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# Rhode Island Jewish HERALD

Jewish  
Community

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## Journalist Barbara Walters Charms Federation Donors

by Sara Wise  
Herald Editor

If the large and receptive crowd that turned out Saturday night for the 1998 Jewish Federation Campaign event was any indication, support for Jewish causes is alive and well in Rhode Island. The donor event on Oct. 18 featured journalist Barbara Walters who spoke about leadership to more than 500 people who packed into Temple Emanu-El in Providence to hear the veteran interviewer.

Best known for her televised celebrity interviews, Walters gives few public presentations. In her final public appearance for 1997, she reflected on some of the highlights of her 36-year career as a journalist (first at NBC, then later at ABC), and spoke about the qualities that make a good leader, based on her years of meeting and interviewing many of the world's best known leaders.

From Fidel Castro to the former Shah of Iran to Gen. Colin Powell, Walters distilled for the audience common qualities of the many leaders she has interviewed. "A strong belief in yourself and your mission," she cited as the first common thread, followed by some belief in G-d or a higher power, a strong sense of character and the ability to solve problems. "You have to be somewhat of a fanatic to believe in yourself so much," she added.

Walters then went on to describe some of her favorite interviews and quoted excerpts from program transcripts with Margaret Thatcher and Christopher Reeve, both of whom she clearly admires. She cited Reeve as her idea of the type of leader who inspires people through his work to raise money and understanding about spinal cord injuries. Walters described her September 1995 interview with Reeve,

the first interview he granted after the horseback riding accident that left him paralyzed, as an emotional and inspiring experience. "I didn't know what to expect, but it was so incredible that we aired a full hour," she said.

In possibly her greatest journalistic feat, in 1977 Walters was the first to obtain a joint interview with Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israel's Prime Minister Menachem Begin. She recounted the dramatic and cunning way in which she weaseled her way onto the state plane to join Sadat on his historic flight from Egypt to Israel, much to the surprise of competitors John Chancellor and Walter Cronkite. She also described the unforgettable sight of being greeted by Israeli bands playing Egyptian anthems and seeing Israeli children waving Egyptian flags. Walters remembered staying up late into the evening with Prime Minister Begin who took her into his office and showed her photos of his family, including members of his family who had perished in the Holocaust. Just before he turned to leave, he informed her that he'd asked Sadat to an interview together "for their friend Barbara."

Walters spoke fondly of Anwar Sadat whom she de-



Barbara Walters

Photo by Andrew Eccles/ABC ©1997 Copyright ABC, Inc.

scribed as having been the most memorable of all her interviews. "For his courage, his charisma, there was simply no one like him and I felt very attached to him," she of the slain Egyptian leader and noted how sadly ironic it is that both Sadat and Rabin were killed not by an out-

sider, but by one of their own as a response to their motions towards peace.

When asked who else she would like to interview that she hadn't already spoken with on camera, Walters said that only the pope and the queen held any

(Continued on Page 15)

## Maimonides Principal Shares Thoughts About New Jewish High School

by Emily Torgan-Shalansky  
Jewish Community Reporter

When Rabbi David Shapiro, principal of the Orthodox Maimonides School in Brookline, appeared at Providence's Congregation Beth Shalom on Oct. 19, his presentation soon yielded to a lively question-and-answer session about how to set up a Jewish high school that would meet local needs.

"There are no magical answers," Shapiro said to his audience. "You need a leap of faith and six or seven parents who are willing to say, 'We'll get this going.'"

At present, such efforts are well underway.

"We are in the process of completing our infrastructure, and our by-laws are now complete," said Dr. Steven Schechter, a leader of a local community group that is working towards creating a Providence-based Jewish high school, after the

gathering. "We have not signed anything yet, but we are likely to be located in the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island."

"Students need to be prepared to study at the best level the U.S. has to offer."

Rabbi David Shapiro

The proposed high school, which would be under the rabbinical guidance of Rabbi Mitchell Levine of Congregation Beth Shalom, would expand the limited opportunities that local families now encounter if they want their children to receive a Jewish education at the high school level.

Parents enrolling their children in grades kindergarten through eight may now choose

between the Orthodox Providence Hebrew Day School and the Conservative Alperin Schechter Day School, which are both located in Providence.

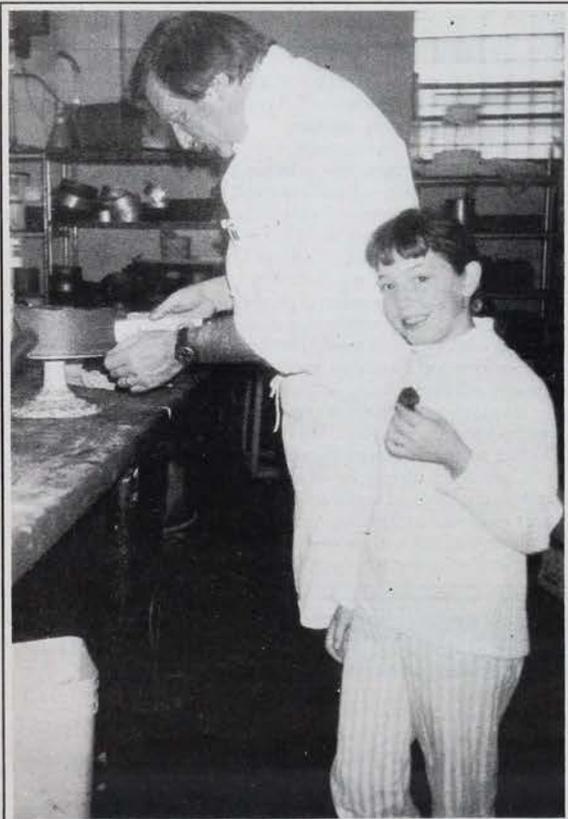
But once such students complete the eighth grade, there are few local options.

The Providence Hebrew Day School has a girls' high school where about 24 young women are presently enrolled, but its high school for boys, plagued by bitter dissent and financial problems, closed in 1995.

Therefore, once boys have completed junior high school, their families must consider out-of-town options or ask them to enter the public or private school systems.

Some local families who favor the approach of the Maimonides School have answered the dilemma by having their children commute to Brookline.

At the gathering, Rabbi (Continued on Page 15)



### A Family Tradition

Annie Kaplan watches her father, Murray Kaplan, decorate a cake at Rainbow Bakery and Cafe. The Cranston institution celebrates its 40th anniversary this week. See page 10 for story.

Herald photo by Sara Wise

# HAPPENINGS

## New Labor Movement Conference

The Brown University Student Labor Alliance and the Rhode Island AFL-CIO will present a daylong conference titled "Building Unity, Building Community: Organizing a New Labor Movement" on Oct. 25, on the Brown campus.

The conference begins at 9:30 a.m. in Room 168 of the Barus & Holley Building, Manning Walkway, off Brook St. Panelists will discuss "Race, Gender and Identity: Building a New Labor Movement." Beginning at 1:30 p.m., there will be 11 concurrent workshops on various topics including student activism, immigrant workers, welfare rights, building coalitions and how to strike. Those workshops will take place in Wilson Hall on The College Green. The conference will conclude with the film, "Out at Work," at 7 p.m. in Room 001 of the Salomon Center for Teaching, also on The College Green. All events are free and open to the public.

For more information, call 463-9900 or e-mail <new\_labor@usa.net>.

## Temple Sinai Seniors Meet

The next meeting of the Temple Sinai Seniors will be held on Oct. 31 at noon. Lunch will be provided by the board. Linn Pohl will speak on long-term care, assisted living, and home care. R.S.V.P. to Baila at 461-6124.

## Genealogy, Computers and the Public Library

A free daylong workshop on Genealogy, Computers and the Public Library will be offered at the Barrington Public Library on Nov. 15 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. At this workshop participants will be given a demonstration of how to use public library computers to access the Internet for genealogical research. Valuable print sources will also be explored, and examples of genealogy software currently on the market will be shown and discussed.

The workshop will offer participants a chance to discuss questions regarding genealogical research. The information provided will help genealogical researchers to find what they need at the public library in an era of technological change.

Genealogy, Computers and the Public Library is sponsored by The Rhode Island Genealogical Society and the Barrington Public Library. Registration for the workshop will begin at 9 a.m. on Oct. 27 at the reference desk at the Barrington Public Library. Registrations will be taken in person and by phone. Call 247-1920 for information.

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## Calendar: October 23 thru October 31

- 23 **R.I. photographer**, Stephen Brigidi "On Process & Content," using techniques and materials in creating photo images at The Camera Werks, Providence, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Call 273-LENS.
- 24 **"Victorian Village"** study day at Chateau-Sur-Mer, Newport, daylong exploration of Victorian era forces that shaped art and architecture. Lunch is provided and registration is required. Call 847-1000, ext. 154.  
**Composer Ben Steinberg** will be Temple Beth-El's composer-in-residence on Oct. 24 to 26. Musical programs will be held throughout the weekend and are free and open to the public. Call 331-6070 for schedule.
- 25 **Move your clocks back an hour.**  
**Ocean State Shorthair Club** presents two-day cat show, Oct. 25 and 26 at the National Guard Armory, Warwick, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Proceeds are donated to local animal welfare. Call 467-7712 or 732-2496 for information.  
**4th annual Greenwich Odeum**, 5K run/walk, 10 a.m. Race begins and ends at Felicia's Coffee, 5757 East Greenwich. Proceeds benefit Greenwich Odeum Theatre. Call 886-4141 or 885-8160 for information.  
**Halloween in the Park**, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Slater Park, Daggett House, Pawtucket. Call 724-5748.  
**R.I. Mineral Hunters' Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show**, Oct. 25 and 26. Children's corner, exhibits, slides, auction and more at Community College of Rhode Island, Warwick. Call 231-9645.
- 26 **Edgar Allan Poe Day**, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Astors' Beechwood, Newport. In spirit of All Hallow's Eve share in mysterious tales of Poe. Call 846-3772.  
**Pumpkin Carving Party** for UMass Dartmouth community and international students and families, 2 to 4 p.m. at Cedar Dell West Common Room. Call (508) 999-8886.
- 27 **All media open salon show** at Sarah Doyle Gallery, Providence, Oct. 27 to Nov. 25. Call 863-2189.
- 28 **Sons & Daughters of Bosses**, with Perspectives Young Jewish Adult Group, 106 Angell St., Providence, 7:30 to 9 p.m. Introductory seminar looks at special joys and frustrations of working with, or for, one's parents. Call 863-9357.  
**Meet Misha**, Jewish Federation of Rhode Island Women's Event '98, Ledgemont Country Club, 7:30 p.m. A minimum gift to the JFRI is necessary. Call 421-4111.  
**Israel at 50**, Yehuda Lev, journalist and historian will speak about the founding generation of Zionists at Brown/RISD Hillel, Providence, noon to 1 p.m. Call 863-2805.
- 29 **Touro Fraternal Association** open house, 6:30 p.m. Cranston. Guest speaker is M. Charles Bakst. For more information, call 785-0066.
- 30 **Family Night Halloween Party**, 5:30 p.m., Bristol Community College Culinary Arts Program and Club Theatre. Enjoy face painting, pumpkin carving, a "spooky play" and costume contests as well as a full-course dinner. Reservations are needed. Call Bristol Community College in Fall River, Mass.  
**Facing History and Ourselves**, teachers' workshop with Misha Defonseca at R.I. Holocaust Memorial Museum, Providence, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 453-7860 to register.
- 31 **Students and staff** at Brown, Providence talk about religious values and public service, 9:15 p.m. Brown/RISD Hillel foundation sponsors discussion. Free and open to public. Call 863-2476.

## Family Israeli Dance Workshop

A Family Israeli Dance Workshop for parents, children and friends will be held on Nov. 2 from 1:30 to 3 p.m. The workshop is at the Leventhal-Sidman Jewish Community Center, 333 Nahantton St., Newton, Mass.

