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Blackman Strikes Gold in Rhode Island Academic Decathlon

by Sara Wise
Herald Editor

Benjamin Keir Blackman, a senior at Toll Gate High School in Warwick, was the overall individual high scorer of the Rhode Island Academic Decathlon held at the Community College of Rhode Island on March 9.

In addition to helping his team win the overall gold, Blackman also took home three repeat gold medals in language and literature, mathematics, and social sciences, and three silver medals in fine arts, science and economics.

Twenty-six teams from Rhode Island high schools participated in the daylong event. The students first took a series of tests on various subjects. They were then interviewed on each subject area before competing in the final "super quiz" at the end of the day. This year's super quiz focused on computers and technology.

"It's a really long day, but you've been prepping for it all year," said Blackman. "Throughout the year you meet with coaches or teachers after school who go over the categories with us. It's fun, we congeal as a team and really get to know each other."

Not surprisingly, the Jewish community was well represented at the Academic Decathlon. According to Blackman, "It comes from a pressure to do well... and from guilt. Education plays a large role in Judaism, it's another way to increase your knowledge in areas you might not regularly study in school."

Blackman is the son of Richard Blackman and Michele Keir of Warwick. An active member of the Jewish community, Blackman serves as president of Temple Sinai Youth Group and the Cranston Federation of Temple Youth. He also participates regionally in the National

Federation of Temple Youth, which has allowed him to interact with Jewish teen-agers from other states. "I have friends from all over New England," says Blackman.

Blackman also enjoys other non-academic pursuits as well, like listening to music, e-mailing friends and playing ultimate frisbee.

Travel is another activity he enjoys. "I haven't been to Israel, but it's something I've been thinking about either as a study abroad option or during the summer, depending on what the college I go to offers."

Blackman has already been accepted to Brown and Williams College, but is hoping to attend Stanford University. "It was a beautiful, beautiful campus, I just loved it."

As for career plans, Blackman remains undecided. "Biology and evolutionary genetics are something I'm interested in, however civil or environmental engineering is something I could also see myself doing. I also like architecture, although I don't have very much experience in it."

For now Blackman has his high school graduation to look forward to, which includes preparing a valedictorian speech. "I don't know yet if it will be a remembrance speech or a motivational speech looking toward the future."



BENJAMIN BLACKMAN proudly displays his gold and silver medals at the Rhode Island Academic Decathlon.



Happy Purim!

Celebrate a festive Purim holiday weekend with family and friends. There are plenty of activities to take part in this weekend. Our Purim special on page 13 lists some of the many events going on in our area.

Be sure to check out our spotlight on Blackstone Place in Pawtucket, a great place to shop for all your holiday treats.

Slaying of Israeli Schoolgirls Hits Home

The massacre of seven Israeli schoolgirls who journeyed to the Jordanian border for a field trip has created international Jewish agony that has spread to the Rhode Island community.

"Girls of that age group felt like their relatives had passed away," said Providence Hebrew Day School Assistant Principal Mordechai Nissel. "They felt like the girls were their sisters. They were so hurt that all they wanted to know was what they should do. This is hard, and it happens often."

The March 13 killings at the "Island of Peace," an Israeli-Jordanian border site, shocked the world.

The seventh- and eighth-grade girls from Beit Shemesh, an area west of Jerusalem, were on a school field trip when a 23-year-old Jordanian soldier opened fire at close range. The gunman, Ahmed Mustafa, was from a nearby Jordanian village and served as an army driver.

Israeli and Jordanian medical teams evacuated the most severely injured girls by helicopter.

In addition to the seven that died, eight other girls were seriously wounded in the attack.

The attack came a week after

a sharply worded letter from King Hussein of Jordan to Prime Minister Netanyahu was leaked to the press. The letter criticized Netanyahu severely for his decision to go ahead with the building of a new Jewish neighborhood at Har Homa in eastern Jerusalem. The letter stated that he had lost confidence in the Israeli leader's commitment to peace.

Netanyahu, on a trip to Moscow at the time, responded with leaks to his media entourage hinting at the existence of mental problems in the royal family—a reference to Hussein's father, Talal, who suffered from mental illness.

The leaks, though later denied by Israel, were perceived in Jordan as a direct insult to the king.

"King Hussein is perceived in Jordan as the father of the kingdom," Alexander Bligh, head of the Middle East Studies at Jezreel Valley College, said in an interview. "His subjects look up to him and often imitate him."

This may have provided the motivation for the murders at the "Island of Peace," a kibbutz site that is leased from Jordan to Israel.

(Continued on Page 15)



Adar Starts at Temple Torat Yisrael

Sam Flicker, on right, helps the busy basket makers finish their original handmade baskets to be used at home for the upcoming holidays.

Herald photo by Tara V. Liscandro

INSIDE THE OCEAN STATE

Childhood Poverty Conference Tackles Welfare Reform Bill

The sixth annual conference of the Campaign to Eliminate Childhood Poverty was held at the Community College of Rhode Island Knight campus on March 12. Campaign chairperson Nancy Gewirtz welcomed the crowd of more than 400, saying that the past year has been the best of times and the absolute worst of times.

Indeed, last year saw the campaign successfully battle for some of the most progressive legislation in the country, including one act, which provides a realistic and humane plan for moving people from welfare to work without hurting children. This act includes a provision whereby health insurance coverage is expanded for all children up to the age of 18 with family income to 25 percent of poverty level.

The Brooke Amendment was also preserved, which ensures that public and assisted housing tenants pay no more than 30 percent of income for rent. The school breakfast program was expanded to include 57 schools and Providence Gas agreed to appropriate \$800,000 to reduce the co-payment on the P.I.P. heating program.

However, the local victories have been overshadowed by the cruelty within the Federal Personal Responsibility Act, which will cut \$54 billion over six years from a broad range of safety net programs. Twenty-eight billion dollars will be cut from what is considered to be the safety net under the safety net, food stamps. It is this unprecedented war on the poor, which fueled much of the conference. Workshops on such topics as legal

immigration, nutrition, jobs and utilities, discussed just what would have to be done in the new political and social environment.

The new federal laws were also the starting points of keynote speakers. Robert Fersh did a good job of defining the probable impact of the Welfare Reform Bill. He said it will result in sharply reduced sales, and increased homelessness, violence and infectious disease. Fersh recommended an end of cynicism along with a reaching out across party lines and ideologies. He also emphasized documenting the true human face of hunger to knock the average American loose from their cynical complacency.

The second keynote speaker, Diane Dujon has already begun this documentation Fersh refers to. Dujon is a former welfare recipient, and now an administrator at UMass Boston. She stressed educating the public to facts such as: welfare takes only one percent of the federal budget, 2/3 of welfare money is for children, and at least 33.6 million Americans are affected by poverty. She said that the attack on the poor is really an attack on the labor force because the welfare reform laws are going to flood the market with unskilled workers causing many current workers to lose their jobs. It is this ignorance of the true effects of the new laws that allow many Americans to support legislation that will ultimately hurt them.

Dujon went even further back into history, likening the current situation where people are forced to work without consid-

eration of the person's interests, skills or needs, and without providing education or training to slavery.

Robert Kuttner, columnist and editor of *American Prospect*, said that many people will be forced into the workplace, but with the costs involved in being away from the home, many will find themselves poorer. He said the new atmosphere will divide communities against each other as different groups such as the old and young fight against each other, vying for government dollars. Dujon echoed this sentiment with an old but prudent slogan, "We cannot let them divide us. Divide and fall. United we stand."

For at least one day, the conference brought together many people of different social interests to see the broader political situation that we are all living and fighting in.

Tutor Trainers Make a Difference

Do you enjoy reading and have two hours a week available? Then volunteer at Bristol Community College as a tutor trainer and make a difference. Training starts March 25 at 6:30 p.m. and will take place on the Durfee Street campus located at 64 Durfee Street, in room 104; the sessions will meet once a week for five weeks.

Volunteers will work one-on-one with adults who are eager to improve their reading, writing or math skills. Levels of students range from beginner reading to preparation for their GED. Volunteers may also choose to assist with office work or with the family literacy project.

Preregistration is not required. For information contact, Meg Murphy, coordinator of volunteers, at (508) 678-2811 ext. 2367.

Camp ANYTOWN Builds Leaders

The National Conference of Rhode Island and Southeastern New England, founded in 1927 as the National Conference of Christians and Jews, has announced that its weeklong, residential program for teens, ANYTOWN, will have scholarships available once again this year.

Camp ANYTOWN builds young leaders who value diversity. The National Conference of Rhode Island and Southeastern New England will be hosting its third annual camp ANYTOWN Rhode Island from June 22 to June 28 of this year. The program is a weeklong residential diversity and leadership training experience for young people in Rhode Island.

In this society where we are more likely to experience segregation than diversity, prejudice than understanding, and bias than open-mindedness, ANYTOWN creates a place where our future leaders can develop an appreciation for diversity to carry with them throughout their lives.

Young people learn the challenges and rewards of building community among people of different backgrounds and experiences. Participants also develop the skills necessary to interrupt prejudice in their schools and communities. ANYTOWNers become leaders in service to the mission of The National Conference: to fight bias, bigotry, and racism through advocacy, conflict resolution, and education.

Participants are young people from all over Rhode Island entering their sophomore, junior, or senior year of high school or community-based learning program. Delegates and staff spend the week living together in a camp/conference setting away from the pace of daily life.

This year ANYTOWN will be held at Camp Aldersgate in North Scituate. The week is

spent in workshops, discussion groups, and cultural sharing events such as talent night and culture night. Delegates also get time to enjoy the camp settings and build personal connections with other delegates and staff members.

Participant Becky Zisserson said of her experience at ANYTOWN: "The whole point of ANYTOWN is to teach us how to be a community; all of us no matter how different we are. We are supposed to take what we learn home and not stop learning there."

The weeklong residential program is presently accepting applications from teen-agers and nominations from high school personnel. Applicants should have an interest in working on issues of racism, bias and prejudice in a diverse community and be entering 10th, 11th or 12th grade in September of 1997.

Supporting scholarships for 1997 are: the Charlotte I. Penn Scholarship Fund, The Touro Fraternal Association Scholarship Fund (which supports five ANYTOWN delegates), and the Sheila Duffy Fund. For applications and information, call the National Conference at 351-5120.

Free Screenings for Colorectal Cancer

This year more than 150,000 Americans will learn they have colorectal cancer and about 60,000 of them will die from it. However, if it's detected early, cancer of the colon and rectum is one of the most curable types of the disease.

The Lifespan Health Connection is providing free screenings for colorectal cancer during March. Screenings will be held at Rhode Island Hospital on March 22, from 9 a.m. to noon; and March 29 from 9 a.m. to noon.

Men and women over age 40 who have not been screened in the past year are encouraged to attend. All attendees receive free health and nutrition information.

Screenings are by appointment only, so register now. Call the Health Connection at 444-4800 or toll-free (800) 927-1230. Transportation is free for anyone enrolled in RIte Care. Call the Health Connection for an application.

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THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

Rhode Islanders Rally To Protect New American Community

by Emily Torgan

Jewish Community Reporter

"Isaak Goman, my father-in-law, is 76 years old, and he has failed the citizenship exam twice," said New American Alla Goman on March 11 as she described the effects of the Welfare Reform Act. "He's depressed, his blood pressure is way up, and he cannot sleep. I do not know what to do."

The Welfare Reform Act has much of America's immigrant population as frightened as the Gomans, said Norman Tilles, president of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, on March 14.

Signed on Aug. 22, the Welfare Reform Act gave the citizenship exam a new urgency, for it dictated drastic cutbacks for America's legal immigrants.

