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Happy
Birthday
Israel

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Eliash Receives Honorary Degree

Holocaust survivor Lea Eliash will receive an honorary doctorate of public service from Rhode Island College at the college's 1997 commencement exercises on May 22.

Eliash has devoted her adult life to speaking about the atrocities suffered by her family and millions of other Holocaust victims to warn about the horrors of the Holocaust.

She was born in Lithuania and educated as a teacher. During the Nazi invasion into her country in 1941, Eliash, who by then was married to Solomon and had an 18-month-old daughter, found her life torn apart, her family members separated and murdered, and she was forced to give up her only daughter in order to save the child's life. Her husband was taken to Dachau.

Forced to work at a Ger-

manfactory on behalf of the war effort, Eliash learned through a friend there that all Jewish chil-

dren were about to be taken away and slaughtered. Fearing for her child's life, Eliash secretly made arrangements to have her daughter taken in by a Catholic family in the city and given a new identity. The child was smuggled out of the ghetto in a sack and covered with blankets. If Eliash should survive, the Catholic family would return her daughter.

Miraculously, all three survived and were eventually reunited.

In 1951, the family emigrated to New York; later that year they moved to Providence. Her husband Solomon died in 1978.

Eliash has committed her life to warning others about the horrors of the Holocaust "so that such barbarism may be stopped in today's world and in the years to come."



Lea Eliash

Photo courtesy of Rhode Island College

Boston Genealogists Object to Moving Records to New York

by Sue Asci
The Jewish Advocate

BOSTON (JTA) — As the American Jewish Historical Society prepares to return to New York next year, Boston historical and genealogical groups are looking for ways to keep here more than 100 collections of local historical records.

"This is a valuable resource that is moving away from me," said Nancy Arbeiter of Needham, Mass., a professional genealogist and one of more than 60 people who attended a recent meeting of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston.

Fred Davis, president of the genealogical society, said his organization has an interest in the Boston materials being available in Boston, but how to do so is unclear.

"We don't know how we'd like that to happen," he said. "There's no Boston Jewish historical society that pays attention to that and after the AJHS moves there will be a particular vacuum."

The 105-year-old American Jewish Historical Society purchased its current site next to Brandeis University 30 years ago because of space constraints at its New York headquarters. The society owns millions of documents, thousands of books, paintings, posters, photographs,

artifacts, videotapes, magazines, newspaper, scholarly journals and other items.

Of the 1,170 manuscript collections, 116 have connections to Boston and Massachusetts.

Now, the historical society is set to join YIVO, the Leo Baeck Institute and Yeshiva University Museum at the new Center for Jewish History, which is currently under construction in downtown Manhattan.

"The synergy among the four institutions will bring together European and American Jewish life," said Michael Feldberg, executive director of the historical society. "We felt we are a national Jewish community and this would be for the best."

The historical society's current building needs some \$600,000 in capital improvements to bring it to current conservational standards, Feldberg said.

One possible option would be the creation of a new organization, such as a Boston Jewish Historical and Genealogical Society and Archives that would be based at an existing institution in the Boston area.

However, copying the Boston records would be expensive. The records of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society are already scheduled to be microfilmed this summer at a cost of more than \$50,000.

FDR Memorial Revives Debate Over U.S. Efforts in World War II

by Matthew Dorf

WASHINGTON (JTA) — For "plucking the Jewish remnants from the fires and ovens of destruction" President Franklin D. Roosevelt "will forever have a special place in our hearts."

With these words, Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein closed the dedication of the FDR memorial here recently and opened a new chapter in the controversy over whether America did enough to stop the Holocaust.

Since the publication of World War II-era correspondence in the 1970s that details intimate American intelligence about the slaughter of Europe's Jews, a debate has raged over FDR's actions or non-actions during the war.

Many historians, citing David Wyman's book, *The Abandonment of the Jews: America and the Holocaust*, argue that the United States stood by and watched as Hitler's troops killed 6 million Jews.

Others believe that FDR thought that the best way to help the Jews was to win the war as quickly as possible. And, of course, many believe that the truth lies somewhere in the middle.

Eckstein, the president of the Center for Jewish and Christian Values, apologized for a recent news release that declared his presence on the podium as a symbol of "Jewish support for FDR's work on behalf of Jews

during World War II."

Instead the invocation was meant to support FDR for "his obsessive commitment to end the war," Eckstein said in a telephone interview.

"As we say on Passover, 'Had G-d not taken our forefathers out of Egypt, than we would still be slaves unto Pharaoh,'" Eckstein said. "Without FDR, many more would have died at Hitler's hands."

Eckstein, who has come down squarely on the side that FDR in no way abandoned the Jews, said he had "struggled" to come to that position.

But others continue to fault FDR, arguing that he should have ordered a bombing campaign of Auschwitz, eased immigration quotas and spoke out to signal Hitler that the United States cared about the fate of the Jews.

"Franklin Roosevelt's indifference to so momentous an historical event as the systematic annihilation of European Jewry emerges as the worst failure of his presidency," Wyman wrote in the preface to his book.

Elie Wiesel has joined the criticism of FDR.

"Proud as we are of the generosity that America showed in fighting against Nazi Germany, we are embarrassed and dismayed by its behavior toward Hitler's Jewish victims," the survivor and Nobel laureate wrote in an introduction to Wyman's book.

"The destiny of persecuted Jews carried too little weight to tip the scales in their favor," Wiesel wrote. "How else [to] explain the semi-indifference of an FDR faced with the agony of European Jewry?"

(Continued on Page 15)



Flower Power

Gabriella Barros and Barbara Antelman sell flowers at the Providence Hebrew Day School annual plant sale on May 11.

Herald photo by Sam Wise

HAPPENINGS

Hadassah International Sponsors European Conference in Paris

Hadassah International will hold its first ever European-region conference in Paris, France, on May 17 to 19. Entitled "Contributing to a Healthier and More Peaceful World," it is expected to draw hundreds of delegates from more than 14 European countries who will gather in the French capital for plenaries focusing on topical health issues ranging from combating cancer to critical questions facing the Israeli and European health systems. Special sessions will be devoted to overcoming international and ethnic boundaries through health care.

"Medicine is a bridge to peace — especially now, especially between Israel and the world. This conference and this organization brings Jews and non-Jews, lay leaders and health care professionals, and men and women of all different backgrounds and ages together to find solutions to global issues," said Nancy Falchuk, conference chairwoman, who developed this conference with co-chairwoman Norma Lenore and Hadassah International Director Beatrice Birnbaum in Paris.

At a session entitled "Israel and the World: Cooperating through Health," dignitaries will consider different avenues for building bridges between international communities through cooperative projects. Panelists will include Professor Baruch Raz, scientific attaché, Israeli Embassy; Henri Lopez, deputy director-general, Africian Affairs, UNESCO; Professor Samuel Penchas, director general, Hadassah Medical Organization; and Paul van Hessen, international director, Interna-

tional Lion's Club, Holland.

Noted attorney Ariel Goldman, secretary general, Rassemblement des Avocats Juifs de France, will address a session entitled "Saluting the European Year Against Racism," where conference delegates will pay tribute to the special challenges Europe, in particular, faces in combating xenophobia and anti-Semitism.

As the leading health institution in the Middle East, the Hadassah Medical Organization has always been a magnet for international collaborative relationships. More than 10,000 Hadassah experts have traveled from Israel to bring development projects to more than 100 countries. And more than 28,000 trainees from 112 countries have come to HMO in Israel to take courses related to the community health needs of their homelands. In the facilities in Israel, professionals of different religions and different backgrounds work side by side every day to treat patients from all over the Middle East.

"Like a mini United Nations, we are living testimony to building community bridges. This conference with our European friends will build partnerships and coalitions that are a testament to this vision," said Deborah B. Kaplan, Hadassah international coordinator.

In addition to educational seminars, conference members will also be invited to exchange ideas and develop professional networks at social gatherings. The conference is being hosted by Hadassah France and its president, Professor Marc Zerib, a well-know neurologist in Paris.

Calendar of Events For May 15-24

- 15 From May 15 to May 29** IRIS (Integrated Reference Information System) of the R.I. library community will offer free computer classes. Call your nearby public library or 455-8055.
- Deadline for entries** for Family of the Year are due by May 30. Call Jewish Family Services at 331-1244.
- 16 Grandparents & Special Visitors Day** at Alperin Schechter Day School, 9:30 to 11 a.m. Call 751-2470.
- West African Drums** resound throughout College Hill with the theatrical performance of "Return of Elijah, the African" at Rites & Reason Theatre, Providence. Call 863-3358.
- 17 Gear Up For Safety**, an interactive safety fair on the R.I. State House lawn, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event is part of National Safe Kids Week. Call 444-4800.
- Public Fair** at Davies Career and Technical School in Lincoln, 9 a.m. to noon. More than 40 workshops will be held by teachers to showcase teaching practices. Call 277-4600, ext. 2374.
- Charity Pizza and Ice Cream Challenge** sponsored by Perspectives, 9 p.m., Johnson and Wales Culinary Archives Museum. Call 863-9357.
- Threads of Light**, fabric sculptures of Susan Powers at Durfee Union Mills, Fall River, Mass. Call (508) 677-3160.
- Upton Country Fair**, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on VFW grounds, Upton, Mass. Call (508) 529-2317.
- 18 R.I. Chapter of Hadassah** holds annual brunch at Providence Marriott, 10:30 a.m. Call 463-3636.
- Community Center of Rhode Island** offers 10 telecourses on WSBE-TV, beginning May 18. Call 333-7126.
- JCCRI Gallery 401** art opening and memorial tribute to Tijan Jasmay, 4 to 6 p.m. Call 861-8800.
- Perspectives Young Adult Group** "Hike in the Outdoors." Bring food and water for a day hike in Arcadia Management Area. Meet at 10:30 a.m. at JCCRI. Call 863-9537.
- "Upon the Face of the Water,"** with Jeffrey Schrier, artist and guest speaker, 7:30 p.m. Temple Emanu-El.
- Breakfast Meeting**, Men's Club of Torat Yisrael, Cranston. Guest speakers: H. Philip West and Bernard Jackvony, 10 a.m.
- Harry Elkin Midrasha** Community High School graduation, 10 a.m. Temple Am David, Warwick.
- "Birth of Israel,"** film 10:30 a.m. at Touro Community Center, Newport. Call 847-4794.
- Free blacksmithing demonstration**, 1 to 4 p.m. at the Hanaway Blacksmith Shop. Call 333-1100.
- 19 Advising Center** at UMass Dartmouth. Open May 19 to 23 for special student advising and registration, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call (508) 999-8455.
- Free screenings** for skin cancer and melanoma May 19 to 21, 5:30 to 8 p.m. Call 444-4800 for locations.
- 20 Susan Tracy**, an advocate for persons recovering from mental illness, presents: "From Darkness to Light" at Kent County Hospital, auditorium, Warwick, 6 to 8 p.m. Call 738-4300.
- D.K. Abbass**, director of R.I. Marine Archeology, discusses her work and slide presentation of shipwrecks in R.I. waters, at Cranston Historical Society, 7:30 p.m. Call 944-9226.
- Perspectives Young Adult Group** meets at Casey's in Wakefield to wind down after work, 6 to 8 p.m. Call 863-9357.
- Caregivers Support Group**, meets Tuesdays, 6 p.m. until May 27 at Adult Day Care Center, 99 Hillside Ave. Call 351-2440.
- 21 Play volleyball** or basketball at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island with Perspectives Young Adult Group, 8 to 9 p.m. Call 863-9357.
- Rhode Island School of Design Senior Film Animation and Video Festival**, May 21 to May 24 at RISD Auditorium. Call 454-6233 for complete schedule.
- Between Earth and Sky**, RISD master's ceramic students exhibit works, May 21 to June 8 at the Arcade, Providence. Call 454-6230.
- 22 Author Gil Mann**, "Five Complaints Jews Have About Judaism and What Can Be Done About Them," 7:30 p.m., Tifereth Israel Congregation, New Bedford, Mass. Call (508) 997-3171.
- 23 Flags placed on graves** of all veterans at Plainville Cemetery, New Bedford, 9:30 a.m. Volunteers needed. Call 993-7594.
- Annual Graduate Student Exhibition** at RISD Museum of Art, May 23 to June 8. Call 454-6348.
- 24 Misha Defonseca** at Barnes & Noble, Warwick, at 2 p.m. to read and sign her book *Misha*.
- Salem Seaport Festival**, May 24 to 26, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Salem Common in Mass. Call (508) 745-9595.