Designed for children ages 4 and up, the class teaches Israeli dancing in a relaxed and engaging manner. A refreshment break is included.

Taught by Pam Kessler, an experienced dancer and member of the professional troupe, Hamakor, the workshop is fun for the whole family!

The workshop is \$4 for individuals and \$12 for a family of three or more. Call (617) 558-6480 for registration and information.

## Israeli Composer Visits Brown

Gerald Shapiro, the chair of Brown's music department, will present Israeli composer Tzvi Avni to Brown University on Oct. 28 for a lecture and presentation.

Avni is one of the foremost composers of the so-called "second generation" of composers in Israel. He was born in Saarbrücken, Germany, and came to Israel as a child. In 1958 he graduated from the Israel Music Academy in Tel Aviv under Mordecai Seter and later furthered his studies in the U.S.A. at the Columbia Princeton Electronic Music Center with Vladimir Ussachevsky. Since 1971 he has been teaching at the Jerusalem Rubin Academy of Music and Dance where he holds the position of professor and head of the department of theory and composition as well as the electronic music studio.

His works include several orchestral pieces and chamber music for various combinations. He has also composed music for ballet, theater, art films, radio plays, etc.

Avni is a recipient of several prizes, including the ACUM Prize for his life achievements (1986) and the Kustermeier Prize awarded to him by the Germany-Israel Friendship Association.

Constantly active in Israel's public musical life, Avni served in the past as chairman of the Israel Composers' League. Until recently he was chairman of the music committee of the National Council for Culture and Art and in 1989 served as chairman of the jury of the Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Master Competition.

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East Side Prescription Center, Hope St.  
Rhoda's Judaica, Burlington St.

# JEWISH COMMUNITY

## Women's Study Group Says Judaism is Not Just For Men

by Emily Torgan-Shalansky  
Jewish Community Reporter

Some wore wigs, others wore blue jeans. Some were newly married, others had adult children. Some were raised religious, others became observant.

But the eight women who gathered at Valerie Shore's Providence home on Oct. 20 were there because they shared something — the desire to study their Judaism in the company of other women.

"The stereotype that Jewish study is only for men is false," explained Rabbi Joseph Szendro, rabbi of Providence's Orthodox Congregation Mishkon Tfiloh, and the weekly group's sole male and leader. "Traditionally, men have been the ones who studied Talmud, but Jewish women have to know a lot."

Greetings and giggles soon subsided as participants prepared to take notes.

This week's class, said Rabbi Szendro, would review the three basic categories of Jewish practice and focus on the lighting of Shabbat candles.

Soon, these three seemingly simple categories acquired a daunting complexity: *D'oraysa*, or an obligation set forth in the Torah that requires the closest observance; *D'Rabonon*, or rabbinic regulations that usually follow *D'oraysa* in terms of importance, and *Minhag*, the religious customs that require less vigorous adherence.

"The *D'Rabonon* were enacted to safeguard the Torah, but there are times when one of these rulings can override a Torah law," Rabbi Szendro explained. "For example, when Rosh Hashana falls on Shabbat, the Torah says that you should blow the shofar, but the *Rabonon* decided that when that happened, the dangers of transgressing would override the *mitzvah*."

Rabbinical rulings soon mingled with modernism as participants discussed the practice of lighting Shabbat candles.

"The law of lighting Shabbat candles is a rabbinic obligation," Rabbi Szendro began. "There are two basic philosophical notions for Shabbat candles. They are a way of honoring Shabbat, and they bring pleasure and enjoyment to Shabbat."

Rabbi Szendro said that according to rabbinic rulings, the candles were supposed to bring light to the house to prevent people from stumbling around in a way that would disrupt the peace of Shabbat.

"Today, there would be enough light in the house even without the candles," he said. "We have to continue to light because of the concept that we must do something to show that we are honoring Shabbat."

The room soon exploded into questions.

"Then wouldn't it be necessary to light them in every room?" asked Elissa Felder.

"No," said Rabbi Szendro, consulting his books. "You do not have to light them in every room, but all the rooms should be adequately lit."

"What if people think it's a burden that violates *Oneg*, the concept of pleasure on Shabbat?" asked Amy Strachman. "Do you still have to light them?"

"Yes," Rabbi Szendro said. "On the most basic level it's so you won't fall over things, but the whole idea is to benefit from the light."

The group explored and debated the complex combination of custom and law that regulates the kindling of Shabbat lights, and emerged with a number of facts.

Those who can only afford one candle may light just one candle rather than two.

There is no maximum number of Shabbat candles.

Women who are traveling should light two candles while they are on the road even if they usually light eight at home.

Both men and women are responsible for lighting the candles, but if a woman is married, it becomes her obligation.

Eventually, even the candles themselves were questioned.

"This says it's better to light olive oil, but I think the candle gives a nicer flame," Szendro said. "The majority opinion is that electric lights may be used for Shabbat as well, but there are thousands of years of Jewish customs behind the candles."

After the discussion drew to a close, some lingered to share their reasons for attending the weekly sessions.

Some preferred the female atmosphere.



RABBI JOSEPH SZENDRO, Ruchama Szendro and Chaya Silverman study the sacred texts.

Photo by Emily Torgan-Shalansky

"I feel better," admitted Felder. "I think women are a lot more comfortable sharing with each other than they would be if their husbands were here. I think the questions would be different too."

Hostess Valerie Shore said the women-only classes permitted women to focus on their areas of interest.

"Women's concerns are addressed here," Shore explained. "Women have different concerns than men do. A men's group wouldn't be as interested in candles, and I wouldn't be as interested in *tefillin*."

Others pointed to the group's stimulating atmosphere.

"This is very interesting to me," said Strachman, a mother of three who was raised Conservative. "I'm a lawyer, and what we learned tonight is as technical as case law. It's truly intricate. I consider myself a committed Jew, and in order to practice properly, you need to learn."

Rabbi Szendro, who has been teaching women's classes for decades, lamented stereotypes and media images that have convinced many that Jewish women are barred from Jewish knowledge.

Shaking his head at the notion of Barbra Streisand's film "Yentl," in which the main character must pass herself off as a man to gain access to the Holy books, he spoke about the Golde character in "Fiddler on the Roof."

In the internationally acclaimed drama, the nagging Golde's main religious obligation is to maintain a proper kosher home so that her husband may study.

"That made a mockery of traditional Judaism," said Rabbi Szendro, who then explained some of the historical facts and

religious laws that have contributed to the notion that observant women are not encouraged to pursue Judaic studies or to develop their spiritual selves.

"It is a reality that study of the Talmud has been more the realm of men than women," explained the rabbi. "Studying Talmud requires energy and effort, and since women were so preoccupied with the home and family it wasn't feasible for them to do it."

Also, said Rabbi Szendro, men are religiously obligated to study Torah, while women are

(Continued on Page 15)

## TRUNK SHOW

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# OPINION

## Apologies and Anti-Semitism

To the Editor:

Recently there appeared an item in a local newspaper to the effect that "the Red Cross regrets silence on Holocaust." Their activities with regard to the Holocaust are sensed as a moral failure in keeping silent when 6 million Jews were murdered.

Among other declarations made known, documents indicated that they discounted the report of the mass murder of Jewish prisoners which took place at Lublin, Poland in 1940. The statement of this true tragic event was labeled by them as "completely unfounded." That they did nothing to aid the victims during this entire horrible period is not surprising, as the Red Cross has always been tinged with a degree of anti-Semitism.

This organization consistently refuses to go into Israel, not in times of war — attest Desert Storm — nor at any other time of basic tragedy and need for help. There is no hesitation on the part of the Red Cross to go into any other country in this world at the time of need. It is obvious they do not wish to alienate certain well-known nations.

Very sadly, they are joined by others. President Franklin

Roosevelt and his top advisors, who during World War II refused to bomb the railroads leading to Belsen and to Auschwitz, which probably would have saved thousands of Jewish lives. Winston Churchill and his cohorts in Great Britain followed the same pattern.

And then, of course, there was France, the country who shipped some 72,000 Jews to concentration camps. At the time that country surrendered to the Germans with pronounced humiliation — had the Nazis been wiser and more compassionate in their occupation of France, they would have been treated as heroic liberators instead of as conquerors.

We Jewish soldiers who were fortunate enough to obtain a pass to visit Paris after its "liberation" were astounded and somewhat horrified at the blatant anti-Semitism in that country, possibly going back to pre-Dreyfus days.

In addition, at this time, the French officials "have made little secret of their contempt for American legislation that threatens sanctions against this nation, that has invested \$2 billion to finance a nuclear buildup in Iran, so that Israel may be within bombing range of that country."

Our own wonderful Golda Meir, the former prime minister of Israel, once said, "There are two types of people in this world — Jews — and those who would stuff all Jews into the gas ovens." It is tragically obvious that there is a great deal of truth in that statement.

Harry Kolodney  
Pawtucket, R.I.

## Releasing Terrorists Is No Way to Fight Terrorism

To the Editor:

The Clinton administration's pressure on Israel to release Hamas terrorists and provide the antidote for the poisoned Hamas leader in Jordan contradicts President Clinton's repeated promises to fight against terrorism.

According to Americans for a Safe Israel chairman Herbert Zweibon, "At the Sharm el-Sheikh Summit in 1995, President Clinton pledged to lead the international fight against terrorism. Instead, he has repeatedly undermined that fight. The Clinton administration has sought to evade sanctions on Syria, a sponsor of terrorism.

Clinton and his state department have defended and given \$100 million annually to Yassir Arafat, despite Arafat's collaboration with Hamas and the involvement of Arafat's own police in terrorist attacks. And now the administration has intervened to save the life of a Hamas leader in Jordan and has pressured Israel to release other Hamas killers."

Zweibon said that, "Clinton has legitimized the notion that it is perfectly reasonable for King Hussein to demand the release of Hamas killers such as Sheikh Yassin." The president should have "made it clear to Jordan that the United States expects recipients of U.S. aid, like Jordan, to

fight against terrorists, not fight for the freedom of terrorists.

"President Clinton should be demanding that King Hussein expel Hamas from Jordan," the AFSI chairman said. "The President should be praising Israel for attempting to eliminate a terrorist leader. And he should have urged Israel to refuse Hussein's demand for the freeing of other terrorists. The United States must set the moral example for the rest of the world: no compromise with terrorists, ever."

Americans For a Safe Israel,  
1623 Third Ave., Suite 205,  
New York, N.Y. 10128

## The Zionist Elections — Pride or Parody?

by Mandell I. Ganchrow, M.D.

The headlines triumphed a Reform/Conservative victory in the Zionist elections. Indeed, a superficial reading of the results indicates that 48 percent of all registrants (identified as Reform) and 26 percent of all registrants (identified as Conservative) did vote for their respective slates. Now Reform and Conservative leaders are claiming that these results indicate a push for pluralism. But is that really the message? Couldn't the headlines just as easily have read, "Five million American

Jews proclaim pluralism a non-issue?" or "Reform fall short of projected 1 million disgruntled voters?"

Last month, 80,000 Orthodox Jews gathered at various locations throughout the United States to participate in the *Siyum Hashas*. Had these Jews chosen to register and vote, their bloc would have yielded more votes than the Reform and Conservative states combined. The agenda of the 80,000, plus spouses and adult children, many of whom were not present, just does not include pluralism.

On the contrary, theirs is a unanimous vote for a 3,500-year-old Torah tradition. So why should the media assume that the 75,000 Reform and Conservative voters, who signed up as the result of an expensive voter registration campaign that included the hiring of a professional electoral consultant, represent the future of the Jewish people more than the 80,000 who sat and studied the Talmud but who did not register to vote?

