkinson's.

Parkinson's disease patients and family members are invited to attend a meeting of the Parkinson's Self Help Group on March 31 at 10 a.m. at the Barrington Senior Center, 281 County Road.

The self help groups offer an opportunity for individuals diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, their family and friends to learn more about this neurological disorder and coping strategies. Topics to be discussed include newly marketed medications, rehabilitation options, and current national research.

Kathryn A. Cullen, R.N., M.S., will serve as facilitator at all the sessions. For further information, call Kathryn Cullen at 729-3165.

## 'Get Fit for Spring'

### Weight Loss and Fitness Program

Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island will sponsor a six-week weight loss and fitness program beginning March 24 and concluding April 28. The program, entitled "Get Fit For Spring," will be held Mondays from 6 to

7:30 p.m. in the hospital's Sayles Conference Center.

Participants will learn about body fat analysis and how to reduce body fat while maintaining a high energy level. A special feature of the program includes a healthy cooking demonstration with tasty low-fat recipes. A guest

lecturer will address the relationship between emotions and overeating. Program participants will learn how to build self-esteem and the skills needed to make lifestyle changes that promote long-term weight control.

Led by a registered dietitian, the program will review guidelines for eating at parties and restaurants, reading food labels, and making healthy choices in the supermarket.

An exercise physiologist will be available to perform body fat analysis at the start and finish of the program.

The fee for this class, which includes all written materials, food samples, and body fat analyses, is \$60. Registration deadline is March 20. For more information call 729-2574.

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# HEALTHWISE

## Spice Up Your Life With Savory Dishes

These healthy vegetarian dishes are low in fat but high in flavor.

### Vegetarian Stew With Couscous

Heat 2 tablespoons oil in a Dutch oven over medium-high heat. Add eggplant and cook 4 minutes, stirring often, until lightly browned. Add zucchini and remaining oil. Cook 3 minutes, stirring once or twice. Add 1 can tomatoes, scallions, vinegar and seasonings. Cook 5 minutes or until vegetables are tender and most liquid has evaporated, stirring often. Add remaining can of tomatoes and chickpeas. Cook until hot. Remove from heat, stir in feta cheese, and serve over couscous. Serves 4.

3 Tbsps. olive oil  
1 large eggplant, cut into 1/2" cubes

1 lb. zucchini, cut into 1/2" cubes  
2 (14-1/2-oz.) cans Italian style cut up tomatoes, undrained  
6 scallions, cut into 1/2" pieces  
1 Tbsp. red wine vinegar  
1 tsp. dried thyme  
Salt to taste  
1/2 tsp. pepper  
1 can chickpeas, (garbanzo beans)  
4 oz. feta cheese, diced  
1 cup dry couscous, prepared according to package directions

### Bombay Style Potato Curry

This dish is a specialty at Rajbhog of Philadelphia, the only kosher-certified Indian restaurant in the Northeast.

Scrub and wash potatoes, leaving the skin on. Cut unpeeled potatoes into 1" cubes.

Heat vegetable oil in a large skillet. Add cumin seed, ginger, garlic and green chiles and fry for 3 minutes. Add potatoes and 4 cups of water when potatoes are almost cooked. Add 1 cup yogurt (Dahi), turmeric, salt and sugar or honey. Keep on low flame. When you see that the curry is getting thicker, remove from stove and add chopped coriander. Serve hot or at room temperature. Serves 6-8.

4-5 medium potatoes  
2 Tbsps. vegetable oil  
1 cup yogurt (Dahi)  
1/2 tsp. cumin seed  
1 tsp. chopped ginger  
1/2 tsp. chopped garlic  
1/4 tsp. chopped green chiles, or to taste  
1/2 tsp. turmeric powder  
Salt to taste  
1 Tbsp. sugar or honey  
2 Tbsps. fresh coriander, chopped

## Tips for Healthy Eyes

Your eyes are extremely vulnerable to infections, inflammations and strain caused by everyday activities. Protection and care for your eyes can be achieved by following these recommendations:

• If you are experiencing eye strain from working on a computer,

— Reduce glare on your monitor.

— Place paperwork close enough so that you don't need to refocus your eyes every time you glance from your screen to the paper.

— Blink often to keep your eyes from getting dry.

— Tell your eyes specialist that you work on computers daily. Glasses and contacts worn for other activities may not be good for computer work.

— If the image on your computer is blurred, dull or flickering, have the screen serviced immediately.

— Keep your monitor two feet away from your eyes.

• A sty is a small boil or infection in the tiny oil-producing glands on the upper or lower rim of the eyelid. A sty is tiny at first, but then enlarges to a red, painful sore. Eventually, the sty will come to a head and appear yellow, and then will break open and drain on its own. You can relieve the discomfort of a sty by following these steps:

— Apply warm, wet compresses to the affected area three or four times a day for five to 10 minutes at a time.

— Avoid situations that expose your eyes to excessive dust or dirt.

— Don't poke or squeeze the infected area.

— Most sites respond well to home care and don't require further treatment; however, if the swelling still does not go down within a day or two, see a doctor.

• Pinkeye is an inflammation

of the underside of both the upper and lower eyelids and the covering of the white portion of the eye. Pinkeye, or conjunctivitis, can be caused by allergic reactions to airborne pollens, and dust, or by direct contact with chlorinated water or cosmetics. It can also be caused by complications of a cold or flu. If you develop pink-eye.

— Don't touch the eye area with your fingers, use tissues.

— With your eyes closed, apply a washcloth soaked in warm water to the affected eye three to four times a day for at least five minutes each time.

— Use over-the-counter eye drops. They may soothe irritation and help relieve itching.

— Avoid wearing eye makeup until the infection has completely cleared up.

— Don't cover or patch the eye. This can make the infection grow.

— Don't wear contact lenses while your eyes are infected.

— Wash your hands often and use your own towels. Pink-eye is extremely contagious and can be spread from one person to another by contaminated fingers, washcloths or towels.

Suggestions are from *Self Care: Your Family Guide to Symptoms and How to Treat Them* by Dan R. Powell, Ph.D., and the American Institute for Preventive Medicine.

## New Technology Fights Osteoporosis

Twenty-five million Americans have osteoporosis, and 50,000 people will die each year because of it.

The disease results in more than 1 million hip, spine, and wrist fractures annually and affects nearly one-half of all postmenopausal women.

Despite these statistics, most of us know little about protecting ourselves from osteoporosis, a disorder in which progressive bone loss results in an increased risk of fracture. At Landmark Medical Center, however, the recent installation of a bone densitometer, a state-of-the-art device that measures bone mineral density, has bettered our odds in fighting this disease.

Using the fast, safe device, physicians can measure a patient's bone mineral density and follow changes over time. If the patient's bone density is low or decreases at an abnormally fast rate, the patient may be at

risk for osteoporosis. Through changes in diet, exercise habits, or medication, further deterioration of bone can be prevented.

In just a few minutes, this highly sensitive densitometer helps us identify risk at a much earlier stage.

ration of bone can be prevented.

"The DPX-IQ bone densitometer (Lunar Corporation of Madison, Wis.) measures the density of the spine, hip, and other bones that are the most frequent sites of fracture," explained Nicholas D. Iannuccilli, M.D., medical director of radiology at Landmark Medical Center.

