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American Support for Israel Seen in Jubilee Celebrations

by Susan Jacobs
NEW YORK (JTA)—Americans have enthusiastically embraced Israel as the Jewish state celebrated its 50th year as an independent nation.

From cultural events featuring some of Israel's performing artists — to public celebrations in cities across the country, to extensive media coverage — Israel this year has received the kind of attention that few countries get when marking 50 years of independence.

An outpouring of support for Israel can naturally be expected from American Jews, but the active involvement of Americans who are not Jewish in the broad range of activities prompts the question: Why so much interest?

"This phenomenon reconfirms how interested people are in Israel. It's a chance to look back and look forward," said Steven Spiegel, a professor of political science at the University of California at Los Angeles who specializes in U.S.-Israel relations.

According to a national survey conducted by *The New York Times*, 57 percent of Americans said they have a generally favorable opinion of Israel. Some 76 percent believe the United States has a vital interest in Israel, while 15 percent do not, according to the poll, which the *Times* published just days before Israelis celebrated Independence Day.

The *Times* was one of several major dailies across the country that ran a special series, in conjunction with Israel's jubilee, that analyzed how far Israel has come in its brief history, as well as the turmoils, domestic and foreign, that still trouble the small nation.

"Israel is different than other countries. It was created at a

specific time in history for a specific reason," said Andrew Rosenthal, the *Times'* foreign editor.

"The establishment of the state of Israel in the middle of this century was a major event," said Rosenthal. "The question of what will happen to Israel" has been a concern since the state's creation.

As Israelis marked their jubilee on April 30, the day of independence according to the Hebrew calendar, Americans also gathered to join in the celebrations.

In New York, for example, thousands gathered for a mid-day celebration that also marked the city's annual Jewish Heritage Week. Elementary school students from public schools and Jewish day schools attended, and the lunchtime entertainment also attracted office workers from nearby offices.

In southern Florida, Norman Braman, chairman of the Israel at 50 celebrations for greater Miami, said, "The community has rallied" in support of the Jewish state.

The Greater Miami Jewish Federation raised \$1 million in a special fund-raising campaign for a series of Israel 50 events that began last month and will continue into the summer. "Over half of the funding was from the non-Jewish community," said Braman.

Jewish communities across the United States have been celebrating the anniversary since last fall by hosting a range of cultural performances by traveling Israeli groups. In some American cities, non-Jews have also expressed public support for the Jewish state, joining in the commemorative events.

Kenneth Stein, a professor of

Middle Eastern studies at Emory University in Atlanta, said that given the depth of American interest in Israel, he was not surprised that widespread celebrations have been taking place.

"It would be noticeable if no one cared," said Stein.

For the New York-based Israeli official who has been coordinating the appearances around the country of Israeli musicians, singers and artists, the American focus on Israel this year is not surprising.

Israel this year has received the kind of attention that few countries get when marking 50 years of independence.

"The history of the state of Israel is not just the history of another state," said Rafi Gamzou, Israel's consul for cultural affairs. "One has to be short-sighted if he doesn't get the dimensions of the jubilee."

The Israeli Consulate in New

York has coordinated cultural events featuring Israeli performers throughout the United States. The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., hosted six full weeks of cultural events in honor of Israel at 50 and during the summer Lincoln Center in New York will host a festival featuring productions by Israeli theatrical groups.

The commemorations in the United States stand in contrast to the jubilee celebrations in Israel, which have been marred by divisive political debates over how to characterize the nation's history and religious conflicts. These debates peaked on Independence Day, when a leading Israeli dance troupe canceled its appearance at the main jubilee event because of objections raised by fervently Orthodox leaders.

"There's more celebration in the United States than in Israel, partly because American Jews have a deep but more vicarious purpose in celebrating," said Stein. "Israelis have more issues they deal with on a daily basis."

But there has been some dissent with the ranks of American Jewry.

At least one rabbi organized an alternative celebration.

"We are very supportive of Israel, but we also want to recognize the pain of the Palestinian people and the tragedy that we continue to occupy the West Bank," said Rabbi Michael Lerner, who is the spiritual leader of Beit Tikkun, a Jewish renewal congregation in San Francisco.

"There's a lot to celebrate," said Lerner. "Israel has accomplished a lot in 50 years."

