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Madeleine Albright Confronts The Past In Visit To Prague

by Randi Druzin

PRAGUE (JTA) — For U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, all doubt has disappeared.

Like the names of her grandparents who perished in the Holocaust, her Jewish roots are carved in stone.

And at least for the Czech Jews who accompanied her on her historic visit here this week, any doubts that she knew about her Jewish background prior to their revelations in the media earlier this year have been erased.

Tomas Kraus, executive director of the Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic, said Albright's emotion was genuine during their tour of the historic Jewish Quarter.

She seemed on the verge of tears many times as she toured the Old Jewish Cemetery and the adjacent Pinkas Synagogue — which has inscribed on its walls the names of more than 77,000 Czech and Slovak Holocaust victims, Kraus said in an interview.

She seemed on the verge of tears many times as she toured the Old Jewish Cemetery

It was among those thousands of victims that Albright found the names of her paternal grandparents, Olga and Arnost Korbel.

Her encounter with her Jewish past was first on the secretary's agenda as she arrived in Prague as part of a tour devoted to NATO and its expansion to Eastern and Central Europe.

Kraus said that during Albright's Jewish tour, which was closed to reporters, it was apparent that she had developed "very strong feelings about her Jewish roots" since learning about them earlier this year.

Standing in front of the 16th-century Jewish Town Hall at the end of her tour, Albright said that when she visited the synagogue last year with First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, she didn't look for the names of her grandparents or other family members.

"I did not know my own fam-

ily story then," she explained, her voice cracking.

"Tonight, I knew to look for those names. And their image will forever be seared into my heart."

"To the many values and many facets that make up who I am, I now add the knowledge that my grandparents and members of my family perished in the worst catastrophe in human history."

"So I leave here tonight with the certainty that this new part of my identity adds something stronger, sadder and richer to my life," she said.

Leo Pavlat, the director of Prague's Jewish Museum who also accompanied the secretary of state, said he understood Albright's reaction.

"She is not here for the first time, but it is the first time she came with the aim to look at the names," he said.

In addition to locating the names of her two paternal grandparents on the synagogue walls, Albright was also shown file cards describing their tragic fate: her grandfather died in Theresienstadt in 1942, her grandmother at Auschwitz in 1944.

Her maternal grandfather died before the war. The fate of her maternal grandmother is unknown.

What Kraus saw with Albright, he has seen before: "It is common for Jews from this part of the world to be ignorant of their Jewish roots. A substantial number of Czech Jews have only recently discovered their ancestry. Both during and after World War II, many European Jews shed their religion and their Jewish identity to break with their painful past and to ensure better lives for their children."

Albright was born here and fled twice as a child. Her father, a diplomat, took his family with him when he left Czechoslovakia in March 1939, days after Nazi forces occupied the country.

Albright said she reflected on her parents' choices as she looked at her grandparents' names on the synagogue wall.

"I felt not only grief for those members of my family that were inscribed there, but I also thought about my parents. I thought about the choice they made."

(Continued on Page 19)



Fun in the Sun!

Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island and JORI campers gathered together in Providence during Israel Week. See pages 10 and 11.

Herald photo by Tara V. Lisciandro.

NATO Expansion Seen as Positive Move For Former Soviet-bloc Jews

by Ruth E. Gruber

STRASBOURG, France (JTA) — Is there a Jewish stake in the expansion of NATO?

Jewish leaders from Eastern and Central Europe see the expansion as a way of anchoring their countries within the West, strengthening overall democratic development and providing a more secure base for a viable Jewish future.

"With membership in NATO and especially with [eventual] membership in the European Union, people will be able to migrate freely, and I think Jews would settle here, and our population would grow," Tomas Kraus, executive director of the Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic, said in an interview.

"We expect that after the enlargement of NATO, we will get new immigration from the former Soviet Union," he said.

Those Jews "are seeking not only political refuge, but higher economic standards," Kraus said. "They'll settle in our country, knowing that it is militarily secure from the Russians and economically stable."

Meeting in Madrid recently, leaders of the North American

Treaty Organization countries officially invited the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland to become the first wave of former Soviet-bloc states to join the western defense alliance.

Some 4,000 Jews live in the Czech Republic, as many as 100,000 Jews live in Hungary and 10,000 or more live in Poland.

The expansion formally erases the Cold War's East-West divide.

Further eastern expansion of NATO is expected.

The expansion, less than a decade after the collapse of communism, formally erases the Cold War's East-West divide.

It creates a broader, more seamless, European landscape and verifies former Eastern-bloc states as members of the European political mainstream.

"It's a sort of confirmation of our identity, of being a part of what we always felt a part of, and were rarely recognized as," Michael Zantovsky, a leading Czech political figure who is of

Jewish background, told the Associated Press.

The move has parallel ramifications for Jews.

Since the collapse of communism, a renaissance of Jewish life has taken root in countries throughout the former Soviet bloc states.

No longer "captive Jews" behind the Iron Curtain, these Jewish communities now are demonstrating a growing self-confidence in their identity and are demanding recognition as full-fledged members of the Jewish world.

"Of course we need and appreciate cooperation with all the international Jewish organizations," Warsaw Jewish representative Stanislaw Krajewski told attendees at a recent conference in Strasbourg on "Strengthening Jewish Life in Europe."

"But being partners means we should not be ignored."

Poland's Jewish leadership was particularly blunt on the issue last month.

Jerzy Kichler, the newly elected 49-year-old president of the Union of Jewish Communities in Poland, issued a statement

(Continued on Page 19)

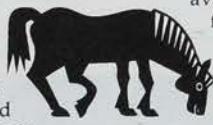
HAPPENINGS —

Saddle Up For Summer

If you have always wanted to learn to ride horses, there's no time like this summer to saddle up. Bristol Community College has teamed up with two local stables to offer riding lessons through its Community Services office.

Classes at Emerald Equestrian Center will teach horseback riding as well as the care and management of horses and the stable. Participants will learn to groom, bridle, and saddle horses, and be introduced to the basics of feeding, stable maintenance, tack cleaning and care, saddle types and styles of riding.

Classes begin on July 31 and run for four weeks at the stables in Middleborough from 6 to 8 p.m.



Slots are also available at classes offered at the Sakonnet Equestrian Center in Tiverton, R.I. The two-hour classes include English riding lessons and classroom instruction on horse management, tacking and untacking, grooming and caring for horses.

There are several sections available: Thursdays from 7 to 9 p.m., starting July 17; Friday from 7 to 9 p.m., starting July 25; and Saturdays from noon to 2 p.m., starting July 19. All classes run for four weeks.

For further information or to register for riding lessons at either Emerald Equestrian Center or Sakonnet Equestrian Center, call (508) 678-2811, ext. 2270.

Help Out a Good Cause

The Rhode Island Chapter of the Leukemia Society of America needs volunteers for its Charlestown Challenge—Run, Walk & Skate event set for Aug. 9 at Ninigret Park in Charlestown. Planned for that day are a 5k run/walk, then an inline skating event where participants will learn about the sport, see demonstrations and have the opportunity to test out a pair of skates. Races for all ages and levels of skaters are planned. A barbecue will follow.

Volunteers are needed to perform a variety of tasks including pre-event set-up on Aug. 8, and helping with registration,

set-up, water stops, safety, barbecue and clean-up on Aug. 9.

The Charlestown Challenge starts with registration at 8 a.m. The run/walk begins at 9 a.m., followed by skating races at 10:30 a.m., then the barbecue. The entry fee is \$18 or free with \$50 in donations to the Leukemia Society of America. Proceeds will benefit the Rhode Island Chapter's patient financial assistance and research programs.

For more information about volunteering or participating in the Charlestown Challenge—Run, Walk & Skate call the Leukemia Society at 943-8888.

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Calendar of Events for July 17 thru 26

17 Rhode Island State Games and Sports Festival begins. Daily events July 17 to 27 in Central Falls. Call 727-7474 for schedule of events.

19 Annual book sale 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Cross Mills Public Library, Charlestown. Call 364-6211. Woonasquatucket River Paddle, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Kayak the river from Water Place Park, Providence. Call 453-1633.

20 2nd annual Jazz on the Blackstone, 2 p.m. at River Island Park, Woonsocket. Call 762-6400. 3rd annual Build Your Boat Contest, 1 p.m. Participants build their own boats on premise to prepare for a race in East Greenwich Cove at 3:30 p.m. Call 884-6363.

21 Grow of Rhode Island hosts 12-Step Mental Health Group, Pawtucket, 6:30 p.m. Call 464-3137.

22 Fast Day of the 17th of Tammuz.

23 Grow of Rhode Island Hosts 12-Step Mental Health Group, 10 a.m., N. Kingstown; 7 p.m. Cranston; 7 p.m. Warwick. Call 464-3137 for directions.

Pajama Party for children. Children will be treated to stories, games and songs at Books on the Square, Providence. Free and open to public. Call 331-9097.

24 Summer evening under the stars with Perspectives Young Jewish Adult Group Meet at the Margaret Jacoby Observatory at Community College of Rhode Island to stargaze with host Sandi Brenner, 9 p.m. Call to R.S.V.P., 863-9357.

Grow of Rhode Island, 12-Step Mental Health Group, 7 p.m., Coventry. Call 464-3137.

26 Antique and Classic Boat Rendezvous at Mystic Seaport, Conn., July 26 to 27. Approximately 50 boats will appear at the seaport. Three-mile down River Parade through the town of Mystic on Sunday. Call (860) 572-5315.

Enjoy a safari-cruise in a combination tour of Southwick Zoo and riverboat tour of Blackstone River, 10 a.m., Blackstone, Mass. Call to register. 724-2200.

Dino Doctor Day at Roger Williams Park Zoo, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visitors will get a behind-the-scenes peek at how 19 robotic creatures of the dinosaur exhibit work. Children who complete the field study course receive a certificate of dinosaur medicine.

Providence County Kennel Club hosts All Breed Dog Show at East Providence High School, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Show features more than 130 varieties of purebred dogs. Call 831-2186.

Visit the Red Baron

Red Baron Frozen Pizza presents a special appearance of the Red Baron Biplanes. Flying enthusiasts and the community are invited to come see the two biplanes on display, July 19 from 10:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. and July 20 from 9 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. at Hawthorne Aviation at the North Central State Airport, located at 380 Jenckes Hill Road in Lincoln.

The red and white, smoke trailing, super Stearman are original open-air cockpit biplanes reminiscent of aviation's earlier days. The tour is an effort to keep the lost art of barnstorming alive.

The Red Baron Stearman Squadron appearance in the Providence area will benefit muscular dystrophy. In support of muscular dystrophy, Red Baron will donate a percentage from products sold in the community from July 6 to 19, to benefit its worthwhile cause and programs.

Come meet and visit with the pilots of the Red Baron Stearman Squadron, enjoy a sampling of free Red Baron Frozen Pizza, see the magnificent biplanes on display near the hanger and watch as they take off from the ground.

Admission is free.

Storyteller at the Barrington Public Library

Storyteller Don Kirk will present "Reaching for the Stars" at the Barrington Public Library on July 23 at 6:30 p.m. His performance is part of the 1997 Summer Reading Club "Reach for the Stars—Read" sponsored by the Office of the Library and Information Services, Rhode Island McDonald's Restaurants, and the Friends of the Barrington Public Library.

Kirk has entertained children throughout the area and touched hearts with his sensitive and value-oriented tales. The stories in this program feature stars in the sky, starfish from the sea, the star that serves as a badge, and a movie star.

For children entering grades one and older, the program lasts 45 minutes. This is a free program. No registration is required. Call 247-1920 for information.

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Swan Liquors, Hope St.
Rhoda's Judaica, Burlington St.

THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

Hair Today, Gone Tomorrow: An Orthodox Boy's Rite of Passage

by Emily Torgan
Jewish Community Reporter

For little Menachem Mendel Levy, July 13 was a very special day. The hot summer Sunday was his third birthday, and because his family is Orthodox, they welcomed his third year with more than the requisite party and birthday cake.

According to Jewish tradition, a boy's third birthday is

also the date of his upsherenish, a traditional haircutting ceremony.

Mendel's father, Lubavitcher Rabbi Eliezer Levy, explained that an upsherenish serves as both the child's first haircut and his formal introduction to Jewish learning.

At the Warwick simcha, relatives dressed in Chasidic garb mingled with neighborhood residents as some 150 guests

poured into a backyard filled with round tables and a buffet of fruit, cakes and candies. Glitter glinted on the tables, and balloons swayed in the breeze.

At about 4 p.m., Rabbi Levy interrupted the festivities to start the ceremony. "The Rebbe sent a blessing to all upsherenishes," Levy began, paying tribute to the late Menachem Mendel Schneerson, the Lubavitcher spiritual leader who left the world on June 12, 1994, only days before Levy's young son had entered it.

After a reading of the blessing, Levy discussed the meaning of the haircutting. "Cutting the child's hair is considered a matter of great importance," he said. "It teaches the [male] child to wear pevot [earlocks]."

Pevot, Rabbi Levy explained later, are kept longer than the rest of the hair because the Torah states that hair should not be cut in a full circle.

"At that time, idol worshippers cut their hair that way as part of their religious practice," he said.

The upsherenish, an ancient Kabbalistic custom that is performed in most Orthodox movements, was first recorded by the students of Rabbi Ari, who re-



Mendel gets a trim.

Herald photo by Emily Torgan



Rabbis Lipson, Gibber and Levy confer before the ceremony.
Herald photo by Emily Torgan

sided in Israel during the 15th century, Levy said.

Decked out in his Shabbas clothes, Rabbi Levy explained why the haircut takes place on the child's third birthday.

"Jewish law teaches us that children should begin their Jewish education at 3," he said. "A sage said that a person is like a tree. For the first three years, we do not eat the tree's fruit. On a child's third birthday, we give him the mitzvah of a haircutting. Like a tree, a child begins as a seedling. One day, he will blossom and bear fruit."

The crowd fell silent as Levy read a letter his wife, Chanie, had written to their son about the joy of his birth during the terrible time of the Rebbe's shiva. Shortly thereafter, family and guests watched young Mendel totter onto a chair with his long hair in a braid.

While klezmer music played, his mother carefully snipped off the braid and saved it.

While little Mendel requested sodas and quietly munched

candy, relatives and friends moved toward the chair to accept the honor of taking small snips. With each snip, those who cut gave Mendel a coin or a bill to deposit in a small bank.

