

Rhode Island Jewish HERALD

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Purim
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Clinton Turns to Jewish Group For Child Care Plan

by Daniel Kurtzman

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Twenty-five years after the National Council on Jewish Women issued a landmark study exposing the child-care crisis in America, President Clinton recently turned to the group in his effort to build support for his child care initiative and broader educational goals.

In his first personal appearance before a Jewish convention since his second term began, Clinton praised the group's work in promoting these issues. While many Jewish groups seek the president's presence, such appearances are rare.

Clinton's decision to speak in front of the women's activist organization was seen at least in part as an effort to recognize the pioneering work the 90,000-member NCJW has done in placing the child care issue on the nation's radar.

In fact, not much has changed since NCJW — an advocacy and educational group that focuses mostly on issues related to women, children and families

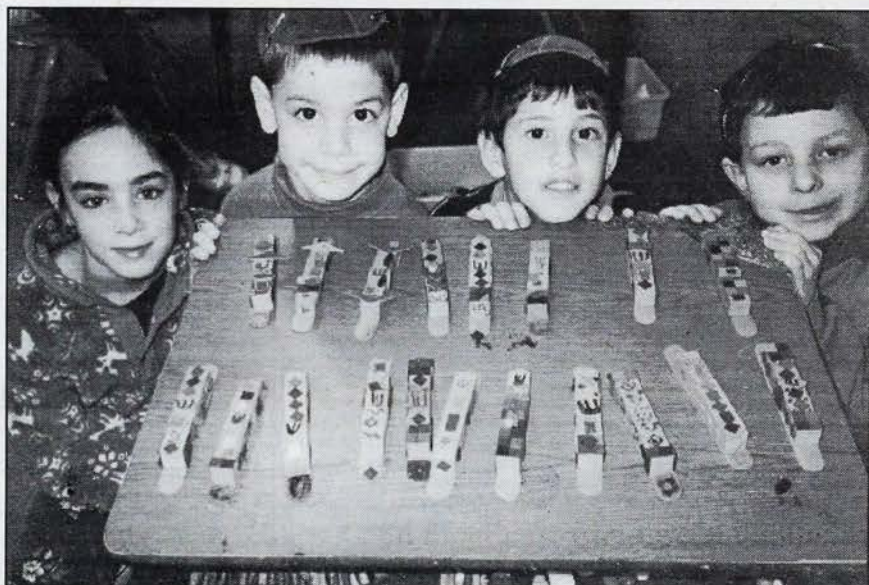
— issued its report, "Windows on Daycare."

Many of the same findings apply today: an acute shortage of care, a high turnover among caregivers, poor training, inadequate licensing, low reimbursement rates in some states and an overall lack of quality.

While decrying the poor educational showing of American high school students in math and science and the failures of adults responsible for educating them, Clinton, in his speech, emphasized the importance of starting "with the basics" in areas such as child care.

"There are still too many kids that don't get off to the start they need," Clinton said at NCJW's Washington Institute, which the group holds for activists every three years.

Child care is one of the core issues on the group's agenda for the coming year. The more than 700 Jewish Activists from across the country were slated to fan out across Capitol Hill recently to urge lawmakers to support legislation aimed at



Mezuzah Makers

As part of their Judaic studies program, first-grade students at the Ruth and Max Alperin Schechter Day School display the Mezuzot they made with teacher Rivka Escovitz. From left: Emma Sherer, Jonathan Goldin, Adam Maidman and Zachery Gold.

Photo courtesy of ASDS

U.S. Presses Swiss Firms to Pay Insurance Policies

by Fredy Rom

ZURICH (JTA) — American pressure is mounting on Swiss insurance companies to make good on unpaid policies from the Holocaust era.

The row recently intensified after Swiss insurers argued that domestic laws bar them from opening up their books regarding the insurance policies taken out by Holocaust victims.

U.S. insurance officials, in turn, have accused Swiss insurers of blocking access to their archives to cover up their behavior during World War II.

The National Association of Insurance Commissioners has been holding a series of hearings across the United States to seek out Holocaust survivors and the heirs of victims who have not received payouts from insurance policies held during World War II.

The officials are investigating claims that European insurance firms blocked payments to the families of death camp victims.

Deborah Senn, president of the commissioners group, threatened to send American inspectors to Switzerland.

"We see a legal basis for investigations in Switzerland because these companies also operate in the U.S.," Senn said in an interview published here.

The efforts of her group are significant for European insurers because the American officials have regulatory power over the American affiliates and subsidiaries of the targeted European insurance companies.

In a reflection of how seriously Swiss officials take the issue, the Foreign Ministry will soon be dispatching Ambassador Thomas Borer to Washington for meetings with the U.S. insurance officials.

Borer, who has served as Switzerland's point man on issues relating to the country's wartime activities, spent much of last year dealing with accusations that Swiss banks had close

improving the quality of child care.

They also planned to lobby members of Congress to oppose school voucher initiatives and support continued funding for international family planning programs — the group's two

financial ties to the Nazis and hoarded the contents of long-dormant bank accounts opened by Holocaust victims.

"We are setting up meetings with U.S. officials to discuss ways of solving this problem. We are trying to establish dialogue," said a Swiss Foreign Ministry spokeswoman.

Last year, a group of Holocaust victims and their families filed a class-action lawsuit against seven European insurance companies, alleging they withheld, concealed or converted the proceeds of policies sold before 1946.

The experiences of many of the claimants parallel those of depositors trying to collect on dormant Swiss bank accounts, but the sums at stake may be much larger.

Lawyers for the survivors estimate that the class-action lawsuit, now pending in New York federal court, could affect 10,000 claimants and involve billions of dollars in damages.

other priority issues this year.

"We know child care is needed now more than ever and we remind those on Capitol Hill who suggest that women should stay home that unfortunately many parents do not have that choice," said Nan Rich of Westin, Fla., the national president of NCJW.

"Most women work outside the home out of economic necessity."

In wide-ranging remarks that touched on Iraq and campaign finance reform, Clinton also highlighted the success of an NCJW brainchild, a program called HIPPIY — Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters.

Developed in 1969 by NCJW's research arm at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, the program was designed to help parents with limited formal schooling provide educational enrichment for their preschool children.

In 1986, Hillary Clinton invited Rich to Arkansas to talk to her and then-governor Clinton about the program, and Arkansas soon became the first state to implement it.

It has since expanded to 26 states, serving more than 13,000 families.

"If every child could be in that kind of program, it would do as much to strengthen families and the later success of children who are otherwise at risk as anything we could do," Clinton said.

Clinton also reiterated the proposal he unveiled earlier this year for spending \$21.7 billion

on child care programs over five years to improve the affordability, accessibility and quality of child care.

"It's a constant struggle to balance doing what's right as a professional and making sure that you take care of your child," said Amy Baker, director of NCJW's Center For The Child, which works to promote the well-being of children and families.

"You can't warehouse a kid, and, optimally, kids shouldn't be in child care 10 or 12 hours a day, but you don't always have that choice," said Debbie Greene of Dallas, Texas, a 42-year-old mother of two who teaches early childhood education.

"If you're going to have children in care, it needs to be quality care for their emotional, physical, social and intellectual well-being — it's imperative."

In appearing before the Jewish women's organization, Clinton was reaching out to one of his core constituencies. If his support among women has waned at all in the face of allegations about presidential peccadilloes, it was not apparent in this group.

Clinton worked the rope lines for nearly 20 minutes, shaking hands with just about every eager-faced participant within reach, even hoisting up a baby.

"We feel really honored that he thinks so highly about the National Council of Jewish Women, and we certainly feel the same way about him," said Helene Wichner of San Pablo, Calif.

HAPPENINGS

Cranston Public Schools Art Teachers' Exhibit

The Cranston Public Schools Art Teachers will exhibit their art at the Cranston Public Library, 140 Sockanosset Cross Road, from March 5 through 29.

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

Center for Portuguese Studies Presents Lecture Series

The Center for Portuguese Studies & Culture at University of Massachusetts Dartmouth presents a series of three lectures during the month of March.

- "Immoral Behavior: Luso-Brazilian Ideas about Illegality," presented by Dr. Ernst Pijning, Ph.D., John Hopkins University, takes place March 10, 8 p.m. in the center's Conference Room, Liberal Arts Building, Room 212 (Parking lot 3,4).

- "Azorean Literature after April 25, 1997," presented in Portuguese by Luiz Antonio de Assis Brasil, takes place March 13 at noon, also in the Center's conference room.

For more information, contact the center at (508) 999-9270.

Karate for Beginners Offered at YMCA

The Pawtucket Family YMCA will offer a beginner class in karate for ages 13 to adult, starting on March 25.

The class will meet every Wednesday for seven weeks, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$30 for full members and \$45 for activity members.

Participants will have a rigorous workout, while learning a traditional style of karate, Okinawan Goju Ryu. The class will initially focus on basic techniques, including punches, kicks, blocks, stances and movement.

These techniques will be incorporated into more advanced techniques, including Kata, Ippon Kumite (one step fighting) and kakie, or "pushing hands."

The instructor, Karen Chandran, has more than 10 years of martial arts training.

For registration information, contact fitness director, Sue Jack, at the Pawtucket Family YMCA, 20 Summer St., Pawtucket, R.I., at 727-7900.

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Calendar: March 5 thru March 15

- Old Slater Mill Opening Day**, 1 to 5 p.m., celebrate 1998 opening season, \$1 off admission, Pawtucket. Call 725-8638.
Women's History Month at Brown University, join author Nancy Kricorian for reading and book signing of *Zabelle*, Brown Bookstore, Providence, 4 p.m. For full list of events, call 863-2189.
- "Ma & Pa at Home,"** Perishable Theatre, Providence, March 5 to 14. Series of multimedia art and performances. Call 331-2695 for tickets.
- A Literary-Art Happening**, art installation and reading, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at French House in Providence. Honors 50th anniversary of death of French writer Antonin Artaud.
- "Acts of Power: The Jewish Women's Cultural Show,"** 9 p.m. part of Jewish Women's Week at Brown, in Andrews Dining Hall. Features performances of talented Jewish women. Free and open to public.
Jewish Film Festival explores women and identity, 6:30, Rhode Island School Design auditorium. "The Return of Sarah's Daughters," a documentary about three modern Orthodox women and "Nick and Rachel," film about romance between Orthodox Jewish woman and non-Jewish man. Call 863-2805.
- Western New England Region of Hadassah** and North Atlantic Region of Jewish Women International co-sponsor "A Dialogue With Jewish Lesbians," at Brandeis University, Waltham, Mass., 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Many guest speakers and authors will be present. To register, call (800) 232-2624.
Family Israeli Dance Workshop at Jewish Community Center Leventhal-Sidman Center, Newton, Mass., 1:30 to 3 p.m. Call (617) 558-6480 to register.
Temple Emanu-El USY Purim Carnival, Providence, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. All ages are welcome. Enjoy games and prizes, raffle and kosher grill lunch. Call 331-1616.
- "Soldiers Without Portfolio: Christianity, Islam and Irregular War"** with John Kelsay, professor of religious studies at Florida State University, 7:30 p.m. at Brown University Wilson Hall, sponsored by Brown University department of religious studies.
Monday Book Club discusses "Portrait of an Artist: Biography of Georgia O'Keeffe," by L. Lisle, Books on the Square, Providence, 7:30 p.m.
Touro Synagogue, Newport, Megillah reading 6:30 p.m., Purim party follows, wear costumes! Call 847-4794 for information.
- Jewish Film Festival at RISD auditorium.** "Unknown Secrets: Art & the Rosenberg Era" (28 min.) and "Song of the Siren" (91 min.). A dessert reception will follow. Call 863-9354.
- "Border, Race & Leadership"** with Ms. Magazine editor, Marcia Gillespie at UMass Dartmouth, 8 p.m. Free and open to public. Call (508) 730-4584 for information.
Arthritis Self-Help Courses, Warwick and Cranston, March 11 to April 15, 6 to 8 p.m. Led and taught by D. Harrison. Preregistration necessary. Call 434-5792.
Purim Dinner and Service at Congregation B'nai Israel, Woonsocket, costume parade and surprise raffle. Dinner followed by Megillah service at 7 p.m. Reservations required. R.S.V.P. to 762-3651.
Purim Spiel at Temple Emanu-El, Providence. Megillah reading at 7 p.m., followed by costume parade and show. Call 331-1616 for information.
- Arab women discuss the peace process**, part of Women's History Month at Brown, 4 p.m. in Salomon Center.
Grand Purim Feast of Chabad of West Bay Chai Center, Warwick. The feast will be held at Temple Am David, Warwick, 5 p.m. Enjoy an early Megillah reading, hors d'oeuvres, klezmer and more. Call to reserve early, 884-4071.
New England Rabbinical College 11th annual Purim Parade, 10:30 a.m. on Elmgrove Ave., Providence. Students are invited to dress for costume contest.
- Siperstein Family Scholar-in-Residence** at Temple Torat Yisrael, Cranston. Rabbi Cohen will visit the Temple March 13 to 15. For information, call Cantor Liberman at 785-1800.
Star Gaze at Wheaton College Observatory, open to public, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., free of charge. Look through seven computerized telescopes at Saturn, Mars and the moon. Call for weather conditions or more information and further dates at (508) 286-3937.
Four Winning Plays of Second annual Youth Playwriting Competition, Vartan Gregorian School, Providence, March 13 to 14, 7 p.m. Sponsored by R.I. Committee for the Humanities. Call 331-7174.
Audubon Society of R.I. Full moon frog walk at Caratunk Wildlife Refuge in Seekonk, 7:30 p.m. Call to preregister at (508) 761-8230.
"Wind Songs" at Rhode Island College, 8:15 p.m. in Roberts Auditorium. Admission \$7, senior citizens and non-RIC students \$5; RIC students free. For more information, call 456-8244.
- State of the Nations**, Joseph C. Harschat Newport Art Museum, 76 Bellvue Ave. Honored writer and columnist will present opinions about what 1998 has in store for us.
Greenwich Odeum presents folksinger Patty Larkin, 8 p.m., E. Greenwich, 885-9119.
"Bartok and Bolero," a Classical Series concert at Veterans Memorial Auditorium, at 8 p.m. Tickets are available at the Rhode Island Philharmonic box office through March 13 at 3 p.m. The Philharmonic is located at 222 Richmond St. Tickets may be purchased by calling 831-3123, ext. 10, or in person Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for \$20, \$30 and \$35 for adults.
- Tourney Time with Club 456** at Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island, 1:30 to 3:30, foosball, ping pong and pool tournaments, prizes for winners. Call to register, 861-8800, ext. 147.
Temple Emanu-El Leisure Club meeting at 2 p.m. Guest speaker, Dr. C. Ingall speaks on "Role of Education in Survival of Jewish Community."

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JEWISH COMMUNITY

Hillel Rabbi Parents New Publication

by Emily Torgan-Shalansky
Jewish Community Reporter

Brown University students better watch out—by the end of this week, Sparks will be flying all over the campus.

But according to their creator, Hillel Foundation Rabbi Susan Fendrick, the only things that these special Sparks will ignite are the ideas and public discussion that she developed in a new publication, entitled *Sparks*, to stimulate.