But he also maintained that there is widespread ambivalence among American Jews toward Israel because of such issues as the peace process and religious pluralism. "A very small percentage of Jews will be participating [in Israel at 50 events]. A much larger percent participate in holidays like Chanukah and Passover."

But for the vast majority of American Jews, unity in support of Israel's achievements has been the main theme of celebratory events.

"People get focused on the tensions of the moment," said Spiegel. Israel's jubilee is "an opportunity to look beyond the moment."

JCCRI Annual Meeting Stresses Partnership and Growth

by Emily Torgan-Shalansky
Jewish Community Reporter

At the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island's 73rd Annual Meeting Rabbi Wayne Franklin commented on the event's program before installing the officers and directors.

The image on the program's cover showed concentric circles rippling across water.

"This is an apt metaphor for community service," Franklin declared. "There must be a catalyst that takes the plunge to create this ripple effect, and you who serve will be that catalyst."

At the meeting, representatives from the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island and the United Way of Southeastern New England promised to help the JCCRI and its officers to create such ripples.

"The JCCRI provides a warm, safe environment to all who enter it," said Ed Feldstein, president of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island. "The JFRI will be your partner. We will provide over \$470,000 to the JCCRI in the upcoming year."

Dennis Murphy, president of the United Way of Southeastern New England, said his organization was working on a 5-year strategic plan to help organizations such as the JCCRI.

"In the year ahead, we will be sharing ideas and expanding our partnership so that we can expand our role in the greater community," he said. "We wish you well and promise you our support."

Shortly thereafter, JCCRI president Alan Litwin and JCCRI Executive Director Vivian Weisman discussed highlights from the previous year and the challenges that lie ahead.

As he entered his third term, Litwin said that the JCCRI had initiated a new long-range planning strategy, improved its public relations department and obtained a brand-new computer system.

"We identified public relations as a weak area, so now we have [public relations director] Liz Prager," he said. "We have implemented a new computer system. We now have e-mail, and within the next few months we will have a home page."

Litwin elaborated on the treasurer's report, originally delivered by Douglas Emanuel.

According to Emanuel, in 1997 the JCCRI had produced an \$85,000 surplus that had been utilized to meet its greater-than-expected expenses.

"We broke even," declared

Litwin, who then said that this year, the JCCRI Board and Executive Committee would be working to improve the organization's fundraising efforts.

"We will be going forward with a program to obtain corporate sponsorship," Litwin said.

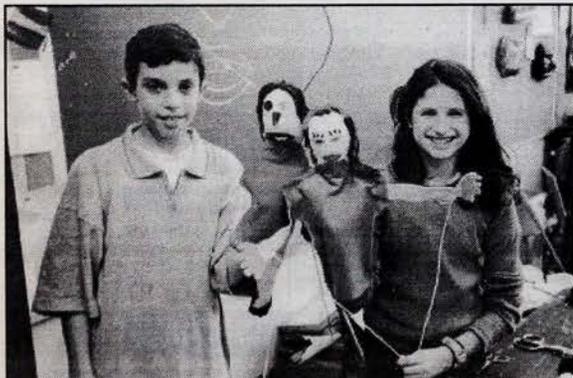
In addition, he explained, the organization will continue to upgrade its Preschool Program, and will examine the Health and Fitness center, a big draw for prospective members.

Next, Weisman said she had enjoyed working with other community organizations during an exciting year that had included Israel's 50th anniversary.

"There were the Maccabiah Games, Perspectives, and the new video library [at the Board of Jewish Education.] This was the first time we were able to send a team to the regional games, and this year, we're going to be sending a team to the national games as well," said Weisman.

At the meeting, JCCRI volunteers Barbara Feibelman, Stephanie Penzell, Kathy Sternfels, Alena Kacal, Alla Goman, Douglas and Stacy Emanuel and Harley and Donna

(Continued on Page 3)



ASDS Students Make Puppets

Sixth-grade students Zack Lichaa and Danille Wachtenheim of Alperin Schechter Day School display the puppets they created, with inspiration provided by puppeteer Dan Butterworth. (See page 15).

