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Pressure Mounts on Swiss to Reach Global Settlement

by Daniel Kurtzman

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Pressure is mounting against Swiss banks to reach a global settlement of all claims related to Switzerland's wartime financial dealings.

Until recently Jewish groups were the primary players calling on the banks to reach a final settlement to resolve all Holocaust-era claims.

Such a settlement could involve a reported \$2 billion to \$3 billion.

But additional players entered the recent talks, when the United States began brokering discussions in Zurich in a presumed attempt to include a separate class-action lawsuit in the overall deal.

That lawsuit was brought in New York by Holocaust victims against the banks, which stand accused of refusing to pay out dormant bank accounts opened by Jews during the World War II era.

The banks have indicated a willingness to seek a constructive solution, but have insisted that a global settlement must resolve the issue once and for all, be endorsed by the U.S. and Israeli governments and put an end to the class-action suit.

The Swiss government, however, has rebuffed a call by World Jewish Congress President Edgar Bronfman to participate in any global settlement.

Stuart Eizenstat, U.S. undersecretary of state for economic affairs, brought together the chief executives of Switzerland's three largest banks with attorneys representing plaintiffs in the class-action suit.

Eizenstat characterized the discussions as "exploratory," but declined to elaborate.

Israel Singer, general-secretary of the WJC, met separately with bank officials for the second time in as many weeks, but Jewish officials were also tightlipped about the details of the discussions currently underway.

One of the lead attorneys representing Holocaust survivors in the more than \$20 billion class-action lawsuit gave a boost to the prospect of a wider settlement by endorsing the WJC's idea of a lump-sum payment.

"There should be a global settlement because it provides closure for everybody, and I think we would all agree the Holocaust victims get the money," Edward Fagan, a New York attorney, told reporters in Zurich.

It was not clear, however, whether other attorneys involved in the lawsuit — or the class-action plaintiffs themselves — shared that view.

Some Holocaust survivors pressing claims have criticized WJC in the past for "not representing us."

Talk of a global settlement began in earnest last month af-

ter Bronfman said Switzerland needed to pay billions of dollars in order to bring closure to the entire range of material claims related to Switzerland's wartime activities, including the issue of dormant bank accounts and Swiss purchases of Nazi gold.

The next few months are expected to determine whether such a settlement can be reached.

Recently public financial officials from across the United States agreed to wait until March 31 before imposing further sanctions against Swiss banks for what they view as foot-dragging in paying off Holocaust victims' claims.

"There's a 90-day time bomb ticking under the chairs of the Swiss banks," one source familiar with the situation said.

In another development that could increase pressure on the banks to settle quickly, the head of an independent panel auditing dormant bank accounts said recently that the process was going slower than he would like.

"I am as impatient and frustrated as other people, but this is the nature of the problem," Paul Volcker, former chairman of the U.S. Federal Reserve, told a news conference.

He said two-thirds of the claims for the bank accounts filed so far have been confirmed as valid — 4,500 out of the 6,600.

He said he did not know how

(Continued on Page 15)



Chernobyl Family Reunited in Israel

Mrs. K., her 12-year-old son Vladimir, (right), and her 8-year-old son Pavel were reunited for the first time in three years when Chabad's Children of Chernobyl's 32nd flight landed at Ben Gurion Airport. K had sent her son Vladimir to Israel with CCOC in February 1995, and has not seen him since. "I felt it was the only hope I had for him," she said. Now that her younger boy, Pavel, is old enough to be eligible for the program, she decided to send him, too, in order to "get him away from the contamination and close to the doctors he needs."

Twenty-three children arrived on flight #32, bringing to 1,527 the total number of children evacuated since the beginning of CCOC in 1990. (See page 12 for story)

Clark University Expanding Holocaust Materials Collection

NEW YORK (JTA) — Clark University has acquired a valuable collection of some 5,000 books and materials on the Holocaust, many dating from 1933 to 1947.

The collection will be housed in the university's library and in its Center for Holocaust Studies in Worcester, Mass.

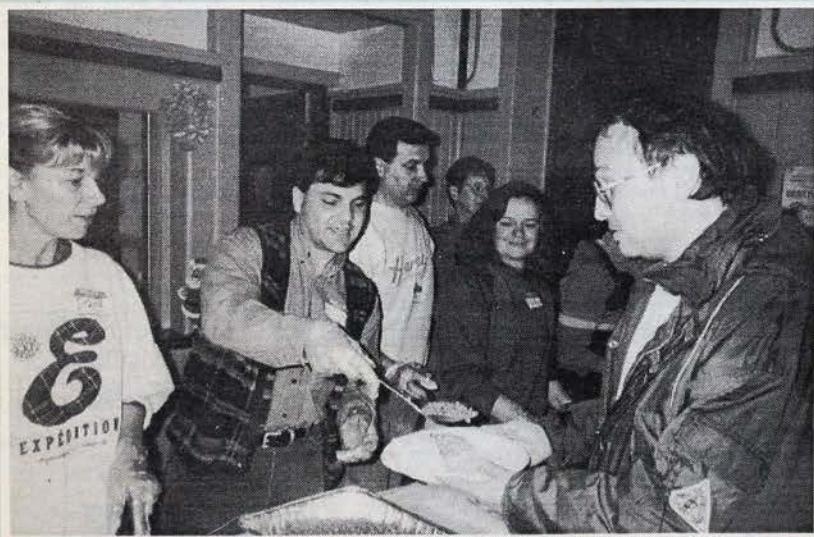
The collection, assembled over the past 10 years by Eric Chaim Kline, a Los Angeles bookseller and collector, is valued at \$225,000.

Deborah Dwork, director of the university's Center for Holocaust Studies, praised Kline for assembling the collection.

"Without his efforts, many of these items might have been lost forever," she said. "Now, it is time to make them accessible to scholars committed to studying the Holocaust." Dwork also stated that scholars should have a tangible connection to materials they're studying.

The collection includes registers of Jewish survivors of World War II, German foreign policy documents, Allied military plans, artwork illustrating anti-Semitism and photographs taken during the liberation of Nazi concentration camps.

The recently established Holocaust studies center will begin offering a doctoral degree in Holocaust history next year. The center will also be included as one of the second wave sites for the Spielberg "Shoah" collection of survivor testimonies expected to arrive in 1999 or 2000.



Lending a Helping Hand

David Pinto, a Perspectives volunteer, serves holiday meals at St. Patrick's Church in Providence. Perspectives, Young Jewish Adult Project of Rhode Island, recently held its 25th annual "Don't Be Alone on Christmas Day" program. (See page 10 for story)

Photo courtesy of Michael A. Simon

HAPPENINGS —

Amistad Educational Programs

The following programs will be presented by the National Conference of Christians and Jews:

- A Dialogue on Race: What Impact has Race had on your Life?** Jan. 15, at CCR Providence, 1 Hilton St., Providence, from 6 to 8 p.m. Call Robert T. Jones, The National Conference, at 351-5120 for more information.

- Book signing by Howard Jones, author of *Mutiny on the Amistad***, Jan. 29 at The Rhode Island Black Heritage Society, 202 Washington St., Providence. For more information, call Bela Texiera, The R.I. Black Heritage Society, at 751-3490.

- A Dialogue from Within, People of the African Diaspora**, Feb. 14. Call Rosemary Santos, The United Black & Brown Fund, at 521-2830.

- A Youth Conference on Diversity**, Feb. 28 at CCRI, Providence, 1 Hilton St., Providence, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. High school and college students invited. Call The National Conference at 351-5120.

- Amistad, from Africa to America: Legal, Historical, and Social Implications, Past and Present**, March 7 at Andrews Hall, Brown University, from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Call The United Black & Brown Fund at 521-2830.

These programs are sponsored by The Amistad Committee of 158 and The National Conference and are open to the public.

Chanukah Artwork

The *Rhode Island Jewish Herald* thanks all of the children who participated in the annual art contest.

All drawings and paintings were on display through Chanukah at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island in Providence. They may be picked up during January at the JCCRI, 861-8800, at your convenience.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

The *Rhode Island Jewish Herald* is currently looking for a new editor. Qualifications for applicants include: strong writing, reporting and communication skills, knowledge of Jewish life and community and good organizational skills.

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Calendar: January 3 thru January 10

- 1 Polar Bear Plunges in Jamestown, Wickford, N. Kingstown, Charlestown and Newport. Proceeds benefit local charities. Call 823-7411, 294-2776, 364-3878 or 274-1728.
- 2 Artistic Expressions of the Human Spirit: Selections from the Nancy Sayles Day Collection of Modern Latin American Art, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, Jan. 1 to 31. Call 454-6500.
- 3 Polar Bear Days in January at Roger Williams Park Zoo, Providence. If the temperature is 32°F or less, every visitor receives \$1 off admission. Call 785-3510 for daily temperature information, after 9 a.m.
- 4 Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island hosts open house for JCC Camp Kingswood, coed camp of JCCs in Greater Boston, 1 to 3 p.m. Call (617) 244-5124 or (401) 861-8800 for more information.
- 5 Klezmer Music at Brodie Mountain, in New Ashford, Mass., 1 to 5 p.m. Call (413) 443-4752.
- 6 UAHC Reform Jewish Outreach "A Taste of Judaism: Are You Curious?" Temple Beth Avodah, Newton, Mass., 7:30 p.m. Call to register, (617) 449-0404.
- 7 Readings in the reading room. Join RISD's library staff as they read poetry and essays from their favorite authors. Refreshments follow; free and open to public, 7:30 p.m. Ballroom Dance at Bobby's Starlight Ballroom, Pawtucket. Dance lesson 7 to 8 p.m., dancing 8 to 11 p.m. Call 821-4108.
- 8 Gerim Institute Course "Jewish Life, Thought & Practice," for interfaith couples and those seeking an introduction to Judaism, 22 Sessions at Congregation Kehillath Israel, Brookline, Mass., 7 p.m. Call for information or registration, (978) 281-3878.
- 9 The Boston Design Center, guided tour, join RISD's Division of Continuing Education for a tour of New England's only total resource for interior design. Tuition includes bus transportation to Boston, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call 454-6200 to register.
- 10 Classical Concert "Made in America," 8 p.m., Veterans Memorial Auditorium, Providence. Call 831-3123.
- 11 Introductory Printing Workshop, Jan. 10 and 24 at Mystic Seaport, Conn. Design a printing project from start to finish. Workshop includes typesetting and operating a 19th-century press, for participants ages 14 and up. Call to reserve a space, (860) 572-5339.

Biltmore Hosts Free Bridal Fair

Those women who found an engagement ring during the holidays will want to ride the glass elevator to the Top of the Biltmore Bridal Fair held on Jan. 11 from noon to 5 p.m. at the Providence Biltmore Hotel.

"Many couples become engaged at this time of year," said Felicia Corner, director of sales for the Biltmore. "This bridal fair is to help them to get a head start on planning the wedding of their dreams. Everything needed for the perfect wedding will be under one roof."

There is no cost for admission and guests will receive complimentary valet parking. Upon arrival and registration, brides will receive a free bridal planner. The afternoon begins with an open forum with a professional wedding planner in the hotel's Garden Room. Once a supper club and the home of big band dancing in Providence, the Garden Room is a classic setting for social functions.