"I selected the title because of the image people have of 'sparking' a conversation, and also because of the notion we have in Jewish tradition that there are 'Sparks' of the divine everywhere, and that it is our job to uncover them," explained Rabbi Fendrick.

Subtitled "a lively conversa-

ideas about an ongoing call to ethical and social responsibility.

But he or she also almost simultaneously sees Associate Professor of Comparative Literature Meera Viswanathan's observation of how the text begins with a notion of immeasurability and ends with the concept of equivalence, and Brown Jewish Student Union President Hannah Solomon's opinions about which lines of the Mishnah are the most meaningful for Brown students, and Dean Kenneth Sacks' thoughts about how the text ultimately seems to reward behavior that it labels altruistic.

The *Sparks* experience is at once so confusing and interesting that it leads a reader to want to do what the commentators themselves have already done—to develop and share their other ideas with someone else.

And according to Rabbi Fendrick, that's the sort of exchange that *Sparks* was created to promote.

"I was having coffee with a student in the Jewish Student Union when we got into a philosophical conversation about Hillel," Rabbi Fendrick said. "We realized that there has to be some way for people to share ideas that are not centered around a particular idea or problem."

(Continued on Page 19)

NCJW of RI Plans Spring Events

by Emily Torgan-Shalansky
Jewish Community Reporter

Members of the National Council of Jewish Women's Rhode Island Section are gearing up for a busy spring.

On Feb. 27, about 15 members gathered at the Cranston home of Chairperson Eunice Greenfield to share salutations, sandwiches, plans for the Community Service Award Luncheon, and reminders about a volunteer lunch scheduled for noon on March 18 at the Jewish Community Center.

"The volunteer luncheon is a chance to let the many volunteers we work with know how much we appreciate their help," explained NCJW co-president Nan Levine. "The only requirement for admission is a gently used household item which will be donated to Jewish Family Services for use in its resettlement program."

NCJW will provide dessert at the brown bag lunch, which will feature "Volunteerism in Rhode Island," a talk by Arthur Robbins.

Robbins, the president of the Providence Marriott Hotel, is also the chairman of the board of the Textron Chamber of Commerce Academy, a new Rhode Island high school that has enjoyed support from the NCJW for its library and media center.

After briefly discussing the

volunteer lunch, members focused on the upcoming Community Service Award Luncheon, an annual event that serves as a major fundraising vehicle for the non-profit charitable organization.

The luncheon will take place on May 6 at the Providence Marriott Hotel, and will honor Robert and Marcia Riesman, a Providence couple who have a lengthy history of community leadership and involvement.

"They've really made tremendous contributions," said

NCJW member Marcia Blacher, as she listed highlights of Marcia Riesman's volunteer activities, which include membership on the board of directors at both Planned Parenthood and Jewish Family Services of Rhode Island, where she served as president between 1985 and 1988.

Robert Riesman, said Blacher, who was formerly engaged in wire and cable manufacturing, has served as chairman of the Rhode Island Board of Regents

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NCJW chairwoman (left) Eunice Greenfield and co-presidents Carol R. Brooklyn and Nan Levine lead a recent meeting.

Herald photo by Emily Torgan-Shalansky



Rabbi Susan Fendrick

Herald photo by
Emily Torgan-Shalansky

tion," *Sparks* is a single piece of paper formatted like a page of traditional Jewish text.

The center of the sheet bears a portion of original Jewish text and commentary; this text and analysis are surrounded by interpretations from members of the Brown community who are of different religious backgrounds.

In the first issue, which presents Peah/The Corners of One's Field, a passage from the Mishnah (a classical Jewish law code and guide for religious life), the reader sees Rabbi Fendrick's

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OPINION

Parshat Zachor

by Yehudah A. Biss
Herald Editor

This week is Parshat Zachor and we read a special Maftir and Haftarah. The Haftarah, taken from Shmuel Alef (Chapter 15), describes Sha'ul Hamelech's war against Amalek. Hashem had commanded Sha'ul to wipe out all of this nation, including its flocks of sheep and cattle. Sha'ul however, "had pity" on Agag, the king of Amalek, and spared him along with the animals he was supposed to kill. The Gemara in Yoma (22b) says that at this time a Bat Kol, heavenly voice, went forth that exclaimed, "Don't be overly righteous — more than your Creator." Sha'ul's negligence in showing too much pity proved disastrous. During his reprieve, Agag fathered a child, whose descendant would be Haman. We read this Haftarah on Parshat Zachor because of Sha'ul's misplaced be-

nevolence led to the birth of Agag's wicked descendant. Had Sha'ul killed Agag when he was supposed to, Haman would not have arisen to threaten the existence of Klal Yisroel.

In sharp contrast to his mercy to Agag stand Sha'ul's actions at Nov, the city of the priests. Sha'ul had been pursuing Dovid, whom he perceived as a threat. Dovid had taken refuge in a number of places. Upon learning that Dovid had found shelter in Nov, the king ordered the destruction of that city for harboring him. Eighty-five thousand Kohanim were killed, and the animals of the city were not spared. In this instance, another Bat Kol resounded, "Do not be overly wicked." These two examples show us clearly what Chaza"l teach: He who pities the wicked, will eventually be cruel to the righteous. (Redak)

What Can We Do About Violence?

Advice From Jewish Family Service

Violence touches all of our lives. Every day, the news is full of violent incidents, from as far away as Algeria, Mexico and Northern Ireland and as near as our own American cities and suburbs. We all know someone (maybe even ourselves) who has been either a victim or a perpetrator of violence.

When an individual or an institution or a country condones violence, it often occurs because no one can think of a better way to handle a problem. Sometimes one ethnic or religious group attacks another as we have seen in the Balkan conflict; in other cases teen-agers attack each other, spouses in-

flict harm on one another and parents hurt their children.

Why? "Because they are not committed to non-violent solutions. Because they cannot imagine other more effective, less dramatic solutions. Because they are frustrated," explains Julie Guterman, director of professional services at Jewish Family Service.

Guterman acknowledges that it is easy to feel overwhelmed and helpless about violence at all levels. But she said it is necessary to understand that all these forms of violence are interrelated. "Domestic violence, teen-age shootings

(Continued on Page 19)

Getting Happy

by Rabbi Jerome M. Epstein

Purim is coming this year to be celebrated on the eve of March 11 and March 12. We are commanded to celebrate — whether we feel like it or not.

are tensions still at a high point on the issue of religious pluralism? No matter. We will don our costumes. Is the Iraq crisis — even if temporarily averted — likely to disappear for good? irrelevant. We will turn our groggers at every mention of Haman's name. Has peace been achieved with the Palestinians? That will await another day. Today we exchange gifts with friends and neighbors. Do we still face the crisis of Jewish continuity? That issue takes a back seat as we raise our voices in joyous song and celebrate our survival. The job before us is to celebrate, to self-consciously raise our spirits and join together for a communal party.

Why celebrate? Because Jewish tradition — which demands that we thank G-d every day for the good in our personal and communal lives — designates additional special times when we are required to acknowledge that everything is not as bleak as it may seem. After all, Haman did not prevail and we are still here to tell the story.

In reality, being commanded to celebrate is an enlightened, therapeutic strategy that keeps us from adopting a world view

in which only the negative is newsworthy. The ritual of sitting shivah is an ingenious way to ease us back into the world while providing us with a mechanism for expressing our grief. Shivah not only dictates the restrictions on our activities for the first seven days of mourning, but these same rules urge us to leave the house of mourning and return to our daily routine after this period is over. There is a time to laugh and a time to cry. The laws of Purim enjoin us to "get happy" — to ensure that we keep our eyes on the larger picture.

We have concerns, yet we also have hope. Increasing numbers of Jewish children attend day schools. While there are still large numbers of unaffiliated Jews, the synagogue movement continues to be a vibrant force in the lives of its many members. Jews are searching for spirituality and many are finding the necessary resources in Jewish ritual. While many of our people lack certain basic Jewish skills, there are more available resources than ever before, including an increasing number of books and courses which make Judaism accessible to all who seek its wisdom and guidance.

In the Conservative Movement, where we might be forgiven for sitting out this year's celebration and focusing instead on recent unsuccessful efforts

to change the balance of religious power in Israel, we have very real and compelling reasons to rejoice. Our youth programs, which bring hundreds of teen-agers each year to Israel for stays from six weeks to a year, continue to thrive. The United Synagogue Yeshiva in Jerusalem is attracting increasing numbers of students from all denominations.

The celebration of Purim is preceded by the Fast of Esther. This day highlights the depth of the tragedy our people faced in the days of Mordechai and Esther. However, while we certainly focus on this tragedy, we also succeed in putting the sadness behind us. The Megillah reminds us each year of the efforts our ancestors made — from prayer to political intrigue — to ensure our survival. We must remain equally vigilant today. We can, if we invest the effort, not only survive but overcome the challenges which face us.

Purim demands that we not lose hope. It requires that we look to our past victories and retain faith that we will continue to be victorious. The mitzvah of Purim is simcha, joy and happiness. Let us take time out this year and celebrate. We deserve it.

The author is the executive vice president of The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, the association of Conservative congregations in North America.

The Feinstein Chronicles

March 1998 No. 8

Her name is Faye Dore.

You can find her every Saturday and Sunday. Working Kennedy Plaza. 1:30 to 2:30 in the afternoon. Going on two years now. Handing out sandwiches to the needy.

They wait for her every weekend...

Her mother and grandmother help make the sandwiches. Her boyfriend helps pass them out. 35 to 40 of them. Rain or shine. 20 to 30 minutes — they're all gone...

Government study says 11,000 Rhode Island children are going hungry. Many more adults. A few less are going hungry now. Thanks to Faye Dore.

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Prompted by them, 9 more food pantries across the country opened last month. Plus 2 more overseas.

People reaching out to help others — to soften the misery of hunger.

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Alan Shawn Feinstein
The Feinstein Foundation

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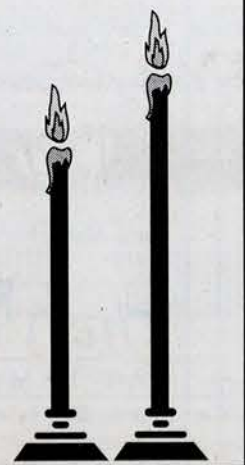
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Candlelighting

March 6, 1998

5:24 p.m.



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

Of Medium and Message

by Yehudah A. Biss
Herald Editor

In this week's Parsha, the Torah describes the Urim V'Tumim, which the kohen would wear as a breastplate. The Urim V'Tumim was remarkable in that it acted as a medium and would light up when Kohen Gadol would query it. It acted as a direct source of communication between G-d and the Kohen Gadol, and was used by many generations during the First Temple. But how did this breastplate communicate?

Ramban gives an example of how this process took place. When the Jewish people crossed

the Jordan and had to undertake the conquest of the land, the question arose which tribe should begin the battle with the Canaanites. The question was posted, and the stone of the tribe of Judah lit up as well as four

the Kohen once mistook one message to read "Shikurah" — she is drunk, when it really said "Kashera" — she is a worthy woman, regarding Chanah, the mother of Samson.

During the waning years of the First Temple, King Josiah removed the Urim V'Tumim from the kohen's breastplate and hid it, fearing it would fall into the wrong hands. It was never found, even during the time of the Second Temple.

We see that even when we are given such closeness to G-d, there is still an element of "hishtadlut," our own perseverance that is necessary.

Torah Insights

letters that spelled "yaaleh" — go up. The kohen deciphered these letters, as they were scrambled. G-d wanted a participant on the other side of the message to interpret the words so as to show that we all have a hand in our destiny. Indeed, Eli

FEATURE

Jews, Movies, The Dream

by Mike Fink

Herald Contributing Reporter

They call it Hollywoodism and claim we were praying in shul when we took in the Saturday matinees in the studio years.

Israeli-born Canadian documentary director-producer Simcha Jacobovici and Elliott Halpern have put together this two-hour video for A&E, and it's a great event. You can catch it on Sunday, March 22 at 9:00 p.m.

The film begins with the depiction of a pogrom. Future heads of great studios and a new industry in America were fleeing the death and destruction of the shtetl world of Russia and east Europe. Studios were another kind of shtetl, and sons and daughters of rabbis and cantors made visual stories to keep their minds off fear and pain.

You will meet the children and grandchildren of these pioneers, Mayer and Warner and Cohn and Zukor as they narrate the rise and fall of their forebears. "Louis Mayer lived like a caged lion after his retirement. It confined and killed him," declares Daniel Selznick. Neal Gabler, whose book *An Empire of Their Own* serves as the source of the movie, makes a brilliant impression as he spells out his thesis, that the Jews created a shadow world which became in time the real world of America. "They left the east coast where Edison had formed a group to keep them out of the field, where he crafted insulting images of Jews and all minorities, and found instant success on the west coast."

This superb study carries you from reminder to surprise, from pride to disappointment. HUAC, the House Un-American Activities Committee of the postwar world, turned against the very mission that FDR had given to Hollywood. All their wartime propaganda, deeply felt and beautifully expressed patriotism and idealism, worked against them now. The

studio heads lost their courage, gave in to panic and terror, and quickly vanished from the scene of power and prestige.

Louis B. Mayer was actually in the process of converting to

Only non-Jews dealt with overtly Jewish topics. "Gentlemen's Agreement" and "Crossfire" were made by Christians. Although the studio heads visited the concentration camps,



Neil Gabler

Photo courtesy of Associated Producers

Catholicism at the end of his life in exile from his throne at MGM. He was told he'd be laughed at, so he stopped in time to have a Jewish funeral. But he did not go down in glory. There are a few heroes, like actor Edward G. Robinson of "Confessions of a Nazi Spy," made in 1939, Walter Bernstein, blacklisted screenwriter, and Abraham Polonsky, blacklisted director, but the founders let you down.

They divorced their Jewish wives to take safer and more glamorous Christian spouses. They hid their Hebrew themes by letting blacks, Italians, settlers or Indians and creatures of fantasy and invention stand in for their own plight.

they made no comment and followed through with no films. And yet, they were all Jews, King Kong and the Frankenstein monster, boxers and even some of the cowboys. It even all makes sense. They are loners, troubled souls fleeing for their lives from crazed mobs. A pogrom masked and transplanted, over and over again on your local screen. We all turned Jewish—even as the Jews were ceasing to be Jewish themselves!

All the while, in Manhattan the Yiddish theater and cinema were flourishing on a small scale, turning the tables on the west coast formula of assimilation and cheap happy endings.

(Continued on Page 19)

Songs and Stories of Saudade

by Mike Fink
Herald Contributing Reporter

Steve Gorban follows the star of his vocation, his mission, his inspiration—thein-gathering of the Sephardim among us. He gave a small reception at his home in a small village near New Bedford, a place as clear, openhearted and openhearted as he is both from his Jewish Federation office and wherever he goes to get things going.

R.I.C. Professor Richard Lobban was there, and S.M.U. Professor Bob Waxler, Sousa Mendes reps Adelina Axelrod and Bernard and Claire Bell, and Cape Verdean, Azorean, and Turkish people of Jewish descent. Guests of honor Judith Cohen, an ethnomusicologist from Montreal, and Rufina Silva Mausebaum of Capetown, South Africa, moved among the diverse and varied crowd, looking splendid and speaking animatedly.