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Rhoda's Judaica, Burlington St.

THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

Righteous Gentile Remembers Jewish Valor Under Nazi Rule

by Emily Torgan
Jewish Community Reporter

Although Marion Pritchard was honored by Yad Vashem for saving more than 100 Jews in Nazi-occupied Holland, she did not recount only her own story at her May 9 speaking engagement.

Rather, she began by telling an audience at Taunton's Congregation Agudath Achim that she is deeply troubled by one of the museum's policies.

"Yad Vashem does not honor the Jewish righteous," said Pritchard. "Their philosophy is that Christian rescuers were doing something special, and they do not recognize the heroism of Jewish rescuers, who were at much greater risk if caught. That contributes to the widespread myth that the Jews were cowards, and nothing could be further from the truth."

Pritchard went on to remember some of Holland's heroic Jews, linking her own actions during the war years to some of theirs.

"The Dutch resistance was organized slowly," she explained. "Some of the organizations refused to admit Jews, who were seen as a potential threat. By the time the groups were operational, all the Dutch Jews and German Jewish refugees were already in transit camps."

Pritchard spoke of the Palestine Pioneers, the first Dutch Jewish resistance group.

"The leader was Joachim Simon, and with the help of a few non-Jewish friends, he was able to shepherd Jews across the border," she said. "When he was captured by the Nazis in 1943, he committed suicide. His colleague, Joop Westerweel, was captured on March 11, 1944. Although he was viciously tortured, he refused to reveal any information. He was killed on August 11th."

Pritchard, a former dancer with the Ballet of the Lowlands, began to touch upon her own story as she remembered the valor of her friend Karel Poons.

"Karel was a Jewish ballet dancer, and he was gay," she said. "He had a hiding place with a Christian family. It was customary to share a bed with the host family, because if the Gestapo came at night and saw five empty beds and just four people, they would know something was amiss."

"One day, Karel came to me and said, 'The woman is trying to make a straight man of me,'" Pritchard said.

Then a young social worker, Pritchard found Karel a hiding place in the garden shed next to the villa where she lived.

At that time, she was hiding a Jewish father and his three children inside the house.

"There was a hiding place in the living room under the rug under the coffee table," Pritchard explained after the talk. "If we heard an engine, we could get the father and his three children into the hiding place in less than 30 seconds. But some-

times, the Gestapo would come back an hour after the first search."

One day, a Dutch police collaborator led a search through Pritchard's home.

"They didn't find them the first time, but the Dutch policeman came back later," she said. Pritchard shot him to death with her pistol.

"The first few seconds were triumphant," she recalled later. "I thought those kids had had it. But then... it's hard to think about."

Afterwards, she said, Karel had insisted on leaving his hiding place to walk to the village.

There, he had found an undertaker who agreed to bury the policeman's body along with another body.

"People could have found out what had happened if they had wanted to," she said. "A lot of people could have told the Nazis, and they would have been paid for the information. But they did not."

Next, Pritchard told of the Jewish Lientje Brileslyper and her German husband Eberhard Rebling.

"This couple had vowed to survive, and to help as well," Pritchard said.

Brileslyper had taken in her relatives, and 15 to 25 Jewish fugitives had passed through their home.

"They were warned that they were taking too many chances," she said. "Even the drugstore owner, who was hiding Jews himself, knew what was going on because they were buying so much toilet paper."

One morning at breakfast time, the house was surrounded by soldiers.

When an officer entered and began questioning the couple, Brileslyper had staged a convincing epileptic fit. Then, she had begged the officer not to take the children away.

"She asked that they be taken to the doctor in the village instead," Pritchard said.

Their 2-year-old daughter, Kathinka, was escorted to the doctor's home.

But the doctor had called the German police, saying that the child had arrived and that he was being pressured to let her go.

"The Germans had put a guard outside," Pritchard said. "My friend Karel took care of him. I went upstairs, because I was quite familiar with the layout. I found Kathinka and the doctor's wife in the upstairs bathroom. I grabbed her, put her on the back of my bicycle, and pedaled away. She did not make a sound."

Both Kathinka and her parents survived the war.

Pritchard then remembered the actions of Walter Susskind and his partner Felix Halverstadt, both German Jewish refugees.

"Walter Susskind had come from Germany before the war,"

(Continued on Page 15)

JCCRI Celebrates Israel's 49th

by Emily Torgan
Jewish Community Reporter

They partied in Israel, and they partied in Rhode Island.

On May 12, some 125 guests gathered at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island to celebrate Yom Ha'Atzmaut, or Israel's independence day.

For the center ceremonies, staff members and volunteers swathed the social hall with patriotic decorations in blue and white, the colors of the Israeli flag.

Guests gathered at tables adorned with confetti shaped like the star of David to munch Israeli treats provided by Jeff Ingber of Jeff's Kosher Kitchen.

Ingber, the event chairman, worked with JCCRI Special Events Coordinator Dana Zucker to plan the party.

"I decided to work on this event because I believe that without Israel, Jewry around the world would not exist," Ingber said. "People need to be aware of the importance of Israel."

Israel's joyful Yom Ha'Atzmaut follows Yom Hazikaron, a somber day of remembering those who died defending the country.

To make guests feel closer to Israel and its interlocking holidays, Ingber offered a buffet that featured falafel, Israel's national food, plus Israeli salads, pita breads and more.

Guests munched and listened as Kol B'Yachad, Brown University's Hebrew a capella group, gave a mini-concert.

Soon, Congregation Beth Shalom's women's dance group

took to the floor for a series of national dances, and other attendees joined their traditional circles.

Younger guests added their handprints to a giant Israeli flag, and searched for pieces of Israeli maps buried on a sand-covered table that simulated an archeological dig.

"This does make me feel

(Continued on Page 15)



GUESTS AT THE JCCRI'S Israeli independence day party dance a spirited hora. Herald photo by Emily Torgan

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OPINION

Where Has Jewish Education Gone Wrong?

by Velvel 'Wally' Spiegler
There's a lot of talk going around on the subject of Jewish continuity. The consensus of opinion tilts towards education as the saving grace. But when scanning through the offerings of the various centers of learning in this area, you have to wonder what this talk is all about. There are more courses in basic Judaism that lack real Jewish substance being continually offered. Where is all that Jewish education that's supposed to be going on and what good is it doing the Jewish community?

The Torah implies that we aren't meant to suffer from the same problems as our non-Jewish neighbors — divorce, drugs, alcohol, abuse, etc, but yet statistics show that we fit into the same problems of mainstream America. Even our concern against intermarriage or involvement in Eastern religions seems to be failing. Is our lack of spiritual commitment contributing to all of this and isn't this what Jewish education is supposed to be combating? Perhaps now is the time to rethink what we mean by Jewish education.

Jewish learning has tradition-

ally focused its direction on intellectual pursuits, ignoring the real, spiritual aspects of the teaching. Ever since the intellectual revolution of the 18th century, Jews forgot the true nature of Judaism which is also based on receiving divine guidance from an intuitive level. This implies that we should balance the intellectual aspects with a more emotional or body-oriented direction.

After all, Judaism is an action-oriented culture with emphasis on what we do, rather than what we think. From an anthropological/psychological point of view, Judaism is a culture, not a religion. Religion contains the mundane connotation that there is a separation between religious and secular activities.

Over the course of years of teaching, I've found that most people are not committed to serious Jewish learning. Some are like curiosity seekers taking a course here and there with the intent of receiving a smattering of the subject. If our adults are marginally interested in learning, how then will this education filter down to our children? Have Jewish educa-

tors become too involved with what people want rather than what's really important for them? The Torah states that we are to be a holy people, a nation of priests, both in heaven and here on earth. Have we forgotten who we are? Where our destiny lies? What is our purpose here on earth? Or are we simply curators of an ancient civilization?

Why have so many of us lost our motivation to learn? Could it be due to uninspired early Hebrew school teaching or maybe it's because we've been brought up to learn that being Jewish just isn't cool.

Most of us don't see the long-range benefit from Jewish learning. Judaism teaches that everything is sacred and within that spiritual context is a built-in mechanism for growth, transformation, evolution and healing. Have we actually fallen prey to contemporary society?

Perhaps we feel that time spent in Jewish learning won't yield immediate results, as say, a course in financial investing.

If you feel there's something missing from life, a need for some inspiration, some change or some healing, Jewish learning can certainly help you to reach those heights. Jewish savoir-faire may not be easy to understand at first, but as I recently heard a rabbi say, "If you want to learn to appreciate Shabbat, you first have to taste the kugel."

Velvel "Wally" Spiegler is a Certified Polarity Therapist and a student and teacher of Jewish mysticism whose primary interest is in Jewish approaches to the healing of mind, body, and spirit. For comments or questions, call (508) 252-4302.

Old New Challenge

by Fred Snyder

Alan Dershowitz's new book, *The Vanishing Jew*, is more than a comprehensive appraisal of current diaspora conditions. It's a call to action. While our disturbing demographic trends have been recognized for some time, Dershowitz effectively uses his celebrity to ring the urgently needed warning bell. What we're doing as Jews isn't working. If the next generations are to remain as Jews, we must do something different.

Not that everyone needs to agree with all of Dershowitz's assessments. That's not important at this time. As Dershowitz writes in his book, the issues and solutions need to be discussed and debated in open, honest, and constructive forums.

Dershowitz delivers, with humor, an excellent diagnosis of our condition. Even detractors should agree that his diagnosis is at least adequate to push demographics toward the top of the agenda. He also provides a possible remedy. But it is up to us as a people to take action at the grass roots level in order to succeed. We need to enlist to the cause the best and brightest, the creative, the movers-and-shakers, the fund-raisers, the executives and agents of change. For example, a suggestion to bolster Jewish education won't shake the status quo without a detailed plan that will probably require enormous resources, publicity, public relations, and extraordinary changes in teaching curriculum and methodology. There is now a call to action to inspire our people to will it and execute it. We need leaders and followers with the resources, wisdom, and worldly acumen to carry Dershowitz's prescription to the next levels, including the painstaking work of detailed analysis and planning.

After all, it wasn't Herzl, the

visionary, who personally built in Palestine the early settlements, the infrastructure, or restored the Hebrew language. Herzl articulated the vision, conveyed his ideas in *The Jewish State* and *Old New Land*, and served as the catalyst for change. Others followed, and eventually they made Israel into a reality.

It seems to me that there are only two types of Jews left. I'm not referring to Orthodox and secular, or Ashkenazi and Sephardic. There are Jews who still care about continuity and there are many Jews who don't. Those who care include Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, Reconstructionist, agnostics, ecologists, and atheists. They also include representatives from every Jewish ethnicity. The challenge for continuity falls to those who still care. The next 25 years will be critical.

The leadership in the professional Jewish organizations and clergy have thus far failed to stem our demographic disintegration. Yet they've acknowledged continuity as a priority. But I'm not aware of any meaningful courses or dialogue advocating continuity. I've heard no sermons advocating more children. There is little, if any, diaspora support for those who make aliyah. No new pledge to inspire and educate our children about continuity has been introduced into our liturgy.

In light of the uncertainty of our long-term continuity, a diversion such as American preoccupation with the machinations of Israeli religious politics, seems misdirected. Trusting our fate exclusively to religious denominations with competing agendas may not work. Perhaps, in addition, a task force with a corporate-type approach, enlisting a broad range of skill sets with reporting relationships and accountability for measured

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Editors Note: In response to the above editorial, we would like to point out that in our short time as editors, we've been impressed by the wide range of opportunities for Jewish learning in the area, both through local synagogues and the Bureau of Jewish Education. For example, this week's paper includes coverage of an extensive weekend event examining prayer and spirituality and a high school program on Jewish leadership and values. We welcome further comments on the topic.

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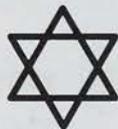
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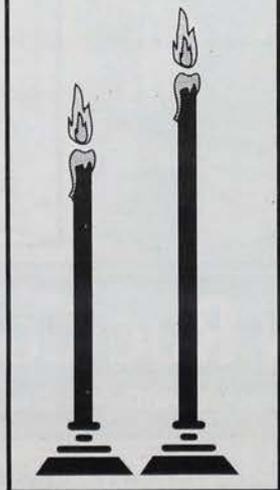
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The Herald is a member of the New England Press Association and a subscriber to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.