In its coverage, the *New York Times* pointed out that out of (Continued on Page 15)

## Is It True? Not Yet

by Richard Jacobs

Our biblical story of creation is stirring, and poetic, but is it true? If we want to know about the creation of the universe, we are not likely to open the Hebrew Bible; instead, we would probably look to science. In plain language, the scientific versions are factual; the biblical account is not.

In 1925, John Thomas Scopes was arrested for teaching the theory of evolution in Dayton, Tenn. William Jennings Bryan led the attack, claiming that the Bible was the true teaching about the creation.

A couple of years ago, a neighborhood science teacher asked if I believed that the Genesis account of creation was true? I answered, yes. Great, he said. Would I like to speak to his class about my understanding of creation? This modern-day John Scopes thought he was inviting a modern-day William Jennings Bryan to reenact the classic duel.

However, I told the class that while I believed the Genesis account of creation to be true, I also believed the scientific theory of evolution to be true. My response was greeted by puzzlement on the part of 25 eighth-graders and disappointment on the part of their teacher. I went on to explain that science is one of humanity's great truth traditions, and religion is another. The two have threatened

each other since well before the theories of Charles Darwin were formulated. But they needn't be engaged in such a heated rivalry because their goals are so different.

Science can help us understand how the world was created, but it can't tell us why it was created. And religion has no business telling us how the world was created, but we desperately need it to help us understand why we're here.

Genesis doesn't discuss the survival of the fittest, but, as you well know, the Darwin's scientific creation story does.

universe of harmony, balance, and beauty, formed from soupy chaos, *tohu vavohu*. It is the most profound story we know, and it reminds us why we are here. It sets forth our work, and our challenge. But is the story true?

Regrettably I must admit that the story is not true, or at least not yet. When will it be true? When we accept our responsibility as G-d's partners in creating the world described in Genesis.

In that book, we read 469 measured words about G-d's creation of a harmonious, ordered, and interdependent universe.

Can those words literally remake our world? Can any words have that much power?

In only 272 words, Lincoln's Gettysburg Address broadened the scope of the Civil War by

stating the larger philosophical declaration that "all men are created equal." Not everyone — Northerner or Southerner, black or white — believed that "proposition" to be true.

Speaking for only three minutes that day, Lincoln "revolutionized" the revolution, giving people a new way to view the past that would change their future irrevocably.

So what makes us think that our quaint, poetic creation story is untrue? Only our lack of imagination and commitment.

Richard Jacobs is senior rabbi at Westchester Reform Temple, Scarsdale, New York.

### HAVE AN OPINION?

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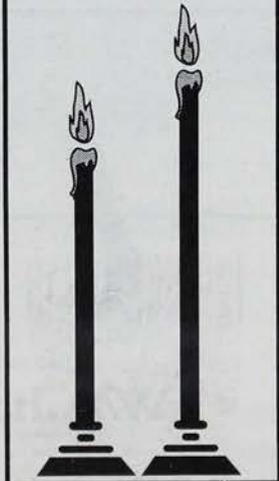
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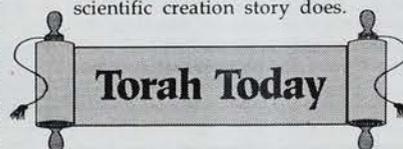
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Candlelighting  
October 24, 1997  
5:33 p.m.



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



Torah Today

That story's operative principle of the survival of the fittest became known as Social Darwinism, which taught that only the truly gifted deserve to survive. It is unfortunate that this teaching has become an axiom of modern life.

In contrast, our Jewish tradition has always taught that we are responsible for the survival of the least fit: the orphan, the poor, the lonely, and the stranger, to name just a few. And in Genesis 1:27 we are told that every single human being is divinely gifted and deserving of dignity.

The opening of Genesis tells about the creation by G-d of a

# Another Seven Year Itch

by Mike Fink

Herald Contributing Reporter

Every seven years we get one semester off. My sabbatical starts with the first candle of Chanukah. Our academic tradition goes back to the Bible, and to its agricultural roots. Land must lie fallow to recover from overuse. So must we, who work and study, rest and renew our inner resources. Years know more than days.

In our fastpaced and stressful times, where should we go, in search of what goals? Some of my colleagues spend the whole time abroad, steeping themselves in another culture and climate. Of late, I seem to fill up on just brief visits. I thought of investing the time in sorting out my papers and my spaces. And then, making my way to a small utopia somewhere upon the map or globe. As a try-out, I spent a recent, big Shabbat traveling from one shul to another, right here on the East Side. Shyly, I did not step inside. At Mishkon Tfiloh I could make out the backs of the standing davenners, draped in long wing-like angelic tallisim, chanting with soothing fervor. It really was a lovely, pure sight and sound, the essence of devotion, compelling and calming. An Orthodox convert kindly offers me his tallis to fit in, join in, come in. But I move along a few blocks.

A similar sense of sacred space hovers upstairs at Beth Sholom, round the corner and downhill. Somehow the '50s tentative structures only add to the charm and poetry of a vigorous Shabbat. Isn't our sabbath called an architecture of time not space?

Emanu-El holds onto its '20s '30s deco dignity of design, deeply familiar to me from both long ago and recently. My R.I.S.D. student, James Wynn, shows up in a sweater, without a yarmulka or tallis, and joins me in the balcony. He is choosing an undergraduate bar mitzvah: It pleases me to greet him out of the usual classroom context. And then, a convert from Martinique, who speaks French to me, brings the grace of her smile and the courtesy of her

greeting to the value of Shabbat.

Beth-El stretches out with the artistic pride and poise of its original concept of opening wide its doors, windows and entrance hall to the free American world. Only one thing mars the beauty of Shabbat, of the idea of the week's sabbatical from effort and routine. Jews don't like each other much anymore. If they ever did. The jokes tell us, Jews always quarreled with each other. I wouldn't be caught dead in that synagogue. Judaism is the noblest religion, but that Jew? A goniff! One tribe wars against another, like brothers and sisters in Torah.

Maybe our infighting strengthens us, sharpening our survivor skills. We're still here, after all, some of us at least.

Or maybe it scars the face of our people. Some of us put down the Orthodox. They're too proud. Others look down on the Chassids. They strike us as strange, too full of zest. Then those who practice the rituals and mitzvot poke fun at the ones who have translated the rules into other shapes. The cryptos who kept their faith alive in secret by tilting the holidays askew. Or the assimilationists who separated church and state and made America Jewish, as they saw it. One of our commandments tells us to honor our mothers and fathers—not a clear statement, but a guideline at least.

But some of us were raised in houses where kashrut was kept, or not. Where you had a succah, or you didn't. You lit the candles, or you ate out. You copy the style of your childhood, softly making some changes, upward or downward in strictness. Who can judge your range?

We think we beat a path or lay down stepping stones, where in fact you trod a trail your parents put down before you, going back to other lands and prior times. Jews have never been a uniform lot. I hate to hear the loshen hora of Jewish leaders condemning other Jewish leaders. Let the Orthodox crit the Orthodox, the Conservative their fellow Conservatives, the Reform the reformed, the Reconstructionists their own

constructions, the unaffiliated the status of being unaffiliated. It's just too easy to use the pulpit or the desk to lay the blame for discord upon somebody else.

As for me, I glimpse my maker, my author, on my own, where others might not follow. A cat left a pretty grey mouse on my sidewalk. I stared down at the delicate beauty of its form. From Kafka to Spiegelman, always a Jewish wee beastie. I grew up in a time when trees and birds held secrets that seemed spiritual to me. I don't know why the Creator pitted one of his creatures against another, but I feel that mysteries in nature connect to our prayers for rain in due season.

For me the Hebrew heritage can be found not only within the community and its collective walls, but in the privacy of my own books and chairs. Bible tales gripped and upset me as a boy. Isaac in the hands of his father. Jacob clinging to his mother, or alone with his dream. Moses struggling with his visions. Joseph attacked by a band of his own brothers. No, Jews have never offered a sentimental or comforting vision. Torah tales go wild with Ezekiel's hallucinations, David's obsessions, Job's ordeals, whirlwinds way beyond easy logic.

But we have borrowed from this nation and its commercial spirit a conformist picture of ourselves. We want to get along with our neighbors, so we cut off our noses, we chop down our names, we hack away at our codes and symbols, joining in the giant throwaway which has become our way of life in this country.

Maybe there aren't so many Jews in the world, and perhaps there never will be a great population of prophets and angels. But each of us creates Judaism within our hearts and hearths, according to a personal plan of our own. Your Shabbat, your Sabbath, your moments of leisurely pleasure, thought, and choice build your stately mansion, your Ark, your bima. I still don't know what winter and spring will bring, but it's a privilege to live and work and have a season free from harrowing and plowing.

## Home On The Range

by Mike Fink  
Herald Contributing Reporter



Abe Martinez brought his 4-year-old son Eliezar on an October afternoon to our yard. Abe spent this perfect, sunny fall day setting up succoth in and around town, as a mitzvah. Was I glad to see them!

My succah design is a bit complicated. It poses special problems. Our deck doors open outward to a small deck and garden. So the sacred hut has to use doors that open inward, to avoid slamming and knocking. The ideal would combine light weight and easy fit. Mine, alas, is heavy to lug and hard to figure out.

But it's formed from the original timbers that hold the house in place—extra boards I found in cellar and attic corners. And, for roof decor, my wife gathered hydrangea boughs from our summer cottage. She has a thing about the blossoms that subtly turn silver and gold in the thinning rays of autumn, softly reflecting all four seasons like a symphony. She clipped and trimmed the bushes, stuffed the branches in the rear of her wagon. That part follows later.

Eliezar—I think we called him Elias for short, in French—pitched in to help. But those 2-by-4's could fall and hurt him! I supply a juice-box to keep him happy and busy. The truth is, his comments added charm and class to the tough proceedings. He took note of all the details left like palimpsest on the wall panels, such things as scribbles, graffiti, labels and stamps, or plastic fruit tied in gaudy bunches. The remnants of yesteryear.

The hardest part is getting those swinging doors to stand free. Then, we have a western, pioneer saloon looming with attitude on our property. Abe, a fine craftsman and artist with care and pride, folds his arms and looks on with admiration. "It's a fine job," he says cheerfully, even after a long day's journey around the East Side.

Abe and Eliezar both maintain kashrut with equal flair and style. The little one wears tsitsith and a kippah and goes over the fine points of keeping the rules, while the devoted daddy with his grizzled beard and glinting spectacles adds an air of benevolent authority. He asks for a "marteau," which is French for a hammer, to bang in the rusty screws, which need straightening. Then, you search for the nuts and bolts, which may fall through the cracks in the slats and serve to add iron to the soil. We speak French together, because Abe prefers it to Spanish or Portuguese, or even English. Benny's has an infinite store of tools and links, but once again, we can do without, for yet another Succoth.

Sometimes I feel the physical world resists my best efforts: only words yield to my will. I get fed up easily with big puzzles. But there it rises

against a gorgeous red sunset. The purple, orange, yellow and white booth glows in the light, propped up a bit drunkenly and uncertainly, but there just the same under the sky and among the Roses of Sharon. It carries itself with dignity and panache, a whimsical concept by my niece Amy, daughter of an architect and new mother of Julia Rachel Levine of Minnesota. This shell from her years as an art teacher remains on the beachhead of Providence.

Next fall my own youngest will have passed the landmark of his bar mitzvah. It is the last time the toy dwelling will serve in part as a childhood toy. It's a sort of big-little project.

Succoth has been one of my very favorite Jewish holidays. It demands a Jewish garden. You search in the clouds overhead or the burning red leaves of the bushes, wild and tame, that have taken over the earth around the deck or porch. It's a miniature temple. When I was a boy, it was the bird and the tree which brought me to the realms of the divine. Succoth belongs to my personal space.

