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Temple Shalom Shares Important Lessons of Tolerance

by Tara V. Lisciandro
Herald Editor

On a nearby island there exists a school, a learning place for children, adults and seniors of all faiths and backgrounds. For more than 20 years the school and its students have experienced a variety of educational programs and activities. The leader of this school is Rabbi Marc Jagolinzer (currently president of the RI Board of Rabbis) and his school is Temple Shalom in Middletown. For 24 years Rabbi Jagolinzer has acted as Temple Shalom's guide and fostered interfaith relations. "Temple Shalom is now known for interfaith services," said Rabbi Jagolinzer, "they dispel the myths perpetuated in the community. Interfaith services also foster appreciation and understanding which is much needed in today's world. We lose sight of what's important."

After almost a quarter of a century Rabbi Jagolinzer has created annual traditions and new bonds. "The island has been receptive and responsive," he said. One of the oldest programs that has been developed by Rabbi Jagolinzer is the annual Interfaith Thanksgiving celebration which is held at a different location each year. "It has grown to 300 people participating with anywhere from 10 to 20 clergy. Thanksgiving is something we all share and I have chaired the project for many years," stated Rabbi Jagolinzer. It was the first of its kind and a great success.

He has created and assisted in creating many other meaningful and important programs which promote interfaith relations as well. In only a few weeks one of the newer programs, the Black/Jewish seder, which began almost five years ago, will take place at Temple Shalom once again. "I initiated it by calling Vincent Thompson, the minister at Community Baptist, and asked if he'd like to participate in the name of freedom and equality," said Rabbi Jagolinzer. More than 100 people attended the unique seder and found many common ties within Black and Jewish relations. This year's Black/Jewish seder will be held on March 19 and is expected to be a great success once again.

In April Temple Shalom hosts the annual Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance, service. "I started the Interfaith Holocaust Service of Remembrance at the temple, which is still going strong," said the rabbi. This annual event brings together Christians and Jews and remembers those who were lost in the Holocaust. During the service prayers and readings are prepared and guests such as survivors and other members of the community are invited to speak. Children are also an important part of the service and often create drawings and paintings that decorate the temple's walls, read poetry and present a short skit or play.

> For 24 years Rabbi Jagolinzer has acted as Temple Shalom's guide and fostered interfaith relations.

"Evening of Sharing" is another annual event which will celebrate it's 11th year in November. "The event started years ago when Sister Mary Burns from St. Lucy's called to ask if I would spend some time teaching a CCD class about Judaism," said Rabbi Jagolinzer. "I invited her and the class to Temple Shalom... the event has continued all these years." The rabbi added that at first the class was just for kids; now, however, "it's their parents and their grandparents. And then it was some who had no kids at all." There were about 30 children at the first event and last year's "Evening of Sharing," 10 years later, brought together almost 200 people.

"There is also the National Day of Prayer. Madeline Nugent and I spearheaded the local observance, something which focuses on a widely shared experience," said Rabbi Jagolinzer. "We pray for the welfare and well-being of the nation and for peace." The event is held annually during the month of May and it, too, has been a great success throughout the community.

Having implemented these important programs, Rabbi Jagolinzer has been continuing to teach lessons of interfaith relations to local schools, churches and other organizations. The rabbi has taught courses in Hebrew and Judaism at the University of Rhode Island in Kingston since 1975. He also teaches "The Jewish Experience" at Salve Regina in Newport. "It's a wonderful class that includes a hands-on Jewish experience," said Rabbi Jagolinzer. Students from the local school are brought to the temple where they can view actual ritual objects and grasp a better understanding of Judaism.

The rabbi also is included in Salve Regina's "Circle of Scholars" where speakers and teachers from the area visit the school and discuss various issues with adult classes.

St. George's in Newport is visited annually by the rabbi where he preaches and the historical Channing Unitarian Church also welcomes Rabbi Jagolinzer's inspirational discussion as well. Recently the Urban League Sunday featured Rabbi Jagolinzer as their guest speaker for the second time. This year's theme was "Man's Impossibility is God's Possibility." It was held in Providence at the Olney Street Baptist Church. The Urban League is one of more than 100 local affiliates that assists with the elimination of racial discrimination and segregation.

The small island of Aquidneck is home to a dynamic person and community who are making great strides to share some important lessons. "I'm a teacher," said Rabbi Jagolinzer, "and I strongly believe that ignorance breeds intolerance and ill-will. By coming together and sharing and learning , we see how much we have in common and have little keeps us apart."

U.S. Congress Heightens Role in Holocaust Restitution Issue

by Daniel Kurtzman

WASHINGTON (JTA) — As the search for assets of Holocaust victims broadens to include pillaged artworks and confiscated insurance policies, the U.S. Congress is exerting pressure for restitution.

The two issues were the subject of a recent daylong congressional hearing at which 22 witnesses testified about the legal status of art objects seized by the Nazis and the way European insurance companies handled policies taken out by Holocaust victims.

Taken together, the total value of those assets is likely to far exceed the value of the more publicized dormant Holocaust-era bank accounts and personal gold plundered by the Nazis, according to Elan Steinberg, executive director of the World Jewish Congress.

Testifying before the House Banking Committee, Holocaust survivors and lawmakers accused European insurance companies of profiting at the expense of Holocaust victims.

Two companies have been sued for billions of dollars by heirs of victims seeking to recover life insurance benefits seized by the Nazis.

"It is clear that the European insurance companies undertook a deliberate effort to target European Jews for profit, before the Nazis targeted them for destruction," Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R-N.Y.) told the committee. "These companies sought and obtained premiums up front, with no expectation of paying the claims in the end."

D'Amato, who chairs the Senate Banking Committee, proposed the creation of an independent commission, modeled after the Volcker Commission now investigating Swiss banks, to look into the insurance situation.

Rep. James Leach (R-Iowa), chairman of the House Banking Committee, endorsed that idea, as did the WJC.

D'Amato and the WJC also proposed that the insurers set up a humanitarian fund to benefit Holocaust survivors.

One of the dominant underwriters of policies sold to Jews in Eastern Europe, the Italian firm Assicurazioni Generali, said it would cooperate with the proposed independent panel.

The company's lead counsel also noted in testimony before the committee that Generali created a $12 million humanitarian fund last year to assist needy Holocaust survivors.

> Witnesses testified about the legal status of art objects seized by the Nazis and the way European insurance companies handled policies taken out by Holocaust victims.

On the issue of looted art, the directors of some of America's top art museums, responding to growing concerns that they may be displaying wartime plunder, pledged to fully research the ownership history of their holdings.

To that end, a 13-member task force formed by the Association of Art Museum Directors, which includes the heads of the 170 largest art museums in North America, has begun exploring the establishment of a database to identify the rightful owners of plundered art and developing guidelines to resolve individual ownership claims.

"We will not countenance the acquisition or display of stolen art, and we are committed to doing everything possible to ensure that our collections are untainted by the stigma of the Nazi past," Glenn Lowry, director of the Museum of Modern Art in New York, told the committee.

Ronald Lauder, chairman of the WJC's Commission for Art Recovery, said he was satisfied with the action taken so far by the art community.

Speaking before the committee, he stressed that the legal obstacles to returning the art should be minimized given that survivors "have already suffered decades of frustration and should not be asked to sustain the ordeal of lengthy and costly lawsuits."

The Clinton administration is in the process of developing a policy on stolen art and is planning to convene an international conference in Washington in June to focus on artworks, insurance policies, books and other property stolen from Holocaust victims.

Several members of Congress, meanwhile, have either introduced or plan to offer new bills dealing with looted art and insurance claims.

Among the legislative proposals:

- Rep. Mark Foley (R-Fla.) has introduced legislation that would prohibit European insurance companies and their American subsidiaries from conducting business in the United States unless they fully disclose how they handled Holocaust victims' policies.

The bill, known as the Comprehensive Holocaust Accountability in Insurance Measure, comes as California's insurance commissioner has threatened to pull Generali's license because the firm has not honored his requests to appear at several public hearings.

(Continued on Page 15)

HAPPENINGS

Rabbi Cohen Visits Temple Torat Yisrael

Temple Torat Yisrael of Cranston will host the Siperstein Family Scholar-in-Residence, Rabbi Shaye Cohen, March 13 to 15. Topics for study and exploration with Rabbi Cohen are "Who is a Jew? Who was Jew? An historical perspective on the entire question of Jewish descent."

Rabbi Cohen has inspired Temple Torat Yisrael with his intelligence, his wit, and his sensitivities to text at last year's High Holy Days.

For more information, call Cantor Liberman at 785-1800.

Poets Out Loud

On March 8 from 3 to 5 p.m., College Hill Book Store, 252 Thayer St., will sponsor a book-signing benefiting Projective Verse, Inc., Providence's performance poetry non-profit which brings poetry citywide to high schools, coffeehouses, and universities.

Meet Hal Sirowitz, Marc Smith and Regie Cabico.

After the signing, join hosts Ray Davey and Lizzie Araujo and performers, D.J. Renegade, Sou MacMillian, Allysen Callery, Erin Mckeown, and Laura Moran at AS220, 111 Empire St., at 7 p.m. for a night of unforgettable artistry at Out Loud: A Benefit for Projective Verse, Inc.

Rhode Island's Ballet Theatre Performs at Carriage House Theatre

Rhode Island's Ballet Theatre, a classical ballet company, will stage three performances at Carriage House Theatre, Providence, March 27 to 29.

The program, entitled "Chrysalis," will consist of six works showcasing the beauty and emotional range of ballet in all its forms. The dances are:

- "Espana," a fiery classical ballet on pointe
- "Harp Dances," an original piece performed to live harp music
- "The Witches of Eastwick," a contemporary ballet
- "Here, There, Everywhere," a lyrical ballet set to music by the Beatles
- Selections from the "Firebird Ballet," an abstract classical ballet
- "Saltimbanco," a contemporary ballet with music from Cirque de Soleil

Tickets are $12 and reservations are recommended. Show times are 8 p.m. on March 27 and 28 and 2 p.m. on March 29. Call 847-5301 for information.

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Calendar: February 26 thru March 6

Feb. 26 **Arlene Avakian,** editor of *Through the Kitchen Window*, a collection of writings by women on food and ethnicity, speaks about her book at a lunchtime discussion sponsored by Sarah Doyle Women's Center, Brown/RISD Hillel, noon, Providence.

Phantom of the Opera at Providence Performing Arts Center, now through March 14. Call 421-ARTS.

27 **Rhode Island School of Design** sponsors "Cabaret of Dead Souls: Harvesting Russian History," Feb. 27 to Feb. 28. Open to Public at Waterman Building, Providence. RISD students perform themes from Russian history and culture. Call 454-6348.

Congregation Agudath Achim hosts Rev. William A. Wagner as guest speaker at Sabbath service, 8 p.m., Taunton, Mass. Rev. Wagner is a baritone soloist and has appeared in Buffalo Philharmonic, N.Y., and many musical comedies.

28 **Read Across America,** Read-a-Thon at Warwick Mall, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 to 4 p.m. Join celebrities and the Cat-in-the-Hat and learn about the importance of reading, also March 1, 1 to 4 p.m.

Chanting Service at Congregation Agudas Achim, Attleboro. Services include music, singing and meditative atmosphere. Call (508) 222-2243.

"How Old Is My House?" Preservation Society of Pawtucket hosts homeowners workshop, 1 to 3 p.m. at Pawtucket Public Library. Open to public. Call 725-9581.

Zamir Chorale of Boston at Temple Torat Yisrael, Cranston, 8:30 p.m., Martha S. Hoffman Memorial. For ticket information, call 785-1800.

March

1 **John F. Kerry** speaks at Save the Bay annual meeting at Doubletree Islander Hotel, Newport, noon. Call 272-3540.

Second annual Providence New Play Festival at Trinity Rep, Providence. March 1 to 31, call 351-4242.

4 **Women's History at Brown,** "Twenty-five Years of Jewish Feminism: From Struggling For Religious Equality to Pioneering on The Spiritual Frontier" at Brown/RISD Hillel, Providence, noon. For more information about Women's History Month, call 863-2189.

ASDS PTA presents Dr. M. Goldstein-Fradin as she discusses "Enhancing Your Child's Self-Esteem." 7 p.m. in vestry.

5 **Old Slater Mill Opening Day**, 1 to 5 p.m., Pawtucket celebrates 1998 season opening "Dollar Off Day"; exhibit: collection of patent models from mid-1800s. Call 725-8638.

6 **"Pandora's Box,"** presented by Brown as part of Women's History Month, 8 p.m. in Russell Lab. Call 863-2189.

Women's History

This year's Women's History Month Convocation will feature Esmerelda Santiago, author of *When I Was Puerto Rican* and *America's Dream*. The convocation will take place at 7 p.m., March 3, in Room 101 of the Salomon Center for Teaching.

Admission is free and the public is welcome. Santiago's visit is sponsored by the Sarah Doyle Women's Center.

Playwright Arthur Miller Discusses Life and Career

Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Arthur Miller will share his views on his long and often controversial career at 10 a.m., March 1, at Trinity Repertory Theatre, 201 Washington St. This session is open to persons who attended the 1998 Pell Awards on the previous evening, with limited seating available for Brown and RISD students. Call 863-2474, for student ticket information.

Whaling Museum Hosts Lunch Series

The New Bedford Whaling Museum Spring Lunch-Time Series features several local gallery proprietors who will speak about their areas of expertise and will help participants better understand the objects found in a personal collection. The series complements an exhibit of "Recent Acquisitions" on display in the Theater Gallery.

- March 3, "History and Identification of New Bedford Art Glasswares produced by Mt. Washington and Pairpoint," by Louis O. St. Aubin, Jr. Aubin will be available to identify objects after his talk and during the hour.
- April 7, "Building Personal Collections: The Art of Collecting Paintings," by Alfred J. Walker.
- May 5, "Collecting Maritime New Bedford Books and Photographs," by Llewellyn Howland III. Howland will be available to identify objects after his talk and during the hour.

Lunchtime series discussions run from noon to 1 p.m. Bring a sandwich; dessert and beverage will be provided. For reservations, call Laura Pereira at (508) 997-0046, ext. 14.

Youth Conference on Diversity

The National Conference in partnership with the Amistad Committee of 158 (RI Black Heritage Society), will be sponsoring a Youth Conference on Diversity for high school students. This conference will take place on Feb. 28, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Providence Campus of Community College of Rhode Island, 1 Hilton St., Providence.

The conference will include workshops on sexism, interracial relationships, creating a non-violent society, behavioral, emotional and physical disabilities, sexual identities, HIV, AIDS and STDS awareness and religious bigotry. The keynote speaker will be Marilyn Concepcion (first person admitted to Brown University with a G.E.D. diploma). There will also be a performance by UMETA — Dance of the Young People, a diversity theater group with persons from Youth Pride and the John Hope Settlement House.

There is a $5 registration fee and lunch will be provided. For registration forms and more information, contact Robert T. Jones, program director, at 351-5120.

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Providence and Vicinity

Barney's, East Avenue, Pawtucket
Books on the Square, Wayland Square (on Angell)
The Little Place, Hope St.
EastSide Marketplace, Pitman St.
East Side Prescription Center, Hope St.
Rhoda's Judaica, Burlington St.

JEWISH COMMUNITY

Plans For HARI Pick Up

by Emily Torgan-Shalansky
Jewish Community Reporter

Organizers of the Hebrew Academy of Rhode Island, a proposed co-educational Jewish high school, are striving for community and financial support as the 1998 school year draws closer.