"Until now, evaluating bone density using conventional x-

ray systems did not reveal a potential problem until a patient had lost 25-30 percent of his/her bone density. Now, in just a few minutes, this highly sensitive densitometer helps us identify risk at a much earlier stage. It can also evaluate response to treatment so that we know whether our therapy is effective or if we need to modify our approach," he said.

"Fortunately," he continued, "recent research findings clarify the nature of the disease and demonstrate the effectiveness of new treatments. New diagnostic devices, such as the DPX-IQ densitometer, improve the early detection and treatment of osteoporosis."

If the procedure is recommended by a physician, a patient will spend just a few minutes reclining, fully clothed, on the densitometer. Radiation exposure is minimal. In fact, a normal chest x-ray administers 20 times the radiation of the densitometer.

"There is no special preparation involved for the patient. The exam only takes a few minutes and is a very comfortable procedure for the patient," he said.

Further information about scheduling an appointment for a bone density measurement may be obtained by contacting Landmark Medical Center at 769-4100, ext. 2006.

## Look Good... Feel Better

Cancer patients undergoing radiation or chemotherapy are invited to attend a special program at Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island. The program, entitled Look Good... Feel Better, will be offered at Memorial, March 31 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the nursing classroom on the second floor of the MacColl Building.

Co-sponsored by the American Cancer Society, "Look Good... Feel Better" focuses on helping patients improve some of the temporary changes in their appearance which result from oncology treatment, such as hair

loss and changes in skin texture and pigmentation. Participants are given an assortment of free cosmetics and assistance in restyling wigs.

"The reaction we receive from participants in Look Good... Feel Better is really positive," said Celeste Codega, R.N., nurse manager of Memorial's oncology unit, noting that many of the patients continue using the makeup and hairstyling techniques they learned in the program.

For more information about Look Good... Feel Better, contact Codega at 729-2470.

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## SCHOOLBEAT

### Jewish Girl Scouts Lend a Hand

by Sara Wise  
Herald Editor

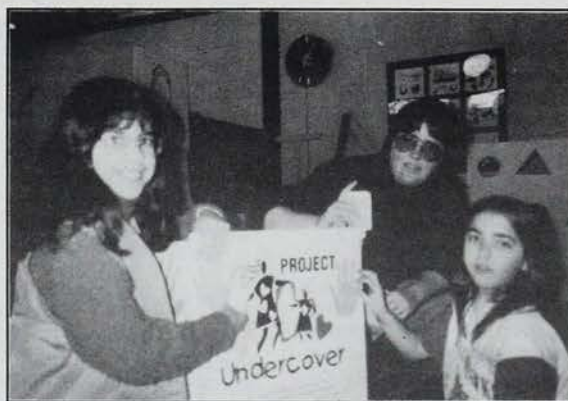
Jewish Girl Scouts at Congregation Agudas Achim in Attleboro were busy this week-end decorating a collection box for new underwear, socks and diapers to provide for needy children.

The collection is part of "Project Undercover," a two-week drive by the Girl Scouts of Rhode Island and the Rhode Island Donation Exchange Program to collect warm undergarments for the more than 30,000 children living in poverty in the Rhode Island area.

Although the girls at Agudas Achim belong to different Girl Scout troops in Rhode Island and Massachusetts, they got together early Sunday morning before Hebrew school to ensure that their congregation takes part in the charity drive.

The girls cut out and pasted colorful hands on a cardboard box that will be used to collect clothing at their congregation.

Field Director Alena Kacal said that the hardworking girls earned religious awards in their different troops last year by meeting with the rabbi, exploring their family trees and learn-



GIRL SCOUTS Rachel Weintraub, left of North Attleboro, and Jennifer Vieira, right, of Pawtucket, help field director Alena Kacal decorate a collection box for "Project Undercover." The Girl Scouts of Rhode Island are collecting underwear, socks and diapers for needy children.

Herald photo by Sara Wise

ing about "tzedakah" by doing a service project.

According to Ginny Abell, communications director for the Girl Scouts, the idea for the clothing drive came from local teachers and social workers who reported that many students who rely on donated items did not have sufficient clean undergarments. Donations of outer clothing are generally more plentiful.

In a pilot program last year, Warwick Girl Scouts generated more than 7,000 donations of socks, underwear and diapers.

This year's program includes all towns in the Girl Scouts of Rhode Island, Inc., jurisdiction. The goal this year is to gather 60,000 items of clothing.

Local troops will pick up the donated items on March 22. The clothing will be distributed through a network of non-profit agencies in Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Connecticut.

Collection sites are located in local schools, libraries, fire stations and retail stores. For more information or to make a donation, call Rhode Island Donation Exchange Program at 831-5511.

### The Rhode Island Scholarship Search

Congratulations! You've just been accepted to the college of your choice. Now you're wondering how you are going to afford the tuition, room and board, books, lab fees, and still have some cash on hand for pizza on Friday night. Maybe there is a scholarship, grant, or loan available for students just like you, but how do you find it? That is where the IRIS reference computers and the Providence Public Library staff can help.

The TRISS database, provided by the Rhode Island Higher Education Assistance Authority, is available on the IRIS network at all PPL locations. For high school students planning to enter college, col-

lege students, or college seniors or graduates planning to enter graduate school, TRISS is an easy way to start your scholarship search.

You can customize the search to your specific criteria. Select your residency, heritage, major course of study, religion, organizational affiliations, military background, and college preferences to build a list of available scholarships matching your profile. Local and national financial awards are included in this database. Types of aid included are gifts, cash, loans, or work programs. Addresses of colleges and their financial aid application deadlines are given. Contact the PPL at 455-8055.

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"CLASSIC CLIPS... A CUT ABOVE THE REST"

### Children's Author to Speak on New Local Book

by Sara Wise  
Herald Editor

Rhode Island children have a treat in store. Noted children's author and former Providence resident, Avi, will talk to local students about his new book at the Old Brick School House on March 19, from 4:30 to 6 p.m.

Avi's latest book, *Finding Providence*, is a fictionalized account of Roger Williams and his journey from the Massachusetts Bay Colony to what is now Rhode Island. The book is dedicated to the children of Providence.

The story is told from the point of view of Williams' young daughter. It begins with the expulsion of Roger Williams from the Massachusetts Bay Colony and traces the family's journey into the wilderness, where they befriend members of the Narraganset tribe. Williams then forms the new settlement he names "Providence."

The book is beautifully illustrated by James Watling and is part of the *I Can Read* collection

by HarperCollins. *I Can Read* books are aimed at first or second grade readers.

Although some local historical groups have raised questions about the historical accuracy of the *Finding Providence*, the book is clearly presented as historical fiction, and not as a biography.

Three previous books by Avi, *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*, *The Man Who Was Poe*, and *Something Upstairs*, are also set in Providence. The Providence Preservation Society conducts a children's program based on the historical settings used in Avi's novels.

The afternoon with Avi is sponsored by the Little Professor Book Center, the Providence Preservation Society and the Providence School Department. Copies of *Finding Providence* will be available at that time.

The Old Brick School House is located at 24 Meeting St., Providence.

The event is free and open to the public.

### Integrating Judaism

Nearly 40 educators from 11 countries participated in the TEL-ARTS seminar, recently held at the Balint Jewish Community Center in Budapest, Hungary. The TEL section, Teaching English Language, focused on various curriculum, methods and techniques for integrating Judaism into English class in Jewish and supplementary schools. The ARTS program focused on the Arts in Jewish Education, including drama, music and dance.