Steve Gorban and feline friend at home.
Herald photo by Mike Fink

Judith Cohen in a beaded dress, carrying strange drums and lutes, sang a medley of tunes from Belmonte and points eastward among the migration routes of conversos, cryptos and marranos. "What a romantic, feudal, exotic place, Belmonte," I said stupidly, and she turned on me. "They're not romantic, they're human—just people who work and get through their days like anyone else!" she retorted with spirit, but also with good will.

Madame Rufina spoke of her quest through Kulanu, an organization based in Baltimore, Md., for confirmation of her Jewish identity. "The Inquisition discouraged the Portuguese people from thinking and learning, forcing you to forget, to hide. But I was chosen to remember, and I chose this choice," Kulanu, meaning "All of Us," crosses beyond the barriers of our divisions, uniting all Jews everywhere. They sponsored, along with the Rhode Island Sousa Mendes Society, the program to follow on Sunday morning at the Temple Emanu-El brunch. The program would feature both the songs of Judith Cohen and the words of Rufina Mausebaum. This Saturday night preview offered a table of desserts, an urn of coffee, declared "excellent" by the Cape Verde guests, and a bottle of

Scotch on the kitchen counter.

The breakfast brought the dear and familiar faces of the Providence crowd together with welcome new faces from over the state border and from beyond and before. Cohen's ballads touched all the countries of the Mediterranean basin where Jews had gone to escape the great purge. Her melodies had been derived from Sarajevo and Rhodos, from Gypsy camps and royal courts, with bawdy overtones or religious undercurrents. "The drum was made by women and held by women. There were even drums made of simple frypans, the rhythms beaten with spoons. You could cook and sing at the same time." Following the whimsy and the sharp spice of her hippie-style event, Rufina took the stand and fixed the company with her elegant look and her South African British eloquence, the clarity and grace of her enunciation. She spoke softly and slowly, wiping her eyes of the tears and sorrow of her story.

"My parents were Portuguese, and Christian. But their mothers and fathers, my grandparents, had been Jewish, lighting their Friday candles, fasting, going into the fields to pray in peace on holy days, being labelled crazy. My family left the land of their history and went to South Africa, where I was born. They sent me to a Jewish school. Who was I? I spoke no Portuguese, was neither Christian nor Ashkenazic Jew, African nor Boer. I came from an 'excellent family,' I was told, which meant, 'Jewish,' not rich or privileged, but proud. There are those who hate me, who have cut me off, for returning to my ancient faith. But my sisters love Israel and accept my decision. The Church destroyed my past, but not completely. I am a single spiritual survivor and witness and now I have Jewish children and even a Jewish future."

Two former presidents of the Sousa Mendes Society rose to acknowledge their presence. Alvin Rubin of Wickford spoke of local conversos in southeastern Massachusetts and within Rhode Island, who link their present lives with their roots in Jewish history. Teixeira actually lived in Israel as an art professor and textile designer and speaks a fine Hebrew. And Professor Richard Lobban joined Mausebaum's lecture to declare that secret Jews live everywhere upon the globe. "They went to each island, each mountain, each continent, each city."

I would like to register this report as a Purim story. Queen Esther is the emblem of

(Continued on Page 19)

Jubin On His Way

by Mike Fink

Herald Contributing Reporter

Jubin Meraj edits Hillel's annual publication *Machberet*. Majoring in comparative religions and literatures at Brown, he has applied to law schools for next year. We meet on the R.I.S.D. campus or at some coffee table where he brings his kosher snack while we talk about the magazine, about his studies, or about his future and his past. "My parents gave me a Persian name so that I wouldn't be exotic there, and now, here in America, of course, I am." With his dark hair and eyes and his classic black and white outfits and a silken kippah, he projects both intensity and a sturdy poise, as he prays in local Orthodox shuls and yet mixes in with fellow Brownians with equal calm.

Our conversation moves from abstract realms of the spirit

to down to earth subjects, like, how can you tell if a girl really likes you. "Try holding hands," I advise, uncertain if that is correct counsel for a frum lad.



Jubin Meraj

Herald photo by Mike Fink

"So far, all we do is talk and maybe look a little. She has a special friend, away from here. I have feelings for her, but nothing will come of it." Jubin Meraj also migrated east from California, and I meet his friend from home there, an Indian classmate

likewise applying to law schools. "My father is from India, but my mother is from Indiana, a midwestern nurse," says Jubin's fellow traveler, fellow sojourner. Comparative cultures form the basis of today's Brown.

If we don't read a common body of letters in the same language, will we lose a mutual bond? Or will we gain in variety and the excitement of sharing differences? "Great civilizations spring from the crossroads," Jubin offers, while we sit at a small round table overlooking Hope Street. "Last year's *Machberet* did a piece on the tiles of the synagogue in Cochin in southern India," adds Jubin. I ask if I can take a snapshot and I report on our brief meeting just to note how diverse is our Judaism in context, content, and conversation.

JEWISH COMMUNITY

ASDS Theater Party Benefits Scholarship Fund

Plans are underway for a gala Alperin Schechter Day School Theater Party at Trinity Repertory Company on April 28 in the evening to benefit the Scholarship Endowment Fund. Ticket holders will enjoy a performance of "The Music Man" followed by a dessert reception with the cast.

Committee chairwoman Cheryl Teverow said, "Given the theme of 'The Music Man,' we are asking people to 'join the parade' to advance scholarship at Schechter. It's a chance to enjoy great musical theater and support Jewish education. What could be better?"

ASDS education vice president Selma Stanzler adds, "Trinity Rep has achieved a national reputation for excellence, and so has Alperin Schechter. This is a perfect opportunity to toast two wonderful community treasures and to share a marvelous evening."

Tickets will be available at \$50 apiece. There are also opportunities to support the Scholarship Fund as a "Principal Player" for a gift of \$100 per person or as a "Leader of the Band" for a gift of \$200 per person. Principal Players will receive one complimentary ticket. Leaders of the Band will receive two complimentary tickets.

Members of the ASDS Music Man Theater Party include: Jodi Gladstone; Phyllis Harnick; Susan Rodrigues; Jay Rosenstein; William Sikov; Wendy Spellun; Selma Stanzler, education vice president; Cheryl Teverow, chair; and Joyce Wacks.

For further information, call Penney Stein at 751-2470.



ALPERIN SCHECHTER DAY SCHOOL "Music Man" theater party committee members: Cheryl Teverow, Wendy Spellun, Susan Rodrigues, William Sikov, Phyllis Harnick and Jay Rosenstein. (Not pictured Joyce Wacks and Jodi Gladstone)

Photo courtesy of ASDS

Pawtucket Hadassah Meeting

On March 23, Pawtucket Hadassah will hold a regular meeting at Highland Court in Providence. The meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., and the guest speaker will be Varda Lev. Her topic for the event will be "Passion and Idealism in 1929 Jerusalem — A Romantic Tale."

Lev was born in Jerusalem and brought up in New York. She is a professional piano accompanist and plays for recitals, singers, instrumental players. She has taught music at Temple Emanu-El Religious School for 19 years; she has taught Hebrew songs and is now

directing a Klezmer band for students ages 9 to 12. The Klezmer group will perform before the meeting.

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting. Presiding officer and chairperson for the evening is Elaine Kroll. Other members of the committee are Lillian Schwartz and Varda Lev.

Also included in the meeting there will be information concerning upcoming events which are in the planning stages. A raffle and meeting in the spring to benefit Youth Aliyah will be discussed, and the upcoming date will be announced.

'The Jew in the Lotus' Visits MFA

Producer/director and Somerville resident Laurel Chiten's "The Jew in the Lotus," a documentary film inspired by the book by Rodger Kamenetz, will be making its Boston premier on March 19, at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, and will be followed by multiple screenings at the MFA through May.

"The Jew in the Lotus" was recently granted The New England Film & Video Festival's 1998 award for Most Outstanding Personal Vision and will be showing at the Coolidge Corner Theater for the festival on April 2.

When Rodger Kamenetz was asked to chronicle a meeting between a group of rabbis and the Dalai Lama in India, he encountered the unexpected — and his whole life changed.

In 1990, eight Jewish delegates traveled to Dharamsala, India, to meet with the XIV Dalai Lama. The Dalai Lama had invited them to share "the secret of spiritual survival in exile" with the Tibetans, whose loss of

homeland and Diaspora paralleled their own. To Rodger Kamenetz, the request seemed fantastic: "As my grandfather might have said, 'Who would have thought to ask?'"

A confirmed materialist who never looked to religion for answers, Kamenetz was an unlikely pilgrim, a natural skeptic who was lost and didn't quite know it. The death of his infant son and the derailing of his career had left him adrift in a sea of doubt. His subsequent experience with the overwhelming suffering in India and the sustained compassion of the Tibetan Buddhists brought down his finely wrought defenses, and forced him to look for a way out of his own pain. Kamenetz found his way back to Judaism — the tradition of his birth.

Inspired by the book, *The Jew in the Lotus* reveals the path to Rodger's transformation with insight and humor.

For more information, call (617) 965-0712.

Paul Zim Makes Sharon Appearance

Paul Zim, internationally acclaimed stage, screen and recording star, will be featured in a special concert on March 22, 7 p.m. at Temple Israel of Sharon, Mass.

Zim, known worldwide as "The Jewish Music Man," will give the audience an exhilarating, whirlwind tour of Jewish music, including Israeli, traditional, Yiddish, Broadway and other popular tunes.

Praised by the Jewish Press as "a must for young and old," Zim is one of the acknowledged leaders in the renaissance of Jewish music in America. This fun, high-energy concert will blend kid-friendly themes with adult music appeal, backed by a all-star band.

Zim has released more than 25 best-selling recordings in his 20-year career. He's appeared in key roles on Broadway and in major motion pictures. The March 22 concert is his first appearance in New England this year.

"In Concert with Paul Zim" is

sponsored in part by the Sandra Gamm Memorial Fund for Music and the Creative Arts. The family and friends of Sandra Gamm established this fund years ago to honor her memory.

Because of the generosity of the fund, tickets to the Zim concert have been reduced to only \$5 general admission (orders placed by March 15) or \$8 general admission (at the door or placed after March 15). Advance tickets are recommended as most Zim concerts sell out quickly.

To reserve advance tickets, send checks payable to Temple Israel Cantor's Music Fund, Temple Israel, 125 Pond St., Sharon, MA 02067.

Temple Israel of Sharon is located at 125 Pond St. The concert will be held in their beautiful new sanctuary, which features outstanding acoustics and a state-of-the-art sound system. For information, call the Temple Israel box office, (781) 784-3986.

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JEWISH COMMUNITY

Brown-RISD Hillel Presents Jewish Women's Week 1998

The Brown-RISD Hillel Foundation is pleased to announce its fifth annual Jewish Women's Week, during the first week in March. Jewish Women's Week is a week of programming that explores and celebrates Jewish women's history, culture and spirituality, and is run in conjunction with Women's History Month.

March 7

Jewish Film Festival, 6:30 p.m. at the Rhode Island School of Design Auditorium. The second annual Jewish film festival opens with "The Return of Sarah's Daughters," a provocative documentary about three modern Orthodox women, and Nick and Rachel, a film about a romance between an Orthodox Jewish woman and a non-Jewish man. Also, at midnight, there will be a special showing of "Dirty Dancing." For more information about the film festival, contact Melissa Chernofsky at ext. 2805.

Acts of Power: the Jewish Women's Cultural Show, 9 p.m., Andrews Dining Hall on the Brown campus. The highlight of Jewish Women's Week, the fifth annual Jewish Women's Cultural Show showcases the performing and artistic talents of Jewish women.

March 8

Israel at 50, 7 p.m., "The Flying Camel," directed by Rami Na'aman, 90 min., Israel 1994. This film focuses on Bauman, an eccentric Jewish professor,

and Phares, a Palestinian rubbish collector. Both collectors of relics of the past, these two men become a metaphor for Arab-Jewish relations.

March 9

Communities in Conflict, 7 p.m., "The Sneetches." An animated version of the Dr. Suess poem about two communities of "sneetches," one with stars and one without. A fascinating allegory on prejudice and community.

"Blacks and Jews," directed by Alan Snitow and Deborah Kaufman, 85 minutes, USA 1996. Without nostalgia, a Black/Jewish filmmaking team reveals the truth, even when it is painful. "Blacks and Jews" goes beyond the explosive headlines of the riots in Crown Heights; the Million Man March, the controversy when students in Oakland were ejected from a showing of "Schindler's List," and "block busting" in Chicago to look at how the media shapes and foments conflict.

March 10

Politics and Everyday Life, 7 p.m., "Unknown Secrets: Art and the Rosenberg Era," 28 min., USA 1990. A provocative and moving portrait of the Cold War's first victims — Julius and Ethel Rosenberg — through the words and images of artists Pablo Picasso, Sue Coe, Arthur Miller and Adrienne Rich.

"Song of the Siren," 91 min., Israel 1994. On the eve of the Gulf War, Talila Katz, a smart,

sexy Tel Aviv advertising executive, dumps her self-centered boyfriend and pursues the sweet but emotionally remote Noah. As neighbors and friends don gas masks in sealed rooms, Talila is consumed with matters of the heart. Talila is irreverent, audacious, and funny and she is contemptuous of the traditional macho values woven through Israeli society. This film attracted more moviegoers than all other Israeli films of 1994 combined.

Following this evening's screenings will be a dessert reception celebrating the 1998 Jewish Film Festival. For more information, call 863-2805.

Congregation Ohave Sholam Hosts Purim Seudah

On March 12 at 4:45 p.m., Congregation Ohave Sholam, 671 East Ave., Pawtucket, will host its Purim Seudah. A three-course chicken dinner will be served and the entire community is invited. The cost is \$10 per adult, \$7.50 per child under 12 with a family maximum of \$35. Children under 2 are free.

For reservations or further information, call Linda Kessler at 726-6633 or Nita Pliskin at 725-3886.

Women's Seder Celebration

Temple Beth-El in Providence is once again planning a "Women's Celebration of Freedom," a seder especially designed for women of all ages. This intergenerational gathering will enable women to come together to study, pray and reaffirm their commitment as Jewish women. Two members of our community, Alla Goman and Anna Prager, will share their personal passages of freedom at this seder.

A traditional seder meal will be served. The unique seder is led by Cantor Ida Rae Cahana. Save the date: April 16 at 6 p.m. at Temple Beth-El, by reservation only. Cost is \$18 per person. Reservation deadline is April 6.

For more information, contact Gloria Jarcho at 331-6070.

JERI Volunteer Brings Soccer Playing Dog to Cedar Crest

Buddy, the soccer-playing dog, is always popular when his master, Herb Meister, a Jewish ElderCare of Rhode Island volunteer, brings him to Cedar Crest nursing home for a visit. Residents enjoy watching Buddy dribble the soccer ball and take turns throwing a tennis ball for him to fetch. Buddy, a 10-year-old, affectionate cocker spaniel, who makes the rounds for patting and attention. He is a lively addition to the morning coffee break.

Buddy came to live with the Meister family about a year ago when his former family moved across country and could not take him along. Meister, a long-time JERI volunteer, decided to try bringing Buddy along on one of his regular visits to Ruben Salk at Cedar Crest. Buddy is now a welcome guest every

month or two.