Candlelighting

May 16, 1997
7:42 p.m.



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

Revealing Our Thoughts

The name of a Torah portion alludes to the common thread that runs through the entire narrative. Thus, although this week's Torah portion, Emor, contains many different ideas, the name itself is significant and expresses the central theme of all of them.

The literal meaning of the Hebrew word "emor" is "say." It implies an ongoing action, a perpetual commandment that applies in all places and in all times.

Emor teaches us that thought is not enough; a person must carry the thought process one step further and express what he is thinking in speech as well. Speaking requires the person to weigh and assess his thoughts, working them over in his mind until he comes to a satisfactory conclusion.

Yet why is merely thinking insufficient? Because as human beings, we cannot know what is going on in someone else's mind; if our thoughts are not

expressed verbally, no one else can derive any benefit from them. Thus the Torah commands us to "say" — to reveal our good thoughts and ideas, and to share them with our fellow man.

In accordance with the commandment "and you shall love

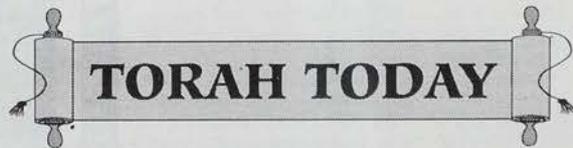
not Daber (speak). Daber is a harsher term, implying the use of strong language to convey a point, Emor, by contrast, implies a softer kind of speech, and a more pleasant way of communicating.

The commandment to reveal our thoughts to our fellow man and exert a positive influence on others must be carried out in a tender and loving manner. Threats

and intimidation have no place in the Jew's vocabulary. Every Jew without exception is worthy of being addressed with affection and respect, regardless of his spiritual standing or his actions.

This, then, is the lesson on this week's Torah reading: Having good thoughts is not enough. In order to have a positive influence on others we must reveal them verbally, and in the most pleasant manner possible.

Adapted from *Maayan Chai* from *Hitva'aduyot* 5742. Submitted by Rabbi Yehoshua Laufer of Chabad House.



your fellow as yourself," a Jew is obligated to share whatever good he possesses with others. Good thoughts, thoughts that have meaning and significance, are in this category, for expressing them can bring enjoyment, enlightenment and encouragement to our fellow Jew.

The way in which our thoughts are expressed is also important. The Jew is required to convey them in an effective and pleasant manner so they will have the desired effect on the listener.

Significantly, the name of the Torah portion is Emor (say), and

FEATURE

Mr. Fink Comes To Town

by Mike Fink
Herald Contributing Reporter

His friends from grammar school and high school showed up to see and hear him. Former students and colleagues joined museum curators in the R.I.S.D. lecture hall to listen to Herb Fink's talk and watch slides of his pictures—prints, etchings, some paintings. "World War II vets reacted against the American impressionists. Our professor, John Frazier, asked us to lighten up and enjoy the beauty of surfaces." While Fink balanced the claims of art as decoration and the challenge the G.I. generation posed, he showed a series of his elegant, introverted images. Empty bar rooms, front porches framing a garden, a stand of winter trees or a beach of moonstones, rendered with extraordinary skill and sensitivity, moved over the screen.

"Michael will like this group," my uncle, the visiting campus artist, declared. He proceeded to project illustrations inspired by my parents' wedding in 1926! "This one is called 'Blima' (my mother's Yiddish name)." I stared at the fancy 1920's costumes in awe. Those few sepia portraits of the start of my family had been translated into visual poetry. Herb Fink had been the ringbearer, and I happened to have a photograph of him as a small boy in formal attire, top hat and cane among my souvenirs at home.

My job this week was to play host to my famous relative. I took him to drinks and dinner, lunch and supper, and strolled in the soft sunshine among the buildings where he had studied and taught. He gave engraving classes and guest "crits" and answered the questions, naive or not, of current undergrads, who brought sheafs of drawings and sketches for his comments.

Herb is somewhat stooped in his 70s, and his eyes show strain. But his humor and wit remain intact, and he keeps me on my toes. His wife, Polly, also an artist, claims connections to the Ives of Currier and Ives and the British composer Charles Ives. "Providence was a closed, Yankee enclave, once upon a time.

Now that's all changed," she states in good-natured shock. "I married above my station," Herb says mockingly and affectionately.

I think this state event will stay in the memory of my children. I believe that R.I.S.D. will realize how well served the school has been in the brilliant career of its heroic alumnus, teacher, and mentor.

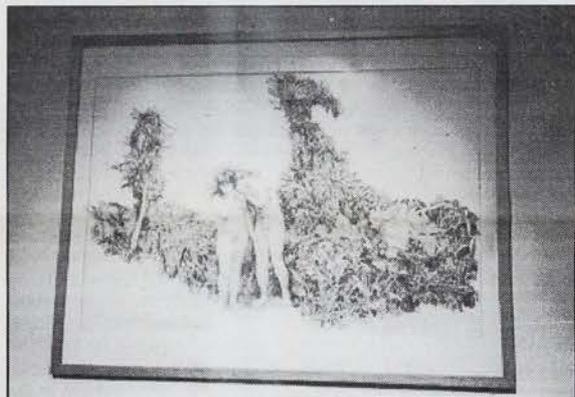
I said a few things I regret. I gushed a little at the refectory dinner. I bragged, "I know you better than anyone does," in my parlor. Herb's a bit prickly. He can wither you with a word or a glance. He got that trait from the events and places of his life. From another gene source, I got the opposite temperamental trick of sweetening truth with a drop of honey. After a visit with Herb I always hope he thinks well of me, his personal historian, his Boswell.

The show, in the former Roitman building, now a fancy gallery, was put up by H. Lane Smith and Merlin Szosz. Szosz, a sculptor and professor, was the person most responsible for creating the exhibit and the lectures. The bond shaped and set in motion ties tight the various strands of a life closely twisted around my own.



Herb Fink
Herald photo by Mike Fink

At our own table, Herb and my artist brother Chick pored over some old family photographs, trying without success to identify faces and events. My wife made their favorite treats, Rumanian eggplant dip, poppy seed cake, with chilled glasses of good vodka. The dog has left snout marks on the remains of the feast.



ADAM AND EVE in the garden by Herb Fink.

Herald photo by Mike Fink



Tea For One, Two, Three Or More

by Mike Fink
Herald Contributing Reporter

By now I take my sometimes tarnished silver teapot for granted. It sits here and there on table or counter like an everyday grey cat. Of course it has a history.

My mother bought the regal thing in the fabulous '50s. It was the era of return to luxury. At the time I was boyishly unimpressed. But she made use of the item in a gracious and kindly way. She served fancy tea to welcome new in-law brides and grooms into the family dynasty. A Holocaust widow moved to our street. She came to our sterling and mahogany and told her story. Guests might come by for a visit. My mother smiled in gentle comfort as she poured.

She also enjoyed taking care of precious metal and delicate porcelain. She polished and wrapped and put away for next time. But the teapot moved along the path of its own strange destiny. Among the household break-ins, it got swiped! Right

"house" teapots. We even subscribe to catalogs of eccentric ceramic teapots in the shape of castles or cottages.

I think we Americans in general hate tea. It's offered in restaurants and cafes as though it were poisonous filth. You buy a wretched envelope wrapped fearfully and place it timidly in a cup of tepid water. Then you load the slush with sugar or, worse, some evil substitute and call it tea. Maybe it's a New England tradition that goes back to the Boston Tea Party. It may be patriotic to despise good tea and make a pallid protest. Nobody makes true tea but me and the Art Club.

My noble legacy, just a bit the worse for wear, proclaims a Providence slogan of its own. It says, take it strong, cheerfully, proudly, each day as it comes. And, remember, zachor!

Between mother's and father's days with the yizkors of the season and the flowers com-



Herald photo by Mike Fink

ing and going amongst the rain and the shine, I keep trying to unravel the meaning of my parents' lives...and of my own. The little collection of pretty cups and saucers from antique shops in Newport, on South Main Street, or from far-off Montreal have mostly gone off, chipped, or given. They made up the social life of a bygone era. But the pot itself, with its proud spout, its elaborate curlicues, and its baroque handle, presides over our household. My dad was born in London. My mom was raised in Montreal. We liked to pretend we were in part Brits, with tea as our right and our rite. Silver symbolizes eloquence. Our pots speak—softly, in moonlight.

out of a closet where it was hiding for safekeeping! And yet, against all hope, it got found and returned! This misadventure only added to its romance. But, by now, I'm used to using it for a bag of sweet-touch-nee every evening before "Jeopardy." I brew the tisane with some care and style. I bring the pot to the kettle, never burn the fresh boiling water, cover with cozy, and mix to your taste. My mom reused a bag except for company. I keep myself company with the ornate fetish to touch off memory. I even dug up a punctured ball for loose leaves to try out exotic flavors. But I prefer the subtle, metallic, pleasantly slightly bitter taste of the tried and true sweet-touch-nee that comes in the charming red and gold tin treasure chest or cardboard version.

My wife also loves our heirloom now that it has come home from its lonely seasons in bulk storage after the heist made us cautious and careful. She may put in an herb tea or a mint leaf, or even something from the kitchen garden. The competition for the silver comes mostly though from her ever-growing collection of English-style

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THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

Joseph Teverow Memorial Lecture Features New York Artist, Jeffrey Schrier

The Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island adult education committee announces the Joseph Teverow Memorial Lecture, to be held at Temple Emanu-El on May 18 at 7:30 p.m.

Teverow was deeply involved with many aspects of Jewish community life in Rhode Island. Through this lecture, his family and friends hope to keep alive his love for his Jewish heritage, his devotion to Israel, and his commitment to adult Jewish education.

Jeffrey Schrier, artist, will present a description of the rationale for the set of prints recently acquired by Temple Emanu-El, Providence. Entitled "Upon the Face of the Waters," these works will be discussed in relation to the biblical texts from which they were drawn, as well

as the themes in historic Judaic art that have precedents for the images Schrier uses. The portfolio will also be discussed in relation to personal experiences of artistic inspiration and psychological introspection. The presentation will include a discussion of the surrounding days of Jewish commemorations during May including Yom HaShoah, and Shavuot. In addition, Schrier will show the artwork for his book on the rescue of Ethiopian Jews to be published by Millbrook Press, Spring 1998 and to be exhibited at the Simon Weisenthal Museum of Tolerance later in the year.

Schrier lives and maintains his studio in New York. His most recent projects include: a Holocaust memorial work for per-

manent installation, commissioned for the joint Jewish communities of Brooklyn, as a tribute to Raoul Wallenberg; authoring and illustrating a book on the rescue of the Ethiopian Jews, and a new haggadah commissioned by the Federation of Reconstructionist Synagogues.

His art has been utilized in fund-raising efforts for Russian and Ethiopian Jews, and by National Hadassah, for their youth rescue and education programs in Israel.

The community is invited to Temple Emanu-El's Bohnen Vestry for an evening of art and insight. A dessert reception will follow Schrier's presentation.

Chow Down for a Good Cause

Come taste and judge the best pizza and ice cream in Rhode Island at the second annual Charity Pizza and Ice Cream Challenge.



The event is sponsored by Perspectives, the Rhode Island Jewish Young Adult Project, and proceeds will help support the Bureau of Jewish Education Campus Leadership Scholarship and other local agencies.

All pizzas will be vegetarian and kosher style, but you must indicate if a strictly kosher pizza is required. The food-tasting will begin at 9 p.m. at the Johnson and Wales Culinary Archives Museum, 315 Harborside Blvd., Cranston. Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$8 at the door and include pizza, ice cream and beverages. For more information, call Alison Link, 863-9357.

Join the Jewish 49ers

On May 18, the Jewish 49ers will sponsor a Sunday Dessert Social at Temple Beth Am, 300 Pleasant St., Framingham, Mass. Music will be provided by the popular disc jockey, Lennie Souza. The social will run from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. Cost: \$5 for members, \$8 non-members. All beverages will be provided. For information, call Roz at (508) 872-1715; Jim, (508) 872-6533 or Flo, (508) 877-0636.

Feinstein Addresses RWU Degree Candidates

Undergraduate commencement ceremonies at Roger Williams University will begin at 10 a.m. sharp May 17, under a tent seating 4,500, set up behind the Paolino Recreation Center on the Bristol campus.