Following the forum, visitors will mingle with the Biltmore's catering sales staff and sample hors d'oeuvres. Also on hand to meet with engaged couples will be vendors that can handle every wedding detail, including florists, musicians, disc jockeys, invitation printers, limousine services, and videographers.

The event continues with a cake tasting in L'Apogee, the Biltmore's function area located on the 17th and 18th floors, that boasts a breathtaking view of downtown Providence. Bakers from throughout Southern New England will offer a dizzying array of wedding cakes for couples to sample.

"Top of the Biltmore" wraps up with a bridal fashion show at 4 p.m. Fashions for the bride, groom and every member of the wedding party will be modeled.

For more information, contact Vicky Baima in the Biltmore's Catering Sales office at 455-3027.

Start Off 1998 in Historic Blackstone River Valley

The winter tourist season offers ideal weekend getaways in the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor. During the weekend of Jan. 3 and 4, the rustic beauty and quaint charm of Central Massachusetts and Northern Rhode Island offers a respite from the hustle and bustle of holidays. Yet, it offers a unique and lively character of history, culture and nature.

Top National Entertainment. Few realize the two-state region is a haven for performing arts, live acts and musical concerts, many of national renown. One of the "hot spots" for catching the waves of "cool jazz" is Chan's, located in Woonsocket's Monument Square, at 267 Main St.

Winter Bicycling. Many of the local byways and roads in the Blackstone Valley are ideal for bicycling and exploring the quiet atmosphere and winter wonders.

On Jan. 4 and 10, join the Narragansett Bay Wheelmen for a bicycle tour of scenic 10- and 20-mile routes in and around Cumberland. For more details, call 941-0571.

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Brooks, Reservoir Ave.
Rainbow Bakery and Cafe,
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Providence and Vicinity

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Books on the Square, Wayland Square
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The Little Place, Hope St.
EastSide Marketplace, Pitman St.
EastSide Prescription Center, Hope St.
Rhoda's Judaica, Burlington St.

JEWISH COMMUNITY

South County Jewish Collaborative Seeks Land for New Jewish Center

by Emily Torgan-Shalansky
Jewish Community Reporter

For decades, members of South County's Jewish community have dreamed of having a well-equipped local Jewish center.

They are still dreaming, but at present, they are acting as well.

On Dec. 5, South County Jewish Collaborative Executive Committee member Rose Epstein contacted South Kingstown Town Manager Steven Alfred with a proposal from her organization.

As indicated in Epstein's letter, the Town of South Kingstown is planning to acquire a 160- to 170-acre site from the Bishop of Providence. Members of the South County Jewish Collaborative, an umbrella organization comprised of Temple Beth David in Narragansett, South County Hadassah, the South County Hebrew School and the Jewish Community Council of South County, are hoping the town will sell them three to five acres of that land to create a new Jewish complex.

"The town has not responded yet, but the scuttlebutt says it's a good idea," said Epstein.

Recently, Alfred said that although South County needs a Jewish center, municipal needs may claim all of the new acreage.

"About 100 acres of the property is wetlands, and we have set aside 30 acres for a school and 30 acres for a senior center," he said. "Because the YMCA was in negotiations with the bishop before we took control of the land, we will sell 10 acres to them. After we acquire the property and complete our environmental assessment, we will see if there is any land left and then consider proposals from outside agencies."

If land is available, South County Jewish Collaborative is hoping to build a structure that includes a sanctuary, classroom space for children enrolled in the South County Hebrew School, a large common room, a kosher kitchen and a day care area for the elderly.

According to Epstein, the recent growth of South County's Jewish population has made its long-standing need for an edifice more pressing.

"The population is so big that it now needs a cohesive place," she said. "Nobody really knows how many Jews there are in South County, but my guess is that there are between 500 and 600 families."

Epstein, who has lived in South Kingstown for 12 years and is president of South County Hadassah, said the Jewish community has changed greatly during that time.

"The demographics are completely different," she said. "The population used to be concentrated around the University of Rhode Island in Kingston, and there were people with summer homes. But that's changed. A lot of young people have moved down here from the cities, and a lot of people from Providence have sold their homes there."

They spend their winters in warm climates and their summers here."

Many feel that Temple Beth David is too small to meet local needs. The Conservative synagogue is about 25 years old and has a seating capacity of about 150.

"We need a place where we can come together, and we do not have one now."

Morris Levin

"On the High Holy days and at bar mitzvahs, the temple is jammed," said Morris Levin, a Beth David board member, on Dec. 29. "We need a place where we can come together, and we do not have one now."

According to Levin, one of the most important functions of the proposed Jewish center would be to house the South County Hebrew School, an independent organization which now has about 55 students enrolled.

Lorrie Nelson, a Peacedale resident and member of the South County Hebrew School

board of directors, said the school's students have had to contend with rented facilities for all of its 28-year history.

"The children need to have a sense of their own place," Nelson said. "They always feel like they're in someone else's space. They need to be able to hang up their artwork and their maps."

The school began in a Kingston church and then moved to the Hillel building at URI.

"Then, we had between 30 and 35 students," Nelson said. "Because it has grown quite a bit in the last four or five years, we began renting space in URI classrooms."

In order to have a Chanukah party for the students and their families, the school had to rent space from the Narragansett Community Center.

"We really need a place for the children to go," she said. "A lot of different groups feel that kind of need, and that's why they began talking amongst themselves."

Although a definitive response from the town is still months away, Epstein is hopeful.

"If this goes through, we'll start building immediately," she said.

The Letter

Members of the South County Jewish Collaborative sent the following letter to Steven Alfred, Town Manager of South Kingstown, in December.

Dear Mr. Alfred:

South County Jewish Collaborative is an umbrella organization which at the present time is comprised by the following South County organizations:

Temple Beth David
South County Hebrew School
South County Hadassah
Jewish Community Council of South County

The organization is actively searching for an existing building or enough land to build a new one for the express purpose of having a primary source to integrate the many diverse needs of the Jewish community.

It would have space for a sanctuary, and classroom areas for children. The children have Sunday School and studies one afternoon a week, after public school hours. Currently, they are located at the University of Rhode Island.

The building would have a strictly kosher kitchen. At the present there is not even a restaurant to satisfy this need nor super markets (or stores) where these products can be bought

locally. It might be feasible to have a day care area for elderly people who prefer this type of food. "Meals on Wheels" would be another use of the kitchen.

We have considered negotiating with the St. Dominic Salvio Youth Center, but now that the Town has committed itself to the purchase of 160 acres, we would like to put in our bid to the Town for three to five acres for the contemplated building and parking space.

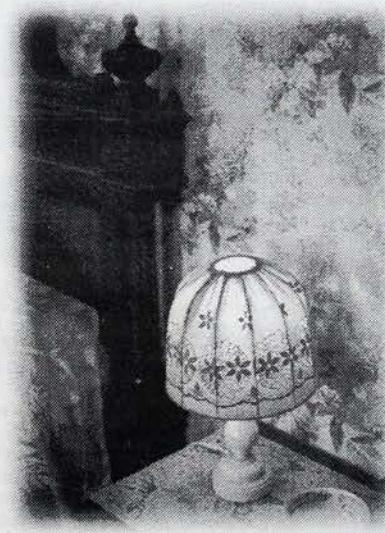
We feel that our needs would complement the current suggested use of the soon to be Town land.

The planning stage is an ongoing process. However, the board had full intention of having its meeting rooms open to the general community under specific rules as determined by the Town of South Kingstown and the Board of the Collaborative. We have the hopes of having a large common room for lectures, concerts and parties. We wish to establish an educational resource library as well as a place for various Judaica exhibits.

Please feel free to present this letter to the full Town Council if and when you feel it is appropriate.

Sincerely,
Rose Epstein
Executive Committee Member

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OPINION —

Let Me Tell You, Chavah, It's All About Soul

by Cindy Halpern

On a cold winter morning, while the sun was barely shining, my daughter, Robin, and I found ourselves at an East Side's synagogue for a *berit hachayim*, a special little girl's naming ceremony. She was called Chavah, meaning life, as Eve was the first woman.

On this day, Chavah began her relationship with not just the Jewish community, but with G-d. Of course, today, even though she was older than the average age, and she grabbed Bibles to stack them on a nearby seat and proudly pointed to herself throughout the service, she has yet to understand the true importance of what took place. It takes a lifetime for every Jew to fully explore her relationship with G-d.

But, if I could give dear Chavah advice on how to have an ongoing and meaningful relationship with G-d, this is what I would tell her. Although there are many Hebrew prayers to learn, remember that your private prayers will be heard as well. They should be about matters of the soul, not the physical

world of material things.

Billy Joel once sang a song called, "All About Soul," and I think that even by slightly altering the lyrics, he is referring to G-d, and tells Chavah all she needs to know: "He waits for me in silence and takes away my pain. It's all about faith and deep devotion. He turns to me sometimes and asks me what I'm dreaming. I asked Him how He knew to reach out to me that

She was called Chavah, meaning life, as Eve was the first woman.

about keeping my faith alive. It's all about joy coming out of sorrow. There are so many things getting out of control, but you have got to be strong. You know in your heart, it's all about soul." (1993, Sony Music Entertainment, Inc.: Billy Joel, River of Dreams)

Precious Chavah, follow these words well and you shall never be alone, in good times and bad, no matter wherever life's paths shall lead you.

moment. He smiles because He understands that there are no words to say: It's all about soul. It's about knowing what someone is feeling, the power of love and healing. It's going to get dark and it's going to get cold. It's all

by Velvel 'Wally' Spiegler

When I was growing up in Brooklyn, rabbis preached Torah and mitzvot with "fire and brimstone." Rabbis are much more complacent today. They don't scream at us any longer. I can remember one tirade about why we should not exchange Chanukah gifts. In those days our parents didn't want to hear the "shoulds" and "should nots." They wanted homes in the suburbs, Florida vacations, and college tuitions. Maybe they turned us off so we tuned them out. I now realize that the rabbis were pointing to a way that we didn't hear. Later in life I discovered some of the absolute wisdom that the rabbis of old professed. They pointed to a way of life and a wisdom that I have yet to find in other religious traditions. Behind their fiery words hid an awareness, a realization of a deep spirituality that implores Jews to seek other religions and secular philosophies.

The exchange of Chanukah gifts is not part of Jewish tradition. This holiday reflects the rebellion by the Maccabees against Greeks who wished to impose their culture on the Jews. To imbue the Chanukah spirit, we need not observe the customs of alien traditions that exchanges gifts this time of the year.

We can, however, receive a special gift on Chanukah. This gift comes to us from the prominent mitzvah of the holiday — to light the menorah each night. After we light the wicks, recite the proper blessings, we sing two melodies: "Ha'Nayrot Ha'lalu" (These Lights) and "Ma'otsur" (Mighty Stronghold). In the first song, we'll find the following words, "these lights, they are holy; and we are not permitted to use them, only to look at them." The mitzvah is clear about not using the lights for any purpose but to look at them, to gaze upon them. There lies the wrapping of the gift. The gift itself is what may emerge for you from the flickering flame.