JERI reaches out to Jewish residents at nursing homes, residential care/assisted living facilities and retirement communities throughout the state. The JERI staff promotes a Jewish presence, provides programming for the holidays and arranges friendly visits with volunteers. Volunteers are an essential part of the JERI program. They visit with residents and offer seniors the chance to socialize and engage in casual conversation. These visits supplement visits by the JERI staff and rabbis, bringing a sense of caring and community to those who may be isolated from their former connections to Judaism.

For information on the JERI program or to volunteer, contact Penny Faich or Bonnie Ryvicker at 621-5374 or 350-3725.



BUDDY, the soccer-playing dog, takes a break for some attention from a friend at Cedar Crest nursing home. Buddy's master, Herb Meister, a JERI volunteer, brings him to Cedar Crest periodically to visit.

Photo courtesy of JERI

Temple Shalom Hosts Shabbat Across America

March 20 members of Aquidneck Island's Jewish community will gather at Temple Shalom in an unparalleled display of Jewish revitalization and interdenominational unity. Conceived and organized by the National Jewish Outreach Program, "Shabbat Across America" represents a united effort by Judaism's four major movements to renew interest on observing the Sabbath.

Temple Shalom will be one of hundreds of synagogues throughout the continent that will simultaneously open its doors to all those who would like to join together to experience and rejoice in a traditional Sabbath service and festive meal. Led by Rabbi Marc S. Jagolinzer, attendees will experience an interactive Friday night service and a traditional Sabbath dinner with all the rituals explained. The event will commence at 6 p.m.

Located at 223 Valley Road in Middletown, Temple Shalom has been an innovator in Jewish programming and education. This is their second year participating in Shabbat Across America programming.

The cost of the dinner is \$10 per adult and \$6 for children 10 years of age and under. Reservations can be made by sending a check to the temple. For further information, call the temple at 846-9002.

Cloning Discussion

A unique series of special interest programs under the sponsorship of Temple Am David will be kicked off March 15, with a discussion of cloning.

The two-hour evening session is part of the temple's on-going series entitled "Facing the Future." It is open to the community at no charge.

The inaugural session on March 15, "Cloning: Asking the Right Questions," will feature the Rev. Dr. David A. Ames, Episcopal chaplain at Brown University and lecturer on medical ethics. Adding a medical perspective will be Dr. Aaron Sherman, a Warwick obstetrician/gynecologist.

The session will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. and will be preceded by a light supper at the temple (40 Gardiner St.).

Reservation for the session is required and may be made by calling the temple office at 463-7944.

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PURIM

The Show Must Go On

Merrymaking, masquerading and revelry have long been staples of Purim, a minor Jewish holiday commemorating the escape of the Jews of Persia from an evil plot to destroy them long ago. Noisemakers, costumes and carnivals feature prominently in the festivities. But no celebration would be complete without the traditional "Purim-spiel," a skit or send-up of the Purim story. In fact, eastern European Jewish communities had whole "theat-

Other Purim Traditions

- Baskets of goodies known as mishloach manot are exchanged. These often include sweets, fruit, wine, jams and hamentaschen.
- Hamentaschen are poppy-seed-, prune-, or apricot-filled cookies shaped like the tri-cornered hat worn by Haman, the story's villain.
- Gifts to the poor (matanat l'evyonim) are also given, usually in the form of special contributions to a favorite charity.



Purim Megillah 19th or 20th century Austria
Courtesy of the Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary

rical seasons" revolving around Purim at the turn of the century. Costumed worshippers arrive at the synagogue where frivolity abounds. Noisemakers to blot out the villain's name are passed around and the reading of the Scroll of Esther (Megillah Esther) begins. And shortly, the synagogue's off-off-off-off-off-Broadway players will barge in, interrupt the reading, and the spiel will begin.

What Are You Doing For Purim?

If you plan on attending some of the exciting Purim events taking place throughout Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts, don't forget to take pictures and tell the *Herald*! All photos, captions and articles must be mailed to: *Rhode Island Jewish Herald*, P.O. Box 6063, Providence, R.I. 02940, by March 16.

Temple Shalom Celebrates Purim

Purim will be celebrated in grand style at Temple Shalom and The Samuel Zilman Bazarsky Religious School this year. The school is currently taking hamantaschen orders which come in prune, poppy, chocolate, cherry and apple and will be delivered in time for the holiday.

On March 9, various grades of the religious school will present Purim plays for fellow students and parents under the direction of Laura Berkson.

On March 11, commencing at 7 p.m., the Megillah will be chanted by Rabbi Marc S. Jagolinzer, David Reidy, Sarah Snyder, Ben Snyder, Heather Romanelli, Jonathan Jagolinzer, Jocelyn Anthony and Hannah Lichtenstein. There will be a costume parade, holiday singing and refreshments for all. Special gifts will also be distributed to all those who come in costume.

On March 14, at 7:30 p.m. there will be a Purim Talent Show, which will host a variety of first class acts. It will be held in the social hall and is open to the public. Refreshments will be served and the cost of admission is \$2 per person.

And rounding out the holiday celebration, there will be a Purim Carnival complete with games, prizes, raffles and delicious food on March 15 between the hours of 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

For further information, call the temple office at 846-9002.

Esther's Story Inspires Jews to Make Critical Life Decisions

by Katy Z. Allen

WAYLAND, Mass. (JTA)—I am walking in the woods near my home—the story of Purim, of Esther, is on my mind, as it has been for several days. She and her situation have been troubling me.

Esther was a heroine, right? Of course! She saved the Jews of Shushan! But why did Mordecai have to tell her what to do? Why didn't she think of it herself? Didn't she realize that if she kept quiet, her entire people would perish?

Did Esther expect to be spared because no one in the palace knew she was a Jew? Would she have been content to live while all her people died? Did she simply assume that if she went to the king, she would fail, and so she saw no point in doing anything?

But she wasn't stupid! Look how she handled the situation once she knew what she had to do. She asked everyone to support her by fasting, to give her strength. Then she asked the king and Haman to come to a banquet. She fed the two men well and gave them plenty to drink. Only then did she tell the king of Haman's treachery. It took brains to plan such a strategy!

Then, of course, I think of how Esther reached her position, through her beauty. I know I would never be able to win a beauty contest, even if I had the motivation to enter. It makes it tough to relate.

These thoughts, and more, churn in my mind as I walk the woodland trail. More than simply understanding Esther, I want to understand what she means to me. What can her actions tell me about my own life, my own behavior?

I reach a familiar stream. In August, it is narrow. In April, it spills across its banks and becomes a small river. Today, on a chilly New England winter day, it is something in between.

I stand on the narrow wooden planks that serve as a bridge, and in the silence I watch and listen to the water tumbling along its way. It bubbles and bounces, with no question, no ambiguity about where it is headed—downstream, toward the river, eventually to the sea.

I continue on my way, crossing the bridge and leaving behind the bubbling brook. Skirting patches of ice, I continue through the woods, across an open meadow, and down to the river's edge.

(Continued on Page 19)

Purim and Folklore

Diane Wolkstein, illustrated by Juan Wijngaard, Mulberry Books, Jan. 1998

Written in the form of a diary, folklorist Diane Wolkstein brings to life the story of Esther, revealing the transformation of a shy orphan girl into a compassionate queen who is willing to risk the wrath of a king to save her people. In *Esther's Story*, award-winning artist Juan Wijngaard captures this biblical heroine's majesty and humanity with his magnificently detailed paintings.

Together, two masters have created a picture book of beauty that pays tribute to Esther, whose courage and wisdom are celebrated throughout the world during the joyous feast of Purim.

Diane Wolkstein first told the

Book of Esther at Temple Copernic in Paris, in 1966. Since then it has remained one of her favorite retellings. For many years she has woven together biblical text and oral legends for presentations at colleges and museums throughout the United States.

Juan Wijngaard received an M.A. in illustration from the Royal College of Art in England. He has won several major awards for his artwork, including the Kate Greenaway Medal for *Sir Gawain and the Loathly Lady*, by Selina Hastings. His artwork has been on exhibition throughout Europe, including Paris, at the Pompidou Center, and London, at the Victoria and Albert Museum, as well as New York and Los Angeles.

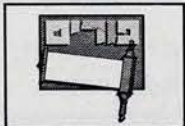
Purim Razzle

This year's Purim Razzle at the Chabad House in Providence will take place March 11 and 12. "Megillah to Stir Your Soul" begins at 6 p.m. on March 11 and at 8 p.m. on March 12. Enjoy drinks, hamentaschen, music and dancing. The Purim Shpielers will also be present for Purim Razzle. Prizes will be given to children in costume.

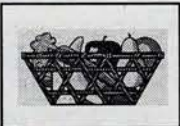
For more information, call 273-7238.

PURIM IS THE TIME TO...

March 11 and March 12, 1998



LISTEN to the reading of the Megillah (Book of Esther) this year 1998 March 11 and again on March 12, thereby recounting and reliving in our own day the miracle of Purim.



SEND a gift of at least two kinds of prepared foods (pastry, fruit, beverage, etc.) to at least one friend. (Each item of food should be at least one ounce or more, 3.5 ounces for liquids).



GIVE charity to two or more people. If you cannot find poor people, place at least two coins in the charity box. In the Megillah, this is called "Matanos L'evyonim."



EAT the festive Purim meal and rejoice in the Purim Spirit.

More Purim Information...

FAST OF ESTHER

The day before Purim we fast. This commemorates the day of prayer and fasting the Jews held before their victorious battle. It is also customary, before the mincha prayers on this day, to give 3 half-dollars to charity. This commemorates the yearly contribution by all Jews to the Holy Temple in the Hebrew month of Adar.

AL HANISSIM

Remember to add in the Amidah prayer, and also in the Grace After Meals, the special part for Purim, beginning with "Al Hanissim."

INVOLVE THE CHILDREN

As in all Mitzvot, encourage young children to fulfill the Purim Mitzvot. Boys and girls past Bar or Bat Mitzvah are obligated, as adults, in all Purim Mitzvot.

PURIM MITZVOT

The Purim Mitzvot (precepts) demonstrate the unity and togetherness of the Jewish people. The more charity and Purim presents one gives, the better.

Submitted by Rabbi Laufer of Chabad House, Providence

Purim Festivities at Congregation Agudas Achim

Festivities to celebrate the Jewish holiday of Purim are scheduled for March 11 and March 15 at Congregation Agudas Achim, 901 N. Main St., Attleboro, Mass.

The holiday of Purim, also known as the Feast of Lots, celebrates a victory of the Jews of Shushan in Persia, who were saved from a decree of annihilation. Traditional celebration includes costumes for adults and children, skits, treats and noisemakers.

The festivities begin March 11 at 5:30 p.m. with a potluck dinner and costume parade for adults and children. This will be followed by the Megillah reading at 7 p.m. Following the Jewish tradition of Matanot

L'Evyonim, gifts to the poor at Purim, a collection will be received to be distributed to the poor in Israel on Purim day and to help the Food and Friends Kitchens in Attleboro, North Attleboro and Mansfield. If you wish to attend the Potluck Dinner, R.S.V.P. by March 8 to Jill Levine at (508) 226-1123.

The festivities continue on March 15 with a Purim Carnival from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Exciting games, cool prizes, face painting, hot dogs, popcorn and fun are in store! All children in costume receive 10 free tickets.

All are welcome to join the fun and attend these festivities. For more information, contact Congregation Agudas Achim at (508) 222-2243.

PURIM

Three-Cornered Pastries Come With Range of Fillings

by Naomi Arbit

BAYSIDE (JTA)—Purim, the joyous holiday celebrating deliverance from Haman's intended massacre, is celebrated with the reading of the megillah, the Book of Esther, in the synagogue. It is followed by carnivals with people in costume, and the sending of shalach manot—small packages of sweets—to relatives and friends.

Hamentaschen, the traditional three-cornered sweet pastry served at this holiday, will freeze well if stored in air-tight containers. There are different ways to prepare hamentaschen and several options for pastry filling.

Basic Hamentaschen

1 cup sugar
1/2 cup oil
3 eggs
1/2 cup orange juice
4 cups flour
2 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. salt

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix the sugar with the oil, then add the eggs one at a time. Add orange juice, mixing well. Blend with the dry ingredients. Chill the dough for one hour.

Roll dough out thinly on a floured board. Flour the rim of a glass and cut circles. Spread one teaspoon of your favorite filling in the center and pinch the circle to make a triangle. Place hamentaschen on a lightly greased baking sheet. Bake for 20 minutes or until lightly browned.

Low-Cholesterol Hamentaschen

6 egg whites
1 cup sugar
3/4 cup oil
1 tsp. vanilla extract
4 1/3 cups flour
1 Tbsp. baking powder
1/2 tsp. salt

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.

Using an electric mixer, beat six of the egg whites with the sugar, oil and vanilla until well blended. Combine the flour, baking powder and salt, and blend into the egg mixture. Mix well.

Roll the dough on a floured board (1/8- to 1/4-inch thick). Cut into circles using a cookie cutter or glass. Place 1 teaspoon of your favorite filling in the center and pinch the circle to make a triangle. Leave a bit of the filling visible in the center.

Place the hamentaschen on a lightly greased baking sheet. Bake for 20 minutes or until lightly browned.

Apple Filling

1 cup applesauce
1/2 cup raisins, plumped and drained
1/2 cup toasted chopped walnuts
1/8 tsp. cinnamon

Combine all the ingredients in a bowl and blend well. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate until ready to use.

Chocolate Filing

1/2 cup cocoa
1/2 cup sugar
1/4 cup milk, cream or coffee
1 cup toasted chopped walnuts

Combine all ingredients in a bowl and mix thoroughly. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate until ready to use.

Walnut-Honey filling

1 cup toasted chopped walnuts
3/4 cup honey
1/3 cup bread crumbs
Zest of one orange

In a saucepan, cook the walnuts, honey and bread crumbs over low heat until thick, stirring constantly. Remove from the heat and stir in the orange zest. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate until ready to use.

Apricot Filling

1 lb. dried apricots
3 cups water
1 cup sugar
1 Tbsp. grated lemon rind

Cook apricots in water to cover until very soft, adding more water if necessary. Add sugar until fruit comes to a boil. Remove from stove; stir in lemon rind. Cool.

Kreplach

Dough

4 cups flour
1/2 tsp. salt
4 eggs
2 Tbsp. oil

Place the flour and salt on a wooden board and make a well in the center. Break the eggs into the well and add the oil. With a fork, beat the eggs and oil, gradually drawing the flour from the edge of the well and incorporating it into the egg mixture to form a dough.

Knead the dough for 5 to 10 minutes, working in extra flour as needed.

Cut the dough into 3-inch squares. Place 1 teaspoon of the meat filling on each square. Brush the edges of the dough squares with water and fold into a triangle. Pinch the edges to seal.

Drop the kreplach into lightly salted boiling water and cook, uncovered, for 15 minutes. Remove with a slotted spoon.

Kreplach are traditionally served in a soup, but can be boiled and then fried in oil and served as a starch.

After being formed, kreplach can be placed on a cookie sheet and frozen. Transfer to plastic bags for freezer storage.