Principal speaker, Alan Shawn Feinstein, founder of The Feinstein Foundation, Cranston, R.I., will address the approximately 700 undergraduates and their families.

Feinstein is editor of the widely read financial advisory newsletter, the *Feinstein Letter*, and the quarterly publication, *The Wealth Maker*. He will receive an honorary doctor of laws degree.

The program will also feature remarks by Chairman of the Board Ralph R. Papitto; President Anthony J. Santoro; Paul Petit, president of the RWU Alumni Association; Joshua Mitchell, president of the senior class; and Arthur Fisher, president of Alpha Chi Honor Society.

Degrees will be conferred by President Santoro and Vice President for academic affairs Malcolm H. Forbes.

Michael Popowich, baritone, will open the program with the national anthem, followed by

the invocation by the Rev. Alfred V. Ricci, Roman Catholic chaplain, Brown University.

The Ralph Stuart Orchestra



Alan Shawn Feinstein

will provide the music.

Later in the day, at 3 p.m. in the same location, approximately 140 students will be presented as candidates for the J.D. degree from the newly dedicated Ralph R. Papitto School of Law. Principal speaker will be The Honorable Joseph R. Weisberger, chief justice, Supreme Court of Rhode Island, who will receive an honorary doctor of laws degree.

Chai Productions Presents Second Anniversary Bash

Boston's newest Jewish Singles organization, Chai Productions is proud to announce its second anniversary bash. This will be Chai's biggest and best event of the year to be held at Champions Club in the Copley Marriott Hotel, Copley Square, Boston. The event will be on May 25, Memorial holiday weekend, from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. There will be free hors d'oeuvres, gifts, membership to Chai and endless fun.

Copley has plenty of garage parking as well.

Last year's party drew more than 400 people from the Berkshires to Boston, from Rhode Island to New Hampshire and Maine. All ages over-21 Jewish singles are invited to celebrate in the festivities with Chai. The cost is only \$10 in advance by mail to P.O. Box 534, Sudbury, Mass. 01776. At the door it will be \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members. Last year this event was sold out. For two years now Chai has been committed to bringing Jewish people together in a variety of activities from dances to hikes, biking, tennis, educational and roller skating events. There are always new and exciting events, just call Barton at (508) 443-7834 to be added to our mailing list.

Rhode Island Hadassah Holds Donor Brunch

The Rhode Island Chapter of Hadassah will hold its annual donor brunch on May 18 at 10:30 a.m. at the Providence Marriott.

The event commemorates the Hadassah Mother & Child Center and features Dr. Jenny Klein as the guest of honor. The entertainment will be presented by Bear Necessities, the all-male a cappella group from Brown University. For information, call the R.I. Hadassah office at 463-3636.

New Program Offers Combination of Judaism and Outdoor Results

Congregation Beth El of Bennington, Vt., a member of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation, announces the inauguration of a unique experiential educational program. Burning Bush Adventures offers Judaism combined with outdoor pursuits such as backpacking, canoeing, winter camping/dog sledding and mountaineering.

Modeled after proven successful experiential outdoor programs Burning Bush Adventures offers diverse affordable outdoor experiences where participants explore their Jewish inheritance, develop outdoor skills, as well gain self-confidence in their ability to meet new challenges. Burning Bush Adventures offers a unique opportunity for families to share a powerful learning experience together.

Rabbi Howard A. Cohen, spiritual leader to Congregation Beth El, provides expert wilderness and rabbinic leadership on all of the trips. Prior to entering the rabbinic, Cohen was a professional experiential outdoor educator with the international Outward Bound program.

Unless otherwise indicated, trips are open to anyone 7 and older interested in exploring Judaism within the context of a wilderness expedition. (Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.) No special skills are required. General fitness, good health and natural curiosity are the only prerequisites. An approach to ritual, tradition and halacha is to embrace them warmly yet creatively. Meals are eco-kosher, prayer services are egalitarian and non-traditional. Shabbat is observed.

This summer you can choose between canoeing in Vermont on one of the scenic mountain streams or backpacking in the Green Mountains. The canoe trip is scheduled for July 24 to 27. The backpacking trip is scheduled for August 7 to 10. During Succot, Oct. 17 to 19, a hiking and canoeing Shabbaton is scheduled. Later in the winter, the fourth winter camping and dog sled Shabbaton will be offered.

Burning Bush Adventures is one of the innovative programs offered by Congregation Beth El. For information, call (802) 442-9645.

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THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

Author Gil Mann Speaks in New Bedford

Gil Mann, author of *How to Get Out of Being Jewish Even If...*, will be the featured speaker at the Rabbi Bernard H. and Minna Ziskind Memorial Lecture at Tifereth Israel Synagogue in New Bedford on May 22.

Mann's lecture, "Five Complaints Jews Have About Judaism and What Can Be Done About Them," will begin at 7:30 p.m. The first 100 families to attend will receive a free autographed copy of Mann's book.

The book, published in October 1996, is based on comments the author heard in interviews and focus groups with Jews around the United States. Starting early in 1997, he will also be authoring a regular on-line feature called "Why Be Jewish Anyway?" on America On-Line's Jewish Community feature.

Mann is co-founder, with his wife Debbie, of J3 LEARNING, Inc. Prior to that he was a TV news producer with the Mpls/St. Paul ABC television affiliate, KSTP, for four years. He has also been a member of the Board

of Gourmet Express, Inc., and U.S. Investors Limited (an Israel investment fund).

In a volunteer capacity, he is currently a member of the executive committee and board of the Minneapolis Federation for Jewish Service. He also is chairman of the Federation's Market Research Committee and is a vice chairman of the Federation's Continuity and Identity Department. He has organized and led two experimental Federation young couples missions to Israel, and in 1991-1992, he was chairman of the Federation's Young Men's Division.

Outside of Federation, he is a vice president of the Minneapolis JCC and serves on its board and executive committee. He also is chairman of the Minneapolis Jewish Day School's New Building Committee.

Mann graduated from the University of Minnesota with degrees in broadcast journalism and political science. He and his wife, Debbie, have four children.

For more information, call (508) 997-3171.



SCULPTOR ED GERSHMAN displays his work at the second annual Arts Emanu-El Fair.

Herald photo by Sara Wise

Temple Emanu-El Sponsors Weekend of Art and Prayer

by Sara Wise
Herald Editor

It was a weekend of exploration, discussion, art and song. "The Art of Prayer," an educational-musical weekend program at Temple Emanu-El in Providence, provided participants with an opportunity to examine prayer and art in a creative, multi-faceted manner. The wide range of activities throughout the weekend offered something for all ages, including plenty of fun programs for youngsters.

The weekend's events began on Friday night with a Shabbat service and dinner of exotic vegetarian cuisine. Scholar-in-residence Rabbi Eliezar Diamond, an assistant professor of Talmud and Rabbinics at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, introduced the service and later in the evening presented the "Peter J. and Anna C. Woolf Lecture," a stimulating presentation on feminine imageries of G-d. Diamond spoke about the traditional perception of G-d as a masculine being and challenged the audience to consider a feminine image of G-d. Frequently citing Torah, Diamond showed many examples where G-d appears in a feminine role, as well as instances where G-d fuses qualities of both genders.

Diamond spoke again on Saturday, on feeling included in worship, and led an open dis-

ussion session after a delicious buffet of Israeli food prepared by the Young Adult Havurah.

At Saturday evening's Benton A. Odessa Memorial Concert, the audience was treated to an impressive cantorial program featuring Cantor Ida Cahana of Temple Beth El in Providence, who sang music by and about Jewish women. Cantor Cahana was joined by local youth choirs for a beautiful evening of expressive music.

The second annual Arts Emanu-El Fair was on display throughout the weekend. The show of artwork by local artists included oil and watercolor paintings (many with local

themes), snugly knitted woolens, metal and wire sculptures by Ed Gershman, and adorable hand-painted suede kippot by Wendy Garf-Lipp with sports teams and cartoon characters.

There were also fun activities for children at the museum "petting zoo" where kids could touch not animals, but all sorts of Jewish ritual objects. There were tables full of prayer shawls, kiddush cups and Shabbat information, explanations on aliyah and many books with Jewish themes.

Overall, the weekend was a fun-filled and educational exploration of Jewish spirituality presented in an accessible fashion.

Jewish War Veterans Hold Memorial Service

The Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America, Department of Rhode Island, will hold memorial services at the Jewish War Veterans Cemetery, in Lincoln Park Cemetery located at 1469 Post Road, Warwick on May 26 at 11 a.m.

Rabbi George Astrachan and Cantor Rennie Brown will officiate. Senators John H. Chaffee and Jack Reed, Congressmen

Patrick Kennedy and Bob Weygand have been invited to speak.

Irving H. Levin, department commander, will be master of ceremony.

A new memorial monument will be dedicated on that day to Philip Simon (deceased) and his wife Emma Simon. They both worked to create a monument listing the many names of Jewish men and women of Rhode Island who served in our country's wars. Additional services will be held at the Jewish War Veterans Grove at Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Exeter, at 1 p.m.

Touro Toasts New Officers

Touro Fraternal Association will host a complete kosher catered dinner to toast its new officers and board of directors on May 28 at 6:30 p.m. The dinner will be held at Touro Hall, 45 Rolfe St., Cranston.

Tickets are \$10 (or 10 Bagel Bucks) and reservations are required by May 21. Donations of canned goods for charity will also be appreciated. Send your name, address and phone number along with your check to: Touro Fraternal Association, P.O. Box 3562, Cranston, RI 02910.

Temple Sinai Holds Potluck Lunch

The Temple Sinai Seniors will hold a potluck and game luncheon on May 23 at 11:30 a.m. at the temple. Members will be called to make arrangements on what to bring for all to share. Bring a friend.

Any questions, call Baila Bender at 461-6124.

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MAY 16

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The state which the Jewish people will set up in its own country will guarantee justice, freedom and equality for all inhabitants, regardless of religion, race, sex or land of origin. It is our aim to make it a state in which the evils of our people are gathered together and in which happiness and knowledge shall prevail and the vision of the prophets of Israel shall illumine our path.

At this hour, when bloodshed and strife have been forced upon us, we turn to the Arabs in the Jewish State and to our neighbors in adjacent territory with

an appeal for brotherhood, cooperation and peace. We are a peaceful people, and we are here to build in peace. Let us then build our state together as equal citizens, with equal rights and obligations, with mutual trust and respect, each with a true understanding of the other's needs.

Our laws are dedicated to defending the liberty of our people. If further trials and battles are in store for us, we shall defend with all our might the achievement upon which we place our hope.

Right is on our side. With us are the hopes of the past generations of our people. With us is the conscience of the world. With us are deposited the testament of the millions of our martyred dead and the resolve will to live of the millions who have survived. The sanctity of our martyrs' and heroes' rests upon us and the God of our fathers will help us.

Americans of all races and creeds will soon join in observing one of the great events of all time—a milestone in the history of mankind.

Salute the Establishment of The Jewish State

ON SUNDAY EVENING, MAY 16, CITIZENS OF RHODE ISLAND WILL BACK THE VALIANT NEW JEWISH STATE AT A DEMONSTRATION

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R. I. Zionist Emergency Council

From the Herald Archives, May 21, 1948

"One Man's Opinion" Salute to Yisrael

by Bernard Segal

...As I looked about me from my perch on a window sill, and as my eyes rested on this and that section of the audience, I grasped the true significance of the occasion. This was not a Zionist celebration only, just as Yisrael is not a Zionist state only. A whole people came to rejoice, to shed tears, to sing, and to unite in spirit with the builders of the land and the defenders of Israel.

Teenagers, to whom the Balfour Declaration is an historical document to look up in the library, stood beside men and women who danced in the streets on the day when that

document was issued, while on the platform sat people who remember well the day when Theodore Herzl daringly prophesied the coming of the Jewish State at the first Zionist Congress in Basle, in 1897.

I saw men who fought in the Jewish Legion of World War One for the liberation of Palestine, side by side with ex-GIs who still wear the scars of World War Two that was to liberate the world from tyranny.

I recognized people whose birthplace is U.S.A., while next to me sat people who knew the fears and the horrors of the Concentration Camps.

To all of us, those who filled the hall, and those who were turned back, the Salute to Yisrael was a song of joy, a ray of hope, and a moment of elation.