Supplemental Security Income, the federal welfare program that provides cash assistance to elderly and disabled residents who often use the funds for health care, will end as of August.

Only refugees and asylees will be eligible for these funds, and then only for their first five years in the country.

Many New Americans, who are considered refugees, have

Rhode Island will lose \$22 million per year in federal funds.

In Rhode Island, about 3,750 legal immigrants, most of whom are elderly, will lose their SSI benefits. Approximately 8,000 more will lose their food stamps.

Tilles termed the Welfare Reform Act a "sad commentary" on American society.

"It's terrible that our legislators and our people can allow this kind of thing to happen," Tilles said. "The welfare savings will be about \$60 billion per year, and more than half of that will be on the backs of refugees. This group is being penal-

'Pobre Mariposa' Portrays Jewish Life In Argentina

by Emily Torgan

Jewish Community Reporter

Latin American and Ashkenazi Jewish cultures mingled on a movie screen at the Brown University / Rhode Island School of Design Hillel on March 14.

Before showing "Pobre Mariposa," or "Poor Butterfly," to students and community members, Brown University Professor Nelson Viera explained the tumultuous historical background where the "butterfly" confronts her Jewish roots.

Released in 1987, the film reveals facets of post-World War II Argentinian life that had previously been suppressed by censorship.

"'Pobre Mariposa' takes place between Oct. 10 and Oct. 17," Viera said. "These dates not only hail the end of the war, but also the time when Juan Peron is released from jail because of a rallying proletariat. The country's fascist leanings show, and so do the Nazi war criminals it takes in."

Against this background of political turmoil, protagonist Clara Somoloff Merino is shocked into exploring the Jewish background she received from her father.

At the beginning, Merino is a lovely Latina radio hostess who has the right position, the right Catholic husband and the right wardrobe.

But she is told that her clothes are shockingly wrong when she attends the Jewish memorial service held for her father.

"You have to cover your head here," said a relative to the bewildered Merino, who did not understand Yiddish and could not say Kaddish.

Although she did not often see her father, from whom she was separated after the death of her mother, something about the accounts of his sudden death from a heart attack seem amiss.

As the deliberately mysterious story unfolds, the viewer learns that her father was a journalist who covered Argentina's policy towards Nazi war criminals.

In a country where Argentinian Fascists sing under Nazi flags while socialists and communists demonstrate in the

streets, Merino ponders what it means to be Jewish.

"These people asked themselves that question, but it didn't matter," her Jewish cousin tells her, showing her clips of Jews in Nazi concentration camps, focusing on a Nazi officer. "These people thought they knew the answer."

As Merino comes closer and closer to the truth, she sheds more and more of her protective cocoon.

As she struggles to understand her father's death, the viewer sees more and more political conflict.

Silent scenes of menacing men in suits getting off of submarines and boats and quietly greeting those sent to meet them in German are spliced throughout the film.

Finally, one of these men cocks a gun.

Shortly thereafter, Merino receives a letter from her father that lists the arrival times and names of Nazi war criminals.

"Eichmann, Mengele, Bormann," she reads in her well-appointed parlor before tucking the letter onto her person and heading to the radio station. "He must have known something was going to happen to him."

But by then, Merino's "butterfly wings" have come too close to the light.

Through a radio announcement, the viewer learns that Merino was shot on her way to work.

In his course "Profits in the Tropics: Latin American Jewish Writing," Viera and his students explore the concepts of identity, governmental responsibility and much more.

The class is being jointly offered by the Judaic studies and Portuguese and Brazilian studies departments for the second time.

About 28 students from different departments are in the class, which uses works in English.

Viera, who is president of the Latin American Jewish Studies Association, wanted to expose students to some of the cultural contributions Latin America's

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HIAS PRESIDENT Norman Tilles.

Herald photo by Emily Torgan

As president of a 50,000-member international Jewish organization with a 116-year history of assisting immigrants, Tilles and other advocates are deeply concerned about the reforms.

"I'm very worried," said Tilles, a Pawtucket resident. "I went to a conference where the fear was palpable. People kept asking about their elderly parents and relatives who will not be able to pass the citizenship test."

already exceeded that limit.

The Welfare Reform Act also slashed the food stamps and health care that many legal immigrants depend on.

"I'm worried, not only from the viewpoint of individual refugees and immigrants, but as a member of the Jewish community," Tilles said. "This could be a tremendous drain on the Jewish community's assets."

On March 4, Representative Patrick Kennedy estimated that

ized because they do not vote."

Tilles said he was frightened about what could happen.

"States like California, where immigrants make up about 40 percent of the population, will be in tremendous trouble," Tilles said. "I wonder if some of these people will be abandoned."

Still, Tilles maintains that HIAS and other organizations will step up their efforts.

(Continued on Page 15)

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EDITORIAL

Slaughter of the Innocents

by Sara Wise
Herald Editor

The tragic and senseless slaying of seven Israeli schoolgirls last week in Jordan lays bare the fragile nature of a peace process founded on mistrust and based on the frequent intervention of outside powers.

Once again, the bitter irony stings deep. The symbolism of the tragedy occurring at the "Island of Peace," the shared patch of land where the shootings took place, brings to mind the blood-stained lyrics to the "Song of Peace" found in Rabin's shirt pocket.

Why does it take a tragedy to get Arab and Israeli leaders to talk to one another? Shortly after the shooting, Arafat called Netanyahu. King Hussein visited Israel to offer condolences

to the families of the victims.

However, the week before the shooting was one of bitter rebukes, unreturned phone calls, and U.N. resolutions criticizing Israel. The squabbling between Arab and Israeli leaders in the days preceding the tragedy seems childish and irresponsible in light of the shooting.

Nevertheless, they're back at it again, each doing their part to erode the fragile peace process. The building in Har Homa will continue as scheduled, despite grave concern over the potential negative effect on the peace process. The *New York Times* this week warned of a "looming confrontation," in the region if the groundbreaking proceeds amid the current tensions.

It is clear that both sides must temper their words to prevent

further acts of violence. While they are not officially responsible, they must take action to decisively alter the climate that breeds such violence.

Time and time again we hear movements distance themselves from the "isolated acts of a deranged individual," as if the acts of individuals are not somehow connected to a larger process. In the United States, the anti-abortion movement claims no responsibility for inciting the murderous extremists among them; in Israel, the government distances itself from the actions of crazed individuals, as in the Hebron shootings last January. The impact of political rhetoric on those whose electorate includes only themselves teaches us how careful politicians and advocates must be with their words.

How many more innocent lives must be lost in the search for peace? In last week's *Herald*, I joyfully reported about a group of Providence students touring Israel just last month. Looking back at that issue, I realize how easily those seven girls could have been our children. As children of Israel, they were our children.

Hear The Call...

by Sharon L. Wechter

Vayikra el Moshe vayedaber Adonai elav, "G-d called to Moses and spoke to him:" (Lev. 1:1) Why does G-d call Moses before speaking to him?

According to Rashi, all oral communications from G-d to Moses, whether they are introduced by the words *daber, amar, ortzav, "speak, say, command,"* were preceded by a call to prepare him for the forthcoming message. Why would Moses need such preparation?

Rabbi Abraham Twersky answers by focusing on the internal changes that Moses faced in order to meet each of G-d's new tasks and challenges. He draws a correlation to the lobster — growing until it becomes too tight, it goes down to the bottom of the ocean and discards its shell to grow a new, larger one. So, too, Moses needed to journey deep within and discard old, dysfunctional behavior to be able to grow and stretch to meet the new orders. Internal change does not come easily to us human beings; even Moses required preparation to focus his attention.

Midrash Hagadol also addresses the parashah's opening words: "The summoning pre-

cedes the speaking. Here the Torah teaches us *derech erez* (i.e., courtesy, good manners). One should not speak to another person unless that person has been called." When we are called by another — face it, even our children must call us in order to grab our attention — what type of response do we bring to the calling? ("Mommy?" "Yes? What is it?" "Mommy, will you help me?") To bring focused attention to those who call in need requires us to bring ourselves into relationship with others. And relationships require us to retract attention from ourselves to make room for the other/Other.

Will we listen and attend to those who call us so that what we give and offer can be from our innermost selves, not merely rote actions and behaviors? Will we truly hear and then respond through two-way dialogue, allowing the arrows of connection to fly to both directions? Will we be listening for G-d's voice, ready to stretch ourselves to meet G-d and bring the Holy One into the world through our minds, hearts, souls, and actions?

Sharon L. Wechter, RJE, is the trade acquisitions editor for the *UAHC Press*, and associate chaplain at *Williams College*.

Do You Know The Meaning of The Four Special Sabbaths Before Passover?

1. Shabbat Shekalim (March 8) — During Temple times, the call for the payment of the poll tax of half a shekel for every adult Jew was announced on the first day of the Hebrew month Adar. As a reminder of this duty, the passage from the Torah about the half-shekel is read on the Sabbath preceding the beginning of the month Adar (this being a leap year, Adar II).
2. Shabbat Zachor (March 22) — Derives its name from the special portion of the Torah read that day which begins with the word, zachor ("remember Amalek"). Haman was an Amalekite.
3. Shabbat Parah (March 29) — Preceding the Passover, proper steps to become ritually clean had to be taken as preparation for the eating of the paschal lamb. Hence, the law concerning the ashes of the red heifer, parah adumah, was read.
4. Shabbat Hahodesh (April 5) — Derives its name from the special "portion about the month" referring to the special consecration of the Hebrew month Nisan, in which Passover falls.

The Purim Message

The story of Purim is recorded in the Megillah (Book of Esther). Although the Megillah takes us back more than 23 centuries, its lesson is relevant to all times.

Haman argued that "there is one people, dispersed and divided among the nations... and their laws are different from those of any other people." Haman claimed that Jewish separatism and refusal to assimilate with the prevalent culture was not good for the state, nor for them. However, the truth, as it turned out, was exactly the opposite. The

deliverance of the Jews came, not through altering the character and essence of the Jewish people, but, on the contrary, through strengthening Jewish unity and identity and intensifying the individuality of the "one people" with "their laws which are different." This not only saved the Jewish people from their enemies, but it also ultimately brought new prosperity to all states in the empire of King Achashverosh, when he entrusted the affairs of state to Mordechai "The Jew" who "did not bend his knee nor bow down."

The lesson for us is clear. Jews are dispersed and scattered among the nations of the world. We do not secure our own position and benefit the society in which we live, by doing away with Jewish identity and Torah observance, by imitating our neighbors. The preservation of Jewish identity and distinctiveness is through closer adherence to our particular laws and the values of our sacred Torah. This is the only way to ensure our continued existence, and to gain the confidence and respect of the nations of the world.

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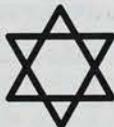
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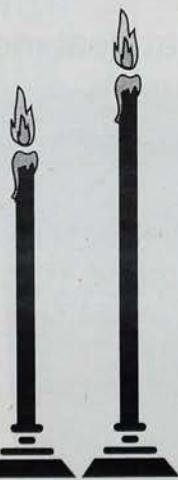
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Candlelighting
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Giving Quality Over Quantity

The Book of Vayikra deals primarily with the korbanot (sacrifices) that were brought in the Sanctuary and the holy Temple. These sacrifices were among the most important features of the Temple service.

The first sacrifice to be offered each morning was the korban tamid (perpetual offering). The daily service concluded with another one that was offered at dusk.

The korban tamid teaches us the proper order of service — perpetual service — that is required of every Jew. G-d does not demand that we sacrifice everything we possess, that we bring all our belongings to the Temple in Jerusalem. In fact, the perpetual offering consisted of one lamb, a small amount of oil and wine, and a little flour and salt. Thus, it was composed of all levels of creation: a lamb, representing the animal kingdom; wine, flour and oil from the vegetative kingdom; and salt, which is inanimate.