On Feb. 19, Dr. Steven Schechter, a local surgeon who heads the HARI formation committee, gathered with his colleagues at an East Side home and faced a group of about 17 prospective parents associated with the Providence Hebrew Day School to trade information for questions.

After discussing the need for HARI, Schechter provided some new information about its costs and staffing plans.

"There are some things you all already know," began Schechter, an Orthodox surgeon who heads the committee. "There is no co-ed high school here."

The impassioned Schechter stressed the need to fill the void that was created when the New England Academy of Torah's high school for boys at the Providence Hebrew Day School closed amidst financial troubles in 1994, leaving only a high school program for girls and a legacy of conflict behind.

Saying that the lack of a boys' high school was creating hardships for the observant families who are now forced to choose between secular schools and out-of-town education, Schechter said the void was stifling the growth of Rhode Island's Jewish community.

"The out-of-town schools are not attractive," he explained. "There are prohibitive travel costs, and our teens spend their teenage years sleeping at other people's homes and being raised by other people. Families will leave or be attracted to communities with adequate schools. We really cannot go on without it."

Schechter went on to describe the proposed co-educational school that the hopes and efforts of those involved over the last few years have produced.

As most of those at the gathering knew, The Hebrew Academy of Rhode Island will be under the halachic guidance of Rabbi Mitchell Levine of Temple Beth Sholom, the largest Orthodox congregation in Rhode Island.

"We now have a board of directors, by-laws and a first-year budget," Schechter announced.

At present, the HARI committee is negotiating an agreement with the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island to rent classroom space, auditorium and gymnasium facilities that could be used on an as-needed basis.

"It's an extremely friendly environment, and the price is low," Schechter explained.

If HARI is ready to open this year, it will begin with a group of seven to ten ninth-graders, with additional classes coming on as HARI gains faculty and funding.

According to Schechter, the start-up will cost about $150,000.

"Fiscal responsibility is a must," he said. "We must be very diligent and not dreamy."

Schechter said his committee's efforts to raise $25,000 over the past few weeks had yielded about $8,000. He urged all interested parties to become corporate members by sending tax-deductible checks of $200, payable to Jewish Community Educational Services of Rhode Island, Inc., to Temple Beth Sholom at 275 Camp Street in Providence.

"I want those memberships to start picking up," Schechter said.

Next, he said that the HARI organizers have also submitted a grant requesting $50,000 to the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, and that committee members may expect to find out the results of their requests shortly.

According to Schechter and fellow HARI organizer Nita Pliskin, monies from the Avi Chai Foundation per student will mitigate the estimated tuition of $8,000.

"The Avi Chai Foundation will give a new Jewish high school $10,000 per year and $2,500 per child until the first student graduates," explained Schechter. "That will bring the cost to about $5,500 per student."

HARI committee member David Yavner then provided a time frame, saying that it was necessary to raise money in the next month to ensure accreditation.

"We will also need to spend money to hire a secretary and set up the office," Yavner said.

Schechter then admitted that he and his committee planned to contact New York City headhunter Joel Paul to assist in the search for a dean.

"It will cost between $6,000 and $10,000, but it will be well worth it," said Schechter. "We need someone who will truly be able to fulfill our mission."

A reading of the mission

(Continued on Page 15)

"OLD WICKED SONGS" will be at the Jewish Theatre of New England in Newton, Mass., through March 22. (Left) Barry Abramowitz, Mitch Greenberg. *Photo courtesy of Jewish Theatre of New England*

'Old, Wicked Songs' A Triumph

by Emily Torgan-Shalansky
Jewish Community Reporter

Schedule a road trip.

The Newton, Mass.-based Jewish Theater of New England is presenting Mitchell Greenberg in Jon Marans' "Old, Wicked Songs," and Greenberg, who starred in the same role when the play was on Broadway, brings the energy that made the play a smash there to its Boston premiere.

"I'd go anywhere they asked me to for this role," said Greenberg, a renowned stage actor whose Broadway credits include "Laughter on the 23rd Floor," "Ain't Broadway Grand," "Yiddle With a Fiddle" and many more. "It feels great to do this part. My Judaism helps me understand it."

Certainly, Marans' play provides both Greenberg and his co-star Barry Abramowitz with exceptional material.

A finalist for the 1996 Pulitzer Prize in drama (it lost to "Rent"), the play takes place in Vienna, where Stephen Hoffman, a young American former piano prodigy played by Abramowitz, has fled in an attempt to recapture the muse his anxieties have torn from him.

Once there, he encounters Professor Mashkan, a cantankerous old vocal coach played by Greenberg.

With tough love and tender sensitivity from Mashkan, Hoffman slowly begins to rediscover the soul that is so essential to his music.

However, his budding desires to share his secrets with Mashkan are quickly reversed after Mashkan makes anti-Semitic comments in an attempt to dissuade his pupil from visiting Dachau.

When Hoffman, who then angrily admits that he is Jewish, returns from Dachau furious with Mashkan and the Teutonic world he has encouraged him to love, he finds that his eccentric Austrian teacher has some secrets of his own.

"This play is about coming to terms with the past," explained Greenberg. "It's about facing your inner demons and coming to terms with yourself and the past. It's also about how two people open each other up."

Under the direction of Daniel Gidron, both actors manage to bring the audience through the mutual self-discovery process marvelously.

Abramowitz emanates the right amounts of youthful bluster and fear, managing to set up Greenberg to show his wry mastery of the complicated Mashkan role to its fullest potential.

Set against the backdrop of Kurt Waldheim's election, the Yiddishe feel of the play is further deepened by the strains of Robert Schumann's "Dichterliebe," which draw on words written by the 1820s' German Jewish poet Heinrich Heine.

The music is a universal symbol of loss and renewal, which Marans' play may yet become as well.

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RIH MEDICAL FOUNDATION

OPINION

—A Nation in Controversy—

by Velvel 'Wally' Spiegler

It was no surprise when I read this headline in *New York Jewish Sentinel*, "Rabbis Rejection of Proposal Seen as Declaration of War." The article itself was a report on a proposed agreement promoted by a coalition of Conservative and Reform rabbis in Israel for recognition to conduct marriages and conversions. The Chief Rabbinical Council flatly rejected the offer and lashed out at "those who are trying to shake the foundations of the Jewish religion causing rifts among the people and causing them to stray from generations-old heritage. Such efforts have already had a disastrous effect and caused confusion among Diaspora Jewry."

Here, too, are the words — as they appeared in a recent issue of *Moment* magazine — of Rabbi Yitzchok A. Breitowitz, an associate professor of law at the University of Maryland commenting on non-Orthodox conversions: "Without an expression of kabbalat mitzvot (acceptance of the Law) the conversion is null and void, regardless of the composition of the beit din (Rabbinical court). The possibility of schism does not justify forsaking a sacred principle that halachic Jews regard as literally expressing the will of G-d." He goes on to say, "that the burden of schism rests on those who depart from the long-standing status quo, not those who maintain it. "Yes," he says, "we must love and tolerate all Jews regardless of their level of observance but this cannot be an excuse to discard principles that go to the essence of faith." After reading this you might then wonder why there's such alienation among Jews.

Judaism is not a static culture; it has changed and continues to change. In 586 B.C.E., Judaism experienced its first major change with the destruction of the First Temple and the exile of the people into Babylon. Before the destruction, Judaism was a temple-based religion. In Babylon, the first academy developed under the leadership of the Soferim, the first teachers. These early rabbis guided by Ezra the scribe, foresaw the fate of a prolonged exile which awaited the Jews and undertook the formidable task of transforming Judaism into a portable religion for its very survival. Today we face other dilemmas which cry out for changes in the tradition, and it is our responsibility to work out our differences. It is important for those who strictly uphold the halachic position to understand that the opinions of the majority need to be considered as part of the entire Jewish design, not only for unity but for peace and harmony as well. These issues surrounding halachic conversions stem from the same sur-

(Continued on Page 15)

'The Cherubim Stood by a Miracle'

(Baba Bathra 99a)

"And you shall make two Cherubim of gold" (Ex. 25:18). "The recognition of the existence (of Cherubim who represent) angels leads naturally to the belief in a G-d.... It was ordered to make a representation of two angels upon the Ark. Had there been only one Cherub on the Ark, it might have led to an acceptance of it as a G-d... By having two Cherubim there, there could be no confusion with the Oneness of G-d who is the Creator of multiplicity" (Maimonides, *Moreh Nebuchim* 3:45).

The entire area of the Holy of Holies was only 20 cubits by 20 cubits. Since the wings of the Cherubim alone occupied 20 cubits, there was no "room" left for their bodies, hence, "The Cherubim stood by miracle."

Rabbi Moshe Feinstein points out that "to be successful in Torah study and observance, one must relinquish luxury items and clearly decide that his body will not rule over his mind. The body must not possess any "visible" area, but rather the mind and its proper development must be stressed."

See *Yoma* 21a — "The place of the Ark was not included in the measurements." "The Ark (miraculously) did not occupy any physical area in the Holy Temple. This teaches us that the Torah is not limited to any geographical sector, i.e., the Holy Temple, but it is to be studied and adhered to in all territories" (Rabbi Abraham Fishelis, *Bastion of Faith*, p. 242, 243).

Bill, Monica And The Jewish Question

To the Editors:

The Clinton-Lewinsky affair has engendered a great debate about the boundaries of our public and private lives. But there are other boundaries — boundaries that may be more nebulous but are certainly no less significant. They are the boundaries of our mind. It is these boundaries that separate the lechery and deceit that lurks like some idolatry in the corners of our mind from those intimations of things divine that beckon us to a more blessed reality. Where we set the marker, how we draw the line, will determine whether we live as apes or angels.

Needfully, we all belong to a supraorganism called society. By common consent, most of us have accepted certain societal norms so that society might in turn create an environment that is conducive for our fulfillment. The very structure of our society is premised on this give and take. Subverting this social contract is a matter of grave concern. If that is so, why have so many Americans been so willing to overlook the president's philanderings? Some undoubtedly subscribe to the dictum: "Judge not lest ye be judged." Others are driven by issues such as minority rights, or, perhaps, women's rights. Still others are prepared to live in a moral swamp as long as their economic well-being is not threatened. What all these disparate groups have in common is a zestful appreciation of their self-interest.

So what does all this have to do with the Jewish question? Simple: we as a people (along with our other mishegossen) are possessed by the idea that reason and reason alone can transform the world. But reason before special interest is like virtue before vice. All to often it is not quite enough.

What Bill and Monica are really telling us is that people, even presidents, are not always rational. What the polls are telling us is that people may smile at reason but they embrace their special interest. But getting back to the Jewish question. Our faith in reason may be laudable. But faith in reason is not quite the same as a reason for that faith. Certainly not in this world.

Mitchell Finkel
Silver Spring, Md.

On Giving and Taking

Torah Insights

by Yehudah A. Biss
Herald Editor

This week we read *Parshat Terumah*. G-d delineates how to create the Mishkan, a dwelling place for the Shechinah (the presence of G-d). The word for "giving" here is Terumah, which translates as portion. There really is no exact translation for that word, so we look to the words around it to find what we should do with this word and how to apply it. The pasuk states: "and let them take for Me a portion, from every man whose heart motivates him you shall take My portion." (Exodus 25:2) So it seems that there is something here someone is taking from someone else. What? If G-d wanted for them to build a Mishkan, why wouldn't there be levied a mandatory giving, a tax?

There are many ways of giving. Most people give money. The Torah implies here that G-d wanted voluntary giving, the Sforno explains. This voluntary giving is derived from the wording "to take from them." G-d was instructing Moshe to take whatever the people would give, could give. If someone could give time to help in the Mishkan's building, take that, Moshe. The emphasis here is taking whatever they give. G-d didn't want a mandatory giving, it had to come from the heart. What we have in our hearts can contribute greater than money. We all have different things to give. What G-d wants from us is to give something from our heart, whatever that may be.

Why A Mikdash? Then And Now

Torah Today

by Dina L. Burt

Parashat Terumah describes in great depth the building of the first Sanctuary, the *Mikdash*. The *Mikdash* is defined as a separate and sacred space that is clearly meant to foster a special relationship between G-d and the Israelites. G-d instructs Moses to have the people build a Sanctuary. Does this imply that the only place in which we can talk to G-d is in a Sanctuary?

It is worthwhile to stop and think for a minute about how we answer the question Where does G-d dwell? Can we really know? Do we dare guess? Are answers such as "Everywhere" satisfactory?

Before the building of the first Sanctuary, people prayed whereever they felt moved to pray — on the tops of mountains, by flowing streams, in valleys. Did these people have less of a relationship with G-d than those who prayed in a Sanctuary? Probably not. Many scholars have addressed the question of G-d's dwelling. In Martin Buber's *Tales of the Chasidim*, Rabbi Mendle states that G-d dwells whereever we let G-d in.

Sa'adia ben Yoseph HaGaon says there is no place that is without G-d. The *Mechilta* says that wherever you find a human footprint, you have found G-d.

Jewish tradition teaches that G-d is everywhere What then is the purpose of the Sanctuary?

Perhaps, some have speculated, the *Mikdash* exists to fulfill a human need. It is a human need to desire a sacred space in which we could gather our thoughts and feel close to G-d. It is a human need to search for inspiring environments. Taking it further, could we surmise that G-d sensed we would always need a reminder of the Divine Presence? Did G-d feel that we would need a separate and holy space in which we could return to our own hearts and to G-d?

Rereading the opening lines of the *parashah*, we see that G-d tells Moses to collect "gifts for Me from every person whose heart so moves him." (Exodus 25:1) Although some of the gifts did not come from the heart, they were accepted nonetheless. The gifts that were given from the heart, however, were more readily accepted. The first *Mikdash* was built by the Israelites out of love for G-d. Just as G-d had created the world out of love, our ancestors gave their hearts to G-d and to Jewish law.

In the space we dedicated to G-d, we are reminded that G-d is everywhere. In our Sanctuary, we decide whether we fulfill our *mitzvot*, our responsibilities as Jews, out of love or out of obligation. The last question, then, is How do we put our hearts and our love into the world.

Dina L. Burt, M.A.J.E., RJE, is the director of Education at Temple Rodef Shalom in Falls Church, Va.

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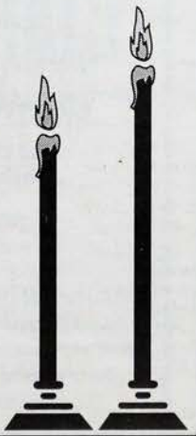

Notice: The opinions presented on this page do not necessarily represent the opinions of this establishment.

FEATURE

Primroses and Pussywillows

by Mike Fink
Herald Contributing Reporter

Sometimes you luck out. The rain let up. The parking meter was broken. They were just setting up the flower show exhibits, cheerful gangs with trucks and tractors like toys on the floor of the convention center, like a dollsize version of Les Halles in the Paris of yesteryear. They were installing small oases, bonsai gardens with waterfalls, dunes, grand allées, classic statuary, twiggy arches and arborways, faux murals, mirror globes, sunken fishponds, windworn benches.

Nancy Jackson, who coordinates the chaos, went to Hope High School with me. We greeted each other warmly while she held the blossoms of all the seasons in her hands and introduced me to other officials of this year's display, "the best ever," she claimed with a smile. I wandered off with my camera among the busy aisles, and filed a few notes about the goings on.

