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Students Dedicate Seder to Tibet

by Sara Wise
Herald Editor

Students from Brown and RISD celebrated the final night of Passover with an interfaith seder that recalled not just the afflictions of Jews in Egypt, but those shared by people in Tibet today.

The Seder for a Free Tibet, a joint project of Brown-RISD Hillel and Students for a Free Tibet, explored the commonality between Jews and Tibetans in their struggles for freedom from oppression. In an intimate gathering of about 30 people from the university community, participants discussed the plight of the Tibetan people within the framework of the seder ritual.

The seder was part of a national event organized by Rodger Kamenetz, author of *The Jew in the Lotus: A Poet's Rediscovery of Jewish Identity in Buddhist India*. Similar seders took place across the country, including one in Washington, D.C., that was attended by the Dalai Lama, the spiritual leader of Tibet who has been in exile since 1959.

Sara Shneiderman, a member of Students for a Free Tibet and an organizer of the event, opened the service by explaining how the Dalai Lama fled Tibet after the Chinese invaded his country in 1959. He was followed by 100,000 other Tibet-

ans who now live in exile to escape the repressive Chinese occupation forces that have killed 1.2 million people and imprisoned thousands. China has consistently been cited by Amnesty International and other organizations for its human rights abuses in Tibet. "This is why we want to honor the Tibetan people in our seder," said Shneiderman.

Claude Platon, another organizer of the event, further explained why it is appropriate to link the stories of the two cultures. "This is a way of linking our story of liberation to their struggle for liberation. It's a way to connect to the Tibetans who share with Jews a similar history of political and cultural oppression," said Platon.

The evening's haggadah included an official statement from the Dalai Lama thanking Jews for including the Tibetan people in their seder. "In our dialogue with Rabbis and Jewish scholars, the Tibetan people have learned the secrets of Jewish spiritual survival in exile; one secret is the Passover Seder. We are grateful to our Jewish brothers and sisters for adding to their celebration of freedom the thought of freedom for the Tibetan people."

Bhakdo, a Tibetan monk living in Dharamsala, India, and a special guest of honor at the



Sirens Sound in Jerusalem

Every year on Yom HaShoah, Israel's national alarm system goes off for two minutes at 10 a.m. in remembrance of those who died in the Holocaust. At this time, Israelis cease their activities to pay their respects to the dead. When the alarms sound, street traffic stops, and people leave their vehicles to bow their heads and remember. While these Israelis stopped when they heard the sirens on Jaffa Road, similar scenes occurred in countless locations across the country.

Herald photo by Emily Torgan

seder, chanted a traditional Tibetan blessing before the reading of the haggadah.

Bhakdo is visiting the United States on a two-month speaking tour and was accompanied at the seder by his sponsor, Lyra Marble. Marble met Bhakdo while traveling in India last year. After hearing his story of being tortured and imprisoned by the Chinese for practicing his religion, Marble decided to help

(Continued on Page 19)

Hundreds of Jews Attend Communal Seders in Poland

by Ruth E. Gruber

ROME (JTA) — Hundreds of Jews attended communal seders in Warsaw and other Polish cities this year, and many others hosted the Passover meal in their own homes.

On the first night of Passover, more than 300 people attended a seder organized at Warsaw's Forum Hotel by the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation, a New York-based foundation that runs Jewish youth and education programs. More than 160 people came on the second night.

At the same time, about 90 people participated in a seder organized by the Jewish Forum, an association of Jewish business and professional people, and some 50 others attended a seder organized by the Jewish religious community.

"There was a form of coordination," Rabbi Michael Schudrich, the Lauder Foundation's Poland director, said in a telephone interview. "We each tried to provide a service to different parts of the Jewish community."

Schudrich said that so many people attended the Lauder Foundation's first night seder that the banquet hall had to be divided so that two

seders could run concurrently.

One was led by Schudrich for about 200 people, including the U.S. ambassador. The other was led by Helise Lieberman, the director of Warsaw's Jewish day school, for about 100 mainly school-age children and their families.

Schudrich said Warsaw's mayor attended the second night Lauder Foundation seder.

Significantly, more people held seders in their own homes, Schudrich said.

"People who came to our joint seder four or five years ago now make seders at home," he said. "Yet we still had such a large attendance. This means that we

are really growing — and more." Schudrich said that the Lauder Foundation and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee sent matzah and other Passover supplies to Jewish communities across Poland.

Community seders also were held in about a dozen cities outside Warsaw, including Szczecin, Gdansk, Lodz, Wroclaw, Legnica, Walbrzych, Katowice, Bytom, Krakow, Czestochowa and Lublin, he said.



Blue Skies

Spectators enjoy bands and speakers at a festival celebrating diversity and community service April 27 at Roger Williams Park. The event was sponsored by Alan Shawn Feinstein and the Latin American Student Organization at Rhode Island College.

Herald photo by Sara Wise

HAPPENINGS

Search for Woman of the Year

The Rhode Island Commission on Women is seeking nominations for the annual "Woman of the Year" award. The nominee must have a history of achievement and/or contributions which reflects the mission of the RICW and be a Rhode Island resident (current and honorary commissioners are ineligible for consideration).

The purpose of the commission is to advance women toward full equity in all areas of life and to promote rights and opportunities for all women. The commission shall study, make recommendations and promote constructive action on issues related to women which include, but are not limited to, the following: economic development, education, employment, health, legal rights, political participation and the quality of individual and family life.

The celebration honoring the recipient will be held on Oct. 24. This event is the major fundraiser for the scholarship fund established by the commission to afford women educational access and opportunity.

Additional nomination forms are available at the following locations:

Rhode Island Commission on Women, 260 West Exchange St., Suite 4, Providence

Alice Stanelun, co-chairman, Woman of the Year Committee, 732-3100, ext. 219

Jo Eva Gaines, co-chairman, Woman of the Year Committee, 846-7222

All public libraries in the state.

Completed nomination forms should be returned by June 2 to: Woman of the Year Committee, c/o Alice Stanelun, 81 Burnett Road, Warwick, R.I. 02889.

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Calendar of Events For May 1-10

- 1 "Women of Wit," May 1 and 2, performed at Blackfriars Theatre, Providence. Call 865-2084.
Ninth annual Student Sculpture Exhibit at UMass Dartmouth, until mid-May. Call (508) 999-8965.
- 2 Roland Gutierrez exhibits his photos of R.I. historical cemeteries at Cranston Public Library, May 2 to May 24. Call 943-9080.
RI College Wind Ensemble dedicates 16th annual College Concert to the late Francis M. Marciniak, former director, 8:15 p.m. in Roberts Hall Auditorium. Call 456-8244.
- 3 Spring '97 Screenwriters Symposium, examining current trends in entertainment industry, produced by the Mass Media Alliance, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in lower theater of Trinity Repertory Co., Providence. Call 421-3482.
- 4 Arthritis Foundation holds 46th annual meeting and volunteer recognition at Metacomet Country Club, E. Providence at 10 a.m. Call 434-5792.
Indoor Soccer at Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island begins. Includes weekly games and skill development. Call 861-8800, ext. 149.
Opening exhibit at Haffenreffer Museum, "Exploring Tourist Art," in Bristol at 4 p.m. Call 253-8388.
National Herb Gardening Week. Call Blackstone Valley for information. Call 724-2200.
"A Time to Remember," tales of freedom and tolerance, sponsored by the Interfaith Counseling Center and Swinburne School, 4 p.m. at Swinburne School, Newport. \$5 per person. Call 683-0017.
- 5 "A Night in Old Vienna," 19th annual Rita V. Bicho Memorial Scholarship Concert at R.I. College, 8:15 p.m. Call 456-8244.
Adoption Options, informational meeting for exploring adoption choices, 6 p.m. at Jewish Family Service, 229 Waterman St. Call 331-5437.
- 6 American Cancer Society, R.I. division, offers "Freshstart," series of five smoking cessation classes, May 6, 8, 13, 15 and 20 from 6 to 7 p.m., in Pawtucket. \$25 for five classes. Call (800) ACS-2345.
Caregivers support group to assist families in caring for an older relative. Meets Tuesdays, 6 p.m. until May 27 at the Adult Day Care Center, 99 Hillside Ave. Call 351-2440.
The Atlantic Brass Quintet will play at 8 p.m. at Sayles Hall at Brown, Providence. Call 434-6054.
- 7 Interfaith Counseling Center begins a six-week group to help men cope with stresses of jobs, family, partners and anger. Fee is \$90. Group is to meet at 33 Chestnut St. in Providence. Call 831-0580.
"Healthy Ways to Prepare Beef" at R.I. Weight Watchers Center in N. Smithfield, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Call (800) 651-6000.
"Shekels & Sense," a discussion on financial planning in Israel at Hebrew College in Brookline, Mass., at 7 p.m. Call (617) 457-8750.
The Abraham & Frances Katz Film Forum at Hebrew College, Brookline, Mass., 6 to 7 p.m. Fee \$20. Call (617) 278-4939.
- 8 Seminar on Legal & Ethical Issues in Trauma Care at R.I. Hospital's George Auditorium, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. \$35 for public. Call 444-4778.
45th National Conference Humanitarian Award Dinner at 6 p.m., R.I. Convention Center. Chairman will be Mark J. Formica at Citizens Financial Group. Call 351-5120.
Ada Jill Schneider will read a selection of poems from *The Museum of My Mother*, at the Barrington Public Library at 7:30 p.m.
NCJW, RI section, community service award luncheon, 12 noon at Ledgemont Country Club, Honoree for 1997 Herta Hoffman. Call 725-5951.
- 9 "Squabbles," May 9, at City Nights Dinner Theatre in Pawtucket, produced by David Jepson. The show will run through June 1. Tickets for dinner and show are \$22. Call 723-6060.
Nantucket's First Wine Festival, May 9 to 11. World-class cuisine and superb wines in an event-packed weekend. Call (508) 228-1128.
"The Art of Prayer," an educational-musical weekend of lectures, concerts, discussion and more at Temple Emanu-El, May 9 to 11. For a full schedule of events, call 331-1616.
Viva Violets! Children's Museum, Pawtucket, invites children 3 to 5 to investigate violets in honor of its 100th anniversary as the state flower. Call 726-2591.
Cardoza's Wine & Spirits, eighth annual American Wine Festival at Rotch-Junes-Duff House in New Bedford from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Call (508) 994-2900.
- 10 Children 8 to 17 are invited to participate in free sports tips clinic offered by the Wheeler School Summer Programs, 1 to 4 p.m. at the Wheeler Farm, Seekonk, Mass. Call 528-2100.
Barbara Hail, director and curator of Haffenreffer Museum, teaches Brown Learning Community Class "Gifts of Pride and Love: The Cultural Significance of Kiowa and Comanche Lattice Cradles," from 10 a.m. to noon. Call 863-3452.
Harvard Pilgrim American Heart Walk, Colt State Park, Bristol, 8:30 a.m. check-in, 9:30 a.m. start. Call 728-5300.

Directory to this week's Herald

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT	17
CLASSIFIED	19
FEATURE	14, 15, 16
HAPPENINGS	2
JEWISH COMMUNITY	3, 9, 12, 13
OBITUARIES	18
OPINION	4
SPECIAL OCCASIONS	10, 11
WE REMEMBER	6, 7, 8

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Rhoda's Judaica, Burlington St.

THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

Brown/RISD Hillel Takes To Trail on Spring Break

by Emily Torgan

Jewish Community Reporter

Nine students from Brown University and the Rhode Island School of Design headed into the hills and Hillel history in March.

As participants in Brown-RISD Hillel's "Jewish Backpacking Adventure," the first week-long hiking expedition Hillel has ever offered over a spring break, the hikers travelled both Virginia's historic Appalachian Trail and new ground.

"The trip had a really good balance of religion and the outdoors," said Brown sophomore Saul Nadler.

"I was going to go to New York with some friends, but this was the best spring break I ever had," said Brown senior Amy Cook. "I liked the idea of connecting the outdoors with Judaism."

Jewish Campus Service Corps Fellow Jennifer Goldman decided to organize the hike when she began her position last fall.

Goldman began by founding TEVA, a hiking club under Hillel's direction.

"I thought some students might be interested in doing something Jewish in a non-traditional Jewish setting," said Goldman. "I am always at my most spiritual when I am outside. There are many connections between nature and Judaism."

As TEVA took off, Goldman and others began to plan the "Jewish Backpacking Adventure."

With the help of Hillel organizers and students, TEVA members secured grants from the Hillel Student Initiatives Committee and the Jewish National Fund.

After many meetings, the trip took shape.

On March 24, two Rhode Island School of Design students, seven Brown University students and Goldman drove from Providence to Paris, Virginia. Picking up the backpacks that contained a week's supply of kosher vegetarian foods, they departed from Ashby Gap to spend five days hiking a 30-mile portion of the Appalachian Trail that ended at the entrance to Shenandoah National Park.

"It was 65 degrees and sunny every single day," Goldman said. "The trail was absolutely gorgeous."

The group averaged seven miles each day, meeting only three other hikers along the way.

On the sixth day, Shabbat, members rested and held an Eco-Shabbat service.

Judaism was not just explored on Shabbat, for group members spent 40 minutes every morning discussing Jewish ideas and text.

The differences in participants' Jewish backgrounds made for interesting discussions.

"Some of the group members were Orthodox, while others had had much less contact with Judaism," Goldman said.

Group members discussed Torah, Talmud and Midrash as they explored the meanings of community and teamwork.

When one student put on tefillin, others had an opportunity to observe and ask questions.

"I liked the people best," remembered Brown student Amy Cook. "They all had personality, and that created a fun and open atmosphere that you can't get in many environments."



RISD students Brad Silverstein and Chantal Loomis hiking on the Appalachian Trail as members of the TEVA backpacking adventure.

Photo courtesy of Brown-RISD Hillel

Organizations and Doctors Counter Breast Cancer Scare With Information

by Emily Torgan

Jewish Community Reporter

The initial studies have been completed, but the panic they have generated is far from over.

In 1994 and 1995, medical researchers found that two genes linked to breast and ovarian cancer occur more frequently in Ashkenazi Jewish women than they do in the general population.

Fear and misinformation spread along with the news of the studies, leaving doctors, Jewish groups and medical organizations anxious to inform the population about the real risks.

"The media ate the story up," said Amy Rutkin, director of Hadassah's National American Affairs/Domestic Policy Department on April 25. "They sent the news back in a very scary way. Some articles were inaccurate, and now there is a perception out there that breast cancer is a Jewish disease."