The korban tamid was brought on behalf of the entire Jewish people, but each Jew was not required to bring his own individual offering. Rather, the sacrifices were purchased with

it was sufficient to merit G-d's blessings.

Despite its name, the perpetual offering was made only twice a day, at specific times. When a Jew starts his day with a "korban," from the Hebrew word meaning "to draw near," its effect carries over throughout the day. It becomes a "perpetual offering," and is not limited to a specific time.

When a Jew wakes up in the morning, his very first action is to say "Modeh Ani," the equivalent of the perpetual offering. He addresses G-d as "the living and enduring King," declaring his subservience and willingness to serve Him. Beginning the day in this manner ensures that his conduct will have the same effect as the korban tamid, and the entire day will be infused with a longing to draw ever closer to G-d.

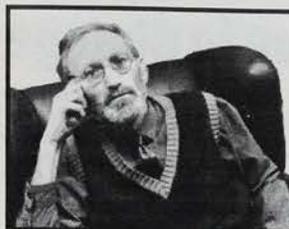
Adapted for *Maayan Chai* from Likutei Sichot, Vol. 3. Submitted by Rabbi Yehoshua Laufer of Chabad House.



a special fund to which all Jews contributed. By donating a tiny sum of money, every Jew was able to participate in the twice-daily service.

G-d does not want us to give Him everything and leave nothing for ourselves; quality is much more important than quantity. The question is not how much we have given or invested of our efforts, but how we have done so. G-d requires that we give Him only a small amount, but He wants us to do so willingly, with joy and with enthusiasm. The actual contribution each individual Jew made to the perpetual offering was almost insignificant, but if it was given with a whole heart,

FEATURE



The Might of Prayer

by Mike Fink
Herald Contributing Reporter

by Mike Fink
Herald Contributing Reporter

Reb Yosef Gottlieb, once of Chabad House on Hope Street, known to some among us as the youthful observant presence on Thayer Street bringing students back to Jewish practice, came to revisit town from a sojourn in California and Brooklyn, and set up a rendezvous with me in La France.

He let me buy him a paper cup of black coffee. He gave me two presents. He rolled out a Chassidic picture poster. And he autographed a signed copy of the new collection of Rabbi Schneerson essays gathered by Simon Jacobson. Then, he made me put on the tephillin he blessed, in the window of the cafe.

A couple of my street buddies stopped by the table. One friend was a Cambodian refugee, who had taken me to his Buddhist temple on Hanover Street. They seemed touched and impressed by the ritual of binding my arm and placing a box of blessings on my forehead.

They listened to Reb Gottlieb's accounts of Rabbi Schneerson's commentaries. "Each night your sleep carries you from one daily lifetime to another. You wake up to live again."

I took my book of sermons home and read it carefully cover to cover: It is a handsome volume. The words of the great rabbi do not condescend to the level of "accessibility," a concept I abhor. This is not a how-to book of spiritual instructions. It holds some Cabalistic mysticism and some pure poetry, not mere prosaic ethics, but the madness of beauty, the homely haunting of holiness.

For the followers of the Crown Heights messiah, the age of redemption lies before us in our own lifetimes. You reach the mountain top by living for others, for the light, instead of crouching in the darkness of empty and lonely materialism.

Over that weekend, we took part in a block potluck. I asked a party question, "What is intelli-

gence? Whom do you admire?" Frankly, the answers let me down. I heard the usual suspects, the president, Bill Clinton, and the computer capitalist, Bill Gates. People whose power lies in offices of grandeur. When I was in school, I listed Eleanor Roosevelt, Helen Keller, Gandhi and Schweitzer as my heroic figures. By now, they have been debunked. The doctor was just a sentimental colonialist. The first lady was guilty of being unglamorous. Helen Keller and Gandhi have been taken over by people of the theater and screen, who have cheapened and simplified their achievements. And it's true that the Mahatma said inadequate things about the Jews of Europe. But I didn't know that. And I liked Gandhi for his contempt for technology, his respect for craft. I looked up to Keller for making America seem like a land of kindness. I chose Eleanor because she was deaf and plain, and yet very real. Surface glamour and glitter bore me completely.

The concept of intelligence carries a moral weight, for me. It is a light shining from within, something you trust and believe, not a tool for conquest.

The gift of Rabbi Schneerson lay in his genius for staying home. People came to him for his magic words. He turned every Jewish ritual into a gesture of sheer sacredness. When we look with pride on the giants of our culture, we may miss out on glancing not only at the goliaths of strength, but toward the might of prayer and the enduring influence of good will.

Gloria and the Glory

She wowed 'em among the patrician panels of the John Carter Brown Library. She held the Emanu-El breakfast crowd in thrall. Gloria Mound, a radiant name for a charismatic speaker from England and Israel: she spoke about her travels and research among the Spanish Balearic islands in quest of the Marranic story.

"We retired from a grocery business, my Sephardic husband and I, and spent three years in Ibiza, learning and teaching." Mound told of adventures in secret synagogues, in the stacks of Catholic libraries, gathering the pages of a broken megilla, listening to the tales of Jewish priests and of teen-age boys who recover their long-lost Judaism in defiance of the taunts of their classmates. "At the start of the '67 six-day war in Israel, neighbors would gloat at the prospect of a defeat for all Jews. When it turned out the other way, they would threaten to get the Hebrews next time. But some of the islanders hold fast to their hidden faith."

Gloria Mound came to Providence among other stops on her lecture visit. She stayed at the home of Peter and Judith Wegner. Judith, whose English family traces their roots through Holland to Sephardic Portuguese origins, asked me to tea after the Emanu-El lecture and slide show. Gloria said that she plans a seder for the secret Jews of Ibiza and hopes to film the event. "English people are polite, but they conceal their anti-Semitic traditions only to fall back upon them in due time. We moved to Israel. Our children and grandchildren are Israelis now. The king of Spain came twice to Israel, and Prince Philip was a great success on his recent tour. The Foreign Office keeps the queen away, but the better off Israel is, the more the Marranos want to come and take part. A million Jews live in seclusion in northern India, Tibet, and China. There is a group of Jews in Mali. We took part in a

conference in the Portuguese island twins, Principe and São Tome. A black child said her father lit the sabbath candles because the mother was not Jewish. There are Marranos everywhere. The museum of the Diaspora, Beth Hatefusoth, collects photos, but doesn't adequately categorize them or follow through with stories." Mound has built a new life of gathering returning Jews, their stories, helping and encouraging them.

The Mounds have set up an institute for Marrano studies, called Casa Shalom, in Gan Yavneh, with help from a three-year Schalit grant. Gloria was accorded the Honour of Honorary Research Fellow by the University of Glasgow, and has extended the area of her work to include Caribbean, South American and African communities. "There were even secret Jews among the pirates, and friends of Jews among the Balearic buccaneers." A small gathering of scholars meets at such conventions, and Gloria Mound leads the way, a grandmother who at an age of retirement has taken on a whole new career in the great wide world.

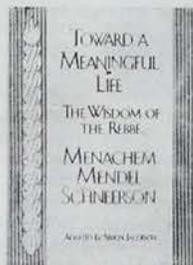
Wherever you may have traveled, and for whatever reason, there are your co-religionists, who may or may not make themselves known to you. Younger people come out, while often their elders maintain the elegant privacy of their separate style. Mound has the tact and feeling to know when to pursue a question and when to only stand and wait.

"Until recently, Israeli education tended to emphasize political history, at the expense of older chapters of our chronicle. And travelers seek pleasure, not the effort of study. But it's changing, and we hope to find, and be able to fund, young leadership to continue our pioneering efforts."

A lively, cheerful, and eloquent speaker and presence, Gloria Mound brought some class and some courage to town. One and all look forward to her return among us.



A Secret Marranic Logo?



French Museums Exhibit Artwork Stolen in WWII

by Lee Yanowitch

PARIS (JTA) — Four French museums have announced special exhibits for next month of some 900 works of art that the Nazis took from France during World War II.

Some of the works might have been looted from Jews, and organizers of the exhibits said they hoped that such pieces would be claimed by their rightful owners.

The exhibits — which include works by Picasso, Cezanne and Matisse — will open April 9 at the Louvre, the Musée d'Orsay, the Pompidou Centre and the Musée National de la Céramique.

The event comes in the wake of a report by France's state spending watchdog accusing the national museum network

of having made little or no effort to return some 1,995 works of art that were entrusted to them shortly after the end of the war.

The museums were required by law to try to locate the owners or heirs of the art.

In addition, the French government recently announced that it would conduct a probe into Jewish property seized during World War II.

Jewish leaders welcomed the decision to hold the exhibits.

"The fact that the state museums are exhibiting these paintings, whose origins remain unknown, and even shady, can be considered as a necessary step forward," said Marcel Goldstein, vice president of CRIF, France's umbrella group of secu-

lar Jewish organizations.

French Jewish leaders had been astonished at recent revelations that French national museums had failed to seek the rightful owners of the precious works.

The 900 works will be displayed with a record of historical background that might help in locating their rightful owners.

Some of the works are believed to have been seized from Jews who were deported to concentration camps or fleeing persecution. Others might have been sold to German officers by art dealers who collaborated with the wartime regime.

"This is rather interesting, I just hope the lost works get back in the right hands," said a local Rhode Island survivor.

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THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

Walk for MAZON in RAMble '97

On April 20, URI Hillel will present RAMble '97, a 3-mile pledge walk around the University of Rhode Island's Kingston campus.

The fund-raiser will bring students throughout the URI and Rhode Island communities together in a walkathon to benefit the United Jewish Appeal and MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger. Registration is at noon at URI Hillel, 34 Lower College Road. The walk will begin at 1 p.m. at Hillel. With your registration fee of \$2, you will receive a RAMble '97 T-shirt.

"The walk benefits UJA and MAZON. These are two philanthropies that reach so many people with their work," said Karen Suss, student co-coordinator of RAMble '97.

UJA is a non-profit, non-political organization. UJA's university programs serve to strengthen the American Jewish student relationship with UJA, Israel and World Jewry through education, leadership development, Israel experiences and campus campaigns.

MAZON was founded in 1986 as a vehicle through which American Jews can respond to the tragedy of hunger in the United States and abroad. MAZON (the Hebrew word for food) provides grants to a broad spectrum of non-profit organizations working to ease the suffering of hungry people worldwide. It is also the national philanthropy

of Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity, co-sponsor of the event. Locally, the Rhode Island Community Food Bank in West Warwick and Amos House in Providence are MAZON grantees.

"Merchants in this community have contributed so much to making RAMble successful. We will be having refreshments on the Quad after the walk and it will all be donated by local merchants. It is nice to know the community wants to help," said Amy Lefkowitz, student co-coordinator of RAMble '97 and URI Hillel's student board president.

"This event will bring the community together while participating in a philanthropic event. Bring your friends, roommates, housemates, office co-workers, and family members. You can walk alone or as a team," said Elana Helfenbaum, student co-coordinator of RAMble '97.

"RAMble '97 is an excellent opportunity for students and community members to engage in a community service event that will have local and national effects," said Ailene Gerhardt, staff coordinator of RAMble '97 and URI Hillel's Jewish Campus Service Corps Fellow. "One of Judaism's ideals is Tikkun Olam (making the world a better place) and this is a great chance to make your contribution."

For information or to register for RAMble '97, call the RAMble '97 hotline at 874-2274.