On first glance you may just see the flame. With a little reflection, you realize that the light represents the light and holiness of G-d. If you then focus carefully on the light for some of the half hour that it burns and reflect on such questions as what does my soul truly desire, how can I stay in touch with my inner self, or how can I express the deepest part of who I am — you can find your gift. As the number of lights increase each day, we increase the light that enters our consciousness together with the special gift that unfolds.

We're celebrating a miracle which took place about 2,500

years ago. A miracle that caused a flask filled with enough oil to burn for one day, to burn for eight days. Why should a miracle, an event that defies the natural order and disobeys the law of cause and effect, take place; if not for the will of G-d. Within that thought lies the seed of transcendence, the potential for healing and a promise of new possibilities. Let the chanukia (the Chanukah menorah) answer your heartfelt questions that permit changes to occur for joyous living.

Chanukah takes place at a time when the days are shortest and darkness prevails over light, when the sap rests in the roots, and animals are asleep for the winter. Now the soul is at the depths of its annual cycle and our intuition, our feminine, receptive attribute is strongest. Perhaps this is why the female motif of Chanukah, with its tales of Jewish heroines and the restriction of women performing work while the candles glow, is prevalent. Only in a setting like this can the true gift of Chanukah come alive.

Velvel 'Wally' Spiegler is registered with advanced standing in the American Polarity Therapy Association.

For further information, call (508) 252-4302 or Email <DSpieg5411@aol.com>

A Gift For Chanukah

HAVE AN OPINION?

If you have an opinion about something in the Jewish community, why not express your opinion in the Herald?

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HERALD EDITOR
TARA V. LISCIANDRO
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER
MICHAEL FINK

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EMILY TORGAN-SHALANSKY

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT REP
DIANA FLORIO

MAILING ADDRESS:
Box 6063, Providence, RI 02940

TELEPHONE: (401) 724-0200

PLANT:

Herald Way, off Webster Street

Pawtucket, RI 02861

OFFICE:

1000A Waterman Avenue

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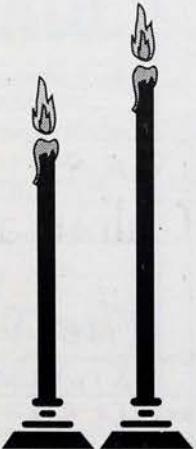
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The Herald is a member of the New England Press Association and a subscriber to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.



Candlelighting

January 2, 1998
4:08 p.m.



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

'Dear Avigail'

by Mindy Davids and Jeffrey Marx

Dear Avigail:

Five years ago, my partner and I disbanded our business. We had worked side by side for a decade. Then, in a dispute over bonuses, one word led to another, and we split up. After five years of not seeing him, not speaking to him, I felt bad. Then I remembered the story of Joseph and his brothers. Despite being sold into slavery by his siblings, Joseph forgave them completely.

In this week's *parashah*, we're told that Joseph revealed himself to and wept on his brothers. Only then were they able to talk to him. (Gen. 45:15) What a wonderful moment! It is one of the greatest scenes of reconciliation in the Torah! Joseph brought his brothers down to Egypt, together with his father, Jacob, and took care of them. (Gen. 47:11) I decided that if Joseph could do it, I could too!

I called my former partner. We had dinner together, we shmoozed about the past, we talked honestly about our falling out. Since then, we talk on the phone at least once a month. But I just learned that his daughter is being married in a month's time, and he didn't even invite me!

So much for making peace!
Hurt and Confused

Dear Hurt and Confused:

The bum! What ingratitude, after you went out of your way to make peace! My advice is to find yourself a better friend.

Dear Avigail:

Did you ever stop to consider that not all reconciliations have fairy-tale endings? It's true that my brother Joseph hugged and kissed us in the throne room and brought us down to Egypt, but did you ever consider where we ended up living? While we were stuck with the sheep in Goshen, my brother continued living in the palace! (Gen. 47:11) We had to send word to him when our father was on this deathbed, that's how seldom he came to visit. (Gen. 48:1)

Believe me, after our father died, my brothers and I feared that now Joseph was going to exact his revenge. That's why

we concocted the story that on his deathbed, Jacob had asked Joseph to forgive us. (Gen. 50:15-17) We weren't close to Joseph when we sold him, why should a few tears and a hug — especially after so many years had passed — suddenly make us one happy family? Tell Hurt and Confused to grow up!

Reuben, son of Jacob

Dear Avigail:

I had a son who was wild in his ways, but I loved him. One day, he went too far and I banished him, but my heart longed for him all the time he was away. Finally, I brought him home. We hugged each other and then I kissed my son. (11 Sam. 14:33)

A short time passed, and once again he stabbed me in the back by staging a palace coup and seeking my life! Sometimes a person does his best to make peace and it is not enough!

King David

Dear Avigail:

Reconciliation is not all that it's cracked up to be. I did a terrible thing to my brother many years ago involving our father's inheritance. We didn't see each other for years. I couldn't sleep. I kept wrestling with my conscience. Finally, I sent him a note and we arranged to meet. When we saw each other, he fell on my neck and we wept like babies. He invited me to his home to spend time with his wife and kids. I accepted, but at the last minute I decided not to go. (Gen. 33:12-17) What more could I say to him? We were never close growing up; our values were completely different. Tell Hurt and Confused not to get his hopes up too high!

Jacob, son of Isaac

Living Torah

we concocted the story that on his deathbed, Jacob had asked Joseph to forgive us. (Gen. 50:15-17) We weren't close to Joseph when we sold him, why should a few tears and a hug — especially after so many years had passed — suddenly make us one happy family? Tell Hurt and Confused to grow up!

Reuben, son of Jacob

Dear Avigail:

I can't believe your readers' responses to Hurt and Confused! Theirs is a most depressing way of looking at the world and our role in making it a better place. Why don't we all just give up trying to make peace with one another? We must believe that we do have the power to forgive those who have wronged us. We must believe that we can make a difference in our own lives and in the lives of

(Continued on Page 15)

FEATURE

As Time Goes By

by Mike Fink
Herald Contributing Reporter

I'm keeping a log on the last legs of 1997. The seconds tick off the last recorded syllables. First, I pore over the pages of my finished engagement calendar. I lost some allies. Dorothy Isenberg always stood by me. "I want more people to know you," she would say on the phone. Her passing leaves void, although her family offers me her tradition of good will. Frieda Bassow also left off in '97. Her children and grandchildren spoke about her days.



at the Home or its neighborhood, as she ate ice cream in her wheelchair and enjoyed the sunshine of the streets and of the love of her devoted family. She also once believed in my future and put her blessings upon it and me. You hate to bid farewell to somebody who sees the best in you.

My friend and contemporary classmate Steve Howe ended his career on the good earth in June of this vanishing twelvemonth, only fortnight before his daughter's wedding. I take my leave of a good supporting chum who laughed at my jokes and listened to my sagas. I even said goodbye to some children of my colleagues and former students, tragic deaths that shocked me, but bound me tighter with touches and hugs to their parents.

Some of my cafe companions have slipped only out of the neighborhood, the town or the state, beyond my borders. Idriss, an alley musician, at least phoned in from New York, but Saedy has been reported as a mounted policeman in the Cambodian community. I haven't seen him this year among our old haunts. I miss our crazy conversations. Then, too, on my datebook I find the names of

We've been labelling the gala public civic evening "First Night," while I'm dwelling upon my private Last Night. I wander into downtown in the afternoon and then make my way up a wide, steep stairway to pop in on the Fred Astaire dance studio. My wife takes ballroom lessons in this former Shangri-La loft, once an Asian restaurant. The statues still stand guard, but cut-outs of Fred and Ginger, reflected in the mirrors and multiplied by the chandeliers and lamps, stop the cruel passage of time. You waltz outside of the ages, round and round to the tune of dream and reverie.

We go through the doorway twice as Jews, both at the start of autumn and at its close. I'll end with a few phrases that Todd wrote on a pink napkin at our brunch table. "Threads of change... treasure chest... lovely... use... respect sovereignty..." As time goes by, "into the currents."

students who have graduated into the great world out there: New pupil pals come along, but you hate to part with young people who have come to know and respect you. It takes a while to break in a new group. You study the course evaluations after a semester and you read your own character for good or ill in their handwriting, more forceful than any teabag pronouncement.

I sound so gloomy, but I have also deepened some friendships. Todd, who glues the world's pieces together in a real tikkun olam, and sells or offers the quirky designs at corner curbs, lives in a pastel painted van in a parking lot surrounded by trees and rocks, and rusted steel, without heat or electricity, was willing to join me for breakfast. "Usually I get my clothing and my food from the trash. This is very nice for a change," he says with smiling civility and without complaint. This

Todd is a brilliant and buoyant soul, and I hang on his every word of stammering wisdom. He is studying Cabala, and his insights amaze and delight me." 1998 will be a year of getting out of ourselves and finding each other's stories," he announces brightly.

Where was G-d during the ordeal? Somebody asked, and Misha wondered. I just burst out, "In the eyes of the wolves!" and she answered, "Yes!" The myth of the wolf who nurses the foundling is deeply rooted in ancient folklore. Perhaps this explains in part why her Belgian and French readers turn to her tale for adventure, nostalgia, a code for courage and a hint of hope. Misha's girlhood terrifies, inspires, and gloriously reassures. Beside and beyond the war torn roads and their kill, there was a path through the forest where gentler creatures abide and roam freely. Somehow, the fact that the author is a woman of just my age makes me feel that a missing sister or even an old romantic acquaintance is sharing her story with me.

Herodyssey gains something in her native tongue. The European edition has a dignified black, red and white paper cover in the classic format, and the elevated tone and reproachful rhetoric suit that public. And

Maurice and Misha

Maurice Defonseca found my school phone number and called to fill me in on the progress of his wife Misha's memoir. The French edition, titled *Surviving with Wolves*, has sold out several printings in Paris. Magazines and newspapers have praised the book, interviewed the author, and spread the word about this remarkable account. "We would like you to see the volume as it has caught on in France. Meet us at the JCC book fair. Misha will be speaking and signing copies."

The crowd was made up of fellow Holocaust survivors, community people, animal rights enthusiasts, and Misha "groupies," who follow her among her local appearances. Mme. Misha holds forth forcefully, with a strong accent but an eloquent style, reading from a written text, wearing a large Chai pendant, looking both chic and sturdy. She makes her statement—that human beings betrayed the Jews of Europe, the children and their parents, leaving the virtues of kindness and trust to the world of animals. Her love of wolves is both concrete and abstract. "I loved their warmth, their smell, the body language, their protection and guidance." But the beasts also signify the divinity of creatures other than Nazis and their collaborators. "I stop to pick up the dead bodies of squirrels by the side of the road, to place them on the earth under a respectful covering. When I lived in the woods I would see human babies, their skulls crushed, just left behind by the war."