President Weizman's Independence Day Message to Jewish Communities Abroad

5757 - 1997

This Independence Day marks the beginning of the 50th anniversary of our being a free and sovereign nation in our own land. The re-establishment of the Jewish state in its homeland is a success story unparalleled in the annals of history. Israel at the end of its first jubilee is a country which looks ahead in hope. In various fields of human creation we are among the world's best.

This bright side of our lives encourages us and must be remembered when we come face to face with sorrow and bereavement, the results of extremist elements. The road to peace is not an easy one. It is full of dangers and obstacles, but we are determined to continue along it, in the knowledge that it will lead to a better and more secure future for our children and grandchildren.

The stronger we are and the greater the number of our inhabitants, the easier it will be to achieve our aims. I, once again, call upon you, our brothers and sisters, in the diaspora to send your children here to breathe the atmosphere of a free nation and to contribute of their knowledge and expertise. Together we will make Israel more and more attractive to all Jews and create the largest Jewish center. Together we will be able to advance even further Israel's scientific and cultural development and deepen our understanding of our ancient Jewish culture.

Hag Sameach u-le-Shana ha-Ba'a be-Yerushalayim!

Israel Celebrates 49th Independence Day

Israeline — Parks were crowded and beaches full on May 12 as Israel celebrated its 49th Independence Day with barbecues, picnics and festive prayers. Air Force and Navy presentations were among the day's highlights, which also included fireworks displays throughout the country.

Celebrations began the evening of May 11 with joyous evening prayers in synagogues and free entertainment on stages throughout Israel.

The official opening ceremony for Independence Day took place on Mount Herzl in Jerusalem, where traditional beacons were lit to represent the struggle for statehood. The ceremony also marked the end of Memorial Day.

emony also marked the end of Memorial Day.

"Just as the great sacrifice cannot be measured, neither can the size of the debt that the State of Israel owes its fallen," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said during the main memorial ceremony at the Mount Herzl Military Cemetery.

The Jordanian foreign minister, tourism minister and water minister were among the honored guests at a gala reception in Amman sponsored by the Israeli Embassy to Jordan in honor of Israel's Independence Day, *Ma'Ariv* reported. Such receptions were sponsored by Israeli diplomatic missions throughout the world.



Children Dance For Israel

Israeli dance leader Pam Kessler leads an enthusiastic group of dancers at the Newport Israeli Independence Day celebration. *Herald photo by Sara Wise*

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Happy Birthday Israel

Between the Holidays

by Emily Torgan
Jewish Community Reporter

After I asked the question, my Sabra roommates stared at each other in disbelief.

In the silence of our Jerusalem apartment, I began to understand just how different Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha'Azmaut are from America's Memorial and Independence Days.

Chaim, a law student in his 20s, spoke first.

"You want to know whether we know anyone who was killed in the army? Of course we do. My religious father thinks it's a miracle that all three of his sons got out. And we're still serving."

Bette, also in her 20s, remembered five childhood acquaintances who had fallen.

One, a close friend's brother, had been killed on an army base when a truck he had been driving crashed and flipped over. "It's very sad for all of us," she said. "You can't believe the closeness Israelis feel on the holiday."

But I could sense the closeness.

The next morning, Yom Hazikaron 1993, the sirens sounded for two minutes at 10 a.m. to honor Israel's war dead.

Cars stopped in the streets at the sound, and all passengers got out to bow their heads.

People were unusually gentle, and thousands took part in ceremonies at military bases and the Kotel.

The mourning then melted into Yom Ha'Azmaut's euphoria.

Then, the city teemed with people, and fragrant smoke from countless barbecues wafted through the streets.

Skywriting planes undulated through the skies, and a jubilant public gathered that night to watch firework displays.

Although I had been in Israel about eight months, I felt a wave of culture shock.

At home, Memorial Day had simply been a beach day that kicked off the summer.

Sure, the television stations had run footage of veterans bowing their gray heads at military cemeteries, and of more formal ceremonies in Washington.

But most Americans watched these clips over post-picnic beers, or discussed them after returning from Memorial Day retail sales.

At home, July 4th had always been a good time, a free day off devoted to fireworks and barbecues.

Spirits had always been high, but even the most patriotic Americans would have been hard-pressed to match the Israelis' elation.

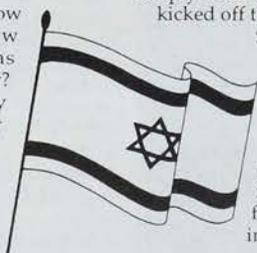
Perhaps the reason for the differences is the word "always."

America has long since passed its bicentennial, but Israel has not "always" been there.

America's citizens "always" know that there will be another July 4th party next year.

But in Israel, there is no automatic "always," and her citizens live that truth.

Israel's supporters in diaspora should remember that as well.



Festive Falafel

From Jerusalem to Newport, R.I., the dish of the day is, of course, falafel. Served in a pita with hummus and your favorite fillings, falafel is a favored Israeli Independence Day treat.

Falafel

- 2 cups chickpeas (soaked)
- 1 large onion, finely chopped
- 2 T. of chopped parsley
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. black pepper
- 1/4 tsp. dried red pepper
- 2 garlic cloves
- 1 tsp. cumin
- pinch of coriander

1/2 cup of cracked wheat vegetable oil

1. Soak chickpeas overnight in cold water. Drain.
2. Blend together the chickpeas, onion, and garlic. Stir in the remaining ingredients, except the oil, and chill for at least 1 hour.
3. Heat about 2 inches of oil to 365°.
4. Shape the chickpea mixture into 1-inch balls. Fry in batches, turning occasionally, until golden brown on all sides (about 5 minutes). Drain on paper towels.

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FEATURE

Schindler Survivor Speaks At World War II Roundtable

by Tara V. Lisciandro
Herald Editor

It didn't take long for the Bobby Hackett Theater of the Community College of Rhode Island in Warwick, to fill up. A handful of veterans and survivors sat among other curious guests who eagerly awaited the evening's "The Ordeal of the Holocaust" to begin. The program was recently held and plays a part in just one of the many World War II Roundtable meetings the college has hosted since 1988. Anyone who is interested in World War II is welcome. Many veterans bring various pieces of nostalgia with them, some share stories, while others just listen.

Jack Sbrega, associate dean for academic affairs at CCRI, introduced the evening's program, funded in part through a grant from the RI Holocaust Memorial Museum. The WWII Roundtable was dedicated to Ray Eichenbaum, a founder of the museum.

Sbrega reminded everyone present that "forgetting is the worst kind of human detachment." Alice Eichenbaum spoke briefly, leaving her late husband's message with the audience. "When he passed away we felt the best thing to do was to leave a fund in his name," said Eichenbaum. Her son, Cary, followed and read a poem he wrote in dedication to his beloved father.

President Edward J. Liston, of CCRI, briefly spoke and honored those who served in the armed forces during times of war as well as those who survived the crimes against humanity during the Holocaust. "Oral history is the most fascinating of all," he stated, "but unfortunately, they, like all of us, will pass one day. We need to do as much as we can to capture history," finished Liston.

M. Charles Baskt, political columnist for the *Providence Journal*, served as moderator for the WWII Roundtable. He intro-

duced Rena FINDER, a survivor, thanks to Oscar Schindler. "Fifty-two years ago we could have been in the same place, at the same time," began FINDER, speaking about Ray Eichenbaum and other survivors past and present.

FINDER has been written about in *Schindler's Legacy*, by Elinor J. Brecher.

"I was one of the youngest on Schindler's List," said FINDER. At age 14 she entered Schindler's factory along with her mother and worked for the man who has become so well-known in only these last few years, Oscar Schindler. "I am sorry that Schindler didn't live long enough to see the book or movie," she continued.

The woman dressed in black with a beautiful face and such graceful mannerisms captivated the audience. Her motions and words left the auditorium in silence. For many, it was the first time hearing and seeing someone from Schindler's List that wasn't on a movie screen. "Everything on the movie is what happened to me; it was just like the movie," FINDER repeated throughout her discussion. "Schindler liked to have a lot of money and girlfriends, he was a type of con-man. He was very handsome, he was our G-d, our savior, our angel. He did not have the heart of a German or a Nazi," stated FINDER. She remembers being fortunate enough to have more to eat than the prisoners in the concentrations camps and the Nazis could not perform searches inside of Schindler's factory. "All Schindler wanted to do was save us," stated FINDER. She also spoke kindly of Mrs. Schindler who was known to have helped many women while they were ill at Schindler's factory. FINDER saw her several years ago. Mrs. Schindler is still alive and resides in Argentina.

But while FINDER remembers the things that Schindler did to save his workers, she also re-

members seeing, hearing and being part of the atrocities that occurred around her. At one point Schindler's women workers get mistakenly shipped to Auschwitz. "Three weeks in Birkenau is a very long time," said FINDER. "When they shaved our hair and stripped us, I felt so dehumanized, I almost felt dead. I remem-

bered quickly FINDER and her mother returned to Krakow to search for other members of their family. "There was nobody," she stated. She had lost her father, aunts and uncles. "The survivors crawled out of the ashes," said FINDER. "We expected the world to open their arms to us." But instead, FINDER found it difficult,

Today FINDER is a lecturer for the Facing History and Ourselves program, in Boston. She resides in Massachusetts with her husband, Marc, also a Holocaust survivor.

The World War II Roundtable came to an end with a reading by Professor David H. Hirsch, professor emeritus of Judaic studies and English at Brown University. Hirsch began translating various materials in the late '60s for his students because there was little literature for students that dealt with the Holocaust. He has translated 18 stories including, "Blossoms," which he shared with the audience. "Blossoms" was written in the Lodz ghetto by I. Spiegel, during 1944. A young boy speaks about his great desires to see "the other side of the world in bloom." Spiegel survived Auschwitz and returned to find his hidden texts from the Lodz ghetto.

Sbrega left the guests with an important message, "It's important to tell your stories to leave behind. These are countless treasures." The World War II Roundtable was full of countless treasures, survivors and veterans, who will, hopefully, leave us with their valuable lessons of history and humanity to be shared for years to come.

But FINDER also left important words to remember: "There was no way someone could say 'we didn't see, we didn't hear, we didn't know,' we were there."



Jack Sbrega, associate dean for academic affairs at Community College of Rhode Island, and Rena FINDER at the WWII History Roundtable.

Herald photo by Tara V. Lisciandro

ber walking through that camp not believing I was alive."

She also recalled another horrifying scene concerning the children and the heartbreak of mothers. They saw truckloads of children being carried away one afternoon while gathered outside. Nazi guards warned everyone that if they yelled or even spoke, they would begin firing at the trucks. "80,000 people stood on the meadow in the middle of the camp, quiet. I remember it like it was yesterday," said FINDER.

While Hitler's plans were being carried out and Schindler saved the workers he could, FINDER, like many other victims, believed, "someone will find out what is going on here soon enough." But unfortunately no one reacted soon enough. The end finally came and those in Schindler's factory quickly understood when they heard the voice of Winston Churchill. "Most of us didn't speak English at all but we all understood what Churchill was saying that day," said FINDER with a gentle smile. "We all cried when Schindler was leaving. We all quickly signed affidavits to tell everyone that Schindler saved our lives."

as did many, to come out of the horror that was now behind her. "Who knew about our minds? They expected us to act normal. Nobody was waiting for us. Nobody wanted to find out how we were feeling," she stated in *Schindler's Legacy*.

Swiss Ex-Security Guard Weighs Offer to Come Work in the U.S.

by Matthew Dorf

WASHINGTON (JTA)—The Swiss guard fired for saving wartime documents from a bank's shredder has made an emotional plea to the U.S. Senate to protect his family.

Appearing at a hastily called hearing of the Senate Banking Committee, with his wife and two young children at his side, Christoph Meili recounted chilling threats made against his family in the five months since he turned over sensitive Holocaust-era documents on the verge of destruction at the Union Bank of Switzerland.

Before he came to the United States recently, Meili said he had received a threat that his children 2 and 4 years old, would be kidnapped "and held for ransom for the money I'd be getting from the Jews," the 29-year-old former security guard told the committee.

The hearing came on the eve of the release of a U.S. government report, "The U.S. and Allied Efforts to Recover and Restore Gold and other Assets Stolen or Hidden by Germany During World War II."

After the hearing, Meili said he is weighing an offer to come to the United States to work for World Jewish Congress President Edgar Bronfman.

"I will look what's going on the next days," he said.