Photo courtesy of ASDS

HAPPENINGS

A Century of Song

Celebrate the century through songs, poetry and narration from musical theater and old favorites in English, Yiddish and Hebrew on May 17 at 2 p.m. at the Leventhal-Sidman Jewish Community Center, Newton, Mass. Reception following performance. The performance is sponsored by a partnership of Leventhal-Sidman JCC, Jewish Community Housing for the Elderly, Jewish Family & Children's Service and Hebrew Rehabilitation Center for Aged. Tickets are \$5 in advance, \$7 at the door. To purchase tickets, call the box office at (617) 965-5226.

Volunteer Opportunities at the JFK Library and Museum

The John F. Kennedy Library and Museum located in Boston, Mass., is currently seeking volunteers to work as museum aides, administrative assistants, mailroom clerks, and event staff. Interested applicants should call Levina Kim at (617) 929-1236 for further information and an application.

'A Night to Howl'

Volunteer Services for Animals will host "A Night to Howl," May 29 at Bryant College. The evening of fun and fund-raising that will include a dinner, entertainment and silent auction, is VSA's major fund-raising event of the year. Tickets will be \$30 and can be ordered from VSA Headquarters, 27 Dryden Lane, Providence 02904, or by calling 273-0358.

VSA is a non-profit organization dedicated to the welfare of the lost, stray and abandoned animals of the community, with special concern for those in the municipal shelters.

The Write Intentions Read

A group of local writers who call themselves The Write Intentions will read from a new anthology of their work at the Barrington Public Library on May 19 at 7:30 p.m. The anthology, entitled *Quarters of the Mind*, includes poems by members Lee Glantz, Ada Jill Schneider and Nancy Abercrombie and prose selections by Nancy A. Messinger.

The idea behind the title, *Quarters of the Mind*, is that the chapbook explores, as group members posit, "Four different people, four different backgrounds, four different writing styles." Group members Abercrombie, Glantz, Messinger and Schneider have met regularly to critique each other's writing since 1993.

This program is free and open to the public.

Calendar: May 14 thru May 24

- 14 **Lag B'Omer Celebration** at Chabad House, Providence, 6 p.m. Call 273-7238. **Perishable Theatre** presents "We Got Boxes," May 14 to 17, Providence. One-act comedy by local playwright Rick Massimo. Call for tickets, 331-2695. **Rites & Reasons Theatre** at Brown University presents "Ophelia's Cotillion," a new musical, May 14 to 31. For tickets, call 863-3558.
- 15 "How I Learned to Drive," Pulitzer Prize-winning play by Paula Vogel at Trinity Rep., May 15 to June 28, Providence. Call 351-4242. **Sunset Hike with Llamas**, hike through forest trails with Llamas, Cumberland. Call 334-1873. **Cranston Public Library Book Sale**, May 15 to 18. Call 781-2450. "Ballet Divertissement," May 15 to 16 at R.I. College, Providence. For tickets, call 334-2560.
- 16 **Leventhal-Sidman JCC Singles Dance**, Newton, Mass., 8:30 p.m. Call (617) 558-6408. **Edgewood Garden Club** of Cranston sponsors plant sale, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., 2210 Broad St., Cranston (Pawtuxet Village). Call 785-9599. **Plant-A-thon**, 9:30 to noon. Join first plant-a-thon with plant lovers combing hills and valleys of Rte. 1, W. Greenwich. Call 783-5895. **South County Museum Civil War Weekend**, May 16 and 17 at Battle of Canonchet Farm. For information or tickets, call 789-9537.
- 17 **Hike the Vingormley Trail**. Join young adults from Perspectives and the Wood Pacawtuck Watershed Assoc. for an easy trail hike around Wachaug Pond and through the Kimball Wildlife Refuge, approximately 8 miles, total 3 1/2 hours. To register, call 539-9017. **Touro Synagogue Hebrew School Graduation**, Newport, 11 a.m. **Birds & Breakfast**, 6 a.m. to 12 noon. Enjoy homemade breakfast followed by guided birdwalk through 450-acre refuge at Norman Bird Sanctuary, Middletown. Call 846-2577. **Jazz Kids in concert** directed by Willie Kyyette, 1:30 p.m. at Books on the Square, Providence. 331-9097. **R.I. Jewish Historical Assoc.**, annual meeting, Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island, Providence, 1:30 p.m. Call 331-1360. **Congregation Ohawe Sholam Flea Market**, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Pawtucket. Call 725-4445. **Pawtucket Hadassah** hosts brunch at Temple Emanu-El, 10:30 a.m., Providence.
- 21 **Gallery Night Art Trolley**, 5 to 9 p.m. Hop on free Art Trolley for a guided tour of historic Fox Point & College Hill, Providence. Call 751-1177. **Providence Athenaeum** introduces Philbrick Poetry Award and chapbook series, poet Richard Wilbur will read at 7:30 p.m. He is the author of numerous volumes of poetry. For information, call 421-6970.
- 22 **Wickford Art Association Exhibit**, photography show. Call 294-6840.
- 23 **Annual Blossoms and Sweet Sale**, 7:30 to noon. Homebaked goods and plants for sale, Little Compton. Call 635-8874. "Virtu" Art Festival, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. More than 100 New England artists exhibit and sell artwork and fine crafts, Wilcox Park, Westerly. Call 596-7761. **Gaspee Days Arts & Crafts Festival**, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., May 23 to 25. More than 130 vendors, Warwick. Call 781-1772. **Yom Yerushalayim** — commemorating the 31st anniversary of the liberation of Jerusalem.