"That's tzedakah," he said, pointing to the bank with a chubby finger.

The music played and played, and the guests cut and cut.

Levy explained that after the ceremony, Mendel would be expected to uphold religious customs more carefully.

"We started training him earlier, but now, he will be expected to wear his kippah, to say the right prayers in the morning and at night, and to pray before and after eating. Now, he will also put on his tzitzit [a fringed garment required by the Torah.]

Levy offered a final piece of information.

"Mendel's hair doesn't look chopped up anymore," he said the following day. "After the guests left, we made sure he got a decent shaping."

A Letter to Mendel From Mom

(Chanie Levy wrote a letter to her 3-year-old son to be read at his upsherenish, or haircutting ceremony. The following excerpts from the letter have been reprinted by the Herald with permission from Mrs. Levy.)

Dear Mendel,

What a joy it is to join today with friends and family to celebrate your third birthday, your upsherenish, your formal introduction to Jewish education and practice. At this momentous occasion, I'd like to share some of my thoughts with you.

My dear little "big" three-year-old son, the day I first laid eyes on your beautiful face feels like only yesterday. Let me tell you a bit about the emotional circumstances surrounding your blessed entrance into our lives.

It was June 12, 1994, the third of Tamuz, and I was hot and overdue, eager to finally welcome the baby I was carrying. But on that fateful Motzai Shabbos (Saturday evening), as I lay awake at 2 a.m., feeling your friendly kicks in my ribs and picturing what you might look like, my blissful thoughts were shattered by an ominous telephone call. I heard Toty crying and I refused to believe the terrible news he broke to me. Our beloved Rebbe, the revered spiritual guide of our generation, was no longer physically with us. The next few days, I walked around heartbroken and in shock, and those nights I spent tossing and turning in bed, unable to sleep, unable to ease the anguish I felt in my soul, unable to be consoled.

Finally, four days into the week of shiva, I knew it was



Mendel's mother, Chanie, holds his early childhood's long hair.
Herald photo by Emily Torgan

time for you to make your long-awaited entrance. Let me tell you, Mendel, you sure took your time!

On the morning of the 8th of Tamuz, Hashem granted me the strength I needed to help you join us, and at 11:30 a.m., your piercing cry could finally be heard. Mendel, how can I put into words the feeling that overcame me as I felt your warm body against mine and peered at your tiny face? How can I describe the immense happiness that enveloped me as I felt your downy hair and counted your 10 fingers and toes? How can I tell you the pride I felt as I watched your adoring father cradle you in his strong arms?

How can I make you understand what sharp grief and intense joy feel like back to back? The deep pain in our heart was

momentarily soothed as we welcomed this precious new life, and we thanked Hashem.

Mendel, darling, do you know whose name you carry? You bear the holy name of our cherished Rebbe.

My dear Mendeleh, you may be just a little boy, but you stand on the shoulders of a giant. With gratitude to the A-mighty, your Toty and I pledge to do all we can to raise you to follow in the footsteps of your namesake.

May you and your siblings grow up to be a true source of pride and nachas, to the Rebbe, your family, and the entire Jewish nation. And may we merit soon the true consolation, when we will be reunited with our Rebbe, with the coming of Mashiach.

Lots of love,
Mommy



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OPINION

If Only Everybody Who Was Born Jewish Could be so Righteous...

by Cary Eichenbaum

This delightful, tall woman has a Jewish name, Esther. The biblical Esther was the heroine of the Purim story, saving the Jews from certain destruction from the evil Haman. This modern Esther says she does not know how she got her name, only mentioning that her maternal grandfather (who was Jewish) might have had something to do with it.

She comes from Germany, a land that was the home base for the evil Nazi empire that tried to eradicate the Jewish people a mere 55 years ago. She comes from a land where neo-Nazis are still powerful, yet she represents a beautiful vision of what this world's future might hold.

One of the last times she was in Germany, in her hometown of Hamburg, she worshipped in a synagogue (the city's lone), which was guarded by troops with machine guns and metal detectors, a not-altogether uncommon sight in Europe today.

She was not born Jewish, yet she was born on Rosh Hashanah, and she will be Jewish, G-d willing, in a year or two, and the Jewish community of Rhode Island should list nothing as a prouder moment when that happens. And she insists on converting Orthodox, through a rabbi in Sharon, Mass., and is already keeping many commandments, like Shabbat and kashrut observation. This makes Esther, in my opinion, already as good a Jew as many people who were born Jewish.

She is as precocious as any beautiful princess, with her youthful (Esther is 20) de-

meanor, her nearly 6-foot build, her adorable puppy dog eyes and her smile that would light up any room, yet she is mature beyond her years, and it is when Esther speaks that she distinguishes herself from others.

As Esther sits on the top floor of her presidential Providence apartment and smokes like a chimney, she speaks of her love of all things Jewish, Mr. Adler of Temple Emanu-El across the street and a better life for the world's future inhabitants.

She speaks of having many children, including one son named Moshe (for her love for that name), for that is what she believes she was put on this earth for: "After all," Esther once told me, "what is my purpose on this world if not to be fruitful and multiply?"

Esther speaks of her desires to be Jewish, her wishes that she could have been born Jewish...

And although Esther wasn't raised Jewishly, you can be sure that her children will be raised with all the proper cultural and societal values, Jewish or otherwise. They will be respectful of not only their German roots, but also their Jewish ones and they will be beautiful neshumahs in life, just like their mother.

Esther speaks of what is going on in her homeland today and is quite shocked by her people's actions. She speaks of Turkish, Tunisian and Moroc-

can immigrants (to Germany) having to wait in long lines outdoors (in the rain, cold and snow) for their visas to stay in Germany — a new law in Germany. She recoils in horror when she imagines her ancestors making 16-year-old immigrants wait in lines for up to a week without toilets or showers: "I know it's my country and I was born there, but it's still horrible." I don't know about you, but the fact that a 20-year-old German girl feels conscientious (and sick) over Turkish immigrants waiting in long lines outside for their visas, leaves me true inspiration for the future.

Esther speaks of her desires to be Jewish, her wishes that she could have been born Jewish, and emphasizes her doubt that any man who was born Jewish would want to marry her. Let me assure you, Esther, there are many religious converts living amongst us who are great people and adhere strictly to the laws of Judaism. They are more observant, more religious and therefore, in my opinion, already more Jewish than many people who were born Jewish. Once you take on the covenant of a Jew, you are a Jew, and I assure you, any man who was born Jewish would be elated to have you for his Jewish wife.

The future for Esther is not crystal clear, since she is not a U.S. citizen and may have to go back to Germany once her schooling at the Rhode Island School of Design is over two years from now. And despite all the advances this world has purported to make in the last half-century, to be Jewish in Germany is still somewhat less than ideal. But whatever the future might hold for you, Esther, I hope G-d blesses you with an equal (if not more) amount of blessings than you have blessed the people of Rhode Island with.

Mystery Solved

To the Editors:

For the July 10 issue of the *Herald*, we submitted a photograph for possible identification by the *Herald* readers. And did we ever goof! Anne Sherman and I are probably the only two individuals in the local Jewish community who did not recognize the handsome Army officer whose photograph we submitted.

The first of many telephone calls was from Mina Rosen, who was able to verify her identification from the clue that it came from a collection of photographs donated by the late Aaron Roitman.

The officer is CHARLES MILLER, brother to Aaron Roitman's wife, the late Rose Miller Roitman.

And in addition I was corrected by James Goldsmith (among others) who pointed out that I had downgraded Charles Miller's rank. He is definitely wearing Captain's bars. I apologize to Mr. Miller.

We look forward to submitting other photos which we hope will create as much interest as this "unidentified" photograph has produced.

Eleanor F. Horvitz

Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association

The Enemy Within

by Velvel "Wally" Spiegler

American Jews today are enjoying unprecedented success in all areas of endeavor. We excel in the arts, sciences, law, medicine, and business. We have contributed more to those areas than any other people in recorded history. We no longer live with threats of discrimination and persecution; no more ghettos, no more pogroms, even anti-Semitism has reached an all time low. Yet many writers, including Alan Dershowitz in his current book, *The Vanishing American Jew*, and David Vital, a leading historian at Tel Aviv University in his book, *The Future of the Jews*, predict the demise of American Jewry in this forthcoming century. The probability of each one of us having Jewish great-grandchildren, they say, is extremely slim due to intermarriage, low birth rate and assimilation into the greater American culture. Dershowitz elaborates on the ignorance of our knowledge of Jewish tradi-

tion due to the poor quality of Jewish education as another cause of this dilemma. Throughout Jewish history we have faced threats to our survival from external enemies, now the problem is truly from within.

Our ancestors have lived and died defending our heritage. They endured the hardships of exile, forced conversions, pogroms and so many forms of insidious persecutions all for the survival of Judaism. Our forefathers built a Jewish civilization that has enabled us to survive when all the other great civilizations of the world — the Roman, the Greek, the Egyptian — have become extinct.

The effect of constructing and perpetuating a great Jewish culture carried with it a great emphasis on learning and scholarship that became inherent in our very consciousness. Our achievements and contributions to the world's culture are directly related to our heritage and history.

(Continued on Page 19)

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HERALD EDITORS
TARA V. LISCIANDRO
SARA WISE
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER
MICHAEL FINK
JEWISH COMMUNITY REPORTER
EMILY TORGAN
ADVERTISING ACCOUNT REP
DIANA FLORIO

MAILING ADDRESS:
Box 6063, Providence, R.I. 02940
TELEPHONE: (401) 724-0200

PLANT:
Herald Way, off Webster Street
Pawtucket, R.I. 02861

OFFICE:
1000A Waterman Avenue
East Providence, R.I. 02914

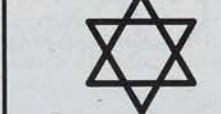
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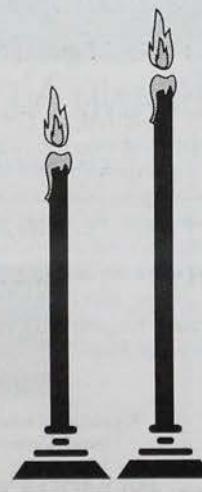
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Candlelighting

July 18, 1997
7:59 p.m.



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The Lord Is My Adversary?

by Barry Diamond

I often sit in my office with students who praise or criticize their teachers. I ask, "Who are your best teachers? What makes them so good?" The students' answers usually imply: Like good movies, good teachers entertain and challenge. Our society focuses on entertainment, but our Torah portion flashes its light on challenge. In the Torah portion Balak, we see G-d as challenger, G-d as adversary.

From the time of creation, relationships between spouses have at times been adversarial. In Genesis 2:18, G-d calls woman an *ezer kenegdo*, a "helper against him." The great commentator Rashi takes the term literally to make a wonderful point: "If he [Adam] is worthy, [she will be] a help [lezer]. If he is not worthy, [she will be] against him [kenegdo] for strife." Putting aside the issues of gender, we see that once again Torah forces us to reexamine how we understand our relationships. We may think relationships are good only when

two partners agree. Torah reminds us that an adversary works like the rudder of a ship, fighting against the flowing water and slowly changing our direction. And what is true for rudders and ships is true for prophets and donkeys.

Our Torah portion places a sharper point on the matter. Balaam categorically refuses to accompany the princes of Moab and curse Israel. However, Balaam tells the princes to stay



Torah Today

the night so he can receive G-d's word in his sleep. G-d tells Balaam that he may go but only to repeat the words G-d tells him. The next morning, Balaam leaves with the princes without telling them of this restriction. Is he giving the impression that G-d will allow him to pronounce a curse on Israel?

As Balaam rides along on his donkey, G-d sends a messenger as a *satan*, "an adversary," to

block the donkey's way. Notice that the word *satan* does not have the meaning of a fallen angel or some external force of evil. In fact, G-d has direct control over the *satan*, the "adversary," who comes to challenge Balaam for the purpose of teaching him. Only after repeated encounters with the adversary does Balaam finally learn the purpose of his donkey's erratic behavior. By then, he is ready to learn the lesson G-d wishes to teach. By his silence, Balaam misleads the princes of Moab as to G-d's intentions, and whoever misleads others in G-d's name will himself be misled.

Our challenge is to hear like Balaam. However, like my students' great teachers, Balaam's teacher was tough. Like the ship's rudder, G-d steered Balaam off the road but back on the right course. Our task is to learn to recognize when off course is on course and when our adversaries are our teachers.

Rabbi Barry Diamond, RJE, is the director of education at Temple Emanu-El, Dallas, Texas.

FEATURE

The Kindness of Strangers

by Mike Fink
Herald Contributing Reporter

Applying for a job or to a school? Better not ask a family member. The people who think the most of you don't live close by, in the next doorway. They just happen along.

eldest brother would recall how I whined about the discomforts of vacation times, the dog days, the sunburns. Or how he did the heavy chores while I would sit and read in the Barcalounger.



"The friends I seek are seeking me" (at the corner cafe).

Herald photo by Mike Fink

My dad would bear in mind my careless parking. My mom would worry about how little I eat, how easily I get lost. My

My college daughters despise my tie-dyed acid-washed Bermudas. My wife gets mad if I go on an errand and take too long.

Our son makes me keep every promise, no matter how foolishly made.

You don't stand in with your families, the one you're born into or the one you make and shape. You do best with folks you have your breakfast with out on the town. I bike to the Middlebridge Cafe, where other old guys on bicycles that have seen better days settle in for their coffee. They've got stories to share. If you listen, you've made a friend for the day. Even the small fry on fancier two-wheelers join in and make you feel good about yourself.

I fill my birdfeeders with seed in return for the whirring and chirping that cheer up my holidays. I let the waitstaff fill my coffee for the chatting and murmuring that lift my spirits. As I pedal my short way home to face the day, I praise the Lord for the sky and the street, the white butterfly and the roadside wildflower.

My wife said something the other day, "Monarch butterflies are the souls of the dead returning." What a delightful thought. One summer a monarch fluttered around me as I swam fairly deep out beyond the surf. Who was it? That hummingbird that comes to our wilting bee-balm, is she too a yiddish neshama? A friend who has passed, leaving a kind barucha?

I fill my heart with the jewels of good words and fine metaphors among the strawberries and the plums.