A series of eight activity books on Jewish themes complete with stories, exercises and games, entitled *Open the Gates*, was developed in a pilot project at the Lauder Yavne Jewish Community School in Budapest. It was prepared in

conjunction with the JDC educational department in Jerusalem and the Alliance Israelite Universelle in Paris. Participants at the seminar worked with the authors and with expert consultants from Israel to conceive additional new materials which they could use in their own schools.

TEL was created to answer the demands for additional English language instructions throughout Jewish schools in the local Hungarian Jewish communities without compromising the Jewish studies program. The ARTS program in Budapest was modeled after a similar program in London.

The seminar was sponsored by JDC and the European Council of Jewish Communities.

### Guns Aren't Cool

We in New England are not immune to incidents involving children and gun violence. To help educate young people about the danger of guns, and perhaps prevent such incidents in the future, a voluntary statewide contest has been proposed for students on the topic of guns. The Guns Aren't Cool program launched by Governor Chafee, is open to all school children (kindergarten to 12) in Rhode

Island and offers savings bonds for winning essays.

By promoting discussion and awareness among our young people about the dangers posed by guns and gun violence, we will have taken an important step for the health and safety of our children.

The *Herald* will publish any winning essay from the community. For more information, contact 528-5294.

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# SCHOOLBEAT

## PHDS Students Share Memories of Their Trip to Israel

by Sara Wise  
Herald Editor

Climbing across rocks on their stomachs, burying time capsules and sampling falafel on a daily basis. These are just a few of the more adventurous activities of local travelers during a two-week trip to Israel.

The seven eighth grade students and two adults from Providence Hebrew Day School were eager to share tales of their journey to the Holy Land last month.

Although many of the students had been to Israel before, the group agreed that there was something special about this trip that left them wanting to return again and again.

us we'd find really good falafel," added Sam Halper.

The group then set off from Jerusalem with a tour guide to see ancient sites, visit with Israeli families and bury a time capsule that will be uncovered by future classes.

The time capsule contained answers to the question, "What would you want people to know about you in the future?" The trickiest part was finding a site for the time capsule that wouldn't be disturbed. "We made a pirate's map," said Eli Hartman, "so that the next class can find it."

For those who had never been to Israel, the trip dispelled many

asked them to reflect on their spiritual insights and set new goals for themselves.

Rabbi Fried said that he was impressed with the students' maturity and eagerness to learn. "A lot can go wrong on trips like these, but the kids were just great. They had smiles on their faces the whole time," said Rabbi Fried. "Even though they are back in America, their thoughts are still in Israel."

### In Their Own Words

"I had the feeling in my heart that I was in the Holy Land and that someday, I, too, will live there... Although this trip wasn't my first to Israel, I probably had more fun than I ever had. Before we left for Israel, I was thinking, 'Wow, two whole weeks to tour Israel, that's such a long time.' But when I got there, right away the time was slipping through my fingers. When the night came that we had to fly back home, I was thinking, 'Don't worry Israel, I'll be back.' I would like to fulfill that promise."

Yael Silberberg

\*\*\*

"When we landed in Israel, all I could think about was bed. As soon as we got into the airport, my attitude changed. I couldn't wait to go touring. It seemed to be the attitude of the whole group, so we went sightseeing right away."

Sam Halper

\*\*\*

"When you are in Israel you have this feeling of holiness, and while I was in Israel I always felt this way. We saw many places and did many things. Just seeing the places we learned about



PHDS eighth-graders enjoy an Israeli meal with chaperones Rabbi Mordechai Fried and his wife Carol.

\*\*\*

"When I got to Israel I couldn't believe that I was actually there. The things in Israel are so beautiful... I went to the Western Wall (the Kotel). It was so beautiful there. When you touch the smooth stones it feels as if they were put up so recently."

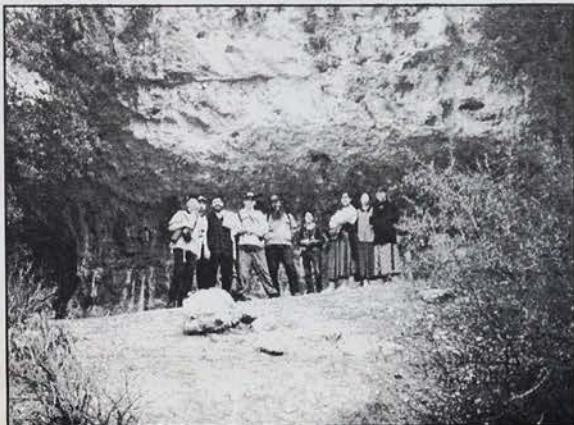
Avigail Winkleman

\*\*\*

"I really want to go back when I get older and it will be even better because I will know even more about Israel then."

Eli Hartman

The students of Providence Hebrew Day School wish to thank the many volunteers that generously donated their time and money to make this trip possible.



PHDS STUDENTS explore rock formations in Israel with their trusty guide.

"I got to see all the places I read about in school," said Abby Winkleman. "It was neat to be in the place I'd studied for so long."

Soon after the students arrived in Israel, they had the honor of meeting with the great Rabbi Chaim Pinchas Scheinberg who heads a community in Jerusalem. A soft-spoken elderly man covered in prayer shawls, the rabbi gave the group his blessing and told them what to look for on their trip.

"True happiness is not found in physical happiness, but in spiritual happiness that the soul feels, through learning Torah and doing mitzvot," Scheinberg told the children. "He also told

false impressions. "I thought it would be really rural with camels everywhere," said Sam Halper. "It was a lot more built up than I expected, with Home Depot, Burger King, cell phones everywhere...it was just like America."

"The most incredible thing about Israel is that you can take a few steps and be transported centuries," commented Carol Fried, who, along with her husband Rabbi Mordechai Fried, accompanied the students on the trip.

In addition to all the sightseeing, there were more introspective moments as well. Towards the end of the trip, Rabbi Fried presented each student with a prayer book and



SAM HALPER speaks with Rabbi Chaim Scheinberg of Jerusalem. The rabbi gave the students his blessing at the start of their trip.



PHDS STUDENTS visit the Kotel during their recent trip to Israel. From left, Sam Halper, Itzy Andelman, Pesach Shafner, Eli Hartman, Abby Winkleman, Aviva Shafner, Yael Silberberg.

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## FEATURE

## Israel Diary — One Traveler's Journey

by Jane Stepak

The birds were singing. I heard them most recently outside my bedroom window, just before dawn. These tunes were with me in Tsfat as I stood at the edge of the city, looking out toward Mount Meron. Their music accompanied me to the Western Wall in Jerusalem. These melodies, without words, spoke to my soul. They wove subtly through my journey like a thread of blue in a tallit.

Magic was in the air in Tsfat, the city of Jewish artists and mystics. Artists capture the light that shines through the narrow alleys and along the stone stairways. The paths that wind their way through the city are like those in a maze. They remind me of the journeys in our lives. Though our destination is often not in view, our faith can help us appreciate the wonder of each moment, of each step along the way.

As we began exploring Tsfat, our path crossed that of a woman, probably in her 70s. She approached us with a warm smiling face. We began talking. There was an ephemeral quality about her. Our conversation continued. We all sat down, she next to me. Somehow, she knew that I was the one in our group who had suggested we make Tsfat the first stop on our journey. We asked her if she would pose for a picture with us. She gently refused. I knew that the memory of this moment would remain with me always, more vivid than a photo could ever be. And so began this extraordinary adventure with my friends, Alice and Laura.