A pair of Portsmouth ladies were munching their lunch among shelves of tools for sale. "But they get rusty. Then all you can do is turn them into kitsch sculpture," I said as I crouched and crunched chips with them. "Be more careful with your clippers and rakes," they counseled goodnaturedly. They agreed that the little theater of perfect yards without weeds or drought or confusion are more like mirages, fantasies, poetic promises in late winter. Your real outdoors is less elegant, but more dramatic, lively, and even comfortable. That's what the Rhode Island native women of green thumb told me.

Then a group of grinning country teens unloading a lumber mermaid and putting in a timber stork on a beach diorama stopped me in my tracks. "Look at how much work went into chipping away wood debris at the shore into these pieces," they said in genuine admiration, as I snapped a few shots. There are tombstones, Shinto rocks with water bubbling from hidden inner passageways, cobbles and slate bearing messages, and impressive boulders.

I was hunting down some of the crowd from prior Februaries in downtown Providence. Maybe Ken Druse, once my R.I.S.D. student, now the garden maven and toast of the whole celebration. Perhaps the teacher crew who use springtime as a metaphor for learning, people I run into once a year, here in this make-believe posy palace. Instead of a nosegay of nostalgia or a bouquet of buddies, I came upon a charming surprise, a family of farmers with one single crop.

They grow pussywillows. That's their business. They drive in from Pennsylvania with branches of soft grey buds twisted into every shape imaginable. This booth is called "Rosemary's Pussy Ranch" and carries the slogan "Thanks a Bunch." I shook hands with the boss and asked for his card. His name is: "Sonny Schmuck," and that's how the calling card reads. Sonny and his wife sell rustic birdhouses made of willow braided and turned to suit the birds. They also do wreaths and cuttings, tangles and twistings, knots and bows.

"My father was a steelworker who also handled asbestos and insulation materials. My sons serve as soldiers and my daughters do nursing. But I have chosen a less stressful path and vocation. I just deal in willow. My favorites are these black buds that start out with crimson tips. Later they go yellow and then green. But they last a long time. If you stick a stalk in the ground it will grow. If you place it in a vase, it will stay the same for months. The ebony flowers have ruby highlights. The silver ones carry pink pearls and go gold."

What I have always loved about pussywillow is its grey-dawn silence, its gentle peacefulness, its swampy brown-study ordinariness, early plain springtime among us. They seemed to my boyish mind like a natural truce after the snowball battles of winter. Here they take on a more jewelled and artistic guise, but they can't hide their soft secret: a garden just happens!

I know this one detail doesn't do justice to a fabulous event in town. It's just a quirky footnote to the text and texture of a fine extravaganza. But you find whatever you want, dream of, remember or pray for, right in the heart of town.

'Protect Us From Need'

by Mike Fink
Herald Contributing Reporter

Colleges and universities like U.N. headquarters bring in faculty and students from every corner of human society. We have a number of Polish professors at R.I.S.D. and a married couple, Agnieska Taborska and Marcin Gyzicki, made a film for Polish television about the Providence writer, H.P. Lovecraft. They asked me to go on about the follower of Edgar Allan Poe while they taped and photographed the interview in my office. I told about the Jewish life of Benefit Street, and the fact that Lovecraft's wife was Jewish, and yet his stories have a definite Yankee chauvinism. I also played with the pun in the artist's name: the love of craft, the poetry that surpasses your prejudice. Whatever I came up with, it rang just right, and they use my words to sum up the movie. They came back to campus and thanked me. Then, they put a small envelope package in my mail slot. It was an album of postcards from the museum library shop in Warsaw, with a booklet in both Slavic and English words.

The text explains the images. "Szana Towa" or "Szczesliwego Roku" means of course "Happy New Year" or "Feast of Trumpets" in transliterated Hebrew or local slang. These are Rosh Hashana greetings sent from the shtetl to American cities. I quote from the brochure some oddities. "The Jewish press in Warsaw at the turn of the century criticized elements derogatory to the religious ideas of authentic Jews. Some depict strange scenes, balloons, aircrafts, or a celebration in a cinema. There are symbolic ideas like New Year lottery cards, blacksmiths in a smithy, a heavenly pharmacy with apothecaries selling medicines for happiness, welfare, etc. placed in jars with suitable poems. Greeting cards might take the form of shares or bills of exchange. One depicts people buying public gambling tickets and going away as winners."

Prize Winning Lottery Tickets

This essay, by Joanna Baranska, concludes with the reminder that "postcards have been connected with Jewish culture for over a hundred years, the exchange of thoughts and feelings, a kind of historical document. This modest form of well-wishing shows the belief in faith and mercy."

My charming token brought from abroad made me think of several things. First, that H.P. Lovecraft must have gaped at the immigrant Hebrew settlement at the river the same way that Polish reporters might have looked in on the Warsaw Yiddish blocks, especially as they were beginning to pack up for Palestine and America, glimpses into exotic rituals, symbols, music, perfumes and spices. And yet, these colorful little reproduced relics also have a darkly ironic twist. These people in flesh and blood were betrayed and destroyed, leaving only their mute messages in a museum or the bins of a library as traces of their existence in Poland. "Protect us from ridicule and shame and the need of charity," they read.

My Polish colleagues often reach out with photographs, small books, and souvenirs of their sojourns in their native land. They make me sad, as though I had been chosen to stand for an entire people, heir to the spirit world.

Lovecraft struck a chord with his twilight phantom fantasies about strange beings cooped up in cellars: his books are the rage of Paris, the wonder of Warsaw, as well as the pride of Providence or at least its ivy towers. I'm glad I'm a tiny part of the chronicle, but I plan on bringing my postcards back to life by sticking stamps upon them and sharing with far-off friends, as I share them even now with our nearby readers.

An Affair to Remember

by Mike Fink
Herald Contributing Reporter

Have you heard? They're having an affair! ...Who's the caterer? It's our son's bar mitzvah and we're on the prowl for the right spot for after sundown. Sundaes and a d.j. for the brink-of-teen set, but where?

We spend our afternoons in the glare of the horizon crawling from one bistro to the next, ever in search of the right Shangri-la. Around 4:00 I set aside the Torah portion I've been practicing, gather up my sunglasses and the dog's leash, and off we go into the wild red yonder. Edgewood Yacht Club fit the bill, but they weren't free our night. Tsk tsk, the space was vast and the view superb. Oh well, on to Hillsgrove Country Club, which boasts deco moviestar murals and a terrific skating or dancing floor. Not quite right.

The boy has the veto power, and doesn't want to copy last week's milieu. So, we cover the waterfront, the airfront, and over, under, around and through the town and country.

I rather liked Days Inn. You have to rat your route beneath the underpasses and archways of bridge and highway to get to this surprisingly charming, small, secret hideaway. But the likely lad goes for the open, glittering Marriott, which offers easy parking, an inner-outer jewel of a pool, and long, luxury rooms to boom out the roars.

I wish the Narragansett Hotel were still standing in this world. As an after school job, I used to wash the dishes and glasses after the ball was over beneath its grand stairways, but alack it looks like it won't come back. I even tried to throw some weight around my alma mater colleges to lay claim on gallery halls for our gala.

But it's graduation season!

I have a deaf ear for today's music. If I had my druthers, I'd hire an elderly accordionist, or a waiflike fiddler, or an elfin clarinetist, and waft the young Josephs and Josephines into the lyrical realms of yore. But no! It's Now, not Then. Yesterday if your pants were too loose, it meant they were hand-me-downs or you were starving. Today it means they cost big bucks. But the room you rent for your affair is only the first step.

You go on and on, to fixing on a menu, dreaming up centerpieces for the tables, orchestrating the time table for lunch and late night desserts, locating inns and taverns for out, of, town guests, designing invitations, making lists, shopping for costumes, making sure nobody feels left out. In fairytales, that would bring bad luck not mazel tov.

All these places and issues are deeply familiar to me, redolent of past adventures, nostalgic and reminiscent. At the Biltmore, they've stripped off the Falstaff Room mural and glued it on the alcove wall of the Bacchante lounge, and those faux landscapes bring back blasts from the past. We've also

(Continued on Page 15)

JEWISH COMMUNITY

New England Celebrates Israel's 50th Anniversary

Upcoming Programs in Cooperation with the Consulate General of Israel to New England

Lectures and Discussions

• **Israel Behind the News** sponsored by the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston and the Consulate General of Israel to New England. R.S.V.P. at (617) 457-8600. Professor Joseph Kostiner, an expert on Saudi Arabia and the Arab Gulf States from Tel-Aviv University, March 18, 8:30 a.m., Leventhal-Sidman JCC, 333 Nahanton St., Newton, Mass.

• **Professor Kostiner** — March 16, 4:30 p.m., Harvard Law School, Cambridge, Mass., and March 17, 4 p.m., Clark University, Worcester, Mass.

• **Michael Hendelzalts**, literary editor and theater critic of *Ha'aretz* newspaper, March 16, 7 p.m., Hebrew College, 43 Hawes St., Brookline, Mass.

Films

• **Brown University Film Festival** — March 1, 3 p.m., "Under the Domim Tree" (1995); March 8, 7 p.m., "The Flying Camel" (1994).

All films will be screened at the Rhode Island School of Design Auditorium, 17 Canal Walk, Market Square, Providence. Admission is $5 to the public and free for students with identification.

• **Lens on Israel — A Cinematic Celebration** — March 14, 8 p.m., "Crossfire," Temple Israel, Sharon, Mass.; April 6, 7 p.m., "Nadia," Temple Beth Emunah, Brockton, Mass.; April 19, 7 p.m., "Women," Temple Shalom, Milton, Mass. Presented by the Striar JCC, SASSDS, and the South Shore Community.

• **Israel on Screen: Films for the 50th** — March 28 to April 5, Brandeis University and The National Center for Jewish Film in association with The Consulate General of Israel to New England present a retrospective of Israeli films over the past 50 years. The festival includes 26 different films, panel discussions and guest speakers. Opening night will feature the classic "Sallah Shabbati" and special guest Ephraim Kishon, writer and director of the film, who is internationally acknowledged as one of Israel's leading satirists whose works provide a unique commentary on Israel's culture and multi-ethnic society.

All events will be held at the Cinematheque, Silver Auditorium in the Sacher International Center, Brandeis University.

Exhibits

• **Women in Israel** — A photographic exhibit depicting the diverse experiences of Israeli women from all walks of life and ethnic traditions. March 2 to 4, AMIT Women, Beth El, Newton, Mass.; March 4 to 17, International Institute for Research on Jewish Women, Brandeis University.

• **Horizons: Israel at 50** — Eye-catching aerial photographs highlighting a wide range of Israeli sites. April 1 to 8, Temple Beth David, Westwood, Mass.; April 16 to 24, Brandeis University; May 12 to 19, Temple Beth Torah, Holliston, Mass.

To receive a festival brochure, call (781) 736-2125 or 736-8600. For ticket sale information, call (781) 736-3400 or contact Consulate General of Israel to New England, 20 Park Plaza, Suite 1020, Boston, Mass. 02116. Tel.: (617) 542-0041, fax: (617) 338-4995; e-mail: israelcg@world. std.com.

The Grand Purim Feast Returns

Do you believe that one of the most joyous times on the Jewish calendar is almost upon us? Yes, before we turn around it will be Purim again.

Chabad of West Bay CHAI Center is offering the Jewish community an opportunity to celebrate Purim with a wonderful mixture of class and fun.

This will be the fourth year that The Grand Purim Feast will be held. This exciting program has brought to all its participants in the past the Purim spirit, together with joy and pride in their Judaism.

This year larger accommodations have been secured to enable more people to participate.

This year's program, which has been entitled "An Evening of Klezmer and Shtick," includes a full Purim meal, complete with lots of l'chaim and hamantaschen and, of course, live music and dancing. The musical program will include a presentation by the Intergalactic Klezmer Orchestra. They will be joined by vaudevillian/tummler Rob Salafia and the Chai Purim Shpeilers.

Special attention is given to the children, who are encouraged to come in costume, as is the tradition. (Adults are also encouraged to come in costume.)

This year's event will take place at the Temple Am David Social Hall, 40 Gardiner St., Warwick, on Purim, March 12, at 6:15 p.m., preceded by a late Megillah reading at 5:15 p.m. and hors d'oeuvres at 5:30 p.m. The price is just $20 for adults and $15 for children ages 3 to 12. Special discounts are available for groups. For reservations or more details, call the CHAI Center at 884-4071 before March 4.

Reserve early, as space is limited.

New England Rabbinical College Hosts 11th Annual Purim Parade

Over the last 10 years, the spirit of Purim in Providence has become synonymous with that of the New England Rabbinical College's Providence Purim Parade. Planning for the 11th annual parade is well under way. The coordinators of this year's event anticipate the participation of the Rhode Island National Guard, Mayor Vincent Cianci, local entertainers, live music and traditional refreshments, among many other features and attractions. Anxiously awaiting its historic debut is the Klassikal Klezmer Korus of Kazoo, inspired and led by Fishel Bressler. Students through the eighth grade are invited to "dress for success" for a chance to win in the yearly costume contest.

Events and features are being added daily. Capture the spirit of Purim with the New England Rabbinical College's 11th annual Providence Purim Parade on March 12, at 10:30 a.m., on Elmgrove Avenue.

In the event of inclement weather on Purim day, the parade will take place on March 13.

Rev. William G. Wagner Speaks at Congregation Agudath Achim

Rev. William G. Wagner of the First Parish Church in Taunton will be the guest speaker at the Sabbath evening service on Feb. 27 at 8 p.m. at the synagogue, 36 Winthrop St., Taunton.

Rabbi Maurice Weisenberg, the spiritual leader of the Jewish congregation, explained that he invited Rev. Wagner because of the need for better understanding and more appreciation of the various faith communities one for another. In his talk, Rev. Wagner will recall the years he sang as a baritone soloist at Temple Beth Am in the Buffalo, New York area and he will also sing a selection in Hebrew.

The Sabbath evening prayer service will be led by Rabbi Weisenberg. Arthur Arkanase will serve as cantor. An Oneg Shabbat social hour sponsored by the sisterhood will follow the service in the vestry. Congregation Agudath Achim is a Conservative synagogue with a friendly congregation. Co-presidents Laura Rego and Ross Chartoff join Rabbi Weisenberg in welcoming members of the general community to the service on Feb. 27.

Rabbi Weisenberg has been invited to deliver the sermon at the First Parish Church, March 1 at 10:45 a.m.

Multi-Media Megillah Show Comes to Warwick

Are you looking for a unique way to turn the reading of the Megillah into an entertaining time for your children on Purim? Chabad of West Bay CHAI Center has the answer: "The Multi-Media Megillah Show."

"The Multi-Media Megillah Show" consists of 62 slides, painted in lush colors by award-winning artist Norman Nodel. The slide show depicts the complete story of Purim with its full cast of heroes and villains.

Brief captions below each slide summarize the Purim story in English. "The slide show, in addition to giving children a greater appreciation of the story, keeps them occupied, allowing the rest of the congregation to follow the reading," said Rabbi Eliezer Levy, director of the CHAI Center.

The Multi-Media Megillah reading will take place on March 11 at 6:30 p.m. followed by live music and refreshments. The entire community is invited to participate, and admission is free. This program will take place at the CHAI Center, 15 Centerville Road, Warwick. For more information, call 884-4071.

Newport Havurah Prepares March Calendar

Adult Education, March 8, 10:30 a.m., at the home of Lilian and Leslie Green, Newport, 848-6241. Lilian Green will speak about Jewish life in India and Singapore. A potluck brunch will follow the talk.