Dance Ensemble Benefits R.I. Holocaust Museum

The New York-based Avodah Dance Ensemble will perform at the Odeum Theatre in East Greenwich on April 6 at 8 p.m. in a benefit for the Rhode Island Holocaust Memorial Museum. The group will perform its dance interpretations of Holocaust-related themes.

Avodah, a professional modern dance company, performs often in memorial programs and concerts. The group's repertoire includes "I Never Saw Another Butterfly" — a setting of poems by children and young adults from the concentration camp at

Terezin; "Shema," inspired by the writings of Primo Levi; and "Kaddish." Lecture demonstrations and educational workshops for junior and senior high school students are a regular part of Avodah's educational activities.

Patrons will receive two tickets for \$100 and their names will be listed in the program. General admission tickets are \$18 each.

For reservations and information, contact Beth Cohen, director of education at the museum, 453-7860.

Jewish Lifecycles Continue to Change

by Tara V. Lisciandro
Herald Editor

Dr. Rela Geffen presented a three-day discussion entitled "the Jewish Family" at Temple Torat Yisrael in Cranston on March 14 to 16. Other than the Jewish family, Geffen also discussed the new challenges facing the Jewish community today. Her book, *Celebration and Renewal: Rites of Passage in Judaism* was incorporated as well.

Geffen is a renowned scholar and noted sociologist. She currently resides in Philadelphia and works at Gratz College as coordinator of Jewish communal studies.

The lifecycles of the American Jewish community are what Geffen emphasizes throughout her study and research. "Patterns are always changing," said Geffen. For example, "At one time the senior community never moved, now they do." This causes tradition to change. However, "There are more traditional-looking Jewish households in New England than in the rest of the U.S." added Geffen.

While discussing lifecycles, Geffen highlighted a certain group in the community who face great challenges in our changing world. "High school, college and graduate students have camps, trips to Israel and they're actually the best educated generation of Jews we've

ever had. But now those ranging from 24 to 35 are challenged; they're missing from synagogues and from Jewish community activities," said Geffen. After college and graduate school, then what?

"Now they're in the world of work. You can't date someone from the same firm because it can cause problems later on. You can't date someone from the firm next door because it is considered industrial espionage," stated Geffen. New jobs often call for relocating and meeting new people which can become very difficult.

"Jewish social circles are so important. It's not just singles groups but it's also groups working for certain issues that are important too," added Geffen.

Temple Emanu-El of Providence is one place that has recognized the troubled young adult group. They are starting to make plans for young Jewish adults of the community. "They're very aware," said Geffen.

Synagogues act as a natural base for the Jewish community. They are full of activities, services and guidance, "... but they have been the slowest to change the definition of who are members and what is the traditional family today," stated Geffen. The family carries powerful lifestyle rituals within them.

They are aware of their individual children's needs. But synagogues and the Jewish community must begin to recognize the needs of young Jewish adults as well.

Geffen thought of a creative solution for excluded young adults. "The most powerful thing that some of the social circles, ages 24 to 35, could do is put people together for Shabbat dinner in homes. A lot can grow from just that." Geffen sees this as "creating extended family groups that aren't based on blood."

A variety of schools and employment opportunities tend to attract many people to the New England area. In fact, Geffen commented that "there are a lot of people who are not near their families in New England."

But the importance of tradition and identification in the Jewish world is part of every American Jewish community. Shabbat, like all services, plays a major role in every Jewish household. Geffen concluded her discussion of lifecycles and the Jewish family by stating, "The calendar and the lifecycle are the two great cycles of Jewish life. The lifecycle goes across your whole life and the calendar is repeated every year. It should be that the strongest piece of the calendar is Shabbat which shapes the rhythm of your life."

The Cool Jewish Internet

What do Satmar Hasidim, Jewish jugglers, Hillel college organizations and a Bir Zeit University diarist have in common? They all have award-winning cool Jewish sites on the World Wide Web. Each week the Jewish Communications Network (<http://www.jcn18.com>) selects one Internet location for the Cool Jewish Site award.

Tzvee Zahavy, editor-in-chief of JCN, explained that

his staff surfs the Internet constantly in search of cool Jewish Websites. "We look for something unique to the Internet, something oxymoronic, ironic or cutting-edge in design that would never be published in any other medium," Zahavy said. "Who would think that ultra-conservative Satmar Hasidim would have a jazzy World Wide Web page? Who would expect a site extolling the virtues of Jewish juggling?" he wondered.

JCN debated for a while before designating a diary-site at a

Palestinian university for the award. "The design and content were definitely cool. What swayed us was the tone and approach. The author showed us that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict might be mitigated by communication through the Web," Zahavy elucidated.

Zahavy suggested that Web authors who think they might have a cool Jewish site should definitely contact JCN by email at feedback@jcn18.com. Surfers looking for cool and Jewish sites should visit JCN at <http://www.jcn18.com/coolsite/>

JFS Seeks Family of the Year Nominations

In keeping with its commitment to honor families, Jewish Family Service is inviting nominations for the 1997 Family of the Year Award. For the third year in a row, members of the community are being asked to

nominate families who exemplify the best in family life.

What strengths and values do we admire in family life? Is there a family who typifies these values? What are the everyday qualities that we take for

granted, yet provide the basis for a strong family unit? Jewish Family Service requests that you give some thought to these questions in making a nomination.

The rules for eligibility are simple:

1. A family is defined as more than one person.
2. At least one member of the family must be Jewish.
3. There can be only one nomination submitted per individual.
4. Relatives of the staff of Jewish Family Service are not eligible.
5. Relatives of the Family of the Year Committee are not eligible.

The deadline for entries is midnight May 30. Awards will be announced at the Jewish Family Service annual meeting in October. Entries must be mailed or brought to Jewish Family Service at 229 Waterman St., Providence, RI 02906. For more information, call JFS at 331-1244.

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JEWISH COMMUNITY

Guy Bermel Progresses With URI Hillel

by Tara V. Liscandro
Herald Editor

Three years ago, Guy Bermel began his directorship at Hillel on the Kingston campus of the University of Rhode Island. "There's an interesting campus and community here," he commented.

Certainly, coming from New South Wales, Australia, Bermel finds a lot of new and intriguing elements in his community. Previously Bermel served as assistant director at his local Hillel in Australia.

Since the new director has arrived there have been several new additions to Hillel. "We've added an Introduction to Jewish Studies class as well as four Hebrew courses," said Bermel.

However, there are still challenges to be confronted at Hillel. "There is no kosher food meal program at URI. This, and a lack of a solid Jewish studies major, tends to put URI at the

bottom of many Jewish students' college pick-list," said Bermel. We do have kosher facilities here at Hillel and students are more than welcome to use them, and all of our events are always kosher," added Bermel.

The URI Hillel aims at a wide



Guy Bermel
URI Hillel Director

audience, from students to staff to local members of the neighboring Jewish community. With the help of the Jewish Community Council of South County, Bermel has been able to introduce a Jewish arts program. There have been classical music events, distinguished speakers and various pieces of art by Jewish authors introduced throughout the university. Students and many local community members have attended the events and future plans for the arts program are being made.

The Hillel staff is hard-working, bright and supportive. They are constantly developing new and exciting programs and activities for their community. Together, the Hillel staff and Bermel are making great progress.

"We're realistic about what we want to achieve and our progress is realistic too," stated Bermel.

Purim Workshop Links Families

On March 9 families at Temple Shalom in Middletown were joined by families from Temple Emanu-El in Providence for a family Purim and grogger-making workshop. This event was part of a series of shared community events planned by the institutions participating in the Geshes v' Keshes family education project. Geshes v' Keshes, who's name means "A Bridge and a Link" is a cooperative program among the Alperin Schechter Day School, Temple Shalom, Temple Emanu-El and Temple Torat Yisrael.

One of the goals of Geshes v' Keshes is to encourage members of the community to come together to learn, socialize and celebrate. In working towards this objective, families from the different institutions are invited to participate in one another's events. Temple Shalom continued this process by inviting families from Temple Emanu-

El and ASDS join them at their family Purim workshop.

The workshop began with a short lesson by Miriam Hyman, the Geshes v' Keshes family educator, about the mitzvot (commandments) associated with Purim. Participants then dramatized the Purim mitzvot using a variety of unrelated props. "The dramatics were a lot of fun, and they showed that families really internalized the meaning of the Purim mitzvot," Hyman said.

Families went on to decorate, and fill mishloach manot boxes to be delivered to their friends on Purim. Parents then helped their children put together and decorate their own wooden groggers.

There was a real sense of community teamwork as parents, teachers and children helped one another complete their tasks and prepare for Purim. "The event was a huge success. Kids and adults alike loved it, and the families who came from Temple

Emanu-El really enjoyed themselves," said Barbara Jagoliner, a teacher at Temple Shalom's religious school. "The skits and the hands-on projects really made Purim come alive for the children," said Susan Reidy, a member of Temple Shalom was there with her two children.

New BBYO Chapter Meets

The first meeting of the Taunton chapter of the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization will be on March 30 at the community house in Taunton. Dinner will be served at 5 p.m., followed by make your own sundaes.

Members of the New England region will conduct the meeting. The history of BBYO will be told. Ice breakers and songs will be taught to the new members.

The B'nai B'rith Youth Organization gives teens the opportunity to meet other Jewish youth throughout the New England area. Come meet friends from summer camp and make new ones. Membership is open to all Jewish youth between the ages of 13 to 18. A special membership fee of \$35 includes membership for the rest of this year and all of next year.

For more information, call David Hochman, R.I. coordinator, at 467-2296.

Weekend in the Windy City

Singles from everywhere are coming. Adult Jewish singles, ages 21 and up, are invited to attend a whirlwind weekend in the Windy City from April 11 to 13. Chicago is the site for the national gathering for Jewish singles to be based at the Hyatt Regency Chicago on the Riverwalk.

The weekend is packed with events, from an interactive murder mystery on Friday to a Lake Michigan dinner and dancing cruise on Saturday evening.

The Sabbath will be observed with services. Jeff Zaslow, the advice columnist who replaced Ann Landers, will present "Matchmaking, Risk Taking, Personal Ad Faking and a Thousand Other Tips for Jewish Singles: A Fun and Interactive Approach to the '90s."

On Saturday, participants will see many of Chicago's greatest attractions, including the Art Institute, the Shedd Aquarium, the Museum of Science and Indus-

try, the Field Museum of Natural History, and of course, the fabulous shopping along the Magnificent Mile. The weekend will conclude with a program and brunch on Sunday morning.

For more information, call Marsha Landau at the Indianapolis JCC, (317) 251-9467, ext. 233.

JERI and Nursing Homes: A Sensitive Partnership

When Reuben Salk's son died, the staff at Cedar Crest understood how important it was for him to attend the memorial service and be present at the burial. The owners provided a driver and nurse's aide to take him in the home's van to Haverhill, Mass., for the services and to Portland, Maine, for the burial. The staff even brought in appropriate clothing for him to wear, as he did not have funeral attire in this closet. Tina Fain of Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island says, "It was so important to him to be able to be there. Cedar Crest was just wonderful to him."

The presence of the JERI program has given Cedar Crest's staff and residents an opportunity for a better understanding of Jewish culture and tradition. JERI staffers Tina Fain and Ronni Guttin visit frequently, conduct Jewish programming and religious services. On a recent visit with Tina Fain, Salk joked, "She's my rabbi." Volunteers from the JERI program also visit individual residents regularly.

Visits with Salk often center on family. He shares photo albums and talks about his late son, Kenneth H. Salk. Kenneth Salk served as Haverhill, Massachusetts' first Urban Renewal Director, was active in many community organizations and served as a president of

Haverhill's Temple Emanu-El. Pictures of his three granddaughters and two great-grandchildren are prominent in the room.