As part of an ongoing effort to allay panic and present factual information, last week Hadassah and the American Jewish Congress produced a 13-

page informational brochure about Jewish women and breast cancer.

Organized in a question-and-answer format, the complimentary brochure takes readers through the most commonly asked questions.

Breast cancer, it says, is the most common type of cancer among American women and the second leading cause of cancer deaths. In 1995, approximately 182,000 new cases were diagnosed in the United States. About 5 to 10 percent of these cases may be linked to genetic predisposition.

Most estimates of such risks involve research based on individuals with strong family histories of specific cancers.

Alterations in two genes, called BRCA1 and BRCA2, may account for as many as 60 to 90 percent of these inherited breast cancers and 10 to 20 percent of inherited ovarian cancers.

Scientists estimate that one in 40 to 50 Ashkenazi women carry one of these particular alterations, while the rate of these BRCA alterations is believed to

be 1 in 300 amongst members of the general population.

However, says the brochure, as most cases of breast cancer are not inherited, there is only a slight increase in lifetime risk (1 to 2 percent) among all Ashkenazi women due to the higher frequency of these alterations.

"In terms of overall risk, Jewish women only face a 1 percent lifetime increase," Rutkin emphasized. "Hereditary factors only account for 5 to 10 percent of the cases."

But after the studies were published, many Jewish women rushed to genetic testing laboratories to undergo costly tests that left some even more confused and frightened.

"What will they do once they have the results?" Rutkin asked. "By having the tests, they may be exposing themselves to potential discrimination by health insurers and employers. Like all of our chapters, our Rhode Island office is helping us get this type of information out."

In Providence, Dr. Arnold

(Continued on Page 19)

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OPINION

Pesach is Not Over Yet

by Velvel "Wally" Spiegler

If you think that since you already went through the seder, drank four cups of wine and consumed a sumptuous dinner that you did Passover, you're wrong! There's much more to it than that.

This holiday and its linkage to Shabbat and Rosh Hashanah is truly a mystic journey. The excursion begins, as in all spiritual travels, in a state of bondage; a circumstance by which one is enslaved to a number of conscious thoughts, desires, and emotions. If we focus on the bondage of, let's say, the Jews in the Soviet Union, the Jews of Ethiopia, the blacks in America, the rights of women and minorities, then we pay homage only to the outer value of these issues.

Spiritual work dictates that we concern ourselves with the inner values. One can be a slave to desires such as money, possessions, relationships, and the lack of which tends to generate emotional issues. We can be enslaved to our thoughts or beliefs as, say, one whose political affiliations or scientific theories become his master.

We go through the first step

of the process at Passover with the attentive reading of the story, and the focus upon the Pascal sacrifice.

The Jewish sacrificial laws are an instrument of spiritual growth, personal change and transformation. On Passover, it's the sacrifice of the Pascal lamb, represented by the matzo and the

What in your life isn't working and what holds you back from living life to its fullest?

roasted lamb shank that's symbolized in our imagination as the redemptive sacrifice.

The work that began at the Passover seder needs to be completed during the rest of the festival year. In the Shabbat evening kiddush we encounter the reference to "recalling the Exodus from Egypt" and a "remembrance of the work of creation." Shabbat links Pesach (the Exodus from Egypt) and Rosh Hashanah (creation) together. Interestingly, the haggadah explains that the Exodus is to be

remembered not only on Pesach, but twice every day, as well. On Shabbat we are freed of our everyday activities to experience the freedom of redemption and to the primordial experience of the Garden of Eden.

That period between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur is commonly referred to as the Ten Days of Repentance (T'shuvah). As we are bound to begin redemption on Pesach, we now continue the work of repentance which culminates on the High Holy days.

The question of T'shuvah or coming out of Egypt centers on what's going wrong in our lives. Traditional sources regarding T'shuvah seem to oversimplify the matter. They suggest that all that is necessary is to recognize the offending behavior and vow not to repeat it.

The problem really is that we don't see our own failings, but others observe them clearly. To identify with what's going wrong in our lives is to detect where our lives are not working. Take, for example, a person who just got married for the third time. He believes his previous mates were at fault, not seeing how he contributed to the failed marriages. Other self-defeating behaviors are often a result of some kind of fear. This would be like a person who has to please everyone for fear he wouldn't be liked or accepted. What in your life isn't working and what holds you back from living life to its fullest? The answer to these questions is the next step in completing the Passover process.

Velvel "Wally" Spiegler is a certified polarity therapist, a student and teacher of Jewish mysticism whose primary interest is in Jewish approaches to the healing of mind, body, and spirit. He can be reached at (508) 252-4302.

The Vatican Should Open Its Archives

by Seymour D. Reich

Switzerland's decision to compensate Holocaust survivors and their heirs for funds deposited in its banks during the World War II era has set off an extraordinary chain of events. After 50 years of concealment, the Swiss at last have agreed to open their account books and review classified documents that expose the dark side of their nation's "neutrality" in the conflict.

Other countries are now following suit. A number have embarked on the long-delayed process of confronting their own actions—or inaction—during a tragic period. Long-hidden records are being scrutinized in an effort to trace the origins and convoluted routes of property stolen by the Nazis from Jews and other victims half a century ago. Whether restitution is possible in all cases remains an open question. But the effort itself is needed to enable today's young people and future generations to understand and come to terms with the events of the past, so that the massive horrors of the Nazi era will never again be allowed to recur.

Amid the renewed interest in exposing the past to historical examination, a major void remains: the story of the Vatican's actions during the Holocaust. The picture is clouded and obscure, due primarily to the church's reluctance to lay bare its role in World War II.

Since the end of the war, the Vatican's officials have declined to open its archives to outside researchers. The result has been a long-standing controversy. A number of historians have accused the wartime pope, Pius XII, of being a virtual Nazi col-

laborator who allowed Vatican priests to operate a so-called "rat line" that helped smuggle Nazi officials out of Europe after the defeat of Germany. In his book, *Vatican Diplomacy and the Jews During the Holocaust (1939-1943)*, Father John F. Morley, a Roman Catholic priest in Newark, N.J., sharply attacked Pope Pius XII and the Vatican hierarchy for their apparent indifference to Jewish suffering in the Holocaust. But church defenders like the late Father Robert A. Graham, associate editor of the Catholic magazine *America*, have argued that while the pope did not speak out against the persecution of the Jews, he rescued many before they were sent to death camps.

It may be that one or the other version of the Vatican's role in that period is accurate. Ironically, it is also possible that both may be true. It is not unusual for competing factions in a complex bureaucracy to pursue competing agendas. But in the case of the Vatican, we will never know, until and unless files are unlocked and light is allowed to illuminate the secrets of the past.

Another dilemma faced by church officials has to do with the fact that the Vatican library continues to hold more than 800 priceless Judaic documents and religious artifacts seized from synagogues and Jewish institutions and individuals by European rulers and noblemen down through the centuries. These manuscripts and other items were presented by the looters to the popes as gifts. Many feel that they constitute stolen property that is being held illegally and should be returned to Jewish sources by the Vatican.

(Continued on Page 18)

HAVE AN OPINION?

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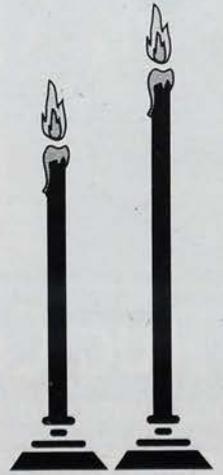
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Candlelighting

May 2, 1997
7:27 p.m.



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

A Kingdom of Priests

by Lori Levy Abramson

In the Book of Exodus, just before the Israelites received the Ten Commandments, G-d conveys to the Israelites, "You shall be to Me a kingdom of priests (kohanim) and a holy nation" (Exod. 19:6). Juxtaposed against this week's Torah portion, we can glean fascinating insights into what being a kingdom of priests means to us today.

Parashat Achare Mot, in Leviticus 16, describes in exacting detail the rituals of the Yom Kippur service. Aaron, the High Priest, conducts the entire service alone with painstaking care, lest he make a mistake before G-d and die. Read verses 1 to 29. What are the steps involved in the service?

A close reading of this chapter reveals two fascinating differences between the original Yom Kippur service and the one we observe today. First, the ancient service contains tangible elements that would presumably make it easier for a person to grasp the process of atonement. The bull and goat sacrificed on the altar, the blood

that is dashed and sprinkled, the goat that carries away the community's sins — the High Priest engages in the service with all of his senses.

The Israelites' absence is the second notable difference from today's Yom Kippur service. It is surprising that the role of the people is prescribed in just three verses at the end of the chapter (Lev. 16:29-31). Here, the commandment to afflict ourselves and to do no work is given lechukat olam, as an eternal decree, so that we will all be cleansed of all our sins before G-d. Even so, the text goes on to

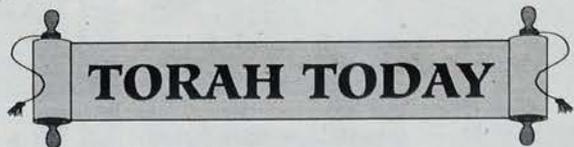
take responsibility, not only for our own process of repentance and atonement, but also for the Jewish community's. We are reminded that G-d can forgive only us for sins against G-d but not until we have asked forgiveness from the people we have wronged. (Sifra, Yoma 85b) As we confess our sins, we recite the al chet, listing the wrongs we have personally committed, as well as those our people have committed.

How can you make your own personal observance of Yom Kippur more concrete?

How else are we called upon to be a "kingdom of priests" on Yom Kippur? What kinds of responsibilities are conferred upon

us? To be a priest is to undertake enormous responsibility for ourselves and our community. How can we bring this sense of responsibility for ourselves as Jews and for the Jewish community into the rest of our year?

Lori Levy Abramson is director of education at Temple Sinai in Oakland, California.



say that it is the High Priest who will provide atonement.

How have we become a kingdom of priests? The Yom Kippur service of today has become one in which we are more like the High Priest than the ancient Israelite. Although we are led in worship by a rabbi or shaliach tzibbur, we have a much greater role today. We are compelled to

FEATURE



Jewish Narratives

by Mike Fink
Herald Contributing Reporter

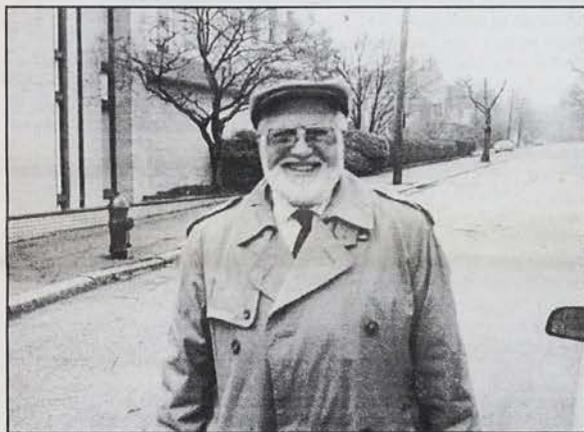
"I bring the kaddish candle and light it here for the victims of the Nazis." Mr. Adler begins his account of wartime Budapest with the familiar gesture, out of context in a R.I.S.D. classroom. In back of the crowded studio space a tall boy eagerly leans forward to listen. Sean Foley, a painter whose signature on bluebook exams is as open and freestanding as his person, had struck me as a carefree Irish fellow, good natured and untroubled. Yet he raised his hand and asked searching questions. "Can you forgive your enemies?" he asked—a Catholic concern, it seemed to me. "Yes, for your own sake," answered the secretary and spokesman of Holocaust Survivors of R.I.

You must know that art stu-

dent curriculum, but my small course alone makes up a Judaic Studies program pressed into a few short weeks.

Our marvelous artist-disciples fill in all the gaps and more.

Lisa Sklar brought me an account of her grandmother's time in postwar Hungary. "There was nothing left in Budapest, only corpses, heads, limbs strewn over the streets. No bread, only ruins. In the market the gentiles were selling everything they had taken out from the Jewish homes. Slowly, people started to come from the camps. The Jewish hospital was rebuilt. My daughter Livia was the first child born in this new Lying Inn. People were trying to put their lives back together."



Mr. Alder
Herald photo by Mike Fink

dents hate to get up in the morning. They like all-night marathons at the canvas or drawing table, not early appointments. But next a.m. waiting at my door I found Sean Foley. I took off my hat and coat, put down my papers, removed stacks of books from a chair, and asked him to sit and talk till my first class begins at 8 a.m.

"I spent vacation week in Rio, in Brazil, visiting my grandmother. She won't tell the whole story, but she survived Auschwitz." I, in turn, visited Sean's studio and studied his huge paintings, impressions of Rio and dreams of peace. The children of survivors hide everywhere, under every name and in every land, a new generation of secret Jews.

My elective course, called simply "The Jewish Narrative," attracts a broad spectrum of majors from architecture to photography, and they come from Asia, Africa, South America, or the islands of the wide world. I use Chaim Potok's "Wanderings," Spiegelman's "Maus" comic book series, and of course Weisel and Singer. Art Spiegelman is scheduled to visit the R.I.S.D. campus next September—I serve on the lecture committee. Hillel does the best it can to bring Jewish culture to

They Also Serve

by Mike Fink
Herald Contributing Reporter

At the crossroad of my world, a pool, a counter, a spot to post a message or make a new friend for the day stand among my routines. I leave my classroom lectern and head for the newspaper desk. I stop for a swim, a cup of soup or leaf of lettuce, and a pleasant chat. Eric Schwartz in formal attire keeps amiable watch over the lunch crowd. "I'm a doctor's son, but the service industry suits me," he says, and the other servers agree. The staff smile not only at me but at each other. There's a grapevine of goodwill that grows at ground level. On Fridays Andrew greets me with a grin: his mother created the giftshop at Temple Beth-El. Andrew serves me my water or my wine, "my daily medicine," and lays out plans for another service concept. He and Glenn, his cohort at the counter, hope to put out an urban guide to Rhode Island culture and night life. "Servers know each other around town and get along. They could pass the word about our publication. We think it promises a good future if we can pull it all together." Andrew's visual and computer graphic skills are impressive. Glen has the glad hand and the gift of gab.