Hollywood Heroes

by Mike Fink
Herald Contributing Reporter

"Air-kul" — I like to pronounce "Hercules" the French way. In July I take my 12-year-old to the latest fare among flicks. "Hercules" bears the stamp of Hebrew Hollywood. The Olympians go, "Oy Vay!" and call their rivals "shnooks." A few good visual gags liven up the Disney design. Hercules is such a klutz, his strength like a golem makes him awkward. Kids tease him with "Jerk-you-leeze." He skips stones so hard in the classic pool, he knocks the stone arms from the fountain goddess. "The Venus de Milo looks better this way," an admirer of his pecs declares.

My son chose as his favorite scene in the movie—and it was mine as well—the part where the infant hero snuggles in his cradle with the baby newborn winged horse Pegasus. Like any little kid with a stuffed toy.

Don't go too deep into this film though. It overdoes feats of mayhem and acts of rivalry, leaving out great gobs of Greek storytelling. Hercules disposes of Death, or Hades, and walks off with his mortal girlfriend Meg into Happily Ever After. We lose the point along the way.

Keep your eyes wide open though. The Fates snip the thread of life with their shears

in superb close-ups. The whirlpool of dead souls is nicely rendered. Instead of the furious Hera who drives her stepson Hercules to murder and madness, the Venus-type wife of fa-



My son the movie maven.
Herald photo by Mike Fink

therly Zeus looks luscious and sparkles lightly, in the Hollywood Hills Elysian Fields.

My boy and I sat quite alone at the Campus Cinema in Wakefield. Later, we checked out the myth in a nearby bookstore, happily sipping lemonade and iced tea.

We spent a couple of days by ourselves waiting for the rest of the clan to show up and tried "Batman and Robin" at next sunset. A brief report. Arnold Schwarzenegger looks terrific in silver-white makeup, a freeze-dry monster quite cooling to behold on a hot evening. Uma

Thurman borrows ancient Dietrich "Blonde Venus" routines to sing siren songs about the value of vegetables as the strange feminist villain. It's sad that ecology and villainy come together in this oddball comicbook tale, overblown and yet also alluring. Alicia Silverstone, our Jewish actress from "Clueless," is overshadowed by the actions and presences that surround her quiet whimsy.

My movie companion and I discussed the yarn in the morning. I pretend I am like the ailing valet who watches over Batman. I don't do as good a job. There's a deathbed scene, followed by a rebirth, that's quite endearing. In the late '90s there are no real bad guys, only the misunderstood. "Batman" loses the charm of the long-gone comic book, with its gaudy, cheap paper and free-flowing fantasy. It's too much, too late. There's also too much candy involved. I need a break from today's shows. I dig out a few foreign videos and make some time to watch them on the old black and white TV and restore my brain cells.

"Dad, why do you think your taste is better than mine?" "I'm sorry."

"Dad, thanks for the treats and the movies."

"It was fun for me too."

Close at Hand and Land

by Mike Fink
Herald Contributing Reporter

On a long hot day in mid July I feast my eyes and ears on the obvious. The number above my front door reads 12. That's also the number of my city house. I was born on the 12th day of the 12th month. I remember being 12 years old and brooding on the mystique of my lucky dozen, the tribes of Israel, the flock of enchanted swans. Well, this summer my son Reuben is 12, and we spend hours looking for fun and action here in South County. We even stop at the Raven's Nest bookstore cafe to research the cabalistic meaning of our special number, a lemonade break from the beaming sun. You can divide by 3, and it has something to do with unity of mind, spirit and body.

The first few seasons at Narrow River, we didn't have a phone. My folks never did down here. Part of the resistance to the hot receiver goes back to wartime, when you shared a party line and felt patriotic to do without, to keep it simple. Around the Fourth of July, mind your own business. Leave your work at your desk and get away to the sweet silence. But then we gave in and got the last rotary phone in town, a pretty robin's egg blue thing that sits on a tiny white altar in the center of the parlor. You have to make a dive for it. Only lazy people put in more than one phone in a small house. By now I admit, I enjoy getting a call. It's wonderful to have a rotary. No voice mail, no rude call waiting. If you get a busy signal or a long ringing, just call back later.

Reb Yosef Gottlieb rang in, asked after my rebbetsin, used a few easygoing Yiddishisms in his youthful voice, and filled me in on his wanderings. He's heading for the Dakotas to seek out lost souls.

Myron Waldman dialed to ask Reuben and me to join him

on a quiet canoe, powered by a mute battery motor. David Hochman tuned in to discuss paternal problems of paying for fancy tuitions when you have several children. If you save, you have to spend yourself flat before the youngest. If your kid gets a loan, the degree is a debt. The Jewish way has failed in the age of inflation and affirmative action.

The bartender at the Pier House Inn, a Bulgarian New American named Deyan, calls when his service is done to stop by and tell us his odyssey. He's a big guy with a deep voice. "The inn has a bootleg past, with underground passageways and hidden closets. But my life in Bulgaria also had secrets. I kept running away, from home, from countries. I landed in Warwick, got lost in Pawtucket, and am still seeking my way."

The tunes and lyrics cracking out from my robin's egg of a telephone keep me lively. I can't store these words on wires the way I heard letters or autographs. Only in my memory of a torrid Tammuz.

Dozing after sunset, I was awakened by Reuben. "Dad, how about some fireworks?" Foolishly I headed out, only to get stuck in a jam of red tailights. We got back to our cabin and our dead-end street after a strenuous hour of bumper-to-bumper. But I walked the dog and saw the delightful fireworks of the glow worms at one end of the street. Above, the divine display of the stars, the big bear and the little bear, the dipper and the shooting comets. Down the road to the river, a bit of phosphorescence in the skinny stream. The peaceful patriotism of the still of the night, right here underfoot and overhead.

I cover the waterfront. I search for the small pleasures from dawn to midnight, the 12 hours of the day, the messages, the sparkles close at hand.

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THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

BHYO Gives Families a Night Out

The B'nai B'rith Youth Organization has teamed up with the Cactus Grille restaurant of Providence to provide parents of long-term patients staying at the Ronald McDonald House a night out at the Cactus Grille.

For every five hours of community service that BHYO members perform, the Cactus Grille, located at 370 Richmond St., will donate one \$25 gift certificate to a family at the Ronald McDonald House which provides parents with seriously ill children a place to stay.

Cactus Grille owners Jason and Beth Brown worked with Rhode Island BHYO Coordinator David Hochman to get the program running and on July 12, 10 gift certificates will be presented to Bobbi Wexler, assistant director of the Ronald McDonald House. Wexler said that she welcomes the idea. "The everyday stress of parents with sick children can be very demanding."

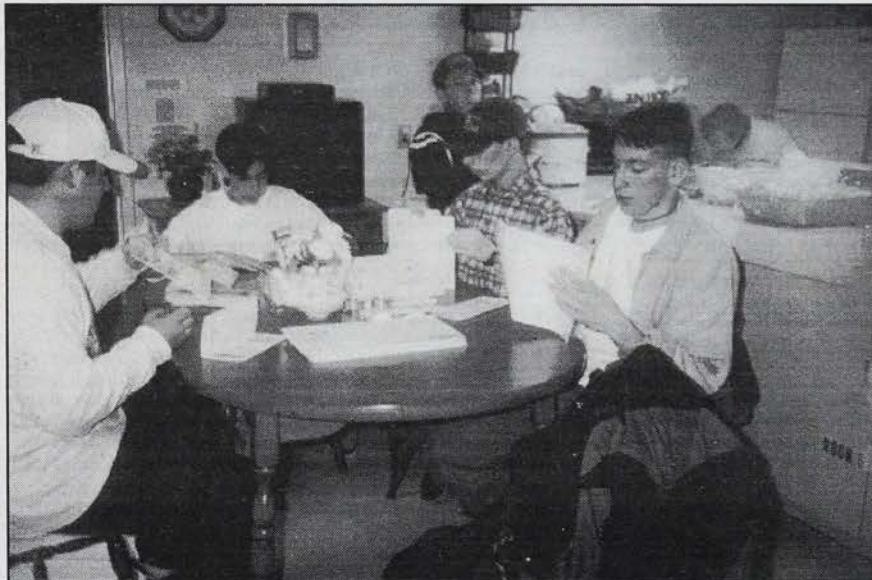
The meals will allow the parents to relax and enjoy themselves, if only for a few hours.

To earn the gift certificates, BHYO members have participated in a variety of community service projects throughout the year. They have helped out at the Rhode Island Food Bank, wrapped flowers for the American Cancer Society, served meals to homeless people at St. Patrick's Church and Amos House, visited nursing homes, marched in the Boston Hunger March, cleaned up around Temple Torat Yisrael and the Ronald McDonald House and held a party for children at the Mount Hope Day Care Center. Members also attended a BHYO convention in Worcester, Mass., this winter where they volunteered at the local Jewish Home, cleaned a soup kitchen, and helped out at a Boy's Club while they were there. Hochman feels that it is extremely important for young people to be involved

in community service and has done an impressive job organizing a variety of service activities for BHYO members.

BHYO's local connection to the Rhode Island Ronald McDonald House is part of a three-year contract for BHYO chapters to provide community service to Ronald McDonald Houses throughout the United States. The contract was signed last summer at an international BHYO convention. In addition to providing the gift certificates, local members have also visited the house on several occasions and plan to treat the families to chicken soup and matzoh balls in the fall.

BHYO, the oldest Jewish youth organization in the world, has more than 150 members in the Rhode Island area, which includes Attleboro, Taunton and a soon-to-be-opened chapter in Milford, Mass. For more information on BHYO, call David Hochman, 467-2296.



INSIDE the Ronald McDonald House BHYO members fold flyers for a Walk-a-Thon to raise money for the house.

Photos by David Hochman



BHYO MEMBERS in front of the Ronald McDonald House in Providence.



BHYO MEMBERS CLEAN UP storm debris at Temple Torat Yisrael in Cranston.

The Three Weeks

Beginning with the 17th of Tammuz, July 22, and culminating with the 9th of Av, Aug. 12, world Jewry observes a period of 21 days of mourning and reflection for the destruction of the two Temples in Jerusalem and the end of the independent Jewish

state. This period of time is referred to as "The Three Weeks."

The five tragedies which occurred on the 17th of Tammuz were:

A — Moses broke the Tablets on which were inscribed the Ten Commandments after the Jews

built and worshipped the golden calf in the desert.

B — The two daily sacrifices were suspended prior to the destruction of the first Temple on the 9th of Av, three weeks later.

C — The Roman army penetrated the walls of Jerusalem prior to the destruction of the second Temple.

D — The wicked Apostemas burned a Torah.

E — An idol was erected in the Temple.

To recall and reflect on these tragedies, a public fast day is observed on the 17th of Tammuz which occurs on July 22. For those who are able to fast the entire day, the fast begins at 4 a.m. and ends at 9:02 p.m.

Traditionally, during the "three week period of national mourning," weddings are not permitted nor are any other celebrations and festive gatherings, particularly if accompanied by music, and haircuts are not taken during this period.

JFS Counsels Older People

by Julie Guterman

"Hello, can you help me? I'm having a lot of anxiety, but I'm 71 and I don't think I'll ever change." Julie Guterman, Jewish Family Service director of professional services, has heard this more than once from prospective clients calling JFS. And for everyone who calls, there must be dozens more older people out there who think there is no hope. But anyone who thinks that change in later life is impossible is wrong. Seniors can improve their relationships, cope better with losses and deal with disorders such as depression and anxiety.

General counseling for the elderly concerns life issues such as retirement, couple adjustment, ill health, losses through death, and problems with adult children. Why don't more older people come for counseling?

Why do some people wait so long? There are two possible reasons: attitudes and expectations, and physical or financial barriers. Remember, you do not need to suffer from a serious disorder to benefit from psychotherapy.

Too often older people expect too little; they may not believe that they can feel better or do better. They may expect to feel sad or angry or frustrated much of the time.

Barriers to counseling could

include physical limitations, transportation or finances. JFS is wheelchair accessible. There have been clients with hearing as well as vision problems. For homebound seniors, the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island funds JFS for counseling in seniors' homes.

JFS also informs elderly clients about senior vans and ride programs available to them. And for some older people who use public transportation, JFS is on a bus line with a stop right outside.

As far as the financial area goes, most older people have Medicare, and all JFS clinical social workers are accepted by Medicare as well as Blue Cross. There is also a sliding scale so that lack of money should not be a barrier.

Lastly, JFS has the expertise in the area of elderly counseling. An elderly specialist, psychiatrist and psychological consultant keep JFS informed of growth in elder services. In-service training is planned by experts in areas such as grief and mourning as well as psychosocial changes in aging. JFS is trained and experienced in helping older people to build on their strengths, at the same time providing a listening and supportive ear.

For information on the counseling services offered at JFS, call 331-1244.

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THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

JCC Campers Send Gifts to Israel

by Sara Wise
Herald Editor

Campers at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island's day camp have been collecting books to send to students studying English in Israel.

On July 10, they presented the books, along with other assorted gifts, to Eric Stillman, campaign director at the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, who will be traveling to Israel this month with 12 Federation volunteers. The group will visit the city of Afula, a "sister city" to the Rhode Island Jewish community where the gifts will be distributed.

The students in Afula were particularly interested in books from the *Goosebumps* series, so campers brought in two bags full of books to send. They also prepared a "Shalom" book of seaside drawings from younger campers, JCC T-shirts signed by the older campers and painted maps of Rhode Island.

Through a Federation partnership, several areas in Southern New England have been paired with the Afula/Gilboa



Dana Zucker, cultural arts director at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island, and campers present Jewish Federation Campaign Director Eric Stillman with gifts to bring to Afula, Israel.
Herald photo by Tara V. Lisciandro

region in north central Israel to strengthen ties between Diaspora and Israeli Jews.

Stillman thanked the campers for their gifts and promised to bring back photos of the students in Afula to further the

partnership between the two areas. The presentation of the gifts was part of Israel Week, a weeklong study of Israel at the JCC camp that included an Israel carnival and a sampling of Israeli cuisine.

JCCRI Reaches Out To The Community

In the true spirit of community service, a unique relationship recently began between the Kibbutz Camp at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island and Amos House, a non-denominational house of hospitality that operates as a soup kitchen and overnight shelter for the homeless.

Organized by Ailene S. Gerhardt, the Jewish culture specialist at the JCCRI, the center's community service outreach program chose Amos House as a site for several reasons. Gerhardt explains that the concept of *tikkum olam* ("repairing the world"), which is a fundamental part of Jewish tradition, includes both Jewish and non-Jewish issues. Because Amos House, founded in 1976 by Sister Eileen Murphy, is a recipient of funds from MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger, a natural relationship between the two already existed. MAZON, the Hebrew word for food, recalls the charge of the prophet Isaiah, who urged everyone to feed the hungry. Gerhardt, who knew that the college students who usually

volunteer at Amos House are on summer break, saw this as an opportunity to demonstrate to the JCC's youth the meaning of *tikkum olam* and to illustrate the importance of volunteerism.