Salk, who will be 93 in July, sometimes invites Fain and Guttin to join him for the monthly candlelight dinner at Cedar Crest Nursing Centre where he lives. The meal, followed by entertainment, is always based on a theme such as a Hawaiian luau or western barbecue. The Cedar Crest staff confers with Salk to make sure a kosher meal will be available.

Cedar Crest Activities Director Darnelle Moore is enthusiastic about JERI. Although there are only nine Jewish residents at the home, there are 25 residents who regularly attend the JERI programming. "They love the sharing and learning about the Jewish culture," says Moore. She adds, "the JERI staff are so knowledgeable and have the knack of projecting a message the residents can relate to. I've been so impressed with the interaction. Jewish or not, they know the residents by name and make them feel included."

The JERI outreach program is funded by the Jewish Home Corporation and the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island and is administered by Jewish Family Services.



REUBEN SALK with Cedar Crest Activities Director Darnelle Moore.

Photo courtesy of Roberta Segal and Associates

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Blackstone Place, located on the Pawtucket/Providence border, on the corner of Lafayette Street and East Avenue, is bursting with new products, ideas, foods and programs for the entire family. Spring has already sprung at Blackstone Place where there's something for everyone. Here are a few descriptions of some of Blackstone Place's exciting shops:

Ocean State Fitness

Ocean State Fitness is under the new ownership of Al Thurston.

Aerobics, tanning, tai chi and yoga are just a few of the great programs offered to keep everyone in shape and healthy. Ocean State Fitness specializes in service, personal training, nutrition education and fitness evaluation.

Stop in and see just how you can reach your personal fitness goal.



Tilling Books

Tilling Books sells used and collectible books in most subject areas with a growing emphasis on art, classical music and literature. Owner Erika Wallington collects many of her books from estate sales and other dealers. "It's a great place to browse," says Wallington. "We have a comfortable couch in the store."



BLACKSTONE PLACE provides easy access and ample parking for customers.

Herald photo by Emily Torgan

Century 21

Ten years ago Judy Buttermann and Diana Kryston opened the Century 21 real estate office in Blackstone Place. They are particularly concerned with the real estate of the East Side and Pawtucket. Commercial investments, apartment and house rentals and sales of properties and homes are all dealt with at Century 21.

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Ronzio Pizza has a very active Community Involvement Program. The organization makes a conscious effort to give back to the local communities by supporting local and state-wide charitable and youth oriented organizations.

To Do List...

- ✓ Holiday cards from the Little Professor Book Center
- ✓ Bagels from Barney's!
- ✓ Nails and hair at Bellissimo's
- ✓ Aerobics at Ocean State Fitness
- ✓ Carrot juice and healthy snack from the Garden Grill
- ✓ Fresh hamentaschen for Purim party from the Russian Market
- ✓ Check out summer rentals at Century 21
- ✓ Pick up pizzas at Ronzio's for youth group meeting
- ✓ Look for history books at Tilling Books

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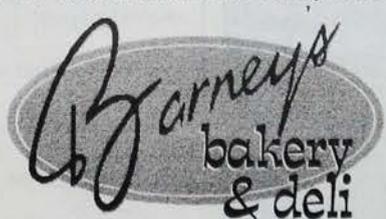
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SCHOOLBEAT

Torat Yisrael Bases Student Program on The Moon

by Tara V. Liscandro
Herald Editor

Adar, the Hebrew month of March, commenced at Temple Torat Yisrael in Cranston with an anxious group of third to seventh-graders, all eager to learn and participate.

Lonna Picker, director of education, made eager learning simple by designing a lively, hands-on program of fun-filled and educational activities for these students.

As Picker explained, "Every year is different, we always have new activities." Looking at the director's library-like office clearly explains her highly organized and very interesting after-school Hebrew program. Her shelves are filled with teaching and informational materials for every child and for every occasion.

Picker is not only busy designing fun-filled programs but is actively involved with her students. "They enjoy our program, they look forward to coming here after school," commented Picker.

Using the Hebrew calendar, which is based on the cycle of the moon, Picker gathered the

students together and explained the meaning of Adar. She also presented the students-of-the-month and awarded bronze medals of excellence to other outstanding students.

Quickly the excited children formed groups and scrambled to various classrooms. Each group has been assigned a particular theme related to Adar and the upcoming Purim and Passover events.

Upon entering the first classroom, the students were hard at work, soaking thin reeds and forming hand-woven baskets, relating to the story of Moses.

"We've also made graggers, cutting boards and birdhouses, all linked to each month and season of the year," said Sara Flicker, a teacher.

The baskets will be used at home for the family seder.

Meanwhile, in a nearby classroom, several students sat quietly listening to their teacher read *A Tree Full of Mitzvahs*. Students participated in the reading as well. "From this book we'll gather ideas for the T-shirts we'll be painting later on," said teacher Barbara Dwares.

The kitchen was full of young chefs learning to make hamantashen dough. Their enthusiastic instructor, Ronnie Gottin, was heard complementing her group, "nice team work," she said as the dough was being rolled, "That looks great."

The dough being made would be divided and brought home by every student in the program, along with a recipe. Families and children could then work together on the finished product.

Right next door, energized athletes-to-be sat and discussed their favorite athletes. Students prepared a set of questions they would like to ask the athletes one day.

"The lesson here is really sportsmanship," said Susan Sugarman the instructor. "They learn the conditions of pressure in sports as well," she added.

A group of tallis makers in another classroom worked steadily with their instructor, sewing, cutting and finishing their prayer shawls. These students were busy creating original prayer shawls, including a tie-dyed pattern in bright fuch-



ANXIOUS HANDS — Temple Torat Yisrael's Aafter School Program creates eagerness amongst students about to play ball.

Herald photo by Tara V. Liscandro

sia and blue and another colorful shawl with a busy Noah's Ark scene. As with other projects, the shawls, too, will be put to use. "I chose to wear my shawl," said Kate Rosenfeld. "These are fun and make long-lasting memories. We can wear them at our bar/bat mitzvahs too!" added Sara Orlech and Leah Cohen, other excited stu-

dents.

The successful program, introducing Adar and commemorating the three days of fasting by Esther and the Jewish people, was a valuable lesson for every student.

"The children have fun and learn a great deal at the same time," said Picker as the busy day came to a close.

ASDS Honors Committed Workers

Three local residents have been cited for their support of the Alperin Schechter Day School.

Honorees include Sally and Fred Rotenberg, who have been school volunteers since 1986, and Samuel Shamoon, who was school president from 1986 to 1989 and is a member of the school's facilities committee.

The school said that Sally Rotenberg is a former school treasurer and vice president and has been involved with the school's Annual Fund Committee. She and her husband have been involved in various community activities.

"These individuals have gone above and beyond the call of duty in their commitments to the Schechter School," Nathan Beraha, school board president, said in a statement. "Their unwavering support as both volunteers and contributors makes it possible for us to provide quality Jewish education for the children of this community."

Students to Benefit From Expanded Scholarship Program

The Reed Scholarship Program created six years ago, will continue and be expanded for high school students throughout the state.

"Providing a decent education for our young people is the most important investment we can make as a nation. That is why I have decided to continue my own investment in Rhode Island's high school students," said Senator Jack Reed in a statement.

Under the original Reed scholarship program, selected Second Congressional District high school seniors received \$1,000 that could be used for college-related costs such as textbooks or other education-related costs. Reed scholars have used their awards to pay for a wide range of education expenses such as college tuition costs, summer art classes at RISD or to help pay for a car that enabled one student to commute to community college. Since its inception, more than 90 Rhode Island students have received over \$100,000 in Reed scholarship funds.

The Reed Scholarship Program will now provide a one-time \$500 scholarship to a high school senior from each of Rhode Island's 39 cities and towns. As before, the Reed Scholarship Program will be administered by the R.I. Higher Education Assistance Authority and the Reed Scholarship Committee.

"By expanding the Reed Scholarship Program he is continuing this long-standing commitment to improving the lives of our children," said William Hurry, executive director of the R.I. Higher Education Assistance Authority.

Reed scholarship recipients are recommended by high school principals and guidance counselors to local school superintendents. The superintendents then nominate potential recipients to the Reed Scholarship Committee. Scholarship recipients are chosen based on their academic records and demonstrated interest in community service. The deadline for recommending a student to the Reed Scholarship Committee is April 1.

For more information contact the RI Higher Education Assistance Authority at 736-1171.

Spend Summer in Israel

It's time to think about summer. Why not plan a study/travel program in Israel? Programs for educators and for high school and college students abound. University, ulpan, kibbutz, teen travel, from two weeks to two months, from one semester to one year, options are available to fit all time frames, intellectual needs, and spiritual inclinations.

Stipends for teachers and grants and scholarships for students may be available from one of the many Jewish Federation of Rhode Island and Bureau of Jewish Education/RI endowment funds designated for Israel study. By the end of this year, these endowment funds will have helped send 1,000 students and adults to Israel.

Those interested should call by April 1. For information, contact Ruth Page, director of Israel Programs at the Bureau of Jewish Education/RI, at 331-0956.

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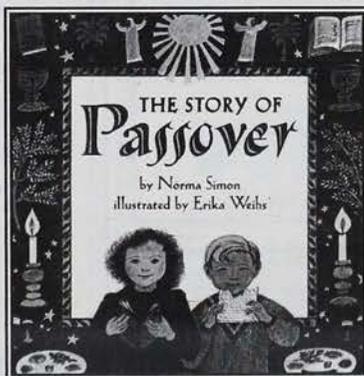
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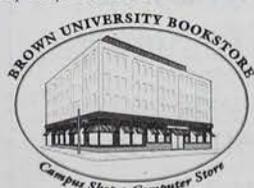
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FEATURE

Local Skater Figures Prominently in Top Ice Circles

by Sara Wise
Herald Editor

Double loop, triple axel, death drop.

Most 13-year-olds don't know the difference between these skating jumps, let alone have the courage or talent to attempt them.

Adam Kaplan, an eighth-grader at Alperin Schecter Day School, not only knows what they mean, but has mastered so many of these figure skating feats that at age 13 he is already one of the best amateur skaters in the state.

Watching Adam gracefully perform on the ice, it's easy to forget that he's not even in high school yet. There is an elegance to his movement that suggests a more mature presence; one that belies the freckled boyish grin that comes over his face when he returns to the rink's edge after a successful practice.

"To see him skate is really amazing," said Ann Gooding of the Warwick Figure Skaters. This kid has real potential."

Adam became interested in skating because his older sister skated. He played hockey for five years before taking up figure skating. "I just really like skating. I like jumping best; double jumps, triple jumps, spinning."

Adam recently competed at the 1997 U.S. Eastern Figure Skating Championships, where he placed eighth and third in the New England Regionals. He is the only amateur skater in

Rhode Island to go beyond the regional competition to sectionals, and the only skater in the area that can consistently land a double axel, a difficult jump requiring two full rotations in the air.