I have learned so much from my visits between jobs and home at this "quiet bar." From Laura, the hostess, to Derek, the steward, I have gleaned some fascinating tips on human nature and the nature of the hospitality business. Last week a fancy dude with the accent of a Brit stood beside me and talked about the costume jewelry industry that brings him on business from South Africa to Providence. "My parents were Polish," he says, and after a moment the whole truth comes out. "They escaped firing squads. They survived Hitler's Holocaust. They found refuge and success in South Africa. Now we live between Helen Suzman and Nelson Mandela." In a moment this mysterious stranger takes off, after a warm handshake and mutual, secret Jewish understanding.

Eric the supervisor also takes a stool beside me and fills me in on his career. "I drove across the country with Alan Stern, who used to work in this room. We took our journey in a van, and he stayed while I came back to build my vocation." I have the feeling my ancestors in east Europe also ran inns at their own crossroads and told tales and picked up some yarns. It happens right here every noontime among my errands and meetings.

You hear about hypochondriac doctors, neurotic psychiatrists,

lawyers who get in trouble. Nobody's immune, and sometimes you must know that a server may serve himself. One of the waitstaff narrates his route to get to work. "I hitch here when my truck is out of commission in the garage. I walk home. If I stop for a drink I lose the straight path and by the time I get to bed I'm pretty tired. I wake up weary but

counter at night. This is my sunshine not my moonlight oasis. But there's always an adventure, always agreeable and rewarding. These people have a skill in a world where travelers and familiar folk meet on the carpets among the tables, an America where the future is uncertain. Your father or mother may practice a profession no



Eric Schwartz
Herald photo by Mike Fink

I get to my post on the mark no matter what." He also shows how you mix a proper cocktail, and it's an art form.

I never go to my pool or my

more certain than the weather. They also serve who serve with a twist of lime or lemon and a word of kindly concern for your comfort in passing through.



Andrew
Herald photo by Mike Fink

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YOM HASHOAH

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

A Personal Victory Over Hitler

by Morris Gastfreund
A few weeks after the liberation of the Theresienstadt concentration camp on May 8, 1945, a rumor circulated that shortly survivors would be able to go to Palestine; those who were interested should register at a certain place in the camp.

I turned to my wife and said, "This is our personal victory over Hitler, who planned our destruction."

My brother, Kalman, and I, having belonged to a Zionist organization before the war, were among the first to register.

Everything was done in secrecy. By the middle of July, all those who registered were quietly told to assemble at 10 p.m. without our belongings (we did not have any) at a specific place to begin our journey. The leaders of this undertaking were two young Jews from Palestine who belonged to an organization called Bricha. The group's mission was to bring camp survivors to Palestine illegally, because of the British ban on Jewish immigration there.

In the darkness of the night,

we boarded several trucks and were on our way to our destination by an unknown path, because the entire operation was highly secretive. The next morning, we found ourselves in Linz, Austria. We were set up in a modest hotel and told that we must wait a few days to continue our journey.

We walked around Linz and admired the city, especially the landscape. After three days there, we again boarded trucks for a journey that brought us to a former German military camp in the Bavarian city of Landsberg. There we were told that our travel to Palestine was being interrupted temporarily, because difficulties arose in crossing borders. As a result, we were brought to a displaced person's camp to wait for our next opportunity to continue our journey. As it turned out, the wait was much longer than we anticipated.

The Landsberg army camp was a very large facility with many four-story cement blocks; now empty of German soldiers, it was designated by the U.S. Army occupation forces as the first displaced persons center for concentration camp survivors. When our group arrived, there already were some survivors there from the Dachau death camp. Among them was

Dr. S. Gringaus, an intellectual whose ability and efforts generated a voluntary community leadership, of which I became a member.

With the help of the U.S. Army occupation forces, the United Nation War Refugee Administration and the Joint Distribution Committee, Landsberg became a model of a func-



tioning Jewish community. In its peak, it was the temporary home of more than 5,000 camp survivors. Meals were served in special dining halls. Clothes and blankets, supplied by UNWRA and JDC, were distributed. An entire block was designated as a hospital, which was run by survivors who were physicians. Cultural events were organized; even a newspaper was published; the first Yiddish weekly newspaper in post-war Ger-

many was called *The Landsberger Yiddische Zeitung*, to which I was a frequent contributor. While printed in Latin alphabet, the paper dealt with all aspects of Jewish life and struggles under the Nazis and after liberation.

The focal point of the survivors was the struggle of the Yishuv in Palestine against the British occupation and its closure of gates to Jewish immigrants. We had many distinguished visitors to our D.P. camp, among them David Ben Gurion, Dr. Nachum Goldman, the president of the World Zionist Organization, and Izhak Grinbaum, the pre-war Zionist leader of Polish Jewry. In meetings with these eminent Jewish leaders, we forged a united front to pressure the British Mandatory Power into opening immigration for camp survivors.

We organized many mass demonstrations; in some, I was the keynote speaker, condemning the British occupation and demanding that survivors be allowed to immigrate to Palestine. In fact, we became a second front in the struggle. Illegal ships, such as the *Exodus*, which carried survivors to the shores of Palestine, and others, which the British blockade forced back to new concentration camps in Cyprus, brought world sympathy for our struggle. The Yishuv revolt against the British occupation and world pressure finally forced the British to relinquish the mandate over Palestine, which they turned over to the United Nations.

Nov. 29, 1947, was the date set for member states of the United Nations to vote on a resolution to establish a Jewish national home in Palestine. The Landsberg D.P. Camp, whose survivors were at the forefront of the struggle to free immigration and establish a Jewish state in Palestine, planned a mass demonstration for Nov. 28. I was active in organizing support for a pro-Jewish resolution by the United Nations.

My wife, Sally, Z"l, gave birth to my son, whom we named Israel, on Nov. 27 at 10 p.m. The next day, I visited my wife in the hospital, but was not able to see my newborn child at that time. On the afternoon of

...he was the continuation of my family tree that was almost totally uprooted by the Nazis.

the 28th, we held a mass demonstration that attracted thousands of participants who called for a U.N. vote for a Jewish state in Palestine.

The next day, I hurried to the hospital to be with my wife and anxious to see my son. The nurse granted my request to see my son, and handed me this precious bundle. For the first time, I was holding in my arms my newborn son, who stared at me

(Continued on Page 7)

Living The Lessons of Friendship

by Tara V. Liscianro
Herald Editor

It was officially spring. There was finally no need for a heavy jacket. You could open the car windows and drive freely, comfortably. There were still traces of snow on the ground which were melting away quickly. That April Fool's blizzard from Mother Nature had surely made its mark.

I was driving through a lovely area in Rhode Island that day. The houses were so distinct and stood proudly on their finely combed beds of green grass. The sun was shining brightly. I remember feeling excited. Excited about the warm weather and excited about going to meet a lovely new person.

For personal reasons we'll call this person "R." R is just a person like you and I. R is a special person as well. R is male and female, R represents many.

It hadn't been the first time I met a survivor of the Holocaust, but this time was different, particular. The minute I met R, I felt a special bond. R took me into their house, welcomed me openly and started chatting as if we knew each other for years. We sat down at the kitchen table and spoke. We spoke about a variety of things. Shopping, food, the war, Rhode Island, art, Germany and countless other things. We were like long-lost friends who hadn't spoken to each other for years.

As the constant chattering continued I couldn't help but notice the bright yellow star which clung to R's wall. It sat

there, right above R's shoulder. It sat there, in a frame, every day since R returned from the war. I felt my eyes begin to feel warm, a tear wanted to come out. I stopped myself, I was happy. I was happy to see this person, so sweet, so kind, gentle and courageous. R had survived one of the most horrid traumas of mankind, the Holocaust, and I was sitting alongside them, speaking, learning and listening.

Some years ago, before I left for Italy, I worked on a project involving Holocaust survivors, in New Jersey. One of them was even on Schindler's List. It was an amazing opportunity for me. I got to know some so well. Others did not want to talk, and I respected that. The experience proved that not everything is learned in school. (But let's not take that too far, without school I wouldn't have known these extraordinary people were out there!)

Like R, the other survivors enjoyed chatting about current-day issues, not about their trauma, or the war. But who wants to constantly dwell on such horrid traumas that happened years ago? R, and all survivors are people — gallant, heroic people.

We all can say, too easily, "oh, sure, I understand" but never in my life would I make such a mistake again and repeat those words in the company of a survivor. The fact is, I don't understand, no matter how many years I have concentrated on Holocaust survivors, read about them, spoke with them, studied

them, I can't say, "I know. I understand." The fact is, those of us who weren't there can say that. We weren't there, we didn't suffer what they suffered. We never felt the hunger, the heat or the bitter cold devouring us. And we never passed through the ghettos, were tortured by Nazis or de-humanized.

From speaking with these elegant people and learning so much in the past years, I have come to the conclusion that we are living with history that will no longer be with us one day. I believe people are becoming more aware of this. After all, the Holocaust Museum in Washington D.C., was only constructed a few years ago, not directly after the war. When my children are born and old enough to learn about the world, they won't be able to speak to the people like R. They'll have books and tapes and memories left behind.

R shared many fascinating things with me and we continue to speak and share many interesting moments together. I treasure R's friendship like no other. Now, with the arrival of The Holocaust Memorial Day, we should remember all Rs, as we should remember them every day after. R is a person, like all of us. R doesn't want to be considered special, or particular. I certainly don't look at R, or any survivor, as instruments and learning tools, although they are some of the best teachers and scholars we have with us today. I look at them as the most courageous people I know.

In Remembrance

by Lenka Rose

Survivor, Auschwitz-Birkenau, Bergen-Belzen

Let us remember and NEVER forget the SIX MILLION Jewish men, women and children who perished by the evil Nazis in Germany during the Holocaust.

Cattle cars rushed precious human cargo, destination unknown.

Barren of food or water. No matter. What did matter to the SS? Getting hold of their jewelry at hand before the fateful journey's end.

Achtung! Leave all your valuables right on the spot. It better be all of it; if you value your lives.

The same scenario next to the last stop.

Still no food or water.

Thus began endless frightening intimidation, humiliation to the highest degree; upon an unarmed helpless people.

Bigotry, greed, combined with deadly effect; Jewish life in Europe came to an abrupt end.

Thrown into a snake pit, electrified wires, an inferno. Pestilence, hunger, cold, fear omnipresent.

Daily selections to fuel the fires; co-existing friendship became a most important desire. Helping, caring for one another.

Loss of family, loneliness, sheer enormity of suffering, a surviving victim became a kin.

Nonintervention; mankind's darkest hour; not to rescue a defenseless people's plight, stained the world's nations forever and ever. Nowhere, but nowhere, were they in sight.

Centuries old contempt for Jewish people, brought untold misery, bore poisonous fruit of the Holocaust. May their memory serve as a guardian "Angel" against injustice and intolerance.

Forget them not, NOT EVER.

REMEMBER

YOM HASHOAH

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

ADL Book Helps Teach Holocaust

More than 50 years after the Holocaust, the Anti-Defamation League is working to strengthen Holocaust education. A new *Holocaust Mini-Catalog: Rescue and Resistance, Tools for Teachers* is a resource for educators to help them more effectively teach the history and significance of the Holocaust.

"In a nearly silent world, millions of Jews were systematically murdered during the Holocaust. We are obligated to



know, to teach and to never forget that painful truth. Emphasis, however, must not only be on the massive destruction and victimization but also on resistance and the extraordinary examples of rescue," said Martin J. Fein, ADL Braun Institute chairman.

"Those who survived, as well as those who fought back, represent the best of what we recognize in the human spirit," said Harvey Sarnet, Jewish Foundation for Christian Rescuers/ADL chairman. "To rescue Jews meant risking one's own life and possibly one's entire family."

The catalog includes a guide for educators with suggestions

for dividing Holocaust education into appropriate themes. Each theme includes interactive writing exercises, suggested books, videos, posters and options for helping students to define the relevance of the Holocaust by examining prejudice and bigotry today.

Other sections of the catalog recommend books for children written by children, videos and publications on Holocaust resistance and Holocaust rescue, and a textbook that contains a chapter that fulfills the mandate for teaching the Holocaust in several states including New York and Florida.

Throughout the entire catalog is a time line listing important historical dates as well as maps and photos that serve as excellent documentary resources.

"The ADL Braun Holocaust Institute provides information and resources to help sensitize individuals and communities to issues relating to the Holocaust," said Abraham H. Foxman, ADL national director and Holocaust survivor. "From elementary school through college we have provided tools to help teach tomorrow's leaders what hatred and silence can do; what hope and fierce commitment can bring. These lessons they will take with them for the rest of their lives, never forgetting the horrors that come from bigotry and the possibilities that come from humanity."

To receive a copy of the *Holocaust Mini-Catalog*, educators can call the ADL Material Resource Center at (800) 343-5540 or fax a request to (201) 652-1973.

The Anti-Defamation League, founded in 1913, is the world's leading organization fighting anti-Semitism through programs and services that counteract hatred, prejudice and bigotry.

At this point, my thoughts concentrated on my personal joy, my son's birth—how today I was holding him for the first time and how he was the continuation of my family tree that was almost totally uprooted by the Nazis. And, I was blessed to survive and experience this moment in Jewish history, when after 2,000 years, a reborn Jewish state was established.

I saw clearly the connection of the two events—my son's birth and the birth of a Jewish state—as a symbol, as "Am Israel Chai, Chai Vekayam" reverberated through the streets. Tears began to stream from my eyes. I recited the blessing of "Shehechyanu Vekimanu Vehigianu Lazman Haze" blessed, G-d, King of the universe, who preserved and sustained me to reach this happy day.

Yes, it was one of the happiest days of my life. So began my personal victory over Hitler, although I paid a heavy price for that victory—the loss of almost my entire family.

Honoring Survivors Deepens Understanding of Risks Taken

by Irving Greenberg
NEW YORK (JTA) — How shall we focus the commemoration of Yom HaShoah? In the light of the Albright affair and the Swiss banking revelations, it is time to focus on the heroism of the survivors and the courage that their fellow Jews showed with them in deciding to continue living as Jews.

There has been a remarkable turnaround in Jewish fate in the past 50 years. Being Jewish has become a ticket to asylum from persecution.

In America, being Jewish is perceived as honorific—a marker of elite creativity and brains and most-likely-to-succeed. It is hard, therefore, to recapture the tragic reality of the 1920s and 1940s.

Then, Jewish status—even association with it—was a badge of vulnerability. Whenever Nazism came to power—and often, where other dictatorships reigned—Jewish identity targeted a person for death or destruction.

To none was this fate more cruel, more arbitrary, more inexplicable than to assimilated Jews or gentiles who were, often unwittingly, descended from Jews.