Business Meeting, March 9, 6:30 p.m., at the home of Arlene and John Hough, Portsmouth, 683-2809. The meeting will focus on financial goals and program planning. Attendees will be contributing money for supper.

Havdalah Service, March 21, 5 p.m., at the home of Claudia Dwass and Russell Jeffers, Saunderstown, 294-9764. A potluck supper will follow services.

Community Shabbat Service, March 27, 8 p.m. at Temple Habonim, Barrington.

R.S.V.P. to the above hosts to insure an accurate count of people and food!

Sons of Jacob Host Megillah Reading

The Congregation Sons of Jacob in Providence will have the Megillah reading on March 11 at 7 p.m. and again at 6:15 a.m. on March 12. Refreshments will be served.

The annual Purim Party and raffle will be on March 8 at 8:30 a.m. Tickets may be purchased at the shul.

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JEWISH COMMUNITY

Celebrating The Contributions of Jewish Women

Celebrations of Jewish women are quickly becoming a regular feature of national Women's History Month. In 1997, the Boston-based Jewish Women's Archive and New York's Ma'yan: The Jewish Women's Project launched "Women of Valor" — an annual educational outreach campaign. Inspired by their materials, hundreds of institutions and organizations across the country will be sponsoring events throughout the month of March honoring the contributions of Jewish women to the economic, political, social and cultural development of the nation.

Established by Congressional resolution in 1987, national Women's History Month recognizes the historic contributions of American women of every race, class and ethnic background. In 1997, "Women of Valor" posters and materials made it possible for schools, libraries and community centers across the country to celebrate the contributions of American Jewish women alongside those of their sister Americans.

"Only by revealing the full scope and texture of Jewish women's experiences in this century and in centuries past can we imagine, and therefore create, a more inclusive and equitable Jewish community in the 21st century," explains Gail Twersky Reimer, executive director of the Jewish Women's Archive.

Almost 8,000 institutions have received this year's posters and packets which recount the lives and achievements of three very different women: Molly Picon, the first lady of the Yiddish theater who became one of the nation's most beloved performers; social reformer Lillian Wald who founded the Henry Street Settlement House in New York City; and Rebecca Gratz, organizer of the Hebrew Sunday School movement in the 1830s. Unlike most posters, these do not rely on visual images alone, but use each woman's own words to create a compelling picture of her achievements and the times in which she lived. "Women of Valor" materials can be ordered through Ma'yan at (212) 580-0099.

A new addition to the "Women of Valor" resources available this year is a multimedia on-line exhibit. The exhibit draws from the holdings of archives throughout North America, incorporating photographs, speeches, film clips, letters and more to present richly textured portraits of Picon, Wald and Gratz. Accessible from homes, classrooms and offices around the world, the exhibit provides an interactive opportunity for users of all ages to explore various aspects of these women's lives. The exhibit is located at the Jewish Women's Archive's new website, which can be accessed at <http://www.JWA.org>.

Opening the site to the public in time for March, the Jewish Women's Archive is pioneering yet another innovative resource for schools, organizations and community centers looking to honor Jewish women and celebrate Women's History Month. The Virtual Archive will feature a comprehensive, searchable database of source materials relating to Jewish women housed in libraries, archives and historical societies across North America.

The Jewish Women's Archive is located at 68 Harvard St., Brookline, Mass., tel: (617) 232-2258 and fax: (617) 9750109. World Wide Web address: <http://www.JWA.org>.

Ma'yan acts as a catalyst for change in the Jewish community in order to create an environment more inclusive of and responsive to women. Ma'yan: The Jewish Women's Project is a program of the Jewish Community Center on the Upper West Side. They can be reached at 15 West 65th St., 8th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10023, tel: (212) 580-0099 and fax: (212) 799-0254. World Wide Web address: <http://www.MAYAN.org>.

Jewish/Portuguese Website Develops

In conjunction with Jewish WebWeek, Kulanu launched a new link from its homepage to "Saudades The Next 500 Years." The announcement of the launch took place on Feb. 22 at Temple Emanu-El in Providence. An estimated 100 people gathered to hear Rufina Bernardetti Silva Mausenbaum, of South Africa, speak about her experiences returning to the Jewish heritage of her Portuguese ancestors. Also on the program was Sephardic singer, Judith Cohen, Ph.D., of Toronto, Ontario.

Those in attendance received a handout guiding them to the new Website — a collaboration of Kulanu's WebMaster, David Turetsky, a professor at the University of Baltimore and Joseph Santos, of LusaWeb. "Saudades: The Next 500 Years" explores the links between the Jewish and Portuguese communities, and the longing many Portuguese have to learn more about their common heritage.

Kulanu is a not-for-profit, organization that seeks and assists "lost" and dispersed Jewish communities and individuals throughout the world. Of the group's 800 members from about 20 countries, and from all denominations of Judaism, 150 subscribe to the Kulanu listserv on the Internet, where they engage in lively discussions affecting the Kulanu communities.

Kulanu's Website was recognized in the recently released book, *Judaism on the WEB*, as one of the top Jewish sites on the Internet.

All sites may be reached with the following URLs:

Kulanu welcome page — with links to information on all its communities; to Saudade and LusaWeb Saudades page: <http://www.ubalt.edu/www/kulanu/>.

Kulanu "Saudade" — with links to Sephardic and Crypto Jewry sites: <http://www.ubalt.edu/www/kulanu/saudade.html>.

Kulanu to "Saudades: The Next 500 Years" <http://www.ubalt.edu/www/kulanu/saudade_intro.html>

LusaWeb to "Saudades" — with links to index, resources, forum, guest book <http://www.lusoamerican.com/saudades/>

Camp JORI Holds Informational Session

Prospective campers, ages 7 to 13, and 14- and 15-year-olds, interested in leadership training, and their parents will have an opportunity to learn about Camp JORI when the camp holds an informational session at the Jewish Community Center on March 8 from 2 to 4 p.m. The session will take place in Meeting Room B on the main level of the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island, which is located at 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence.

Camp director Ronni Guttin and some members of the camp's staff will be on hand to answer questions. Campers and parents of campers will also be available to share their JORI experiences. "We think it's a good way to become acquainted with the camp and we'll be putting up photos so people can see what a terrific facility we have," said Guttin. People will also be able to pick up JORI application packets which include comprehensive overviews of the camp's programming and other details.

The camp recently announced a newly expanded sports and arts program. Workshops to help improve campers' scores in such sports as tennis and basketball and a camp band will be added to the full program of activities available to JORI campers. In addition, the camp will conduct its popular and selective leadership in training program for 14- and 15-year-olds. Camp JORI also regularly offers Jewish cultural programming, including weekly Havdalah and Shabbat services, daily prayers at kosher meals and Israeli dancing and singing.

The Narragansett-based camp, which holds two four-week sessions, will open the 1998 camping season on June 29. The camp also offers two-week sessions for first-time campers only. For further information, call 521-2655.

Family Israeli Dance Workshop

A Family Israeli Dance Workshop for parents, children and friends will be held on March 8 from 1:30 to 3 p.m. The workshop is at the Leventhal-Sidman Jewish Community Center, 333 Nahanton St., Newton, Mass.

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

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

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

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JEWISH COMMUNITY

Gourse Award For 1998 Goes to Jacob Brier

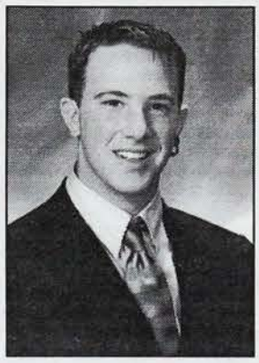
On April 23, 7,000 teen-agers from around the world will share in a once-in-a-lifetime experience when they march three kilometers from Auschwitz to Birkenau, the largest concentration camp complex built by the Nazis during World War II. The "march" commemorates Yom Hashoah — Holocaust Remembrance Day.

The group will participate in a memorial service at one of the gas chambers/crematoria in Birkenau which will conclude with the singing of Hatikvah reaffirming "Am Yisrael Chai — The Jewish People Live."

From Poland they fly to Israel to join the entire Jewish community in celebrating Yom Ha'Atzmaut, Israel's 50th Independence Day on April 30.

Jacob Brier, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Brier of Pawtucket, has received the 1998 Gourse Family Fund Scholarship which will enable him to participate in the March of the Living International.

Brier is a student at Moses Brown and the Harry Elkin Midrasha High School. A member of Temple Emanu-El in Providence, he is an active participant in BBYO, Young Judaea and president of the Youth Committee at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island.



Jacob Brier

Experiencing the contrast of wartime Poland for the Jews and present day life in Israel will help Brier comprehend how important both aspects are to him, a Jewish teen-ager living on the eve of the 21st century. It will leave an indelible and unforgettable impression which will inevitably help him to convey his personal experience to his peers.

The Gourse Fund for Travel and Study, to and in Israel, was established by the Gourse Family of Fall River in 1978 and has, to date, distributed 50 awards to most deserving young men and women who have proved to be assets to their individual communities. Zelda Fisher Gourse of Providence recently announced the gift.

Jewish Library Convention

The 33rd annual Convention of the Associations of Jewish Libraries will take place in Philadelphia, Pa., on June 21 through June 24, at the Double Tree Hotel. The theme of this year's international gathering of librarians from research libraries, universities, synagogues, day schools, and Jewish Centers is "AJL 33 — Israel 50." The convention keynote address will be by Dan Ashbel, consul general of Israel. The convention will feature programs led by prominent educators and libraries from the United States and Canada. Exciting seminars and workshops will be presented in the areas of library automation, preservation, Israel culture and history etc. The convention will also feature exhibitors representing Judaica publishers, authors, and Jewish software etc.

For more information about the convention, contact Randi Cohen at (215) 635-7304; fax (215) 635-7320; E-mail: <rcohen@gratz.edu>.

JVS Offers Career Moves

Career Moves at Jewish Vocational Service in Boston presents a free workshop, "Using the Internet for Your Job Search," from 6 to 7 p.m. on March 12 and 23, at the Career Moves Resource Center, 105 Chauncy St., 6th floor, Boston. Participants will learn how to market themselves using the internet and how to post résumés for free on the Career Moves Website <www.JVSjobs.org>. Call Leah Abrams at (617) 451-8147, ext. 118 to register.

Career Moves will also present a seminar sponsored by The Jewish Advocate, "Technology: Your Ticket to Career Advancement," on March 16, at 6:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn, 1200 Beacon St., Brookline. Panelists will help participants manage their careers better — both today and in the future — by explaining the technological skills and trends that they should know about. Cost: $15. R.S.V.P. to Leah Oko at (617) 451-8147, ext. 104 by March 12. Checks payable to Career Moves, 105 Chauncy St., Boston, MA 02111. Events are accessible to people with disabilities.

CRAFTY Hosts Purim Carnival

Cranston Federation of Temple Youth invites the public to their annual Purim Carnival on March 1, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. at Temple Sinai, 30 Hagan Ave., Cranston. There will be games to play, prizes to win, and pizza and hamentashen to eat. Game booth tickets are 25¢ each or five tickets for $1. Players win tickets that are redeemable for an exciting variety of fun prizes. Funds raised will help to support the youth group's activities.

CRAFTY chapter activities this year have included a community service project at Amos House in Providence and a Chanukah Luncheon/Gift Exchange. CRAFTY members also attend events with other members of the regional group, North American Federation of Temple Youth Northeast Region. These activities have included such events as vacation Institutes at Camp Eisner, Mass., and Peabody Temple Youth, Mass., "Under-the-Sea" Dance. Members are looking forward to attending Bristol County Temple Youth, R.I.'s upcoming "Shul-in" where the attending groups will participate in a variety of educational and fun activities and sleep overnight in host members homes.

CRAFTY's membership is made up of Jewish teen-agers in grades nine through 12 mainly from the West Bay area of Rhode Island.

New members are always welcome. For more information about the Purim Carnival or joining CRAFTY, call 885-2236.

TEMPLE SINAI CRAFTY BOARD from left, Jessica Wassor, Allison Kerbel, Julia Cotton, Rachael Blackman, Steven Dupree and Brian Metzger. *Photo courtesy of CRAFTY*

Magician Performs at Temple Am David

Professional magician Bruce Kalver, of Cranston, R.I., will be performing his "Moments of Illusion" show at Temple Am David in Warwick, March 1 at 6 p.m.

Kalver recently made Rhode Island news when an assortment of his magic props were lost and given up for gone. After a few days the props, which were from a second generation of Kalver magicians, magically reappeared.

Prior to his Warwick show, Kalver and his son, Eric, age 10, will be performing in Connecticut at the New England Magicians Conference. During the conference Kalver will lecture about his craft and unique ideas concerning the world of magic and illusion.

Kalver's magic act includes audience participation, psychic effects as well as memory demonstrations and his well-known visual illusions. His Warwick performance will include his latest act, which he normally performs exclusively to fellow magicians, called "Classic Conjuring." Rarely does Kalver perform this program to the general public.

Magic is having a big resurgence today, largely due to attention it has gotten on television, Broadway and from Las Vegas. Kalver will show the audience why magic is so popular. From illusion to classic slight of hand Kalver is a master of his trade.

The show will include a deli dinner. Advance ticket prices are $15. Tickets at the door are $18. Reservations are strongly suggested. The program is being put together for adults.

Proceeds of the show will go to the school at the temple. For information and reservations, call 463-7944.

Journey Through the JCC

Travel through the Jewish Community Center on March 1 at 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. with your passport to Israel. At Journey's end, a fully stamped passport gets you a gift. Along the way you will:

- Enjoy storyteller Bonnie Greenberg
- Sample a preschool gym class
- Create Israeli arts and crafts
- Taste treats at an Israeli café
- Make friends at a Camp Dance featuring DJ and ice cream.

During this Israeli theme open house, the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island's professional staff members from preschool, camp, and aquatics departments will be available to discuss programs, give tours, and answer any questions.

For more information regarding Journey through the JCC, call the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island at 861-8800.

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FEATURE

Memories From A Swiss Labor Camp

by Tara V. Lisciandro
Herald Editor

It's 53 years later, for some it's been longer, while for others it's been less. The horrors of the Second World War are still with us, they are still remembered, discussed frequently and even displayed. By some they are memories willingly remembered and even taught to younger generations, while by others, they are memories of time ago, put aside.

While it appears that we, as a world-wide community, continue to learn about the past we are also making new discoveries along the way. Just three years ago, for example, Swiss banks were found to have housed a great deal of money

FARM WORK was one of the most common forms of forced labor at the Swiss camps. Erich Rothschild (above) prepares the earth for crops.

left by victims of the Holocaust. Later we found out that the banks also housed Nazi gold and money as well. In the last few years we have also discovered that paintings and various pieces of art, that once belonged to Jewish families and organizations were stolen by Nazis and have now been found in museums throughout Europe and the United States. And, since the end of the war to current day, Nazi hunters around the world have struggled to bring ex-SS Nazis to court and await justice to be served. However, the most recent discovery is that of the Swiss Refugee and Forced Labor Camps. There are still a great many questions that surround this debate. Were the camps necessary? What purposes did they serve? Why were the camps never discussed until now?