Meat Filling

1 small onion, chopped
3/4 pound cooked ground meat
1 egg
Salt and pepper to taste.
Sauté the onion with the ground meat. Drain excess fat. Combine with the egg, salt and pepper.

Cocoa Fruit Balls

2 1/2 cups (about 12 ounces) dried mixed fruits
1 1/4 cups (about 8 ounces) Mission figs
1 cup flaked coconut
2 Tbsp. orange juice
2 Tbsp. honey
1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa
Coatings: Chopped nuts, unsweetened cocoa, sprinkles

Chop dried fruits and coconut in a food processor using the steel blade. Add orange juice, honey and cocoa; mix well. Refrigerate until thoroughly chilled. Shape mixture into 1 1/4-inch balls. roll in desired coating. Place each ball in a candy paper. Store in a tightly covered container sheets of waxed paper at room temperature. Makes about four dozen.

Chocolate Bonbons

8 ounces cream cheese, softened
4 cups powdered sugar
5 ounces unsweetened chocolate, melted
1 tsp. vanilla
chopped toasted pecans
cocoa powder

Gradually beat powdered sugar into the cream cheese. Add melted chocolate and vanilla; mix well. Chill several hours. Shape into 1-inch balls; roll in pecans, cocoa or additional powdered sugar. Chill. Place in candy cups if desired. Makes about four dozen.

Purim Patter

by Robert A. Harris

While imbibing too much liquor in a manner much detestable (The service was chaotic but the food was quite comestible) King Achashverosh made requests that Vashti found incestable the courtiers thought her disobedience obscene. For a ball like Cinderella's they extended invitations

To the maidens of the empire from every walk and station And by virtue of a series of intriguing machinations Esther, niece of Mordechai, became the Persian queen!

Chorus:

Though her Jewish name's Hadassa She was faithful to her "boss-a" and she kept the Hebrew quiet, she's the Persian queen!

The Persian king then authorized position autocratic To Haman who hated Jews with an antipathy dogmatic. Anti-Semites cheered but Jews, of course, were somewhat less ecstatic, And when Morty wouldn't bow it made the prime-time news.

So the wicked planned and plotted schemes of liquidation Mordechai in ash was fasting with alarm and trepidation Esther finally knew that to the King she must pass information but it really seemed that Haman had put on the screws!

Chorus:

(Though G-d's name is never mentioned Haman shouldn't have paid attention 'Cause when G-d is on the Jewish side the bad guys lose!)

Esther made a party for the King and Haman was invited She exposed the villain's plans and pleaded in a tone excited

"Will our people, loyal servants of the King, be thus requited?!" To the garden went the King with feelings of dismay.

Haman realized to save his life he must be enterprising So he fell on Esther's couch (a funny way of temporizing!) Achashverosh came and saw the situation compromising — Haman wished he hadn't gotten out of bed that day!

Chorus:

Mordechai became prime-minister As they hung Haman, sinister And Jews have celebrated Purim since that day!

Dr. Robert Harris is visiting assistant professor of Bible at the Jewish Theological Seminary.

'Make Your Own Megillah'

Judyth Groner and Madeline Wikler; illustrated by Katherine Janus Kahn; Kar-Ben Copies, Inc., 32 pgs; March 1998

The story of Purim to color, cut out, and assemble into a megillah (scroll) highlights this colorful reissue of a holiday favorite.

The book begins with an introduction to holiday customs at home and in the synagogue with dazzling portrayals of the Purim characters, lavishly illustrated crafts pages, and holiday blessings and songs. The artist challenges youngsters to complete the intricate drawings that accompany the story of the Jewish people's victory over wicked Haman.

First published in 1976 as part of Kar-Ben's *My Very Own* holiday series, the *Megillah* is a perfect holiday introduction for young children. In addition to learning the Purim story, they may make shalach manot baskets to deliver holiday treats, design Purim costumes and masks, and bake chocolate chip hamentaschen, filled cookies eaten on the holiday.

Katherine Kahn has illustrated an impressive list of Jewish children's books, including the *Sammy Spider* series, *A Family Haggadah*, and *Jewish Holiday Crafts for Little Hands*. Judyth Groner and Madeline Wikler who founded Kar-Ben Copies in 1975, have written several books including *My Very Own Haggadah* and *Thank You G-d, A Jewish Child's Book of Prayer*. The company pub-

lishes more than 100 Jewish books and calendars for young children and their families.

Other Kar-Ben Copies, Inc., titles for Purim include: *A Costume For Noah*, Susan Topek/ill. by Sally Springer. Noah's classmates are planning their cos-

tumes for the Purim parade. But Noah's family is preoccupied with the arrival of a new baby. The fourth in the Noah series. (Ages 4 to 6)

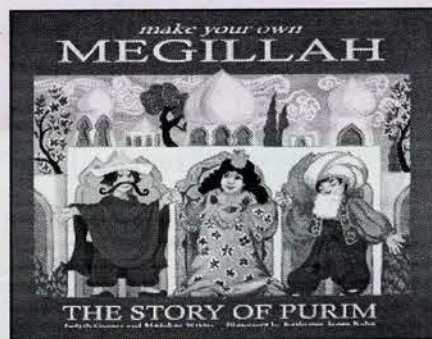
Purim Fun For Little Hands, Katherine Janus Kahn. Simple craft, coloring, and activity pages bring the Purim story to life. Make a megillah, have a puppet show, play with holiday symbol cards. With picture story and colorful board game. (Ages 3 to 7)

The Whole Megillah (Almost), Shoshana Silberman/ill. by K. Kahn. Selected Hebrew verses, English chapter summaries, commentary, and lively pictures. With a 10-act play. (Ages 5 and up)

It Happened in Shushan, Harriet K. Feder, ill. by Roz Schanzer. A nifty Purim rebus, guaranteed to make you laugh. (Ages 3 to 7)

The Purim Parade, Katherine Kahn. Watch the children cut, paste, and color their costumes and join in the Purim Parade. (Ages 1 to 3)

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lands of light hors d'oeuvres enough, or will you need more?

Most guests are likely to be standing. Make sure you have fruit and cheese, pâtés and sliced breads, easy to serve and eat without utensils.

Remember, it's not just one to be remembered, and one that



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SCHOOLBEAT

Local Students Study Abroad Opportunities

"Qualified high school students are offered a unique opportunity to spend an academic year or summer holiday in Scandinavia, France, Germany, Great Britain, Holland, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Japan, China, Taiwan, Thailand, Mexico, Brazil, Chile, Australia, New Zealand or Canada (French or English speaking) as part of the ASSE International Student Exchange Program," announced Jodi Kiefer, southern director of ASSE.

Students, 15 to 18 years old, qualify on the basis of academic performance, character references and a genuine desire to experience life abroad with a volunteer host family in one of the many ASSE host countries.

"ASSE families abroad are carefully screened to provide a caring environment in which students can learn the language and culture of their host country," explained Kiefer.

Summer exchange students live with a family abroad who might speak some English. Year students need not have learned a foreign language as they receive language and cultural instruction as part of the ASSE program. ASSE students attend regular high school classes along with their new teen-age friends. ASSE exchange students learn by living the language and culture of their new host country.

ASSE also provides international opportunities for families to host students from Europe, the newly Independent States of the former Soviet Union, South America, Asia, Mexico, Australia, and New Zealand. These select students are 15 to 18 years old and will attend the local school for a semester or an academic year.

Students or families interested in more information about the ASSE programs, or to set up an interview, should contact Ernestine Bugbee at 453-1314.

PHDS Honor Roll

The Providence Hebrew Day School recently announced that the following students have made the Honor Roll for the second quarter:

Grade Four

Chaya Berman, Kayla Cusner, Avrohom Gibber, Beth Japhet, Rafi Kaufman, Jason Kerzer, Eli Nissel, Miriam Raskin, Shmule Saklad, Boris Shporkin, Tova Stark, and Nesanel Vogel

Grade Five

Miriam Jakubowicz, Joshua Kirschner, Jennifer Kessler, Orli Mintz, and Elan Noorparvar

Grade Six

Jacob Edelman, Elisheva Klausner, Marina Korennoy, Alex Krakowski, Irina Kratik, Adeena Lipson, and Laurie Pultman

Grade Seven

Asher Andelman, Daniel Edelman, David Gibber, Shifra Kaufman, and Yosef Scharf

Grade Eight

Yehuda Lipson, Abigail Mintz, Dena Pearlman, and Aaron Rubenstein

PPAC Committee Awards Arts Scholarships

Applications are now being accepted for arts-related scholarships to be awarded by the community outreach committee of the Providence Performing Arts Center. Students residing in Providence and ages 11 to 14 by June 1 are eligible. All applications must be received by March 27 at the offices of the Providence Performing Arts Center. Interested students should make inquiries through the arts department of their school and educators may call 421-2997 for more information.

The purpose of community outreach scholarships is to provide financial assistance for qualified and talented students to at-

tend local, summer arts education programs. Several summer programs for the study of performing arts, dance, music, and visual arts have been selected and students are asked to indicate a specific program when applying. A panel of independent judges will assess all applications and announces scholarship awards this spring for programs during the summer of 1998.

The community outreach committee is a subcommittee of the Providence Performing Arts Center board of trustees. The mission of the committee is to determine ways to make the theater accessible to the diverse community it serves.

Dance Alliance Announces Scholarship Award

Dance Alliance of Rhode Island, Inc. announces its Spring Scholarship cycle. Dance Alliance offers awards of up to \$500 for dance students and professionals to pursue their dance education on an intensive basis. Priority is given to residents of Rhode Island and environs who have demonstrated a serious commitment to dance.

Complete guidelines and applications for scholarships may be requested by writing to Dance Alliance at P.O. Box 372, East Greenwich, RI 02818. The deadline to submit proposals for spring and summer programs is April 1.

The fund is sustained by individual contributions supplementing funds received in honor of Dance Alliance's Recognition Award recipients. Past honorees are John Custer, Dr. Doris Holloway Abels, Dr. Fannie Helen Melcer, Bertha Carr and Irene Owen.

For further information about the scholarship fund, call 828-5957 or 884-3999.



Reading Fun!

Alperin Schechter Day School parent, Susan Froehlich, reads to the kindergarten class, assisted by her daughter, Allison. ASDS is appreciative of the many parent volunteers who give time and energy to enhance the school program.

Photo courtesy of ASDS

URI Seeks Recollections of Your College Days

Remember your old college days? Remember the all-nighters spent cramming for an exam, a favorite professor who thought you had something special, a romance that bloomed? If you are a University of Rhode Island alumna or alumna who earned a degree from the College of Arts and Sciences, the university wants to hear from you.

The College of Arts and Sciences, URI's largest college, turns 50 years this year. To celebrate, the college wants to collect reminiscences from its alumni. Take a drip down memory lane. Did someone or some event change the course of your life or professional career? Did you belong to an organization? Do you have an amusing anecdote? Did you make a lifelong friend? How did your educational experience enhance your career?

While you're on the memory path, jot down your reminiscences and send them to Dr. Thomas Zorabedian, College of Arts and Sciences, 257 Chafee Social Science Center, 10 Chafee Road, Suite 1, Kingston, R.I. 02881-0808. Feel free to send it via e-mail as well: <zman@boris.davis.uri.edu>.

Include your full name, year of graduation, and major(s). Keep your submissions to 250 words and provide permission for us to publish them. Deadline is June 1.

While you're on the memory path, jot down your reminiscences and send them to Dr. Thomas Zorabedian, College of Arts and Sciences, 257 Chafee Social Science Center, 10 Chafee Road, Suite 1, Kingston, R.I. 02881-0808. Feel free to send it via e-mail as well: <zman@boris.davis.uri.edu>.

URI Hosts Summer Job Fair

Are you an employer who will need help during the summer crunch? Do you have slots to fill at your engineering firm, your summer camp, your human service agency? Do you own a local business or run an accounting firm?

The University of Rhode Island office of career services will hold its second Summer Job Fair on March 17 in the Memorial Union, Kingston, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Last year's Summer Job Fair was very successful, according to Peggy Ferguson, a career adviser, who works for URI's Career Services. "Over 1,000 URI students and 50 companies and organizations attended," she said.

Ferguson added the Summer Job Fair is a great way to make connections, noting that in pre-

vious years before the fair, businesses faxed job postings to URI Career Services.

Ferguson said there will be about 55 companies and businesses coming, including major corporations. "They are coming with really solid jobs that will help prepare students for future careers," Ferguson said.

In addition to the Summer Job Fair, Career Services has planned a Human Services Job Fair on March 18, an All Major Job Fair on April 9, and will take part in a Rhode Island Consortium of Educators' Teacher/Education Job Fair on April 16.

Employers who wish to meet URI students looking for summer jobs should register by contacting Ferguson at 874-2583 or by e-mail at <pfergus@uri.ac. uri.edu>.

R.I. State Crime Laboratory Hosts Fingerprint Workshop

The Rhode Island State Crime Laboratory, located in the College of Pharmacy at the University of Rhode Island, will cosponsor a workshop with the Rhode Island Criminalist Associates: Administrative Advanced Latent Fingerprint Development.

The weeklong seminar will be held in Fogarty Hall at URI's Kingston Campus from March 9 through 13.

The instructors for this course are Robert Hazen, retired FBI special agent, and Jeff Thompson, director of the Ocean County, N.J., crime laboratory. This class was last offered in 1995.

For information or to register for the fingerprint course, contact Dennis C. Hilliard, director of the Rhode Island State Crime Laboratory at 874-2893.

The State Crime Laboratory will also host the next meeting of the New England Crime Laboratory directors on March 13. The meeting will be at 9 a.m. in the Claflin Room at URI's College of Pharmacy.

Director Hilliard, adjunct assistant professor of biomedical sciences in URI's College of Pharmacy, will chair the meeting. Crime laboratory directors from Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York and Vermont are expected to attend.

Leukemia Society Hosts Pasta For Pennies Program

More than 60 schools in Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts have signed up to participate in the Leukemia Society's fourth annual Pasta for Pennies program. Students will be bringing in spare change for a three-week period from March 9 through March 27, to donate to the Leukemia Society of America. The campaign is sponsored by The Olive Garden Restaurants, Ronzio Pizza, Fox 64 and Kix 106 & 102.7.

The Olive Garden Restaurants and Ronzio Pizza award the top fund-raising classroom in each school with a catered luncheon. Schools also compete to receive grand prizes.

The goal this year is \$70,000. Monies raised enable the Leukemia Society to expand research funding, provide help to more patients and their families and increase public awareness of leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma.

For further information about the Leukemia Society programs, call the society office at 943-8888.

FEATURE

UMass Professor Co-Edits Norton Anthology of Jewish-American Literature

University of Massachusetts emeritus English professor Jules Chametzky is one of four co-chairs currently compiling the first Norton Anthology of Jewish-American Literature. The anthology, which is expected to be released in 1999, is part of the prestigious Norton series used in college and high school classrooms nationwide. "This will establish to some extent what works of Jewish-American literature will become part of the canon," said Chametzky. "It's a great honor, and yet also a great responsibility, to be involved."