The Talmud says: Do not judge your fellow human being until you come to his/her place.

Try to suspend judgment for a moment and imagine what it felt like to someone who had never lived as a Jew. Imagine having never studied or understood a word of classic Jewish culture. Imagine having never experienced a moment of joy of Exodus or of celebration of Shabbat or of being cared for by a community of solidarity.

And imagine suddenly being exposed to a murderous fury or having your life and career torn up for the crime of being Jewish.

In Jakob Presser's classic novel of the destruction of Dutch Jewry, *Breaking Point*, a young man has been befriended and kept alive by Jeremiah Hirsch, his neighbor in Westerbork camp.

Hirsch was a Hebrew studies teacher back home. The young man's name is called for the weekly transport to Auschwitz. He lashes out hatefully at Jeremiah. Hirsch, bewildered, asks him, "Why explode at me?"

The lad responds: "When they call out your name, you will have had a lifetime of community, of joy, and learning, of meaningful reward for being Jewish. For me, there was nothing. You know why you suffer. For me, it came for no reason. I rage that my life will be destroyed meaninglessly."

Small wonder, then, that after the war tens of thousands of assimilated Jews, who had barely survived, were furious at their meaningless suffering and determined to escape this fate once and for all, hid their identities and passed as gentiles.

Every survivor—even those who had lived rich Jewish lives before the war—had to answer questions to themselves. Shall I continue? Is it worth it? Shall I

inflict this possible fate on my future children and grandchildren?

Those who lost families, those who had seen loved one, their own flesh and blood, and countless others killed, tormented, abandoned, had to decide where to go and what to be.

The survivors found a world that was unrepentant, a world in which most Nazis escaped punishment, in which Britain kept the doors of Palestine locked and set up camps in Cyprus where displaced persons who tried to make aliyah were interned.

They found banks which seized their families' accounts and stonewalled their requests for reimbursement.

They found Jewish commu-

The incredible heroism of every survivor who decided to go on living as a Jew should be appreciated.

nities that did not want to hear atrocity stories or expressed shame at the victims "passivity" rather than at their own colossal wartime indifference.

Even survivors who were deeply committed and well received were uprooted and needed to move to new countries to start new lives. It was a chance to escape Jewish fate, a temptation to make a clean break with Jewish faith.

In 1968, an extraordinary French Catholic young woman served as an au pair in our home. She told us that she was driven from France by her mother's unrelenting opposition to her proposed marriage to a Jew.

Her mother had passed by the infamous Drancy railroad station and heard thousands of rounded up Jewish children—some with family, some torn from their parents—crying and screaming as they awaited transfer to trains to Auschwitz. Her mother swore that no grandchild of hers would ever be exposed to such a fate.

Try to understand the decision of Secretary of State

Madeleine Albright's parents. The Korbels escaped the worst by being abroad during the Holocaust but their family did not.

Think of Madeleine Albright rushing through life as her cousin, Magda, and others called out to her.

Another heart-stopping Holocaust scene comes to mind.

A Jewess, passing as a gentile, is walking hastily toward her destination when a "schmalzownik"—a gentile who preyed on hidden Jews by threatening to expose them—calls out to her.

Her heart is beating wildly but she keeps a straight face. She must not let on or all is lost. If she stops, she is trapped in Jewish fate. If she turns around, all her incredible hiding effort is for nothing. She presses forward as if she does not hear.

On Yom HaShoah, judgment should not be passed on the Korbels. The incredible heroism of every survivor who decided to go on living as a Jew should be appreciated.

What a willingness to undergo Kiddush Hashem (martyrdom), what unquenchable faith in the possibility of tikkun olam (repairing the world), these survivors expressed.

Yom HaShoah is the day to unconditionally sing the praises of every Jew who did not—and of all Jews who do not—flee their identity. A second moment of silent homage, honoring the bravery of survivors, should be added to this day.

On Yom HaShoah, G-d should put on two pairs of tefillin in which it is written "who is like you people, Israel? A unique nation in the whole world!"

For one day, let's stop underestimating the daily courage of survivors and all Jews alike. If it happened once, it can happen again—however unlikely that fate seems all yearlong in America.

On Yom HaShoah, let's take one more pledge: I will learn, I will live, I will celebrate—myself, with my family, my friends.

Never again should any Jewish child or adult be so deprived of their birthright of Jewish joy, distinction and meaning that they would question whether it was worth the risk.



A Silent Prayer

A Jerusalem taxi driver bows his head in remembrance as traffic stops for two minutes in Israel each year to honor those who died in the Holocaust. Herald photo by Emily Torgan

Personal

(Continued from Page 6)

with his wide eyes. My joy was overwhelming. I turned to my wife and said, "This is our personal victory over Hitler, who planned our destruction." I noticed tears of joy in Sally's eyes.

It was late in the afternoon when I returned to our one-room apartment on the third floor. I turned on the radio, and the United Nations was in session, about to vote on the resolution to establish a Jewish national home in Palestine. On the streets of the Landsberg D.P. camp, people gathered near several loudspeakers broadcasting the U.N. assembly's vote. Emotions ran high among those survivors.

Finally, the news broke around 9 p.m. that a majority of the U.N. member states voted to establish a Jewish national home in Palestine. The crowd ran wild with excitement. Everyone began dancing and sang, "Am Israel Chai, Chai Vekayam," the Jewish people live and will live forever.

YOM HASHOAH

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

Lessons In Print

by Tara V. Liscandro
Herald Editor

Recently a wide selection of new books, dealing with various aspects of Judaism and Holocaust survivors has been released. Many are by local authors of the Rhode Island and Massachusetts area. Part of educating for a brighter future is understanding the past and present.

Written in Memory, Portraits of the Holocaust, photos by Jeffrey A. Wolin, Chronicle Books. A collection of personal and compelling snapshots of survivors. Each page is uniquely decorated with the words of every witness.

The Journey Home, Jewish Women and The American Century, by Joyce Antler, The Free

Press. Jewish women's contributions to American life. The author is a professor at Brandeis University.

Castles Burning, A Child's Life in War, by Magda Denes, Norton. A survivor recounts her story as a child in wartime Budapest.

The Boys. Story of 732 young concentration camp survivors by Martin Gilbert, Henry Holt & Co. The true story of 732 young boys found after camp liberation. They were flown to England and have kept in touch ever since.

The Man in the Box, a novel by Thomas Moran, Riverhead Books. Story of a Jewish doctor who saves a young girl in an Austrian village. Once the war

begins, the doctor asks the girl's family to return the favor by hiding him.

In the Footsteps, by Rabbi Norbert Weinberg, Block Publishing. A collection of lectures on contemporary Judaism. Weinberg is from Congregation Adas Israel, Fall River, Mass.

Call of the Shofar, by H. Daniel Hassenfeld, Imagraphics. Various issues of Judaism discussed through lectures given at Congregation Shaarei Tefillah in Newton, Mass.

Misha, by Misha Defonseca, Mt. Ivy Press. The true story of a young girl's escape through the forests of Nazi-occupied Europe, in search of her parents and befriended by wolves.

Nationwide Ceremonies Remember Holocaust Victims

"The black smoke became thicker and darker and choking, bringing with it the smell of burning fat and bone and hair. As evening came the whole sky was red. Smoke and flames were pouring out of all the chimneys now. None of us slept that night. It was no longer possible to pretend even to yourself that the stories were really not true. All that we had heard and guessed was now before our eyes. Here were the death factories."

— Kitty, age 14

On Holocaust Remembrance Day (or Yom HaShoah) on May 4, the Jewish victims of the Holocaust will be remembered in solemn ceremonies worldwide. In the United States, the B'nai B'rith Center for Community Action is organizing the pro-

gram in 230 U.S. communities. Each participating community will recite the names of the victims, their ages, places of birth and death. Some will read the victims' names non-stop for 24 hours; others will read poems and have first-person accounts of the concentration camps by Holocaust survivors.

Each community will focus attention on remembering the child victims whose bright futures and dreams were extinguished during the Holocaust. Since they could not be exploited as slave labor, the children were dispensable to the Nazis and were the first victims to be transported to the death camps and exterminated.

"Unto Every Person There is a Name" is a ceremony that gives back the names — real names — if only for a moment — to those who were robbed of their identities along with their lives," said Tommy P. Baer, international president of B'nai B'rith.

Started eight years ago by Jerusalem's Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial Center, the program involves the participation of thousands of people throughout the world. Israel's speaker of the Knesset, Dan Tichon, is the sponsor of this year's program with Yad Vashem.

One of the largest ceremonies, 1,000 people, will take place at Faneuil Hall in Boston. For information, call (202) 857-6582.

Yom HaShoah Program Features Hawthorne String Quartet

The music of Theresienstadt concentration camp, performed by the Hawthorne String Quartet, will honor those who perished in the Holocaust during this year's Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Memorial Day) Commemoration on May 4 from 4 to 6 p.m. at Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave. in Providence.

Formed in 1986, the Hawthorne String Quartet is comprised of violinists Roman Lefkowitz and Si-Jing Huang, and from the Boston Symphony Orchestra, violinist Mark Ludwig and cellist Sato Knudsen. The quartet will play selections written by composers who perished in the Theresienstadt concentration camp with a narration by Mark Ludwig.

The quartet's first recording, entitled "Chamber Music from Theresienstadt," has received international critical acclaim and won the Preis der Schallplatten-

kritik in 1991. Their "Silenced Voices" CD once again premiered the music of composers persecuted during World War II. These two recordings were produced through the efforts of the Terezin Chamber Music Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to assuring the permanence of the music written by composers who perished in the Holocaust.

Following the program, a traditional solemn candlelight procession will make its way from the temple to the Garden of Remembrance at the Rhode Island Holocaust Memorial Museum on Elm Grove Avenue.

If you would like the names of friends or relatives who were killed in the Holocaust to be read during the memorial or would like more information on the ceremonies, call the museum's director of education, Beth Cohen, at 453-7860.



Holocaust Memorial
Herald photo by Emily Torgan

Fur Restyle Trunk Show

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Interfaith Service Remembers Children of the Holocaust

The 22nd annual Interfaith Community Wide Service of Remembrance commemorating Yom HaShoah, the Day of the Holocaust, will take place on May 4 at 1 p.m. in the main sanctuary of Temple Shalom in Middletown. This event memorializes the 6 million Jews and 7 million other persons who perished during this tragic period in world history.

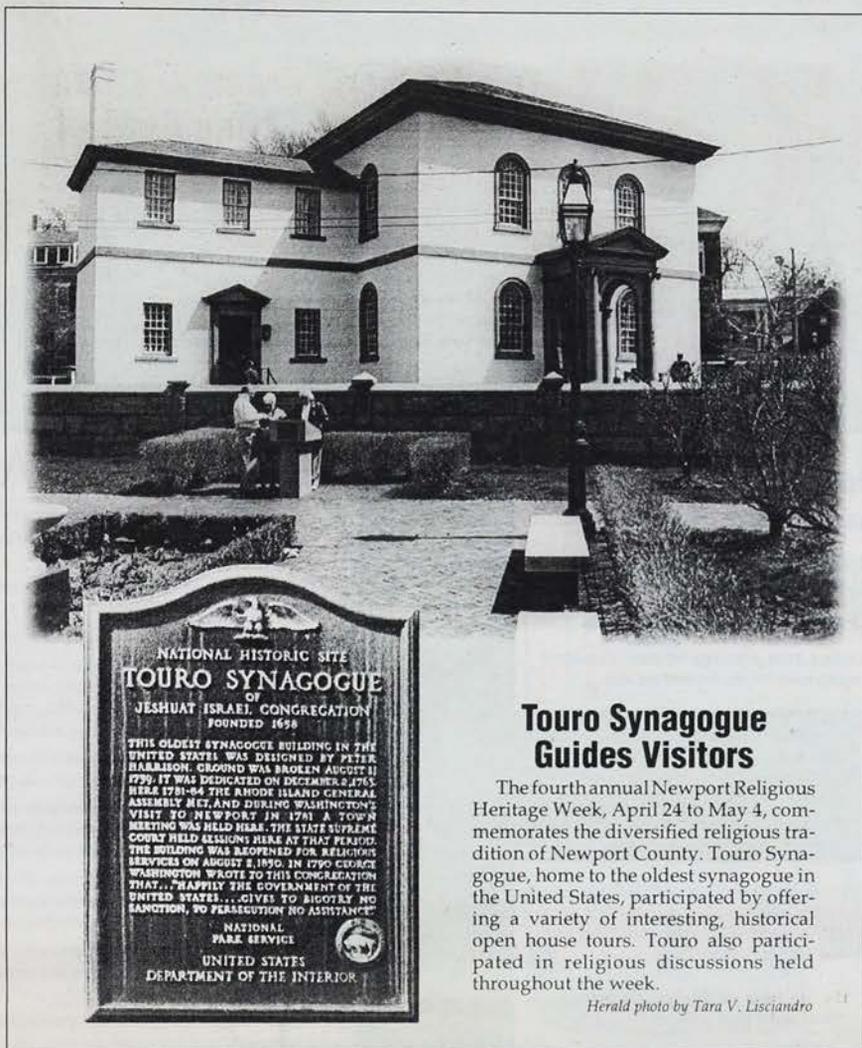
The theme of this year's observance will be devoted to the children of the Holocaust. Statistics tell us that only 11 percent of the approximate 1.7 million children

under the age of 16 alive in 1939 survived the Second World War. "It is difficult to fathom," commented Rabbi Marc S. Jagolinzer, coordinator of this annual service, "that 1.5 million of them were killed in the Holocaust."

According to the rabbi, this service will honor the memories of those children who perished with special readings, prayers, poetry and music, which will be provided by violinist Emily Anthony. The children of The Samuel Zilman Bazarsky Religious School will participate.

The service is open to all.

THE JEWISH COMMUNITY



Touro Synagogue Guides Visitors

The fourth annual Newport Religious Heritage Week, April 24 to May 4, commemorates the diversified religious tradition of Newport County. Touro Synagogue, home to the oldest synagogue in the United States, participated by offering a variety of interesting, historical open house tours. Touro also participated in religious discussions held throughout the week.

Herald photo by Tara V. Liscianaro

Electric Companies Donate Site for R.I. Heritage Center

R.I. Jewish Historical Association Joins as Founding Partner

New England Electric System and The Narragansett Electric Company announced April 14 that its decommissioned South Street Power Station, located on the waterfront in downtown Providence, will be home to Heritage Harbor, Rhode Island's first statewide heritage center. The announcement was made by New England Electric System President & C.E.O. John Rowe during a news conference held at the power station site.