Where was G-d during the ordeal? Somebody asked, and Misha wondered. I just burst out, "In the eyes of the wolves!" and she answered, "Yes!" The myth of the wolf who nurses the foundling is deeply rooted in ancient folklore. Perhaps this explains in part why her Belgian and French readers turn to her tale for adventure, nostalgia, a code for courage and a hint of hope. Misha's girlhood terrifies, inspires, and gloriously reassures. Beside and beyond the war torn roads and their kill, there was a path through the forest where gentler creatures abide and roam freely. Somehow, the fact that the author is a woman of just my age makes me feel that a missing sister or even an old romantic acquaintance is sharing her story with me.

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then, the French love their dogs, their cats, their aristocratic tradition of looking down on the crowd. American readers, too much shaped by crafters of popular imagery, require a softer and more sentimental approach to storytelling. "Yes, we have a hard time fitting what Misha says to what American publishers and public relations staff want. They believe the book suits schools, but it's not a fable for children. They are even worried about what Misha might say on 'Oprah!' that could offend a mass audience." Maurice looks and sounds like a gentle and supportive person, but his respect for his wife's powerful mission makes him disdainful of empty compromise.

The group at Misha's talk pose some skeptical questions about wolf behavior. She answers modestly, "I am a simple person, not a philosopher. I only know what I went through and saw with my own eyes. I know hunger and cold, the comfort of good will and the fear of attack, the need for love. The big dogs, the packs of wolves, they gave me what I needed. I live now in peace with my dogs and my cats and the free and wild things that come to my yard. I am one of them."

I had an image in my imagination of the nearby Defonseca homestead as a haven, a heaven, of welcome for all souls, great and small. "There, people would save you for money, but then sell you out, also for money. Or even just from sheer cruelty. I value my furry friends because they give me relief and rescue."

I would love to see Misha's memoir catch fire among Americans. It is a fabulous journey,

like an epic poem, both surreal and actual. I had another memory that recurs for me. I asked my mother what would happen to the Jewish children trapped by the war. She never gave me fake answers. I felt that my schoolmates might be the last of the Jews. Sometimes, after the liberation, a solitary refugee or an orphan would show up in our classroom, speaking

Misha Defonseca Survivre avec les loups

Robert Laffont

little English, like some last witness. But Misha Defonseca brings the Jewish child back to us with vigor and vitality, half wolf half wise woman. It is a privilege to be in the same room, the same country, the same world, the same time with her. "I was a wild child, and I only appear now to be tame. I went to Africa to find the great savage beasts, nobler than people. I am not a person. I am one of them, a creature of the dark forest."

And she left me with a talisman, an Israeli mezuzah to hang in your car and help you on your way safe and sound.

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The Herald takes

A Look Back at



Rabbis Lipson (left) and Gibber confer with Rabbi Eliezer Levy at an upsherinish, or haircutting ceremony, for Rabbi Levy's son, Mendel, in July.



Leah Revkin, Stacey Weisman and Samantha Davis receive the Ten Commandments at Temple Torat Yisrael. Students in the "Bet" class celebrated their completion of the Book of Genesis with a festive party and a family bible program.

Raoul Wallenberg is Remembered on Kristallnacht
YEAR 14, THURSDAY, MAY 22, 1997
Wiesel Receives Peacemaker Award

Leah Rabin Brings Husband's Pleas For Peace to Providence



Brandeis Houses First Jewish Women's Research Institute

Holocaust, the Women's Biennial of Neoorthodox Research, "The International Research Foundation on Holocaust, Women,"

Jenny Klein celebrated her 90th birthday in 1997. For more than 50 years, she has taught Judaism to three generations of Rhode Islanders and served as honorary chairwoman to the Rhode Island Holocaust Museum.



Eric Stillman, Rhode Island Federation Campaign Chairman, and Dana Zucker show off T-shirts and other materials that were brought to Israel during the summer.

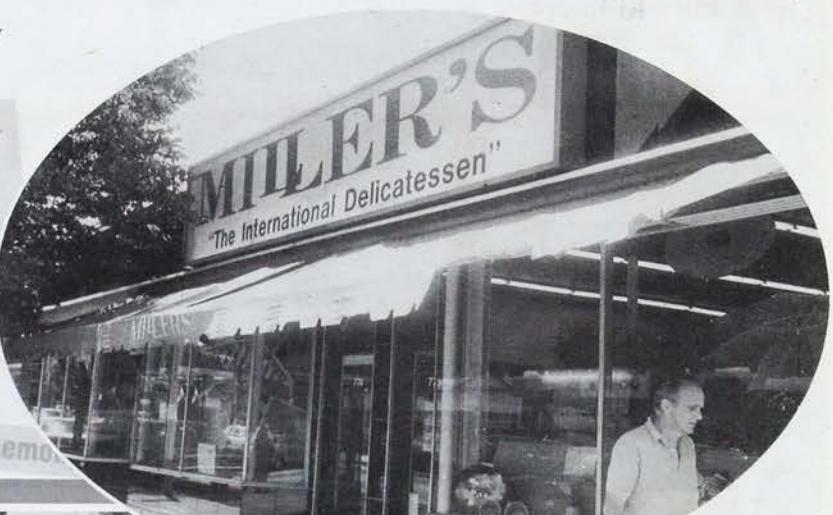


The New England Rabbinical Clones take third prize in the costume contest at the 10th annual Providence Purim Parade in March.

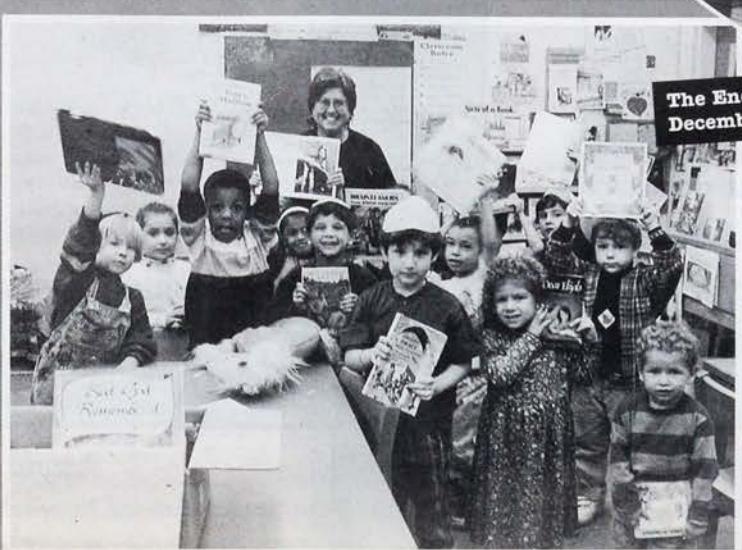
1997

**Neighbors Discuss
Relations in the
Mideast at Brown**

Postal Service Re-Issues Hanukkah Stamp at RI Cememo



The End of an East Side Fixture: Miller's Delicatessen closes in July; by December, the Hope Street building will house The Lower East Side Deli.



Students from Providence Hebrew Day School and Alperin Schechter Day School start off the New Year (5758) with new books for their libraries. More than 100 books were donated by the Rhode Island Jewish Herald.

Jewish Community Loses Valued Historian

The Rhode Island Jewish community lost a great friend and historian with the recent passing of Dr. Seebert J. Goldowsky. In the upcoming edition of the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Notes, dedicated to his memory, Dr. Goldowsky is described as "the conscience of the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association and the voice of Rhode Island Jewry."

The following excerpt is from the obituary of Dr. Goldowsky.



Dr. Seebert J. Goldowsky, friend and historian of the Rhode Island Jewish community, passes away in November. "He has the keen mind of a Talmud scholar as well as the questioning mind of a scientist." — Melvin L. Zurier, close friend

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THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

Perspectives Lends a Helping Hand

by Michael A. Simon

Fourteen members of Perspectives, the Rhode Island Jewish Young Adult Project, got up early on a wet and chilly Christmas morning to lend a helping hand at the 25th annual "Don't Be Alone on Christmas Day" holiday meal at St. Patrick's Church in Providence. Perspectives members were among 200 volunteers who dished out thousands of servings of mashed potatoes, 120 cans of vegetables, and 125 turkeys to more than 1,000 people who came to the church for a festive meal. Eight hundred fifty meals were also delivered to elderly and disabled people who were unable to leave their homes.

Upon their arrival at the church, the Perspectives group received a pep talk from Ted Loebenberg, a Providence resident who has served as a volunteer chef for the past 14 years of holiday dinners at St. Patrick's. The group then quickly got to work. Some packed the dinners to be delivered; others drove to Federal Hill and other neighborhoods to deliver meals; and yet others served dinner and spread cheer to those who came to the church.

The organizers at St. Patrick's were pleased with the large turnout of volunteers, both from Perspectives and from the

greater community. Ray Sparrello, one of the "associate producers" of the event since its inception 25 years ago, said, "I appreciate the Jewish volunteers coming down. It's integrating the L-nd the way it should be."



Eric Shorr and Vanessa Lever of Perspectives.

Photo courtesy of Michael Simon

Mae Gammino, a Perspectives volunteer, echoed this sentiment. "It's important for people to come together like this," Gammino stated. "It's about sharing, and communities need to come together to support and love each other."

Many of the volunteers participated because they wanted to perform meaningful service during the holiday season. One Perspectives volunteer, Vanessa Lever, wanted to continue a tradition. "We have a family tradition of volunteering on the holidays," Lever said. "I couldn't go home to California this year, so it's nice to be with a Jewish group with which I could continue the tradition."

Another Perspectives volunteer, David Pinto, said that he had a great time helping others. "I came out here to make some friends, and to be of some service," Pinto commented. "Everyone came through here with a smile on their face, and that makes my day."

The Perspectives volunteers included Jennifer Allsworth, Guy and Sara Bermel, Mae Gammino, Jonathan Gewirz, Denise Heitman, Vanessa Lever, Dana Lilenthal, David Pinto, Eric Shorr, Dan and Rachel Silverman, Michael Simon, and Claudia Yellin.

This service project, coordinated by Simon, was part of a week of Perspectives holiday events that included a Chanukah party and a toy drive that collected dozens of gifts for children at the Joslin Community Center in Providence.

What Are You Doing This Summer?

It seems like the summer just ended but the JCCRI is already thinking about how the summer of '98 can make a difference! Give yourself the opportunity to experience new people, places, and ideas. The summer of '98 can be a time when you challenge yourself in ways you never thought possible and discover a land that is far away.

All things are possible when you take Etgar "the challenge."

Etgar is the summer teen experience in Israel designed exclusively for Jewish Community Centers. The program is open to teens entering 11th and 12th grade. This four-week experience has pre- and post-trip components that will make your trip incredible. The Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island along with other JCCs in New England are planning an excellent trip at an excellent price!

Some Etgar program high-

lights include: Kayaking the Jordan River; jeep riding in the Golan heights; leadership development; Yad Vashem (Holocaust memorial); climbing Masada; camel trek through the desert; visiting a Druze village; float in the Dead Sea; relax on the beaches at Eilat; rappelling in the Judean desert; Shabbat at the Western Wall; visiting an Israeli army base; Mifgashim — weeklong program with Israeli teens; exploring Jewish identity; visiting kibbutzim; workshops on ecology and environment; sleep in a Bedouin tent; and swim under the Ein Gedi waterfalls.