On July 8, the youngsters from Kibbutz Camp all boarded a van, which was generously donated by the Feinstein Foundation at Johnson & Wales, and traveled to Amos House. Once there, they broke up into groups, some organizing the shelter's basement stock room while others prepared and served lunch in the kitchen. More than 600 meals are reserved at Amos House each day, including breakfast and lunch, and more than 400 homeless people are provided with shelter each year. Although the Kibbutz campers were all familiar with the issues of hunger and homelessness, for most of them this was their first personal encounter. Role play exercises are planned to further explore these issues with the campers while they are on an upcoming overnight trip.

The Kibbutz kids will be returning to Amos House on various dates throughout the summer.

mer. In addition, Gerhardt has solicited donations from Shaw's on North Main Street and Stop & Shop on Branch Avenue. Each store has committed to donating gift certificates so that the JCCRI day camp can buy food for the Kibbutz kids to make sandwiches for Amos House.

The JCCRI's community service outreach plans for this summer also include some work with Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island. One of the central sentiments of *tikkum olam* is to give back to the world. With that in mind, there is currently a toiletry drive, collecting such basics as toothpaste, soap, shampoo, towels, and linens, with which Kibbutz campers can make welcome baskets for new residents of nursing homes. These baskets are intended to teach the tradition of *shalach manot*, or sending gifts, while also providing a useful service. Other recipients of the toiletry drive include Amos House and the Women's Center of Providence.

The toiletry drive is on-going and collection boxes are located throughout the JCC. Among the items desired are the actual baskets with which the collected toiletries and linens can be assembled and delivered.

Two additional components of the JCCRI's summer community service plans involve the youngest campers. During week six of camp, which features a

Society of Friends Celebrates Founders Day

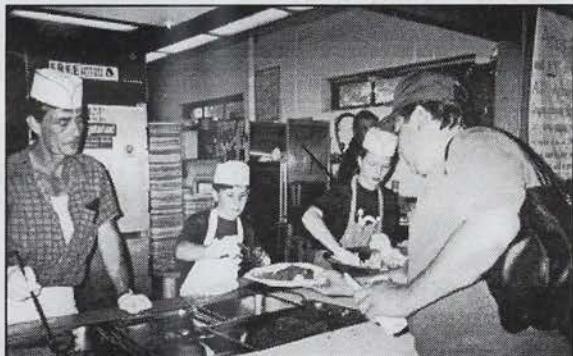
The Society of Friends of Touro Synagogue will celebrate Founders Day on July 20 at 7 p.m. in Touro Synagogue.

The program will feature a lecture by Sandra Cummings Malamed on "The Colonial Jewish Experience, 1654-1815." Beginning with the flight of the Jews from the Iberian Peninsula during the Inquisition, the lecture traces Jewish settlement in the British and Dutch New World colonies. Malamed examines the livelihoods, dwellings, decorative arts, education, synagogues and cultural participation of the Jewish settlers. She also discusses anti-Semitism and the involvement of Jews in the fight for American independence. Her presentation includes slides and will be followed by a question and answer period.

Malamed, an independent curator, historian and lecturer, is a graduate of the University of California at Los Angeles. She serves as a consulting curator at the Skirball Museum at Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles and as a visiting curator at the American Jewish Historical Society in Waltham, Mass.

The highlight of the evening will be the presentation of the society's Distinguished Member-of-the-Year Award to Seebert J. Goldowsky, M.D. Goldowsky, a member of the society from its founding in 1948, has served the society as president and a member of the board of trustees. His thoughtful and dynamic leadership as president guided the society through the completion of Patriots Park, just in front of the synagogue, which is dedicated to colonial Jewish patriots, the retirement of a \$60,000 debt incurred by the society in constructing the park and the revision of the organization's charter to permit the society to help maintain and support the colonial cemetery, Patriots Park and the Levi Gale House, in addition to the synagogue. Still active in society affairs at the age of 90, Goldowsky attends board meetings regularly and is currently serving on the nominating committee.

The public is invited to join the society in celebrating Founders Day and honoring Goldowsky. Reservations are requested. Call the synagogue at 847-4794.



KIBBUTZ CAMPERS help serve lunch at Amos House.
Photo by Liz Prager

carnival theme, the younger children (grade four and under), will be creating cards related to festivals such as Purim. These cards will also be donated to JERI recipients. In addition, on Fridays the JCCRI maintains a tradition of observing Shabbat with seniors and children together, singing songs and enjoying a positive contact for both groups. There are many Russians who participate in JERI programs as well as the children's camp and these Shabbat celebrations provide them with a unique opportunity to interact.

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AILENE GERHARDT and Kibbutz campers prepare the day's meal.
Photo by Liz Prager

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THE JEWISH COMMUNITY —

Familiar Friends and Words

by Tara V. Lisciandro
Herald Editor

Throughout the years there have been changes in just about every lifestyle, change is a part of life. But there are a few old treasures that linger from the past and continue to stay with us. One of those unique treasures was recently shared amongst friends at the Breakfast and Books Yiddishcamp at the JCCRI. Yiddish, the lost language of the Jews, made for common ground for almost 60 guests who came from all over Rhode Island and some from southeastern Massachusetts. The senior lounge slowly filled with anxious guests and curious and familiar faces. The chatter grew louder while guests and friends continued to fill the room. A long table of fresh bagels, breads, muffins, teas, juices and coffees was prepared by the Bureau of Jewish Education, who was responsible for the three-session program. For the past five years the program has been a great success at the BJE, and "although this year a small fee was charged for the Yiddishcamp, many came just the same," said Toby Rossner, director of Media Services of the BJE. "It's a wonderful thing for the community," said Caroline Gereboff, a longtime and dedicated member. As part of the program's committee, Gereboff assisted with the preparations. "Before this there was Eldercamp, but we didn't go anywhere like the kids do," said Gereboff with a gentle smile, "we did things here and

talked, it was nice." Ten years later, the group found what they shared in common, Yiddish. Many still spoke the language and although it has been altered through the years and "Americanized," a large group of curious and brilliant people in the community found they came together to be brought back to their cultural past.

The first week of Yiddishcamp, which runs every Wednesday morning until July 23rd, included a discussion on women authors of Yiddish literature. Susanne Shavelson, faculty coordinator for continuing education for the Hornstein Program at Brandeis University, presented *American Women Yiddish Authors, An Historical Retrospective*. Penney Stein, director for admissions and resource coordinator at the Alperin Schechter Day School, presented *Stories by Yiddish Women Authors*.

"The late 19th century is when women Yiddish writers began," said Shavelson, "because there were influences of socialism and reform movements which made Jewish life more restrictive." Shavelson went on to talk about the journey that thousands of Jewish families underwent in order to escape persecution and enter the land of liberty, America. "Undreamed freedoms were in their grasp now," said Shavelson about women who came to America.

After the death of Czar Alexander, circa 1881, the quality of Jewish life was almost destroyed. Jews were forced into the army, persecuted, pogroms

occurred and fear spread throughout the Jewish community in Russia. The flight of the Jews to the United States occurred rapidly, thousands immigrated. Although they often used Yiddish to communicate with one another, it was when immigration to America took place that their eclectic and traditional language would change and decline the most. "There was an enormous absorption of English into Yiddish," stated Shavelson, "it drastically changed the language for the first time." Great American influences and vocabulary created new words and phrases that became intertwined in the Yiddish language. "Within only two generations," said Shavelson, "the language of the new American Jews was English."

Ten years later, the group found what they shared in common, Yiddish.

Shavelson read excerpts from three autobiographies of Yiddish women authors describing the historical changes during their lives. The pieces were first read in Yiddish, to which the audience responded with familiar laughs and smiles, then the texts were translated into En-



SUSANNE SHAVELSON holds the audience's attention during Yiddishcamp.
Herald photo by Tara V. Lisciandro

glish. Fanny Edelman, a 19th century Yiddish writer, received the most response as she used a great deal of "American slang" in her writing, which created a new and creative form of Yiddish. The audience laughed, almost as if they recalled their families speaking in the same, familiar manner.

Although women and their families now resided in a more peaceful and promising land, they were still discriminated against. "Women writers fared less well," said Shavelson. Women could write for various Yiddish newspapers but could never be part of a permanent staff. They were forced to write only about "women's issues" which included the home, family life and cooking. Political and social issues could not be covered by women writers. At home, women were to tend to

their children, teach their daughters some Hebrew and more importantly, teach them how to run a household. "Their sole responsibility was the home," said Shavelson about Jewish women in the 19th century. Husbands were involved with educating their children, especially their sons.

After listening to the interesting and familiar historical backgrounds of many Yiddish women authors, discussed by Shavelson, and their stories, told by Stein, the audience was prepared with questions. During a short break and at the program's end, friends spoke to one another and commented on the program, some even did so in their old familiar language, Yiddish.

The last session of Yiddishcamp, Yiddish Poetry Then and Now, will be held on July 23, 9 to noon. Call 331-0956 to register.

In The Wake of Tragedy The Maccabiah Will Go On

TEL AVIV, ISRAEL — Maccabiah Games competition was suspended for 24 hours during which time the Australian Maccabiah delegation voted to remain in Israel and compete in the 15th Maccabiah.

It was only 24 hours before that more than 50 delegations were anticipating the gala opening of the 15th Games when a newly constructed bridge, designed to move the athletes into the Ramat Gan Stadium in a more orderly and safe manner, collapsed sending the Australian delegation into the river below.

Three of the Australian athletes lost their lives, six remain

in critical condition and 18 remain in the hospital. Maccabi World Union scheduled a special memorial service for all of the athletes July 15 at Maccabim.

A revised schedule of competition was issued for July 16. In an official statement, the Australian team "appreciates the decision of the Organizing Committee and International Maccabiah Committee to postpone the Games for 24 hours and declare July 15, 1997, as a day of mourning."

In addition, gala activities and celebrations planned for the American missions delegation, as well as for the international VIPs have been postponed or canceled.

According to Jeffrey Laikind, U.S. general chairman, "Our hearts go out to our friends and

family within the Australian Maccabiah delegation. We share in their loss and respect their wish to continue with the competition. We will do everything we can to ensure that the Games will continue in the manner and spirit of the Maccabi family and offer our support and love to all of the participants."

The decision to go on with the Games was met with support from delegation heads who were in agreement to support the Australians. In a show of solidarity, American athletes will wear black arm bands for the remainder of the competition. The Australian leadership has asked each of the other delegations to allow for time for their athletes to intermingle and spend additional time together.



A Young Musician

Steven Pelcovits gives a grand performance on the cello for his first-grade class at Alperin Schechter Day School. Students were able to sing along as Steven played many familiar Jewish melodies. ASDS looks forward to more performances by this very talented musician.

Photo courtesy of ASDS

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THE JEWISH COMMUNITY**Rabbis Confront Challenges Adjusting to Post-Pulpit Life**

by Michael Gelbwasser

The Jewish Advocate

BOSTON (JTA) — "I don't think that in the 26 years I've been in Boston, I've taken in Boston," said Rabbi Robert Miller.

Becoming spiritual leader of Temple Beth Avodah cost Miller his identity. He became synonymous with his Newton, Mass., congregation, which relentlessly called on him for its bar mitzvahs, weddings, funerals, wisdom and Jewish education.

Personal matters — even life cycle events like his child's graduation — were always secondary to the congregation's needs.

On June 30, 39 years after receiving his ordination from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Miller reclaimed control of his life when he retired from his pulpit.

Miller, 65, had awaited that day for five years. And as much as he has enjoyed his work, he is more eager to rediscover himself.

"The rabbinate is a very taxing and demanding calling," said Miller. "It leaves little room for one's personal interests, hobbies and vocations."

Every summer, dozens of rabbis worldwide leave their pulpits to enter retirement. The

move brings the rabbis a new, yet perhaps their toughest, challenge. They must break their decades-old routine of conducting services and preparing sermons every Shabbat and holiday, developing plans for the congregation, grading papers for the classes they teach, and, most importantly, living each moment awaiting the next synagogue crisis.

Although some rabbinical organizations offer guidelines on preparing for retirement, rabbis rarely discuss the issue until absolutely necessary. Many seek guidance from peers, friends and family before finalizing their decision.

Ultimately, each rabbi handles the matter differently.

"I don't use the word 'retire,'" said Rabbi Bernard Glassman, rabbi emeritus of Tifereth Israel Congregation in New Bedford, Mass., since July 1995. "I don't like to talk about changing directions in the rabbinate, because I'm still a rabbi."

However, he is no longer a pulpit rabbi.

To help both himself and his former congregation get comfortable with his changed status, Glassman and his wife moved to Cambridge, Mass., and rarely interact with Tifereth

Israel.

Staying away from the pulpit, Glassman and many of his local colleagues say, is the hardest, non-negotiable challenge that rabbis must triumph over upon retiring. Retired rabbis who do not stay away from their

ing their congregations.

Chiel, for example, notified Temple Emanuel of his intention to retire three years ahead of time. He also discussed the topic with family, friends and community leaders. Shortly after retiring, Chiel went to Israel for several months, partly to give Rabbi Andrew Warmflash, his successor, a chance to develop a relationship with the congregation.

Now, Chiel spends his time doing research and studying. He is active in Temple Emanuel and local Jewish organizations, and earlier this year, he taught part of the Genesis Forum, a study session held regularly by Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston and Hebrew College.

"The study of Torah is something the rabbis feel keeps you eternally young," Chiel said.

Miller started planning for his retirement five years ago. He said the decision "wasn't difficult" because he knew he wanted to retire at 65.

Without the burden of being at a congregation's beck and call, rabbis may develop a broad range of interests. Miller plans to get more active in Boston's Combined Jewish Philanthropies and the Rashi School in Needham, Mass., broaden his awareness of Judaic study on the Internet, and find a warm, winter home.

Rabbi H. Bruce Ehrmann, formerly of Temple Israel in Brockton, Mass., reads and travels when possible. In addition, he has joined his local Democratic Town Committee and recently attended a town meeting.

As a rabbi, he said, "I could never identify with politics."