Sitting in the witness chair in the historic Senate Banking

Committee hearing room, Meili recounted the night of Jan. 8 when, during his security rounds at the bank, he saw ledgers from the 1930s and 1940s in the shredding room.

Recalling a recent Swiss law banning destruction of such documents, Meili took some home and turned them over to a local Jewish organization. He said he took the action weeks after seeing Steven Spielberg's *Schindler's List*.

Meili was fired, questioned by the police and could face prosecution under Swiss law.

"Meili should be viewed as a hero, not a criminal," said the committee's chairman, Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R-N.Y.).

During the session, Meili was hailed as worthy of the title "righteous gentile" conferred on non-Jews who saved Jewish lives during the Holocaust.

"You have joined this very august group of people," said Sen. Christopher Dodd (D-Conn.), who recalled his father's work prosecuting Nazi bank officials as the lead U.S. prosecutor at the Nuremberg trials.

D'Amato pledged that if Meili wants to come to the United States for a job, he would do whatever is necessary to ensure that Meili clears any Swiss or American immigration hurdles.

In Zurich, the president of the local Jewish community said he welcomed Bronfman's offer to employ Meili.

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ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT



A Historic Odyssey With Mother Nature

by Tara V. Lisciandro
Herald Editor

Almost every day Sara and I are faced with various tasks, which almost always include working with Holocaust survivors or survivors' works. Whatever it may be, the themes we deal with can be rather dismal, but we are always pleased to be able to share such important lessons of humanity and history with our readers. We know, like many of you, that these lessons will be important ones for future generations. That is something I seek to emphasize in all of my writing. But as editors and writers we are also impartial. We look to offer the community material with as much diversity and as much information as we possibly can.

Recently, several new books have been released, all dealing



Misha Defonseca

Herald photo by Tara V. Lisciandro

with Holocaust-related themes. Some are rather interesting and we shared some of them with you in the Yom HaShoah issue. Books and recordings which are being left in our hands today are so vital and will serve for the generations ahead to learn from. Therefore, we feel they should be discussed with our readers. The reviews included in the *Herald* are opinions but they shouldn't be quickly skimmed. Instead, these reviews, hopefully, will allow us to be more aware of what is being left for us and future generations.

Only two months ago the new release, *Misha* (published by Mt.

Ivy Press), came to bookshelves. The author, Misha Defonseca, has had great success already and will soon be leaving for Europe where her book will be printed in France, Germany and Italy. The author was hesitant about writing her story but her publisher heard of it and told her, "You have to do this for the next generation." Since she has written her book she is now more comfortable about speaking to the public. She is able to discuss her story of survival with students and communities and, most importantly, she is able to learn to use their instinct. It's all in observation," stated Defonseca.

Aware of what was happening outside of her natural kingdom, Defonseca knew hiding with Mother Nature, in the world of the forests, was always safe. She occasionally would enter a farm house when the owners were away to find clothing or something to eat. If she was not able to find a home

Misha escaped from the family when she overheard them planning to hand her over to the Germans. That night began Misha's four-year, 3,000-mile journey through eight Nazi-occupied countries. "Childishly believing that I might find my parents in Germany, I headed off on foot toward what was, for me, the most dangerous place in the world," wrote Defonseca. Almost every day Misha walked an estimated 10 miles, "I was very alone," said Defonseca, "when you are alone you learn, you ask questions to yourself and find answers for yourself."

Her long and severe travels taught the author amazing lessons about nature and human beings, lessons that some of us, could never comprehend. "In all my travels the only times I ever slept deeply was when I was with wolves. To this day, even in the safety of my own bed, I sleep with one eye open, ready to leap up at any unfamiliar noise," wrote Defonseca. In fact, throughout her travels, Misha meets and befriends many animals, including the wolves with whom she becomes

part of their intricate family. "As there was no structure in my life, there was also no consistency. I walked when I wanted to walk and stopped when I wanted to stop, usually to befriend a wild creature that came my way," wrote Defonseca.

With patience Misha learns to join the wolves and they, in turn, come to care for her like one of her own. "With a little understanding you can find the answer yourself. I had to go on my knees to make myself look less big. It's instinct. People must learn to use their instinct. It's all in observation," stated Defonseca.

Aware of what was happening outside of her natural kingdom, Defonseca knew hiding with Mother Nature, in the world of the forests, was always safe. She occasionally would enter a farm house when the owners were away to find clothing or something to eat. If she was not able to find a home or felt it hazardous, she relied on Mother Nature to leave her with plants or animals to feed her. Some readers have questioned Misha's ethics about stealing from homes. She simply replies that a 7-year-old child was hungry and alone; in order to continue to survive, she did what was necessary.

With a tiny compass which she still treasures to this day, made for her by Grandfather, Misha guided herself east, in search of her parents. Instead of finding her parents she discovers partisan groups which she takes part in for a period of time, then wanders back into the deep forests where she feels most shielded. Misha also, unknowingly, enters the Warsaw ghetto where she views saddened, hollow, faces and living skeletons. Misha escapes by burying herself with hundreds of corpses and later creeps out and over the graveyard's wall that night. But Misha was aware of the risks she took and the danger she was in. "Being Jewish I was always at great risk. At any moment I could have joined the 1 1/2 mil-

lion children who fell victim to Hitler's scourge," wrote Defonseca. *Misha* is a story filled with childhood adventure in a grown-up's world. She is forced to grow up and become an adult

they do harm and kill, animals are not double-faced, they're simple. They won't stab you in the back." She still feels more comfortable in the forest, speaking to the trees and plants and listening to the songs of the birds. "I am still lonely today. I haven't the ability to be happy in the human world. I go walking in the woods, to think," said Defonseca.

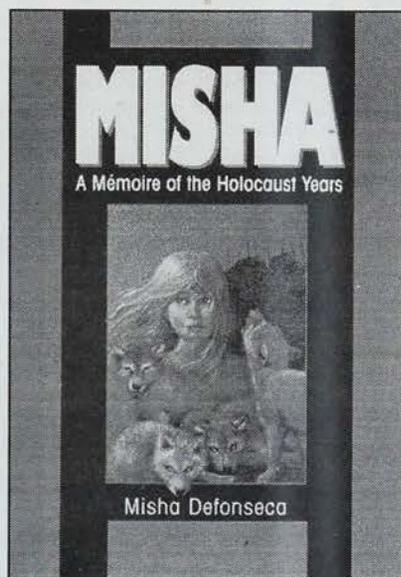
Misha's story is a different survivor's tale. It's a lonely journey of a courageous and innocent child in the hands of Mother Nature. Defonseca's tale is a long passage of human and animal instinct with lessons to be well remembered.

Defonseca's book has been introduced to various schools and is being used to stimulate discussion about the Holocaust. The author then goes to speak and discuss her story and themes of the Holocaust with the students, some

as young as 8 years old. There is even talk about Disney creating a movie based on the book.

Some readers are skeptical of Misha, "Do you believe it?" is commonly asked after reading Defonseca's story. Because it is such a different survivor's story, I think we find it difficult to believe. But we must also keep in mind that Misha is the first of her kind. There haven't been other stories like hers told since the end of the war. Meeting and speaking with the author made me believe; her kind face and gentle, innocent mannerisms only re-enforced my faith in this courageous survivor.

Today the author resides in a suburb of Boston with her husband and an array of house pets. Her backyard has become a sanctuary for wild animals. "They come to me," said Defonseca.



after only living a few years in the sunlight, playing, as a child. She says her survival is due not only to her determination to find her parents but to the animals that befriended her as well. "I looked to be with them. Near them it was always warmer. I was so alone and the animals were a presence. There were no other human beings around. They came to me," said Defonseca. "My soul is just like them."

Today the author continues her admiration for animals and cares for many. She rescues birds and field mice, she helps lay a dead animal to rest if she sees one on the road. She says we are on their territory, they were here first and therefore, "we should live in harmony." Growing up and seeing the horrors of what man can do to man, Defonseca says, "When a human is afraid,

Chuck Mangione Performs at Hotel Viking

Grammy Award-winning musician Chuck Mangione will perform at the first annual Fishermen's Memorial Awards Benefit May 23 in Newport.

With a portfolio of hit songs, including "Feels So Good" and "Give It All You Got," the theme song of the Lake Placid Winter Olympics, Mangione is recognized worldwide as a groundbreaking jazz instrumentalist. He has won two Grammy Awards and a Golden Globe Award.

In a rare public appearance, Mangione will perform at the benefit and is donating his signature horn to be auctioned to advance the goal of the Fishermen's Memorial to raise \$25,000 to make

the popular Brenton Point State Park memorial in Newport wheelchair accessible. Erected in 1995, the Fishermen's Memorial overlooks Narragansett Bay and Rhode Island Sound and recognizes everyone who has answered the call of the sea.

At the benefit, R.I. Secretary of State James R. Langevin and Harry R. Horgan, founder of Shake-A-Leg, will be honored for their work on behalf of physically challenged. It will also feature entertainment by Ronnie Rose, a one-hour open bar and an endless offering of hors d'oeuvres. Black tie is optional. Tickets are \$50 each. Call 846-2300 for more information.



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SCHOOLBEAT

Local Teens Learn Leadership Skills in Washington, D.C.

Twenty-seven Jewish high school students from Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts recently visited Washington, D.C., to take part in Panim el Panim (Face to Face), a four-day leadership program run by the Washington Institute for Jewish Leadership and Values.

The trip was organized by the Jewish Outreach Leadership Training program. JOLT is funded by a Continuity Grant from the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island. Below are comments and reactions from some of the participants.

From April 13 through April 16, 27 Rhode Island teen-agers participated in Panim el Panim: High School in Washington. I was fortunate enough to be one of those teenagers on the program this year.

Panim el Panim (Face to Face) is a unique program that connects Jewish values with government policies. The program encompasses many different issues that change from year to year. This year's issues were "Religion and State" and "World Poverty." For each topic discussed, speakers were invited to share with us their particular view on the subject. Instead of bringing in one speaker to talk about his or her side of the issue, Panim el Panim brought in two speakers to represent opposing views on the various subjects. This method of presenting the topics was very effective because instead of being preached at, we were educated on both sides of an issue and then allowed to come up with our own personal opinions.

Besides speakers and discussions, we were able to tour

Washington, D.C. Our very first night we took a monument walk to see the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial, the Korean War Veterans' Memorial, the Albert Einstein Memorial, and, of course, the Lincoln Memorial, all beautifully lit up at night.

We were also lucky enough to be in Washington in time for the "Rally for Compassion and Justice for Legal Immigrants," at which two Panim participants, Ariana Bensusan and Irina Khaykin, gave speeches.

One of my favorite parts of the trip was the "Encounter with Homelessness," in which we went to a homeless shelter to hear two women's personal stories of how they became homeless, and of how they were able to put their lives back together. While there was not nearly enough time to fully experience the museum, the visit to the Holocaust museum was also a very moving experience.

Finally, our meetings on Capitol Hill were very special in that they shattered the view of an untouchable government. We were able to sit in on sessions of Congress as well as meet with congressmen from Rhode Island.

Visiting our nation's capital, seeing how our government functions, and how we can be an integral part of our government, was a powerful experience. This program not only opened my eyes as to how much influence an individual can have, but I also learned how much impact a group, such as the Jewish people, can make as a whole.

— Jennifer Phillips, Rehoboth, MA. Grade 11

When I arrived in Washington, D.C., along with teenagers from the R.I. area and a variety of cities around the country, to take part in the Panim el Panim trip, I did not realize what a difference I, as a teenager, could make in our country....

Six teenagers and I had the chance to sit face to face with

On Monday, April 14, three thousand people converged on the steps of Capitol Hill to protest the Welfare Reform Act of 1996. This new legislation requires immigrants to pass a naturalization exam, consisting of a 100-question civics test, and an oral interview in English. The refugees unable to pass the test

protesters couldn't speak English, a translator was present. Two students from Rhode Island also spoke at the rally. Irina Khaykin shared her experiences as a Russian immigrant. She explained what it is like for her grandparents to try to learn English at 85 years old. She told us that her grandmother had



PANIM EL PANIM participants take a break on a bench in Washington, D.C. From right: Daniel Stieglitz, Ariana Bensusan, Matt Dorfman, Rachel Bloch and Joel Smith. Photo courtesy of JOLT

Jack Reed! We had the opportunity to discuss a variety of issues significant to our lives as teenagers. We thanked Jack Reed for his strong support for the state of Israel and its importance to the United States. Having attended a rally for Russian immigrants, it was reassuring to know that Jack Reed was sympathetic to their difficult situation, too. Senator Reed conveyed his interest in Jewish issues by telling us about the seder he had just attended along with other senators from Capitol Hill.