The date of the Israel trip is June 28 to July 27 (four weeks). The cost of the trip is \$2,700, including pre- and post-camp activities, travel to NYC, and air fare to Israel.

Call Rick Caplan, group services director, at 861-8800 for more information.

Women's Mentoring Program

A free information session about the Women's Mentoring Program, organized by Career Moves at Jewish Vocational Service and Combined Jewish Philanthropies, will be held Jan. 12 at 6 p.m. at 105 Chanuncy St., 6th floor, Boston. The session is for Jewish professional women interested in participating as mentors and for young Jewish women up to 2 years out of college or graduate school who seek career guidance and advice. Call Leah Oko at (617) 451-8147, ext. 104 for more information. The session is accessible to individuals with disabilities.

JTS Presents 'Israel: A Nation Sings'

Popular Israeli artists David Broza, Noa, the Gevatron Folk Singers, Chava Alberstein and the Israeli Camerata are among those who will conduct a cultural tour of Israel's 55-year history as a state when ABC-TV broadcasts "Israel: A Nation Sings" on Jan. 18, the final production in the Interfaith Broadcasting Commission's 1997-98 "Vision and Values" series.

Grants will be awarded based on evidence of involvement in community service, academic worthiness, and financial need.

Students desiring applications should write to: Seena Dittelman, 93 Crestwood Road, Cranston, R.I. 02920 or call 942-5735.

Deadline for requesting applications is March 25, 1998.

Scheduled to air in more than 125 markets nationwide, "Israel: A Nation Sings" is one of two programs produced annually by the Seminary for the Interfaith Broadcasting Commission. In addition to JTS, the members of the commission are the United States Catholic Conference, the National Council of Churches and the Southern Baptist Media Technology Group — NAMB. Each faith group produces two programs a year for distribution on ABC and NBC television and the commission serves as a consultant to the CBS "Religion and Culture" series.

The program, written and produced by the Jewish Theological Seminary, captures Israel's brilliant landscape and the diversity of its culture through an in-depth look at the musical expressions that evolved there. "Israel: A Nation Sings" will serve as a kick-off to a yearlong birthday celebration and the hundreds of events happening worldwide to commemorate this milestone.

For local times and ABC stations broadcasting "Israel: A Nation Sings," check local listings.

A videotape will be available for purchase following the broadcast.

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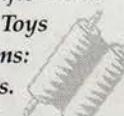
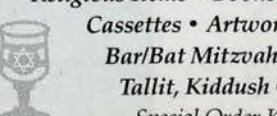
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Marilyn Meardon Becomes Queen of England

Marilyn Meardon will appear as Queen Elizabeth I at the Barrington Public Library on Jan. 11 at 2:30 p.m. Meardon, a storyteller, actor and teacher who has performed in the role of Anne Hutchinson and other Rhode Island historical personages with the Rhode Island Legacy Series, will create in solo performance the character of Elizabeth Tudor in her play "Elizabeth I: In Her Own Words."

Elizabeth Tudor's brilliant rule between 1558 and 1603 gave her name to an entire era. Marilyn's play celebrating Elizabeth's life and words was originally developed at the request of the Women Writers' project at Brown University through a grant from the Rhode Island Committee on the Humanities. Meardon researched and composed the performance in conjunction with artistic director Anne Brady using Elizabeth's speeches, letters, poetry and prayers. The actress will appear in a bejeweled black velvet Renaissance-style gown

created by costumer Kathleen McQuillan-Hofmann.

A native of Cincinnati, Meardon graduated from Carleton College in Minnesota, did graduate work in education at the University of Chicago and studied theatre education at Northwestern and in England. In Rhode Island, she has toured with the Looking Glass Theatre, has been a part of the Summer State Library Storytelling Series and has performed on numerous stages in the area.

The performance is the first annual Calvin and Jean Cronan Community Event. It is free and open to all and is sponsored by the Cronan Community Endowment Fund. The fund was created to establish an annual program at the Barrington Public Library that will promote understanding of and involvement in the areas of international human relations, cross-cultural communication, and human compassion.

For more information, call 247-1920.

'Round Midnight: Jazz Fables

A brand-new, ultra-cool look of the classics appears in "'Round Midnight: Jazz Fables," playing at the Orpheum Theatre-Foxborough, Jan. 17 at 2 p.m. "'Round Midnight," performed by the modern dance company Soliton, is second in a series of high-quality, professional productions for young and family audiences scheduled for the 1997/98 Youth Theatre Series. The series features, dramas, musicals and dance productions by some of the finest youth theater groups in the country performing for school groups and the public.

"'Round Midnight: Jazz Fables" is a fast and frenetic collection of stories performed by Soliton. Performed to a pulsing jazz score that covers everything from hot Dixie to cool Chicago Blues, "'Round Midnight" provides a new artistic perspective of some classic fables, including "The Grasshopper and the Ants," "The Frog and Their King," and "The Cat Maiden." Utilizing found objects, high-tech materials and the human body, Soliton has crafted an ingenious and hybrid form of dance-theater exploring the full potential of movement and design.

Founded by Chris Burney and Fran Kirmser in 1995, Soliton explores the interaction of dance and puppetry against a background of contemporary musical idioms.

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Glatt Kosher

Wellness Workshops At The Groundfloor

Do something good for yourself! Groundwerx Dance Theatre is continuing their new series of wellness workshops into the new year. All classes will take place at the Groundfloor Studio on 95 Empire St., downtown Providence. Classes run from 7:15-8:45 p.m., every second Friday of the month. The cost is \$10 per workshop or \$25 for all three.

For more information or to register, call 454-4564.

An Introduction to the Alexander Technique with Mara Sokolsky will take place on Jan. 9 from 7:15 to 8:45 p.m. This workshop will discuss basic concepts and show hands-on application of the Alexander Technique—a method of movement re-education that will show you how to use your body more efficiently to reduce tension and stress. Mara Sokolsky completed her three-year Alexander training in London and has lectured on the technique at many hospitals in Boston and Providence.

Just in time for Valentine's Day, Relationships as Teachers, with Michelle Crandall, will take place on Feb. 13 from 7:15 to 8:45 p.m. From looking at recurring patterns in relationships to healing old wounds with love, this workshop will help you make it through Valentine's Day—whether you love it or hate it. Crandall is a clinical specialist in psychiatric and mental health nursing with 20 years experience.

The series continues on March 13 from 7:15 to 8:45 p.m. with Chi Kung for Health taught by Janet Testoni. Be introduced to a health-promoting method the Chinese have practiced for thousands of years to improve circulation throughout the body. Testoni is a licensed massage therapist who has her own practice in Providence.

BCC Theatre Students Read From Original Works

Bristol Community College Theatre students will read one-act plays written by two of their fellow students at Baker Books in Dartmouth on Jan. 14.

"Winter Solstice" is written by Dan Gagnon and directed by Robert Lublin, a professor of theater history at BCC. Ten days before the end of the millennium, the Vanbrugh's are hosting the masquerade party of the century at the mansion on Valcour Island on Lake Champlain. Up-and-coming musician Justin de Veer and environmental activist Jade Belleau are thrilled to be invited. An unexpected blizzard delays their arrival and isolates the island estate from the outside world. As a terrible truth is revealed, complex actions and motives begin to unravel. A harmless evening's entertainment turns into a prelude for a battle between good and evil, a conflict between fate and free-will, and a struggle between life and death.

"Into the Ordinary," written by Seamus Corbett and directed

by Jennifer Simpson, tells the story of a successful yet troubled young businessman and his journey of self-discovery. Norman's perfect life is marred by hallucinations that question his sanity. He enlists the aid of Dr. Davis, who encourages Norman to keep a daily journal while he revisits childhood memories in search of clues concerning his current predicament. Norman embarks on a surreal adventure into the unknown regions of his psyche. The record of his journey becomes a meandering trail of cosmic bread crumbs that lead inexorably into the ordinary. Once there, Norman recognizes that everything that he ever thought was true is wrong. "Into the Ordinary" combines comedy, drama, and theater of the absurd, all revised for the '90s.

The readings, which reflect the stress and anxiety of this last decade of the 20th century, begin at 6 p.m. Baker Books is located at 69 State Road, Dartmouth. For further information, call (508) 997-6700.

Newport Children's Theatre Auditions For 'Doctor Doolittle'

The Newport Children's Theatre will hold auditions for its March production, "Doctor Doolittle," on Jan. 11 at 2 p.m. and again on Jan. 12 at 6:30 p.m., at The Pennfield School on East Main Road in Portsmouth. There are roles available for young actors ages 8 through young-adult.

"Doctor Doolittle" will be directed by Matthew Barabe and Linda Franklin. Scripted by the author's sister, Olga Fricker, it is just as amusing and endearing as the original. Production is scheduled for mid-March in Newport.

The auditions will include improvisation, movement and some reading. No special preparation is needed for the auditions.

Auditioners should dress appropriately for movement and bring their calendars with them.

• • •

The Newport Children's Theatre has opened registration for its winter term of theater workshops, for new as well as continuing students, ages 5 through 18. All classes are held in Newport. The series of eight classes will begin at 10 a.m. Jan. 10. Students are encouraged to register by mail or phone; but in-person registration will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Jan. 10. Tuition assistance and payment plans are available.

For further information, contact the Newport Children's Theatre at 848-0266.

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FEATURE

Jewish Women Look to Past to Create Agenda For Future

by Lauren Kramer

WALTHAM (JTA) — When Hadassah's National Commission on Jewish Women requested a report on the future of Jewish women in 1995, no one was quite prepared for the result.

The scant 80 pages of research made a startling statement about the silence and invisibility of Jewish women, prompting the establishment of the International Research Institute on Jewish Women at Brandeis University.

Recently, the first fruits of the institute's labors were evident, when a diverse group of Jewish women convened at Brandeis to share, to listen, to debate and to be heard.

They came from North Africa, the Middle East and Israel, Eastern and Western Europe and the Americas — all believing that it was time to incorporate the missing pieces of the Jewish women's experience to the mosaic of Jewish life.

This was the first conference of the institute, which was established in January 1997 with a \$1.5 million commitment from Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America.

Chaired by Barbra Streisand, the institute aims to create a reservoir of information about Jewish women all over the world, enhancing an understanding of their issues by initiating and supporting research projects, holding conferences and seminars and creating a monograph series.

With a careful scrutiny of the status of Jewish women internationally, the recent conference began the task of setting an agenda for future research.

"A people without a past is not a people," declared Susan Miller, a professor at Harvard

University and a moderator at the conference.

"The past must be studied in its totality," she added, as a series of speakers relayed the experience of Jewish women in their countries.

"I'm tired of being silenced, I want to be heard," said Ruth Knafo Setton, a Moroccan-born Jew who moved to Orefield, Pa., via Israel several years ago.

Setton described the double sense of invisibility she experienced as a Sephardi-Mizrahi woman, discriminated against in Morocco for being Jewish, and in Israel and the United States for being Moroccan.

"A people without a past is not a people."

Susan Miller

"You Moroccans aren't good workers," she said she was told in Israel, when applying for a job.