"I'm still waiting to clean up my basement," said Ehrmann,

who attends Brockton interfaith clergy meetings and is a chaplain at many local nursing homes.

Meanwhile, Glassman is pursuing his first love, Judaic studies, as a student at Harvard University. He takes the classes through Harvard's divinity school.

The Glassmans attend a worship study minyan every Saturday morning and holidays at Harvard Hillel. The lifestyle change makes Glassman feel "35 years younger."

"I don't have the pressure of grades," he said. "I can tell a professor what I really think and feel."

Apart from finding activities to stimulate their minds, rabbis must evaluate their financial security when planning for retirement.

Reform rabbis find that easier today than they once did, Miller said. In the past, the rabbi's last congregation funded his or her pension, so elderly rabbis with small pulpits received small pensions. Now, the rabbi and each congregation he or she serves contribute to the pension.

Overall, the rabbi gets about 60 percent of their salary plus Social Security and income from personal investments, Miller said.

"You ought to know that your finances are reasonably in order," Ehrmann said. "To retire too soon without the proper finances risks disaster."

With this and a lust to explore new interests, rabbis may find life after the pulpit as, if not more, fulfilling as leading a congregation.

"I've discovered that I have a first name, which I never knew before," Glassman said. "I'm not reflecting a congregation."

The Ultimate Jewish Calendar and Reference Guide 5758

Edited and compiled by Alan Grossman. Thirty-eight pages/price through mail order \$12.95 (includes shipping and handling).

For the first time, a 16-month Jewish calendar has been combined with a comprehensive reference guide of Jewish sources and resources. Entitled *The Ultimate Jewish Calendar and Reference Guide 5758*, this publication provides 101 ways the Jewish community can help people and their families.

Edited and compiled by Alan J. Grossman, director of communications for the UJA Federation of Bergen County & North Hudson in New Jersey, this publication gives people their own personal guide to more than 400 Jewish institutions—including telephone listings of UJA Federations and major Jewish periodicals nationwide.

This easy-to-use reference guide provides money saving tips, including where people can

apply for scholarships and awards. There is a section devoted to the Jewish Internet, where more than 60 websites are listed.

The section on travel tips tells readers which popular destinations now offer kosher food, how to affordably see Israel, and more. A section on Support for Parents and Families has information about the Domestic Abuse Hotline, dispute resolutions services, how to get a *get*, Jewish outreach to interfaith couples and Jews by choice, and assisting people who are unemployed.

The "When Health Is An Issue" section provides information on Tay-Sachs, Jewish hospice and living wills, assistance for the blind, aid to children with learning disabilities, help for people with Dysautonomia, Gaucher Disease, Leukemia and AIDS.

There is also helpful information on how to trace your

Jewish genealogy and family history, as well as where to turn if you are facing anti-Semitism or discrimination. The Judaica and more section provides information for Judaica stamp collectors, resources for Yiddish books, and Jewish films available for the hearing impaired.

This publication is only available through mail-order. To obtain a copy, send \$12.95 (includes shipping and handling) to Hilmax Productions, 4 North Koewling Place, West Orange, N.J. 07052. People who pay in advance will receive a free five-year Jewish holiday calendar.

This calendar and resource guide can also be obtained by calling (800) 856-3392 or faxing your order to (516) 678-7257.

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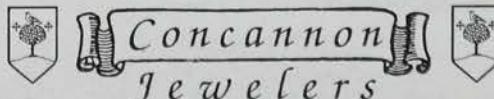
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Campers Celebrate Israel Week



Above: Campers enjoyed the great outdoors all day.

Right: 11-year-old Adam David Bram (at right) assisted players at the Gates-of-Israel game which he designed for the Israel Week Carnival.

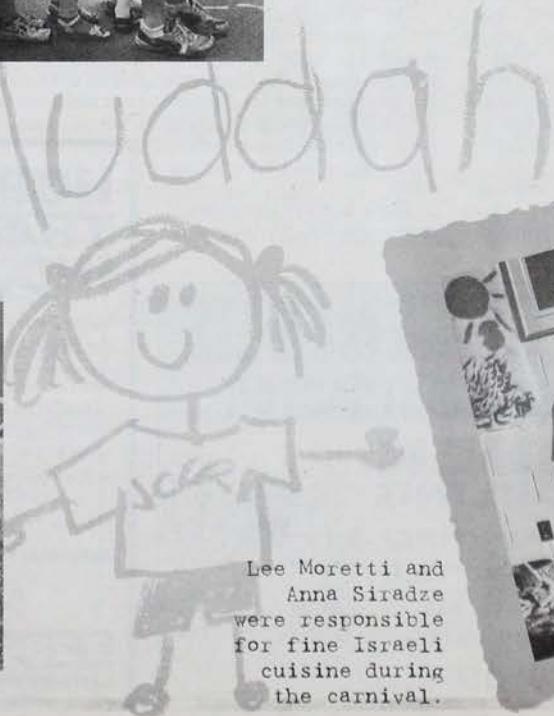
Below: Campers at attention -- prepared to march to the carnival.



Campers join together in a sociable soccer game.

Each week the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island is involved in various activities, guest, event, or field trip. Recently, campers joined together during Israel week. A "Gates-of-Israel" game was set up at the JCCRI where campers could learn about cities in Israel. Throughout the week, campers' passports were stamped with sites visited. Through the carnival, campers were able to participate in a series of activities, including swimming, arts and crafts, and games. A special Israel Week program was organized to complete the special week.

HERALD PHOTOS BY ROBERT M. COOPER



Lee Moretti and Anna Siradze were responsible for fine Israeli cuisine during the carnival.

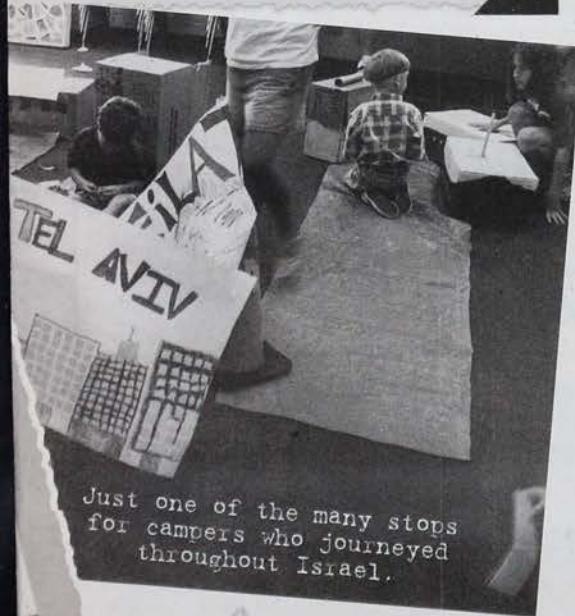


Celebrate Israel Week

Community Center of Rhode Island campers
activities, always highlighting a special
recently, JCCRI and JORI campers joined
A unique, fun-filled Israeli carnival
The campers traveled through various
at their voyage, campers' official
shimmering stars. After traveling
treated to Israeli cuisine and finally,
swimming, soccer, baseball and T-ball,
special day.

TARA V. LISCIANDRO

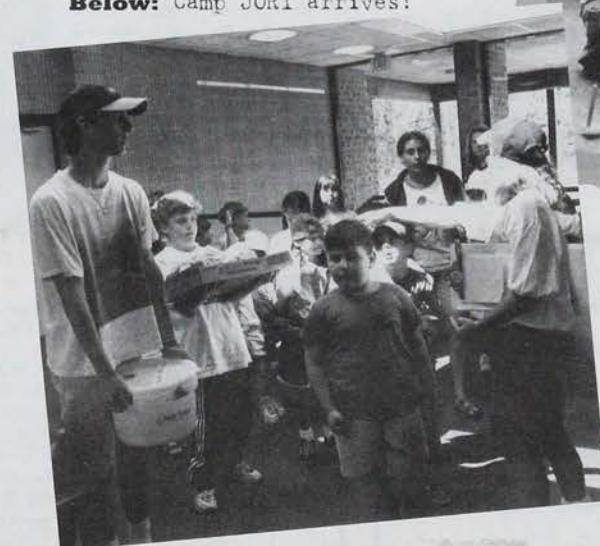
Campers found spots in the shade during lunch-time.



Above: Dana Zucker explains the day's activities to eager campers.

Right: Older campers were busy helping youngsters during the carnival.

Below: Camp JORI arrives!



Hello Faddah





Earnshaw Drug has been a Wickford institution for 60 years.

Herald photo by Diana Florio

HISTORIC

First-time visitors to this charming seaside village are taken aback by its simple beauty, white picket fences, church spires and gardens.

Nestled along picturesque Wickford Harbor, Wickford has been called one of "America's Ten Best Main Streets." There are shady tree-lined lanes, waterviews everywhere, handsomely preserved 18th- and 19th-century homes, benches for sitting and free parking.

This small village boasts more than 50 owner-operated businesses featuring art galleries, cafes, bed and breakfasts, gourmet foods, toys, clothing, jewelry, antiques, clocks, and the "unique" in accessories for the home.

The village of Wickford is one of the special delights of Rhode Island. Its history stretches back to 1663 when Richard Smith and Roger Williams chose the name Wickford to honor Elizabeth Winthrop, wife of the governor of Connecticut, whose birthplace was Wickford, England. In 1707, Lodowick Updike laid out the first streets and sold lots in the village he renamed "Updike's

Newtown." The village endured, thenamedidnot. The streets were laid out about as they are today, although they were not officially named until 1856.

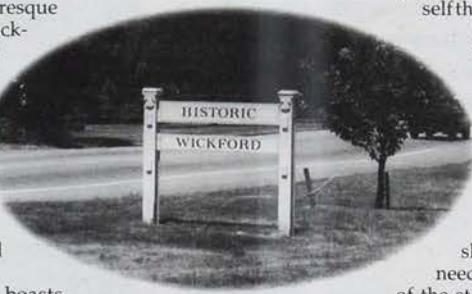
Wickford has always been a true working village, not a re-creation. It has a pleasant mix of residential, commercial, civic, and religious architecture. Explore, but please remind yourself that this is not a museum.

Paul Wilson, owner of Wilson's clothing store in Wickford, has seen a lot of changes in the area since his father opened the store in 1944. "We have quite a variety of stores, whether it's gifts or clothing or shoes, whatever people need," said Wilson. "Some of the stores have been here a long time, like Earnshaw Drug, which has been here over 60 years. People really trust them, they know they get taken care of and get good service, and that's what I think has helped Wickford, the fact that it's a village of service."

By land or by sea, Wickford Village is a year-round destination for boaters, or those who just want a harbor tour.

(Continued on Next Page)

Pet Peeves (at left) has something for every family pet, even a "Puppy Pub" outside for window-shopping dogs. Herald photo by Tara V. Lisciano



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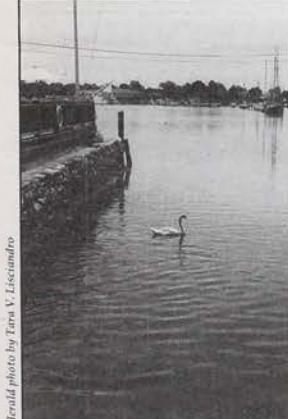
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Photo courtesy of Cathalene's



Herald photo by Tara V. Lisciano

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Visit Wickford in July for Hidden Garden Tours, in October for the Harvest Festival, and in December for the Festival of Lights. Located at the intersection of scenic Route 1A and Route 102 in South County, Wickford Village is easy to reach from I-95.

For more information on Wickford Village, contact South County Tourism at 789-4422.

Historic Wickford, Inc., invites the public to attend the Hidden Gardens of Wickford on July 27 from 1 to 6 p.m. (rain date Aug. 3). Explore the diverse gardens and backyards of Wickford. Iced tea will be served at the Wickford House, 68 Main St. Maps and tickets are available at the Wickford House at 1 p.m.; donations \$5, children free.

Tickets are on sale in Wickford at Merry Meadow Farm, The Bookstore in Wickford, Askham & Telham, Inc., and The World Store. For information, call 294-9639.



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Herald photo by Diana Florio

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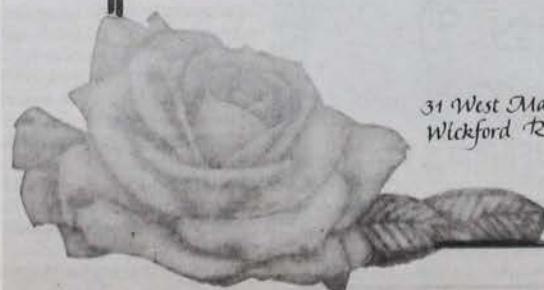
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FEATURE**Project Judaica Produces Devoted Young Russian Jews**

by Abigail Pickus
JUF News

CHICAGO (JTA) — Jews choosing to live in Russia? Who would have thought that a country once associated with Jewish oppression is now the home to a burgeoning Jewish community?

Since the fall of communism in 1989, many young Jews in the former Soviet Union have been planting the seeds for a committed Jewish community.

"We're the generation of the Jewish future," said Muscovite Anya Neustadt, 21, during a recent visit to Chicago.

Neustadt and two other young Russian Jews, Anya Levitova and Lev Krichevsky, spoke about Jewish life in the former Soviet Union at a recent meeting here of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

While large numbers of Jews have left the former Soviet Union over the past eight years, among the estimated 1 million Jews remaining is a growing core of young professionals, intellectuals, and entrepreneurs who intend to remain in their country and build up the community they never had.

Moscow in particular, with its explosion in commerce, wealth, and opportunities, is fertile ground for people such as Neustadt, Levitova and Krichevsky, who epitomize this educated and ambitious breed of new Russians.

All three are products of a new Jewish studies program called Project Judaica at the Rus-

sian State University for the Humanities in Moscow, which is a joint program of the Russian University, the Jewish Theological Seminary of America and the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research.

After five years of intensive study, which includes Jewish history and literature, Bible, Yiddish and Hebrew, students receive a master's degree in Jewish studies.

"One of the goals of Project Judaica is for there to be Jewish scholars and educated Jewish lay people in Russia," said David Fishman, an associate professor of Jewish history at JTS and the initiator of Project Judaica.

For 23-year-old Levitova, remaining in Russia is a priority. In fact, when her family emigrated to Texas in 1991, she chose to return to Moscow to attend the newly launched Project Judaica and then decided to remain there.

"I decided to return to Russia, a democratic republic where we are free to express ourselves and to lead our lives as Jews," she said.