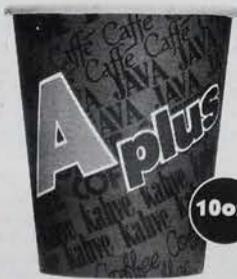
Abe Martinez said something vaguely Churchillian to me. "Give me the tools, and I will finish your job!" And his fine boy Eliezar made a strange and moving request as they packed up and settled into the crammed little work-car upon my cobbled driveway. "Will you stand on your sidewalk and wave at me as I go away?" Which I did most gratefully and gladly. I've been collecting what I call angels lately, people who come along and do really nice things to rescue you, or me, or someone. Abe and Eli dropped by and voila, I have four walls and a roof of pine and hydrangea to make the most of these lovely thankful twilights. Now, whoever stops by can step on in and bless us with a visit, including the ghosts and spirits of our noble ancestors, personal, collective and on the block.

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# THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

## Cranston-Warwick Special Gifts Luncheon

The Cranston-Warwick group of Rhode Island Hadassah will hold its 11th annual Special Gifts Donor Luncheon on Nov. 2. The luncheon will be held at noon at the Squantum Club in East Providence. It will celebrate the 85th anniversary of the founding of Hadassah.

Entertainment will be provided by Cantor Robert Lieberman. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Hadassah Medical Organization. Committee members include Helen Abrams, Betty Adler, Dorothy Dickens, Norma Friedman, Marian Goldstein, Arlene Lubber, Dorothy Kramer, Ruth Ross, Frances Sadler, Shirley Schreiber, Ruth Siperstein, Evelyn Wasser and Shirley Zier.



From left, Shirley Zier, Ruth Siperstein and Evelyn Wasser.  
Photo courtesy of Ruth Ross

## Healthy Kids, Healthy Parents

The Early Childhood Committee of the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island will host the first of its all-new Parent Education Series on Oct. 29 at 7:30 p.m. The series, which is entirely free and open to the public, offers parents and the JCCRI community an opportunity to share, learn, and meet the specialists.

The first program will focus on pediatric health issues and the JCCRI is honored to host three prestigious speakers, all of whom are generously donating their time as a community service. The guest speakers are:

- Dr. Seth Feder, a board-certified pediatric and adult dermatologist with an established private practice in Cranston. A New York City native, Feder is also an assistant professor at Brown University and a father of two children, ages 4 months and 8 years.

- Dr. Steven Lasser, a pediatric dentist trained at University of Pennsylvania Dental School and Harvard University's pediatric dentistry program, has been in Rhode Island for 21 years. He has established private practices in Cranston and Providence.

- Dr. John Zwetckhenbaum, a board-certified allergist specializing in allergies, asthma, and immunology. Zwetckhenbaum's private practice, Clinics of Rhode Island, Ltd., has offices in Warren, Lincoln, and Providence.

The public is invited to bring their friends and their questions. The JCCRI's Early Childhood Committee is very enthusiastic about this new series. Refreshments will be served.

For more information, call Eva Silver, director of the JCCRI's Early Childhood Department at 453-1420.

## Temple Beth-El Offers Adult Education Classes

The Adult Enrichment Committee at Temple Beth-El in Providence announced its fall program. Most of the classes will meet on Wednesday evenings, beginning on Oct. 29 for six weeks, until Dec. 10. The classes are open to the entire community. You don't need any special skills and knowledge to take these courses — just an interest. There is something for everyone — Hebrew, Yiddish, current events, art, music, and history. There is also a 26-week Introduction to Judaism course, a yearlong Adult B'nai Mitzvah class, and Yad B'Yad, an individual mentoring program for Jewish learning.

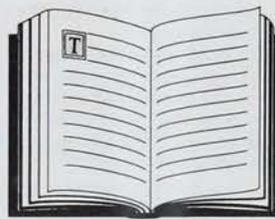
Are you interested in joining a group of people to discuss books of Jewish interest? Adult Enrichment will launch its new book club on Oct. 29 at 5:30 p.m. The group will choose the books they wish to read with the help of Adult Enrichment Committee members Rochelle Rosen, Pat Cohen and Marion Goldsmith and will meet about once every 3 to 4 weeks. This course is free of charge.

Have you ever wanted to learn Hebrew? Two Hebrew classes will be offered this fall: one for those who don't know Hebrew or can recognize only some Hebrew letters and a class for those who know the Hebrew alphabet and want to improve their reading proficiency. Don't know which class you belong in? Don't worry, instructors will help you decide the first night of class. Excellent instructors, Helen Salzberg and Stanley Freedman, specialize in teaching Hebrew to adults and are particularly good in teaching adults who have "Hebrew Phobia" and think that they "just can't learn Hebrew." The Hebrew classes will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Are you interested in learning more about current and past events and how they might af-

fect the future of Israel? Yehuda Lev, a former news correspondent in Israel, will lead what promises to be very lively discussion on the contemporary history and the prospects for the future of the State of Israel as it celebrates its 50th anniversary. Meets from 8:15 to 9:15 p.m.

Do you love music? Norman Jagolinzer is back by popular demand to continue his survey of classical music with a Jewish connection. Sit back, relax, and listen to wonderful music and learn a lot of interesting things about the music in the process. Meets from 7 to 8 p.m.



Have you always wanted to learn and understand some common Yiddish expressions? Join Varda Steiglitz for Your Bubbe's Yiddish. Participants should be able to recognize the Hebrew letters. Meets from 7 to 8 p.m.

For the first time a course on the Jews of Italy will be offered and led by Dr. Bruno Bornstein. Bornstein has recently returned from a trip to Italy as part of his studies of the Jewish heritage in Italy. This course will discuss the Jewish contributions to the Renaissance, literature and science. Meets from 8:15 to 9:15 p.m.

For those curious about the Synagogue 2000 project in which Temple Beth-El is a participant, you are invited to participate in the course, G-d and Prayer, led by Synagogue 2000 team members Lynn Flanzbaum and David Joseph. The course will focus on

discussions about the meaning of G-d and prayer in relationship to both the individual and the Jewish community. Meets from 8:15 to 9:15 p.m.

For those interested in learning more about their Jewish roots or those considering conversion, Rabbi Cahana will lead a 26-week introduction to Judaism course. The course will survey Jewish practices, lifestyle events and other aspects of Judaism. Contact Rabbi Cahana for further information about his course at 331-6070.

Have you missed the opportunity to become a bar or bat mitzvah, or do you think you just didn't appreciate the experience as much as you could? Cantor Ida Rae Cahana will lead a group of adults in study in preparation to become b'nai mitzvah.

Also new this year is the Enrichment Cafe. A buffet dinner will be served each evening at 5:30 p.m. before classes start during the fall and spring semester. For the price of a nominal meal, you will be freed from having to make the mad rush home to grab a quick bite on the run and rush to class. Instead, come directly to the temple after your busy day and relax over a meal while you discuss some topic of interest from your class, share a bit of news, or just get to know some people who you might not have met before. Reserve your meal by noon on the Monday prior to the date you will be coming.

To register or for further details on these courses, call Temple Beth-El at 331-6070, or any of the members of the Adult Enrichment committee: Doug Blake, Rabbi Michael Cahana, Pat Cohen, Dorothy Fishbein, Carol Garber, Marion and Jim Goldsmith, Herbert Iventash, Rochelle Rosen, Helen Salzberg, Lola Schwartz, and Trudee Trudell.

## Attention Camp Eisner Alumni!

This summer the Joseph Eisner Camp Institute for Living Judaism of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, located in Great Barrington, Mass., will be celebrating its 40th anniversary with a huge festival at the camp June 13 and 14, 1998. Eisner Camp has been the summer home for Reform Jewish youth since 1958. The weekend promises to be

exciting as it will include various activities such as song sessions, music performances, multi-media retrospectives, and various alumni reunions and sporting events. Throughout the weekend the camp grounds will open for use as well as reminiscing. A highlight of the weekend will be a special ceremony in which all married couples who met at Eisner will be invited to

renew their vows under the chuppah at camp.

If you have in any way been connected to Eisner and wish to attend this special reunion, contact Eisner Camp. The camp's winter phone number is (212) 650-4130. The camp can be reached through E-mail at Eisnerguy@aol.com. The mailing address of the camp is 838 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10021.

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# THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

## Celebrating Sukkot Under The Stars

by Tara V. Lisciandro  
Herald Editor

For the past five years Temple Habonim in Barrington has been celebrating Sukkot in a special way. After the sukkah is complete approximately 30 families gather during the cool evening hours; they lay blankets on the crisp green grass and open baskets, boxes and bags filled with meals. Children run, play ball, perform cartwheels and take some time to sit with their families and friends to eat, then they begin to play once again. Parents and members of Temple Habonim chat with one another, share their tasty dishes, make hot chocolate with marshmallows for their busy little tikes and sit quietly on their blankets discussing the evening's upcoming events.

Children were also busy running in and around the beautifully decorated sukkah. Golden corn husks, hay, bright orange pumpkins, gourds, colorful Indian corn, fresh flowers, thick vines and green grapes covered Temple Habonim's sukkah. "It's decorated so colorfully and it's so pretty," said seventh-grader Lauren Berkobitz as she stared at the temple's sukkah. After a busy evening and a filling meal, children sat with crayons and markers to create colorful drawings which would then be added to the sukkah's fine decor.

"I like the eating part and seeing the moon," said Melyssa Leibowitz as she gazed up into the night sky from her cozy blanket. Meanwhile, on a nearby white bedspread, 12-year-old David and 8-year-old Adam

Foster enjoyed quickly eating their hearty sandwiches and then "playing a good game of football."

Ellen Loeb, third-grade teacher at Temple Habonim Sunday School, said, "It's a great gathering for the kids, it's fun and different." Judith Stokes, a member for five years, agrees, "This is a good family occasion, especially for the kids." Her two daughters, 10-year-old Martha and 8-year-old Emily Boksenbaum, nod their heads as they snack on pizza and salad. "We learn about being together as a community," added Berkobitz as she and her family awaited services to begin.

The children have come prepared for the evening. They have just learned about Sukkot at Sunday school. "Sukkot is about harvesting, like our ancestors did years ago, and enjoying the fruits, vegetables and flowers that they grew," stated Martha Boksenbaum.

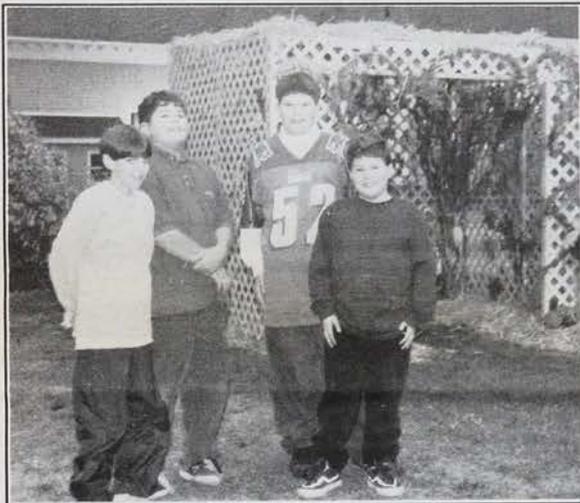
Meanwhile other children are learning to prepare for their bar/bat mitzvahs at Sunday school. "This is a very important year for us," said Jonathan Weinstein, a seventh-grader. Rabbi James Rosenberg leads services and teaches at the school as well. "He does everything so pleasantly and he's funny," said Berkobitz and Weinstein, who are both preparing for their bar/bat mitzvah.

Finally it was time for services to begin. "Sukkot is a very



PARENTS AND FRIENDS gather with picnic baskets under a starry sky in front of Temple Habonim's beautiful sukkah.

Herald photo by Tara V. Lisciandro



ADAM AND DAVID Foster, Jonathan Weinstein and a visiting friend prepare for the evening's events at Temple Habonim's sukkah.