Chametzky said that the anthology will include a wide range of Jewish-American writing and will attempt to tell the story of the Jewish experience in America. Beginning in the colonial era with sermons delivered by some of the first Jewish immigrants to this country, and mov-

ing gradually up to the modern day, it will show how Jews not only found a previously unheard of degree of freedom in America, but also how they helped shape what we today see as typically American. "In addition to strictly literary selections from authors such as Philip Roth and Saul Bellow, a number of entries in the anthology will come from popular songwriters such as Jerome Kern and Irving Berlin," Chametzky said.

Chametzky further adds that the anthology illustrates the degree to which both Jews and blacks played a role in shaping the popular culture of America. He said: "In the 20th century one might say that without blacks and Jews, there would almost be no popular culture in America." In fact, he said, interest in his own project began after the recent publication of the

Norton Anthology of African-American Literature. "The publishers of the series saw that there was a market for literature by minority groups," he said.

Still, Chametzky stresses that the intellectual motive is by far predominant and that, with the anthology, students and teachers will be able to explore not only the Jewish-American experience, but the experience by which all Americans come to define themselves. "If we study how Jews came to this country, and gradually moved from the role of immigrant outsiders to assimilated Americans, we can explore parallels with other groups such as the Irish," Chametzky said. "In doing so, we learn something about the ways in which cultures interact, and how in a uniquely modern sense, this mixing defines what it means to be American."

This Day in History

March 5

- Lord Harrington, member of the British government, instructed the British ambassador of Vienna, Austria, in 1745 to protest an impending expulsion of Jews from Bohemia.
- A petition initiated by Rev. William E. Blackstone was sent in 1891 to President Harrison, requesting the aid of the U.S. government in the re-establishment of Palestine as a sovereign Jewish state.
- German elections held in 1933 gave the Nazis control of the Reichstag, making it possible for Hitler to assume dictatorial power.
- Rabbi Joseph Rosen, the Illui of Ragachov, author of *Tzofnat Paneach* died in 1936.

March 6

- Napoleon captured the city of Jaffa in 1799.

March 7

- A poll-tax levied on Russo-Polish Jews entering Austrian Galicia on business was abolished in 1851.
- The hideout of Emanuel Ringleblum, historian of the Warsaw ghetto and one of the leaders of the Jewish underground, was discovered by the Nazis in 1944. He, his family, and his Polish benefactors were executed a few days later.

March 8

- Poalei Zion, the Labor Zionist organization, was organized underground in Poltava, Russia, in 1906.

March 9

- Pope Innocent IV issued a bull ordering the burning of the Talmud in 1244.

March 10

- The Jewish Reform movement in Germany was publicly announced in 1845.
- Jews were excluded from public offices and dignities in the Roman Empire in 418. Emancipation was granted 1,430 years later (1848).
- Ferdinand Eberstadt, mayor of Worms, first Jewish mayor in Germany, died in 1888.
- The Knesset passed a bill in 1970, defining a Jew as one born to a Jewish mother or a convert to the Jewish faith.

March 11

- The British commander-in-chief in Palestine quashed all military proceedings against Vladimir Jabotinsky and 19 of his collaborators for participating in the Jewish self-defense measures during the Arab riots in Jerusalem in 1921.

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

New Report Documents Black-Jewish Relations Are Improving

Contrary to conventional media wisdom, African Americans and Jews are stepping back from a confrontational mode and interacting positively in an increasing diverse set of arenas, from joint religious services to poetry readings to dance performances. That is the central finding of the "2nd Annual Report on Black/Jewish Relations in the United States," recently released by The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding.

The report is a chronological account of interactions between African Americans and Jews between January 1997 through December 1997, culled from media accounts and reports from agencies that serve the two communities. This year's study — a follow-up to a report on black-Jewish relations in 1996 by the same foundation — documents numerous examples of cooperation, but also shows that tensions remain because of the actions and statements of Louis Farrakhan and his followers.

According to Rabbi Marc Schneier, president of the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding, "Our report shows that if it weren't for some conflicts over Mr. Farrakhan and his ideas, there was little evidence of problems and a lot of evidence that relations between the two communities are markedly approving. Based on what we showed in last year's report, the interactions in 1997 were not only more extensive; they also had a different quality. There was a greater reaching out to each

other at the grass roots, and it often took the form of a new kind of cultural interaction and exchange. African Americans and Jews read poetry together in Pittsburgh, shared African tribal narratives and Yiddish folktales in Spokane, held a free concert of African American and Jewish music in Philadelphia, created dances and plays based on the histories of both peoples in cities throughout the country."

Rabbi Schneier added, "The range of people reaching out to one another has expanded beyond community leaders, teenagers in organized programs, church and synagogue groups and others who have participated in joint activities in the past. This past year, it seems that people from all walks of life in the two communities saw the headlines about Farrakhan and the Jews, took a deep breath

and made a conscious effort to move beyond just occasional dialogue towards more frequent and more intimate interaction. Last year's report shattered the myth of widespread conflict and contention between African Americans and Jews. The new report confirms this conclusion."

The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding began in 1989 as a dream of Rabbi Schneier and the late Joseph Papp. It is committed to the belief that direct, face-to-face dialogue between the leaders of ethnic communities is the most effective path to the reduction of bigotry and the promotion of reconciliation and understanding.

For copies of the report, contact Tommy Loeb at (212) 297-0323 or write to the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding, 17 East 45th St., Suite 507, New York, N.Y. 10017.

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FEATURE

Official's Ouster Revives Debate Over Role of Holocaust Museum

by Daniel Kurtzman

WASHINGTON (JTA) — The recent ouster of the director of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum has reignited questions about the politicization of the museum and how best to memorialize the Holocaust.

Walter Reich's resignation, forced by the museum's governing body, came one month after he refused to escort Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat on a tour of the museum.

Miles Lerman, chairman of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, had publicly blamed the on-again, off-again invitation to Arafat — it was extended, retracted, extended again, then ultimately declined by Arafat — on "bad advice" from Reich.

In his letter of resignation, Reich wrote to Lerman: "As you know, we have differed on the use of the museum, and of the memory of the Holocaust, in the context of political or diplomatic circumstances or negotiations."

While the Arafat episode may or may not have been the issue that led to Reich's ouster — sources close to the museum say his job performance during the last three years was the real factor — his departure has nonetheless focused attention on the complexities surrounding the nature of the 5-year-old institution.

At the same time, the internal maneuvering suggests that even an institution as venerable as the Holocaust museum is not immune to problems in governance and personnel politics.

Coming to Reich's defense in an op-ed column recently published in the *New York Post*, Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel said of the outgoing director, "He believes that the Holocaust must not be used politically."

"To him, the memory of the victims is sacred, as is the museum itself, and neither should ever be used as a tool. One may disagree with him, but is that a reason to make him the scapegoat in this unfortunate affair? Clearly, from statements in the press immediately following the incident, this is what happened."

According to the agreement governing Reich's departure, all of the key players agreed not to discuss the issue publicly. The search for Reich's replacement has not yet begun, according to museum officials.

Among Holocaust survivors, scholars and others in the Jewish community, there is general agreement that honoring the memory of those who perished in the Holocaust is the primary concern of the Jewish people, and therefore of the Holocaust museum.

But many also say that the

only proper way to honor the memory of the dead is to use that memory to ward off evil against any people — not just the Jewish people — in any time.

In 1995, at a time when inter-ethnic conflicts were raging in Bosnia and Rwanda, the museum created a Committee to Conscience to provide a collective voice to address global genocide.

"As you know, we have differed on the use of the museum, and of the memory of the Holocaust."

Walter Reich

The idea was first proposed in 1979 by the President's Commission on the Holocaust as part of an overall vision of the institution.

In its report, the commission said it "knows well the potential for the politicization of a Committee on Conscience, but the risks are worth taking if such a body can provide maximal exposure for dangerous developments," raising, in one scholar's words, "an 'institutional scream' to alert the conscience of the world and speak public outcry."

The mandate still pertains, said Hyman Bookbinder, a founding member of the museum's council who now sits on the museum's Committee on Conscience. "What is the mu-

seum for, what is the council for, it not to compel people to pay attention to what the Holocaust means?"

But others are more cautious. Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League and a member of the museum's council, does not believe an "activist view" is appropriate for the institution.

"There's always going to be a very delicate line between history, memory and the current situation, wherever it may be," said Foxman, a Holocaust survivor.

"Whenever the museum will want to take a position, whether it's Bosnia, or whether it's China or Arafat, it will be at risk to disturb some and offend others."

Some Holocaust scholars, meanwhile, say the politicization of the institution may be unavoidable.

"The very idea of a Holocaust museum in Washington is inherently a political act," said Sara Horowitz, a Holocaust scholar who heads the Jewish studies program at the University of Delaware.

"When you invoke a public memory, you are already putting it to a political use and politicizing it in some way."

Horowitz points out that even Yad Vashem in Israel ends up serving certain political purposes.

At the Holocaust museum in

Washington, political realities are further complicated by the fact that it remains a federally funded institution with two federal officials — Dennis Ross, the State Department's Middle East coordinator, and his deputy, Aaron Miller — sitting on the museum's council.

Ross and Miller proposed the idea of Arafat visiting the museum as an opportunity to further the peace process by helping him better understand the history and fears of his adversary.

While the building of the museum was substantially funded by American Jews, the Arafat episode highlighted the reality that it remains a federal — not a Jewish — institution.

As a public institution that receives federal funds, some say, it is not the museum's place to engage in its own politicking, selecting who may visit and who may not.

"It would be constructive to open the doors wide, which does not mean that there's a specific political agenda," said Deborah Dwork, director of the Center for Holocaust Studies at Clark University in Worcester, Mass.

"It simply means that this is a museum dedicated to the elucidation of a catastrophe, of an atrocity of Western civilization and that all who have any wish whatsoever to learn about this are most welcomed."

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Maccabi Games Athletes Donate T-Shirts to Bulgarian Jews

Jewish teen-age athletes throughout North America donated more than 6,000 T-shirts for Jews in Bulgaria at the 15th annual Jewish Community Centers Maccabi Games. The T-shirts set sail aboard the Marit Maersk V-9802 vessel on Feb. 15 and will arrive in Sofia, Bulgaria, on March 2. They will be distributed to Jewish children and adults in Bulgaria.

More than 4,500 Jewish teen-age athletes participated in the 1997 JCC Maccabi Games, a weeklong Olympic-style competition. The teen-agers brought the donated T-shirts to the games as part of the "Day of Caring, Day of Sharing" program which emphasized Jewish values of community service, *tzedekah* (charity) and *tikun olam* (repairing the world).

"The JCC Maccabi Games are more than just an athletic event for our teens," said Lenny Silberman, continental director of the JCC Maccabi Games. "We provide opportunities for our teens to 'give back' and help make a difference in the lives of others."

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee worked in cooperation with JCC Association of North America and arranged shipping and distribution of the T-shirts. The American Jewish community has been helping the Jews in Bulgaria for years through the JDC.

Bulgaria has an estimated Jewish population of 6,000. More than half of the Jews live in the capital of Sofia. The Jews of Bulgaria have Sephardic roots and a strong commitment to Israel. They are represented by Shalom, an organization comprised of 19 local community branches which deals with Jewish social and economic issues, cultural initiatives, and education programs. Economic collapse, including the failure of the banking system, the devaluation of the *leva*, slow privatization, high unemployment and a bread shortage have plagued the community over the past year. There is increased concern about the security of the democratic region as anti-Semitism has emerged for the first time.

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FEATURE

Striking Exhibit on 'The Jews of Ethiopia' Opens at Landmark Synagogue in N.Y.

An arresting one-woman photo exhibit, "The Jews of Ethiopia: The Last Glimpse of a 3,000 Year Old Community," by acclaimed photographer Joan Roth will open at New York City's landmark Eldridge Street Synagogue

on Manhattan's historic Lower East Side for a three-month showing starting March 10.

The collection of 60 black-and-white photographs is the product of the photographer's travels in Ethiopia in the mid-

1980s, when she stayed in native Jewish villages and was able to get inside the homes of Ethiopian Jews, where few westerners had ever visited. Many Ethiopian Jewish families have since resettled in Israel.

One critic has praised the photos as reflective of Roth's "communication with [Ethiopian Jews] in a way that defies all language barriers."

The vibrant photographs depict the lifestyle and religious ceremonies of the people. They glimpse intimate scenes and freeze fleeting moments and gestures, such as those of a Kahen (Cohen) High Priest unwrapping a 300-year-old handwritten copy of the Orit (Torah); men engaged in group prayer; a line of women ascending a mountain from a long, winding trail below; and a young wife nursing her baby—a photo that has been described in a review as "reminiscent of a Rembrandt painting."

The Eldridge Street Synagogue was built in 1887 and served as the spiritual home of generations of Jewish immigrants. With a Moorish style facade, the building boasts a majestic 70-foot high vaulted sanctuary that has been described by architects and critics as one of New York's great interiors. The synagogue is currently undergoing a multi-million dollar renovation by a private group seeking to preserve it as one of the city's architectural treasures.

The "Jews of Ethiopia" exhibit continues through June 30 and is free to the public. Arrangements for special viewings can be made by calling (212) 219-0888.



THE YOUNG WIFE of an Ethiopian Jewish spiritual leader is shown nursing her baby, in a picture that has been described by one critic as having a "quality reminiscent of a Rembrandt painting."

Photo by Joan Roth



THE KAHEN (COHEN)—High Priest—among Ethiopian Jews opens a 300-year-old Orit—Holy Book. The word Orit comes from "Oralya," the Amharic word for Torah. The Orit is the oldest known scriptural work in Ethiopia.

Photo by Joan Roth

Court's Landmark Decision Bolsters War Criminal Cases

by Bill Gladstone

TORONTO (JTA)—A Canadian court has ruled that a suspected war criminal who gained citizenship under false pretenses may be stripped of his citizenship and deported.

The court ruled that Wasily Bogutin, 87, lied about his past when he entered Canada in 1951, telling immigration officials nothing about his role during World War II with the Selidovka District Police in Ukraine.

The police unit had collaborated with the Nazis in murdering some civilians and deporting many others to forced labor camps in Germany between 1941 and 1943.

Relying upon evidence that Canadian Justice Department officials gathered in Bogutin's native Ukraine last summer, the court determined that he took part in the deportations, although not necessarily the murders.

The court further determined that because he lied to gain admittance to Canada, his citizenship could be revoked.

Canada has long been accused of dragging its feet in launching proceedings against suspected war criminals living in its midst, but the latest ruling received plaudits from the Canadian Jewish Congress.

"It's the first time the government has achieved any success in court," said Irving Abella, chair of the CJC's War Crimes Committee. "The precedent has now been set so that those who lied about their role in World War II can be stripped of their citizenship, and once it's taken away from them, they can be deported."

The Justice Department won a conviction in 1990 against Latvian-born war-crimes suspect Konrad Kalejs, but Kalejs is not a Canadian citizen.

More recently, lawyers for two suspects, Ladislaus Csiszik-

Csatary of Toronto and Momertas Rolland Maciukas of Montreal, announced they would not contest denaturalization proceedings against them. Csiszik-Csatary has already left the country.

Abella urged that Bogutin be stripped of his citizenship and that deportation proceedings commence as soon as possible.