The mystical sounds of Tsfat welled up like an orchestra playing a selection from an Eastern European shtetl. Men were davening in the Chernobyl shul. From a classroom window, I heard voices rising in song and those of others in the courtyard playing ball. Babies cried, vying for the attention of a mother who had as many children as fingers, give or take a few. These sounds were without time or place. Each a humble prayer, reaching heaven. Each one unique and important.

I carry remarkable images with me. A quick glance revealed a toddler, clad in a diaper and requisite tzitzit. He stood on a balcony next to laundry that was dominated by a large tallit hanging out to dry. The words of the Shema flowed through my head — "They shall put fringes on the corners of their garments."

I noticed a group of school

Though our destination is often not in view, our faith can help us appreciate the wonder of each moment, of each step along the way.

children on a field trip. As they rounded the corner onto a delightful winding street, one of the girls exclaimed "Ayzeh yafeh!" — "How beautiful!" Her enthusiasm was as refreshing as a dip in the pool would have been on that hot day. I prayed that youthful wonder like this would set the tone in this world instead of angry words and senseless bombings.

We learned that the Mashiach, the Messiah, would arrive first in Tsfat. I wondered if we had to wait for the Mashiach. Instead, could we begin creating the world of our dreams today? This thought accompanied

me to Jerusalem, a city that held its own magic. I approached the Kotel, the Western Wall, and recalled a teaching of Rabbi Isaac Luria. He said that in the beginning of creation, G-d made light and then made vessels to hold the light. The vessels were too fragile, however, and shattered. From these broken vessels, the material of the world was created.

A glance at the stones before me sent a shiver down my spine. These stones reminded me of the fragments of those vessels.

What about the prayers? What about the words on scraps of paper folded and crammed into every little crack between the stones in the Wall? It's as if they are grasping to hold on to something divine. Just as the stones represent our souls, the notes between them are a physical reminder of what can link our souls even more intimately. On them are prayers that ask for forgiveness, or express thanksgiving or praise. These are the kind words that deepen our friendships. They help bring us closer to others as well as to something beyond us, something holy.

The care expressed in these words adds a sacred quality to the embrace of lovers or friends, or to the joined hands of folk dancers next to each other in a circle. These heartfelt prayers are like mortar. They strengthen the links between individual souls. They fill the spaces between the stones as completely as the waves cover the rocks on the shore.

As I faced the Kotel, I wondered what to pray. I stood very close to the stones and looked up. Even though I knew that G-d hears my prayers regardless of where I am, I was compelled to select my words most carefully. I asked G-d to help me feel thankful for life itself and for the miracles that each day brings. I prayed that I would always have faith and would ever be aware of a caring presence by my side, a divine companion.

What more could I ask for? I

asked G-d to heal the spirits of those who cry out for solace. I prayed for those wounded by illness, divorce, or the loss of loved ones. I looked up and discovered flowers and green shoots of plants emerging from between the seemingly lifeless stones. This was a gentle reminder of the words of Menachem Mendel of Kotsk who said, "There is nothing more whole than a broken Jewish heart." Here before me, new life was growing out of brokenness.

An orange butterfly caught my eye, its wings raised as if in prayer. I remembered the butterfly I saw at Terezin where Pavel Friedmann wrote the

I prayed that I would always have faith and would ever be aware of a caring presence by my side, a divine companion.

poem "I Never Saw Another Butterfly." He said that there were no butterflies in the ghetto. Maybe the butterflies waited silently in their cocoons until they could emerge in freedom. I also saw butterflies as we explored the wondrous stone formations in Petra. The fact that we were in Jordan, able to travel freely across the border, was somewhat miraculous. These butterflies are a glimmer of hope.

A unique sense of awe was displayed at the Kotel. As people departed, they backed away, always facing the Wall. Groups of children were magically transformed. One minute they teased each other with a rowdy, mischievous energy. The next, they were in solemn reverence, comfortably holding siddurim and praying.

There was a wave-like motion of the crowd as each person davened. Even though each was praying at his or her own pace, a certain rhythm connected them all.

I saw a woman sprinkling bread crumbs for the birds near the Kotel. Remains of crumbs from previous days led me to believe that she made a regular practice of leaving bread there. I flashed back to the man I had seen at the synagogue in Warsaw who left matzah crumbs for the birds. These people had so little, but always seemed to have enough to share. Somehow their lives are deepened by this giving.

The wonder of Jerusalem continued. One Saturday night we attended a concert at the Sultan's Pool, a marvelous outdoor amphitheater

next to the Old City. We passed through the entrance gate, walked down a long dirt path and took our seats along with thousands of others. The concert began and the voices of Gali Atari and Nirit Galron filled the air. Then David Broza came onstage. The crowd cheered and he began to sing. The next thing we knew, his voice was silenced and the stage was dark. The electricity had gone off. Less than 10 seconds had passed when everyone began to sing. We sang about Jerusalem — "Yerushalayim Shel Zahav," "Lach Yerushalayim," "Sisu Et Yerushalayim" and more. I felt a unique closeness. We shared a heritage. I knew these songs. I wondered what we would have sung if this had happened back home. When I told this story to a friend she said people probably wouldn't sing. Rather, they would begin yelling or throwing things. Maybe Israelis are more accustomed to an unexpected turn of events. What was a temporary power failure when so many of their lives had been touched by the losses of war or a random terrorist attack? The stars above pierced the clear evening sky. The backdrop of the walls of the Old City brought a timeless quality to this place. I felt the magic of Israel in that moment. Out of the darkness, came a song.

In Israel, I heard music everywhere. People were singing as we explored the caverns of Rosh Hanikra and the tunnels of the ancient city of Acco. While I was waiting to meet my friend, Elisheva, outside the Hamishbar store in Jerusalem, I noticed a group of teenagers. They broke out in song as they were posing for a photo. Time and again, the hopeful spirit in the hearts of the Israelis was expressed in their songs.

I remember a conversation I had with my friend, Rachelle, before our trip. I had just finished telling her what we planned to see and do when she reminded me that G-d would fill in the rest of the itinerary. And precisely that happened. A gentle awareness of something divine accompanied us on our way.

G-d was with us on a taxi ride in Jerusalem, where our driver spoke of the blessing his children were to him. He said they brought him to a quiet place, far from the busy city streets where he spent most of his days. He said this helped him be more patient, more aware of the miracle of life itself.

I noticed a mezuzah on the doorstep of every hotel room. This reminded me that G-d watches over us as we cross the threshold of each transition in our lives.

I remember how it felt when Alice and I walked on the beach in Tel Aviv after we had folk danced until 2 in the morning. The cool soft sand was a wonderful massage. There was a quiet hush about the beach. All we heard was the gentle lapping sound of the waves as they hit the shore.

Jane Stepak is a former Providence resident. She now lives in Mountainview, Calif., and travels frequently.

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# MILESTONES

## Stacey Kaplan to Wed Daniel Isaacs

Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Kaplan of Cranston, R.I., announce the engagement of their daughter, Stacey Lee Kaplan, of Jersey City, N.J., to Daniel Marc Isaacs of Monroe Township, N.J., son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Isaacs also of Monroe Township, N.J.