Herald photo by Tara V. Lisciandro

## Attention Readers & Advertisers!

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# THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

## Jewish Family Service Installs Officers, Honors Families of the Year

More than 200 people attended Jewish Family Service's 68th annual meeting held at the Roger Williams Park Casino on Sept. 24. Community members honored three families chosen as JFS "Families of the Year," and witnessed the installation of a new president and board. From left, assistant treasurer, Robert Gessman; outgoing president, Richard Kaplan; secretary, Lola Schwartz; newly installed president, Jerrold Dorfman; vice president, Samuel Zurier; executive director, Paul L. Segal. Also installed but not pictured: Treasurer, Michele Lederberg. Rabbi Wayne Franklin served as the installing officer.



## B'nai B'rith Installs New England Region

Harold Fienberg of Sharon, Mass., first president of the New England Region of B'nai B'rith International, has called the organization's formal installation to a breakfast meeting, Nov. 2 at 10 a.m. at the Matross Covenant House, 30 Washington St. in Brighton, Mass.

He and the other line officers and directors will be installed along with regional program and committee chairmen and women. Deborah Lakin of Newton, Mass., a member of Sports Lodge, and Steven Handler of West Roxbury and N.E. Realty Unit, are the executive and fi-

nancial vice presidents, and Ben Summers of Scituate and Realty Unit is the communications vice president.

Other members, new and existing, from the North Shore, Worcester County, Greater Boston and Rhode Island will also take their oaths.

In addition to a brief discussion of the revamping of the structure of BBI, a representative of the Israel consulate general's New England office has been invited to present the latest official news from Israel.

For reservations, call (617) 731-5290.

## Chabad House Celebrates Simchat Torah

The Chabad House of Providence will host a Simchat Torah extended Hakofot celebration on Oct. 23 from 6:30 to 1 a.m.

All synagogues in town are invited for a blast of Simcha throughout the night.

The evening's events and gourmet midnight buffet are complimentary.

Join in the Simchat Torah celebration at the Chabad House, 360 Hope St., Providence. For more information, call 273-7238.

## JWV of New Bedford Celebrate 61st Anniversary

The Jewish War Veterans of the New Bedford Post 154 and Fall River Post & Auxiliary 168 present a special evening at Venus de Milo, Swansea, Mass., Nov. 4, celebrating the 61st anniversary of the New Bedford Post.

The dinner dance is chaired by Dr. Arthur Weisman and Harry Leibowitz. Committee members are Stanley Revzin, David Salk, Elliott Feinstein, Leonard Perler, Arnold Lasson and Dr. Myer Halpren, commander.

Social hour begins at 6:30 p.m. and dinner will be served at 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$24 per person. Make your reservations early as seating is limited to members and their spouses, or friends, only. R.S.V.P. to JWV, P.O. Box 5422, New Bedford, Mass. 02742-5422.

## Temple Shalom Begins Fall Adult Education Program

Temple Shalom, the Conservative Congregation of Newport County, announces their Adult Education program for the fall semester. Commencing on Oct. 29, the following courses will be offered:

**Beginner's Hebrew** — Barbara Jagolinzer, instructor. Come learn and master the Hebrew alphabet and vowels. Put them together and begin reading in just four short weeks. Wednesday evenings, Oct. 29, Nov. 5, 12, 19 at 7:15 to 8 p.m.

**G-d Sharing** — Rabbi Marc S. Jagolinzer instructor. How often do we humans fail to discuss G-d and His/Her presence in our lives? We will begin to probe such questions as Where does G-d come from? Why does G-d permit evil? Where do people go when they die? How do I know that there is a G-d? For what can I pray? Wednesday evenings, Oct. 29, Nov. 5, 12, 19 at 7:15 to 8 p.m.

## Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah Group

For men and women of all ages who did not have the opportunity as youths to celebrate a bar/bat mitzvah, enroll in the Temple Shalom Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah Class. Following a comprehensive and enjoyable two-year course, participants will become bar/bat mitzvah at Shavuot services in 1999. In addition to classes, "hands on" experiences will also be scheduled to expand and intensify the learning experience for all those enrolled. Topics to be covered: Hebrew language, sources of Jewish study, Shabbat, ritual and prayer, home and kashrut, life cycle, calendar cycle and all major and minor holidays and holidays. Wednesday evenings, commencing Oct. 29 at 8 to 9 p.m.

Cost: \$15 for Temple members/\$20 for non-members. Contact Rabbi Marc S. Jagolinzer at 846-9002 for more information.



## Sukkos on the Range

Children and adults recently enjoyed a giant Sukkot celebration at the Chabad House in Providence. Sappy the Old Cowpoke (Fishel Bresler) made children laugh, sing and dance. He even taught them how to play the spoons and dress up like cowboys. Meanwhile parents enjoyed refreshments and a cookout.

Herald photo by Tara V. Liscianaro

## Spend a Day at the Casino

Bagel Boy Productions, Ltd. presents a day at Mohegan Sun Casino for interested Jewish adults in their 20s and 30s on

Nov. 9. Ticket prices include transportation, a \$10 free bet and a \$10 food voucher. The cost of the trip is \$32 if you register by Nov. 1, and \$42 after Nov. 5. Buses will leave Cleveland Circle in Brookline, Mass., at 1 p.m. and return at 11 p.m.

Dubbed "the meeting ground for the Jewish 25-30something," Bagel Boy Productions is a new Jewish social organization that seeks to provide a comfortable and fun atmosphere for young adults to meet and interact.

Bagel Boy will also be holding a New Year's Eve Bash at the Holiday Inn in Brookline.

Mail all ticket requests to Bagel Boy Productions, Ltd., P.O. Box 1846, Brookline, MA 02146. For more information on Bagel Boy Productions, call Scott, (508) 675-5005 or Eydie (617) 247-2896.

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# My Travel Adventures in Israel

by Jenny Vogel

Jenny Vogel is currently a graduate student of social work at Boston University.

When most students graduate from college in May they decide that they need time to relax and enjoy the summer at the beach, backpacking around Europe, or getting a summer job, so that they can start saving for the next part of their lives. All those are great, but I decided that I wanted to go down a different path this summer, the path to a little town in Israel. I had been to Israel two years ago and did the typical "Jewish Hot Spot Tour," and loved it. This time I wanted to see a different side of Israel that I had never seen before. Through an advertisement in a local paper, I found a program called Partnership 2000 that was looking for volunteers to teach English in a small community in North-Central Israel. That was just what I wanted!

Partnership 2000 is a program that links overseas communities with regions in Israel. One of the main interests of this program is to form a people-to-people "Living Bridge" between the two countries. Rhode Island and Connecticut and the rest of Southern New England were paired with the Afula-Gilboa region in Israel. The Afula region lies east of the Jezreel Valley, where the center of the country meets the Galilee. The area is characterized with a variety of settlements — urban Afula, eight kibbutzim, one cooperative moshav, 14 moshavim, one community village, and five Arab towns. There are many different programs that Partnership 2000 offers, but the one that I took part in was the Kefiada, English Speaking Summer Camp.

The following is a little peek down the path that I chose to explore for six weeks.

I arrived at 10 p.m. Israeli time, on Shabbat, to a kibbutz that seemed to be in the middle of nowhere. All I could see was darkness and a group of little apartment-type buildings, one of which was where I would be staying. I did not know where to go or what to do, except look for the three other Americans that had already arrived to the

kibbutz. I was all alone. After walking around I finally found them celebrating Shabbat at a roof party with some of the kibbutz members. This definitely made me feel better. Then some of the members came up to me and sat down and said, in English, "Welcome, you must be the fourth American that we have been hearing about. Come sit and relax!" From that point on I knew that everything was going to be okay!

In the morning when I woke up and looked outside to see where I was, I could not believe my eyes! I was on the top of a hill overlooking the most magnificent landscape! To the right of my room I was able to see the town of Afula, and the neighboring moshavim. Straight in front of me was Mount HaMoreh, which is mentioned in the *Tanach*, and to the left was the neighboring town of Bet She'en and Gilboa Mountain. All around were fields that seemed to stretch for miles! I was not used to this after living in Boston for the past four years.

I learned that the people of Israel are very special and compassionate. This is something that cannot always be seen on a tour. The members of the kibbutz made my stay more enjoyable by showing me how life on a kibbutz works. Kibbutz Yisrael is populated with Diaspora Jews from South Africa, Australia, and Israel, as well as some members from Europe. I was assigned a kibbutz family, which was my family away from home. They welcomed me into

their home for dinner which was prepared fresh from their garden, invited me to spend Shabbat with their family, and made sure that things went smoothly for me. I also became very close with the director of our camp. She also took care of

Each of them had three and four years of English.

The kids were incredible! Most of them really wanted to learn English and tried very hard. The program was designed for the children to learn English in an interesting and



JENNY VOGEL and her English Speaking camp. Campers range from age 11 to 14.

Photo courtesy of BJE

the needs that only a "mom" could take care of.

The most important part of the trip was the kids that I taught and worked with. The camp started at 8:15 a.m. and finished at 12:45 p.m. There were 63 children who attended the camp, ranging in ages from 9 to 14. The children were split into four groups, depending on age and years of English that they had studied. I had the oldest group of students, ages 11 through 14.

creative way. As their "madrachim," or counselors, we were responsible to plan the schedule for the three weeks. We designed both educational and entertainment programs. The one that stands out the most in my mind was the day that we taught the children about the United States. We simulated a trip to the airport, the ticket counter, through passport control and on to the plane to America. Then when they ar-

rived in America, they picked up their luggage and learned, through filling in a U.S. map, where each of the states are. One of the ways that the children recognized the states was to connect the state/city with popular television shows or sports teams. They also asked questions about where I lived and I was able to show, through maps and other visuals, about my hometown and state. They all seemed to really enjoy the day.

Each week we tried to have an active day where the children were able to run around, or go on a field trip. These activities ranged from hiking in a river in the Golan, to a water park in Metulla, to a mini-Maccabiah day right at the camp. The kids also went to the community center pool every other day, which was a treat for all!

\*\*\*

Overall, participating in the partnership 2000 program lead to an interesting adventure. This experience taught me that there is more to see in Israel than the religious places and sights. The people in the small communities have just as much to offer, it not more! I would recommend this trip to anyone who wants to see another amazing side of Israel, and meet the people who live there.

For information on this program, or any other Israel study/travel program for high schoolers, or related information, contact Ruth Page, Israel Desk Director at the Bureau of Jewish Education of R.I. at 331-0956, ext. 181.

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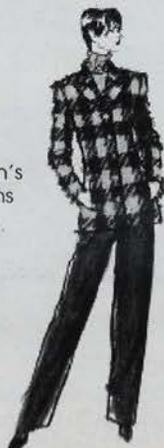
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# FEATURE

## Rainbow Bakery Celebrates 40th Anniversary With New Cafe

by Sara Wise  
Herald Editor

Oct. 26 will be an exciting day for the Kaplan family, owners of Rainbow Bakery in Cranston. With friends and family on hand, they will both reflect on their past and look forward to the future, as they celebrate the bakery's 40th anniversary and premiere their new cafe at the same location.

While Rainbow Bakery has been a family-run institution in Cranston for 40 years, the Kaplan's involvement in Rhode Island bakeries reaches back four generations. Like a sourdough starter that is passed on from one batch of dough to the next, the Kaplan family has handed down its recipe for hard work, quality baking and good business sense to each generation.

According to family records, Abraham and Rose Kaplan first came to the United States in 1905 from Russia where Abraham was a flour miller. They brought with them their infant son Barney and soon moved into the top of a two-story building at 51 Black St. in the north end of Providence. In 1910, they opened up Kaplan's Bakery downstairs.

In 1929, the kosher bakery was moved to the corner of Prairie Avenue and Bagman Street in South Providence, which at that time was a bustling center of Jewish activity full of kosher delis and recently arrived Jewish immigrants. Now in his early 20s, Barney Kaplan was a working partner in the bakery and continued to run the business after his father's death.