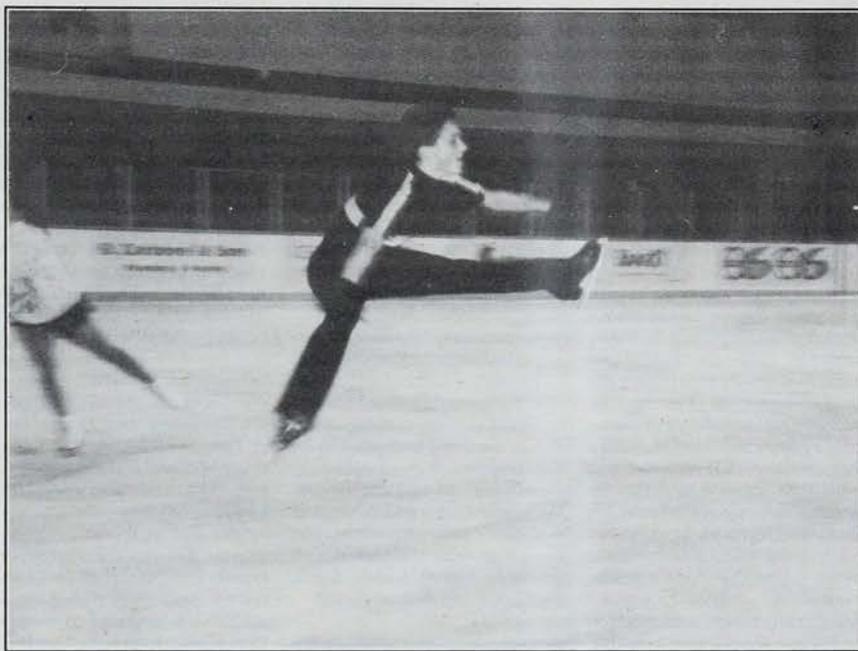
A Hard Day's Work

The world of competitive skating puts a lot of pressure on young skaters. Figure skating is a physically demanding sport that can be filled with frustration. It takes hours of hard work and dedication.

"When you skate that's all you do. There's a lot of pressure but I like it," says Adam. "Sometimes when I'm having a bad day, people might think 'Oh, but he can always do that jump' and I feel bad, but usually it's OK."

Adam currently skates between 13 and 17 hours a week. He often leaves school early and spends long hours in the car shuttling between rinks in Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Connecticut.

Getting ice time is difficult and the fees are high. Adam's father, Providence attorney Dan Kaplan, estimates that he spends between \$30,000 and \$35,000 a year on Adam's skating, between coaching fees, ice time, transportation and competition costs. While the price tag may be quite high, Kaplan sees it as an investment in Adam's future, much like the cost of a college education. "Adam will do this all his life, it will be his career,"



FLYING HIGH — Adam Kaplan leaps during a practice session in Warwick. Herald photo by Sara Wise

said Kaplan. Adam trains with three different coaches. Vladimir Petrenko, brother of champion skater Victor Petrenko, coaches Adam in Simsbury, Conn., once a week and works primarily on his jumps (This means four hours of driving to spend less than three on the ice). His other two coaches, Lisa Coppola and

Melyssa Lentini, focus on different aspects of his skating.

Although skating leaves time for little else, Adam does find time to enjoy himself. The Barrington teen-ager likes rollerblading, biking, listening to music, and talking on the phone with friends. He is also active in United Synagogue Youth, a Jewish youth group that takes part in fund-raisers, trips and social activities.

Adam heads to Virginia next month to compete in the Cherry Blossom, an open competition that draws skaters from all over

the East Coast. Along with other regional competitions, Adam and his coaches have their sights set on the Junior Olympics next year.

After that, who knows? With a little luck and a lot of hard work, we may be rooting for this Rhode Islander at the Olympic Games in 2002.



Jewish Federation Leaders Discuss Human Service Issues

Hundreds of Jewish Federation leaders from across the country will meet with members of Congress and senior administration officials in Washington, D.C., on April 15 and 16 during the Council of Jewish Federations (CJF) Washington Leadership Mission.

Discussion will focus on the impact of immigration, refugee, and health care policies on the Federation system's capacity to serve people in need. This year's mission will build upon the success of last year's first nationwide CJF Washington mission.

Mission Chairman Paul S. Berger stressed the importance of the mission not only for expressing the Federation system's concerns about the imminent impact of the new federal welfare law on legal immigrants and refugees, but also for helping to preserve a public-private partnership between Federations and the federal government. "Federations are part of the partnership between the government and the charitable sector that allows our system to provide essential human services to millions of individuals in need. It is crucial that Federation leaders meet with government officials to ensure the preservation of this partnership," Berger said.

More than 20 Federations, including the UJA-Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York and the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago, are organizing delegations from

their community to the CJF mission. Their common interests and concerns include helping elderly immigrants in our community and ensuring that refugees from the Former Soviet Union are not forgotten.

"Interest in this CJF mission is high because the impressive agenda is coupled with the excitement of meeting with top-level public officials who understand that Federations are part of a vibrant national system," said Martin S. Kraar, executive vice president of CJF.

The mission, which immediately follows the CJF spring quarterly meeting, will open with a plenary featuring syndicated columnist Steve Roberts and will conclude with a briefing at the White House.

CJF is the continental association of 189 Jewish Federations, the central community organizations which serve nearly 800 localities embracing a Jewish population of more than 6.1 million in the United States and Canada.

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BBYO Heads South

B'nai B'rith Youth Organization is coming to the South County area. This is the latest stop on the expansion list which includes Taunton, Eastern, Milford and the Newport area.

Neil Greenfeld, a former member, will assume the job of chapter advisor. BBYO will be conducting a membership drive starting April 7 to the end of the month. Membership is open to all Jewish youths between the ages of 13 to 18, boy and girls.

B'nai B'rith Youth Organization is the oldest Jewish youth group in the world, with more than 30,000 members. BBYO gives its members the chance to meet other Jewish youths throughout the New England area.

For BBYO additional information, call the regional office at (617) 969-8455 or David Hochman at 467-2296, R.I. coordinator.

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ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

'Damn Yankees' Opens Despite Strike

My own first exposure to "Damn Yankees" was 25 years ago, in a summer music camp production. My memories of each song were so vivid, I sang them all the way to the Providence Performing Arts Center last night, as the revived version of "Damn Yankees," starring Jerry Lewis, rolled into town. Little did I know at the time what new memories were in store for me.

Theatergoers were faced with pickets as they approached the entrance to PPAC. A contract dispute with the musicians union set a dissonant tone to the beginning of the evening. The audience was quickly put at ease as Lewis came onto the stage before the curtain opened and said that in assessing the dilemma, he had decided to shoot from the hip and be up front with us. He said, "This is not the way 'Damn Yankees' usually starts." He went on to explain the circumstances under which the show would go on, with a group of young musicians who were going to try to make everything come together.

I later learned that these incredibly impressive musicians were from the New England Conservatory, and that they had only had six hours of rehearsal the day before. Being a musician myself, I sympathized with the striking musicians. However, with lack of the full knowledge of the situation, I also truly felt for these replacement musicians and their ominous undertaking, with everyone being in a difficult position. The show did go on, and there were many magical moments. As Lewis said, "This is why you come to live theatre."

As the overture began with gusto, the audience appreciatively applauded the orchestra's

work, and the conductor waved vigorously, without looking back. By this time, we were all drawn in by Jerry Lewis' candor, and the enthusiasm of the moment, and somehow, PPAC became a bit more intimate.

The story, American-as-apple-pie, is of the dream of an underdog baseball team winning it all. It is also a love story, although in no traditional sense. It is about the love of Meg and Joe Boyd, and it is about their dreams. Joe is willing to do anything to help his baseball team, the Senators — including making a deal with the Devil himself — Lewis. Joe is faced with huge decisions — and his true loyalty is tested throughout the story. When the Devil is afraid that he will lose the deal, he gets help from the tempting Lola. Joe pre-vents, and in the end — well, if you don't know the story, you can all imagine the end. We all go away feeling a little warm and fuzzy inside.

"This is not the way 'Damn Yankees' usually starts."

But not as warm as Lewis. He is called Applegate, and one enthusiastic young journalist named Gloria, played by Ellen Grosso, who is eager to figure out what is going on, calls him everything from Applesauce to juice. Whatever. Their dynamics are consistently hot throughout the production. Lewis, through the assistance of special effects, is able to produce fire from his fingertips, and just about anywhere he aims. He is feisty at times, a little more laid-back at others. The first act just

whets your appetite for more Lewis. However, it is in the second act that he really shines.

Lewis, born Joseph Levitch, has an opportunity to perform his best vaudevillian stand up in a number called "Those Were The Good Old Days." He sings and does a little soft-shoe, to open it. Then the fun starts. He has a cane that he is trying to throw up in the air and catch. Whenever he misses, he tells a joke, and is tossed another cane from off stage. The jokes fly. He tells Jewish jokes. He tells Catholic jokes. Methodist jokes. No one is left unscathed. Perhaps being Jewish brings another perspective to the jokes. Maybe it's just being Jerry Lewis. The audience loved him. His timing was impeccable, his true nature radiating. This was the Jerry Lewis we all love.

The rest of the cast is pure energy. One musical number called "Bloopers Ballet" involves the baseball team doing wonderfully choreographed, mime-like physical comedy combining gymnastics and dance. There is a scene with tap dancing cleats on the dugout's tin roof, and of course, Lola's provocative numbers. She's hot, too.

There are some neat special effects (aside from the fire). Joe Boyd (Dennis Kelly) magically transforms into Joe Hardy (magnificently played by John-Michael Flate). Meg (Joy Franz) is also terrific, as is her mambo-dancing sister, Julie Prosser.

Each and every musical number does indeed come off quite well, and if there were any missed notes, I didn't notice. The ever-endearing "Heart" will replay in your head for a long time.

I certainly made some new memories... and I took my 9-year-old son, who made some, too. He now says that Jerry Lewis is one of his favorite actors — right next to Jim Carrey. I wonder if Carrey got any inspiration from Lewis... I wonder if my son will. I know this show will be one that many won't forget.

R.I. Philharmonic Presents BRAVO, Broadway!

The Rhode Island Philharmonic will present "BRAVO, Broadway!" March 29 at 8 p.m. at Veterans Memorial Auditorium in Providence. The concert will be conducted by Philharmonic Assistant Conductor Francisco Noya and stars Tony Award-winning tenor Michael Maguire, and Broadway stars soprano Jan Horvath and baritone Keith Buterbaugh.

This award-winning trio will join the Philharmonic in a performance of some of Broadway's most memorable music by Cole Porter, Jerome Kern, Leonard Bernstein, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Rogers and Hammerstein and Lerner and Loewe with hits from "Anything Goes,"

"South Pacific," "The King & I," "Oklahoma," "Show Boat," "My Fair Lady," and "Phantom of the Opera."

Tickets for "BRAVO, Broadway!" are available at the Philharmonic office, 222 Richmond St., Providence, by phone 831-3123, or in person during business hours, Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets will also be available at the Veterans Memorial Auditorium box office at 272-4862 during pre-concert week beginning March 22.

At 7:30 p.m. on the night of the concert, if tickets still remain, full-time students with valid student IDs may purchase one ticket for \$5.

Pianist Performs in RIC Concert

Award-winning pianist Hugh Hinton will perform Mozart's Piano Concerto when he appears with the Rhode Island College Symphony Orchestra March 24 at 8:15 p.m. in Roberts Hall auditorium.

The admission is free due to a donation from Samuel and Esther Chester of Providence, who have underwritten the performers' fees.

Music devotees Samuel and Esther Chester, in an effort to aid young and talented concert artists, endowed the RIC Foun-

ation with \$25,000 to establish a performance award in their names. Hinton, as winner of the annual Foote Prize as adjudicated by the Harvard (no relation to Harvard University) Musical Association, is the second annual recipient.

Also on the program will be Charles Ives' Fugue from Symphony No. 4, Claude Debussy's Nocturnes and Tchaikovsky's "Romeo and Juliet" (Fantasy Overture).

For information, call the RIC music department at 456-8244.

'Belle Fleur' Opens Juried Show

Artists are invited to enter their work in the Wickford Art Association's "Belle Fleur — The Beauty of Flowers" open juried show.

Work in all mediums is eligible, but all work must feature flowers or a floral theme. There is no size limit; artwork must be framed, wired and ready to hang. Artwork can not have been shown at the Wickford Art Association Gallery before. Artwork must be current and original.