"The Unwanted Guests" Report

In order to better understand the recent discovery, the Simon Wiesenthal Center of Los Angeles, Calif., published a new report entitled "The Unwanted Guests: Swiss Forced Labor Camps 1940-1944." The report was prepared by Alan Morris Schom, Ph.D. and in it Shom attempted to look at and research one of the newest findings, and controversies, about the Second World War. "It is not the purpose of this report to condemn the entire Swiss population during World War II. That would not only be grossly unfair and untrue, it would constitute a collective guilt for which Jews themselves have suffered for more than 2,000 years," writes Rabbi Marvin Hier, Dean and Founder of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, in the preface of the report "There were many Swiss people from all segments of society... who showed great courage... toward their fellow men during those difficult years. Nonetheless, they can never cover up the fact that far too many others... showed a callous indifference that often bordered on cruelty. This unmerciful attitude was best summed up by Dr. H. Rothmund, a high ranking official of the Ministry of Justice and Police, who said about the refugees: 'Let them huddle on their straw as long as possible, so that of themselves they will be led to ask permission to leave; let them see for themselves that Switzerland is no paradise, so that those who want to come in will be discouraged.'"

Local Witness

A partial list of 62 camps introduces the report. "Many of the camps were poorly furnished, men sleeping on the floor on beds of straw in barns... or wooden barracks," writes Schom in his report, "Little running water, primitive toilet facilities and precious little electricity rendered a grim existence... Internees were under constant armed guard and if one complained... they could be dispatched to punishment camps... or simply be escorted to the nearest border crossing and handed over to the Vichy police, or Gestapo." One of those camps held Erich Rothschild, recently of Barrington. Rothschild, originally from Friedberg, Germany, attended the University of Zurich.

ERICH ROTHSCHILD was forced to work at Gordola, one of the many Swiss forced labor camps.

It was there that he was studying chemistry and was eager to eventually earn his doctorate. He was also a rather well-known and popular soccer player for the town of Locarno. "I tifosi l'amavano, e' ben conosciuto" (the fans loved him, he's quite well known) wrote one of the Swiss newspapers from Locano in Italian. Rothschild was the only Jewish team member.

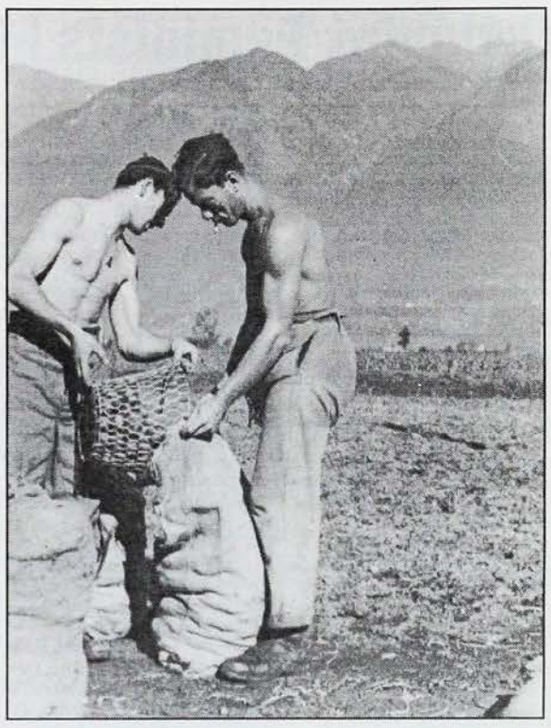
I looked at an old scrapbook kept by his widow; pages of black and white photos of the handsome young man filled the old leather-bound book. Some of the photos of Rothschild leaping into the air and catching the ball are labeled "grasshopper" while several other pages are devoted to articles and clippings of the young 20-year-old when he played in the National "A" Division. Rothschild was tall and strong, he was determined and greatly admired.

However, his dreams as a great soccer player and student crumbled when he was only 23 years of age. Rothschild was forced to stop studying and was not allowed to attend the university any longer. He was made to enter one of the Swiss Labor Camps, Gordola. It is estimated that he spent no more than a year there but he was forced to do hard labor. "Men were handed shovels, pick-axes and saws and sent to work from dusk to dawn... even through winter, on road gangs, forestry work and farm work," writes Schom about labor camps, "There was little or no payment for this hard manual labor." Rothschild's widow believes that with the help of his colleagues from the soccer team, was he released from the labor camp earlier.

Swiss Requirements and New Rules

For others it was more difficult. Jews seeking asylum in Switzerland during the war were required to complete a form listing all bank accounts, secret codes and their value. Swiss officials had full access to all of the forms, and therefore, all bank accounts. "It is interesting that recently it was announced that a remarkable number of nominal Jewish accounts worth only a few francs were found, (It is difficult to believe that Jews would have traveled hundreds of miles to Switzerland... in order to deposit just a few francs)" writes Schom in his report.

In 1938 the Swiss requested that Berlin print a large "J" on all Jewish passports as well. This process allowed the Swiss to identify Jews hoping to enter the country. Two years later the Swiss government established four types of camps for refugees (quarantine, training, reception and labor camps). Some famous Jews who sought asylum in Switzerland included Ernst Bloch, Emil Ludwig, Bruno Walhter and Joseph Schmidt.



A JEWISH REFUGEE and Erich Rothschild (right) perform farm work at a Swiss labor camp. *Photos courtesy of Rothschild*

War's End Brings Silence

From 1933 to 1945 it is estimated that almost 28,000 Jews were given asylum in Switzerland. Once admitted to Switzerland, most Jews, except for those who resisted the Swiss, found themselves on "safe ground" and survived the war. Luckily Rothschild was one of these survivors.

After marrying in Locano and bringing their first son into the world, the Rothschilds departed from devastated Europe in 1947 and came to New York. The family was welcomed and Rothschild even began to play soccer once again. "We didn't talk about what happened to us in Europe any more," said his widow, "we just went on with our lives like everyone else." However, Rothschild's widow held no desire to visit her homeland, nor Switzerland again.

At first Rothschild worked with pharmaceuticals in New York. Later, however, Rothschild would visit Switzerland once again, to learn some of the newest chemical techniques. A Swiss-based company then found a new job for him in Providence, Rhode Island.

Rothschild became a good friend and supporter of the Barrington Public Library in his later years. He passed away in 1996 at the age of 80. But fond memories of him continue to live on with his widow and children. His little Barrington home is quaintly decorated with photos and memories of the handsome man throughout his lifetime. He is well remembered not only by his family and his children but by friends and the community as well.

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FEATURE

Orthodox Feminists Move From Fringes to Mainstream

by Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK (JTA) — What a difference a year makes.

For the organizers of the Second International Conference on Feminism & Orthodoxy, the last year has seen major leaps forward in their primary areas of concern — Torah learning for Orthodox women and expanding the ways in which women can serve as religious leaders.

The year between the inaugural conference, which was fraught with trepidation and nervous excitement for organizers, and the second, which was held in Manhattan earlier this month, also marked a notable change in the way their issues are regarded in the Orthodox community.

At a time when Orthodox organizations and their leaders continue marching to the right on a panoply of issues — from pluralism to the peace process — Orthodox women's calls for empowerment seem to be less controversial than they were even a year ago.

This time around, conference participants and organizers alike were no longer asking whether it was possible to reconcile Orthodoxy and feminism. This time, they were doing it.

"We're part of the mainstream now," said the conference chair, Blu Greenberg. "We are modern Orthodox, not troublemakers at the edge of the community. This was a very mainstream group."

But given that no major Orthodox organizations sponsored the event — and the one that did last year, Amit, pulled away this year — it was equally clear that this nascent movement is not fully embraced by the Orthodox establishment.

"It doesn't matter that we didn't have their sponsorship," Greenberg said. "There were plenty of women from Amit and Emunah at the conference," she said, referring to two Orthodox women's organizations.

The president of Amit, Evelyn Blachor, agreed. "There were many more Amit members there, including myself, as individuals this year than last.

"As a social service organization which is about helping children in Israel, we didn't think it was part of our mission to sponsor the conference," she said, explaining her group's decision. "We did not want to offend any of our constituents and dilute or pollute our mission."

For his part, Dr. Mandell Ganchrow, president of the Orthodox Union, a large umbrella organization that certifies foods as kosher and represents Orthodox synagogues, said of the conference: "It's a real important area that we're interested in. I have no problem with it."

With 2,000 participants, the conference this year attracted a bigger crowd than most American Jewish religious gatherings. Only the Orthodox Agudath Israel of America and Reform movement conventions draw larger numbers.

Numbers tell much of the story of how the movement has grown — and how it is moving from being regarded as treif — non-kosher — or at least questionable, to much more acceptable.

Organizers expected about 400 people to attend last year's conference, 1,000 showed up. This year they expected 1,400 — and instead, had about 2,000 participants ranging from adolescents to septuagenarians.

Last year organizers found it difficult to get "big name" Orthodox rabbis and "mainstream" Orthodox women to participate, other than those who are already most closely identified with the idea of promoting women as spiritual leaders within Orthodox Judaism.

This year so many called the organizers wanting to participate that they had to turn some away, Bat Sheva Marcus, conference co-chairwoman, said during an interview as she nursed her newborn daughter in a room set aside for babies.

Last year only a handful of men attended.

This year many more were visible — both in the audience and as speakers.

Prominent Orthodox rabbis speaking included New Yorkers Haskel Lookstein of Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun and Adam Mintz of Lincoln Square Synagogue, and Shlomo Riskin of the West Bank settlement of Efrat.

Also speaking at the conference this year were two members of the fervently Orthodox community — Lubavitcher Henna White, who spoke about "The Ultra-Orthodox Woman: Conceptions and Misconceptions," said Rabbi Yosef Henkin, a Jerusalem-based interpreter of Jewish law, who spoke about the ways in which traditional Jewish texts view the subject of modesty.

Last year, conference speakers were warned to stay away from applying the words "rabbinic ordination" to women.

This year, there was a whole panel discussion devoted to the subject.

Lincoln Square Synagogue in New York City recently became the first Orthodox synagogue to announce that it had hired a woman to work as a congregational intern, a sort of para-rabbinic role in which the intern performs those roles permitted to women.

The Hebrew Institute of Riverdale, N.Y., was the second. And two more Orthodox synagogues, one in Oakland, Calif., and one in Stamford, Conn., are in the process of doing so, said Rabbi Avi Weiss, who spoke at the conference.

Sessions included those devoted to:

- Gender and traditional texts;
- Expanding women's religious roles in the synagogue and at home;
- Reclaiming a mother's name in traditional ceremonies like brit milah;
- Pre- and post-nuptial agreements;
- Domestic violence;
- Creating a woman's prayer group;
- The views of Rabbis Moshe Feinstein and Joseph Soloveitchik, two Orthodox religious leaders whose interpretations on women's prayer groups, pre-nuptial agreements and divorce have guided current developments in these areas.

Edith Gribetz, 73, of New York City, said of her experience at the conference: "It's very exciting for my generation to see the level of scholarship here and the enthusiasm.

"Fifty years ago we didn't think such a thing was possible," said Gribetz, whose daughter, Beverly, is a prominent educator in Israel.

This year, like last, women also came from all over the world — from Australia and England, from Holland and Hong Kong and Israel.

"I came because I wanted to know where the zeitgeist is," said Sally Berkovic, who came from a suburb of London.

"I also wanted to have my own feelings reaffirmed by other women, because I feel intellectually isolated in England, which is much more conservative on these issues," said Berkovic, author of *Under My Hat*, a recently published book about her experience as an Orthodox feminist.

"And I have two young daughters," she said, "I want to know what place there will be for them in Orthodoxy."

Alan Shawn Feinstein Matches Funding for ANYTOWN RI

The National Conference of Rhode Island and Southeastern New England, founded in 1927 as The National Conference of Christians and Jews, has announced that Alan Shawn Feinstein will match any scholarship donations for its weeklong, residential camp program for teens, ANYTOWN RI.

ANYTOWN RI brings 50 high school students from widely diverse racial, ethnic, religious and economic backgrounds together to learn about bias and prejudice and to build skills such as conflict resolution and communication that will help them to promote understanding and respect in their own schools. In addition to the week at camp, the teens can stay engaged with The National Conference through the next school year to develop service projects in their home communities.

"Each year a large percentage of our students require scholarship aid to attend the ANYTOWN RI program. Learning how to work through the issues of bias and prejudice is an important skill for these young people who are our future leaders. Finances should never keep any student from attending." Anthony Maione, executive director of The National Conference, said, "We are extremely grateful to Alan Shawn Feinstein, not only for his personal willingness to give but for encouraging others to support our work. We tell the ANYTOWN students that their experience is like a gift. They can share it with others or keep it just for themselves. We encourage them to share it through their own work.

A full scholarship for ANYTOWN costs $350, most of which is utilized for food and lodging for the week for the 50 students. Donations can be for full or partial scholarships and can be sent payable to The National Conference of R.I. at 945 Westminster St., Providence, R.I. 02903.

The ANYTOWN program will run from June 21 to June 27. For more information on giving or attending the program, call 351-5120.

CLC Menswear

CLC Menswear will hold our Spring 1998 Semi-Annual Wardrobe Event from now until March 7th.
Create a wardrobe that reflects your individual taste.

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Israeli Immigrant Soldier Buried in Russia

by Lev Krichevsky

MOSCOW (JTA) — Thousands of miles from the southern Lebanon zone where he was killed, an immigrant Israeli soldier was laid to rest.

The 150 mourners at the funeral in the southern Russia city of Krasnodar filed silently behind the Israeli flag-draped casket that contained the body of Sgt. Nikolai Rappaport, who was recently killed by Hezbollah gunmen.

Rappaport's body was flown to Russia afterwards at the request of his family.

Nikolai, 23, lived in Krasnodar until he and his father, Ilya, immigrated to Israel two years ago. His sister moved to the Jewish state two months ago.

Nikolai was drafted into the Israeli army last year and volunteered to serve in southern Lebanon.

Ilya Rappaport and his 22-year-old daughter, Olga, said upon arriving in Krasnodar for the burial that they did not know whether they would go back to Israel. They said they would leave the decision in the hands of Nikolai's mother, who is not Jewish and still lives in Krasnodar.

In Israel, a scandal erupted after Israeli President Ezer Weizman paid a condolence call to Rappaport's family in Tel Aviv and saw the squalor in which they lived. The family lived in a small, windowless shack and the father was unable to find employment.

The Jews of Krasnodar were shocked by the death of Rappaport, one Jewish activist said in an interview from the city, which is located about 750 miles south of Moscow.

"This is a tragedy for us as well," said Yuri Teitelbaum, who heads the Krasnodar regional branch of the Russian Jewish Congress.

Teitelbaum said local Russian authorities refused to help conduct a memorial ceremony for Rappaport in a city cemetery. City officials also refused to provide police to ensure public order at the ceremony.

The Rappaports lived in the former Soviet republic of Georgia until 1992.

Like thousands of others, the Rappaports fled to Russia following the civil war that erupted after the Georgian region of Abkhazia declared its independence.

Many refugees from Abkhazia, like the Rappaports, have been unable to find work in Russia.

Each year, about 200 Jews leave Krasnodar for Israel. Some 2,000 Jews live in the city of 600,000.

Teitelbaum's own son — who emigrated to Israel a year ago — is slated to join the Israeli army soon.

"We, like all parents whose kids are in Israel, will be on pins and needles waiting for letters from him," said Teitelbaum.

Tell Them You Saw It In The Herald

FEATURE

Human Rights Center Honors URI Couple's Book

The Gustavus Myers Center for the Study of Human Rights in the United States has selected *Desperate Crossings: Seeking Refuge in America* as an outstanding book published in 1996–1997 on the subject of intolerance in the United States.