The bride-to-be graduated from Cranston High School West, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a B.A. in journalism and mass communication and a minor in business administration. She is currently employed as a

senior account executive with Cohn & Wolfe, a public relations agency in New York City. She is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bernard I. Berman of Miami, Fla., the late Joseph Kaplan and the late Mrs. Evelyn Kaplan-Trinkle.

Her fiancé is a graduate of Rowan College of New Jersey with a B.A. in communications. He is currently employed by Viewer's Choice, a pay-per-view company located in New York City.

The wedding will be in November 1997.



Daniel Isaacs and Stacey Kaplan

## Jewish Family Service Appoints Rebecca Rofman

Rebecca M. Rofman, M.A., CAGS, LICSW has joined the staff of Jewish Family Service as a clinical social worker. Julie Gutterman, director of professional services said, "I am especially excited about the experience Rebecca brings to us from her work with children and schools."

In addition to her clinical social work credentials, Rofman has five years of experience as a licensed school psychologist, and seven years as a therapist for children, families and adults in both the nonprofit and state sectors.

Rofman said, "My goal in therapy is to help people to feel better and function better. Once you let people know it's okay to feel upset, they can move beyond the upset to resolve the issues that cause the feelings."

For more information about Jewish Family Service, call 331-1244.



**Mareyna Arin Simon**

Susan Silverman and Barry Simon of Amston, Conn., announce the birth of their daughter, Mareyna Arin, on Feb. 16 at Yale New Haven Hospital.

Maternal grandparents are Gerald A. Silverman of New London, Conn., and Joan Silverman of West Haven, Conn. Paternal grandparents are Martin and Nancy Simon of Hamden, Conn.

Susan Silverman is the granddaughter of the late Max and Esther Silverman and Minnie and Perry Aaronson, all of Providence.

## Long-Time Cranston Couple Celebrates 60th Wedding Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Irving A. Acherman, passing the winter season in Pembroke Pines, Fla., celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on the evening of Nov. 10, 1996 at "La Traviata Ristorante" in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. They were honored by their three children, Mrs. Elayne Moe, Mrs. Rayna Pass, Arthur Acherman and five grandchildren, Michelle Duffy of Quincy, Mass.; Greg Rotmer of Chicago, Ill.; Jodi Gaess of Cranston, R.I.; Lori Pass of San Marcos, Calif.; and Pamela Acherman of Warwick, R.I.

The many invited guests were from California, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut and Florida.

Entertainment was provided by Jonathan White, pianist; Ms. Randi Fistenfeld, violinist; and daughter, Rayna Pass, as vocalist.

Mr. and Mrs. Acherman met 61 years ago at a family wedding in Providence. Mr. Acherman is well known in the Providence community for his long-time ownership of Paramount Office Supply Company.



Mr. and Mrs. Irving Acherman

## David Friedman Honored at Rhode Island Dinner

David Friedman, chairman of PM Industries Inc., will receive the National Jewish Humanitarian Award at the 25th Annual Rhode Island Dinner on

award recipient, Edward P. "Ned" Grace III, will present the award.

Friedman began as a salesman at Paramount Fountain and Restaurant Supply Corp., and eventually purchased the company.

He is best known for his achievements in the hospitality industry. He pioneered the "Concept to Completion" package for restaurants in the 1960s and still heads his restaurant equipment company and a woodworking company known as Monarch Industries, Inc.

He is a member of the board of trustees of Johnson & Wales University and serves on the board of directors of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.

In 1975, Friedman was awarded an honorary doctorate of business administration from Johnson & Wales University. In addition, the main culinary arts building at the university was named the David Friedman Center, in appreciation of his efforts in the formation of the school.



David Friedman

April 17 at the Westin Hotel in Providence.

Dinner chairman and past



**Deborah Elizabeth Miller**

Mr. and Mrs. Chris Miller of Chelmsford, Mass., announce the birth of their second child, Deborah Elizabeth, on Feb. 8.

Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Ira Silverman, of Harrisburg, Pa. Paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Russell Miller of West Boxford, Mass. Great-grandparents are Mrs. Gertrude Newman of Providence, R.I., and Dr. and Mrs. James Lyon of Haverhill, Mass.

Deborah Elizabeth is named in loving memory of her great-grandfather, Percy Newman and her great-grandmother Ida Silverman. She joins her 3-1/2-year-old sister, Rebecca Ellen at home.

**Know someone getting married?**



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# ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

## First Jewish Film Festival

As part of the Brown/RISD Hillel film presentation, the following films will be shown:

March 15, at the RISD Auditorium, 7 p.m. "An Evening of Shorts Theme: Jews in America/Jewish Identity." Filmmakers Lisa Kors, a Brown alumni, and Michael Young will both be present to introduce their films!

"McJew," directed by Michael Young, USA, 1991, 23 minutes, English. A personal diary in which the filmmaker travels long distances in space and time in order to understand the psychological, historical, and political factors which define his mixed, Christian-Jewish identity.

"Shayna Maidels: Orthodox Jewish Teenage Girls," directed by Lisa Kors, USA, 1991, 24 minutes, English. In this documentary, the director follows three Los Angeles schoolgirls in the first flush of rebellion. For Lilian, Jessica, and Sinaia, choosing the strict path of Orthodox Jewry puts distance between them and their more secular parents. Yet it also offers guidance in a world of too many choices.

"Harry Weinberg's Notebook," directed by Yariv Kohn, USA, 25 minutes, English. Adapted from Leslea Newman's "A Letter to Harvey Milk," this powerful and provocative film examines the sensitive issues that surface when Harry

Weinberg, an elderly Jewish man, enrolls in a creative writing class taught by a lesbian.

"Gefilte Fish," directed by Karen Silverstein, USA, 1984, 15 minutes, English. A hilarious and "heimische" film in which three generations of women share personal methods of making gefilte fish, and, in the process, their opinions of tradition and its role in contemporary society.

Following the screenings will be a dessert reception with the filmmakers!

Tickets: \$5 for community members, free with student identification. RISD Auditorium is located on the corner of South Main Street and College Street.

## The Treasures of Rhode Island

A group of ninth-graders at the Metropolitan Regional Career and Technical Center is working with the Rhode Island Historical Society to develop a museum exhibit around Rhode Island. This work is part of the Heritage Harbor Project, a museum and community center that is scheduled to open in the year 2000. The Met students, prior to the opening of Heritage Harbor, are going to preview their exhibit about the "treasures of Rhode Island" this June.

This project is supported in part by the Rhode Island Commission for National and Community Service under its Learn and Serve America Community

Based Program. This program promotes the involvement of youth in service and the integration of that service into their person and/or academic development.

The Heritage Harbor group at the Met has contacted a variety of art and history chairmen and directors to help implement their exhibit designs. The exhibit will take place in the R.I. Historical Society's Aldrich House from June 2 to 6.

For more information, contact: Susan Tasayco or Vanessa Cuevas at (401) 277-5046 or write to The Met, 80 Washington St., Room 325, Providence, R.I. 02903.

## Resistance & Rescue

by Tara V. Liscandro  
Herald Editor

"The Elsinore Sewing Club," "Bas Valves" and "Boat Hatch" are just a few of the titles of Judy

Ellis Glickman's black and white photo exhibit which is on display, at the Rockefeller library at Brown University, until the end of March. Thanks to Scandinavia is the scholarship fund sponsoring the exhibit and commemorates the 50th anniversary of Denmark's resistance to the Nazi occupation, as well as the rescue of the Danish Jewish community.