Registration for this open juried show is March 26, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 5 to 6 p.m. and March 27, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Wickford Art Association Gallery, 36 Beach St., Wickford.

Cash prizes will be awarded for first, second and third places.

Artwork juried into the show will be on display at the Wickford Art Association Gallery March 28 through April 20. For information, call 294-6840.

Trinity College Choir Sings in Westerly

The Chorus of Westerly will present two concerts by the Choir of Trinity College, Cambridge, England, on April 6, at 4 and 8 p.m. in the Chorus of Westerly Performance Hall, 119 High Street, Westerly, R.I.

The 30-voice a cappella choir, directed by Richard Marlow, will present works by Monteverdi, Purcell, Brahms, Liszt, Taverner and Tippett.

The Choir of Trinity College is a mixed voice choir of university-aged singers, most of whom are studying for music degrees and all of whom have extensive vocal training and experience as performers. The choir's history traces back to the early 14th-century, when it included only men and boys. The current choir was formed in 1982 by the current director of music, Richard

Marlow, a few years after the admission of women to the college.

Westerly will be the first stop on the choir's 1997 North American tour. Tickets for the concert range from \$8 to \$22. The concert will be preceded by a gourmet candlelight buffet at the Chorus Performance Hall, 119 High St.

The cost for dinner is \$17.50 per person. Concert tickets, dinner reservations and further information can be obtained by calling the Chorus of Westerly at 596-8663 Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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CELEBRATE PURIM

Express Yourself Behind A Purim Mask

by Katy Z. Allen

WAYLAND, Mass. (JTA) — The invitation to the Purim party is explicit: "Preferable: Come in costume. Acceptable: Masquerade in a mask. Minimally admissible: Bring a bonnet."

Does one grumble and groan, and finally leave the house in street clothes? Does one rush to pull together a clever and exciting costume, an expression of some inner urge? Does one dutifully — and uncomfortably — don a hat belonging to a parent, child or spouse?

What is it about costumes? Why are they fun for some and next to impossible for others? And why does this issue arise at Purim? Masks and masquerading on Purim probably began in the late 15th century. In Italy, the Jews imitated the carnival practices of Christians during Lent. From there, the custom

spread.

Like other Purim customs, wearing masks and costumes was, and is, one more way to celebrate, one more way to have fun, one more way to be joyful.

Like Purimspiels — parodies, singing and dancing — dressing up is meant to increase the festivity of the day.

On this one day, Jews try to take the weight of the world off their shoulders and make merry. And so the destruction of Haman and the reign of a Jewish queen are celebrated. The survival of the Jews is rejoiced.

Previously, many adults had freely celebrated Purim. Some still do. But many find it easier to give Purim to the children.

Think about it. How many Purim parties have you seen where most of the kids wear costumes, and most of the adults do not?

Purim Message

On March 22 and 23, we celebrate the holiday of Purim. The Hebrew word Purim means lots, since the anti-Semite, Haman, cast lots to determine the date he planned the destruction of the Jews. Haman's plan and the heroism of Mordechai and Esther that foiled Haman's evil machinations are described in the biblical Book of Esther.

The festival of Purim is based on this biblical Book of Esther, which is also called the Megillah or Scroll of Esther. While scholars have difficulty identifying the historical time and the historicity of the characters of the story, there is no doubt that this story portrays a pattern in Jewish history. The holiday of Purim attained great popularity because it reflected the perennial problem of the Jewish people — animosity against the Jew. Haman's accusation that "there is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the peoples of the world" (Esther 3:8) has been repeated in every age. Celebrating Purim serves to strengthen our people, en-

abling us to face such accusations with dignity and courage, and inspiring us with the hope of final victory over anti-Semitism.

Purim reminds us to be vigilant in the perennial struggle with anti-Semitism. Do not ignore expressions of anti-Semitism, subtle or overt, out of the belief that they are trivial or insignificant. The person who makes a thoughtless remark today may be more hostile or aggressive the next time. A person who is hostile to Jews should be confronted; anti-Semitic stereotyping and scapegoating must be denounced. Fortunately, there is help in this area — namely, the Anti-Defamation League, which has a New England regional office in Boston. Do not hesitate to inform them of any anti-Semitic act.

In this spirit of strengthening Jewish life in our area, Nathalie and I take pleasure in wishing you a healthy and happy Purim.

Rabbi William Kaufman is the head of Temple Beth El in Fall River.

Children are generally open about who they are. They say what they think. "You smell." "I hate Aunt Martha." "I don't like this sandwich."

Children do what they want to do. Climb trees. Make messes. Run around naked.

They also like to experiment. Wear costumes. Pretend to be other people. Act like them. It helps children find out what fits.

As children mature, they learn how to behave properly in society. They learn that it is not always OK to say what they think. It is not always OK to do what one wants to do.

And, sadly, we often learn that it is not OK to be who we are.

As we grow older, more and more, we hide our feelings. More and more, we put on emotional masks.

Let me pretend that I like my teacher, so I'll get a good grade. Let me pretend that I like my boss, so I can keep my job and get a raise. Let me pretend that I am heterosexual, so I don't have to face who I really am, so I don't have to let down my loved ones. Let me pretend that I still love my wife, so I can keep our family together.

Often, emotional masks go so deep that their wearers are unaware

of their presence. He or she may believe that what is actually a mask is, in fact, reality.

What is the connection between emotional masks and the masks of Purim? The more we put on emotional masks, the harder it becomes to wear a real mask. In order to feel free to pretend to be someone we are not, we need to first know who we are. Then, it is easy. Then, we know we will not lose touch with ourselves.

There are people for whom putting on a mask at Purim is freeing. Behind that unreal face, they can say and do things they may feel unable to say and do all the rest of the year.

For others, donning a mask is too real. When one is in a process of trying to take off masks, putting one on can be excruciating. It feels like a backward step, like an impossible task.

This is all very well and nice. But what about that invitation?

What can you do? If you are game, here is a suggestion:

Create a story about yourself, and climb inside it. In this story, you are real. You are your true self.



Perhaps you chose some aspect of yourself that is difficult to express in your "real" life. Perhaps you are a feminist — Queen Vashti. Perhaps you are slowly emerging from a cocoon — a butterfly. Perhaps you are in search of a better life for Jews — Mordechai. Perhaps you are wise and knowledgeable — a learned scholar. Your options are limited only by your imagination.

Inside your costume, you are hidden. You are safe. Now, allow the free expression of yourself, this vulnerable bit of you, unknown to most. It is, after all, a fitting way to celebrate Purim, for Purim is about survival, and there is vulnerability in survival.

Purim is about being joyous and happy, and there is unbounded joy and happiness in finding full expression of who you are.

Most of all, Purim is about celebration. And so, come to the party! Come in costume, and let us celebrate together who we are, as Jews and as individuals.

Katy Z. Allen is a Jewish storyteller and free-lance writer.

Schedule of Purim Events

March 22

URI, Kingston, 6 p.m., Traditional Megillah reading at Hillel. 874-2740.

Tifereth Israel Congregation, New Bedford, Mass., 7 p.m., Megillah reading. (508) 997-3171
Temple Beth-El, Fall River, Mass., 7 p.m., Purim Family Service Carnival. (508) 674-3529.

Congregation Agudas Achim, South Attleboro, Mass., 7 p.m., reading of the Megillah, Scroll of Esther. Children and adults are encouraged to come in costume. (508) 222-2243.

Temple Shalom, Middletown, 7 p.m., Purim Festival. Book of Esther will be read followed by holiday sing-along, costume parade and some Purim spiels. 846-9002.

Congregation Mishkon Tfiloh, Providence, 8:45 p.m., Kiddush after services in honor of new rabbi, Yosef Szendro, 4:40 p.m. class followed by mincha at 5:40 p.m. Shalish suedas, maariv, and havdalla. 7:30 p.m. Megillah reading and Purim party. 521-1616.

March 23

JCC, Providence, 10:30 a.m., 10th annual New England Rabbinical College parade. 861-8800.

URI, Kingston, R.I., 11 a.m. Hamentaschen baking with students at South County Hebrew School. 874-2740.

Tifereth Israel Congregation, New Bedford, Mass., 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m., Purim Carnival. (508) 997-3171.

Congregation Agudas Achim, Attleboro, Mass., 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Purim carnival with games and entertainment for children of all ages. (508) 222-2243.

Congregation Ohave Shalom, Pawtucket, R.I., 5 p.m. Annual Purim seudah, festive three-course chicken dinner. Reserve by March 21. 725-3886.

Temple Shalom, Middletown, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Annual Purim carnival and luncheon. 846-9002.

Congregation Mishkon Tfiloh, Providence, 7:55 a.m. Purim services, followed by Megillah reading. 521-1616.

Making Purim Props Can Be a Family Activity

by Faygie Levy

NEW YORK (JTA) — Here are some ideas to get the family ready for this festive day.

Shalach Manos Cups

Supplies:

3 1/2-inch white, hard, plastic birthday cups, available at party supply stores
paint markers in various colors
pencil
roll of cellophane
paper or netting
fabric
ribbon

With a pencil, sketch the words "Happy Purim" around the cup. Draw pictures of an open Torah scroll, a Purim mask, hamantaschen and so on around the cup.

Go over the words and pictures with the paint markers.

Fill with Purim treats.
Cut a piece of cellophane or netting large enough to wrap

the cup. Gather cellophane or netting at the top and tie with ribbon.

Note: These cups are for decorative purposes only. Do not use them for drinking.

Decorative Masks

Supplies:

plastic eye mask
pompoms
sequins
glitter
glue

To decorate masks, glue pompoms, sequins and glitter onto the mask. Coordinate the colors to match a child's costume.

Graggers

Supplies:

3-inch clear, plastic, separating ball (usually found in the ornament section of a craft store)

paint markers
glue
package of 1/4-inch jingle

bells

glitter
ribbon

Decorate the outside of the ball. Use the markers to draw random shapes (even bright dots, dashes and squiggly lines work). Put a few drops of glue on the center of the ball and shake on some glitter. Be creative: The more colors, the better the gragger will look when it is finished.

Put three jingle bells in the ball.
Close the ball. Make sure the ball is securely closed.

(Many of the balls have a small circle on the top that string would fit through. If your ball has this, make sure that the two "tops" meet.)

Cut a length of ribbon to fit around the seam where the two parts of the ball meet. Glue ribbon over the line.

Let the glue dry.
Listen for the word "Haman" and shake!

'We Need a Little Purim'

by Karen Gelade

It's the time of year when we begin to think about spring, Purim, hamentashen, and Purim spiels! We all need a little cheering up and Temple Emanu-El's Purim spiel will bring some cheer into our lives.

Once again author Jules Gelade, after a year's hiatus, has teamed up with Purim spiel's famous director, Linda Shamoan, to bring us a play certain to tickle your funny bone. This year's play has been in rehearsal since November.

There is more music and dancing than ever. Shelly Katsh has come up with great musical arrangements and Lisa Bergman

has the dancers really jumping. Helping Bergman with the choreography is Karen Gelade and Miriam Stark. These people have put together a play that is sure to entertain you.

It promises to get your feet tapping, your hands clapping, and your funny bones laughing.

Because of the standing-room-only crowds of the past, there will be two performances. The first show will be March 22, after the Megilla reading as usual. There will be a repeat performance on March 23, at 10 a.m., for those of you who will be attending other events on Saturday. Temple Emanu-El is located at 99 Taft Ave. in Providence.

OBITUARIES

BETTIE G. ABRAHAMS
BOSTON, Mass. — Bettie G. Abrahams, 81, of Weston, died March 13. She was formerly of Palm Beach, Fla. She was the wife of the late Harry Abrahams and Joseph Goodman.