Written by University of Rhode Island science Professor Norman L. Zucker and Naomi Flink Zucker, who teaches in the writing program in the English department at URI, the authors examine the many changes that the end of the Cold War has brought in attitude and policy toward politically based migration. This is the second time the Zuckers, who live in Kingston, have received a Myers Award, a rare achievement. The Zuckers' previous book, *The Guarded Gate: The Reality of American Refuge Policy*, received a Myers Award in 1987.

In *Desperate Crossings*, the Zuckers chronicle and analyze the phenomenon of mass escape that began with the Haitians, but exploded into the American consciousness in the spring of 1980 with the Mariel boatlift and the subsequent mass exodus from Central America, and was most recently manifested in the Haitian and Cuban exoduses of 1994.

In a compelling and carefully documented narrative, they identify the troika of interests — foreign policy, domestic pressures, and costs — that have controlled and determined the American response to refugees since before the Second World War, continuing until today. The book concludes by proposing a comprehensive and politically palatable approach to future refugee flows, both in our hemisphere and for the world community-at-large — including Europe and Asia.

The authors suggest how, by changing the course of its refugee policies and programs, the United States can better respond to both the needs of refugees and the demands of its citizens.

Norman L. Zucker and Naomi Flink Zucker

Jewish Environmental Group Expands

by Susan Jacobs

NEW YORK (JTA) — The Jewish environmental movement is expanding — locally.

"We are stewards of the earth and of each other," said Rebecca Wood, who is involved with the Jewish Community Relations Council in Albuquerque, N.M.

For the last year and a half, Wood has worked on a project called Jump Land — an outdoor learning environment designed with input from children. The idea for the project came from a story of the same name written by a Jewish boy who died at the age of 6. A year earlier, the student wrote the story about "a safe place where things were magical and joyous," said Wood, who co-chairs the JCRC's environmental programs and projects.

Wood's involvement in the Jewish community and environmental activism brought her to a recent conference sponsored by the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life.

Some 90 environmental activists from 20 states attended COEJL's Jewish Environmental Leadership Training Institute to address Jewish activism on environmental issues.

"It was as I went home," Wood said of the conference. "To see so many people with the same philosophy, putting it into action in so many ways."

The conference, held in January in Ojai, Calif., focused on expanding the 6-year-old organization by establishing regional chapters — COEJL plans to open six chapters across the country this year.

Wood and another COEJL Institute participant became cofounders of the Southwest COEJL region, and she returned to Albuquerque with new enthusiasm.

"I don't feel alone anymore," said Wood. "I felt connected to something bigger than me."

COEJL aims to integrate environmental education and action into the life and institutions of the American Jewish community, intertwining religious values, spiritually, science, public policy and community-building.

Environmental activism has served as an entry point for unaffiliated Jews to reconnect to their Jewish roots. For example, members of the COEJL chapter of Oregon and Washington state include a number of unaffiliated Jews active in environmental causes.

"They want to get involved in the Jewish community," said Larry Nicholas, executive director of the Northwest Jewish Environmental Project. "This is another vehicle for them."

The chapter works closely with other Jewish organizations. "The Jewish community feels this is an important connection to make," said Nicholas.

The Northwest Jewish Environmental Project holds Shabbat in the Woods programs during the summer, linking environmental awareness to celebrating Shabbat.

COEJL is currently concentrating efforts on two major issues: climate change and protection of habitat and endangered species.

Energy conservation and responsible consumption of natural resources are being encouraged by COEJL to avert detrimental changes to the planet's climate.

Mark Jacobs, director of COEJL, links the imperative to preserve the natural world to a statement in Deuteronomy admonishing the Israelites to "choose life."

"There is a profound Jewish concern for future generations," said Jacobs. "We want to ensure that other people — like subsistence farmers and people who live along low-lying coastal areas — will be protected."

COEJL's effort to protect endangered species, called Operation Noah, is viewed as a direct outgrowth from the story of the Biblical Noah.

It is "the earliest account of humankind ensuring that all species survive from one human era to the next," said Jacobs.

This Date in History

Feb. 26 — The legislature of Maryland in 1825, passed an act removing the requirement of taking a christological oath prior to the assumption of public office. A declaration of belief in reward and punishment in the hereafter was substituted.

Feb. 27 — The Menucha Venachala company was organized in Warsaw in 1890 to purchase and colonize land in Palestine.

Feb. 28 — Rumania passed a law excluding Jews from public service and from the tobacco trade in 1887.

March 1 — In 1942, Hitler ordered the Einsatzstab to establish a library of Jewish books and works of art to be used as museum relics.

March 2 — Rabbi Joel Sirkes (Bach), author of the *Tur*, died in 1640.

March 3 — *Israel's Herold*, the first German Jewish paper in the United States, was published in 1849.

• Hadassah was founded by Henrietta Szold in 1912.

March 4 — Prime Minister Ben-Gurion, in 1957, ordered the withdrawal of Israel's forces from the Gaza Strip and other occupied territory, in compliance with U. N. resolution.

• Jews of Lubek, Germany, were expelled in 1699.

• The Security Council of the U.N. recommended the admission of Israel into the United Nations in 1949. Israel's first permanent government assumed office that same day.

• Jews of the Austrian Empire were granted equal civil and political rights in 1849.

Compiled from Day by Day in Jewish History, *Bloch, 1983, KTAV Publishing House.*

Rifts Surface in Papon Trial

by Lee Yanowitch

PARIS (JTA) — As far as the lawyers for the civil plaintiffs in the war crimes trial of Maurice Papon are concerned, there is a loose cannon among them.

Already fearing that the slow pace of the trial may work against them, the lawyers for the prosecution were infuriated when colleague Arno Klarsfeld dealt a blow to their case by saying he believed the defendant's claims that he was merely obeying orders.

"In my opinion, Maurice Papon, you would not have acted without orders. I cannot believe that you wanted to see our fellow countrymen deported," Klarsfeld told the defendant recently in court.

With that one comment, Klarsfeld embarrassed and angered the other prosecution lawyers by contradicting the argument of criminal intent on which their case is based.

"He's pleading in Papon's defense," said lawyer Gerard Boulanger. "It's very dangerous. let's just hope that the jury is sufficiently convinced of Papon's guilt that whatever the Klarsfelds do won't ruin the trial.

"It's a theatrical ploy to grab attention," added Boulanger, who first launched legal action against Papon in 1981.

Papon, 87, is accused of ordering the arrest for deportation of 1,560 Jews, including 223 children, from the southwest city of Bordeaux between 1942 and 1944, when he was a senior bureaucrat of the collaborationist Vichy regime.

Papon denies the charges and said he used his position to save Jews and to help the anti-Nazi resistance.

From the start of the trial, Klarsfeld and his famous Nazi-hunter father, Serge, have called for a more lenient sentence for Papon to emphasize the difference between his deeds and those of people like Klaus Barbie, ex-chief of the Gestapo in Lyon, or Paul Touvier, a leader of the fascist militia in the same city.

Touvier was sentenced to life in prison by a Versailles court in 1994 for the shooting of seven Jewish hostages, and Barbie was also jailed for life by a French court for torturing Jews and deporting them to death camps.

"The Klarsfelds have always said Papon was less important than the others," said Alain Jakubowicz, who represents B'nai B'rith and the Consistoire, the body tending to the religious needs of French Jews.

But many saw Arno Klarsfeld's tactic as a way to get back at his colleagues, who had publicly condemned him last month for abruptly revealing — without consulting them — that the judge was related to some of the Jews allegedly deported by Papon, and therefore should step down because of a conflict of interest.

Those disclosures nearly led to the judge's removal from a trial already dogged by delays.

"In 10 minutes, he got what he was looking for — revenge, right in court, against his colleagues who had denounced his offensive against the presiding judge in January," wrote Pascale Nivelle in the daily newspaper *Liberation*.

Klarsfeld has never been a team player, according to those familiar with his trial tactics.

At Touvier's trial three years ago, he sparked the ire of his colleagues by being the only one among the 17 lawyers for the civil plaintiffs to argue that the defendant had acted on his own free will when murdering Jews.

The other lawyers, bound by an appellate court's controversial definition of crimes against humanity, had tried to prove that the former militia chief had been following Nazi orders.

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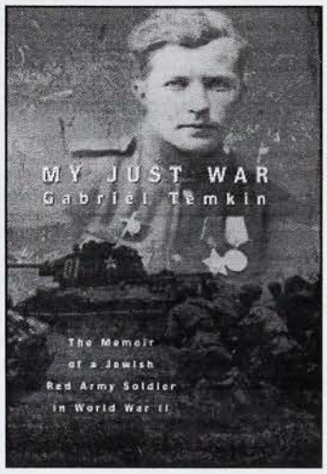
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

My Just War

The Memoir of a Jewish Red Army Soldier in World War II

Author, Gabriel Temkin
Presidio Press, Calif.
258 pages



As the Germans invaded Poland in September 1939, Jewish 18-year-old Gabriel Temkin, along with thousands of his countrymen, answered his country's call and attempted to enlist in the army. The swift success of the German blitzkrieg prevented Temkin form joining the Polish army, and he was forced to turn back to his hometown of Lodz. Following their conquest of Poland, the Nazis began a campaign of terror against Polish Jews causing Gabriel and his fiancée Hanna, along with thousands of other refugees, to flee to the Soviet-controlled eastern part of Poland.

June 1941 brought a new Nazi invasion, this time of Russia, and Temkin found himself drafted into the Red Army. Gabriel once again was at war, this time defending a new homeland, first as a conscript in a labor battalion (the Soviet authorities viewed the refugees with distrust) and later, as reconnaissance scout in a frontline Russian infantry regiment. His memoir is a remarkable story of resilience, courage and perseverance.

Gabriel Temkin, a retired college professor, lives with his wife Hanna in Sarasota, Fla. He is one of the only Polish Jews known to have served in the Red Army as a combat soldier.

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March Activities at Providence Children's Museum

The following programs are coming up at Rhode Island's only museum for kids and their families:

Bell Atlantic Free Sunday — March 1. Museum is open free of charge, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Spinergy — March 3, 3 to 4:30 p.m., children ages 5 and up design and build tops — which spins fastest?...slowest?...longest?

Ways of Water — Can a rock float? Will a lemon sink? What about a lime? on March 4, between 3 and 4:30 p.m., children ages 3 and up will test the buoyancy of a variety of objects in Water Ways, the museum's newest exhibit.

Underground Mazes — On March 5, between 3 and 4:30 p.m., children ages 5 and up will unravel the colorful maze of pipes, cables and conduits beneath the city streets.

Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss — On March 6, preschoolers join the Cat in the Hat for silly games and stories and create their own Seussian creatures. The program, presented in 20-minute sessions from 9:40 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., is for children ages 3 to 5. Participation is on a first-come, first-served basis.

Spinning Lady — On March 7, between 1:30 and 3:30 p.m., the Spinning Lady spins wool into yarn in the 17th-century style. Children ages 5 and up can card wool and spin with drop spindles.

Puppet Workshop — Puppets perform "The Boy Who Cried Wolf" and children ages 5 and up make their own puppets on March 8 at 1:30 and 2:30 p.m.

A Conversation with Geoffrey Beene

Join fashion designer Geoffrey Beene, on March 5, Lorraine Howes, head of RISD's Apparel Design Department, and Pam Parmal, RISD Museum associate curator of Costume and Textiles, in an informal conversation about Beene's designs and the apparel industry today. Free and open to the public, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the RISD Auditorium, South Main Street, Providence.

Forbidden Music: Nazi Censorship of The Arts

On March 8 at 7:30 p.m., at Northeastern University's Curry Student Center Ballroom, Stotsky Professor Joshua Jacobson and Gideon Klein Scholar Virgil Bozeman will present a concert and lecture on "Forbidden Music," music that was censored by the Nazi regime. Performers will include the Zamir Chorale of Boston Chamber Chorus, pianist Virginia Eskin and soloists Jules Rosenberg, Jeanne Segal, Scott Sokol and Louise Treitman. The program is free and open to the public. For more information, call the Northeastern University department of music concertline at (617) 373-2671.

For the Nazi government, music was more than an aesthetic expression; it was a propaganda tool, and as such it was expertly wielded by the government. No compositions or performances by Jews, African-Americans or other persons who were considered to stem from "inferior" races would be heard. In addition, modernist music, or any other music which did not serve to "elevate" the people was to be silenced. These policies were crystallized and showcased at the Entartete Musik (Degenerate Music) exhibition in Dusseldorf in May 1938.

"Forbidden Music" will explore the roots of musical censorship and investigate the complex interrelationship between art and politics. Musical selections will include excerpts from Hindemith's "Piano Suite 1922," Schoenberg's song cycle "Pierrot Lunaire," Weill's satirical opera "Mahagonny," Krenek's jazz opera "Jonny spielt auf," Bloch's service "Avodas HaKodesh," Hermann Stephani's dejudaized version of Handel's oratorio "Judas Maccabaeus," and Holländer's hit song "Ich bin von Kopf bis Fuss auf Liebe" ("I am in love from head to foot") from the film, "The Blue Angel."

Avner Returns to Trinity

Avner Eisenberg (alias Avner the Eccentric) brings his one-man show, "Exceptions to Gravity," to Trinity Repertory Company's Upstairs Theatre March 12 through March 16. Avner's eclectic blend of mime, juggling, magic and pratfall clowning has enthralled audiences from coast to coast and across the continent. His fourth much-heralded visit to Trinity's stage is sponsored by the Metropolitan Life Foundation.

Though Avner wears the baggy pants and bowler hat of a clown, he is actually closer to the silent mime who portrays characters and scenes. Avner's comical gestures and facial expressions, his awe-inspiring juggling and balancing tricks, his hilarious kazoo-tooted instructions to audience members who join him onstage — Avner uses them all to create mini-dramas in his show.

An Irish theater critic said of Avner's Dublin show, "This is the play Samuel Beckett would have written for the Marx Brothers." Indeed Avner considers Beckett one of his influences, along with Charlie Chaplin, Jacques Tati and Red Skelton.

With a college degree in theater under his belt, Eisenberg traveled to Paris in the early '70s to study mime with Jacques LeCoq, toured as a puppeteer with Vagabond Marionettes and taught at Carlo Clementi's Dell'Arte School of Physical Comedy in northern California. His performance piece as Avner the Eccentric was a Broadway hit in 1984–85 and he had a scene-stealing role as The Jewel in 1986's "The Jewel of the Nile."

Above all, Eisenberg is funny. Eisenberg, for all the gentleness of his onstage presence, has a bit of an edge, a wacky wit that pokes such fun at his own foibles that audiences can't help but be reminded of their own.

Public performance times are March 12 and 13 at 7 p.m., March 14 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. and March 15 at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Evening and matinee tickets are $20 to $26 for adults and a special $10 price for children. For tickets, call the box office at 351-4242.

The Gatehouse Features 'Tribute'

The first, in a series of dinner dances open to the public at the all-new River Room at The Gatehouse will happen Feb. 28 at 7 p.m. The new group, "Tribute," will entertain with the lively sounds of the legends of Motown — The Temptations, Four Tops, Marvin Gaye and Smokey Robinson, plus music of the '70s and disco. Members of the group include Manny Barros, Steve Palumbo, John Vaughan, Frank Reis, Michael Alves and Ron Campignon. Barros, who also performs with Vaughan and Palumbo in the group, "Twice," has performed with Jeffrey Osborne, Rose Weaver and opened for Isaac Hayes and Tavares. The cost for the evening will be $35 per person.

The River Room at The Gatehouse, formally opened Feb. 14, adjoins The Gatehouse Restaurant at 4 Richmond St. in Providence. The Gatehouse Restaurant features New England fare prepared with the flavor of New Orleans.