— Lynn Ducoff, Providence, RI Grade 10

will not be eligible for U.S. citizenship and will lose the SSI benefits and food stamps that they depend on.

The majority of these protesters were Russian Jews. These immigrants came from all over the country. Among the three thousand protesters was a group of young adults from the Washington Institute for Jewish Leadership and Values. This group was from a program called Panim el Panim, High School in Washington. There were teens from Chicago, Nashville, Fort Lauderdale, and our group, from Rhode Island.

Many senators and congresspeople spoke on Capitol Hill that day. Because most of the

passed the written exam, but is on a never-ending waiting list for her interview. In that time, she could lose her SSI benefits, which she uses to pay her rent. What will happen to Irina's grandparents then?

Ariana Bensusan, the second representative from our group spoke eloquently about America, the land of the free, the land of opportunity and the land of equality. Ariana reminded us of America's promise to the world; our promise of a better life to those in need. She reminded us of our wealth and good fortune, and of our responsibility to help out those who are less fortunate.

— Rachel Bloch, Bellingham, MA., Grade 10



IRINA KHAYKIN of Providence speaks at a rally for immigrants' rights on Capitol Hill on April 14. Photo courtesy of JOLT



LOCAL JEWISH high school students and chaperones in front of the nation's Capitol during the Panim El Panim leadership program. Photo courtesy of JOLT

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SCHOOLBEAT

Brown Holds 229th Commencement

More than 6,000 graduates, alumni, faculty, parent educators and university guests will march down College Hill on May 26. Their mile-long procession, accompanied by an entourage of bagpipers, highland drummers, television cameras and marching bands, will mark the beginning of Brown University's 229th commencement exercises.

The ceremonial Van Wickles Gates, which opened inward to admit the Class of 1997 four years ago, will swing outward for the graduates' symbolic march into the world beyond campus. This year the gates will also swing outward for Vartan Gregorian, Brown's 16th president, who will be presiding at his ninth and final commencement. Gregorian will become president of the Carnegie Corporation of New York in July.

By approximately 11:15 a.m., more than 20,000 people will have found their way to The College Green for the ritual conferral of degrees by the president and chancellor.

In all, Gregorian will deliver formal Latin salutations to more than 1,400 baccalaureate candidates, nearly 400 candidates for advanced degrees and 10 recipients of honorary degrees. Flags from more than 50 nations, representing the homelands of the Class of 1997, will be flown during the university ceremony.

By long tradition, Brown does not invite a "main" speaker to deliver a commencement address, but asks a number of individuals, including students, to contribute remarks at the various commencement convocations. Some of this year's speakers are: Bill Moyers, author and

broadcast journalist, will present this year's baccalaureate address at 1:30 p.m., May 25, in the First Baptist Meeting House; Dr. Samuel Lin, rear admiral and assistant surgeon general (retired), will address the M.D. graduating class during ceremonies beginning at 8:45 p.m. May 26 in the First Unitarian Church; Dr. Thomas A. Parrino, professor of medicine at Brown, has been chosen by the M.D. graduating class as faculty speaker for the medical school convocation in the First Unitarian Church.

More than 4,000 Brown alumni, alumnae, friends and family will return to the campus to participate in several days of celebration which surround commencement. For information on reunion activities, call 863-7000.

Parents Score Over Students

by Eitan Hersh
Grade Eight

On April 6, more than a 100 Schechter students, parents, alumni and teachers crowded into the Goldberg Center for the second annual Parent vs. Student Basketball game. Thirty-two Middle School students and more than 25 parents participated in the game.

Coached by Mr. Earley, each student received an equal amount of playing time and trailed close behind the taller adults throughout the game. Barry Fain, coach of the parent team, led the adults to their second straight victory with a total of 43 points. Even though the parents won the game, students

agreed that everyone had a good time.

During half-time, all Schechter students, grades kindergarten to eighth, were able to participate in a shoot-out. (In a shoot-out, each participant has 30 seconds to score as many baskets as possible.) The winners of the Lower School competition were: 1st place — Evan Fain; 2nd place — Michael Wolpert; and 3rd place — Olivia Lichaa. The Middle School shoot-out winners were: 1st place — Artem Stavitskiy; 2nd place — Jesse Goldberg; and 3rd place — Alex Berezin.

In total, more than \$1,000 was raised for the Schechter sports program and everyone present had a wonderful time.

Temple Beth-El Honors Hebrew Study Students

Thirty-nine students will complete their first year of Hebrew study at Temple Beth-El. To celebrate this occasion, a special program will be held to honor the students. On May 22, the students will participate in a siyum to mark the completion of one book of Torah and the beginning of another book. The congregation congratulates the following students and their parents:

Amanda Baron, Esther Bell, Zoe Bell, Cara Berman, Hal Bernstein, Jonathan Cesaro, Samantha Cohen, Matthew DiCristofaro, Elizabeth Dunn,

Michael Fain, Jossetti Finamore, Allison Friedman, Marshall Gillson, Viola Good, Kaitlin Healy, Matthew Keegan, Lewis Koppelman, Joshua Labossiere, Jessica Levine, Justin Levine, Mia Lidofsky, Rebecca Lobosco, Andrew Matson, Caitlin McManus, Sarah Oster, Daniel Raphael, Paige Robinson, Ethan Rosenberg, Justin Savage, Jason Sherwin, Hillary Sorin, Jonathan Stern, Eve Streicker, Alexandra Tate, Samantha Tobin, Evan Wallick, Julie Wallick, Daniel Winston, and Jacob Zimmerman.

Students Ace Karate Classic

The following students from Dave Durning's Martial Arts Center, located at 788 Main St. in E. Greenwich, competed at the Northern Classic held at Bryant College in Smithfield on May 10. The results are as follows:

Josh Hawkins, first place in 13/14 boys novice fighting; Leah Dorfman, second place in 9/10 girls novice/intermediate forms and third place in 9/10 girls novice intermediate fighting.

Dorfman and Hawkins are both rated No. 1 in their division by Krane rating. This was Hawkins' third first-place win for the season.



THE VICTORIOUS ASDS Parent Alumni Team.
Photo courtesy of ASDS

Schechter Holds First Annual Basketball Awards Night

by Jesse Goldberg
Grade Eight

On April 8, the Boys' and Girls' Basketball Teams at the Alperin Schechter Day School received recognition and awards for their outstanding seasons. School director, Myrna Rubel, coaches Mr. Earley and Ms. Reape, and physical education teacher, Mrs. Thomas, each gave heart-warming speeches about the teams, coaches and supporters.

Each player was given a phenomenal trophy and a sharp-looking, blue and white jacket with the ASDS crest on it. Special awards included: Most Improved Player, Masha Zayas, Gabi Mitchell; The Coach's Award, Amanda Witman, Jesse Goldberg; and Academic Award,

Jessica Fain, Peter Shapiro.

Speeches of thanks to Mrs. Rubel, Mr. Earley, Ms. Reape and Mrs. Thomas were given by co-captains Erica Teverow, Jessica Fain, Michael Radparvar and Jesse Goldberg. Mr. Earley also recognized timekeeper Daniel Abrams for his dedication.

Speeches were followed by gifts, which included a "Coach" shirt for Mr. Earley, a basketball with the signatures of all the players for Ms. Reape, a lap desk for Mrs. Thomas, and a miniature basketball hoop for Mrs. Rubel.

To top off the night, there was a delicious Make-Your-Own Sundae buffet with many assortments of ice cream and toppings. It was a wonderful evening.

German Government Approves Funding for Research Center at Brandeis

The Federal Republic of Germany has committed \$1.5 million to Brandeis to help establish a Center for German and European Studies on the university's Waltham, Mass., campus.

Brandeis President Jehuda Reinharz, who two years ago began talks about the center with Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl's representatives, characterized as "extraordinary" the German government's commitment of funds — from the German Program for Transatlantic Contacts — to help launch the research center. The funding, the equivalent of 500,000 DM annually, will be spread over five years. Brandeis will match the funding.

"It is wonderful that this center should be established here," said Reinharz, "and it is fitting that it is being supported through an endowment that was originally created to help remedy the horror and destruction of World War II."

The center will bolster significantly research and education on Germany and Europe. Through extensive contacts between German, European and Israeli institutions, scholars and students will exchange ideas and receive training in issues of "great relevance" to Germany and Europe today, according to Reinharz. The center will also focus on issues of immigration.

Reinharz said Brandeis repre-

sents an ideal site for the center not only because of the university's historic connections to Germany and Europe, but also because of its leadership in European studies and the study of world Jewry, and its special research centers focused on European Jewry and Zionism — the Tauber and Goodman Institutes.

The university hopes to help nurture German-American relations by applying its resources in Judaic studies, international economics, and social policy analysis.

The center will consider issues of European integration;

the institutions and political system of the European Union; international relations between Europe and North America; Europe and the Middle East; Europe in the global economy; and German and European history.

The center's resources will be geared toward undergraduate and graduate students in the United States and Europe, and will help to strengthen Brandeis's program in German and European studies at the undergraduate, graduate and faculty levels. Exchange programs will be established with European universities.

Moses Brown Students Earn Winning Scores

Rebecca Weiss Places
Third in the Nation on
Spanish Exam

Moses Brown School students earned a total of nine placements in the recent National Spanish Contest Examination, sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese, Rhode Island Chapter.

Moses Brown junior Rebecca Weiss, a resident of Providence, was one of four national winners from Rhode Island. Weiss placed third in the

national, at Level VR, with a score of 58.

Nine students from Moses Brown School are state winners. The students are: Matthew Blanchette, freshman, of North Providence; Danielle Dupont, senior, of North Attleboro; Jeremy Harkey, sophomore, of Providence; Margot Jackson, junior, of Providence; Erica Jaffe, freshman, of Providence; Jaime Perez, sophomore, of Warwick; Sylvia Scharf, sophomore, of South Easton; Mark Viana, senior, of Rumford; and Rebecca Weiss, junior, of Providence.

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OBITUARIES

SHEPPIE DRESSLER

FORTLAUDERDALE, Fla. — Sheppie Dressler, 86, of Lauderdale, Fla., died April 30 at Vitas Hospice Care, Fort Lauderdale. He resided in Lauderdale for 11 years. He was the husband of Ruth (Berman) Dressler.

He was born in Poland, the son of the late Morris Leon and Sarah (Superfin) Dressler.

He founded Woonsocket Glass and Mirror Co. in 1946 and was a Woonsocket resident until he retired to Florida in 1985. An Army veteran of World War II, he served in North Africa and the European Front. He was a member of Congregation B'nai Israel in Woonsocket, the B'nai B'rith, and the Shriners.

Besides his wife, he is survived by two sons, Mitchell L. Dressler of Dressler, Pa., and Stephen B. Dressler, of Cranston, R.I.; one grandson, Richard Dressler; and 17 nieces and nephews. He was the brother of the late Sigmund, David, Koss, Benjamin, Leon and Samuel Dressler, and Faye Rubin, Rose Glazier and Celia Sher.

The funeral was held at Congregation B'nai Israel, Woonsocket, May 2. Burial was at B'nai Israel Cemetery, Woonsocket. Arrangements were by Curtis J. Holl's Sons, 510 S. Main St., Woonsocket, R.I. Contributions in his memory may be made to The Sheppie and Ruth Dressler Endowment Fund, c/o Congregation B'nai Israel, 224 Prospect St., Woonsocket, R.I. 02895.

JOAN ENGLE

ATLANTIS, Fla. — Joan Engle, 67, of 3300 South Ocean Blvd., Palm Beach, a summer resident of 767 Elm Grove Ave., Providence, and Kennebunkport, Maine, for many years, died May 6 at Columbia JFK Hospital. She was the wife of Leonard Engle.

Born in Providence, she was a daughter of the late Henry and Marion (Frank) Hassenfeld.

She attended the University of Rhode Island and was a graduate of Boston University, Class of 1951. She was a member of Temple Emanu-El and its Sisterhood. She was a life member of the Miriam Hospital Association and a member of the Women's Association of the Jewish Home for Aged. She was a member of ORT, the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island and the Ledgemont Country Club in Seekonk, Mass.