The Krystalgrade Synagogue in Copenhagen.

Students continue to rush through the foyer and catch a glimpse of the exhibit. Eyes open and curiosity fills faces.

Thanks to Scandinavia and Judy Ellis Glickman present unforgettable images to be shared and carried by everyone.

The Rockefeller library is located on the corner of Prospect and College streets in Providence.

mark's resistance with seascapes, railroads, camps, rescuers and survivors.

The exhibit also includes photos of the Krystalgrade Synagogue, Trinity Church and Bispebjerg Hospital in Copenhagen, all of which shared the role of helping European Jews to escape.

The Rockefeller library is located on the corner of Prospect and College streets in Providence.

Students continue to rush through the foyer and catch a glimpse of the exhibit. Eyes open and curiosity fills faces.

## The Drifters 'Drift' Into Newport

The Drifters are truly unique in today's world of pop music groups. And following their 25-yearlong history is like reading a history of contemporary popular music.

Today, as right from the beginning, the group includes original members. The current act blends a tasteful mixture of their million sellers with contemporary standards, many in medley form and several lifted from their hot Columbia album, "Too Hot," all presented within the context of the Drifters' famous patented choreography.

The Rhode Island Black Heritage Society's Cotton Club and the Double Tree Islander Hotel Newport will host "An Evening with The Drifters," March 21 at 8:30 p.m. in the ballroom of the Double Tree Islander Hotel Newport. Tickets are \$20 per person. For more information, call 751-3490.

## Three Artists Visit Wickford

The work of three Wickford Art Association artist members will be on display at the Wickford Art Association Gallery on March 14 to 26. Joel Martin, of Narragansett, will exhibit photography and acrylics; Irving Beckenstein, of Warwick, will exhibit works in gouache and acrylics, and Eileen Mayhew, of Bristol, will exhibit works in oils, charcoal, and terra cotta. All three are award-winning artists whose works can be found in private collections across the country.

The opening reception for the show is March 14, 7 to 9 p.m. The public is invited to attend and meet the artists.

The Wickford Art Association Gallery is located at 36 Beach St., Wickford. Shows are free and open to the public. For information, call 294-8840.

## Filmmaker, Survivor to Recount Rescue of Thousands During WWII

"My Knees Were Jumping: Remembering the Kindertransports," a touching documentary (narrated by Joanne Woodward) about the rescue mission that saved the lives of thousands of children from Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia and Poland during World War II, will be shown at 7:30 p.m., March 18 in Sachar International Center at Brandeis University.

A discussion with New York filmmaker, Melissa Hacker, will follow. Hacker's late mother, Ruth Morley, was a kindertransport child and former instructor in the theater design

program at Brandeis.

Hans Lopater of Sudbury, Mass., a member of the Board of Overseers of the Tauber Institute for the Study of European Jewry at Brandeis, will also speak about his memories of leaving Vienna on a kindertransport in 1938.

"My Knees Were Jumping" premiered at the 1996 Sundance Film Festival and won the Certificate of Merit Award at the San Francisco International Film Festival. The showing is sponsored by the Tauber Institute, The National Center for Jewish Film and Brandeis Hillel.

## Family Interests Mix With Nature

Residents and visitors to the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor will find much to see and do the weekend of March 15 to 16.

With the winter season winding down and spring just around the corner, the Blackstone River Valley communities in central Massachusetts and northern Rhode Island offer casual events.

For those wanting to learn about plants and the soil which support native vegetation, plan on attending the R.I. Wild Plant Society Meeting on March 15 at 10 a.m.

The gathering will be at the R.I. Audubon Society headquarters, located on Route 5, near the intersection of Route 44, in the Greenville section of Smithfield. The group offers plenty of information on wild plants and suggests areas of the state to spot the natural growths.

While visiting the Audubon Society, check out their Powder Mill Ledges nature walking area, located next to the headquarters. The area covers more than two miles of pine forest and open fields.

For more on the Wild Plant Society meeting, call 949-0195.

## The Daughter of the Regiment

Opera New England presents the comic masterpiece, "The Daughter of the Regiment," at the Orpheum Theatre in Foxboro, for two shows only, on March 15 at 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Set in the Alps during the French Revolutionary Period, beautiful costumes and breathtaking scenery, along with superb music, promise to make "The Daughter of the Regiment" an unforgettable show.

Tickets are priced at \$10.50 for adults and \$7.50 for children. To purchase tickets, or for information, contact the Foxborough Regional Center for the Performing Arts, One School St., Foxboro, at (508) 543-ARTS or toll free at 888-ORPHEUM.

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# ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT



## Patty Duke Meets 'Saturday Night Live' Going Bananas in Fall River

by Arleen Sherman  
Growing up without any sisters, I often dreamed of what it would be like. My greatest fantasy would be to have had a twin. I even liked the "Patty Duke Show" (where Patty Duke played both roles of cousins who were "two of a kind" — but

nections, had the sisters not been so filled with hostility. Instead, their jealousy contributes to their individual unhappiness.

This sounds like the stuff that dramas are woven out of, but the twists in the story keep the audience laughing throughout (although the humor may be a

presence always speaks hilarious volumes. They are psychiatric aides, FBI agents, and unforgettable stage hands.

The dynamic duo that dreamed up this production are apparently sisters by choice. Maybe that's what makes them so successful. Paula Vogel, au-

The Marine Museum at Fall River proudly presents Mark H. Goldberg, author of the multi-volume American Merchant Marine Historical Series, as guest speaker on March 20.

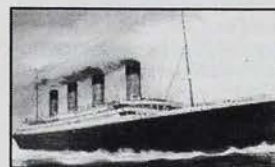
"Going Bananas, 100 years of American fruit containerships in the Caribbean," will be the topic of Goldberg's slide presentation/narration.

The museum contains various shipbuilders' models of the Great White Fleet of the United Fruit Company, along with an extensive collection of journals, books and photographs relating to that company's steamships operation between New England and its banana plantations holdings.

A native of New York City but currently living in the historic Mount Vernon district of Baltimore, Goldberg received his bachelor of arts and masters degrees in history from New York University.

This program will begin with supper at 6 p.m., followed by the program at 7 p.m. Cost is \$8.50 per person. Due to lim-

ited dining capacity, advance reservations are required by March 18. Admission for the program only is \$4 per person. Friends of the Museum are



welcome to dine or attend. Early and late browsing of the collections is encouraged. Snow date is March 21.

The museum is located at 70 Water St., Fall River, in the Battleship Cove complex of waterfront attractions. It is open daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturdays, noon to 5 p.m.; Sundays and holidays, noon to 4 p.m.

It is home to a 28-foot, one-ton model of the Titanic and old Fall River Line models and memorabilia.

For more information call, (508) 674-3533.



ANNE SCURRIA as Myrna and Mauro Hantman and Algernon D'Amassa as psychiatric aides in Trinity Rep's production of "The Minneola Twins," a new comedy by Paula Vogel.

Photo courtesy of Trinity Rep

really, quite opposite).

After seeing the "Minneola Twins" at Trinity Repertory Theater, that fantasy quickly faded, right in front of my eyes. It was as if Patty Duke met "Saturday Night Live."