In the early 1950s the bakery was sold to Benjamin Matusow who changed the name to "Ben's Bakery" and later moved the business to Broad Street. Barney Kaplan continued to work at the bakery, but after a while planned to open his own place in partnership with Al Brody, another employee from Ben's Bakery. In 1957 they opened "Rainbow Bakery" in a rented building at 728 Reservoir Ave. in Cranston, two blocks north of the current location.

Barney's son Murray, now president of Rainbow Bakery, remembers working in the bakery as a child, "I started when I was 10 years old helping my father. On weekends we would start at 5 p.m. on a Friday and work until midnight or 1 a.m. and then come back at about 5 a.m. to start packing everything into the store. On my way to school we would mix the sourdough, during lunch we'd come back and mix the sourdough again."

After eight years, Barney purchased an empty lot at 800 Reservoir Ave. in February 1964 and began construction on the new Rainbow Bakery (Al Brody had left the business by this time). "He wanted a big showplace bakery," said Debby Kaplan of

her father-in-law's plans to build his dream building. "He knew that machinery was coming and he wanted to be more than a small family bakery. He wanted to produce and manufacture for wholesale and he needed a large plant that had a retail store."

In just a year the new bakery was complete, but sadly Barney would not live long enough to see his life's work realized. He died in December 1964 of a

heart attack, just two months before the new store opened.



BARNEY KAPLAN (above, left) and an unidentified co-worker at work. At right, groundbreaking in 1964 for the new Rainbow Bakery.

become tough as nails." Leah worked long, hard hours to keep the business running and kept many financial troubles to herself. She started work at sunrise, mixing sourdoughs to start rye breads herself with no machines, and often returned home at 11 p.m. with bookkeeping work in her arms. She survived a tax crisis, money problems and ruthless businessmen who tried to take advantage of the widow and two hard-working teen-age sons.

Leah also kept her sons motivated and encouraged them to be creative. They perfected freezing methods of raw doughs to produce in greater quantities and mechanized the shop in the late '60s, a major milestone for the bakery. Until then, all mixing was done by hand, requiring a staff of nearly 70 people. With the new machinery, the same products could be produced faster and in larger quantities with a reduced staff of about 20 people.

After Leah passed away in

business. Responsibilities are divided among the family members; Debby handles the books while Murray takes care of the cake decorating. Scott plays a managerial role and is responsible for projects like overseeing the construction of the new cafe as well as day-to-day operations.

For decades the bakery has been the place where news of friends and family is shared. Out-of-town relatives and friends always stop in when they come through Providence and many of the customers have been buying challah from Rainbow Bakery for decades.

Loyalty among employees is strong as well, with some staying as long as 30 years. One couple that met at the bakery later married and a current employee, who started as a clean-up boy and now runs the bread department, has been with the bakery for 16 years. By long-standing tradition, retiring employees receive a subscription to the Providence Performing Arts Center so now certain shows contain entire rows of former Rainbow bakery employees.

On a typical afternoon, Murray is in back decorating birthday cakes and Scott is processing orders at the computer. Annie, age 8, comes running in with the results of her Hebrew test and sets herself down at the adding machine where she helps sort invoices. "My mom showed me how," says the third-grader at the Alperin Schechter Day School, who also helps sweep but claims that her favorite part about working at the bakery is getting to eat the sweets.

Murray's cake decorating skills are well known throughout the state. The three-time president of the Rhode Island Baker's Association has made cakes for many governors, including an impressive replica of the Statehouse commissioned

(Continued on next page)



LEAH AND MURRAY Kaplan show off the display cases during opening week in February 1965.

1979, her sons, Murray and Danny, ran the bakery. Danny took care of the bread and bagels and Murray specialized in cake decorating and pastries until 1987 when Danny went off on his own to start "Barney's," named in his father's honor. (Their older step-brother, Stanley, runs Kaplan's Bakery on Hope Street in Providence.)

### The Tradition Continues

Like his mother, Murray has continued the Rainbow tradition of expanding the business for the next generation. Now 40 years after Rainbow Bakery opened, his own son, Scott, is ready to take over the reins of the family-owned and run busi-



GOVERNOR LINCOLN ALMOND presents the Kaplan family with a proclamation declaring Oct. 26, 1997, "Rainbow Bakery Appreciation Day." From left, Melissa Kaplan, Murray Kaplan, Gov. Lincoln Almond, Annie Kaplan, Debby Kaplan, Scott Kaplan. Photos courtesy of Debby Kaplan

## FEATURE

## Rainbow Bakery

(Continued from previous page)

by Governor Noel for the bicentennial that was made to scale from aerial photos and weighed hundreds of pounds.

Murray is also an expert in the chemical process of bread-making. After decades of literal "hands-on" experience, he understands the different protein levels of flours, their tolerance for mixing, and the proper temperature for yeast to a level that few bakers have accomplished.

His son Scott marvels at his father's abilities and claims that, "once the dough comes out of the mixer he can walk up to it, stick his hand on it and tell if it is the right temperature. He can tell you if there's anything missing by the texture and how long it needs. It's amazing to watch."

## A Community Institution

Rainbow Bakery has long played an important role in the Jewish community. Friday afternoons are busy with last-minute Shabbat shoppers and during holidays customers know they can find the tradi-

tional Jewish goodies they expect. The bakery uses all kosher ingredients and supplies baked goods to a majority of the temples in Rhode Island. "We try to keep things consistent; things that people who are Jewish are familiar with, and that those who are not Jewish can enjoy too," said Debby Kaplan. "I want to keep it the way it was started, as a kosher bakery. It's getting harder and harder to stay that way and we're doing it as much as we can in the '90s."

A majority of the baked goods made at Rainbow are not in the showcase. Much of the work is for wholesale or custom orders for hospitals, colleges and special events who seek the quality Rainbow cakes, bread and bagels.

Supermarkets have taken their fair share of the market in recent years because of convenience, said Murray Kaplan, though he considers their items to be not of the same quality. "We maintain a different level of quality; you can't go into a supermarket and buy a fresh boiled bagel," said Kaplan.

The addition of the cafe, which serves a variety of salads

and other foods in a new eating area, is definitely one of the biggest changes in the Kaplan's 40 years of business. The cafe represents a new focus for the Kaplan family. "People's eating habits have changed; they're looking for far less fatty products and more into breads and bagels than messy pastries with lots of frosting," noted Murray Kaplan. "They're on the go and are looking for places to stop for good quality food and we want to be one of those places."

The Kaplans are expecting hundreds of people at the Sunday afternoon anniversary party and cafe premiere. They were recently called to the Statehouse to receive a proclamation from Governor Almond citing Oct. 26, 1997 as "Rainbow Bakery Appreciation Day," and will also receive proclamations from the Cranston City Council and Cranston Mayor Michael Traficante at the anniversary celebration.

From Abraham, the flour miller who came from Russia nearly a century ago, to the 1997 opening of the new cafe, the Kaplan family has kept its strong family baking tradition alive.

## Jewish Scientist Wins Nobel Prize in Medicine

by Doug Seto  
Jewish Bulletin of  
Northern California

SAN FRANCISCO (JTA) — This year's winner of the Nobel Prize in medicine has a strong connection to Israel.

Dr. Stanley Prusiner has long conducted collaborative research with scientists at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem — in 1995, he received an honorary degree from that institution — and last year won Israel's prestigious Wolf Prize in medicine.

Prusiner, 55, was awarded the Nobel Prize for his 1982 hypothesis that several rare brain diseases in humans and animals were caused by a microscopic life form.

A professor of neurology, biochemistry and biophysics at the University of California at San Francisco who has been described as a maverick scientist, Prusiner linked mad cow disease to a human brain disorder.

Although Prusiner is now regarded as an international au-

thority in the study of dementia-related illnesses, the scientific community scoffed in disbelief after he announced in 1982 that several rare brain diseases in humans and animals were caused by prions, a microscopic life form that has no traces of RNA or DNA.

Prions, which are proteinaceous infectious particles, have been linked to scrapie in sheep as well as to human disorders, including Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. Prions may also be linked to Alzheimer's disease.

Prusiner discovered that the proteins can cause infectious diseases, such as bacteria or viruses, as well as hereditary illnesses.

Asked if he thought there was a fortuitous connection between receiving the Nobel Prize during the High Holy Days, Prusiner, an active member of a San Francisco synagogue, exploded with laughter.

"That's like asking me if I believe in that codebook. You know, that one on hidden codes in the Torah. I'm a scientist," he said.

## Malaysian Premier Blasted for Anti-Semitic Comments

by Peter Ephross

NEW YORK (JTA) — American Jewish groups have reacted angrily to anti-Semitic remarks recently made by Malaysia's prime minister.

The World Jewish Congress said on Oct. 17 that it would complain to the U.N. Human Rights Commission about the remarks of Mahathir Mohamad, who blamed Jews for his country's financial troubles.

The Anti-Defamation League, the Simon Wiesenthal Center and the American Jewish Committee all released statements criticizing Mahathir. "The Prime Minister's slanders are from a detailed script — a history of racist invective that has hounded and brought destruction to Jews for centuries," said a letter the AJ Committee sent to Malaysia's ambassador to the United States.

Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, said that by playing "the stereotypical racist card, [Mahathir] will only bolster extremist forces throughout the Muslim world."

While speaking Oct. 10 be-

fore a crowd estimated at 10,000 in a Muslim village, Mahathir said he suspected Jewish groups had an "agenda" to block the progress of Muslims. Mahathir added that the recent decline of Malaysia's currency, the ringgit, could be the work of Jews.

As he had on previous occasions, Mahathir singled out George Soros, a wealthy Jewish investor and philanthropist, for deliberately trying to hurt the

Malaysian economy by indulging in currency speculation.

Mahathir again drew criticism when he denied the comments the following day.

"I only made a statement, but the press went on to say that I was accusing the Jews. We cannot make such wild accusations," he said. "They will twist our arms."

(JTA correspondents Tom Tugend in Los Angeles and Jeremy Jones contributed to this report.)



## CAMERA Speaks Out

The Committee on Accuracy in Middle East Reporting and Affairs representative Maxine Wolf of Massachusetts, recently spoke at the Providence Hadassah meeting at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island. The grass roots organization has grown to more than 30,000 members and monitors the national media's coverage of Israel. *Herald photo by Tara V. Liscandro*

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Sotheby's To Auction Bernstein's Piano

The collection of Leonard Bernstein, legendary composer and conductor and a giant of 20th-century music, will be auctioned by Sotheby's in New York on Dec. 10 to 11. The collection is being consigned by the Springate Corporation and Leonard and Felicia Bernstein's three children: Jamie Bernstein Thomas, a writer and musician, who co-announces the New York Philharmonic's monthly national radio broadcast; Alexander Bernstein, president of The Bernstein Education Through the Arts Fund, Inc. and Nina Bernstein, president of Springate Corporation (a not-for-profit organization which oversees the Leonard Bernstein archives).

The items in the collection range from Bernstein's autographed Bösendorfer piano, his own conducting batons and his personal record collection to pre-Columbian art, Judaica and clothing. Additionally, a handful of the items in the sale consist of awards and memorabilia

from a lifetime of musical accomplishment and worldwide recognition. Highlights from the collection will be on exhibition in Zurich, Paris, Los Angeles, Chicago and London prior to the sale in New York.

Speaking of the sale, Jamie Bernstein Thomas said, "The best part about the Dakota apartment was the fun of sharing it with others, and sharing was what our father loved to do best. So it feels right that we share Apartment #23's contents one last time." A portion of the proceeds from the sale, which is estimated at approximately \$500,000, will benefit The Bernstein Education Through the Arts Fund, Inc. Leonard Bernstein created The BETA Fund to encourage creative approaches to teaching that will foster a lifelong appetite for learning in young people. The BETA Fund is active, both nationally and locally, supporting programs which integrate the arts into teaching and learning.