The Rhode Island Historical Society, more than 12 local historical societies, including the R.I. Jewish Historical Association, preservation groups, history museums and allied organizations are part of the Heritage Harbor consortium which has been working for at least 10 years to make this heritage center a reality. NEES and Narragansett Electric have donated the building and the two-acre property it stands on, and have already completed interior demolition to ready the building for museum construction. The company's gift to the project totals several million dollars.

"Within the walls of this beautifully finished building, we will see an innovative museum develop—a museum that tells stories of the people who founded Rhode Island over 350 years ago and those who came after them,

who together have contributed to the rich ethnic and cultural fabric of life in Rhode Island," said Albert Klyberg, executive director of the RI Historical Society and acting executive director of Heritage Harbor.

The museum will bring together the stories and treasures of 12 Rhode Island historical and cultural organizations. It will feature Native American, African American, Hispanic, Asian and European immigrant groups, along with organizations promoting Rhode Island's industrial, military, sports and maritime heritage.

Unlike conventional museums, Heritage Harbor will bring history to life through festivals, theater, art, interactive exhibits, children's play areas, boat rides, and unique restaurants, shops and galleries. The museum will be home to a working diner, the world's longest model railroad,

a life-size replica of a 15th-century caravel (a vessel which brought the first European explorers to the shores of Rhode Island); a working Corliss steam engine; unique holographic and interactive exhibits; and the nation's first high-definition heritage theater.

Under the leadership of the Rhode Island Historical Society, Heritage Harbor founding partner members include: Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association; American Diner Museum; Italian American Historical Society of Rhode Island; Museum of Natural History, Roger Williams Park; Portuguese Cultural Foundation; Providence Jewelry Museum; Rhode Island Black Heritage Society; Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame; Rhode Island Indian Council; Rhode Island Military Collection; and the Steamship Historical Society of America, Inc.

B'nai B'rith Launches Search for Best Jewish Communities in the U.S.

What makes a great Jewish city? Is it the number of synagogues, delis or Jewish community centers? Is it a place that is affordable or welcoming to newcomers?

B'nai B'rith's Center for Jewish Identity is searching for the best small, medium and large cities for Jewish people in the United States contemplating moving to a new city who want to live a Jewish life.

The center will publish the results in a booklet next year as a guide for people in various stages of life, including singles, young married couples and parents of young children. The guide will provide information on the availability of such amenities as kosher restaurants, Jewish community centers, synagogues and day schools.

Dr. Rela Mintz Geffen, a professor of sociology at Gratz College in Philadelphia who recently spoke in Rhode Island, will work with B'nai B'rith to collect and compile the data.

B'nai B'rith is working with Jewish federations and other agencies to gather the informa-

tion and is looking for the public to suggest a particular city for inclusion in the guide. To nominate a favorite city, fill out a questionnaire available from the center by calling (202) 857-6577 or sending email to: CJI@bnaibrith.org. (Don't forget that Rhode Island is full of exciting Jewish communities that have a lot to offer!)

"There is a wealth of general information available on different cities such as cost of living and average temperatures, but there is nothing available about living Jewishly," said Barbara Stollman, chairman of the Center for Jewish Identity. "For Jewish people contemplating a move, this guide will help them make a more educated decision."

The Center for Jewish Identity promotes Jewish community and family life through a variety of educational programs and inter-generational activities.

To learn more about the center or B'nai B'rith activities around the world from the Internet, see <http://www.bnaibrith.org>.

Miriam Women's Association Turns 100

The Miriam Hospital Women's Association will celebrate its 100th anniversary on May 14, with a birthday luncheon at Ledgemont Country club.

Lenore Leach is chairwoman of the event, Sylvia Brown is treasurer, Patricia G. Cohen designed the invitations, Terry Lieberman is in charge of publicity, Barbara Rosen is in charge of reservations, and Lillian Zarum is in charge of decorations. Co-presidents of The Miriam Hospital Women's Association are Harriet Samors and Morrisa Zwetckhenbaum.

The featured speaker will be Charlotte Fedders, author of *Shattered Dreams* and an advocate for victims of domestic violence.

In celebration of its centennial, The Miriam Hospital Women's Association has published a 64-page pictorial history detailing the 100 years from its inception as The Miriam Lodge in 1897. The book will be distributed at the luncheon as a keepsake gift to association members. For more information, call The Miriam Hospital Women's Association at 331-8500, ext. 32520.

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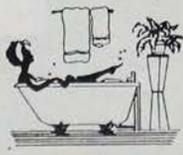
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The cows up for adoption reside at Farm Sanctuary for neglected farm animals. Since 1986, Farm Sanctuary has been providing lifelong care for thousands of needy farm animals.

During its field investigations, Farm Sanctuary has documented cruelty and neglect, but law enforcement officials in many states specifically exclude cows and other farm animals from protection.

The organization has led several campaigns, including prosecuting cow abusers for cruelty and advocating for changes in laws and practices such as dragging and abandonment.

A cow adoption gift is the perfect way to express your love for your mother. If you have a heart for animals too, the adoption kit by calling Farm Sanctuary's Adopt-A-Cow program is the perfect way to express your love for animals.

To receive free information on Farm Sanctuary, call 1-800-454-1380 or write to Farm Sanctuary, Glen, N.Y. 14891.

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THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

JERI Brings Passover Joy to Elderly

by Bonnie Ryvicker

The Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island Program gears up at holiday times in an attempt to meet the spiritual needs of residents. Nice stories are always a delight to share for they show that not only has JERI accepted the responsibility of meeting residents' spiritual needs but many of the nursing homes and the assisted living facilities have been educated by us to pay attention to the spiritual needs of their Jewish residents.

Recently I received a phone call from the daughter of a resident at the Cedar Crest Nursing Home in Cranston. She requested to borrow some Passover supplies from us: matzah, haggadot, wine, a seder plate, charoset, etc. We, of course, were delighted to accommodate this request, but were curious to know what was planned. To my surprise, her family and friends were taking their family seder to Grandma and the other Jewish residents at Cedar Crest. Friends and family were doing all the cooking and all those who could not get out to attend a seder at the homes of family members, were invited. *Yasher Koach* to the Dansicker family and to Cedar Crest for this innovative way of celebrating

Pesach.

A month ago, a call came into the JERI office from the Brown family in East Greenwich with an offer of an invitation to an elderly person in the East Greenwich area to attend their family seder. Given the difficulty of physically moving most of the residents around, I suggested that she visit a specific lady that we knew in a Warwick nursing home, hoping that by establishing a relationship with her first, perhaps the resident would then feel comfortable about going to their home for Pesach.

Around noon on the morning of Pesach, Edmund Place, an East Providence nursing home, called us to see if they could borrow a seder plate. We just happened to have one and they did borrow it. They held a seder on the third night of Pesach, conducted by one of their residents. We were thrilled they had the interest to do something for the holiday.

The Scallop Shell Nursing Home in Peacedale has one Jewish resident. Their dietitian called for Passover recipes so that he could please their resident.

This year, thanks to the Women's Association of the Jewish Home, we distributed

matzah to all the nursing homes along with our gift of holiday videos and prayerbooks. Thank you notes have been coming in every day, often elaborating on their plans to use the videos and to provide additional Jewish programming for their residents.

In mid-March a call was received in the JERI office from a man who was a recent convert to Judaism. He offered to help at a seder. Although his family is not Jewish, he now felt the need to feel connected to "his new people." He joined JERI for the first seder at Rosewood. Clearly, he was trying to build memories of Pesach for himself while helping others.

The first night of Pesach was celebrated at Rosewood with a full seder. Meals were provided by Izzy's and sponsored by the Jewish Home Corporation. Rabbi Douglas conducted the seder with resident participation.

During the week of Pesach programs about Passover were presented in many facilities along with many model seders. For most of our residents, the highlight of the seder is often the chanting of the four questions and the singing of "Dayenu." Memories are rekindled of family gatherings. One can't help consider thoughts of time gone by. Pesach is a beautiful holiday bringing with it memories which are both bitter and sweet. But with JERI, the memories are there for rekindling.

Kennedy Aide Allays Senior Housing Fears

by Sara Wise
Herald Editor

Paula Bradley, constituent field aide for Congressman Patrick Kennedy, spoke to a large group of seniors at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island on April 24 in an attempt to calm fears and provide information about federal rental subsidies, commonly known as Section 8 housing.

Bradley was invited to speak to the senior adult program by William Bretanha, a social work intern at the JCCRI, after Bretanha received numerous questions and requests for information from seniors in the program.

Rumors about the expiration of contracts for the privately owned, federally subsidized housing complexes for the elderly have created fear and confusion in recent months.

Many seniors would be directly affected by cuts in Section 8 funding, so it was a relief for them to hear from Bradley that next year's federal budget pro-

vides guaranteed funding to renew all U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Affairs contracts, and that authorization language for the money has been included for the next five years.

In her presentation, Bradley assured senior citizens that "they would not be thrown out on the streets." She explained that while there may be changes in Section 8 in the future, no one will lose their homes.

Bradley also emphasized the voting power of Rhode Island's elderly population and the impact it can have. Rhode Island has the fourth highest population of senior citizens per capita in the United States (behind Florida, California and Arizona).

The presentation was translated into Russian and was followed by a question and answer period where Bradley addressed concerns of particular residents.

If you have questions about the Section 8 program, call Mariana Lapidus, Russian interpreter for JCCRI, at 861-8800.

Kosher Mealsite Hopes to Open on Aquidneck Island

Aquidneck Island senior citizens who want to attend a mealsite program with kosher meals are invited to respond to Jewish Family Service.

The agency is exploring the possibility of opening a kosher mealsite on the island three days a week. One of those days would be Friday, so that seniors who

live alone or who need help with meal preparation would be able to enjoy a traditional Shabbat meal and the company of others, along with discussion groups and other activities.

Those who would like to participate should call Jewish Family Service at 331-1244 or write the agency at 229 Waterman St., Providence, RI 02906.

Jewish Family Service currently runs the popular JFS Kosher Mealsite in Cranston, which serves more than 100 senior citizens in the Cranston/Warwick area.

Jewish Singles Vacations

Jewish Singles Vacations, a group tour organizer for Jewish singles from across North America, has announced the itineraries for its summer vacation packages. The trips will visit America's national parks. The first itinerary, July 27 to Aug. 3, will feature the Grand Canyon, Bryce National Park, Zion National Park, Monument Valley and Lake Powell. Highlights of the second trip, Aug. 2 to 10, will include Yellowstone National Park, the Grand Tetons, Mt. Rushmore and the Black Hills.

All trips are for Jewish singles, aged 30 to 49.

For information, contact: Jewish Singles Vacations, P.O. Box 211, Brookline, Mass. 02146, Tel. (617) 782-3396.

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THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

Textron School Hosts 'Shalom Israel'

by Tara V. Lisciandro
Herald Editor

Inside of Mr. Jarrid's history classroom of the Textron Chamber of Commerce Academy in Providence, a group of almost fifty high school students sat attentively. The new school opened one year ago and serves about 180 students who are at risk of dropping out. The Textron school assists the students with a "Study to Work" program which gives students

responsibilities and helps them prepare for their future. "Shalom Israel" was presented for these students by the RI section of the National Council of Jewish Women. The educational program was not a political discussion about current issues in Israel, instead the pro-

gram encouraged and taught about Israeli culture and tradition. Erma Gross and Gertrude Max headed the program, which has been put on throughout RI public schools for almost eight years. Judge Howard I. Lipsey, of the RI Family Court, was the guest speaker. Lipsey served in the volunteer Israeli Army in 1984. "I got more out of it that I gave," said Lipsey. He served in the army with not only Americans but Europeans and Israel-

an unforgettable experience for everyone. The goal of the presentation was to encourage students and promote a multi-ethnic understanding of the country of Israel. "These kids look just like the Israeli kids do," said Gross. She and Max emphasized the similarities between the two countries. They also made students aware of the differences between one another's cultures. The school system and career goals, for example, were interesting comparisons for the high school students. When asked what the students would do after high school, most responded with "go to college" or "start working." Therefore the mandatory service for the Israeli army, for 18-year-old women and men, was one of the most surprising differences between the two cultures that made students' eyes open.

The presentation also included a short video about an average Israeli family as well as a table decorated with various objects from Israel. Dresses, shawls, hats, jewelry, foods, statues and other items were placed upon a long table for the students to pick up, look at and try on.

"Shalom Israel" was a successful presentation at the Textron School. "The more they learn, the more personal decisions they can make on their own," said Lipsey. Programs such as the one offered by the National Council of Jewish Women add greatly to the education of our future leaders.



CURIOUS STUDENTS at the Textron Chamber of Commerce Academy carefully look at the table decorated with objects from Israel.
Herald photo by Tara V. Lisciandro

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Rescuer Tells Her Story

Marion P. Pritchard, a native of the Netherlands who between 1942 and 1945 was responsible for saving the lives of more than 100 Jewish children and adults who would have been killed by the Nazis, will be speaking at Congregation Agudath Achim, 36 Winthrop St., Taunton, Mass., at the Sabbath evening service May 9 at 8 p.m.

Rabbi Maurice Weisenberg extends an invitation to the general community to come to listen to the story of a woman who defied the Nazi regime to become a rescuer. Pritchard has been honored by Yad Vashem,

the Holocaust Museum in Israel, with the Medal for the Righteous Gentile. She has also had a tree planted in her name in the Avenue of Righteous Gentiles in Jerusalem. This past year she was awarded the Raoul Wallenberg Medal. Pritchard is also the recipient of the "Courage to Care" award, by the Anti Defamation League, and the Myrtle Wreath given by Hadassah.

As important and interesting as it is to hear the story of those who experienced the horrors of the Holocaust and survived to testify for the historical record, it is also impor-

tant that we learn about those who were themselves not Jewish, but who put their own lives at risk to save Jews by enabling them to escape deportation to death camps or by providing them with food or a place to hid. While most people turned their backs on those who were being victimized, a small number of people were willing to put their own lives in danger in order to save others from persecution.

For information, call (508) 822-3230, or (508) 824-2899.

JWI Holds Conference in Newport

Jewish Women International (formerly B'nai B'rith Women) will hold its regional spring conference in Newport May 2 to 4.