I met Myrna and Myra, twins raised in the '50s in a small Long Island town called Minneola. Both of them were brilliantly played by Ann Scurria. Her quick changes of costumes alone were mind boggling... and it wasn't simply costumes that she had to change. It involved wigs (the play was subtitled "A Comedy in Seven Scenes, Four Dreams, and Five Wigs"); physiques (Myrna was incredibly well endowed — Myra was not); and mannerisms. Scurria captured the dripping sweetness of Myrna's youthful, idealistic goal to win the young Homemakers of American Award — and then instantly transformed into a promiscuous, rebellious Myra, who said "I'm going to spend my life doing everything that everyone tells me I can't do."

The production takes us through the '50s, and the pivotal act that cements the antagonism between the sisters and follows them throughout the '70s, '80s, and '90s. Their lives are destined to be intertwined, as most twins are. Their dreams are meaningfully (and creatively) inserted throughout the play, and their life stories are filled with not-so-apparent parallel circumstances (both became drug dependent in the '70s, although Myra's drugs of choice were illegal and Myra's were necessitated after her psychiatric hospitalization). These events could have fostered con-

bit racy for some). The sisters' sons are both played quite well by Dan Welch. Welch does a fine job of playing teenagers, and it is quite amusing to see how each sister seemed to give birth to a son who would have been better matched with the other. That knowledge only contributes to their ever growing animosity.

Myra and Myrna's significant others were also played by one actor — Phyllis Kay. She does a remarkable job playing Jim, Myrna's frustrated beau, and Sarah, Myra's lesbian lover (in the '80s).

The dynamic between Scurria and Kay is terrific. Not only are they both outstanding actors, but perhaps the four roles they both pull off so well allow them to feed off each other's infectious energy.

The cast is rounded out by Algernon D'Amassa and Mauro Hantman. We never hear a word out of them, but their

thor, and Molly Smith, director, have bridged the miles between Brown University (where Vogel teaches playwriting), and Juneau, Alaska (where Smith founded and directs the Perseverance Theatre). Their friendship, which has lasted since their college days, seems to have contributed to our opportunity to enjoy this great work.

This production has the ability to touch us all, perhaps in different places. I found myself pondering the duality of good and evil. My original assessment of who was "naughty" and who was "nice" changed as the play progressed. The "good" girl, in my opinion, eventually became the most manipulative and calculatedly evil of all... yet in the end, there was a spark of compassion. Still — I would hesitate to wish for that long lost twin sister of mine. The emotional roller coaster could prove exhausting.

## Discover The Great County Clare Fiddler

Discover music again... join the Whaling Museum for an evening of foot stomping, rollicking Irish fiddle music with the great County Clare fiddler, Martin Hayes and his guitarist, Dennis Cahill.

On April 6, at 8 p.m., the New Bedford Whaling Museum begins its third season of the popular "Music through Time" concerts with Martin Hayes and Dennis Cahill.

The great fiddler Martin Hayes speaks with the soup of a poet... a remarkable artist, the only one of his type. Martin has been described as "the most important musician in Ireland today" and the Yehudi Menuhin of the Irish fiddle. He has done concert tours and appeared on major television and radio pro-

grams around the world.

Martin's style of fiddle playing comes directly from the older generation of musicians in his native County Clare. In addition to playing traditional music, he works with musicians from such diverse backgrounds as jazz, classical and rock, acquiring greater musical diversity and bringing new ideas to the music. Hayes and Cahill weave their strands of melody and rhythm together with breathtaking rightness and precision.

The concert begins at 8 p.m. with the door opening 7:30 p.m. Tickets may be purchased in advance by calling the museum at (508) 997-0046, ext. 14. The museum is located at 18 Johnny Cake Hill, New Bedford, Mass.

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# OBITUARIES

## JANE GRAFF

EAST PROVIDENCE — Jane Graff, 97, of the Evergreen House Health Center, died March 2 at the center. She was the widow of Joseph Graff.

Born in Russia, a daughter of the late Samuel and Esther (Tobias) Applebaum, she had lived in Connecticut, New Jersey and Florida before moving to Providence in 1988, and to East Providence a year ago.

She leaves a son, Stewart Graff of Woodcliff Lake, N.J.; eight grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. She was the mother of the late Rhoda Udelman and Stanley Graff, and sister of the late David, Morris and Eli Applebaum.

The funeral service was held March 4 at the Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence. Burial was in Sharon Memorial Park, Sharon, Mass.

## JOSEPH H. PERCELAY

POMPANO BEACH, Fla. — Joseph Hale Percelay, 42, of Pompano Beach, Fla., died Feb. 20, in a highway accident on I-95 in Pompano.

Born in Pawtucket, he was the son of Florence Percelay of Pompano Beach, Fla., and the late Earl Morton Percelay. He was the sister of Abigail Leavitt of Pawtucket and Rachael Coshak of Sarasota, Fla.

He formerly resided in Warwick and South County. He was a graduate of Pawtucket West High School, attended Roger Williams College and served in the United States Army. He was

employed as a supervisor by Broward Casting Foundry, Inc. A graveside funeral was held on Feb. 24 at Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick, Rhode Island.

## WILLIAM STEPAK

SPOKANE, Wash. — William Stepak, 86, of 1926 East 36th Ave., Spokane, a science and mathematics teacher in Providence from 1934 to 1973, died Feb. 25 at home. He was the husband of Dorothy Bauer Stepak.

Born in Boston, a son of the late Lewis and Bessie (Cohen) Stepak, he had lived in Spokane since 1992, previously living in Santa Barbara, Calif., and Providence.

He was a 1931 engineering graduate of Brown University and received a master's degree in education in 1935 from Rhode Island College.

He retired as mathematics department chairman at Classical High School. He was a member of Sigma Xi, an honorary society for mathematicians and scientists.

Besides his wife, he leaves a son, Dr. Paul Stepak of Spokane; a daughter, Ada Grenoble of California; a brother, Samuel Stepak of Providence; six grandchildren and three great-grandsons. He was the brother of the late Morris Stepak, Ann Feit and Lee Katz.

The funeral was held Feb. 28 in Spokane. Arrangements were by the Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

# Writer Leo Rosten Dies

## He Preached the Joy of Yiddish

by Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK (JTA) — Leo Rosten, who translated his mamaloshen into English and helped make words like 'shlep' and 'nosh' part of the American vernacular, has died at 88.

Perhaps best known for *The Joys of Yiddish*, which was published in 1968, Rosten also wrote dozens of books of fiction, including mysteries, and non-fiction.

His first book, *The Education of H'Y'M\*A\*N K\*A\*P\*L\*A\*N* published in 1937, which grew out of short stories he printed in the *New Yorker* magazine, revealed his deep affection for the struggles of people steeped in Yiddish culture and language who were trying to adjust to life in America.

Rosten used the pseudonym Leonard Q. Ross. He was apparently trying — like many Jews transplanted to the new country — to go by a name that sounded to his immigrant ears more glamorous and American.

Rosten was born on April 11, 1908, in Lodz, Poland, to Samuel and Ida Freundlich Rosten, and immigrated with his family to the United States when he was 3.

He was raised in Chicago in a working-class environment filled with other Jewish immigrants, and that formed the set-

ting for his later writing.

His best-known character, Hyman Kaplan, was based on one of his students in night school.

Kaplan reappeared in two sequels, *The Return of H'Y'M\*A\*N K\*A\*P\*L\*A\*N*, in 1959, and *O K\*A\*P\*L\*A\*N! My K\*A\*P\*L\*A\*N!* in 1976.