Besides her husband, she leaves a daughter, Judith Clifford of Boston; two sons, James Engle and Richard Engle, both of Providence; a brother, Harold Hassenfeld of Palm Beach; and six grandchildren. She was the sister of the late Muriel Mann and Merrill Hassenfeld.

The funeral was held May 9 at Temple Emanu-El. Burial was at Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. Services were coordinated by Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence.

LILLIAN FELDSTEIN

PROVIDENCE — Lillian Feldstein, of 610 East Ave., Pawtucket, died May 9 at Miriam Hospital. She was the widow of Sydney Feldstein.

Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Max and Fannie Filler, she had lived in Pawtucket for 40 years.

She leaves a son, Richard Feldstein of New York City; two daughters, Leslie Feldstein of Wellesley, Mass., and Lois Hurley of Kinnelon, N.J.; a brother, Samuel Filler of Columbia, S.C., and two grandchildren. She was the sister of the late Milton and Morris Filler.

A graveside service was held May 11 in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Post Road, Warwick. The family was assisted with the arrangements by the Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

ARLINE GREENBERG

WARWICK — Arline Greenberg, 64, of 54 Foxridge Crescent, died May 6 at Kent County Memorial Hospital. She was the wife of Leonard "Hank" Greenberg.

Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Irving and Rae (Rubinowitz) Broman, she had lived in Warwick for the last 12 years, previously living in Cromwell, Conn.

She was a member of Hadassah and a former member of Young People's Benevolent Association.

Besides her husband, she

leaves three sons, Harvey Greenberg of Manchester, N.H., Michael Greenberg of Manchester, Conn., and Robert Greenberg of Cromwell; a sister, Rhoda Zaidman of Warwick; a brother, Gerald Broman of Pembroke Pines, Fla.; and 10 grandchildren.

The funeral was held May 7. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Post Road, Warwick. The family was assisted with the arrangements by the Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

ZELDA KAPLAN

FALL RIVER — Zelda Kaplan, 81, of 615 Whittier St., New Bedford, Mass., owner of the former Fashion Shop in West Warwick for 40 years, died May 6 at the Rose Hawthorne Home in Fall River. She was the widow of Louis Kaplan.

Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Max and Bessie (Epstein) Zisquit, she had lived in New Bedford for 16 years, previously living in Providence for most of her life.

The Fashion Shop was founded by her father.

She was currently a companion care worker at Coastline Elderly Services in New Bedford. She was a member of the National Council of Jewish Women and the Women's Auxiliary of the Jewish War Veterans of America. She was a member of the Tifereth Israel Congregation in New Bedford, and Hadassah.

She leaves a daughter, Nancy I. Levy of Atlanta, Ga.; a son, Stephen Kaplan of New Bedford; a sister, Irene Bloom of Cranston; and a brother, Fred Zisquit of Miami Beach, Fla. She was the sister of the late Mildred Cohn.

A graveside funeral service was held May 8 at Tifereth Israel Cemetery, New Bedford. Service was coordinated by Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence.

H. CHARLES "CHICK" KWASHA

MIAMI, Fla. — H. Charles "Chick" Kwasha, 90, of North Miami, Fla., founder of the Kwasha-Lipton Co., an actuarial consulting firm in Fort Lee, N.J., died May 4 at Mount Sinai Hospital in Miami, Fla. He was the husband of Sylvia (Herman) Kwasha.

Born in Providence, he was a son of the late Bernard and Lena Kwasha.

He was a 1928 magna cum laude graduate of Brown University.

Besides his wife, he leaves a daughter, Linda D. Kwasha of Studio City, Calif.; two sons, Bruce C. Kwasha and Robert D. Kwasha, both of Atlanta, Ga.; a sister, Charlotte Kwasha of Providence, and seven grandchildren.

The funeral was held in Florida.

SHIRLEY MOYERMAN

WARWICK — Shirley Moyerman, 70, of 118 Edmond Drive, died May 10 at Kent County Memorial Hospital. She was the wife of Robert Moyerman.

Born in Baltimore, Md., she was a daughter of the late Maxwell and Fannie (Bryen) Mazer.

In 1992 she earned an associate's degree in arts, with honors, from the Community College of Rhode Island, where she was pursuing an associate's

degree in human services. She was a secretary at Beth Judah synagogue in Ventnor, N.J., in the 1950s, and an employee of Northern Telecom for two years until it moved out of the state. She had been president of the Boswell PTA in Menominee, Mich. She was a member of Hadassah, B'nai B'rith Women, and the Sisterhood of Temple Beth Torah, now Torat Yisrael. She was a member of the Sisterhood of Temple Am David, and a founding member of Temple Emanu-El in Silver Spring, Md.

Besides her husband, she leaves a son, David R. Moyerman of Columbus, Ga.; a daughter, Judith Ann Torres of Cleveland, Ohio; and 5 grandchildren. She was the mother of the late Maxine Abbott, and the sister of the late Robert Mazer and Leonard Mazer.

A graveside service was held May 12 at Lincoln Park Cemetery, Post Road, Warwick. The family was assisted with the arrangements by the Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

Papa

by Jeffrey Dennis Buckler

A man lays dying,
The medicine stops,
Flowing.

A sound,
A beep,
A life,
A laugh.

Homework is done.
The television is on.
The Studio Audience laughs.

Slightly haggard,
A little pale,
My mother walks in.

"Papa died," she said.
I broke down.
Crying and aching.

The audience laughs,
As if,
Mocking me.

The last joke is over,
The next show starts.
A ship leaves for a place.

Above the clouds,
Below the stars,
A halo glows.

This ring of light,
Shines down on the,
Saturday of next.

He is gone.
A hole is there,
Where jokes and Cokes
and home,
Made soda once was.

My life has had,
But another turn.
Down the street,
Around the bend.

A section has been altered.
Like an erased,
Section of a poem.

Lost in all ways.
Except of,
The memory of the,
Poet.

Jeffrey Dennis Buckler is an eighth-grade student at Moses Brown. His grandfather, Martin L. Buckler, died in September 1995. Jeffrey is the son of Steven and Wendy Buckler of East Greenwich.

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Hadassah Women Sew Dolls for Kids at Hasbro

by Sara Wise
Herald Editor

Every other Thursday morning a remarkable group of women gathers in the small Hadassah basement office in Cranston to assemble medical teaching dolls for patients at the Hasbro Children's Hospital. Although all of the women are in their 70s and 80s, they sew and stuff the dolls with the dexterity of women half their age.

Chatter fills the room as the women work, creating an atmosphere not unlike a sewing bee or a coffee klatch. The eight women are all Hadassah members who, along with other members who volunteer in the hospital or knit woolen booties at home, donate their time as part of Rhode Island Hadassah's Community Service Project.

As they talk, stuff and sew, the pile of completed dolls grows and grows until noon when it's time to leave. Shirley Schreiber, one of the chairwomen of the hospital project, takes the dolls and woolen booties to the hospital the next day and delivers them to the nurses and child life specialists who distribute them to the children.

The dolls they make are plain, but to a sick child in a scary hospital setting, they offer comfort and reassurance. Their simple white bodies are stuffed with cotton batting and they are dressed only in colorful johnnies, similar to those that children in the hospital might wear. The dolls arrive at the hospitals with no faces so that the children can draw the faces on them and add hair if they want to.

But the dolls are not just playthings, they serve a practical role as well. Doctors use them to explain exactly what a child's problem is and what will be done to them. The child draws their particular problem directly on the doll. A doll might get a cast put on an arm or leg, or have incisions drawn to represent surgery.

Dr. Bruce Birk, a pediatric resident at Hasbro Children's Hospital, said that the dolls serve an important purpose. "The dolls are invaluable. We use them to explain to children what's wrong with them and it helps them understand."

Every child admitted to the hospital or in the emergency



HADASSAH MEMBERS Betty Kris and Ann Berger sew up the sides of dolls to be donated to Hasbro Children's Hospital.

Herald photo by Sara Wise



HADASSAH MEMBERS Sarah Bloom and Lucille Chernack stuff medical teaching dolls.

Herald photo by Sara Wise

room gets a doll. Accompanying siblings can have one, too, if they wish. This generous policy keeps the Hadassah volunteers very busy. "They count on us because we are the major supplier for the hospital," said Shirley Schreiber who received a doll herself from her co-chairwoman Goldie Greene when she injured her foot. Schreiber put an Ace™ bandage on the doll's foot to represent her injury.

Schreiber, a past president of the Cranston/Warwick Hadassah group, said that the women have been sewing the dolls for five of the six years that Hadassah has been involved with the Hasbro Children's Hospital which began when Schreiber contacted hospital administrators about volunteer opportunities. "I read about another group in Indiana that worked with a children's hospital, acting as surrogate mothers to the children; reading to them and relieving tired parents." She wrote to Hasbro to see if they were interested and the hospital enthusiastically agreed. Soon after Hadassah members began working in the hospital as volunteers, hospital representatives asked if Hadassah could make medical teaching dolls which were in short supply.

Nearly 3,000 dolls later, the sewers are still at it.

Schreiber said that a lot of the materials for the dolls were donated at first, but over time the donations tapered off and they now rely on their "adopt-a-doll" program to keep the project going. People can "adopt a doll" in memory or in honor of someone and all proceeds go to purchase doll-making materials. Each doll has a label that says "Made and Donated by Rhode Island Hadassah" and Schreiber says that because of the labels, Hadassah receives many letters of thanks for the dolls.

Goldie Greene, co-chairwoman of the project said she enjoys helping out. "It's a good cause, we just can't stop doing this. It's very rewarding when you see the kids in the hospital with the dolls. It makes you feel good. It's nice to do something

worthwhile," said Greene as she stuffed cotton batting into a cloth doll's body with a wooden stick.

The work is a lot tougher than it looks and the women toil methodically. "They have to be stuffed just right, too little stuffing and they're mushy and a cast won't stay on an arm or leg, too much and they're too hard," said Greene.

It's very rewarding when you see the kids in the hospital with the dolls. It makes you feel good.

Ida Falk, who sews all of the doll's bodies on her sewing machine at home, added "You have to make them solid so they don't wrinkle on you." Thanks to Ida's handiwork, stacks of empty doll bodies are ready each week for the ladies to stuff, sew up and dress with johnnies, which are made by Bea Horenstein. "I like to sew, I have arthritis and I need to move my fingers, it's good for them, otherwise they'd be curling up. It gets me out of the house and it's nice to see the girls," said Falk.

Betty Kris prefers to sew up the sides of the dolls once the stuffing is complete. "The stuffing is harder than you think, that's why I sew," said Kris. Meanwhile, Sarah Bloom is hard at work filling the dolls with stuffing so Kris will have some to sew up.

Lucille Chernack, a former school librarian, calls herself "a seasonal sewer" because she goes to Florida during the winter months. "I come because I'm a Hadassah member and they needed people. This is different than the other types of volunteer work that I do, it's physical with a philosophical result, you're out to help children, to ease their pain," said Chernack.

The women enjoy the social aspect of working together as well. Ann Berger said that many of the women knew each other before they started. "It's nice to get together, we talk about old times a lot."

Every month Schreiber turns in a list of the volunteer hours and both the group and each individual is recognized for their service at a yearly luncheon hosted by the hospital. The women have accumulated thousands of hours thus far between both the craft workers and the in-hospital volunteers. Schreiber also hopes to teach other groups how to make the medical teaching dolls. She currently has plans for presentation at South Kingston High School at the request of a teacher looking for a home economics community service project.

"The girls like it, they've been very faithful," said Goldie Greene who puts in a plea for materials and volunteers. "We are always looking for yarn, and we could always use sewers." Anyone interested in donating time or materials can call Shirley Schreiber, 738-0934, or Goldie Greene, 738-6956.

A Call for Singers

The Rhode Island Touring Ensemble, a semi-professional chorus in residence at the Music School, is looking for new members.

This 20-person, four-part performance group rehearses weekly and performs throughout the state. Venues include Trinity Theatre, Providence City Hall, Newport's Belcourt Castle, community events, and private functions. Included among this year's tour plans is a mini-production of the classic musical "Camelot."

Interested singers should be able to sight-read and have experience singing with a group. Members will be selected on the basis of an audition. All voices are welcome, but the ensemble would particularly like to encourage interested altos. To schedule an audition, call Joann Olean at (508) 336-3941.

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