While she is currently a partner in a real estate firm, Levitova, who is married to Krichevsky, anticipates one day working with the Jewish community in Russia, an aspiration she attributed to her Jewish education.

"Project Judaica really changed my outlook," she said. "Now being Jewish defines all of my life."

Levitova's generation — one that came of age as the walls

came down — starkly contrasts with its parents' generation, for whom living openly as a Jew was dangerous.

"Like 99.9 percent of Russian Jews, I was born to highly assimilated Jewish parents," said Krichevsky, 29, a correspondent for the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Similarly, as a child Neustadt associated being Jewish with no more than having "Jew" stamped on her passport.

"As we adopt democratic values, such as freedom of speech and religion, tolerance will grow."

Anya Levitova

But through the influence of her sister and brother-in-law, both ardent Zionists and refuseniks who have since emigrated to Israel, she began to study Hebrew in secret and attended a Jewish summer camp.

"For the first time in my life I saw Jewish young people who were celebrating Jewish holidays together," she said. "I

didn't know the language or the tradition, but I was eager to learn."

Neustadt is a student at Project Judaica and also has her own program on Moscow radio.

Krichevsky began to question his Jewish roots when he realized that the cryptic language his grandmother used when she did not want the children to understand was Yiddish. He began to ask her about her childhood in a shtetl in Belarus and to visit the Moscow synagogue.

After Krichevsky was accepted into the history department at Moscow State University in 1984 — one of the mere 2 percent of Jews accepted into that department — he began to take private Hebrew lessons and would boldly read Hebrew books during his history lectures.

Expelled from the university for such an open display of Jewish study, Krichevsky eventually studied Judaism at Project Judaica.

Anti-Semitism such as that experienced by Krichevsky is apparently declining in the former Soviet Union.

According to Levitova, while anti-Semitism in Communist Russia was propagated by the

state in the forms of prohibiting Jewish study and setting quotas in universities, occupations and emigration, today's anti-Semitism in some ways is countered by the state.

"As Russia develops as a democracy, things are getting better, not worse," she said. "As we adopt democratic values, such as freedom of speech and religion, tolerance will grow."

For Krichevsky and Levitova, who have a 3-year-old son, remaining in Moscow is proof that they believe in their future there.

"We don't feel any real hazard for our little son to be in Russia," Krichevsky said. "I don't know what will happen in 10 years, but judging from Russian society now, I have great hope and expectations for our country moving toward a normal Western society."

But Levitova is quick to point out that their optimism rests heavily upon their good fortune.

"Don't think every day in Russia is sunny. Life is hard for many people, and there are Jews leaving the former Soviet Union," she said. "But for us it is a land of opportunity. We live in a big city, we know four languages and we have a positive world view."

Shoah Video Archive Project Behind Schedule On Interviews

by Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES (JTA) — Steven Spielberg's massive Holocaust video archive project is falling short of its goal to assemble 50,000 interviews with survivors by the year's end.

Michael Berenbaum, who heads the project, accepts responsibility for the shortfall and says it is a result of changes in interviewing techniques and in expanding the types of survivors being questioned.

"We have retrained our interviewers," says Berenbaum, citing an example in which a slight change in approach can yield surprising results.

"We are currently interviewing people in their 60s, who were children during the Holocaust," he says. "In talking to one woman, we might have asked, 'What was your family life like before the war, when you were a 7-year-old girl?'

"We would have gotten an answer, but it would have been from the perspective of a mature adult looking back on her childhood."

Instead, the interviewer shifted the perspective by requesting, "Take me around the family table during a Shabbat dinner. Where did your father sit? Where did your mother sit?"

Suddenly, Berenbaum recalls, the woman's face took on the radiance of Shabbat. She sounded like a 7-year-old as she relived the actual setting and experience.

The Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation has conducted close to 32,000 interviews in 29 languages and 44 countries.

Some 400 new interviews are being added each week.

The foundation was established three years ago by filmmaker Steven Spielberg, following his life-changing experience in directing "Schindler's List," to videotape eyewitness accounts of the Holocaust and create the largest multimedia archive of survivor testimonies ever assembled.

Berenbaum, who was named chief executive officer of the foundation in January, also has shifted the project to seek out interview groups that until now have been reluctant to participate, such as fervently Orthodox Jews.

"They are deeply suspicious," says Berenbaum, "They don't know who Spielberg is, they distrust Hollywood."

Berenbaum managed to persuade one of the "great Chasidic masters" to talk to him during a recent visit to New York, and their first session lasted more than five hours.

"The most painful thing for him to talk about was the first time he had to violate the Shabbat by being on a train taking him to Auschwitz," says Berenbaum.

"But he also spoke with great warmth about a Reform Jew, a Hungarian and fellow inmate, who managed to make potato soup for him each day so that he could keep kosher."

Berenbaum is also turning to other groups of Holocaust victims, in what he calls his "expansion category," such as Jehovah's Witnesses, Gypsies and homosexuals.

"Through these witnesses, we can learn what was singular to the Jewish experience and what we shared in common with others," he says.

The project's staff of more than 200, modestly housed in converted trailers on the Universal Studios lot, expects to have 42,000 interviews completed by the end of the year, with the remaining 8,000 scheduled for 1998.

What will happen next will be decided by the foundation's board of directors in the fall.

"I think there will be a temptation to keep the interviews going until we have reached the last living survivor, but that decision will also depend on funding and other factors," said Berenbaum.

After raising \$45 million, the foundation is now launching a \$50 million fund drive. "To reach the goal, we have two enormous assets and one enormous liability," said Berenbaum.

"The first asset is the path-breaking nature of our work, and the second is the name and standing of Steven Spielberg," he added. "Our liability is also Spielberg, with people asking why they need to contribute if he is around."

Berenbaum's answer is that the Shoah Foundation must have broad-based support to retain its credibility. All of Spielberg's personal profits from "Schindler's List" are going to another project he established, called the Righteous Persons Foundation.

However, Spielberg has put both his private resources, and a great deal of time and energy, into the Shoah Foundation.

"This year, Steven is busy with three feature films," says Berenbaum. "Next year, he has promised to dedicate his time to his family and the Shoah Foundation."



Celebrating Jerusalem's Unity

Israeli Ambassador Eliahu Ben-Elissar (right) and Robert A. Chertock, director of the Jewish National Fund's Washington, D.C. region, planted a tree on U.S. Capitol grounds to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem.

Photo courtesy of JNF

FEATURE

A Congregation by the Sea

Nantucket Jews Form Unique Island Community

by Sara Wise
Herald Editor

They meet in the basement meeting house of the Unitarian Church, one of the oldest churches on the island just a block off the cobblestoned street that runs through the center of town. Its tall white steeple is a beacon for incoming ships, but on Friday summer evenings and High Holidays, its pews are

a few other friends, put up flyers and placed an ad in the newspaper. Hardly expecting to fill a few rows, they were stunned when 150 people showed up. Later in the summer, 200 people came for High Holy days.

The impressive turnouts showed that there was a definite interest and set things in motion for the now 14-year-old congregation that has also established a Hebrew school and a Jewish cemetery. While an estimated 40 to 50 Jews live on Nantucket year-

rounders. There are currently 192 families that belong to Shirat HaYam.

Not affiliated with any particular branch of Judaism, the congregation follows no firm rules in their service and innovates freely to cater to their unique dynamic. While they do incorporate the standard blessings, Friday nights are often filled with guest speakers, singing and interactive discussion. Special attention is paid to maritime and island references in the siddur ("The L-rd is King; let the earth rejoice; let many islands be glad..." (Psalm 97).

The intimate feel to the service is very welcoming to newcomers, many of whom join after just one visit. Services are led by different members, though on High Holidays they invite a rabbi to perform the service and bring out a locally crafted cherrywood ark. This year Rabbi Rachel Sabath is scheduled to visit twice before Rosh Hashana, and at a recent service she taught the congregation an Israeli niggun to sing and led a discussion on the changing interpretation of the Hebrew term "avodah." The audience joined in enthusiastically, many wear-

ing the signature Nantucket red yarmulkes with embroidered navy blue whales.

Many wear the signature Nantucket red yarmulkes with embroidered navy blue whales.

ing the signature Nantucket red yarmulkes with embroidered navy blue whales that the congregation sells for \$10. (They also offer beautiful handmade scrimshaw mezzuzot made by an island artist.)

The congregation shares close ties with the island's Interfaith Council. They work with local churches on charity and educational activities. In addition to offering a place to worship, the Unitarian Church gives the congregation permanent space to display their 16th-century Torah in a glass case. One year the local reverend, who had recently returned from Israel, even lent the congregation a shofar for Rosh Hashana.

Hebrew School

Year-round resident Nancy Waldman has lived on Nantucket for 9 years. Although the congregation was already 10 years old when she arrived, there was no active Hebrew School. More than three years ago, when her two children were 4 and 6 years old, Waldman contacted Tifereth Israel Congregation in New Bedford (her hometown) to see if there was anyone interested in coming out to the island to help with the Hebrew School. Avi Teken, the Hebrew School principal at Tifereth Israel, agreed to give lessons to the seven young Jewish children on the island. "He would fly over, teach the kids and then fly back," said Waldman. "He was wonderful, very spirited, and worked well with the kids."

Now there are eight students in the program and Teken no

filled with Jews from across the country who gather to worship with this unique congregation.

Like everything on the island, the Jewish community on Nantucket, located 30 miles off the coast of Cape Cod, fluctuates with the seasons. A Friday night service in July can draw in more than 100 people, while finding a minyan in the cold winter months can be a challenge. Despite the seasonal ups and downs in numbers (Nantucket's population shifts from 7,000 in winter, to more than 30,000 in the summer) the community remains strong and active.

Started in 1983 by a handful of families interested in connecting with other Jews in the area, Congregation Shirat HaYam, or "Song of the Sea," is the island's first congregation. Before then, there had been no Jewish synagogue since Nantucket was founded more than 300 years ago. "This was not a resurgence or rebirth," said one founding congregant, "this was the first time there had been anything Jewish at all on Nantucket."

According to a 1983 *New York Times* article, there were no Jews on Nantucket until the 1920s. The whaling industry that had thrived on the remote island during the early 1800s had dried up by mid-century and the depressed economy offered few business or professional opportunities for Jewish businessmen or newly arrived immigrants. The few Jews that were on the island after 1920 either observed privately in their homes or were assimilated into the prevailing Christian culture.

It wasn't until July 1983, when a small group rented the Grange Hall for the island's first Shabbat service, that many residents found out that their neighbors were Jewish. Island residents Morgan and Sarah Levine, with

round, 400 people attended services at Rosh Hashana. "The further the holiday falls from Labor Day, the fewer people we have," said board member Nancy Waldman.

An Eclectic Service

Part of what makes the congregation so unique is its self-described "pluralistic" service that draws a varied crowd. Many congregants are "summer regulars" who belong to other synagogues at home, while



A 16TH-CENTURY TORAH is on permanent display in the downstairs chapel of the Unitarian Church where Shabbat services are held.

some summer visitors only belong to Shirat HaYam. Others stumble upon it when they're out strolling around and, charmed by the spirit of the place, join to support the local community. On summer nights the meeting house is filled with this mix of summer regulars, weekend tourists, "boat people" who step off their yachts for the evening, and a sprinkling of



A TINY 9-SEAT PLANE shuttled the first Hebrew school teacher from New Bedford to the island of Nantucket.

longer flies over to teach them. Waldman has been able to secure "on-island" teachers for the past two years and a new teacher will be starting in September.

The yearlong curriculum includes 12 lessons and six "community events" which Waldman says are to give the kids a sense of celebrating holidays as a Jewish community. All community members are invited to the holiday parties and Shabbat service that the children lead.

"It was a challenging job to get it going," said Waldman, who belonged to an Orthodox temple growing up. "My Hebrew school teacher was the cantor, so we sang all the time and I think it's very important to learn the songs; music is so special. We hope to incorporate more music into the program next year."

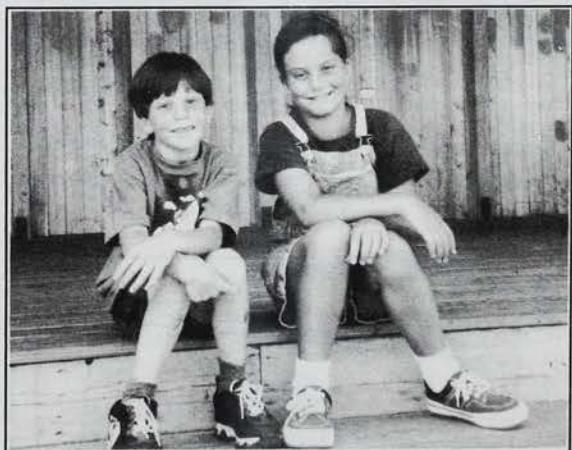
She said that the synagogue is very supportive of the Hebrew school. Members of the congregation have called her and offered money for materials and have donated books for the students.

Last weekend her children, Ariel and Ben, got a chance to meet a real rabbi when Rachel Sabath visited the island and spent Saturday morning at a

nearby park with them. "They learn about rabbis and cantors in Hebrew school, but it's not often they get to actually meet one. It's great that Rachel's made herself available to the kids." Ariel had questions about the service she attended the night before. "What was that shawl you put over your head for?" she asked the rabbi who then explained why she donned her tallit. Rabbi Sabath taught the kids a Shabbat song and a few Hebrew words before challenging them to an energetic game of soccer.

Waldman celebrates Shabbat in her home and observes holidays so that her children will grow up with a sense of what Judaism is about, even though they belong to such a small minority. "It's important for them to see what everybody else does, but at the same time they need to learn about and celebrate their heritage too. They don't have Judaism at their fingertips like kids in a larger community, so it takes more of an effort."

For a small synagogue with no building of its own and no rabbi, their upbringing in the congregation by the sea will likely have a large spiritual impact.



BEN AND ARIEL WALDMAN attend Hebrew school on Nantucket.



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ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

UMass Dartmouth Presents 'Brigadoon'

The University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Summer Theatre's 24th season will conclude with an outdoor presentation of "Brigadoon," August 21 to 24 in the university's amphitheater.

The shows will start at 8:30 p.m. each evening. Admission is free.

According to Director Angus Bailey, "Brigadoon" is one of the legendary hits of the Broadway musical theater. The appeal of "Brigadoon" lies in the combination of its engaging plot

with the ever-memorable songs and dances Lerner and Loewe created to bring that plot to enduring life."