A similar welcome awaited her in the United States when she attended synagogue on Yom Kippur. "Go back to Africa," the director of the synagogue advised her family. "There's nothing for you here."

"I felt doubly exiled," Setton said, challenging her listeners to "look for me: I am nowhere to be found."

As the conference progressed and various speakers took the podium, it became clear that this was a forum of discovery and recovery, an environment where long-silenced voices could finally be heard and their grievances addressed.

For Israeli women, the dilemma lay in the failure of the Promised Land to achieve the

equality to which it had committed itself.

"It's fundamentally a gendered society," said Hanna Herzog, a sociologist at Tel Aviv University.

"How does one build a family around an agenda that's nationally oriented?" she asked.

There were no answers to these questions or others — just the collective recognition that only by asking them can they be resolved.

For the Jews of Europe, the spirit of the past is ever-prominent, casting an indomitable shadow over the present and future.

"The community is still haunted by the past," said Judith Frishman, a professor at Holland's Leiden University.

No one is paying attention to the burden borne by Jewish women in their attempts to recreate a normal family life.

"We can't go further unless we can recover from the war," Frishman said.

Tobe Levin Freifrau von Gleichen, a lecturer at J.W. Goethe University in Germany, agreed.

"Even with the wane of anti-Semitism in Germany, the past is constantly assaulting us. The Jewish situation here means suffering, persecution and fear."

Some of the most encouraging stories came from North America, where studies indicate that the educational gap between Jewish men and women is diminishing.

"American Jewish women's occupations are determined by their education and number of children these days, and not by their husband's professions," said Riv-Ellen Prell, an anthropologist at the University of Minnesota.

"Women have doubled the pool of active Jews in the United States, and the North American Jewish community cannot exist without their participation."

Chabad's Children of Chernobyl Lands 32nd Flight

Twenty-three children from the contaminated regions surrounding the Chernobyl reactor arrived in Israel during December on Chabad's Children of Chernobyl's 32nd flight, bringing the total number of children to 1,527.

The flight arrived just days before Chanukah and less than two weeks before the Israeli government's Knesset unveiling of a postage stamp honoring the work of the organization. The children on this flight attended the unveiling and lit the Knesset Chanukah menorah.

Among the passengers was Mrs. K, who accompanied her 8-year-old son, Pavel. Three years ago K sent her older son, Vladimir, to Israel on a Chabad flight, and has not seen him since. Now that her younger boy is old enough to be eligible for the program, K sent him to Israel as well. Because she has been unable to pay for a ticket to visit her older son, Chabad made arrangements for K to accompany Pavel and to visit Vladimir. With two younger children still at home, an invalid husband, and an aging mother in the Ukraine, K is unable to

leave Ukraine. "Chabad's Chernobyl program is the only way I have of removing them from the contamination in the area and getting them the medical care they need," she said upon arrival at Ben Gurion Airport. "Even though I can't be with my children, at least I know they're safe. My Vladimir looks great! It's hard to believe how good he looks compared to how he was when he left three years ago."

In Israel the children will live on campuses specially created in Kfar Chabad to care for their medical and educational needs.

"Our commitment to the Chernobyl children extends both to those we are able to bring to Israel and to those who are forced to remain behind," said Yossie Raichik, director of Chabad's Children of Chernobyl. "Our evacuation efforts will continue together with delivery of precious medical supplies and equipment to hospitals in the contaminated areas of Ukraine and Belarus." Chabad will soon be sending an ultrasound scanner and mammography machine to help in early diagnosis of radiation-related cancer.

Jewish Book Council Honors 15 Authors With Book Awards

NEW YORK (JTA) — The Jewish Book Council recently announced the winners of its 48th National Jewish Book Awards.

Saul Bellow won the fiction award for *The Actual*, a novel that tells the story of Harry Trellman, middle-aged man, who recaptures the heart of his teen-age first love.

Ruth Gay won the non-fiction award for *Unfinished People: Eastern European Jews Encounter America*, an account of immigrant life in New York City in the 1920s and 1930s.

Barbara Rogasky's *The Golem*, about the legend of Rabbi Loew of Prague, came in first in the children's book category.

Cynthia Ozick (reviewed in

the Herald) was honored for her contributions to Jewish literature.

The annual awards, which were presented earlier this month in New York, are given to authors of Jewish books published in the United States and Canada.

Finalists in other categories were:

Autobiography/Memoir: *Miriam's Kitchen* by Elizabeth Ehrlich

Children's Picture Books: *Marven of the Great North Woods* by Kathryn Lasky.

Holocaust: *Nazi Germany and the Jews: Vol. I: The Years of Persecution, 1933-1939* by Saul Friedlander.

Israel/Zionism: *Rubber Bullets: Power and Conscience in Modern Israel* by Yaron Ezrahi.

Jewish-Christian Relations: *The Kidnapping of Edgardo Mortara* (reviewed by the Herald) by David Kertzer (of Brown University, Providence).

Jewish Education: *Succeeding in Jewish Education: How One Synagogue Made it Work* by Joseph Reimer.

Jewish History: *German-Jewish History in Modern Times* edited by Michael Meyer.

Jewish Thought: *Stalking Elijah: Adventures with Today's Mystical Masters* by Rodger Kamenetz.

Jewish Scholarship: *Revelation Restored* by David Weiss Halivni.

Sephardi-Ashkenazi Culture and Customs: *The Book of Jewish Food: An Odyssey from Samarkand to New York* by Claudia Roden.

Visual Arts: *Judaica at the Smithsonian: Cultural Politics as Cultural Model* by Grace Cohen Grossman and Richard Eighme Ahlborn.

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FEATURE**News At A Glance**

The following news briefs come from the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in New York:

• The war crimes trial of former Vichy official Maurice Papon was suspended again until Jan. 5 due to the defendant's poor health. Before the suspension, further evidence suggesting Papon was involved in the roundup of Jews was introduced to the court.

• Lithuania moved one step closer to prosecuting alleged Nazi war criminal Aleksandras Lileikis when its Parliament amended its criminal code to allow those suspected of genocide to stand trial regardless of their health. Lileikis returned to

Lithuania last year after his U.S. citizenship was revoked.

• A convicted Italian war criminal left the military hospital to serve the remainder of his sentence at his lawyer's home. Erich Priebke, who has three months left to serve for participating in a 1944 massacre in Rome in which 335 people were killed, was greeted by a sign that said "Merry Christmas Killer."

• The three largest Swiss banks agreed to pay up to \$10 million to locate needy Holocaust survivors who may be eligible to receive payments from Switzerland's Holocaust Memorial Fund. After many delays, payments from the fund, to

which the banks have contributed some \$69 million of the approximately \$200 total, began last month.

• Germany's Defense Ministry ordered soldiers to report neo-Nazi incidents to their commanders and not to the media. The order comes after several news media in Germany have reported neo-Nazi incidents in recent weeks.

• Two Israeli women became the first to qualify to train as combat pilots in the Israeli air force. Israel's High Court of Justice ruled last year that the air force cannot ban women from becoming pilots. They could become pilots in a year.

Time Names Holocaust Survivor This Year's 'Man of the Year'

by Peter Ephross

NEW YORK (JTA) — Time magazine has named a Jewish Holocaust survivor its 1997 "Man of the Year."

The magazine honored Andrew Grove, who is the chairman and CEO of Intel, which produces nearly 90 percent of the world's personal computer microprocessors.

In honoring Grove, 61, Time said he possessed a "paranoia bred from his having been a refugee," combined with an "entrepreneurial optimism" and a "sharpness tinged with arrogance."

Grove was born Andras Grof in Hungary to a dairyman and a bookkeeper.

He and his mother survived the 1944 roundups in Budapest by posing as "acquaintances of a Christian family," according to time.

After the war, he studied chemistry — opera was another passion.

When the Russians invaded Hungary in 1956, Grove left, escaping over the border into Austria by foot.

He made his way to Brook-

lyn, N.Y., where he lived with an aunt and uncle, and enrolled in New York's City College, where he graduated first in the 1960 engineering class.

After earning a doctorate from the University of California at Berkeley, Grove chose a job at Fairchild Semiconductor, a start-up company.

With his bosses, he moved to Intel in 1968, and in 1987, he was named to head the company.

He has earned a reputation as a demanding manager within the company and a ruthless destroyer of Intel's competition.

Intel produces the Pentium II chip. The company is now worth \$115 billion and earns \$5.1 billion annually in profits, making it the seventh most profitable company in the world.

And it has paid off for Grove. He and his wife, Eva, whom he met in 1957 when he was working at a busboy at a New Hampshire resort, have an estimated net worth of more than \$300 million.

Despite all of his successes, Grove's life experience appears to have taught him about the transience of life. He received

another reminder of this fact in 1994, when he was diagnosed with prostate cancer.

Perhaps this is why, when asked by Time to contemplate technology, he answered, "Technology happens. It's not good or bad."

ACT Receives Grant From The Committee For The Humanities

The All Children's Theatre Ensemble recently announced the receipt of a \$3,050 grant from the Rhode Island Committee for the Humanities, in association with the national Endowment for the Humanities.

This grant is made in support of ACT's Second annual Rhode Island Youth Playwriting Competition.

In preparation for the competition, The Ensemble provided young writers with four playwriting workshops, held under the instruction of a professional playwright. As part of this tutorial, the writers participated in active seminars with three humanities scholars. Rabbi Alan Flam led a discussion on moral dilemmas by presenting and analyzing a story from the Torah. Janice Okoomian presented dramatic techniques of writing through personal histories, and shared her own perspective as an Armenian woman. Susan Rosenfeld discussed the loss of privacy with respect to the latest technology and government surveillance.

Winners of the competition will have the chance to work with a professional director and acting ensemble to develop their plays for public performance in March.

Calling All Kosher Cookie Lovers: Oreos Have Arrived!

No need to stare with envy at packages of Oreos and Chips Ahoy! while shopping at your local supermarket. In a step that is sure to send joyous shock waves throughout the kosher snack food industry, America's favorite sandwich and chocolate chip cookies now carry the OU — the world's foremost kashruth supervision symbol.

Aside from Oreos and Chips Ahoy!, nearly 80 scrumptious low-fat, fat-free and regular snackfoods produced by the Nabisco Food Company bear the OU or the OU-D certification. "One of the biggest food companies and the world's premier kosher certifying agency have successfully joined forces to bring the USA's most popular snack foods to the kosher consumer," said Kevin J. Murphy, Nabisco senior quality control specialist.

"With Nabisco under the OU certification, kosher consumers everywhere can rest assured that they need not sacrifice kashruth standards in order to get great

taste," said Rabbi Eliyahu Safran senior rabbinic coordinator.

The Orthodox Union, celebrating 100 years of service to the Jewish community of America and beyond, is the world leader in youth work, advocacy for the disabled, synagogue services, adult education and political action. Its kosher supervision label, the OU, is the world's most recognized kosher symbol and can be found on more than 200,000 products in 56 countries around the globe. Visit OU Online, at <www.ou.org>.

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Jewish Student Youth Concert Aids Latvian Holocaust Survivors

Students Provide Healthcare and an Evening of Jewish Music

World War II through Soviet times and now, to us."