Rosten possessed the same ear for humor and the same affection for his characters that Sholom Aleichem and Mark Twain had for theirs, said Sol Steinmetz, an authority on the impact of Yiddish on the English language.

Hyman Kaplan's "is a loving story, and throughout his life Mr. Rosten tried to convey this tremendous love of the language and culture," said Steinmetz.

Rosten "has made a lasting contribution to American culture and even Jewish culture. Jews who in the 1930s were ashamed of Yiddish, and throughout World War II felt funny about recognizing their Jewishness, learned through people like Rosten to feel proud of their Yiddishness without fear or shame," he said.

*The Joys of Yiddish* helped bring to America's farthest reaches a familiarity with Yiddish patois.

He "helped popularize the usefulness and interest and humor of Yiddish as it influenced American English, so people were not embarrassed, after his contributions, to use such words," said Steinmetz.

Today, even Dunkin' Donuts urges customers to try its new bagels through the use of billboards that say, "It's Worth the Schlep."

Words such as "mensch" and "chutzpah," which, with their multiple nuances have no precise English equivalent, and uniquely Yiddish sentence constructs — such as "Shakespeare it's not" and "Enjoy, enjoy!" — are now used by Americans who are totally removed from any connection to the culture from which this language sprang.

The impact of Rosten and others has reached so far that today "you can live in Minnesota and not even be aware of what it is," Steinmetz said.

## Finkelstein

(Continued from Page 1)

active in the R.I. chapter for many years. She really pushed the organization to keep the church and state separated. She was very active on that issue and she was very committed to the First Amendment rights. Even after she moved to New York she kept in touch. She was very friendly and easy going, completely unpretentious."

In 1966, Robert and Augusta Finkelstein were honored by the Rhode Island Citizens Association for the Public Schools when each was named president emeritus in recognition of their devotion to the cause of public education.

That legacy continues today. Thanks to a series of gifts from Augusta Finkelstein to the URI Foundation in memory of her husband, the university established The Robert Finkelstein Memorial Lecture Series in 1973. The series now draws hundreds each year to hear leading speakers discuss important issues in education. Past speakers have included Frederick Hechinger, education writer for the *New York Times*; U.S. Rep. Paul Simon, who was chairman of the Subcommittee on Post-Secondary Education and Theodore R.Sizer, Brown University professor and chairman of the Coalition of Essential Schools.

Barbara Brittingham, dean of URI's College of Human Science and Services, said Augusta Finkelstein often made trips to URI for the lectures. "She would jump in with her questions and ideas," Brittingham said. "This gift represented the enduring commitment to public education that she shared with her husband. She cared about the University, and she became a valued friend."

The honorary doctorate awarded to her by URI that year read in part: "In the world of sports, champions exhibit perseverance, courage and commitment."

She is survived by a son, David Finkelstein of New York; a daughter, Naomi Eber of Guilford, Conn.; a brother, Mac Pollack; two grandchildren, Elizabeth Eber of Atlanta and David Eber of Boston and three great-grandchildren. Burial was private.

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## In Prayer We Praise

In prayer we praise. Standing in His presence and opening our eyes to his wonders both in the world of nature and the world of man, viewing the majesty of the heavens and the innocence of a child, knowing the fragrance of a flower and the warmth of a friend's hand, gazing upon a distant mountain and a deed of kindness, watching a bird in its flight and a baby smile, experiencing the cool breeze of a summer wind and the warm love of one's beloved, feeling all the beauty and goodness and grandeur of the world — we give praise and thanksgiving unto Him who formed the earth and breathed the breath of life into man, by whose word all was brought forth, Who looked out upon creation and said it was good, even very good, and by whose goodness and mercy the miracles of creation are renewed each day.

Samuel H. Dresner  
Prayer, Humility, and Compassion



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## JNF Launches Action Plan Negev to Develop Israel's Final Frontier

David Ben-Gurion posed the challenge to the Jewish people: "The Negev will be the test of the Jewish people and the Jewish state... This effort will determine the fate of the state and the place of our people in the history of mankind..." The Jewish National Fund is meeting the challenge by embarking on a historic campaign, Action Plan Negev, to develop portions of the desert for the 21st century.

Leaders of the JNF regions throughout the United States traveled to the Negev to witness JNF's groundbreaking work in land reclamation and water conservation. Within their communities, the participants will speak on behalf of the campaign and play campaign leadership roles.

"Developing the Negev, Israel's final frontier, is crucial to the country's future," stated Robert B. Levine, JNF national campaign chairman. "Through this experience, JNF leadership will deliver the message that Action Plan Negev will help boost Israel's economy, employ its people and develop its resources."

In 1948, Israel had a population of about 650,000. Today, Israel's population is more than 5.5 million. As the population expands, the citizens place greater demand on limited land

and water resources. Although the Negev comprises 60 percent of Israel's land, less than 10 percent of the population lives there.

"As we considered the needs of Israel's people, including new waves of immigrants," explained Levine, "JNF came to

Israel is the only country that will have more trees at the end of the century than it had at the beginning.

the conclusion that the development of the Negev is a national priority for Israel."

JNF's plans include reclaiming 3,000 acres for agricultural settlement; growing flowers for export in high-tech hothouses; developing the citrus, olive and fish breeding export industries; enhancing tourist facilities to increase employment, and expanding the forestation program to moderate temperatures and provide homes to wildlife and reduce air pollution.

To conserve the arid region's sparse water, JNF is also building dams and reservoirs, drilling for groundwater, and recycling sewage water. Asher Ron, of the

Land Development Department, pointed out the urgency of developing new sources. "By the year 2000-2010, there will be no more fresh water in this region," he said. "It will all be recycled or brackish water."

JNF's reclamation of parts of the Negev has already led to the creation of thriving agricultural communities. JNF is a recognized global leader in arid lands management and one of the founding members of the International Arid Lands Consortium, whose goal is to develop applications to make arid lands productive. JNF has hosted IALC conferences in Israel, attended by representatives from more than a score of nations. Because of JNF, Israel is the only country in which the desert is not expanding, but is being cultivated. Also due to JNF, Israel is the only country that will have more trees at the end of the century than it had at the beginning.

"JNF helped build the nation of Israel, and we will now carry the Jewish state into the 21st century," Levine stated. "The campaign will meet Ben-Gurion's challenge of developing the Negev and bringing about a better quality of life for all of Israel's citizens. Action Plan Negev will be one of our greatest legacies to future generations."



### Standing Tall

A proud youngster at Temple Beth-El displays his spice jar during a Tot/Family Havdalah Service.

Photo courtesy of Temple Beth-El

## Attention Herald Readers and Advertisers!

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# Passover Issue

Thursday, April 17, 1997

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Gift of Israel is a cooperative program in which families, congregations, and the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island provide funds toward an educational program in Israel for participating students. The focus of Gift

of Israel is to enable students to have an Israel experience during high school or college and enrich their Jewish education. The goals of the program are to strengthen the Jewish identity of American Jewish youth and to foster the relationship between Israel and American Jewry.

To enroll your child send for an information packet to become more familiar with Rhode Island Jewish Community's Gift of Israel. If you have any questions, call your synagogue principal, or Ruth Page at the Bureau of Jewish Education at 331-0956.

There are already 50 children from Temple Emanu-El enrolled. The deadline for this year is March 30.

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