OBJECTS AND MEMORABILIA form Bernstein's New York apartment in the Dakota Building and his Connecticut composing studio will be auctioned by Sotheby's in New York on Dec. 10 and 11.

Photo courtesy of Sotheby's

## VIA Hosts Fall Fling

"Can't Help Lovin' That Man," a song from the Broadway hit "Showboat," will set the mood for the fourth annual Fall Fling, a fun-filled evening sponsored by Volunteers in Action-The Volunteer Center for Rhode Island. Asking everyone to "Catch The Spirit," Rose Weaver, well-known singer and entertainer, will serenade Arthur S. Robbins, president of Robbins Properties, who will be honored as the 1997 recipient of VIA's annual Award for Outstanding Commitment to Volunteerism. The event will be held on Nov. 6, at the Providence Marriott Ballroom. A reception and silent auction will start at 6 p.m. and dinner will begin at 7 p.m.

Carol J. Grant, vice president for human resources, Textron, Inc. and VIA's 1996 award recipient, will serve as honorary chairman. Setting the stage for the program will be Pamela Watts and Larry Estepa, news anchors for ABC Channel 6, who will serve as masters of ceremonies. Highlight of the evening will be the Showcase Theatre featuring performing artist, actress and vocalist, Rose Weaver, who will present songs from the 1920s, '30s, and '40s written by songwriters Cole Porter, George Gershwin, Duke Ellington, and Fats Waller.

Both silent and live auctions will feature high-level items gathered by the auction committee.

Charlotte I. Penn, chairwoman, has gathered together a large, active committee which has been at work for many months. The corporate sales committee, headed by Deborah Garber, includes Charles T. Hutchinson, Philip Schuyler, David Urso and Joan Wollin.

Judith Litchman and Estelle Singer co-chair the silent auction committee, assisted by Jill Caslowitz, Doreen Deignan, Michael Gianfrancesco, Richard Hamblin, Karen Long and Barbara Segal.

Tickets are \$50 for individuals and \$100 for supporters from the general and corporate communities. For further information, call Yvonne Graf, VIA office, 421-6547.



ROSE WEAVER, vocal artist, demonstrates several of her familiar songs for honoree Arthur Robbins in preparation of the fourth annual Fall Fling. Also pictured are Charlotte I. Penn, chairwoman of the event and Frankie Wellins, chairwoman of the VIA board of directors.

Photo by Scott Lapham

## Craft Show Funds Scholarships

Citizens' Scholarship Foundation of East Providence, Inc. will hold its 17th annual Holiday Craft Show on Nov. 1 and 2, at East Providence Senior High School, 2000 Pawtucket Ave., East Providence.

The Holiday Show will feature wares created by more than 100 New England artists and craftsmen. Handcrafted items for sale include stained glass, hand-loomed sweaters, ceramics, Victorian florals and decorations, clothing for children and adults, toile painting, "American Girl" doll clothing and furni-

ture, pen and ink sketches and posters, paintings, jewelry of various types, dolls, wooden furniture and accessories, rocking horses, aprons and airplanes, music, clocks, dried arrangements, jams and jellies, hand-painted china, slates, puppets, birdhouses and garden accessories, to name a few.

Members of CSF of East Providence, Inc., assisted by students and community volunteers, will also offer toys, a jewelry booth, baked goods, and a raffle with more than 120 prizes. Refreshments and lunch will be

offered both days.

Located two blocks from I-195 in East Providence, the Holiday Craft Show offers free parking and free admission. Doors open to the public at 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Nov. 1 and noon to 4 p.m. on Nov. 2.

The 17th Holiday Craft Show is sponsored by CSF of East Providence, Inc., and will provide financial assistance for East Providence residents continuing their education beyond high school. CSF of East Providence provided \$88,000 in the form of 206 scholarships and awards in 1997.

## 'Las Meninas' World Premiere!

The world premiere of Lynn Nottage's (Brown '87) comedy of royal misalliance, "Las Meninas," will be presented by Brown University Theatre, Providence, Thursday through Sunday for two weeks, Oct. 23 to 26 and Oct. 30 to Nov. 1 in Stuart Theatre at 8 p.m. The Nov. 2 production will be a 3 p.m. matinee only.

"Las Meninas" is the tale of a woman of mixed racial heritage who has been consigned to a con-

vent, during the reign of France's "Sun King" Louis XIV. But is she the child of Queen Maria Teresa and a dwarf jester from Africa? See what all the antics are about and decide for yourself!

Under the direction of John Emigh, performers include Julie Balzer, Justin Bernstine, Michael Crane, Susanna Harris, Serena Merriman, Robyn Neblett, Dan O'Brien, Jill Samuels, Helene Sevaux, Kate Weisburd, and Ryan Wulff.

Tickets are available at the Leeds Theatre box office, 77 Waterman St., Providence. Ticket prices are \$13 general admission, \$9 for senior citizens (over 65), and Brown faculty/staff, and \$5 for students. Phone reservations are accepted with Visa/Mastercard. Box office hours are Tuesday through Friday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and one hour before curtain on the evenings of performance. For more information or to make reservations, call 863-2838.



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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



## 'The Diary of Anne Frank' Opens in Boston **Brittney Kissinger Plays Annie**

"The Diary of Anne Frank," Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett's Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning play, opened the fall season at Boston's Colonial Theatre in a three-week engagement through Nov. 16. The new pre-Broadway production includes: in the title role, Natalie Portman (who starred in "Everyone Says I Love You" and the upcoming George Lucas's new "Star Wars" film); George Hearn, Linda Lavin, Harris Yulin, Austin Pendleton and Sophie Hayden, Jonathan Kaplan, Rachel Miner, Philip Goodwin and Jessica Walling. Directed by Pulitzer Prize and three-time Tony Award-winner James Lapine, this new adaptation by writer Wendy Kesselman incorporates recently published new material from Anne Frank's original diaries. This will be the first Broadway production of the acclaimed play since the original opened more than 40 years ago.

Performances for "The Diary of Anne Frank" are as follows: Tuesday through Saturday evenings at 8 p.m. (except Nov. 4 at 7 p.m.), Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m., and Nov. 9 at 7:30 p.m.; midweek matinees are Oct. 30 and Nov. 13 at 2 p.m.

Tickets are available by calling Ticketmaster at (617/508) 931-2787 or directly at The Colonial Theatre box office, 106 Boylston St., Boston. For additional information, call (617) 426-9366.



NATALIE PORTMAN portrays Anne Frank in Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett's Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning new production of "The Diary of Anne Frank" at Boston's Colonial Theatre through Nov. 16. Photo by Frank W. Ockenfels III

Eight-year-old Brittney Kissinger will be playing Annie in the Providence Performing Arts production of "Annie," Oct. 21 through 26. Kissinger, who lives in New York and will play the red-headed orphan on a nationwide tour, said that she is excited to travel to Providence and the other sites on the tour. She is one of the few Jewish performers to portray the leading role in this play.

In a recent telephone interview she described the plot of Annie in her own words as follows: "It's about a little girl and she is an orphan; she's very optimistic, then she gets taken to this mansion and basically changes this bossy guy's attitude."

Brittney also said that she enjoys acting and doesn't find it too difficult. "It's not hard for me since I'm experienced," and cited her past roles as Tootie in "Meet Me in St. Louis," and Annie in "Annie Warbucks" in local productions as having prepared her well for the tour.

In her spare time she enjoys reading and said that her favorite books are *James and the Giant Peach* and *The Haunted Attic*. She also likes to play sports, particularly baseball, but doesn't have much time with her busy acting schedule. In fact, the third-grader misses a lot of school when she is on tour but she said that a tutor helps the kids in the show when they are on the road.

For ticket information, call 421-ARTS.



BRITNEY KISSINGER as Annie with Sandy in the 20th anniversary production of "Annie." Photo by Carol Rosegg

## Jewish Theological Seminary Auctions Rare Books

For only the second time in its 100-year history, The Jewish Theological Seminary of America will auction off duplicate volumes from what many consider to be the most important library of Hebraica and Judaica today. The Nov. 25 auction in New York City will be one of the most noteworthy sales of its kind to occur.

This outstanding collection of printed books will be conducted by Kestenbaum & Company, a young and fast-growing auction house headquartered in New York. Directed by Daniel E. Kestenbaum, a world-renowned expert in Judaica and Hebraica, Kestenbaum & Company is honored to have been selected by the seminary — the firm was chosen from among several contenders to handle this prestigious sale.

An unusual opportunity for collector and institution alike, the auction will comprise approximately 300 select Hebrew and Yiddish printed books. Ranging in date from the 15th through 19th centuries, with a strong concentration of 16th-century early printed books, many of these texts have never appeared at auction before. Significant works

from areas including history and theology, Passover Hag-gadahs, Bibles and Bible commentaries, rabbinics, science, and literature will be available. Particularly uncommon are several rare liturgical texts.

Of impeccable provenance, the majority of the volumes coming to auction are from the libraries of well-known collectors who were closely affiliated with The Jewish Theological Seminary. This group includes Mayer Sulzberger, Elkan Nathan Adler, Mortimer Schiff, and Solomon Schechter. Rare books from collections such as these form the core of the seminary library's Rare Book Room, the greatest single collection of Jewish books in existence.

Among noteworthy books coming to the block from the library of the Jewish Theological Seminary are:

- A six-volume set of The Mishnah with commentary by Maimonides, Naples 1489, estimated to bring \$20,000 to \$30,000.

- A wonderful illustrated book by Isaac ibn Sahula entitled *Mashal Hakadmoni* ("Proverb of the Ancient"), which includes 80 unusual woodcut illustrations alongside a collection of allegories, fables and puns with moral references, all written in rhymed prose, printed circa 1547 in Venice, auction estimate \$8,000 to \$10,000.

- A Bible printed on vellum, from Sabbioneta, 1557, enclosed in a fine French 18th-century binding, estimated to fetch \$10,000 to \$15,000.

The Nov. 25 auction will also feature a private collection of 18th-century Anglo-Judaica, diligently brought together over decades by an English collector.

The auction will take place on Nov. 25 at 4 p.m. at the Doral Park Avenue Hotel, NY. The books will be available for viewing Nov. 23, Nov. 24 and the day of the sale. A preview lecture and reception will be held on Nov. 24 between 6 and 8 p.m.

For more information, call (212) 431-3245.

## Perishable Theatre Holds World Premiere

The Perishable Theatre will open its 1997-98 mainstage season with a world premiere production of "Only in America," written by critically acclaimed Brown playwright Aishah Rahman. "Only in America," directed by Perishable Theatre's artistic director, Mark Lerman, is a "biomythography" of an invisible American woman whose face is whitened out and voice silenced. Inspired by contemporary events, it is a drama of sex, race, and gender in late 20th-century America. "Only in America" stars Boston jazz vocalist Semanya McCord, and Ricardo Pitts-Wiley, who just completed a successful run of his one-man show, "35 Miles From Detroit," at the Perishable Theatre.

The play opens Oct. 30 and runs through Nov. 30, Thursday through Saturday at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 2 p.m. The theater is located at 95 Empire St. in downtown Providence. For tickets, call 331-2695.

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# OBITUARIES

**ESTELLE M. GOLDSTEIN**  
PAWTUCKET — Estelle M. Goldstein, 88, of Highland Court, 101 Highland Ave., died Oct. 19 at the Oak Hill Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Pawtucket, where she had been for two months. She was the wife of the late Arthur M. Goldstein.

Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Samuel and Rebecca (Mandel) Movsovit, she lived in Providence for many years, and had also lived in Pawtucket. She was a winter resident of Sarasota, Fla., for nine years.