Yarik's grandmother, Yevgenia Barowska, explained the situation as two-fold: First, she and the other 80 survivors in Riga, Latvia's capital, were in dire need of non-prescription medication such as aspirin and heart pills. But rather than deliver the medication, as the students initially thought, Yarik's Grandma suggested planning an evening out.

"We knew we wanted to do something," explained Yarik. "But we really didn't know what they needed. So she helped us figure it out."

Thus began an inter-generational collaboration that resulted in a unique evening encompassing Jewish renewal, aid to the elderly and tzedakah, a concept of communal responsibility unable to be realized in many Jewish communities under Communism.

Even before the concert, Yarik and the other Jewish youth group members would meet regularly at the Jewish Community Center, both of which are supported by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. And over the past few years, they've planned a variety of events, including the JDC-sponsored Baltic Conference for Jewish Youth, a project that brings together young Jewish leaders from Estonia and Lithuania as well as Latvia.

Still, they all understood that the recent concert for the survivors was special.

"Without them, we wouldn't be here," said Yarik. "They kept Judaism alive for us — from

All 80 of Riga's Holocaust survivors came out for a warm evening of singing, dancing, clapping — and medication. Indeed, health care for the body and soul.

"The survivors have given us a sense of history, of what it meant to be Jewish for generations here," said Yarik. "Now, we can give them back a sense of what it means to be Jewish today. It's important for them, but it's also important for us."



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OBITUARIES

WALTER KLEIN

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — Walter Klein, 71, of S.W. Inwood Pines Lane, Palm City, Fla., vice president of H. Margolin & Co., a leather handbag manufacturing company in New York City for many years, died Dec. 24 at Good Samaritan Hospital in West Palm Beach, Fla. He was the husband of Rose (Levitt) Klein.

Born in Bronx, N.Y., a son of the late Fred and Bella (Berger) Klein, he lived in New Rochelle, N.Y., and in Leominster, Mass., before moving to Florida a year ago.

He attended City College of New York. He was a Navy veteran of World War II.

Besides his wife, he leaves a son, Gary Klein of Cranston; a daughter, Aimee Klein of Boston; a sister, Shirley Finette of Delray Beach, Fla.; and two grandchildren.

A graveside funeral was held Dec. 31 at 2 p.m. at Lincoln Park Cemetery, Post Road, Warwick. The service was coordinated by Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence.

RUTH KRAMER

PROVIDENCE — Ruth Kramer, 81, of Regency Plaza West, manager of a dental office for many years before retiring five years ago, died Dec. 21 at home. She was the wife of the late Sydney Kramer.

Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Michael and Beatrice (Byers) Orzeck, she lived in Pawtucket for 20 years

before returning to Providence eight years ago.

She was a Navy WAVE during World War II, and served as a quartermaster. She was a member of Temple Emanu-El. She was a member of the Women's Association of the Jewish Home for the Aged and Miriam Hospital, where she had served as a volunteer. She was a member and treasurer of the Providence chapter of the National Council of Jewish Women.

She leaves a brother, Dr. Arthur Orzeck, of Rosamond, Calif., and several nieces and nephews. She was a sister of the late Martin Orzeck.

A graveside funeral service was held Dec. 24 at Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. The service was coordinated by Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence.

ADELE B. MARTIN

PROVIDENCE — Adele B. Martin, 81, of Westwood Avenue, co-owner, with her husband, of the former Martin Plastics, River Avenue, Providence, for several years before retiring several years ago, died Dec. 27 at Elmhurst Extended Care Facility, Providence. She was the wife of Albert Martin.

Born in New York City, a daughter of the late Barney and Hanna Berkson, she lived in Providence before moving to Cranston 43 years ago.

Besides her husband, she leaves a son, Stephen A. Martin of Cranston, and three grandchildren.

A graveside funeral service was held Dec. 28 at Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. Arrangements were by Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

SOLOMON E. SELINKER

PROVIDENCE — Solomon E. Selinker, 90, of 27 Trenton St., owner of the former Providence Business Forms and a self-employed certified public accountant, retiring in 1996, died Dec. 25 at Miriam Hospital. He was the husband of Miriam (Fabricant) Selinker.

Born in Providence, a son of the late Louis and Chasha (Reznik) Selinker, he lived in Pawtucket for 20 years, previously living in Providence. He was a 1937 graduate of Northeastern University.

He was a member of the board of directors of Temple Torat Yisrael. He had been a president of Temple Beth Israel and was the recipient of the temple's first Man of the Year award.

He was a member of the Redwood Lodge of Masons, Touro Fraternal Association and a life member of Hadassah and the Hebrew Free Loan Association.

Besides his wife, he leaves a son, Larry Selinker of London; a daughter, Lea Selinker of Cranston; and five grandsons. He was the father of the late Janet Colvin and brother of the late Ida Selinker.

The funeral was held Dec. 28 at Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

Arrangements were by Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

JOYCE ROBINSON

WARWICK — Joyce Robinson, 53, of 1245 Narragansett Parkway, died Dec. 24 at home. She was the wife of Albert Watkins.

Born in Providence, a daughter of Beatrice (Chester) Horenstein of Providence, and the late Sheldon Horenstein, she lived in Warwick for 25 years.

She had been a volunteer worker for the Warwick School Department.

Besides her husband and mother, she leaves a daughter, Stephanie Robinson, and a son, Richard Levin, both of Warwick; and a sister, Lynda Braga of Warwick.

The funeral service was held Dec. 28 at Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence. Burial followed at Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

JULIUS ROSENBERG

PROVIDENCE — Julius Rosenberg, 82, of Pitman Street died Dec. 26 at home.

A lifelong Providence resident, he was a son of the late Abraham and Esther (Schwartz) Rosenberg.

He leaves a brother, Herman Rosenberg, of Pawtucket and several nieces and nephews.

A graveside service was held Dec. 29 in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. Arrangements were by Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

Uzi Narkiss, a Central Figure in Liberating Jerusalem, Dies

by David Landau

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The commander of Israeli troops that unified Jerusalem during the 1967 Six-Day War has died at the age of 72.

Reserve Maj. Gen. Uzi Narkiss, who died recently in Jerusalem, had an army career that dated back to the days of the Palmach, the elite commando units of the Haganah, which was the precursor to the Israel Defense Force.

His photograph, striding along beside Defense Minister Moshe Dayan and IDF Chief of Staff Yitzhak Rabin as they entered the Old City of Jerusalem through the Jaffa Gate on June 7, 1967, has become one of Israel's best-known images.

Narkiss' persona bubbled forth in the briefest encounters: his bluff, backslapping style; his clipped, forthright speech; his incisive analysis; and, above all, his warm personality.

Born in 1925, Narkiss enlisted in the Palmach in 1941 and rose through its ranks to serve as a commander during the Israeli War of Independence, when he fought to defend Jerusalem.

In 1958, he was appointed military attaché to Western Europe.

Narkiss subsequently founded the Israeli National Defense

College and served as its first commander.

His distinguished career in the IDF reached its zenith during the Six-Day War, when he was head of the Central Command, whose forces restored Jerusalem to Israeli control.

After retiring from the IDF, Narkiss served as director of the Immigration and Absorption Department of the Jewish Agency for Israel.

While at the Jewish Agency, he contributed both his prestige and his organizational ability to enhancing and absorbing the wave of olim from the West that followed the Six-Day War.

During the 1970s and 1980s, he was chairman of the information department of the World Zionist Organization. In that position, he worked to rescind the U.N. resolution that equated Zionism with racism.

He served as head of the WZO's North American delegation until 1994, when he returned to Israel to serve as chairman of the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corp.

Narkiss was the author of two books, *The Liberation of Jerusalem* and *A Soldier of Jerusalem*.

Narkiss is survived by his wife, Esther; a son, Tzachi; two daughters, Ruthy and Tammy; and nine grandchildren.

Hollywood Jewish Cemetery Saved

by Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES (JTA) — The last resting place for some of Hollywood's famous Jews has been rescued from oblivion.

The cemetery holds the graves of actors Paul Muni and Peter Lorre; Mel Blanc, the voice of many popular cartoon characters; producers Harry Cohn and Jesse Lasky; composer Erich Wolfgang Korngold; and mobster Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel.

Beth Olam is the Jewish section of Hollywood Memorial Park Cemetery, which has been in bankruptcy for 18 months and earlier this month was close to being padlocked and abandoned.

Bankruptcy trustees had been fruitlessly seeking a buyer for

more than a year and were ready to close down the cemetery when the Callanan Mortuary offered \$375,000 for the memorial park and promised to refurbish the badly neglected grounds.

Actors Rudolph Valentino, Douglas Fairbanks Sr., Tyrone Power and John Huston; and director Cecil B. DeMille are buried in the general section of the cemetery.

The bailout came as a great relief to the city's Jews, who feared that they might be prevented from visiting and tending some 20,000 graves. Others faced the loss of pre-paid burial plots, crypts and mausoleum vaults.

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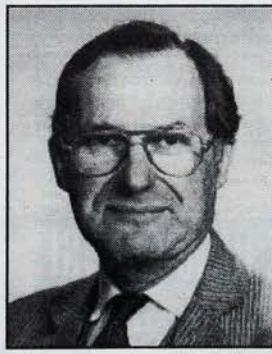
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CLASSIFIED**American Jews Launch Year of Festivities Honoring Israel**

by Susan Jacobs

NEW YORK (JTA) — While Israeli officials have yet to decide how to celebrate Israel's jubilee, America recently launched its own festivities.

The first night of Chanukah marked the official kick-off of Israel's 50th anniversary, as leaders of some 40 countries lit a menorah in their respective capital cities.

In Jerusalem, Israeli President Ezer Weizman lit a menorah at his official residence.

President Clinton lit the first Chanukah candle in an Oval Office ceremony with students from a local Jewish day school.

The celebration in the United States is designed to "get people to understand the history of the State of Israel and to celebrate the joy that it's 50," said Arlene Kausman, co-chairperson of the Israel at 50 Anniversary Committee.

The committee, a joint effort of the United Jewish Appeal and the Council of Jewish Federations, is helping communities across the country schedule activities by informing them about what's available, she said.

Most of the U.S.-based events are cultural, involving tours by Israeli performers and artists, but some educational programs are also being planned.

In Israel, the majority of events have not yet been scheduled because of an array of budgetary and bureaucratic problems. Jubilee planners in Israel have indicated they may scale back events planned in the Diaspora and delay events in Israel until April 30, Israel's Independence Day.

Planning for Israel's 50th anniversary year in the United States has also had its share of trouble, where concern about religious pluralism in the Jew-

ish state and the stalled peace process may account for the unexpectedly small number of events planned nationally.

In August, actor Billy Crystal and other Hollywood celebrities indicated that they would not appear at a gala celebration in Los Angeles because of the controversy about religious pluralism.

Despite such divisions, American Jewry should be coming together "to celebrate 50 years of a miracle," said Constance Smukler, co-chair of Israel 50, a non-profit group organizing more than 100 events in Philadelphia.