"We hope that this development will provide the additional momentum necessary to carry forward with the remaining cases still to be heard before the federal court," he said.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

East Providence Schools Visited by Peaceable Kid

Bank R.I. has recently demonstrated its continuing support to the arts and the community by

sponsoring performances of Perishable Theatre's Show for Young Audiences in East Providence el-



"THE PEACEABLE KID" — (Left to Right) Marilyn Dubois, John Holdridge, Bridgette O'Mally, and Joey Liao.

Photo by Pamela Murray

ementary schools. The musical, "The Peaceable Kid," is an original play about violence prevention and conflict resolution set in the American "wild west" with a Texas funk soundtrack.

Since 1983 more than half a million children have seen the award-winning S.F.Y.A. performance. They specialize in developing original scripts based on myths, folklore and fairy tales from around the world while incorporating elements of contemporary social and educational concerns. The S.F.Y.A. program combines the very best in theater arts with proven educational effectiveness and has become a valued supplement to school curriculum throughout the Northeast.

Mamaloshen

Mandy Patinkin returns to his roots with "Mamaloshen" (Mother Tongue) — a collection of Yiddish standards and renditions — from Irving Berlin to Paul Simon.

Mandy Patinkin, whose musical, film and television career have taken him from sold-out Broadway shows to an Emmy Award-winning role in TV's "Chicago Hope," comes home with "Mamaloshen" (Mother Tongue), his third solo album. A celebrated singer of popular standards, Patinkin embraces a rich and entertaining musical heritage in this 16-song collection, performed with full orchestra, guest vocalist Judy Blazer, and violinist Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg.

Born into a Jewish immigrant family on the south side of Chicago, Patinkin grew up in the 1960s hearing popular music and also Yiddish standards, some sung by his father. But it was another father figure — the

Stephen Sondheim, Paul Simon — did write Jewish music.

Patinkin set about learning their songs — in Yiddish. He also consulted Yiddish music experts, and began collecting a selection of traditional songs, some well known and others rare. Along with longtime musical collaborator Paul Ford, he assembled a team of translators, language coaches, and arrangers that helped him compile 16 songs that tell stories of mothers and fathers, daughters and sons, leaving home, finding a new home, courtship, love, survival, and death.

Now, for his musical style, he is decidedly a idel and fine, but bursts out with overpowering, exuberant operatic vocals that don't always fit into the theme of the song. For example, he sings the classic *The Rebbe Reb Elimelech*, titled "Rabbi Elimeylekh", where the song winds up

South County Arts Center Inaugurates Adult Spelling Bee

In celebration of their 10th anniversary, the South County Center for the Arts is inaugurating a new spring fund-raising program replacing the previous auction with their Celebrity Spelling Bee. The event will be held on March 28 at 7 p.m. at the South Kingstown High School cafeteria.

Karen Adams of Channel 12 News will be the spellmaster. Judges are University of Rhode Island President Robert Carothers, town council member Anna Prager, and former Gov. J. Joseph Garrahy.

The spelling bee is organized in teams of three members each, so no one has to spell a word alone. Each team is grouped within an appropriate category such as real estate, education, artists, media, etc. Teams compete first within their own categories. The winner of each category will then match wits with

other category winners in a championship round.

In order to properly organize and publicize this event, the Arts Center asks that players sign up no later than March 9.

While the spelling bee is free for audience members, the players pay to play which is the fund-raising component of the event. Players or a sponsoring employer pay \$100, per person or \$300 per team. Proceeds from the Arts Center Spelling Bee will benefit educational outreach and enrichment programs. Adult spelling bees have become very popular in several Massachusetts communities. To their knowledge, the Arts Center is the first in Rhode Island.

Call the South County Center for the Arts at 782-1018 for a brochure or mail team names to Box 109, West Kingstown, R.I. 02892. Information can also be faxed to 782-1630.

Senior And Student Rush Tickets For 'Phantom'

Students and senior citizens may now purchase special rush tickets to Andrew Lloyd Webber's "The Phantom of the Opera," directed by Harold Prince, now at the Providence Performing Arts Center through March 14. The rush ticket price for students is \$16; half-price for seniors. This offer is subjected to availability for all remaining performances, except Friday and Saturday evenings, one hour prior to curtain with valid identification only at the Providence Performing Arts Center box office, 220 Weybosset St.

Regularly priced tickets still remain for most performances Tuesday through Saturday evenings at 8 p.m.; Sunday evenings at 7:30 p.m. with matinees Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets range from \$16 to \$66 and include a \$1 theater restoration fee. The final performance is March 14 at 8 p.m.

Regular tickets are on sale at the Providence Performing Arts Center box office, 220 Weybosset St., beginning at 10 a.m. daily. To charge tickets, call 421-ARTS or 331-2211.

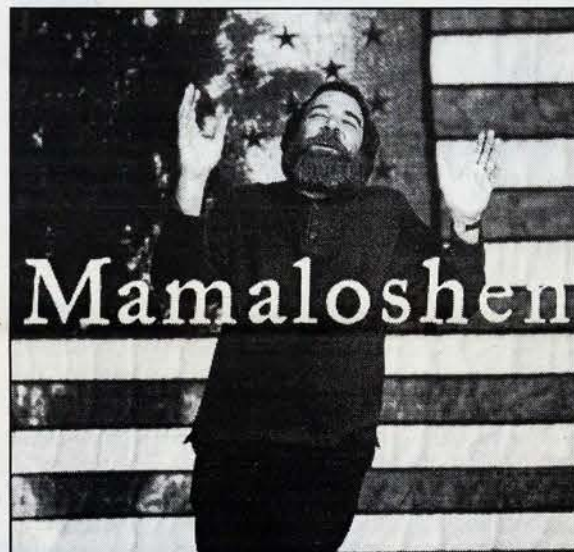
Newport Playhouse Calls for Auditions

The Newport Playhouse and Cabaret Restaurant announces auditions for two shows on March 25. Auditions will be for the cabaret at 6 p.m., as well as for the mainstay production of "Lover's Leap," a comedy by Bill Daily, at 7:30 p.m.

Needed for "Lover's Leap" are three men, ages 20 to 50 and three women, ages 18 to 40. Needed for the cabaret are men and women, ages 16+.

The cabaret runs May 8 through June 28 and "Lover's Leap" runs May 15 through July 12.

For additional information about auditions or shows, contact John Brennan or Jonathan Perry at the Newport Playhouse at 848-7529.



legendary producer Joseph Papp, who gave him his first break at New York's Public Theatre — who urged Patinkin to take the musical journey back to his Yiddish roots. "This is your job," Papp said in 1990 to the singer-actor who would soon be called "the greatest entertainer on Broadway" by Clive Barnes of *The New York Post*.

"Mamaloshen," which follows Patinkin's best-selling recording "Oscar and Steve," has been all these years in the making. Ranging from well-known Yiddish standards like "Raisins and Almonds" and "Oyfn Pripetshik," to rousing renditions of "Rabbi Elimeylekh" and "Der Alter Tzigayner," to new arrangements of Irving Berlin's "G-d Bless America" and Paul Simon's "American Tune," it is a collection that is as personal as it is universal.

"Yiddish is not a religious language, it is a street language," said Patinkin. "Like everybody who has ever left home, I wanted to preserve the street, the neighborhood, that corner of my heritage. It's not my intention to literally trace the history of Jewish or Yiddish music, or its journey to America, but I have always been interested in what Jewish musicians and composers have done to assimilate. I think all these writers — Irving Berlin, Leonard Bernstein,

slowly, bouncing around towards the end, where Patinkin gets carried away. His rendition is heartzic and he controls the pace of the song well. He is able to bring a sense of nostalgia for the Yiddish theatre with his voice and incredible heart. Another song that sticks out is "Parirosin," about a man's struggle to get food on the table. He begs passersby to buy his cigarettes and matches, after all he's got children to feed, he begs so he doesn't have to die "vie a hunt." Mandy really kvells and kvetches here. It works for this song as he sent shivers up your spine with his spectacularly rousing bit of Yiddish. Every word gets you deeper into the song.

To give a range of his performances, he adds "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious" along with "The Hokey Pokey" rolled into "Ten Kopeks," a nigan, song, about a chassane, which combines smoothly to create a wonderful smorgasbord of chassane niggunim that swirl like Klezmer/Chassidic dancing at its rowdiest. It certainly will put a smile on your face when he sings, "Dem rechtn fus arayn, dem rechtn fus arays, dem rechtn fus arayn, un men gitt a shokloys," right after the chosen un kalle say "Awmeyn," "I do." Oy, Gevalt!

If you have any appreciation for Yiddish, you will enjoy this compilation.



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Discovering Family Roots

by Tara V. Liscandro
Herald Editor

Estimated figures tell us that at least 75 percent of world Jewry can claim at least one grandparent in Polish ancestry. And for those interested in discovering their Jewish roots and believe they could possibly originate in Poland, Miriam Weiner's new book, *Jewish Roots in Poland: Pages from the Past and Archival Inventories*, is the ideal volume for your genealogical research. The author recognized the need for the book because the Archives in Poland were closed for many years. However, having already worked and studied as an experience genealogist for 20 years, Weiner also saw the great curiosity and struggle people had when attempting to discover their family's roots.

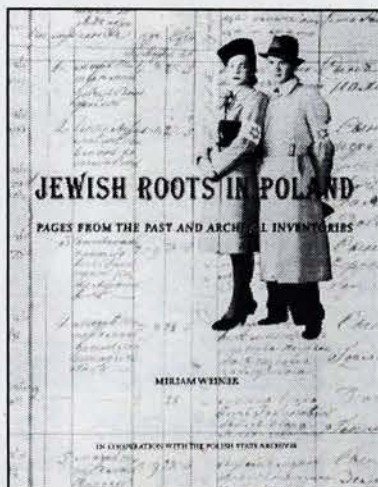
With investigative knowledge and experience as a genealogist, Weiner set out for almost seven years in order to research and create *Jewish Roots in Poland*. Because of the lack of computer technology and organization in Poland, Weiner spent many months abroad in order to complete her research.

Now *Jewish Roots in Poland* has become an aide for genealogists, scholars of the Holocaust and historians as well. The immense volume also brings a better understanding of the 3 million Polish Jews that perished during the Holocaust.

The volume includes articles by Polish and American archivists which describe their knowledge of the Polish repositories, an inventory of the Polish State Archives, Jewish Historical Institute records from 88 towns and more than 300 records from 96 cities of what is now the Ukraine (formerly belonged to Poland). A town-section including pre-World War II photographs; antique postcards displaying shtetl scenes, synagogues, Jewish cemeteries and present-day scenes; detailed bibliography and maps; and computerized inventory of family and town records are also

included in *Jewish Roots in Poland*.

With the assistance of the Polish State Archives and their cooperation, Weiner was able to complete a much-needed study tool. The author is certified by the Board for Certification of Genealogists and an expert in Holocaust research. She is the former executive director of the American Gathering of Holocaust Survivors in New York. Her newspaper column,



"Roots and Branches," has appeared in more than 100 Jewish papers and she has contributed to *The Encyclopedia of Jewish Genealogy* and the *Jewish-American History and Culture: An Encyclopedia* as well. As president of "Routes to Roots" Weiner offers in-depth archival research and customized visits to ancestral towns of the former USSR and Poland. Weiner lectures for various organizations, schools, synagogues and other institutions throughout the year.

Tips For Discovering Family Roots:

- Begin interviews and meetings with senior family members and ask about their relatives, Hebrew names, occupations and ancestral towns.
- Ask if there are existing family photos and make copies if possible. Identify people in the photos and their relationships.

- Find out if there are old family documents (i.e. naturalization and immigration papers, passports, school records, etc.) or legal documents.

- If possible, visit the cemetery where family members are buried and take photos of the tombstones.

- Locate passenger records (from old country to America). These documents list family members left behind and relatives that had already entered America. These records can be searched at the National Archives and Records Service in Washington, D.C.

- Locate naturalization records. These are also important and include family names, dates, locations, name of the ship and place of arrival. These records can be found in a number of locations including the Immigration and Naturalization Service in Washington, D.C. (Note: papers filed prior to 1906 contain less information.)

- Research various family history institutions. Microfilm, newspapers, databases and published histories can be of help in identifying ancestral towns and families.

(Compiled from "Roots and Branches" by M. Weiner)

For more information about researching Jewish genealogy or about "Jewish Roots in Poland" contact Miriam Weiner at 136 Sandpiper Key, Secaucus, NJ 07094.

NewGate Theatre Presents 'The Servant of Two Masters'

NewGate Theatre will be presenting a bit of merry pre-spring madness in the form of Carlo Goldoni's *Commedia dell'arte* madcap farce "The Servant of Two Masters" through March 28.

This production marks the second play in NewGate's 1998 Artistic Director Audition Series. Having just presented Sam Shepard's riveting drama, "Simpatico," directed by Karl Aspelund, NewGate now turns to matters more hilarious. Brian Lang, second artistic director candidate, is promising NewGate audiences a play that will make them roar with laughter at the antics of the zany characters of Goldoni's comic masterpiece.

The play opens with the announcement of the engagement of lovely Clarice (daughter of the kind-hearted but slightly overwrought Pantalone de Bisognosi), to Silvio (son of the slightly officious, Latin-spouting Dr. Lombardi). Everything seems in order until the quick-witted serving man Truffaldino arrives to announce that his master, Federigo Rasponi, is downstairs awaiting an invitation to enter. (Federigo was originally engaged to Clarice but everyone involved believed him to be killed in a duel.) Amid the

College jazz, high school jazz, and jazz performed by professional musicians will chase away the mid-winter blues when the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth hosts its 19th Jazz Festival on March 16, 17, and 18. Most performances are free.

College Jazz Night opens the festival on March 16 at 7:30 p.m. in the main auditorium with performances by the jazz band, jazz ensemble, and vocal ensemble of UMass Dartmouth, and the Brown University Jazz Band. Admission is free.

The UMass Dartmouth Jazz Faculty concert is March 17 at 12:30 p.m. in the recital hall of the Visual and Performing Arts building. Admission is free. Performing will be Rick Britto, saxophone; Semanya McCord, vo-

cals; John Harrison, piano; Todd Baker, bass; Rick Schilling, guitar; and Herbie King, drums.

The High School Jazz Band Festival is also March 17 at 3 p.m. in the main auditorium. Admission is free. Performing will be bands from Somerset, Dartmouth, Portsmouth, Westport, Whitman-Hansen, Case, New Bedford, Barrington and Durfee high schools.

The grand finale Guest Artist concert on March 18 at 7:30 p.m. in the main auditorium will feature John Fedchock, trombone, with Allen Farnham, piano; Lynn Seaton, bass; and David Ratajczak, drums. The UMass Dartmouth Jazz Band will also perform. Tickets to the concert are \$10, available at the door or call the university box office at (508) 999-8598.

Mystic Seaport Celebrates Human Rights

VIPs, including national, state and local government officials, corporate leaders, not-for-profit organizations, school groups, religious delegations, entertainers and the public will gather at Mystic Seaport in Mystic, Conn., for an historic keel laying ceremony. The ceremony will mark the beginning of construction of the freedom schooner Amistad, a project that has taken four years to plan and develop.

When construction is completed in 2000, the \$3.1 million, 80-foot, hand-hewn schooner will sail around the country as Connecticut's educational ambassador, bringing lessons of history, cooperation and leadership to Americans of all ages, interests and cultural backgrounds.