Among the great melodies in "Brigadoon" are the perennial favorites, "The Heather on the Hill" and "Almost Like Being in Love." Bailey continues, "all those who have ever seen it have treasured 'Brigadoon.' It remains one of the enduring masterpieces of the American musical theater at its height."

Along with "Brigadoon," the

university's Summer Cabaret Theatre season features Agatha Christie's "The Hollow" which runs July 17 to 20, and "Broadway in the 90's" which runs July 24 to 27 and 30 and August 1 to 3. The shows begin at 8:30 each evening in the campus center. Tickets for the summer theatre are \$8 for general admission, \$7 for students and seniors. Subscription rates are available and holders are eligible for VIP seating to "Brigadoon."

For ticket information, call (508) 999-8136.

Happy Birthday Herman Melville

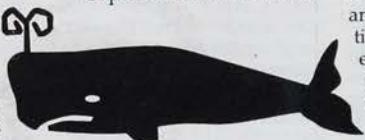
In honor of Herman Melville's 178th birthday, Mystic Seaport will host its 12th annual marathon reading of Melville's classic, *Moby Dick*. The reading of all 135 chapters begins at noon on July 31, and continues through the night.

Amid the tall ships and historic building of this world-famous indoor and outdoor museum, Mystic Seaport visitors and staff read aloud on deck and in the forecastle of the *Charles W. Morgan*, the last wooden whaler in the world. Chantey singing and costumed role players add to the authenticity of this unique literary event.

Jack Putnam of Manhattan's South Street Seaport Museum

will appear at this year's marathon. Putnam has memorized several chapters of the book, including the first chapter *Loomings*, which he will recite in the voice and character of Herman Melville.

Copies of the novel will be



available to visitors who want to follow the reading. The public can join the reading until the museum closes at 6 p.m. on Thursday evening and again on Friday morning when Mystic Seaport opens its gates at 9 a.m.

Jazz/Rock/Blues Camp Returns

You want to play jazz, blues and rock 'n' roll? There are certain feelings that those sounds evoke in people, and certain poses that only jazz, rock and blues players can strike. Maybe that's the key to the music. Maybe you need to break some hearts. Maybe you need to get your band on the road, crack up a hotel room or two. Maybe you need to stay out until dawn. Maybe you need to drink your whiskey neat.

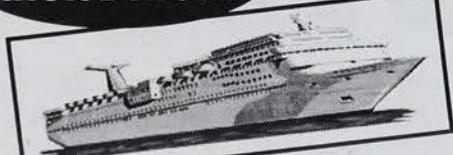
Of course, if you're in middle school or high school, you can't do any of that stuff.

So maybe you just need more music lessons. The Music School is offering a return engagement of its intensive Jazz/Rock/Blues

camp. For two weeks, you'll learn about music theory, technique development, and improvisation. And you'll play music. Constantly. Some of Rhode Island's best performers will be on hand to give you insight and instructions. By the end of camp, you'll be part of a real ensemble, and you will jam. Literally.

Camp will run Monday through Thursday from Aug. 4 to 7 and Aug. 11 to 14, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Students are welcome for one week or two. Adults who are young at heart are also welcome. You will be placed according to your level of experience and your particular area of interest. Call 272-9877 for more details.

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In Good Company Performs on Goat Island

Mary Barnett's In Good Company will be the third dance company presented in the Island Moving Co.'s series, Dance on Goat Island. The company of dancers and musicians from New Haven, Conn., will perform at 6:30 p.m. on July 22 at the Goat Island Pavilion in Newport Harbor. Tickets for all seats are \$6 and will be available at the door and at the Newport Gateway Center.

Dancer Mary R. Barnett founded In Good Company to secure a dynamic and nurturing home for her own choreography and for the work of other innovative performing artists in the New Haven area. Seeking to bridge arbitrary distinctions between disciplines and to engage audiences in exciting and entertaining experiences, In Good Company cultivates ex-

changes between movement, word, music, theater, and visual arts. The *New Haven Advocate* called Barnett a "ringmaster of low-brow high-culture, the auteur of some of the funniest and most emotionally wrenching and friendliest dance concerts you'll see."

For the July 22 concert, Barnett brings a company of dancers and musicians and a program including choreographed and improvisational works. Dance on Goat Island concludes on July 29 with a performance by Providence's Groundwerx Dance Theatre. Dance on Goat Island is sponsored by *Newport Life* magazine, the Doubletree Islander Hotel and Island Development Corp. For information or to charge your tickets by phone, call 847-4470.

Call for Auditions

The Community Players will hold auditions for their first annual one-act play/director's workshop on July 27 and July 28 at 7:30 p.m. at Jenks Junior High School, Division Street, Pawtucket (across from McCoy Stadium). Auditioners will be performing cold readings from the following plays:

"Sorry, Wrong Number," directed by Carol Varden. Needed are: three women, 20 to 60 years old; three men, 25 to 50 years old; one male or female, 16 to 20 years old.

"Graceland," directed by Vincent Lupino. Needed are: two women, 20 to 50 years old.

"The Universal Language," directed by Kevin Costa. Needed are: one man and one woman, age 20s to 30s.

All roles are open. For more information, call 724-7735.

Prehistoric Slumber Party at Roger Williams Park Zoo

Five Lucky Winners Will Spend a Night with T Rex and Friends in "Dinosaur in the Dark" Drawing

Fleet and Roger Williams Park Zoo are sponsoring a drawing to win an exclusive sleep-over with dinosaurs at the zoo the night of Aug. 23.

Grand-prize winners of this special drawing can invite up to four guests to experience Fleet Jurassic Journey up close and under the stars. Zoo dino-guides and staff are planning an evening full of adventure and surprises. Winners need not bring anything but a sleeping bag — dinner and breakfast are included.

All Rhode Islanders are encouraged to enter at any of the 53 Fleet Bank branches located statewide. There is no purchase necessary to enter. All children under 3 are free.

attending the overnight adventure must be between the ages of 6 to 14 years old and be accompanied by one supervising adult. All entries must be received by noon on July 30 to be eligible for the random drawing on Aug. 4. Winners will be notified by phone.

Fleet is the sponsor of Jurassic Journey at Roger Williams Park Zoo, a spectacular exhibit featuring 19 full-size, large-as-life dinosaurs in an authentic two-acre prehistoric landscape. Fleet Jurassic Journey is appearing through Labor Day. Admission to the zoo itself is \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for children (3 to 12) and seniors. Admission to Fleet Jurassic Journey is in addition to regular zoo admission. Combination tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for children. Children under 3 are free.

For information, call the zoo at 785-3510.

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MILESTONES

B'nai B'rith Appoints New England Regional Director

B'nai B'rith New England, with headquarters at 34 Washington St. in Brighton, Mass., announces the appointment of a New England regional director, Peggy Sunshine. Sunshine will oversee all B'nai B'rith activities in New England which encompasses Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island and Maine. "It is an exciting period in the organization's history, a time of extensive outreach and vigorous change. We are pleased to have a person with Peggy's academic and Judaic background; inspiring board and volunteer leadership; creativity and savvy in special event and program planning; and extensive development expertise at the helm in New England. The first special event under Peggy's charge, a Realty Unit Dinner



Peggy Sunshine
Photo courtesy of B'nai B'rith

honoring Jonathan G. Davis, was a record success. We are confident that this momentous beginning portends a dynamic future for the New England Region of B'nai B'rith," stated

Tate Elected Vice President of R.I. Bar Association

Deborah M. Tate, Esq., was recently elected vice president of the Rhode Island Bar Association. Her one-year term began July 1.



Deborah M. Tate, R.I.
Photo by Constance Brown

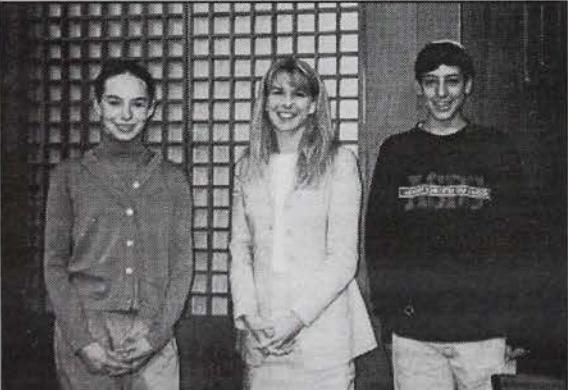
Tate is a partner of the Providence law firm of Skolnik, McIntyre & Tate Esquires, Ltd. where she practices family law. She earned a bachelor of science

degree in business administration from the University of Massachusetts, a J.D. from New England School of Law, and an L.L.M. in taxation from Boston University. She is admitted to practice law in Massachusetts and Florida, and is a member of the American Bar Association.

She has been active in the Rhode Island Bar Association's house of delegates and executive committee and has served as chairperson of the meetings committee. She is an active member of the Family Court bench/bar committee and a fellow of the Bar Foundation.

Tate is a fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers; and secretary/treasurer of the Edward P. Gallogly Family Law Inn of Court. She serves on the Rhode Island Commission for Judicial Tenure & Discipline, the Supreme Court's Advisory Commission on Women in the Courts, and the R.I. Supreme Court's Ethics Advisory Panel.

Tate lives in Providence with her husband, attorney Alan Tate, and their two daughters.



Mazel Tov

Rabbi Baruch Korff Memorial Scholarship Winners

Zamira Korff, daughter of the late Rabbi Baruch Korff, congratulates Shayna Schneider and Sam Stein, eighth-grade students at the Alperin Schechter Day School, who were presented with the Rabbi Baruch Korff Memorial Scholarship for Hebrew studies and mitzvot.

Photo courtesy of ASDS

Leslie I. Rosen Weds Andrew M. Stern

Leslie Iris Rosen and Andrew Mark Stern were married on June 1 by Rabbi Wayne Franklin and Rabbi Bradley Teekiel at Temple Emanu-El in Providence.

The bride is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Richard A. Rosen of Providence. The bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold J. Stern of Highland Park, Ill.

Toby Rosen, sister of the bride, was the honor attendant. Bridal attendants were Judi Podrat, Carolyn Winston, Julie Galler, Hannah Brenner, and Roxanne Cohen. Family members in the bridal party were Beily Rosen and Sharon Stern, sisters-in-law, and Pamela Stern Braun, sister of the bridegroom.

The best man was Mitchel Malkus. The ushers were Bradley Teekiel, Daniel Shields, Lee Janger, Yuri Shoshan, Neil Rothstein, and Ezra Galler. Fam-

ily members in the groom's party were Leon Rosen and Russell Rosen, brothers of the bride, Howard Braun, brother-in-law, and David Stern, brother of the bridegroom.

The bride graduated from Classical High School and Clark University in Worcester, Mass. She received a master's in social work from Columbia University and a master's in Judaic studies from the Jewish Theological Seminary. She is a program coordinator for Jewish Life Network in New York.

The bridegroom graduated from Ida Crown Academy and Brandeis University in Waltham, Mass. He received a master's in real estate development at Columbia University and is a project manager for Toll Brothers, Inc. The couple have made their home in New York City.



Erica
Paige
Waldman

Mr. and Mrs. Gary B. Waldman of Bridgewater, N.J., announce the birth of a daughter, Erica Paige Waldman, on June 28.

Paternal grandparents are Paula and Martin Waldman of Providence. Paternal great-grandparents are Rae Pickar of Providence and the late Sidney Pickar and the late Dorothy and Morris Waldman.

Maternal grandparents are Cindy and Alan Blitzer of Bridgewater, N.J. Maternal great-grandparents are Bill Holland of Hallendale, Fla., and the late Ethel Holland and the late Shirley and Theodore Blitzer of New Jersey.



Joseph
Max
Markel

Morris William and Fiona Markel, of New York City, announce the birth of their son, Joseph Max Markel, on June 18.

Grandparents are Molly and Alfred Pasternak of Bethesda, Md., and the late Joseph Markel of Providence. Great-grandparents are the late Bea and Max Greenbaum of Providence and Helen and Morris Markel of West Warwick.

Bergel Graduates Law School

Rhonda L. Bergel received a J.D. from Suffolk Law School during their commencement exercises on May 25 at the Fleet Center in Boston, Mass.

Bergel, who graduated cum laude, is the daughter of Arthur and Judy Bergel of Providence. She is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin at Madison and also a graduate of Classical High School in Providence.

A party was held in her honor at the Spanish Tavern Restaurant in Narragansett, R.I., on June 14. Guests were from Washington, D.C., Florida, Connecticut and New York.

She is the granddaughter of the late Arthur and Sally Saltzman and Isadore and Anna Bergel of Providence.



Mr. and Mrs. Andrew M. Stern

Rhode Island Residents Receive Diplomas From Yeshiva University

Three Rhode Island residents were among the more than 2,000 members of the Class of 1997 receiving degrees at Yeshiva University's 66th annual commencement, held May 22, in The Theater, Madison Square Garden, New York City.

Degrees were conferred by Yeshiva University President Norman Lamm upon graduates of the university's undergraduate and graduate schools. Bachelor's and associate's degrees were awarded to graduates of Yeshiva College (YC), Stern College for Women (SCW), Sy Syms School of Business (SSSB), James Striar School of General Jewish Studies (JSS), and Isaac Breuer Col-

lege of Hebraic Studies (IBC).

Master's and doctoral degrees were awarded to graduates of Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education (AG), Bernard Revel Graduate School (BRGS), Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology (FP), and Wurzweiler School of Social Work (WSSW).

Following is a list of degree recipients, their degrees, and schools:

Pawtucket: Meyer Elijah Brown, B.S., SSSB; and Miriam C. Kessler, B.A./A.A., SCW.

Providence: Elyse Richelle Park, Ph.D., FP.

Yeshiva University, America's oldest and largest university under Jewish auspices, is in its 111th year.

Know someone getting married?

Tell us their name and address and we'll send them a one-year complimentary subscription to the Rhode Island Jewish Herald.

OBITUARIES

SHIRLEY PARNES

PROVIDENCE — Shirley Parness, 72, of 17 Eagle Run, died July 7 at Philip Hulitar Hospice Inpatient Center in Providence. She was the wife of Charles Parness.

Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Benjamin and Emma (Bederman) Glantz, she lived in Cranston before moving to East Greenwich 14 years ago.

She was a member of Temple Torah Yisrael, Cranston. She was a life member of the Women's Association of the Jewish Home for the Aged and Miriam Hospital. She was a member of Pioneer Women.