"Who would have thought that 50 years ago the country would have such accomplishments in medicine and science and bring in hundreds of thousands of Soviet and Ethiopian Jews?"

Philadelphia will host the first major jubilee event in the country.

The event is slated for Jan. 24, when the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra and the Philadelphia Orchestra are scheduled to perform a special concert called "Hear, O Israel" at a city arena that can seat 18,000.

The program, a joint effort by City Hall, the local Jewish federation and Israeli Consulate, will tell Israel's history in music and narration, with the participation of factors Leonard Nimoy and Richard Dreyfuss.

The UJA plans to provide a live satellite hookup for communities across the country to view the concert.

UJA and CJF staffers, who are still collecting information about planned activities in communities across the country, remain upbeat that other cities will emulate Philadelphia.

"The Jewish world and the

State of Israel can't afford to miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," said Ron Friedman, director of Israel at 50 for UJA. "This is a celebration of Diaspora Jewry and of Israel."

The Los Angeles event, which Crystal and others have declined to attend, will be shown as a CBS television special, "America and its Friends Salute Israel" on April 15. The program is expected to be the highlight of jubilee events in Los Angeles.

The UJA-CJF anniversary committee is also sponsoring four traveling exhibits on themes related to Israel:

- A mural depicting scenes from Israel's War of Independence, created by Israeli artist Avner Moriah. "Against the Odds" also includes a series of 10 smaller paintings showing the sequence of the war. After its U.S. tour, the exhibit will be displayed in the Ammunition Hill War Memorial Museum in Israel.

- "The People of Israel at 50," a contemporary photo display by Zion Ozeri that depicts images of Israel's modern citizens.

- Photos taken by members of the Palmach, the mobilized strike force of the Haganah.

- 50 years of partnership between the UJA, the Jewish Agency for Israel and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

Locally, Jewish community relations councils are also planning cultural and education events.

Israel's 50th birthday provides "opportunities to plan substantive programs for relations between the U.S. and Israel," said Martin Raffel, associate executive vice chairman of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs.

The JCPA is planning to hold a Beit Midrash program — an interactive study session — to mark Israel's jubilee at its annual meeting in February in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

Jewish college students who will be attending the JCPA convention as part of the annual meeting of the Hillel Foundation will engage in discussions with community relations leaders who personally remember events in 1948, or who reached maturity at the time of the 1967 Six-Day War.

The three generations will share their perspectives in small groups, utilizing both sacred and modern texts about Israel.

'Dear Avigal'

(Continued from Page 4)

others by embracing *darchei shalom*, the paths of peace.

Elijah The Tishbit

Dear Readers:

Thanks to all of you who took the time to respond to Hurt and Confused. It seems to me that the truth lies somewhere in between the various views. The story of Joseph (as well as that of Jacob and Esau and David and Absalom) is one we know all too well from our own lives. Quarrels can be mended and breaks repaired, but many of the old differences will still remain. We actually do our ancestors a great injustice by assigning "fairy-tale" endings to these baggage-laden moments. Yet Elijah's words continue to ring in my ears. Although we know that reconciliation is often not perfect, we still need to strive for it for the sake of *shalom*. Yes, Joseph lived apart from his family in Egypt, but he also "sustained them with bread." (Gen. 47:12) Day after day, Joseph saw to it that the basic wants of his family were satisfied. This prosaic deed may have been more remarkable

than weeping on his brothers. The scene between Joseph and his brothers in the throne room was just that — a scene, a moment in time. Joseph could not cry on their shoulders forever, nor could he create an ideal relationship with his estranged family. However, now that reconciliation had taken place, Joseph could and did act decently toward them. Day after day, Joseph did what he could, in a very human way.

So, too, let us not be too hard on ourselves for not being able to create and sustain perfect reconciliations. Let us work toward and cherish those moments when we can weep on each other's necks. But let's also remember that such moments pass and are replaced by the business of day-to-day living and the complex interactions of human relationships. Sometimes, sustaining with bread is pretty good too.

Mindy Davids, M.A.J.E., RJE, is the director of education at Temple Beth Shalom in Santa Ana, Calif.

Jeffrey Marx, M.A.J.E., is the rabbi of Sha'arei Am in Santa Monica, Calif.

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Audubon Winter Birdseed Sale

The Audubon Society of Rhode Island and the Caratunk Wildlife Refuge in Seekonk recently announced their annual winter birdseed sale. Call 949-5454 or visit the Caratunk Wildlife Refuge to obtain an order form. The forms must be returned to Audubon by Jan. 23. The birdseed pick-up date is Feb. 7 at Caratunk. The proceeds of the sale will go towards support of wildlife habitat management and programming at the refuge.

Backyard birdfeeding is a wonderful hobby. By filling your feeders with black oil seed, premium mix, thistle, and suet, you will be inviting chickadees, finches, sparrows, and many other birds into your yard this winter. In addition to native winter berries and overwintering insect eggs and pupae, the seed provides birds with the extra nutrition they need to survive the harsh winters of New England. It is a much-needed and well-received resource for our feathered friends during this snowy season.

For more information on which bird species that you may attract with the different seed choices and to receive your order form, contact the Audubon Society of Rhode Island at 949-5454.

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Global Settlement

(Continued from Page 1)

many of the accounts belonged to people killed by the Nazis, but added that many of the names appeared to be Jewish.

Five claims have been settled, Volcker said, but he declined to specify their value.

In the past year, Swiss banks have published the names of nearly 16,000 accounts opened before World War II, many of

which may have belonged to Holocaust victims. The combined value of those accounts is about \$54.4 million.

Volcker said experts to resolve claims had encountered more difficulty than expected, and the target date for completing the task has been extended six months to December 1998.

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Internet News For Senior Citizens

by Martha A. McSteens

Many older Americans who feel like bystanders on the road to the information highway may be glad to know they can get a lift to the Internet.

The Health Care Financing Administration has a program to help more seniors find the on-ramps to the World Wide Web. This can give seniors greater access to the agency's Web sites dealing with Medicare, Medicaid, the Department of Health and Human Services and the Administration on Aging.

The agency will provide hundreds of senior centers with computers, software and computer training.

Through the computer, you can find information on nutrition, nursing homes, financial planning, long-term care insurance, pension assistance, Social Security and volunteer opportunities. There are tips on how to curb Medicare fraud and abuse, questions to ask the doctor and advice on how to foil

telemarketing scammers.

Here are a few Web sites popular with older Americans:

- <http://www.ssa.gov> is the Social Security Administration's Web site.

- <http://www.hcfa.gov> is where information on Medicare and Medicaid can be found from the Health Care Financing Administration.

- <http://www.aoa.dhhs.gov/aoa/pages/aoa/html> has information on the Administration on Aging and programs under the Older Americans Act.

- <http://thomas.loc.gov> provides links to government agencies, the Congressional Record and C-Span.

- <http://www.iagnet.org> is the Interactive Aging Network. It provides help with career development, caregiver support, healthcare providers, housing options and volunteering opportunities.

- <http://www.senior.com> shows what's available to

seniors in cyberspace, including chat rooms.

- <http://www.ncpssm.org> is the National Committee's Web site.

- <http://www.spry.org> is the home page of Setting Priorities for Retirement Years, a non-profit organization helping seniors plan healthy and financially secure futures.

Martha A. McSteens is president of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, the nation's second largest senior advocacy group.

A Safe Place For Kids on Internet

According to *Business Week*, 4 million kids under age 17 went online last year alone. Their number is expected to grow to more than 20 million new children going online by the year 2002.

Internet Safety Tips

Here are some sensible safety tips that will also help your youngsters have more fun on the Internet:

- Tell your child you'd like to learn about the Web and let them show you their favorite sites and what they like to do. This will let you spend some quality time with your children, as well as monitor what they are doing.

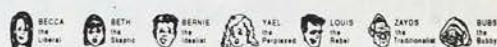
- Do some Web-surfing yourself and find some fun sites you think would interest your child. You might also say you heard about some cool sites and give your youngster a list, then let him or her explore the sites for themselves.

- Establish clear rules about when and how much time your child can be on the Internet. Make sure homework and chores get done first before sitting down at the computer.

- Tell your child he or she must ask permission before participating in any chat sessions. When they ask permission, check out the site and the topics being discussed. If it looks OK, sit with your child for the first few minutes to make sure the chat is actually what it says it is.

THE PROMISED LAND

THE CONTINUING STORY OF JEWISH LIFE IN THE DIASPORA
by Jordan B. Gorfinkel



The Promised Land comic strip was created by 29-year-old Jordan Gorfinkel of New York City. His syndicated comics have been published in various Jewish newspapers across the United States since 1996.

Middle School Students Help Save The Bay

Students in Rhode Island public, private, and parochial middle schools (grades five to nine) are invited to enter the Citizens Bank Save The Bay Young Environmentalist Award Contest. Students are required to submit a highly original idea plan project that either:

- increases awareness of Narragansett Bay pollution issues, or,
- helps reduce Narragansett Bay pollution.

Students can enter drawings, photography, video, diagrams, exhibits, or other helpful visual aids. Ideas may be handwritten, typed, or word processed. Science fair projects meeting the entry criteria are also eligible.

The grand prize is a weekend in Boston for four. The weekend includes hotel and meals, tours of the New England Aquarium and the Museum of Science, and a Boston Harbor Cruise. The winner will also receive a personalized trophy presented at Save The Bay's 1998 annual meeting, and a private cruise on Narragansett Bay aboard Save The Bay's unique power boat trimaran, the Baykeeper. Seven other runners-up will also be awarded prizes. Award winners will be announced at Save The Bay's annual meeting on March 1. Keynote speaker will be Sen. John Kerry, Massachusetts.

Deadline for entries is Feb. 6. Call Save The Bay at (401) 272-3540 for an application.

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Escape into a world of creativity during Rhode Island School of Design's Division of Continuing Education's culinary arts series. Offered through January and February, this culinary arts series features renowned Chef Tim McFate. The lineup is:

Chef's Tour of the World:
Join Chef McFate for a whirlwind tour of the culinary world on Tuesdays, Jan. 27 through Feb. 10, from 7 to 10 p.m.

Northern Italian Cuisine: Learn to prepare delicate sauces, pastas, and wood-grilled meats and vegetables. Participants will take home recipes and tips about authentic ingredients and information on where to buy them. Jan. 27, from 7 to 10 p.m.

Not-So-Traditional Mexican Cuisine: During the class, students learn how to make fresh tortillas, quesadillas and ginger salsa, and sample Mexican sauces that have a French flair. Proper seasoning with a variety of fresh and dried chilies and various spices will also be discussed. Feb. 3, 7 to 10 p.m.

Thai Cuisine: Thai cuisine is light, fresh and traditionally seasoned with a carefully balanced blend of chili peppers, onions, and garlic, basil, and ginger, mint, curry, and coriander. Chef McFate will demonstrate how to achieve this balance, and pass on other tips, recipes and techniques. Feb. 10, from 7 to 10 p.m. Per person tuition is \$55 or \$150 for the entire series. Anyone interested in participating in RISD's culinary arts series or individual classes, should call the Division of Continuing Education at 454-6200.

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