She attended Bryant College, and had been a life member of the Women's Associations of Miriam Hospital and the Jewish Home for Aged. She was a buyer and volunteer worker at Miriam Hospital gift shop for many years. She was a member of the Council of Jewish Women, and had been a former member of Temple Beth-El.

She leaves a daughter, Bette-Ann Fessel of Barrington; a sister, Harriet Arnold of Providence; two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

The funeral service was held Oct. 20 at Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

## SHELDON PHILLIPS

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Sheldon Phillips, 59, of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., a public accountant, died Oct. 9 at Holy Cross Hospital in Fort Lauderdale.

Born in Providence, a son of the late Jack and Evelyn (Cohen) Phillips, he had lived in Cranston for many years before moving to Fort Lauderdale 20 years ago.

He was a graduate of Bryant College. He had an accounting practice in Fort Lauderdale. He was a member of the National Society of Tax Professionals.

He was a founder of the Lauderhill Community Service Foundation. He had been a volunteer for the Muscular Dystrophy Society and Meals on Wheels. He was a member of the White-Willis Theater Group in Fort Lauderdale. He was a member of Temple Bat Yam in Fort Lauderdale.

He was an Air Force veteran, serving from 1956 to 1960.

He leaves two sons, Bruce A. Phillips of Atlanta, Ga., and Steven R. Phillips of Minneapolis, Minn. He was the brother of the late Sanford Phillips.

The funeral and burial were held in Hollywood, Fla., on Oct. 20. Services were coordinated by Mount Sinai Memorial chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence.

## JOEL H. SALTZMAN

HARTFORD, Conn. — Joel H. Saltzman, 61, of 80 Village Lane, Windsor, Conn., died Oct. 18 at Hartford Hospital. He was the husband of Joan E. (Herchel) Saltzman.

Born in New Bedford, Mass., a son of the late Arthur and Sally (Gellerman) Saltzman, he was raised in Providence, R.I.

and lived in Connecticut for more than 30 years.

He had a long career as a pharmaceutical sales representative in the New England area.

Besides his wife, he leaves a son, Brian R. Saltzman of New York, N.Y.; two daughters, Lisa E. Saltzman of Newtown and Jodi L. Saltzman of Arlington, Va.; a brother, Michael Saltzman of Columbia, Md.; a sister Judy Bergel of Providence; a granddaughter, Bailie L. Saltzman of Newton; mother-in-law, Jennie Herchel of Chicopee, Mass.; and nieces and nephews of the Bergel and Herchel families.

The funeral was held Oct. 19 in the Chapel of the Carmon Windsor Funeral Home, 807 Bloomfield Ave., Windsor. Rabbi Barukh Schechtman officiated. Burial was held in the Beth Ahm section of Tikvah Chad-oshoh Cemetery, Windsor, Conn.

## BESSIE SANDFORD

PROVIDENCE — Bessie Sandford, 85, of 60 Broadway, a bookkeeper for the former Grand Central Market, retiring 18 years ago, died Oct. 17 at Rhode Island Hospital. She was the wife of the late Fred Sandford.

Born in Fall River, a daughter of the late Louis and Libby (Baskin) Sandler, she moved to Providence 15 years ago.

She was a graduate of the Thiboutout Business School.

She leaves a brother, Hermand Sandler of Westwood, N.J. She was the sister of the late Anna Zeman.

A graveside service was held Oct. 19 at Hebrew Cemetery, Fall River. The family was assisted with the arrangements by Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

## WILLIAM LEONARD WUNSCH

PROVIDENCE — William Leonard Wunsch, 81, of 74 Lenox Ave., chief of Social Services for the State of Rhode Island, retiring in 1978, died Oct. 18 at Miriam Hospital. He was the husband of the late Celia (Oberman) Wunsch.

A lifelong resident of Providence, he was a son of the late Max and Mary (Shapira) Wunsch.

He was a 1937 graduate of Brown University, a member of Phi Beta Kappa, and received a master's degree in social work from Boston University in 1951. He was a member of Congregation Shaare Zedek, the Majestic Senior Guild and Cranston Senior Services.

He leaves a son, Ronald P. Wunsch of Providence; a daughter, Audrey Druker of Randolph, Mass.; and a grandson.

The funeral service was held Oct. 20 in the Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

## Russian Jews Create Umbrella to Coordinate Activity

by Lev Krichevsky  
MOSCOW (JTA) — Russia's Jews have a new umbrella group.

The group, known as the Jewish Community of Russia, brings together three of the community's leading Jewish organizations in an effort to streamline their activities and prevent discord.

The group, created late last month, was co-sponsored by the Va'ad, the Russian Jewish Congress and the Congress of Jewish Religious Communities and Organizations.

"This is a moment of great symbolic meaning," Mikhail Chlenov, the Va'ad's president, told a Moscow news conference after the new body's inaugural meeting.

"It symbolizes a unity in our community that we have at last managed to achieve," he said.

Estimates of the Russian Jewish population run between 300,000 and 1.5 million, but only a small minority are actively affiliated with the community.

Since the fall of communism six years ago, a wide range of organizations and programs have been created — including day and Sunday schools, cultural societies, publications, and welfare programs — to meet an increased interest in Judaism.

Chlenov said there are as many as 500 different Jewish groups currently operating in Russia.

The proliferation has led to the replication of efforts and bureaucratic snafus that have hindered the community's development, particularly in some provincial centers.

By "calling the new organization the Jewish Community of Russia, we can promote the further consolidation of the forces that are present inside the community," Chlenov said.

Most prominent among these forces are the three umbrella groups that are co-sponsoring the new organization.

The Va'ad, the Jewish Federation of Russia, was formed in 1989 as the first umbrella organization to represent Jewish interests.

The Russian Jewish Congress, created in early 1996 by some of Russia's most prominent Jewish bankers and businessmen, has recently started building its own nationwide structure.

The Congress of Jewish Reli-

gious Communities and Organizations, known as KEROOR, serves as an umbrella body for Russia's 60 Orthodox and Reform congregations.

According to Chlenov, most of the Jewish organizations that exist in Russia are members of one of these three groups.

He described the Va'ad as the political center of Russian Jewry, the RJC as the community's financial nucleus and KEROOR as its religious center.

Chlenov said these umbrella groups will continue to function separately, but that the new organization will help overcome potential conflicts among them.

The leaders of the three groups were elected co-chairmen of the new body: Alexander Osovtsov, executive vice president of the Russian Jewish Congress; the Va'ad's Chlenov; and KEROOR leader Adolph Shayevich, who is Russia's chief rabbi.

The Jewish Community of Russia was created after the Russian Parliament passed a law last year allowing minority groups to form their own groupings — known as federal and local autonomies — to serve minority interests on the national and regional level.

Since late 1996, eight local Jewish autonomies have been formed in central and southern Russia, Siberia and the Ural Mountains.

It was representatives of these groups that gathered in Moscow to establish the new organization, which will operate as the community's federal autonomy.

The Law on National-Cultural Autonomies passed last year not only grants state recognition to Jews and other minority groups to preserve their traditions, culture and languages, the law also obliges the authorities to provide financial support for the various minorities' needs.

Jewish leaders would not estimate how much financial assistance they might receive from the federal budget.

Chlenov said that the Jewish community would like to see its needs taken into account in the 1998 budget, which the Russian Parliament will soon be considering.

But Osovtsov of the RJC said that government funding for Jewish communal needs might come in the more distant future.

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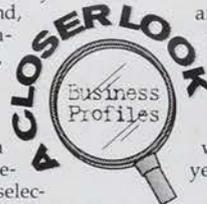


# Jazz Up Your Fall Wardrobe

If you've been looking for a new suit for work, a dress for an upcoming event or something sporty and haven't found it yet you may want to try something from Jazzy, Designer Consignments on Post Road in North Kingstown. The unique clothing boutique has been open for only one year and it's packed with countless articles of clothing and accessories. From pants and skirts to suits, jackets and sweaters to formal evening gowns and fine furs, Jazzy has something for almost every occasion at affordable prices. Designer women's brand names like Calvin Klein, Fendi,

Valentino, Gucci, Versace and Escada and others decorate the quaint clothing boutique. Clothing and accessory consignments, casual and dressy, come from Rhode Island, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, Florida and even Europe. You can literally dress from head to toe and make a unique fashion statement with the large selection of clothing, shoes and accessories like scarves, hats, jewelry, belts and handbags, there is to choose from. (Don't forget that accessories can easily trans-

form any outfit from a casual, daytime look to an elegant, evening look.) Personal fashion consultations can be given in order to help you put any outfit, and accessories, together. Fashion coordinating comes easy to Jazzy's owner, a fashion consultant with more than 20 years of experience.



The Designer Consignment clothing boutique also offers many selections for special occasions like weddings and holiday parties. Mothers-of-the-bride and mothers-of-the-groom can choose from a number of stylish designer formal gowns and dresses. They'll be able to compliment dressy gowns and dresses with a variety of dazzling accessories as well. You may also want to take a look at the fine furs if you're planning a winter wedding or party.

In just one simple clothing boutique you can find almost any style you're looking for and personal assistance as well.

If you would like to visit Jazzy or are interested in consigning your designer labels (fall and winter collections are now being accepted) call 295-7179.

# Feinstein Pledges \$1 Million to J & W

Philanthropist Alan Shawn Feinstein has pledged a \$1 million endowment to the Morris J.W. Gaebe Scholarship Fund at Johnson & Wales University for students who best exemplify the values of leadership, brotherhood and community service.

This gift, the largest single contribution to any existing scholarship program in the university's history, will permanently endow the Gaebe Scholarship Fund. This fund was created in honor of Dr. Gaebe, co-founder and chancellor of J&W, who is celebrating his 50th year at the university.

Feinstein is also founder of the Louis Feinstein Scholarship, named in honor of his father, which has granted more than 150 \$10,000 scholarships to Rhode Island college freshmen who have demonstrated a commitment to community service.

In addition, Feinstein has donated more than \$20 million to the advancement of public service in education from elementary school up through the college level. As a result, more than 600,000 students through the country are working to improve their communities through programs begun by the Feinstein Foundation.

# Boy Scouts Hope to Set Food Drive Record

The Narragansett Council, Boy Scouts of America, launches its 10th annual Scouting for Food Drive on Oct. 25 and Nov. 1. Joe Destefano is again the chairman of the drive. Area philanthropist Alan Shawn Feinstein will be this year's honorary chairman.

Last year's food drive produced more than 411,000 pounds of donated food, the largest food drive in New England. The Boy

Scouts have collected more than 3.2 million pounds of food since 1988. This year's goal is 500,000 pounds of food. "Hunger is a problem we can do something about by working together," said Lyle Antonides, Scout executive with the Narragansett Council, Boy Scouts of America.

On Oct. 25, scouts and leaders will distribute 550,000 collection bag to homes all over



Herald photo by Tara V. Liscandro

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FROM LEFT: Stephen Rodriguez and Carlos Ortiz of Pack 3 Central Falls and David Simpson and Stephen Simpson of Pack 13 Centerville are four of the estimated 6,000 Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Explorers that participated in Scouting for Food in 1996.  
 Photo by Gene Dwiggins

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Rhode Island. On Nov. 1, Scouts will collect the filled bags, after 9 a.m., and bring them to the collection sites, mostly fire stations, for boxing and storage. On Nov. 2, the food will be picked up by the Rhode Island National Guard and brought to the R.I. Community Food Bank.

Scouting for Food constitutes the R.I. Community Food Bank's single largest source of food, supplying more than 15 percent of the bank's annual donated intake. The Community Food Bank serves more than 100,000 hungry people every month by distributing to social service agencies throughout Southeastern New England.

Scouting for Food, an example of the Boy Scouts' long-standing commitment to community service, is a starting point for dealing with hunger.

For information on the food drive, call the Boy Scout Service Center, 351-8700, ext. 316.