The conference at the Marriott Hotel offers a weekend of lectures, workshops on leadership, idea sharing and a chance to explore the city as Jewish women from the North Atlantic Region gather to cel-

brate the 100th anniversary of Jewish Women International. There will also be a Yom HaShoah commemoration at Touro Synagogue.

Jewish Women International, founded as B'nai B'rith Women in 1897, works locally, nation-

ally, and internationally to champion the rights of women, safeguard the emotional well-being of children, and perpetuate Jewish life and values.

For more information, call (800) 232-2624.

NCJW Honors Hoffman

The Rhode Island Section of the National Council of Jewish Women will hold a Community Service Award luncheon on May 8 at noon at the Ledgemont Country Club.

The luncheon, a benefit for NCJW Community Services and the scholarship program, will honor 1997 Community Service Award winner Herta Hoffman.

At the Council's Volunteer Recognition Day in 1987, Hoffman, the unanimous choice of the selection committee, was the first R.I. section recipient of the celebrated Hannah G. Solomon Award, the highest national award that NCJW can bestow. Her good deeds are legendary and have been an extraordinary source of assistance and comfort to many. With characteristic humility, Hoffman is incredulous of the extensive honors she has received for work she loves to do.

In 1939, at the outbreak of World War II in Europe, Hoffman, with her husband Bruno, fled Vienna and came to Providence. Shortly after arriving, they founded the Rhode Island Self Help Program for Emigrés, a social and support group for Jewish people adjusting to their new lifestyles. After joining the Council in the early 1950s, Hoffman became involved in and soon assumed the chairmanship of the Council's Service to the Foreign Born, helping to resettle and find jobs for hundreds of Jewish refugees from many countries, including vast numbers from the Soviet Union after a change in their

emigration policy. Hoffman opened her heart to them all, warmly welcoming as many as possible to her home for Sabbath dinner and assisting them in countless other ways.

Also a business woman, Hoffman found time to serve as president of Hadassah Business and Professionals as well as to do significant resettlement work for Jewish Family Service and HIAS. She has been an active participant in kosher Meals on Wheels, Jewish Federation, Temple Emanu-El, the Jewish Community Center and other human service organizations in Rhode Island.

In 1983, the Jewish Community Center recognized her with its Outstanding Volunteer Award. In 1989, she received the Outstanding Citizen Award from the International Institute of Rhode Island, Inc., a United Way partner agency whose mission is to help immigrant and refugee populations start a new life in the United States. There have been numerous government citations and proclamations.

With each honor, Hoffman has emphasized that she feels privileged to perform whatever tasks she can for the community. She gratefully pays tribute to her late husband "for his invaluable help, understanding and sharing" of her activities and to her parents, who perished in Auschwitz, for instilling in their children the importance of goodness and concern for others.

For information on the luncheon, call 725-5951.

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FEATURE

Cape Verde Comes To Rhode Island

by Tara V. Liscianro
Herald Editor

Three hundred miles off the coast of Senegal in West Africa, lie the remote islands of Cape Verde. The archipelago is made up of 10 small islands, each with their individual treasures and history.

The former Portuguese colony served as a refuge for diaspora Jews. From the time of

though many had converted to Christianity because of the Inquisition, families attempted to keep and remember their Judaic faith in Cape Verde.

However, generations later, many are unaware of their true heritage and religious background. If Portuguese families in the Rhode Island and south-eastern Massachusetts area were to look back at their genealogy,

worked at the Jewish Community Center in Providence as officer manager. DaSilva is now the president of the new Cape Verdean American Community Development Center, in Pawtucket. The CACD center is a non-profit organization promoting and helping to explore the Cape Verdean history and traditions. The entrance of the center is brightly decorated with various pieces of Cape Verdean art, such as paintings, baskets and ceramics. There is also a display of Cape Verdean literature and music. "The goal is to have a museum to bring out the culture of Cape Verde," said DaSilva. "There are about 15,000 Cape Verdeans in Pawtucket, 50,000 in Rhode Island and 500,000 in the United States," he added.

A combination of volunteers and donations have helped the CACD center to grow. They are now able to help the entire community, "everybody needs help" said DaSilva. In fact many have been coming to the CACD center for free classes and services such as GED, ESL, after-school and citizenship classes, immigration services, and a food distribution program. This summer, the CACD center will even launch Creole language courses, to help keep the Cape Verdean tradition and culture alive.

CACD is a member of United Way and the Food Bank. "We currently have about 150 families for our food distribution program. Hunger does not have a nationality. Therefore, anyone that needs help is welcome under our food program" said DaSilva. Families visit each week and are given a large box of various foods and vegetables which should last each family for a week. "We are now using about 1,500 pounds of food for the families," added DaSilva.

The spacious two-story center also houses a computer room that will be open for classes soon. The computer room is being set

up so that "kids are well prepared for the year 2000," stated DaSilva. Currently the center is looking for volunteer computer teachers and tutors.

Future plans for the center include a day care center, library, gift shop, additional classrooms conference rooms and new offices. "We are also looking for volunteers and mentors to help us provide more services to the

with a gala Cape Verdean Music and Cultural Award Show on May 24 at the RI Convention Center. "It's expected to be a sold-out event with more than 2,400 people. The theme will be 'Celebrating Cape Verde Music,'" said DaSilva. Other than great Cape Verdean musical talents there will be many government representatives such as the prime minister and ambassador of Cape Verde. "Also, a delegation of new media from Cape Verde will be here to report the event to Cape Verde," added DaSilva.

Their efforts to spread their culture and help the community are great ones. "CACD aims to develop and enrich human personality through educational programs, group association, fundamental tradition of Cape Verdean culture, and function as a medium for effective intercultural relations with other groups in the community," stated DaSilva.

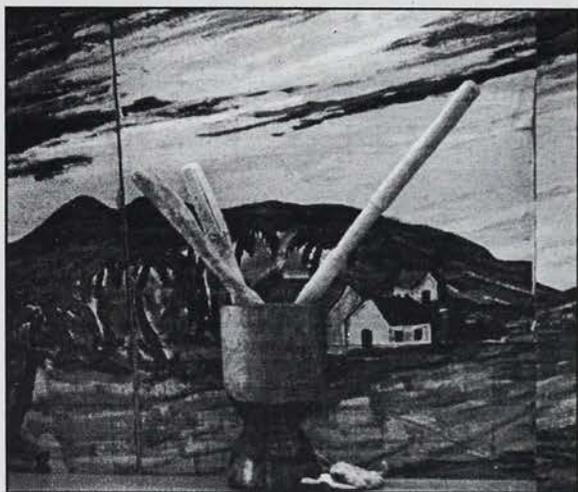
By learning more about Cape Verdean culture and history, we may be able to learn and discover more about our backgrounds and ourselves. Thanks to CACD that has now become even easier to do.

By learning more about Cape Verdean culture and history, we may be able to learn and discover more about our backgrounds and ourselves. Thanks to CACD that has now become even easier to do.

community and we accept donations. We are administered by a group of volunteers. Therefore 100 percent of the money is used to provide services to the community" said DaSilva.

In order to assist the CACD center, the organization will be celebrating its third anniversary

For CACD ticket reservations, donations or volunteer information call 726-8729.



Cape Verdian artwork is on display at their cultural center in Pawtucket.
Herald photo by Tara V. Liscianro

the Inquisition until the end of the 19th century, many Jews found a safe haven in Cape Verde. Evidence of their existence is revealed by the tombstones that are still scattered throughout the islands. Al-

though many would, most likely, find a trace of Jewish identity.

Ismael DaSilva, a native Cape Verdean, is just one of many to have done so. He has discovered Jewish heritage in his genealogy. For eight years DaSilva

State Observes May as Older Americans Month

Barbara C. Ruffino, director of the Rhode Island Department of Elderly Affairs announced at a recent reception that the state will observe May as Older Americans Month.

The state DEA is also launching a campaign to recruit new Senior Companions to work with Rhode Island's homebound elders. Volunteers are particularly needed for the areas of Central Falls, Cranston, North Providence, Pawtucket, Warwick, Westerly, North Kingstown and in other South County areas, in addition to the

Visiting Nurse Association of Rhode Island, and the Veterans Administration Medical Center.

According to Ruffino, "The Senior Companions have a 23-year history of one-to-one support services for elders in the elders' homes, adult day services centers, and the Eleanor Slater General Hospital. During this time, elder volunteers have dedicated nearly 1.3 million hours of service to their peers."

Limited income seniors in good health age 60 and older are eligible to join the Senior Companion Program. Volunteers receiving training, a tax-free stipend and other benefits while serving 20 hours each week. Senior Companion volunteers serve clients by reading, sharing a meal, going for a walk, shopping, or just being a friend to frail, isolated seniors.

Currently, there are approximately 80 Senior Companion volunteers in the state. The Senior Companion Program is funded by the Corporation for National Service and is sponsored in Rhode Island by the DEA. For information on becoming a Senior Companion volunteer or for a full schedule of Older Americans Month events, call 277-2858.

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Remember the Armenians

by Tara V. Lisciandro
Herald Editor

At the beginning of World War II, Hitler stated, "Who remembers the Armenians?" In June of 1915 there were a million and a half Armenians massacred by Turkish troops invading Armenia. The U.S. Ambassador to Turkey during World War II said, "The great massacres and persecutions of the past seem almost insignificant when compared to the sufferings of the Armenian race in 1915."

The Armenian genocide was a "Final Solution," one that we seem to be less informed about,

the United States, April 24, the remembrance day of the Armenian genocide, is well thought of. Between 500 to 600 people from the Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts area arrived at the 20th Anniversary of the Dedication of the Martyrs' Monument, held this past weekend at the North Burial Ground in Providence. The Armenian Martyrs' Memorial Committee of RI was responsible for the activities held this past weekend to help remember the 82nd anniversary of the Armenian genocide. The dedication ceremony, with greetings

in addition, "A wall will be created with 36 slates to represent the letters of the Armenian alphabet," said Ramon Zorabedian, co-chairman of the RI committee. "The monument will also have an apron surrounding the front of it as well as places to pray and contemplate for passers-by. Gray granite will decorate the bottom of the apron and include a carving of a phoenix, a Greek symbol which represents resurrection from the ashes," he added. Also engraved in the apron will be various historical facts, to help better understand the Armenian culture.

The monument and the annual dedication ceremony are very important for the Armenian community. "Many Armenians have been buried here since the late 1800s," said Zorabedian. Their tradition and culture are

able to survive thanks to the committee and their efforts. In fact, the 20th anniversary dedication served also "as a kick-off for donations for the new addition," stated Zorabedian. The committee hopes to create the addition this summer and hold the dedication ceremony this time next year.

In addition to the important monument, the Armenian Martyrs' Memorial Committee also

addition to the monument this year, they will continue to teach as much as they can. Unlike other states, Holocaust and genocide education has unfortunately not been made mandatory in the state of RI and so the committee has taken it upon themselves to make students more aware. The need to educate about the Holocaust and genocide can only help to prevent other tragedies from repeating themselves.

Let us all remember, Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights from the General Assembly of the United Nations on December 10, 1948 states: "All human beings, are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood."

All human beings, are born free and equal in dignity and rights.

takes responsibility for teaching about the Armenian genocide in RI public schools. Although their focus is the new



THE ARMENIAN MARTYRS' MONUMENT, in Providence, celebrated its 20th anniversary. Herald Photo by Tara V. Lisciandro

one that seems to be less remembered. "History has continued to repeat itself many times over, in 1988 when the Azeri Turks committed atrocities in Sumgait, then in 1989 in Karabagh and later in 1990 and 1991 in Baku. Many deaths have occurred, and as of today, tens of thousands of Armenians have been uprooted from their birthplaces," stated the Armenian Martyrs' Memorial Committee.

Luckily, in the state of Rhode Island and many other parts of

Providence Mayor Vincent A. Cianci, Jr., was followed by an anniversary dinner at the Egavian Cultural Center.

On a beautiful day, full of sunshine and a blue sky with a few puffy white clouds, hundreds of people gathered to remember family and friends, innocently murdered years ago. Twenty years ago, a monument was constructed and placed in the North Burial ground for all of the Armenians. Now, the monument will have an

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FEATURE

Local Scholar Publishes Book on Slater Mill

by Sara Wise
Herald Editor

First-time author Sarah Leavitt speaks modestly about her own accomplishments, but get her talking about her book's topic, the history of the Slater Mill in Pawtucket, and she expounds with the confidence of a seasoned historian.

Her book, a pictorial history of Slater Mill due out this week, represents many long hours she spent last summer searching through hundreds of photographs for those that would help her tell the story of a remarkable part of Rhode Island history.

Slater Mill is part of the Images of America series by Arcadia Publishing, a small publishing company based in New

York, currently working on her Ph.D. in American Civilization at Brown and hopes to pursue a career in museum studies. Her involvement with Slater Mill began five years ago when she was required to do a summer internship at a museum as part of her master's program in museum studies.

Since that internship, Leavitt has performed various functions at the museum. She has guided tours, answered phones, stuffed envelopes, and when the curator went on leave for a while, she assisted in the curator's functions. "I've done a little bit of everything," said Leavitt of her experience at Slater Mill.

When it came time to write

modestly about being chosen to write the book.

Slater Mill was originally intended to be published in-house for the gift shop, since there was nothing on the history of the Mill for visitors, but at the museum director's suggestion, Leavitt approached Arcadia Publishing to see if they would be interested in the book. "I was skeptical because they generally do books about cities or towns, (there are already two Arcadia books on Pawtucket), I didn't think they'd really be interested in it because it's only one building, but I wrote them a letter and sure enough they said yes."

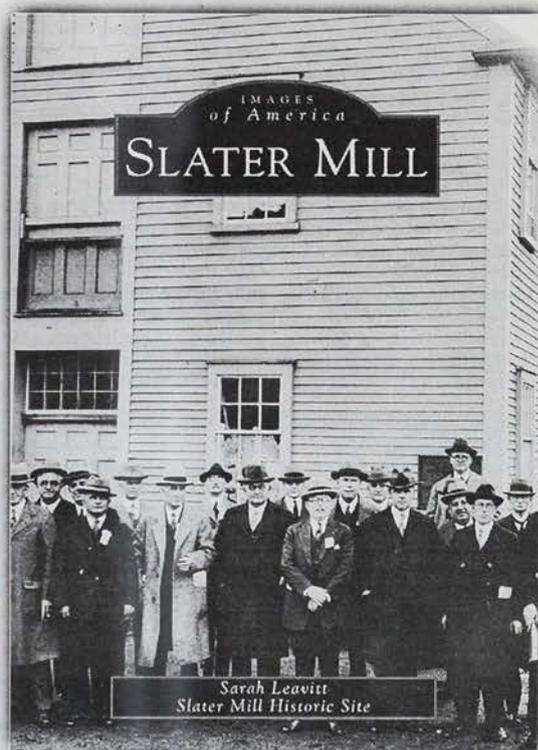
According to Leavitt, people come in to the museum all the time and ask what the building was used for. Few people know that it was actually only used by Slater for a short period of time and then it had other functions, so the book will serve as an excellent visitor's guide.