Call 521-9229 for information.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

'Hot I Baltimore'

by Yehudah Biss

In discussing character development, many writers fail because they lack the patience to develop them. "Hot I Baltimore" creates a family out of diverging personalities. Take these people out of Hot I Baltimore, you have a group that wouldn't have anything in common. But that is precisely why they live in the Hot I Baltimore. They all have one thing in common. They are all lost souls, and the hotel, which is slated to be under the wrecking ball, amplifies and typifies their existence. The characters that live in Hot I Baltimore give us a remarkable look deep inside the heart of friendship.

Look for Jeanine Kane, who plays Suzy. She has lines that steal the show, as well as a scene that might be rated NC-17. For an entertaining night of drama and laughs, see "Hot I Baltimore," running at Alias Stage until March 15. Alias Stage is located on 31 Elbow Street. Call 831-2919 for more information.

ELLIOT COHAN (Mr. Morse) plays checkers with Giedrius Sruogis (Jamie), while Molly Lloyd (The Girl) talks to Enedina Garcia (Millie) and Kate Lohman (April Green) drinks her tea.

Photo by Peter Goldberg

Take-No-Ko at Providence Art Club

Japan speaks in simple, serene, pristine elements. It is a visual experience like none other. Boldness of color and shape flirt with wood and paper. Japan is bright yet mysterious.

In the spring of 1997, Madolin Maxey, painter and set designer, offered studio space in Kyoto, Japan. The work presented at the Providence Art Club was produced during that time or evolved from the Kyoto sketchbooks. The emancipation of color, shape, and line was evident in all aspects of Japanese life. It is enough to speak in one simple brush stroke, one bold line, one wooden shape, one expanse of red. Beautiful whispers gave way to staccato comprehension. The Take-no-ko manuscript paintings reflect this continually shifting ground where reality is reassembled.

Maxey has created a new teahouse shrine structure for the Take-no-ko exhibition. It is similar to "The Mikado" set she constructed for Ocean State Light Opera in June 1997. The stained wood and rusty red architecture is typical of the Gion, or geisha entertainment district, of Kyoto. Riva Leviten, Maxey's partner in this Providence Art Club show, will contribute to the embellishment of the teahouse interior.

Gallery talk: "a Dual Dialogue," Madolin Maxey and Riva Leviten will be held on March 11 at 7:30 p.m.

Sail Newport's Shipwreck Party

On March 13, Sail Newport will host a Shipwreck Party at the International Yacht Restoration School on Thames Street. Open to the public, the theme party features a combustible mix of original rock, funk and ska music by the Martha's Vineyard band "Entrain." The five-piece ensemble became one of the most sought after acts in the Northeast after a vacationing President Clinton sat in on saxophone with the band in 1994.

Tickets can be bought in advance for $30 or "better by the boatload" at a discounted $250 for ten. Tickets at the door will be $35. Hundreds of Rhode Island businesses are donating useful, fun goods and services for $10 and $20 balloon prizes. Food, libations and fabulous raffle prizes will also be available.

Chances to win adventurous trips for two are $50 with odds of 1/100. Local yacht broker Jody Lexow has donated a unique barge trip down a scenic canal in France. The Bitter End Yacht Club Resort in Virgin Gorda, B.V.I., has donated their "Admiral's Package" eight-day/seven-night stay.

Tickets for the raffle may be purchased at the party or through Sail Newport prior to the event. All proceeds from party and raffle ticket sales benefit Sail Newport's sailing scholarships and sailing programs.

For more information or for tickets, call Sail Newport at 846-1983.

Whaling Museum Presents Audubon Legacy

The New Bedford Art Museum recently announced the forthcoming lecture in the Audubon Legacy Lecture Series which is being hosted by the New Bedford Whaling Museum. The Audubon Legacy, "Audubon: His Life, Times and Place in History," by James Baird will be presented at 7:30 p.m. on March 10 at the New Bedford Whaling Museum. This lecture series is sponsored by AFC Cable Systems in support of the upcoming Audubon Legacy exhibition, April 26 to July 19 at the New Bedford Art Museum. In addition, the Whaling Museum has a selection of Audubon's work in the exhibition, "From the Folio of J.J. Audubon," on view through this summer. This exhibit will showcase newly framed prints from the New Bedford Public Library's John James Audubon's *Birds of America* large-size elephant folio edition produced between 1827 and 1838.

Baird is curator emeritus of the art collection of the Massachusetts Audubon Society and former vice president of the Massachusetts Audubon Society. Baird's recent speaking credits include lecturing at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts for their exhibition of Audubon watercolors. An author of more than 50 scientific papers, Baird will bring his knowledge of birds and art together for a stimulating talk.

For further information, call the Whaling Museum at (508) 997-0046, ext. 14.

To Those Preparing For Bar Mitzvah

by Leonard Chernack

The name you have
Is the name Dad gave you
It's a name to cherish
In whatever you do
Keep in mind
As you go thru life
To keep that name clean
Thru good times
And strife
Objects of value that he gave you
If lost, could be replaced
But a mark on your name
Could never be erased
Your father was proud
When he gave you the name
Just like his father
When he did the same
Keep it clean
After all that is said and done
You will be happy that you did
When you give it
To your son.

Happy Bar-Mitzvah

Submitted by Leonard Chernack of Cranston

We welcome interpretations of your own and encourage any poets to submit samples of their work. Send any correspondence to Rhode Island Jewish Herald, *Attn.: Yehudah Biss.*

'Srebrenica' Visits Trinity Rep

Adding to the wide-ranging events in the Providence New Play Festival, Trinity Repertory Company will present the American premiere of Nicholas Kent's docudrama "Srebrenica," directed by Oskar Eustis. Special March 8, 15 and 21 performances will be at 5 p.m. for a suggested donation of just $5.

Edited and shaped from testimony given at the United Nations War Crimes Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in July 1996, "Srebrenica" bears witness to the "ethnic cleansing" carried out by the Bosnian-Serb army, who murdered as many as 10,000 Muslim refugees in July 1995.

"Srebrenica" was first presented at the Tricycle Theater in London, In October 1996, just a few months after Tricycle's artistic director Kent had sat through three days of the UN Tribunal and decided to bear witness himself to those proceedings. Oskar Eustis saw Kent's "Srebrenica" in London in November 1997, after it had moved to the National Theater, and he immediately wanted to bring it to Trinity Rep.

This one-hour drama is composed of chilling, often graphic testimony from just four witnesses: a UN investigator, the commanding officer of the Dutch peace-keeping forces at Srebrenica, a Dutch soldier under his command and a former member of the Bosnian-Serb army who may have killed as many as 100 people in the massacre. In the bare words of their answers to the judges in The Hague, these witnesses lay out the horror of 'Srebrenica" from four very different vantage points.

The investigator tries to remain detached and objective as he describes the scenes of panic among the refugees seeking shelter at the Dutch compound, but he is quickly relating unimaginable atrocities and murders. The two Dutch officers hold to a military line of hijacked equipment, lack of outside response to their requests for back-up, too few personnel to protect the civilians who come to them for sanctuary. And finally the soldier from the Bosnian-Serb army who took part in the killings and was himself wounded when he tried to refuse — after the Tribunal, he was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment — tells his wrenching version of what happened at Srebrenica.

Trinity Repertory Company is conveniently located in downtown Providence at 201 Washington St., a few blocks from Exit 21 off Rte. I-95. Call 521-1100 for information.

Grant Writing Workshop

The Arts and Cultural Alliance of Newport County will sponsor a RISCA Grant Writing Workshop on March 12 at 7 p.m. at the Tiverton Four Corners Center for Arts Education, 3852 Main Road, Tiverton. Randall Rosenbaum, executive director, RI State Council on the Arts, will be joined by former grant recipients to offer advice to individuals and organizations interested in filing RISCA grant applications for the April 1 deadline.

Contact Linda Franklin, treasurer of The Arts and Cultural Alliance of Newport County, P.O. Box 746, Newport, RI 02840 or call 846-5526.

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Coffee or Tea/Chocolate Truffle Mousse Cake
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Coffee or Tea/Chocolate Truffle Mousse Cake
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OBITUARIES

LENA F. EISENBERG

NORTH KINGSTOWN — Lena F. Eisenberg, 90, of the Scalabrini Villa, North Quidnessett Road, a registered nurse, died Feb. 21 at Scalabrini Villa. She was the wife of the late Edward Eisenberg.

Born in Fall River, a daughter of the late Kessel and Yetta Pomiansky, she had lived in Providence and West Barrington before moving to Warwick in 1962.

She was a graduate of the nursing school at Beth Israel Hospital. She was a member of the Women's Association of the former Jewish Home for the Aged, and of Hadassah and the Pioneer Women.

She leaves no immediate survivors.

A graveside service was held Feb. 23 in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. Arrangements were by Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

DR. PHILIP D. FINKLE

PROVIDENCE — Dr. Philip D. Finkle, 85, of 2 Regency Plaza, a retired orthodontist, died Feb. 14 at the Steere Housing Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. He was the husband of Ruth (Brenner) Finkle.

Born in Providence, a son of the late Morris and Etta (Epstein) Finkle, he had lived in Woonsocket for 35 years before returning to Providence in 1976.

He maintained a private practice in Rhode Island before retiring in 1992. From 1981 to 1986, he was a senior consultant for the department of orthodontics at Rhode island Hospital.

He attended the University of Rhode Island and was a graduate of McGill Dental School in Montreal, Canada, and Tufts University School of Orthodontics. He was a clinical instructor at Tufts Graduate School for Orthodontics from 1955 to 1964.

He served in the Air Force as chief of orthodontics at Parks Air Force Base, Liverpool, Calif.

He was a former president of the Woonsocket Dental Society, and the Rhode Island Association of Orthodontists. He was a member of Temple Beth-El, the Jewish Home for the Aged, the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island and Ledgemont Country Club. He was a past president of B'nai B'rith of Woonsocket.

Besides his wife, he leaves a daughter, Maureen Lasher of Pacific Palasades, Calif.; a son, Dr. Michael A. Finkle of Burlington, Mass.; a brother, Archie Finkle of North Palm Beach, Fla.; and three grandchildren. He was the brother of the late Joseph M. Finkle.

The funeral was held Feb. 16 in Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence. Burial was in B'nai Israel Cemetery, Woonsocket.

BENNETT FORMAL

PROVIDENCE — Bennett Formal, 80, died on Feb. 18. He was born in 1917 in Poland, survived the concentration and labor camps during World War II, and spent three years in Italy training to fight for Israeli independence with the Jewish underground.

Despite the hardships he endured during World War II, Formal moved to Israel to reclaim his personal and religious freedom. It was there he fought in the 1948 Israeli War of Independence.

In 1961, Formal relocated to America and found his roots in Providence, R.I., where his two brothers had settled after the war. He became a Gabbi and life member at Congregation B'nai Zion and Beth Sholom in Providence. He worked as supervisor for Louie's Kosher Caterers in Rhode Island and Charles Gilbert Caterers in Massachusetts from 1963 to his retirement in 1990. During this time, he was active in the Vaad HaKashrut Kashrut and the Hebrew Sheltering Society.

He is survived by two sons, Bernard Formal of Springfield, N.J., and Pinchus Formal of Jerusalem, Israel, and six grandchildren.

HERMAN GROSS

PROVIDENCE — Herman Gross, 86, of 83 Hartshorn Road, president and treasurer of Fairhope Fabrics Inc., a family-run Fall River-based textile manufacturer from 1937 until he retired, in 1992, and president and treasurer of Newell Realty Corp., Providence, died Feb. 13 at Rhode Island Hospital. He was the husband of Irma (Malley) Gross.

Born in Pawtucket, a son of the late Frank and Rose Gross, he lived in Boston before moving to Providence in 1937.

He was an Army veteran of World War II. He was a 1933 graduate of Harvard University and attended Harvard Law School. He was a member of Temple Beth-El and its Brotherhood.

Besides his wife, he leaves four daughters, Rosalie Fox of Needham, Mass., Joanna Seere of New York City, Emily Van Cleve of Santa Fe, N.M., and Lauren Gross of Bethesda, Md.; a sister, Beatrice Newman of Malden, Mass.; a brother, Irving Gross of Providence; and six grandchildren. He was the brother of the late Helen Glazier.

The funeral was held Feb. 16 in Temple Beth-El, Orchard at Butler avenues. Burial was in Swan Point Cemetery. The services were coordinated by the Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence.

SARAH ALKON HORVITZ

SOUTH DARTMOUTH — Sarah Alkon Horvitz, 96, of So. Dartmouth, died Feb. 13 at St. Luke's Hospital. Born in Boston, she was the widow of David Horvitz.

She was a longtime member of Tifereth Israel Congregation and its Sisterhood. She was a life member of the Jewish Convalescent Center of New Bedford, officer of Tifereth Israel Congregation and the Sisterhood, member of Sisterhood of Congregation Ahavath Achim of New Bedford, a longtime volunteer of the Market Ministry Soup Kitchen, and was active in the Senior Citizen Center.

She is survived by a daughter, Marilyn Rodwin of Stamford, Conn., and a son, Harris Horvitz of So. Dartmouth; a sister, Lillian Hovitz of New Bedford; five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Services under the direction of Brezniak-Rodman Funeral Directors, Newton, were held Feb. 15 at the Tifereth Israel Congregation, New Bedford. Burial was in the Congregation Cemetery, Plainville.

ILYA LIDSKY

PROVIDENCE — Ilya Lidsky, 60, of 100 Broad St., Providence, an engineer with technical and university training in Russia, died Feb. 20 at Rhode Island Hospital.

Born in Odessa, Ukraine, the son of the late Lev and Shaiva (Shor) Lidsky, he had lived in Rome, Italy, before moving to Providence 22 years ago.

He leaves a daughter, Lelich Richmond of San Francisco, Calif., and a granddaughter, Nina. He was the friend and companion of Dorothy Silva of Cranston.

A graveside service was held Feb. 22 in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. Arrangements were by Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

SUE-ELLEN POMPILI

PROVIDENCE — Sue-Ellen Pompili, 51, of 21 Glenwood Ave., died Feb. 13 at Miriam Hospital in Providence. She was the wife of Robert E. Pompili.

Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Emanuel and Ida (Fishman) Wittner, she lived in Pawtucket for most of her life.

She was a graduate of Rhode Island College. She had previously taught in a Brooklyn, N.Y., high school. She had worked as a secretary at the Phoenix Mutual Insurance Co. and for the insurance agency, Albee Associates, and as an office manager at J.T. Slocom Co. in Lincoln.

She was a member of the Hope Link of the Order of Golden Chain. She was a life member of Hadassah and a member of B'nai B'rith Women.

Besides her husband, she leaves a son, Michael Pompili of Pawtucket; and a sister, Roberta Perlman of Pawtucket.

The funeral was held Feb. 15 at Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

DR. WILLIAM E. REEVES

PROVIDENCE — Dr. William E. Reeves, 73, of 236 Freeman Parkway, a retired internist and geriatrician, died Feb. 13 at home. He was the husband of Joan (Ress) Reeves.

A lifelong Providence resident, he was a son of the late Charles and Minna (Connors) Reeves. He maintained a summer home in Edgartown, Mass.

He maintained a private practice in Rhode Island, retiring in 1994. He was a 1946 graduate of Harvard University and 1959 graduate of New York Medical College. He was a member of Temple Emanu-El.