She is survived by a son, Alan Goodman and his wife, Sylvia, of Newton and a daughter, Karen Crawford and her husband, Andrew, of Ann Arbor, Mich.; grandchildren, Jeffrey and Elissa Goodman. She was the sister of the late Joseph Erlichman.

Services were held at the Levine Chapel, 470 Harvard St., Brookline, Mass., on March 14. Burial was at the Congregation Sons of Israel and David Cemetery, Reservoir Avenue, Providence.

CLARA FREEDMAN

FALL RIVER, Mass. — Clara Freedman, of 151 Garden St., Fall River, died March 14.

She was the sister of Leonard Freedman of Fall River and the late Helen and Bella Freedman.

Funeral services were held March 16 at Temple Beth El, High Street, Fall River.

The family was assisted with arrangements by the Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

MIRIAM DORA GERSHMAN

FORT MYERS, Fla. — Miriam Dora Gershman, 89, of 2674 Winkler Ave., Fort Myers, died March 13 at the Shady Rest Care

Pavilion, Fort Myers. She was the wife of Harry Gershman.

Born in Russia, a daughter of the late Louis and Bessie (Korenbaum) Pomarans, she had lived Florida since 1965, previously living in Pawtucket, R.I., for many years.

She was a member of Temple Beth-El in Providence and a life member of Hadassah. She was a past president of the Pawtucket Chapter of Hadassah.

She was a life member of the Miriam Hospital Women's Association and was active in the Blackstone Valley Women's Division of the United Jewish Appeal. She had also been active in several other charitable organizations.

In the 1950s she studied navigation and became a member of the U.S. Power Squadron. For many years she shared her husband's enthusiasm for boating and cruising.

She was a volunteer in the Youth Literacy Program of the Deerfield Beach, Fla., elementary schools.

Besides her husband, she leaves two daughters, Phyllis Goldberg of Providence and Sheila Duerden of Fort Myers, three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. She was the sister of the late Joseph Pomarans.

The funeral was held March 16 at Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence. Burial was in Temple Beth-El Cemetery, Reservoir Avenue, Providence.

SAMUEL KATZ

PROVIDENCE — Samuel Katz, of 22 Chace Drive, died March 15 at The Miriam Hospital. He was the husband of Esta (Kushner) Katz.

Born in Providence, he was a son of the late Kolman and Sarah (Beckelman) Katz.

He was a graduate of Classical High School.

Besides his wife, he leaves a brother, Albert Katz, and a sister, Evelyn Bazar, both of Cranston.

A graveside service was held March 16 at Lincoln Park Cemetery, Post Road, Warwick. Arrangements were by Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

IDA LINDER

EAST PROVIDENCE — Ida Linder, of Evergreen House Health Center, Evergreen Drive, a legal secretary in New York City for many years before retiring died March 16 at the center.

Born and raised in Providence, a daughter of the late Abraham and Fannie (Breiter) Linder, she had lived in New York City for 44 years before moving to East Providence in December.

She had been a volunteer for the Metropolitan Opera in New York. She also volunteered for charitable organizations in the distribution of clothing for the needy. She was a connoisseur of music and the theater.

She leaves a sister, Anne Krakowsky of Pawtucket, and nieces and nephews. She was a

sister of the late Stella Linder and Rose Schneider.

A graveside funeral service was held March 17 at Lincoln Park Cemetery, Post Road, Warwick. Services were coordinated by Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence.

VIOLA OSTERMAN

WARWICK — Viola Osterman, 69, of 55 Algonquin Drive, died March 13 at home.

Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Louis and Minnie (Elgart) Osterman, she had lived in Warwick for the last 33 years, previously living in Providence.

She had worked for the Trudeau Center, retiring four years ago. She was a member of Temple Am David and its Sisterhood.

She leaves a sister, Naomi Osterman of Warwick, with whom she lived. She was the sister of the late Simon Osterman.

The funeral was held March 14 at the Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Post Road, Warwick.

FELIX B. WAXLER

NEW BEDFORD, Mass. — Felix B. Waxler, of 190 Plymouth St., New Bedford, died March 15.

He was the husband of Helen (Fonfara) Waxler.

Besides his wife he is survived by two sons, Robert Waxler and David Waxler of North Dartmouth, Mass.; a sister, Rose Zimmerman of New Bedford; and four grandchildren. He was the brother of the late Jacob Hyman and David Waxler.

Funeral services were held March 17 at Tifereth Israel Con-

gregation. The family was assisted with arrangements by the Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

MARLA ZACKS

PROVIDENCE — Marla Zacks, 92, of the Steere House & Rehabilitation Center, died March 10 at the center. She was the widow of Benjamin Zacks.

Born in New York City, a daughter of the late Mitchell and Rose (Danitz) Mogal, she moved to Providence in 1935.

She was one of the original Girl Scouts during World War I. She had been a Girl Scout leader in Providence for many years. In the 1920s she was one of the first women buyers for Macy's Department Store in New York City. During World War II, she was a volunteer worker for the American Red Cross and arranged for delivery of messages between the U.S. military forces throughout the world and their families. She was a member of Temple Beth-El and its Sisterhood. She was also a member of the Brandeis University Women's Association, and the Women's Association of the Jewish Home for the Aged.

She leaves a son, Richard W. Zacks of Providence; three sisters, Hannah Mogal of New York City, Beatrice Reed of Malibu, Calif., and Nita Posner of Boynton Beach, Fla.; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She was a sister of the late Saul and Bernard Mogal, Helen Kovner and Lily Neidorf.

A graveside funeral service was held March 12 at Temple Beth-El Cemetery, Reservoir Avenue. Arrangements were by Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence.

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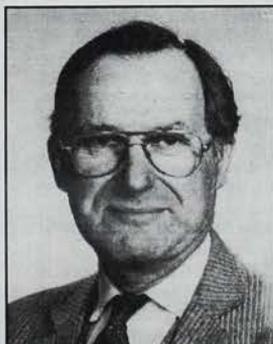
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'Song of Judith'

by Cindy Halpern

At her funeral, the rabbi said Judith had been a violinist, a great lover of music. Yet, her final desperate wish had been to live long enough to worship in the reconstructed synagogue Young Israel in Brookline. Young Israel burned in a fire caused by an electrical short.

Judith and her husband, William, lived two houses down from their beloved shul. It had been more than a neighbor, it had been the cornerstone of their lives. Their five daughters had been taught by example by their parents who lovingly shared their devotion to the worship and study of H-Shem.

Judith bravely battled leukemia in the same way she dealt with life's challenges. Her kind and patient smile kept her family and religious community together during their dual crisis. Whenever anyone needed to be in her reassuring presence, whether it was at the hospital or at the home Judith cherished, the door was always open to a visitor in need.

But still Judith awaited the day she could return to her sanctuary in Young Israel. It came in December when she prayed on Shabbat. No one, not even her husband or children, could know the silent words she uttered to the L-rd. But perhaps the answer became known to all on that windy day in the cemetery.

Judith's daughter, while sitting shiva, asked a spiritual question. Did the winds howl in anguish over the physical death of this wonderful caring woman or did the winds greet the soul of Judith to quickly escort it to its home?

Remember, Judith had been a violinist who celebrated the beauty of life in becoming a loving wife and mother and faithful follower of G-d. Perhaps she played one final farewell tune to her family and friends who loved her best. The lyrics to Judith's song would be: "Let my legacy of love be continued through thoughtful prayer and kind deeds."

Amen.

Correction

An obituary for Joseph H. Percelay in the March 13 issue incorrectly identified him as the sister of Abigail Leavitt. The Herald regrets the error.

Spring Blossoms Early in Pawtucket

by Sara Wise
Herald Editor

Treat yourself to a bit of magic with a trip to Stone Blossom in Pawtucket. This enchanting shop is a delight to all five senses. As you enter, you can hear water flowing over tiny stone fountains, smell fragrant handmade soaps and oils, and touch satiny lavender-filled dream pillows. Stroll through the greenhouse to see exotic flowers and topiary, then stop and taste a bit of tea in the tranquil sitting area in back.

The gift shop and greenhouse on Alfred Stone Boulevard is owned and run by Providence native Joyce Holland.

The shop is clearly not just a business endeavor, but a labor of love. Every item has been hand selected by Holland to contribute to the peaceful and intimate setting. From the ivy tendrils she gently coaxes around basket handles to the pale dried-flower wreaths and baskets that decorate the walls, every detail shows an innate aesthetic sensibility.

The back section of the long, rectangular greenhouse feels like a special refuge; part country garden and part sacred shrine, with ivy-covered walls, delicate tables and graceful sculptures. It has the decor of a classy art museum cafe, but the restful feel of a sanctuary. Holland said that many people come in during the day "just for a lift." They browse around, have

a cup of complimentary tea and enjoy the beautiful setting before heading back to work. Sometimes they buy a plant or two.

While Holland certainly has a flair for retail (she previously owned the Blue Angel on Thayer Street), she never imagined that she would become so involved in gardening. Once she started working on the adjacent cottage, however, the greenhouse seemed like a natural continuation. "I had a vision of a sanctuary, a place where people could come to relax and rejuvenate themselves," said Holland. "I wanted to create a place of peace and beauty."

After toiling 11 months to renovate the aging greenhouse, Holland finally opened Stone Blossom last September. A photo album details the ordeal of transforming the 96-year-old structure into its present form.

Holland said she derives much strength from the Jewish community. After taking time off from retail work to raise a family, Holland became an ac-

tive volunteer for the women's division of the Jewish Federation. She and her husband, Evan, were sent on a mission to Israel and later received an award from the Federation for their volunteer work.

Holland claims that "the volunteer work gave me the inner strength to get back out in the world and start a business again."

The greatest challenge of running the business has been balancing time for work and family. "It's easy to get caught up in work," says Holland. "But it's very important to me to spend time with my family." To maintain that balance, Holland closes the shop during the hot summer months so she can spend more time with her 12-year-old son.

Beginning March 20, Stone Blossom will offer afternoon tea in the greenhouse on Thursdays. There are also weekend workshops planned on herbs, flower arranging and the use of essential oils.

Be sure to stop by before June 21 when Stone Blossom closes for the summer.



A Zoo For You

If you could design a zoo, what would it look like? Second grade students at the Alperin Schechter Day School designed and made models of their own zoos under the guidance of art teacher, Utzi Eliashiv.

Photo courtesy of ASDS



JOYCE HOLLAND, owner of Stone Blossom in Pawtucket, specializes in accents for home and garden. Herald photo by Sara Wise

Bread & Circus Helps Fight Hunger

Bread & Circus and Share Our Strength, one of the nation's leading anti-hunger organizations, announced an innovative corporate partnership to fight hunger.

On March 27, Bread & Circus will donate 5 percent of the total daily sales from its Providence whole foods market, located at 261 Waterman St., to benefit Operation Frontline, SOS's direct service program that provides nutrition education and food budgeting skills to people who are at risk of poor nutrition and hunger. Operation Frontline chefs Maureen Pothier, of Blue Point Oyster Bar and Grill, and Christina Hartley of Trinity

Brewhouse, will be on-site, March 22 from noon to 2 p.m. to demonstrate low-cost, nutritious recipes and smart shopping techniques that are taught in Operation Frontline classes.

"We are very pleased to have Bread & Circus as a partner in the fight against hunger," said Bill Shore, SOS founder and executive director. "This partnership displays a civic responsibility and commitment on behalf of Bread & Circus that raises both valuable funds and awareness of the issue of hunger."

For information, call Carla Woodward at Bread & Circus, 272-1690.

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