"It's a biography of a building that has gone through so much in 200 years. It has a really fascinating history. I went through so many photographs trying to put the book together. They show the changes in the area."

The part of Pawtucket surrounding Slater Mill has changed dramatically, from an industrial center to an area demolished under the mantle of urban renewal. Only a few mills were saved because they were part of this museum. Slater Mill was saved by the Old Slater Mill Association in 1921. The Wilkinson Mill, was also saved and became part of the museum in '70s.

"All the buildings around it are parking lots, so it's a great story that these were saved. Pawtucket was one of the show-cases of urban renewal, they were really proud of it and lots of federal funding to tear things down. It's easy to criticize with hindsight," said Leavitt.

Her favorite part of the mill's history is the late 19th century. "At that time the building was used by about 50 different businesses, on and off. It had all sorts of uses, there was a bicycle shop there in the 1890s with a bicycle rink where they would test out the bikes."



A lot of the other businesses related to the textile industry

"It's a biography of a building that has gone through so much in 200 years."

set up shop in the Old Slater Mill, like braiding and horse-hair weaving. "It was a real site of innovation because it was a small place and it probably wasn't that expensive to rent space there," said Leavitt.

The building was active until 1920 when the owner of the building died and the Pawtucket Businessmen's Association (now the Chamber of Commerce) bought it. They saw it as the birthplace of the textile industry and realized it was worth saving as a shrine to their industry, but they had difficulty raising money to save it since many people at that time saw Pawtucket as the "cemetery of the textile industry."

With the help of other organizations, they cleaned it out,

restored it and made it look more colonial and bucolic and less industrial. They took down a lot of the additions because they wanted it to look more original, more like a traditional birthplace. In 1955, the museum opened to the public.

Leavitt, who has a poster of Slater Mill hanging in her living room, said she enjoyed writing the book. "It was fun, it was an interesting experience trying to write a story with photographs, because I didn't have that much room to write text, and I actually wrote a lot more text than most of the books in the series."

Although Slater Mill is somewhat outside her field of academic study, writing the book fits in well with her larger goals of working in a museum and making history more accessible for people. "I've always loved museums, they have such a potential to teach things. One of the things that I want to do is write history that is interesting, that people can actually read and understand and learn from."

Slater Mill will be available at local bookstores and at the Slater Mill gift shop this week.



Sarah Leavitt, author
Herald photo by Sara Wise

Hampshire that specializes in picture books on historic cities and towns. Arcadia finds local historians to write the books to give them a local feel.

Leavitt, a Wisconsin native who came east to attend Wesleyan University, is cur-

rently working on her Ph.D. in American Civilization at Brown and hopes to pursue a career in museum studies. Her involvement with Slater Mill began five years ago when she was required to do a summer internship at a museum as part of her master's program in museum studies. Since that internship, Leavitt has performed various functions at the museum. She has guided tours, answered phones, stuffed envelopes, and when the curator went on leave for a while, she assisted in the curator's functions. "I've done a little bit of everything," said Leavitt of her experience at Slater Mill. When it came time to write

the book on Slater Mill, Leavitt was an obvious choice because she was so familiar with the archives. A few summers ago she worked on a 200th anniversary exhibit on the history of the mill, and then last summer she went through the archives again for an exhibit for the 75th anniversary of the museum. "I was there at the right time," she said

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ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT



'Ambition' Pays Off For Trinity Rep

by Sara Wise
Herald Editor

The world premiere of 37-year-old playwright Anthony Clarvoe's "Ambition Facing West" at Trinity Repertory Company explores the issues of migration and family relationships over time and distance in an interesting and engaging fashion.

"Ambition Facing West" chronicles the westward journey of a Croatian family over three generations from Croatia to Wyoming, and then further west to Japan (by way of California). Clarvoe, who grew up in San Francisco, shares a common ancestry with his characters.

The story is told through short nonlinear vignettes which are at first a bit difficult to follow until you get to know the characters and how they fit into the larger frame. By the end of the first act, however, the device of skipping back and forth between generations comes together and the second act is much stronger and more fluid as it further develops the themes of cultural identity and what it means to be from a certain place.

Nearly all the actors play two (or even three) different characters. Because of the play's structure, the performers are constantly switching between roles. Through clever writing and solid casting, each actor plays dual roles that are compatible and that grapple with similar issues. The costume changes and superb lighting help make the transformations and transitions more distinct and believable.

While the play recounts an immigrant family's struggle, it also deals more generally with issues of family and explores universal relationships between parents and children and how their goals and ideals for themselves often conflict.

Anne Scurria is spectacularly funny and touching in both her roles as an overbearing Croatian peasant mother, unimpressed by the allure of the West and fearful of her son's imminent departure for America, and a chic corporate mother living in Japan and struggling to understand her son's interest in Zen Buddhism and his desire to stay put after their family's constant movement.

Mauro Hantman plays both sons in a heartfelt performance of two youths seeking to find their place in the world.

The portrayal of the wartime anxieties of immigrants, expressed through an Italian/Croatian couple living in Wyoming, are particularly relevant, given the current climate of fear among immigrants due to re-

cent anti-immigration legislation. The Italian mother (played by Phyllis Kay), afraid of being sent to an internment camp like the Japanese, says, in a telling comment, "They changed the laws one time, they can change them again."

The cyclical nature of the play draws out many contrasts and ironies as the same issues are played out again and again in succeeding generations.

At times the characters in "Ambition" have a tendency to slip into cliché portrayals and to launch into platitudes. The overbearing immigrant father who drives his child to succeed and the overglorification of America as the promised land, for example, might have been more subtly expressed. This may, however, be a fault of trying to tackle too many complex issues

within a play that is already full of personal struggles.

The sparse set by Christine Jones of gravel and dust crossed by two wooden planks and a surrounding moat works well for all three locations. The water serves as an appropriate boundary for a play that constantly addresses the permeability of borders. At one point, one character says, "In Europe, the people stay put and the countries move around."

Parts of the play are very funny (An immigrant mother's observation of American picnics: "Only in America can they take a holiday to be refugees"). The triumph of "Ambition Facing West" is that Clarvoe manages to infuse heavy issues of family struggle with humor in a way that both instructs and entertains.



ANNE SCURRIA as Alma and Mauro Hantman as Joey in the world premiere of Anthony Clarvoe's "Ambition Facing West" at Trinity Repertory Company. This sweeping drama of three generations of a Croatian family in pursuit of their dreams is directed by Oskar Eustis.

Photo by T. Charles Erickson

City Nights Theatre Presents 'Squabbles'

City Nights Dinner Theatre announces production of the comedy "Squabbles." The show is produced by David Jepson. It opens May 9 and runs every Friday and Saturday evening through June 1. In addition, there will be a Thursday evening performance on May 29 and Sunday matinees on May 18 and June 1.

The show is directed by Patricia Glad and stars Elliot Cohan, Betty Nolan, Neil Santoro, Hilary Rogers, Tommy Trenn and Mary Mattos.

Jerry is a successful writer of jingles, married to Alice, an equally successful lawyer. Living with the happy couple is the not-so-happy Abe Dreyfus, Alice's curmudgeon of a father. Abe is a pretty funny guy, but not to Jerry's mother, Mildred,

who also moves in when her house burns down. Of course Abe and Mildred can't stand each other and engage in one squabble after another, leading to an unusual finale.

Tickets for the dinner and show are \$22 per person. The meal is a complete roast chicken dinner with tossed salad through dessert and coffee and is served family style.

Seating is from 6 to 7 p.m. with dinner served at 7 p.m. Sunday matinee seating is from noon until 1 p.m. with dinner served at 1 p.m. Curtain is approximately an hour after serving time. Cocktails and soft drinks are available at the bar.

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by Tara V. Lisciandro and Sara Wise
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OBITUARIES

VIOLA BIRNBAUM

PROVIDENCE — Viola (Schlesinger) Birnbaum, 86, of 97 Dexterdale Road, Providence, died April 24 at The Miriam Hospital. She was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., a daughter of the late Joseph and Irene (Stern) Schlesinger. She had lived in Providence since 1961.

She was a manager for the Pawtucket Dress Corporation for 25 years before retiring in 1985.

She is survived by two sons, Joel Birnbaum of Oceanport, N.J., and Jay Birnbaum of Providence, R.I.; a daughter, Sandy Silverstein of Long Island, N.Y.; a sister, Rosalind Novsam of Bridgeport, Conn., and five grandchildren.

A graveside funeral service was held April 27 at Beth-El Cemetery in Paramus, N.J.

SYLVIA BRENNER

MIDDLETOWN, R.I. — Sylvia (Pullman) Brenner, 90, died April 18 at the Grand Islander in Middletown. She was the widow of Morris Brenner, who died Oct. 28, 1985.

Born March 1, 1907, in Russia, a daughter of the late Rubin and Sarah Leah (Kalikow) Pullman, she came to the United States in 1923 and settled with her family in Brooklyn, N.Y. She married Morris Brenner on Nov. 1, 1925, and moved to Woonsocket where she resided until 1993 before moving to The Grand Islander.

She worked as a cashier at the business she and her hus-

band owned, the former Woonsocket Auto Parts Co. in Woonsocket. She retired in 1968.

She was a member of Congregation B'nai Israel, a life member of its Sisterhood and of Hadassah.

She leaves two sons, Henry Z. Brenner of Devil's Lake, N.D., and Gerald M. Brenner of Woonsocket; one daughter, Zita Kaplan of Delray Beach, Fla., nine grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren. She was also the sister of the late George, Irving, Nathan, and Sidney Pullman and Mollie Spasser.

Her funeral was held on April 20 at Congregation B'nai Israel, Woonsocket, with the Chevra Kaddisha and the Holt Funeral Home in charge of arrangements. Burial was in B'nai Israel Cemetery, Woonsocket.

SUZANNE 'SUZY' HOROWITZ

PROVIDENCE — Suzanne "Suzy" Horowitz, 75, of 789 Williamsburg Circle, Wethersfield Common, died April 26 at The Miriam Hospital. She was the wife of Jerome E. Horowitz.

Born in Manila, Philippine Islands, a daughter of the late Salomon and Fortunee (Safarti) Salti, she lived in Warwick for 10 years, previously living in Cranston and Providence for many years.

She was a member of Temple Torat Yisrael and its Sisterhood, Hadassah, the Multiple Sclerosis Society and Temple Emanu-El Leisure Club.

Besides her husband, she

leaves a daughter, Betty Leef of Sharon, Mass.; a son, Nathan Horowitz of Woburn, Mass.; and three grandchildren. She was the mother of the late Rochelle Horowitz.

The funeral was held April 27 at Temple Torat Yisrael, Park Avenue, Cranston. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery. Service was coordinated by Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence.

MAURICE LEVY

NORTH SMITHFIELD — Maurice Levy, 82, of the Woodland Convalescent Home, an employee in the maintenance department at The Miriam Hospital for 10 years, died April 14 at the home. He was the husband of the late Suzanne (Massuda) Levy.

Born in Egypt, a son of the late Yaacov and Labiba (Soliman) Levy, he had lived in North Smithfield since 1988, previously living in Providence.

He leaves a brother, Dr. Zaki Levy of Newton, Mass.; two sisters, Rachel Saleh of Brookline, Mass., and Claire Tawil in Switzerland. He was the brother of the late Claire and Vivian Levy.

A graveside funeral service was held April 17 in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Post Road, Warwick. Service was coordinated by Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence.

MILDRED RUBIN

PAWTUCKET — Mildred Rubin, 90, of Oak Hill Nursing

and Rehabilitation Center, Pawtucket, an office manager and coordinator of the first-aid services at the former B.B. Greenberg Co., Providence, before retiring in the early '70s, died April 24 at the center. She was the wife of the late Louis Rubin.

Born in Russia, a daughter of the late Nathan and Mary (Frayman) Seidel, she lived in the Shalom Apartments for many years, previously living in Providence. During WWII she was a volunteer air raid drill warden for her neighborhood.

She had been an officer of the Shalom Tenants Association. She was a member of the First Odessa Beneficial Association.

She leaves a daughter, Eunice Abeshaus of Cranston; a sister, Rebecca Wood in Florida; and two grandchildren, Debra and Marc. She was the sister of the late Dora Howard and Lillian Pressman.

A graveside service was held April 25 at Lincoln Park Cemetery, Post Road. Service was coordinated by Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence.

FLORENCE SORGMAN

PROVIDENCE — Florence Sorgman, 94, of 111 South Angell St., died April 26 at the Bethany Home. She was the widow of Julius Sorgman.

Born in Boston, a daughter of the late Joseph and Katie (Simon) Fluster, she lived in Providence for 71 years.

She had been a member of

Temple Beth-El and its Sisterhood. She was a member of the Women's Association of Miriam Hospital and of the Jewish Home for the Aged.

She leaves a daughter, Jetta Brenner of Providence; two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

A private funeral service was coordinated April 27 by Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, Providence. Burial was in Temple Beth-El Cemetery, Reservoir Avenue, Cranston.

EVELYN VINACCO

CRANSTON — Evelyn Vinacco, 82, of 71 Hope Road, Cranston, a former saleswoman and longtime Warwick resident, died April 23 at the Cedar Crest Nursing Centre. She was the wife of the late Joseph Vinacco.

She was born in New York City, a daughter of the late Louis and Margaret (Lieberman) Fried. She lived in Cranston for the last year and lived in Warwick since 1960, previously residing in Providence.

She had been a saleswoman at Apex for 10 years, retiring 20 years ago.

She leaves three sons, David and Michael Vinacco, both of Warwick, and Bruce Vinacco of Cranston; a sister, Sylvia Cooperman of Sunrise, Fla.; five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. She was the sister of the late Ruth Berkon.

The funeral was held April 25 at Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Post Road, Warwick.