Besides her husband, she leaves a daughter, Tina Fain of Cranston; a son, Floyd Parness of Northford, Conn.; a sister, Arlene Calderon of Cranston; and four grandchildren.

A graveside funeral service was held July 9 at Lincoln Park Cemetery, Post Road, Warwick. The service was coordinated by Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence.

Keep in mind that the essence of your prayers is the faith you have in them that they will be answered.

(LM 1:7)

MARILYN SILVERMAN

PITTSFIELD, Mass. — Marilyn "Lynn" Silverman, 65, of 181 Belvedere Drive, Cranston, R.I., died July 11 at Berkshire Medical Center in Pittsfield, Mass., where she was taken July 10 after being pulled from the water of Ashmere Lake in Hinsdale in Berkshire County, Mass. She was the wife of Irving Silverman.

"It appears she was out swimming and had a heart attack," a member of the family said.

The family was on vacation and Mrs. Silverman, whom they described as a strong swimmer, went into the water at around 7:30 a.m. A cousin found her floating in the water.

Born in Newport, she was the wife of Irving Silverman and the daughter of the late George and Dora (Kaufman) David. She had lived in Cranston for many years.

She was a 1951 graduate of Bryant College, a member of Temple Sinai and its Sisterhood and a life member of Hadassah.

Besides her husband, she leaves two sons, George Silverman of Phoenix, Ariz., and Daniel Silverman of Manchester, Conn.; a daughter, Donna Sternbach of Marlboro, N.J.; and three grandchildren. She was the sister of the late Melvin David.

The funeral was held July 13 at the Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

It was 1969, and Cohen was caught up in the turmoil of civil rights protests and sleepless nights of study at Oberlin College. Her diet was typical of most college students—sweets, pizza and dorm food.

Healer Blends Jewish Practice With Chinese Medical Teachings

by Lori Eppstein
Jewish Bulletin of Northern California

SAN FRANCISCO (JTA) — Jewish mothers have long believed that the best medicine for a head cold is rest, fluids and steaming hot chicken soup.

But when it comes to premenstrual syndrome, chronic fatigue and HIV-related diarrhea and anemia, Jewish folk medicine has barely begun, said healer Misha Cohen of San Francisco's Chicken Soup Chinese Medicine clinic.

The practice of Chinese medicine includes acupuncture, massage, proper nutrition, meditation, herb therapy and other Eastern practices that can improve vitality and ward off disease.

That may explain why Cohen parted ways with her Jewish upbringing — at least when it came to medicine — while seeking a cure for her own mystery disease more than 25 years ago.

It was 1969, and Cohen was caught up in the turmoil of civil rights protests and sleepless nights of study at Oberlin College. Her diet was typical of most college students — sweets, pizza and dorm food.

These new habits did not last long before Cohen had a breakdown. The doctors thought it was mononucleosis, then appendicitis. They operated and

found it was definitely mono, after all.

Cohen later learned that it was chronic fatigue syndrome, though it did not have a name until the 1980s.

Not wishing to repeat the experience, the biopsychology student became a vegetarian and began to learn about herbs and natural food therapy.

The seed for a more wholesome lifestyle actually was planted earlier by her Jewish grandmother — a practicing Jew, proponent of fruit and yoga teacher. Cohen fondly recalls the soaked black mission figs and dried millet breakfasts, though the sorghum was less than a hit.

The years following her decision to lead a healthier lifestyle lured Cohen into the politics of health care. She started a women's health newspaper in 1970 and, subsequently, discovered inroads to natural healing.

By the time she enrolled in her first Chinese medicine class, where teachers engaged students in a talmudic-style discourse of medical texts, she realized, "This is where I'm supposed to be."

Cohen, who holds a doctorate in Oriental medicine and is a state-certified acupuncturist, has since discovered further similarities between Jewish practice and Chinese medicine.

"When I go to China and I tell them I'm Jewish, they get very excited and say we have a lot in common," said Cohen, referring to a shared quest for education and knowledge.

The biggest connection is their mutual understanding of an antiviral agent called chicken soup, but both have long relied on special preparation of many other foods to avoid illness,

Cohen said.

Indeed, while Europe choked on waves of plagues, Jews and Chinese for thousands of years have known how to prevent epidemics through sanitation.

The Jews shunned pork and ritually slaughtered meat, draining the blood and salting it. They ate only domesticated animals, shunning meat from diseased animals, wild beasts or birds of prey.

The Chinese added ginger and other digestive herbs to foods to eliminate parasites.

The two cultures diverge, however, when it comes to what they seek in their practices, Cohen said. Jews seek higher knowledge to get close to G-d, while the Chinese question how their bodies relate to the earth.

"Their spiritual web has no weaver," said Cohen, who released her first book, *The Chinese Way to Healing*, last fall.

When it comes to earth-based medicine, Chinese medicine leaves Jewish folk medicine in the dust, so to speak. Chinese farmers planted the same land for generations and charted lunar patterns for the best times to harvest herbs while Jews wandered the Diaspora.

But Jews and Western doctors of today are making up for lost time. More so now than ever, they are incorporating Eastern philosophy into their practices.

Some mainstream health professionals now recognize that Chinese medicine can help where Western treatment falls short.

At her clinic, Cohen has treated up to 10 percent more referrals from medical doctors last year than in 1995. Many of her new clients are doctors and nurses with aches and pains of their own.

Vatican Offers to Host Talks Between Israelis, Palestinians

by Ruth E. Gruber

ROME (JTA) — Pope John Paul II has sent letters to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority chairman Yasser Arafat expressing his "deep worry" over the deadlock in the peace process.

The letters, urging the two leaders to overcome obstacles and resume dialogue, were sent in June, but the Vatican released their text later.

In them, the pope expressed his concern at the standstill in negotiations and said that the Vatican would be willing to host Israeli and Palestinian delegations to resume the talks "with good will."

Israeli-Palestinian negotiations were suspended in March, after Israel began building a new Jewish neighborhood in southeastern Jerusalem and a Palestinian suicide bomber killed three Israelis at a Tel Aviv cafe.

Chief Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls told reporters that the pope "wanted to stimulate the leaders to make a serious effort to get the process going again."

In his letter to Netanyahu,

the pope said, "The Israeli and Palestinian peoples are already shouldering a burden of suffering which is too heavy. This burden must not be increased; instead it deserves the utmost commitment to finding the paths of necessary and courageous compromises."

Finding these paths would earn Netanyahu humanity's gratitude, he wrote.

In his letter to Arafat, the pope described a "de facto interruption of dialogue."

"My fear is that if this situation continues it will become increasingly difficult to revive the quest for the trust that is essential to every negotiation," he wrote.

He said the painful lessons of the past must not prove "vain and useless."

In neither of the letters did the pope refer to current causes of the stalemate in the peace negotiations.

He also did not mention his often-stated desire to visit the Holy Land before the year 2000.

But he did stress that peace in the region was particularly important now as millions of faith-

(Continued on Page 19)

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CLASSIFIED**Albright**

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"They clearly confronted the most excruciating decision a human being can face when they left members of their family behind even as they saved me from certain death.

"I will always love and honor my parents and will always respect their decision, for that most painful of choices gave me life a second time."

The family returned, but left again after the Communists seized power in 1948 and settled in the United States.

Raised as a Roman Catholic — she is now an Episcopalian — Albright expressed surprise when it was revealed in a February story in *The Washington Post* that at least three of her grandparents were Jewish and that they, along with more than a dozen other relatives, died in the Holocaust.

"The only thing I have to go by is what my mother and father told me, how I was brought up," she said at the time.

But the question of whether she had known about her past

Enemy Within

(Continued from Page 4)

We cannot minimize the effect of our tradition on our own individual successes. We are better doctors, lawyers, teachers and businessmen as a result of our Jewish culture. How can we turn our backs and keep further diluting ourselves into mainstream America? We owe our founding fathers a debt of gratitude. We can repay that debt by keeping the culture alive.

We need to develop a special kind of Jewish education for the 20th century. A system that will focus on the spiritual aspects of Judaism to make it exciting, interesting and stimulating. We have lost too many Jews already to the spiritual concerns of the Eastern religions, but what these people never learned is that we have all the tools within Judaism to provide a viable spiritual reality. We are fortunate today to have not only competent teaching rabbis but also capable lay teachers who can bring new dimensions to Jewish learning.

We must begin right now. The first thing that comes to mind is to return to the fold and begin to add some Jewish rituals into our lives again. In the beginning simple tasks will do, but would include a little more than just showing up for Yom Kippur or to a Passover seder. We can celebrate some aspect of Shabbat, even if just a Friday evening dinner with the lighting of the candles and the reciting of the blessings. We can get to know the dates of each holida-

Vatican

(Continued from Page 18)

ful from the three monotheistic religions that hold Jerusalem as a holy city — Judaism, Christianity and Islam — would want to visit the region in the years leading up to the millennium.

Especially for this reason there should be peace, so that the meaning of the approaching Great Jubilee of the year 2000 may be complete," he said in his letter to Arafat.

surfaced after reports suggesting that the mayor of the Czech town of Letohrad, where her paternal grandfather once lived, sent her a letter three years ago about her Jewish roots.

Albright's tour of the Jewish Quarter came on the eve of her one-day state visit to Prague.

She met with Czech Foreign Minister Josef Zeleniec to discuss NATO's recent invitation to the Czech Republic to join the alliance. She also had dinner with Czech President Vaclav Havel.

In a speech before throngs of cheering Czechs, she spoke of her ties to the Czech republic and her childhood in Prague, but she made no reference to her Jewish roots.

Kraus said he and Albright spoke in Czech, and that they did not have in-depth discussions about the restitution of property looted by the Nazis or any of the other issues facing the Czech Jewish community.

"It wasn't a political visit," he said. "It was personal."

day and celebrate a few more each year in the synagogue. The important part is for our children and grandchildren to learn about these sacred occasions, and they will surely learn by observing our actions and commitment.

Another step would be to connect with a Jewish community: a synagogue or a havurah. Judaism depends on people with like-minded objectives sharing and participating in communal interest and fellowship. Community then functions as a support system designed to further Jewish welfare on the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual levels. Communities also further Jewish learning which encompasses a vast treasure of wisdom that has been compiled through the centuries. This wisdom is what has enabled us to endure against overwhelming odds and what has empowered our tradition to produce such talent in every field of endeavor. This is something for which we can all be truly proud. Your commitment to a Jewish life is a vote to keep Judaism alive. Your vote counts.

Velvel "Wally" Spiegler is a certified polarity therapist and a student and teacher of Jewish mysticism.

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NATO

(Continued from Page 1)

ment backing Poland's entry into NATO.

In doing so, he categorically rejected attempts by the World Jewish Restitution Organization to link NATO entry to Warsaw's handling of the restitution of Jewish property.

Polish officials fear that such opposition could harm the chances of securing the U.S. congressional approval needed to ratify the admission of new members to NATO.

"We believe that Poland's entry to NATO serves the interests of our country and of all its citizens, including Polish Jews," Kichler's statement said. "It can only improve the situation of Jews in Poland."

Half a century after 3 million Polish Jews were murdered in the Holocaust, the Polish Jewish community, though numbering only in the thousands, is trying to reestablish a viable presence as an integrated part of Polish society.

Kichler's election in May put community leadership firmly in the hands of a post-Holocaust generation.

This generation's aim is to create a Jewish life that fits the nature of present-day Polish Jews — Jews who, as one community member put it, are "as Polish as French Jews are French."

Kichler's statement backing NATO membership demonstrated the community's growing desire to make its voice heard — and heeded — on issues relating to the future of both the community and Poland.

At the Strasbourg conference, Krajewski called a threat by the WJRO vice chairman, Naphtali Lavie, to lobby against Poland's entry into NATO as a means of pressuring the Polish government on the restitution issue a "slap in the face" to Poland's Jewish leaders.

But according to Israel Singer, secretary general of the World Jewish Congress and chairman of the WJRO executive, the WJRO has not taken a position on the issue.

"There was discussion, but it never came to any vote," he said.

Singer added that while Poland's position on restitution is not "an issue to keep them out of NATO," it should be "encouraged to behave like other countries," such as Hungary, which have moved faster to address restitution of Jewish property.

Meanwhile, the American Jewish Committee's board of governors, meeting in New York last month, also passed a resolution supporting Poland's entry into NATO.

"We have expressly pointed out that it is wrong to couple the 'issue of restitution and the issue of support' for Poland's entrance into NATO," Jeffrey Weintraub, director of the AJCommittee-linked Center for American Pluralism, said during a recent fact-finding trip to Poland.

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AN OPEN LETTER TO THE PEOPLE OF RHODE ISLAND

We have set out in an attempt to make Rhode Island the first hunger-free state in the nation.

Our task will not be an easy one. But if we can succeed — if we can achieve our goal of becoming the first hunger-free state — it will be an achievement worthy of every effort.

We ask you to join us in this quest... Asking that, you deserve to know what's happening every step of the way. So, the first Thursday of every month, we will chronicle for you in this newspaper what is happening in our quest — the progress we are making and what lies ahead.

Here are our immediate goals:

1. To connect all emergency food pantries in our state to a central registration to insure that those in need can be quickly referred to the pantry nearest them.
2. To alert all Rhode Island residents to the availability of emergency food assistance for anyone in need. (For emergency food assistance call 1-800-HUNGRY-2.)
3. To convince those who are in need but too proud to come forward for help that there is no shame in being hungry. The only shame in hunger is knowing there are hungry people and not doing anything about it.
4. To increase the number of volunteers at the R.I. Community Food Bank and its 130 food pantries and community meal sites.
5. To expand, in partnership with area Rotary Clubs, the R.I. Community Food Bank's Prepared Food Program and to increase donations to the food bank.
6. To provide guidance to emergency food recipients in planning their monthly food resources to last for the full month and meet their nutritional needs.
7. To encourage the full utilization of all existing government-sponsored nutrition programs for all those, and only those, who are deserving of them.
8. To organize local anti-hunger teams who will meet regularly to plan and carry out activities to fight hunger.

Once we can guarantee that anyone facing hunger can get the help they need, we can then focus on education, training and employment opportunities, to reduce the cycle of poverty which is the breeding ground of hunger.

Our journey is a challenging one. But this is the road we know we must travel.

We hope you will travel it with us...

The first Thursday of next month — August 7 — our journey begins...

Alan Shawn Feinstein, Chairman
Rhode Islanders for a Hunger-Free State