Besides his wife, he leaves three daughters, Ellen Gordon Reeves of New York City, Caroline Beth Reeves of Boston, and Pamela Ress Reeves of Washington, D.C.; seven sisters, Shirley H. Reeves of Douglas, Mich., Norma Rachlin of West Palm Beach, Fla., Doris Berger of Sharon, Mass., Ruth Olive Patashnick of North Adams, Mass., Eleanor Hoffman of Denver, Colo., June Boyce of Cocoa, Fla., and Martha Rose Reeves of Boston; three brothers, Abbott Reeves in Europe, Channing Reeves of Old Orchard Beach, Maine, and Bruce Reeves of Garinder, Maine; and a granddaughter.

The funeral was held Feb. 15 at Temple Emanu-El. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. The services were coordinated by Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence.

RACHEL WEBBER

PROVIDENCE — Rachel Webber, 93, of the Elmhurst Extended Care Facility, 50 Maude St., died Feb. 20 at the facility.

A lifelong resident of Providence, she was a daughter of the late Samuel and Lena Rubin.

She was a former member of Congregation Mishkon Tfiloh and a former member of Congregation Sons of Jacob.

She leaves three daughters, Frances Weiss of Cranston, Marlene Fink LaMirada in California, and Brenda Grosch of Flint, Mich.; three sons, Harold Webber of Warwick, Arnold Webber of Montreal, Quebec, Canada, and Robert Webber of Cranston; three brothers, Alexander Rubin of Cranston, Morris Rubin of Pittsburgh, Pa., and Harold Rubin of Providence; 17 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. She was the mother of the late Marshall Webber, and sister of the late

(Continued on Page 15)

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An Affair to Remember

(Continued from Page 5)

hosted two bat mitzvot, but this is our first and only bar one. We went to the tefillin class and writhed through the mysterious twistings and turnings of the ribbons and little treasure troves of prayer words, and the wrappings and layerings of tallith. It's great stuff.

I used to make fun of rote learning. I thought you had to unravel the meanings of everything you do. But I listen to the yeled's recitals and kvell at the ease and grace of his chanting. I look in admiration at his noble, clear profile. He is the perfect prince for me. He can hit a ball or get it in the basket, brings home hun-hordes of devoted playmates, gets right to the point in his homework, makes a bit of mischief, watches programs I look down on, and turns me into a valet, chauffeur and private secretary, like John Gielgud the fancy butler in the cinema comedies. I knot his cravat just right, double-tie his shoelaces, take messages, turn on or off the lamps, type his papers, and fold down his bed.

Once the bar mitzvah ceremony finds a place and a style, it'll be on to the next milestone on the gypsy road of life. People out of Rhode Island make fun of our American bar and bat mitzvah parties. Too lavish, too show-off, too big a deal. But here in our small state, it's not suitable for satire. It really does mark the moment when you take your place in our tight community. I watch with inner pleasure my beloved boy out on the town with me, stretching, opening up in wonder, and awaiting this, his very special springtime.

Plans for HARI

(Continued from Page 3)

statement followed: "HARI has as its mission to provide Southern New England with a high school dedicated to the refinement of character and intellect according to the requirements of Torah Judaism and general knowledge, promoting tolerance, intellectual honesty and integrity."

Although a meeting for Alperin Schechter parents scheduled for Feb. 23 was cancelled because of low turnout, HARI organizers and prospective parents alike were very optimistic after the spirited meeting.

"We've got to go out and grab our close friends," said Schechter. "Say, 'I want to dedicate some time so that my children or grandchildren can be part of this. From this, other schools will sprout. The community will not grow without it."

Some Of The Many Questions

What will the religious direction be? "The only way we could determine that was to make it simple," said Schechter. "It will be Orthodox. Judaic studies will be about 50 percent of the curriculum and they will be taught by an Orthodox person." According to both Schechter and Rabbi Levine, HARI will offer a "modern Orthodoxy" that will be appropriate for many Conservative families and the greater Jewish community as well.

Will the school offer Gemora to its female students? Although Gemora, or Talmud study, has traditionally been offered to men only, some of the more progressive Othodox schools now also offer it to women. At present, HARI plans to be amongst them. "Whatever we teach the boys we will teach the girls," Schechter said. "We do not want to deny access to knowledge. But ultimately, that could be up to the dean."

Why does Rhode Island need its own school when the lauded Maimonides School in Brookline is only an hour away?
According to Rabbi Levine, a Providence-based school will do more for high school students than simply sparing them a brutal commute.

"Maimonidies is top-rated school that has cultivated and achieved an intensive and even competitive atmosphere," Levine said. "We want to tailor our school to meet the needs of each individual student. We want our gifted students to be challenged, and we also want to be supportive of our less developed students. We want our parents to know that we won't be satisfied with intellectual progress alone — we want to create strong Jews and sensitive human beings."

Where will the students come from? HARI organizers expect that the bulk of the students will be local, and that many of them will have graduated from ASDS or PHDS. They hope that other members of Rhode Island's Jewish community will also attend HARI, and they are also planning a March meeting that will familiarize the Sharon, Mass., community with the proposed high school.

A Nation

(Continued from Page 4)

vival tactics forged by rabbinic Judaism.

Yet how can we become critical of those who uphold the tradition, the very bedrock that gives life stability and a compelling sense of belonging. As Tevye said, "How do we maintain our balance, that I can tell you in one word — tradition... because of our traditions everyone of us knows who he is and what G-d expects him to do." The spectrum of Judaism ranges between those who maintain tradition: interpreting Torah literally while strictly observing the Mitzvot and those who interpret the Law liberally: accepting innovation and considering Mitzvot a choice, not an obligation. How do we resolve this problem that nurtures dysfunction among the Jewish people? I'm not advocating the destruction of belief systems but rather the re-evaluation of our purpose as Jews as we approach the 21st century. We need to realize that change has always been an integral part of Judaism. We may think that halachic conversion is a belief when in reality it's an adherence to principles originally designed for survival; we have already survived, not only as a people but as a people now with our own country. We no longer need survival strategies; we need mutual acceptance and respect of one another to assure our continuity for the future.

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Obituaries

(Continued from Page 14)

Irving; William and Abraham Rubin, and Tillie Schreiber.

The funeral service was held Feb. 23 at Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence. Burial was in Lincoln Park, Warwick.

LILLIAN SILVERMAN ZARAKOV

PROVIDENCE — Lillian Silverman Zarakov, 94, of 306 Regency Plaza, former associate director of Camp Zakelo in Harrison, Maine, died Feb. 16 at home. She was the wife of the late Isador "Zak" Zarakov.

Born in Boston, a daughter of the late Nathan and Eva Silverman, she lived in Providence for 15 years, previously living in Brookline, Mass. She was a member of the Harvard Class of 1927 Alumni Association.

She was a 1926 graduate of Smith College and a member of the Smith Club of Rhode Island. She was a member of the American Camping Association, Harrison Maine Historical Society, International House and the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Society. She was a member of Hadassah.

She leaves a daughter, Dr. Lillian (Billie) Mason of Providence; and two grandchildren.

The funeral and burial were private. Arrangements were by the Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

Holocaust Restitution

(Contintuned from Page 1)

• Rep. Eliot Engel (D-N.Y.) has introduced legislation that would force insurance companies to honor policies sold to Holocaust victims between 1920 and 1945. The Holocaust Victims Insurance Act would require the companies to report how many policies were issued to victims of the Holocaust and direct them to pay victims or their descendants if they have not done so already.

• Sens. Arlen Specter (R-Pa.) and Robert Torricelli (D-N.J.) said they intend to introduce a resolution stating that NATO should not expand to include Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic unless those nations agree to provide an accounting of insurance policies taken out by Holocaust victims. The White House and some Jewish groups oppose the tactic, saying the two issues should not be linked.

• Reps. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) and Nita Lowey (D-N.Y.) plan to introduce a measure that would provide $15 million to help families find and recover their art. The bill would also direct the federal government to check its own collections to make sure all artwork it possesses has been rightfully purchased, while requiring buyers of artwork to conduct "background" checks to determine whether it was stolen.

• D'Amato said he is drafting legislation that would set up a federal commission to examine how valuable assets, including insurance policies, artwork, rare books and coins, should be returned to Holocaust victims and their heirs.

Both houses of Congress have already passed legislation authorizing the United States to contribute up to $25 million to a new international fund to benefit Holocaust survivors.

The Holocaust Victims Redress Act, which was recently signed by President Clinton, also calls on all governments to take action to ensure that artworks confiscated by the Nazis — or by the Soviets in the aftermath of World War II — be returned to their rightful owners.

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Cruising Kosher in The Mediterranean

Following the unqualified success of their gourmet kosher cruise-tours to Southeast Asia, the Mediterranean and Antarctica, Lotus Tours and Rabbi Marvin Tokayer have designed a comprehensive 17-day program to the Mediterranean during August aboard Orient Lines' M/V Marco Polo.

Rabbi Tokayer, one of the world's foremost authorities on the history of Jews in Asia, is author of *The Fugu Plan*, the tale of Japan's "unsung Schindler" and other untold stories of the Japanese and Jews during World War II. He has lectured extensively throughout the world and organized educational travel programs to six continents.

Rabbi Tokayer will be joined by Professor Shalom Paul, a noted author and lecturer, and chair of the Bible department of Hebrew University, Jerusalem.

The tour begins in Barcelona where the group will spend a weekend including city tours and a full-day excursion to Girona. The Gran Hotel Catalonia is within walking distance of the historic synagogue.

Ports of call include the principality of Monaco, Rome and Sorrento, Malta, Athens, five picturesque Greek Islands, Kusadasi, and Istanbul. In Rome, the group will be joined by Ruth Ellen Gruber, director of the Jewish Research Center and author of numerous Jewish travel guides of Europe. Featured are daily seminars at sea and visits with Jewish communities and Jewish heritage sites in several ports including the historic, recently renovated synagogue in Hania, on the island of Crete.

Meals on board ship will be freshly prepared by a master chef. All meals are glatt kosher under supervision of a mashgiach (kosher supervisor) on board. Vegetarian alternatives are also offered.

The cruise-tour will end in Istanbul. Sight-seeing highlights include the famous Topkapi Museum, the Grand Bazaar and many other exotic sights. The group will stay at the deluxe Hotel Mercure which is within walking distance of Istanbul's unique synagogue. An optional extension to the ancient ruins of Capadoccia will be offered.

Inclusive cost for this comprehensive program ranges from $4,375 to $5,825 per person, double occupancy, including round-trip airfare from New York, all meals, deluxe accommodations, comprehensive sight-seeing in Barcelona, Girona, Rome, Athens, Crete and Istanbul, transfer, and porterage.

For reservations and information, contact Lotus Tours, Ltd., 2 Mott St., New York, N.Y. 10013; phone (212) 267-5414; fax (212) 608-6007.

Town Meeting Focuses on Racial Issues in Sport

The Institute for International Sport and The University of Rhode Island athletic department will hold a town meeting on racial issues in sport on March 3, in an effort to promote dialogue and research on this important topic.

Free and open to the public, the town meeting will take place at 7 p.m. in Keaney Gymnasium on the campus of URI. This unique forum will feature a distinguished and diverse group of panelists and questioners who will examine in-depth the state of racial relations in sport in the United States.

"President Clinton has challenged each state and community to enter into serious dialogue on the issue of racial relations in the United States," said Dan Doyle, founder and executive director of the Institute for International Sport, which is based at URI. "We are pleased to co-sponsor this event with The University of Rhode Island athletic department and to accept this challenge for the state of Rhode Island.

"The University of Rhode Island athletic department's association with the Institute for International Sport, and in particular with National Sportsmanship Day, has been an effective means of confronting issues which effect our student-athletes and the sports they represent," explained Ron Petro, athletic director at URI.

The town meeting will be the culminating event of the institute's National Sportsmanship Day, sponsored by CIGNA HealthCare, which this year will be celebrated on March 3 in more than 10,000 schools in all 50 states and in more than 100 countries.

Panelists and questioners for the town meeting will include: Robert Carothers, president, URI; Floyd Keith, head football coach, URI; Richard Lapchick, director, The Center for the Study of Sport in Society; Jean Burr, head women's basketball coach, Brown University; George Blaney, former head men's basketball coach, Seton Hall; Dick Lynch, executive director, Rhode Island Interscholastic League; John McCray, vice president for student affairs, URI; Jack Cavanaugh, sports writer, *The New York Times;* Dave Bloss, spots editor, *The Providence Journal-Bulletin;* Sherry Skalko, editor with *The Providence Journal-Bulletin;* plus a diverse group of student-athletes from Brown University and URI.

Thanks to grants received by the Institute for International Sport, all Rhode Island schools are invited to send students, athletes, coaches, and administrators to the town meeting free of charge. To register, call (800) 447-9889 or 874-2550.

MOM of The Year Competition Seeks Nominees

Mothers from across America will be honored during the "Mom USA 1998" nationally syndicated television pageant on April 18 in Tampa, Fla. MOM USA pays all transportation, food, and accommodations of the MOM finalists at this national event. The winner, chosen from thousands of entries, will receive an array of prizes including an all-expenses-paid cruise for two to the Bahamas, trip to Florida, a gold watch, and chain with MOM USA LOGO charm in 14K gold. The 1998 MOM USA show will be hosted by David Leisure, star on TV show "Empty Nest" and special guest will be country music recording artist, Ricky Van Shelton. The 1998 MOM USA show will air nationwide on Mother's Day weekend, May 9 to 10.

MOM USA is a national, nonprofit organization with headquarters in Huntington, W.V., and is dedicated to recognizing the outstanding contributions of mothers to their children, families, and communities. Mothers are entered into the competition by a family member submitting a 300-word letter telling why their mother deserves to win the title "MOM USA 1998."

Entries for the 1998 competition must be postmarked no later than March 14. The Rhode Island MOM of the Year winner will be crowned at a ceremony to be held in her hometown on April 4. Each of the Rhode Island 1998 MOM of the Year winners will receive outstanding prizes. The Rhode Island MOM of the Year winner will be eligible to compete for the national title "MOM USA 1998." Let everyone know your mom is the best!

A portion of the proceeds from the MOM USA program goes toward the fight against breast cancer testing program.

For further information on how to nominate your mom, call the toll-free number, (800) CALL-WVA (225-5982), or visit the MOM USA worldwide web site at <http//www.momusa.com>.

Paws and Claws: An Exhibition of Animal Portraits

Gwen Mahan, local artist, will exhibit her paintings in "Paws and Claws: An Exhibition of Animal Portraits" at the Cranston Public Library, 140 Sockanosset Cross Road, from March 1 through March 31 in the Rear Gallery.

Mahan, a lifelong artist, studied at The Art Student's League in New York City and at the Woodstock Art School, Woodstock, N.Y. A member of the Wickford Art Association, Mahan is an animal lover and activist. She counts former stray cats as her favorite models. She is also known for her house portraits, caricatures, and cartoons. Her cartoons have been published in the *Providence Journal* and she is staff cartoonist for the theater newsletter, *The Board*.

The exhibit is free and open to the public during library hours. The library is accessible to people with physical handicaps.

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Deadline for all editorial and/or advertising material is due the Friday before each issue. If you would like your materials returned, please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Clearly label all photos and stories and include a contact name, phone number and address with all materials and mail to:

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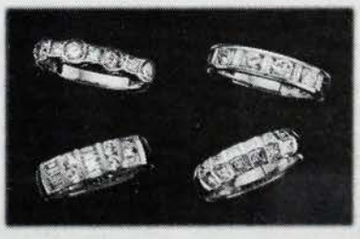

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