March 8 was chosen as the date of the keel laying ceremony to coincide with the first annual observance of Amistad Sunday in the calendar of the 1.5 million member United Church of Christ, which is a sponsor of the vessel. The UCC's 6,100 congregations — located in 49 American states, Puerto Rico and one Canadian province — are encouraged to remember and celebrate the Amistad event in worship March 8. Contact the UCC at (216) 736-2214 to find a service near you.

shock and confusion, a person claiming to be Federigo enters and demands the hand of Clarice (and the accompanying dowry). Only after everyone leaves in great distress is it revealed that Federigo is actually not Federigo but his sister, Beatrice, who left Turin after her brother was killed at the hands of her lover, Florindo Aretusi. Beatrice is traveling disguised as her brother in order to find Florindo. Only the innkeeper Brighella is aware of Beatrice's identity but she swears him to secrecy.

Later that day, Truffaldino, always scheming, encounters Florindo, who has arrived looking for Beatrice. When Florindo reveals he is looking for a servant, Truffaldino decides that he will try to take on two jobs, collect two paychecks and get fed twice as much.

Thus, Truffaldino's attempts to keep his two masters from finding out about each other keeps the lovers apart and produces preposterous, farcical mayhem in the NewGate loft theater space. Of course, all is ultimately set right, the right lovers are paired off, and everyone ends up happy, loved and well-fed.

General admission tickets for "The Servant of Two Masters" can be reserved by calling the

theater at 421-9680. All tickets are \$12 each with a \$2 discount for seniors and students. Group rates will be available for reservations of 10 persons or more. On March 3 (special preview performance) and March 12 all tickets will be on a "pay-what-you-can" basis. Performances will run March 4, March 6 and March 7, then will be presented on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays for the remainder of the run.

Soon to be announced: a special "Engagement Party" for the happy, but bemused couples of "The Servant of Two Masters" which is being planned for March 19, 5:30 p.m. at Mario's Downtown Cafe at 110 Mathewson St., Providence. The proud parents will announce more information as soon as possible.

My True Love My Son

by Carolyn Schwartz

True Love is wearing sunglasses so your son cannot see your tears
True Love is dying inside before burdening a young mind
True Love is giving when there is nothing left to give, and even more to hold back when giving too much will hurt him.
True Love is pushing your heart into a hidden corner for you know he will not benefit from your grief
True Love is sleepless nights and haunted dreams
True Love is letting go when you want to hold on for dear life
True Love is saying goodbye 100 years too soon
True Love is walking away without judging and never looking back
True Love is praying someday before you die that in some small way he will understand how very much you loved him and be your friend.

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.

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OBITUARIES

BEATRICE EVELYN COHEN
PROVIDENCE — Beatrice Evelyn Cohen, 89, of 50 Randall Square, died Feb. 25 at Philip Hultar Hospice Care Inpatient Center. She was the wife of the late Henry S. Cohen.

Born in Chelsea, Mass., a daughter of the late Samuel and Mary Weiss, she had lived in Pennsylvania and Taunton, Mass., before moving to Providence 14 years ago.

She was a member of Hadassah, B'nai B'rith and Hamilton House.

She leaves a son, Lewis G. Cohen in Pennsylvania; a daughter, Marcia Zisman of Barrington; a brother, Eugene Weiss in Massachusetts; a sister, Helen Martinello of Chelsea, Mass.; four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

The funeral was held Feb. 27 at Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence. Burial was in Swan Point Cemetery, Providence.

SIDNEY HORENSTEIN
PROVIDENCE — Sidney Horenstein, 85, of 715 Putnam Pike, a salesman for Beck Beauty Supply Co., Providence, before retiring 20 years ago, died Feb. 28 at Miriam Hospital, Providence. He was the husband of the late Alice (Novak) Horenstein.

Born in Providence, a son of the late Eli and Ida (Wrightman) Horenstein, he lived in Greenville for two years, previously living in Warwick.

He was a volunteer for the American Red Cross for 20 years.

He leaves a sister, Florence A. Horenstein of New York City, and several cousins.

The funeral was held March 2 from the Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence. Burial was private.

ROSE MURRAY
WARWICK — Rose Murray, 83, of Shalom Apartments, 1 Shalom Drive, died Feb. 26 at home. She was the wife of the late William Murray Senior.

Born in Malden, Mass., a daughter of the late Samuel and Dora (Sax) Berg, she moved to Warwick 57 years ago from Providence.

She was a member of Temple Torat Yisrael in Cranston.

She was a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, serving as a communications officer. She was a licensed ham radio operator.

She had owned Knitland, a former retail yarn store in Warwick, and had been proprietor of the former Discland Record Shop, in Warwick.

She leaves a daughter, Lois Lindsey of Valley Center, Calif.; three sons, William Murray Jr. of Conway, S.C., Steven Murray of Long Beach, Calif., and Michael Murray of Redland, Calif.; a sister, Louise Gerstenblatt of Dover, N.H.; five grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren. She was

the sister of the late Arthur and Edward Berg. She was the friend of John Stilson of Cranston.

The funeral was held March 1 in Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

CLARE PARNESS
PHOENIX, Ariz. — Clare Parness, 85, of Scottsdale, Ariz., formerly of Providence, a saleslady for the jewelry firm of Zale's at its Chelmsford, Mass., store before retiring, died March 1 at Kivel Care Center, Phoenix. She was the wife of the late Frank Parness.

Born in New York city, a daughter of the late Frank and Rebecca (Silverman) Parness, she lived in Lowell, Mass., for 39 years, and Providence for 21 years, before moving to Scottsdale in 1995.

She attended Hunter College in New York City. She was a life member of Hadassah and a member of Har Zion Congregation, Scottsdale, and its Sisterhood. She was a member of the former Temple Beth Israel, Providence, and now Temple Torat Yisrael, and a former member of Congregation Sons of Jacob in Providence. She was a member of the Chama Senior Group in Scottsdale.

She leaves a daughter, Barbara Sharfman of Scottsdale, with whom she made her home; a son, Bruce Parness of Clermont, Fla.; a brother, Charles "Danny" Parness of East

Greenwich; a sister, Ethel Markowitz of Ashland, Ore.; four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. She was a sister of the late Max Parness.

A graveside funeral service was held March 3 at Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. The service was coordinated by Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence.

RUTH STONE
CRANSTON — Ruth Stone, 81, formerly of Villa Avenue, an employee of the Rhode Island Registry of Motor Vehicles before retiring 15 years ago, died March 1 at Cedar Crest Nursing Home. She was the wife of the late Ira M. Stone.

Born in Bristol, a daughter of the late Jacob and Fannie (Delerson) Molasky, she lived in Providence, Pawtucket and Bristol before moving to Cranston 20 years ago.

She was a graduate of Bryant & Stratton College, now Bryant College. In the 1950s she was the owner, with her husband, of the former Ira's Spa on Reservoir Avenue, Providence. She was later a housemother at the

former O'Rourke Children's Center in North Providence.

She was a member of the former Temple Beth Israel, Providence, now Temple Torat Yisrael in Cranston, where for many years she helped to serve breakfast to the bar mitzvah classes on Saturday mornings. She was active in the Sisterhood of the former Temple Beth Israel. She was a member of the Majestic Senior Guild of Cranston, with whom she traveled extensively, and a member of the Warwick Social Seniors. She had been a Girl Scout in Bristol, and later a Girl Scout leader in Providence. She was a member of the Mariner Ship Vigilant.

She leaves a daughter, Freda Lehrer of Cranston; a son, Elliot Stone of Stoughton, Mass.; and four grandchildren. She was a sister of the late Jessie and Harry Molasky, and Adrian Marlin.

The funeral service was held March 3 at Temple Torat Yisrael, Park Avenue, Cranston. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. The service was coordinated by Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence.

U.S. Rabbi Trains Egyptians to Maintain Kosher Embassy

by Marcia H. Kay
Washington Jewish Week
WASHINGTON (JTA) — Imagine teaching the household staff of the U.S. embassy in Egypt the laws of kashrut while at the same time telling them why an egg, although a product of an animal, is considered pareve.

That's what Rabbi Moshe Schreiber did when he traveled to Cairo recently to kasher the kitchen of the new U.S. ambassador to Egypt, Daniel Kurtzer.

Kurtzer and his wife, who are observant Jews, knew that they needed the hands of an expert to kasher both kitchens in their new home.

One kitchen, the main one, is used for entertaining; the other is the Kurtzers' personal kitchen.

The Kurtzers knew that keeping kosher wouldn't be easy in a country where kosher meat and other kosher staples are almost non-existent. Schreiber brought the family their first Shabbat meal with him from a Washington suburb.

Future kosher orders will be made through the U.S. commissary system, which is headquartered in Philadelphia.

The routine of kashering the embassy's kitchens was much like the routine used in kashering one's own home, Schreiber said. Many of the appliances in the kitchens were new and required no kashering.

But Schreiber hadn't been worried about cleaning appliances. He had been more concerned about teaching a staff of Egyptians, many of whom had never met a Jew in their lives.

But the rabbi, on his first trip to Egypt, discovered that his fears were unfounded.

"They were all very friendly and cooperative," he said.

During his two weeks at the embassy, Schreiber schooled the staff in the art of keeping a

kitchen kosher. "There were no philosophical discussions" about the whys and wherefores of kashrut, he said.

Schreiber explained the prohibition against mixing meat and milk together, not only in the cooking phase but in the eating portion of the meal.

He also taught them about the need to keep meat and milk dishes, pots, pans and silverware separate. "We placed signs all over the kitchen in Arabic," he said.

The Kurtzers knew that keeping kosher wouldn't be easy in a country where kosher meat and other kosher staples are almost non-existent.

Schreiber noted that Muslim law requires that meat be butchered in a certain manner and that observant Muslims, like observant Jews, don't eat pork. Explaining what types of foods are pareve presented the most problems.

"If milk comes from an animal, then they wanted to know why milk isn't considered a meat product," said Schreiber. In the end, Schreiber simply made a list of what products were pareve.

A blech, a piece of metal that covers the stove and stays warm for use during Shabbat, was made by the embassy staff. Schreiber explained to the staff the need to keep one burner on during Shabbat, which in turn keeps the blech warm. He also told the staff that all preparations for Shabbat should be complete by 4 p.m. on Friday.

The hardest part for the staff, he said, will "be remembering all the details."

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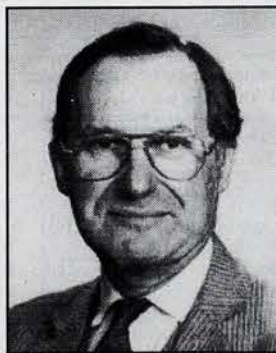
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Adoption R.I. Hosts 6th Annual Conference

Adoption Rhode Island will hold its sixth annual conference, *Building Families Through Adoption: A Lifetime Commitment*, on March 14 at Winman Junior High School in Warwick.

The daylong conference will feature more than 40 workshops on all types of adoption, with plenty to offer for people considering adoption, adoptive parents and their relatives and friends, and adoption professionals. Workshop topics will include introduction to adoption, single parent adoption, special needs adoption, biological and adoptive families, infant and international adoption, how do I know I'm ready to adopt? and more!

This year's keynote speaker

will be Dee Paddock, adoptive parent, psychotherapist, consultant, and founder of Families With a Difference.

Her keynote address, "Bent But Not Broken: Building Resilient Adoptive Families," will be an informative and entertaining presentation on building resilience into adoptive family life.

Car pools can be arranged for those who need transportation to the conference. Child care is also available.

Conference admission is \$25 per person. For more information and a conference brochure, call Adoption Rhode Island at 724-1910.

Do not allow the fee to prevent you from coming; call Adoption Rhode Island for reduced rate information.

Open House at UMass Dartmouth Observatory

The University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Observatory, located just west of the campus entrance, will hold an open house March 9, starting at 7 p.m., weather permitting. The public is invited.

The centerpiece of the observatory, which achieved "first light" during the fall of 1993, is the 14-inch diameter reflector telescope and its modern computer-controlled mount. Celestial images are recorded either by conventional photography or a state-of-the-art electronic camera. The observatory is used by faculty and students for in-class study as well as advanced research projects. Periodically, members of the local community are invited to view the sky during public open houses and scheduled group visits.

For more information about this or future observatory open houses or to schedule group visits, contact Professor Alan Hirschfeld at (508) 999-8715.

RI Civil War Roundtable

The Rhode Island Civil War Roundtable and the Cranston Public Library will host Gregg Mierka, curator of General Greene's Homestead, for his talk on General George Sears Greene, "Rhode Island's Generals."

The program will be held March 18 at 7 p.m. in the Will Hall Library Auditorium, 1825 Broad St. The program is free and open to the public.

For information, call 781-2450.

Car 'Junking' Benefits Meeting Street Center

Meeting Street Center/Easter Seal Society of Rhode Island, Inc. is looking for people who want to donate unwanted vehicles, in any condition, to help some very special individuals and at the same time, receive a valuable tax write-off. "Kars For Kids," the brainchild of Red's Auto, takes in donated vehicles, with all proceeds from the "junking" of them going to Meeting Street Center/Easter Seal Society of Rhode Island.

As a long-time effort for Meeting Street Center, "Kars For Kids" successfully brings in funds annually to help support the programs of the non-profit agency. The programs include Meeting Street School, Outpatient Rehabilitation Services, and the Metropolitan Region Early Intervention Program.

The center's mission is to work with individuals of all ages with disabilities and special needs, along with their families, in enabling them to achieve the highest quality of life and maximum independence.

To donate your unwanted vehicles and receive a valuable tax write-off in the "Kars For Kids" program, contact Katie Petrucci at 438-9500, ext. 231.

Nobel Prize Winner Speaks at BCC For Women's History Month

Vermont native Jody Williams, who won the Nobel Peace Prize for her efforts to ban land mines, will address the issues of Land Mines, War, Women's Security and Health Worldwide as part of Bristol Community College's celebration of Women's History Month. Williams' presentation is scheduled for March 13, at 10 a.m. in the Margaret L. Jackson Arts Center, Room H-209.

Also highlighting this year's calendar of events at the college are two photo exhibits, "Of Many Colors: Portraits of Mul-

tiracial Families" and "Love Makes a Family: Portraits of Lesbian and Gay Families."

"Of Many Colors," offers a powerful vision of the growing diversity of the American family. The exhibit runs from April 2 to 14. "Love Makes a Family," which combines text and photographs, allows viewers to experience the strength, support, and love found within gay and lesbian families. It opens on April 15 and runs through April 29.

For information, call (508) 678-2811, ext. 2392.

Beanie Baby Raffle Benefits R.I. Community Food Bank

The Brown University Bookstore will hold weekly raffles in March for the chance to win a "Princess" bear from The Beanie Babies Collection. The bookstore will donate all proceeds to the Rhode Island Community Food Bank.

Beginning March 6, tickets may be purchased for \$1 each at the bookstore's customer service desk. Drawings will be held at 1 p.m. on March 13, March 20 and March 27. Winners will be notified by mail or by phone, and do not need to be present at the time of the drawing.

For more information, call 863-3168.

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