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Vatican

(Continued from Page 4)

In 1990, while serving as chairman of the International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultations, I and other Jewish leaders met in Prague with high-level officials of the Vatican Commission on Religious Relations With the Jews. Among the issues touched upon in our discussions was the unlocking of the archives. Earlier, in 1987, the Vatican had announced its intention to make available its wartime records to outside scholars. Two years later, at the 14th annual meeting in

Baltimore between IJCC and the Vatican Commission on Religious Relations With the Jews, the Vatican representatives once again agreed to open the archives. It is now 10 years later, and this promise has yet to be fulfilled. The church's records and documents of the World War II era remain as closed as ever to independent scholars.

The pact between the church and Israel instituting long-delayed formal diplomatic relations between the two makes it more urgent than ever that remaining barriers of misunderstanding and suspicion be removed. A key step in that direction would be the opening of the Vatican archives and a policy of restoring the church's Judaic holdings to Israel and other institutions within the worldwide Jewish community.

Such an action by Pope John Paul II would resolve once and for all the controversy that continues to surround the Vatican's role during the Holocaust. It would also represent an important step in further cementing relations between the church and the worldwide Jewish community.

Seymour D. Reich, an attorney, is immediate past president of the American Zionist Movement and a former chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

This opinion appeared in the April 25 issue of New Jewish Week.

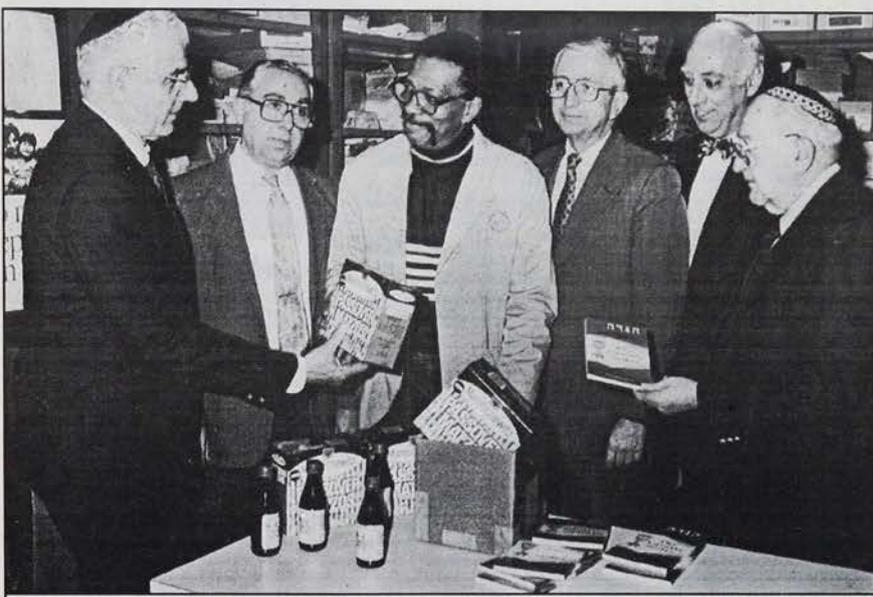
Anniversary Notices

In the future the *Jewish Herald* will publish memorial ads 1 col. x 4" for \$10.

Larger ads will be priced at the same rate — \$10 per 4" column. Notices may include a poem, date of death, quotation, or a small picture of the deceased.

Payment and wording must be mailed or brought in to the RI Jewish Herald 99 Webster Street Pawtucket, RI 02861

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Passover for Jewish Military Personnel

More than 3,000 Passover items have been shipped by the Jewish Welfare Board's Jewish Chaplains Council to Jewish military personnel in the U.S. Armed Forces, their families and patients in VA hospitals.

Photo by JCC Association

breast cancer

(Continued from Page 3)

Herman, the breast health director of the East Side Surgical Group, said that although inherited breast cancers comprise only 7 percent of the cases diagnosed each year, Jewish women should not disregard the new information.

"The studies are absolutely true," Herman said on April 25. "Ashkenazi Jewish women have an 8 times higher risk of having a positive breast cancer gene than the general population does. Breast cancer strikes about 10 percent of American women. The 1 to 2 percent of 'increased lifetime risk' is a result of extrapolating numbers."

According to Herman, about 50 percent of those with the gene alterations develop breast cancer by age 50, and about 80 percent experience the disease by age 80.

But those who elect to go for genetic testing should be aware

of its pitfalls, said Herman.

"It puts us in an awful dilemma," he said. "What can we offer a 25-year-old who has tested positive? Even if we do a bilateral mastectomy, we can only offer her a 91 percent guarantee that she will not get the disease. I've seen families broken up because two members have been positive and two have been negative. There's frustration and resentment."

According to Herman, Jewish women should fight the disease by living healthy lifestyles that include breast cancer detection methods.

"The risk is not so high that people should panic," Herman said. "Women should perform breast self-exams, get clinical exams twice a year, and have yearly mammograms starting at age 40 or younger. All we can offer is early detection rather than prevention."

Students

(Continued from Page 1)

him come to the United States to share his story with a wider audience.

During the discussion section of the seder, Bhakdo told how he was first introduced to Judaism a few years ago in France when Madame Mitterand (wife of former French Prime Minister François Mitterand) brought him to a hospital to be treated for injuries he suffered under Chinese torturers. The hospital was set up after WW II to treat concentration camp survivors and as Bhakdo learned about Jews and the Holocaust for the first time, he saw similarities between what the Jews experienced and the oppression of the Tibetan people under Chinese occupation.

Bhakdo, who has recently written a book about his life in exile, also sponsored by Madame Mitterand, said that he was honored to attend his first seder.

Although Bhakdo was the only Tibetan present, other guests talked about their connections to Tibet. One woman said, "I visited Tibet and I wept for the destruction the Chinese have brought upon the Tibetan people."

Another guest mentioned the environmental destruction the Chinese have caused in Tibet by excessive logging and uranium mining.

Throughout the evening, conversation centered around the themes of exile, slavery and freedom in a service dedicated to the eventual liberation of the Tibetan people.

Seders with special themes have become increasingly popular in recent years, especially for the last night of Passover. Many see these seders as a way to connect the story of the liberation of the Jews to the plight of other suffering groups and to symbolically work towards freedom for all peoples.

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R.I. Helps Flood Victims

An unprecedented critical relief and recovery operation has stretched The Salvation Army resources in North Dakota and Minnesota and has resulted in the call up of The Salvation Army disaster services personnel from the northeastern United States.

On April 24, The Rhode Island Salvation Army in a joint effort with WJAR 10, North American Van Lines and Rhode Island Mall filled three trailers with donated critically needed items such as toilet paper, diapers and toiletries. Volunteers from all over the state gave of themselves and the outpouring of community spirit was overwhelming. The trucks left Rhode Island on April 25.

Through the cooperative efforts of individuals and corporations, 2,744 officers of The Salvation Army and volunteers have assisted 192,161 people with supplies, shelter, meals, sandwiches, drinks, snacks and other forms of tangible, emotional and spiritual support.

Twenty-two mobile canteen units are deployed along the Red River Valley to provide hot meals and beverages to victims and disaster workers.

The Salvation Army is operating three shelters at the Grand Forks, N.D., Air Force Base for more than 1,300 evacuees while across the raging Red River of the North, food is being provided from a temporary Emergency Operations Center near East Grand Forks.

As The Salvation Army's North Dakota/Minnesota flood response program moves into the recovery and restoration phase, telephone inquiries have increased dramatically with offers of financial and donated goods support. The (800) SAL-ARMY disaster hotline is currently served by 120 telephone lines staffed by officers and volunteers.

Send contributions marked "North Dakota/Minnesota Flood Relief," to The Salvation Army, State Office, 386 Broad St., Providence, RI 02907.

Discover Local Jewelry Treasures

by Tara V. Lisciandro
Herald Editor

There's a tiny shop on a big, fast-paced street, Reservoir Avenue in Cranston, called Yepremian's Jewelers. However, this little jewelry shop becomes a magical world of dazzling gems and brilliant gold upon entering it. Showcases are filled with bangles, rings, necklaces, charms and more.

The Yepremian family has run their jewelry establishment since 1981.

Sarkis Yepremian began in the jewelry business when he was 15 in Beirut. He entered the trade learning jewelry as an art, adapting a classic French style to various creations. "Religion also played a part in jewelry

making," said Yepremian.

Having learned the highest quality of jewelry making of the Mideast, Yepremian opened his own shop in 1959 in Beirut. All of his jewelry was handmade, including rings, bracelets and necklaces. And he continues to use the same fine craftsmanship today in his Cranston shop. Many of his pieces are made by hand and therefore, quite original. Yepremian also continues to use the same high quality platinum, white gold and 24 karat gold to create special jewelry.

In 1976 the Yepremian family came to the United States. Yepremian began to work in Rhode Island with a jewelry

manufacturer where he made tools and models. Only four years later he opened his own shop on Union Street. Then, a year later, moved to his current shop in Cranston.

Yepremian's specializes in precious metals, diamonds and other brilliant gems. They also offer high quality repairs, remodeling, engraving and watch repairs, all done on the premises. Anyone wanting a special engagement ring and matching wedding band can easily fulfill their needs at Yepremian's.

"We take care of the customer in the best way we can," said Yepremian's son, Sebouh. Sebouh has acquired his father's fine Mideast skills for jewelry making. But he has also earned his degree from the Gemological Institute of America.



MR. YEPREMIAM PROUDLY shows off an original diamond ring as his son, Sebouh, looks on.

Herald photo by Tara V. Lisciandro

The Yepremian family is very knowledgeable about fine quality jewelry and is always ready to help their customers.

Their many years of experience shines through in their shop, full of unique jewelry treasures.

Crummey Powers Q & A

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

Q: Why are Crummey powers useful in estate planning?

A: Crummey powers reduce gift taxes on transfers to a trust. Also, since gift taxes and estate taxes are both calculated by taking into account all prior taxable gifts, a current reduction in the amount of property subject to gift tax can help reduce the tax bracket for your gifts or your estate in years to come.

Q: What are Crummey powers?

A: Named after general powers given to irrevocable trust beneficiaries in the 1968 Ninth Circuit case, *Crummey v. Commissioner*, Crummey powers are rights of withdrawal. Subsection 2503(b) of the Internal Revenue Code excludes from gift tax the first \$10,000 of gifts, other than future interests in

property, for each beneficiary. A future interest gift is one that cannot be currently used or enjoyed, because it is in a trust or has some other restriction. Since the Crummey powers enable the trust beneficiaries to currently exercise a right of withdrawal, a transfer to the trust is a present interest gift instead of a future interest gift, and the \$10,000 gift tax exclusion per beneficiary applies. There must be actual notice to the beneficiary of the right of withdrawal, and the power must extend for a reasonable period such as 30 days.

Example: You thought you would save some money and draft your own trust without the use of legal counsel. You transferred \$50,000 to the trust (\$10,000 for the benefit of each of five trust beneficiaries), thinking that no gift tax would be paid because of the annual \$10,000 gift tax exclusion. As-

suming you are in a 55 percent gift tax bracket, not using Crummey powers costs you \$27,500.

Q: Who pays the life insurance premium?

A: The trustee of your irrevocable life insurance trust should be the premium payor as well as the applicant, owner, and beneficiary. Although the trust beneficiaries have the Crummey withdrawal rights, it is expected that these rights will not be exercised and, therefore, the funds will be available for premiums. Thanks to the Crummey powers, cash to cover the premiums is transferred to the trust gift tax free.

Example: You establish an irrevocable life insurance trust which purchases a \$1,000,000 Survivor UL contract on you and your spouse. To cover the premium, you transfer \$40,000 per year to the trust and use split-gifts (your spouse is treated as making half of the gift) and Crummey powers for each of your two children, Carl and John. Carl has a right to withdraw the \$10,000 gift from you and the \$10,000 from your spouse, and John can withdraw similar amounts of present interest gifts, so no gift tax is paid.

Q: Is there a dollar limitation to the value of the Crummey powers?

A: There is no limit for gift tax purposes if there is only one

beneficiary of the trust. If there is more than one trust beneficiary, then the lapse (non-exercise) of a Crummey power could be considered a future interest gift from the power holder to the other beneficiaries of any amount over \$5,000 or five percent of the total value of the trust (five or five limit). In addition, the lapsed amount over the five or five limit may be in the estate of the power holder because the power holder has made a transfer with a retained life insurance in the trust.

Example: You make a \$10,000 gift in trust for each of your two daughters, Ariana and Nicole. Neither child exercises her Crummey power, so Ariana is treated as making a \$5,000 future interest gift to Nicole and vice versa. To avoid this problem, the trust could be drafted to not allow the Crummey power to lapse for any amount greater than the five or five limit, or to allow the lapse but keep at least a limited power over this amount so that the gift is not complete. Either approach would cause the excess over the five or five limit (\$5,000) to be included in each girl's estate.

However, as long as you arrange for the entire trust to be distributed during the lifetime of Ariana and Nicole, there would be nothing included in their estates. Another method is

to use "hanging powers." This technique lets the power hang around until it can be lapsed without exceeding the five or five limit. If you do not make a gift in trust for Ariana and Nicole in the second year, then the \$5,000 power that was left hanging in the first year could be lapsed in the second year without any tax. To assist your attorney, you provide them with the Advanced Underwriting Division's sample irrevocable life insurance trust, complete with Crummey powers and a discussion of hanging powers.

Submitted by Lawrence M. Halperin and Marvin William Lax of Halperin & Lax. In their monthly column they will answer questions about life and disability insurance and investments. Mail questions to: 335 Centerville Road, Warwick, RI 02886-9990 or call 738-2350.

Check Your Medicines at Brown Bag Day

Are you taking more than one pill daily? Do you need to know how your medications interact with each other? If so, plan to attend Comprehensive Adult Day Care Center's Brown Bag Day with pharmacists from the University of Rhode Island on May 7, from 10 a.m. to noon.

The goal of Brown Bag Day is to make certain people are taking medications properly and are not suffering from side effects or drug interactions.

Brown Bag Day was started around 1982, by Dr. Al Taubman, an associate director of pharmacy administration at URI. At the first Brown Bag Day a client brought in his four medications — all in the same container. Three of these medications were being taken for the same reason!

At the Brown Bag clinic a pharmacist will check your medications for possible drug interactions, inappropriate dosages and proper times for taking your medications. A private area will be set up for you and the pharmacist to discuss your medications.

The center is located at 99 Hillside Ave., Providence. Call 351-2440 for an appointment.

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