South County Hadassah Dinner

The South County Group of Rhode Island Hadassah will hold a paid-up membership dinner on May 20 at 7:30 p.m. This event will be held at a private home. All are welcome.

A \$5.00 donation is requested from those who are not paid-up members. For further information, call Joani at 295-2954.

Brown University Art Exhibits

The following exhibits are sponsored by Brown University:

Cold War: Ukrainian Posters on Perestroika, 1987 to 1990. As part of the End of the Cold War conference, a joint effort between Brown University's Thomas J. Watson Jr. Institute for International Studies and the Mershon Center at Ohio State University, the John Hay Library will present an exhibition titled Ukrainian Posters on Perestroika in the Soviet Union, 1987 to 1990. For information, contact Nancy Soukup Watson Institute, at 863-7425. Now through May 31.

A Splendid Little War marks centenary of Spanish-American War. To commemorate the centenary of the Spanish-American War, the Anne S.K. Brown Military Collection at the brown University Library, in conjunction with Frederic A. Sharf of Shannon, Mass., is presenting a major exhibition which explores the artistic interpretation of the war as demonstrated by the artists and illustrators who covered it for the illustrated press. The exhibition, *A Splendid Little War, 1898: The Artists' Perspective*, is at the Annmary Brown Memorial Library, 21 Brown St., through June 19.

Exhibition Marks 500th Anniversary of Portuguese Expansion. The John Carter Brown Library will present an exhibition titled *Vasco da Gama and Portuguese Expansion* through Sept. 30 at the library, located on the College Green near George Street. The exhibition will mark the 500th anniversary of Vasco da Gama's May 1948 landing in India, establishing the first direct connection between Europe and the eastern spice trade. The exhibition will feature approximately 50 books, maps and illustrations taken from the collections of the John Carter Brown Library.

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Reservoir Ave.

Providence and Vicinity

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

JEWISH COMMUNITY

JCCRI Preschoolers Take a Trip on Israel's 50th

by Emily Torgan-Shalansky
Jewish Community Reporter

Youthful spirits and imaginations soared when April 29, the departure date, finally arrived.

Dutifully carrying "passports" stamped "Israel" and paper bag knapsacks created by their teachers, 120 JCCRI preschoolers between the ages of 2 and 6 stepped into the hallway and sat down on carefully arranged rows of chairs.

After listening to a series of airline sounds that ended with a recording of an actual El Al pilot welcoming his passengers to Israel, the youngsters jumped to their feet, thrilled to be entering the JCCRI classrooms that student and faculty efforts had transformed into Israeli cities and regions.

"We wanted to give the students an overall awareness of Israel as a Jewish homeland, and to make them understand Israel as a beautiful place," explained Kathy Novick, JCCRI preschool curriculum specialist, as excited children milled from room to room. "We saw Israel's 50th anniversary as an opportunity to learn, and we wanted them to participate in a meaningful way."

Beginning in December, Novick said, the entire JCCRI Preschool Program faculty designed and created the installations as well as the lessons necessary to reinforce them.

To get to "Jerusalem," youngsters walked through a classroom door decorated with a cardboard Jaffa gate.

Wearing visors made from paper plates to block the harsh Israeli sun, they grabbed handfuls of chocolate coins to shop at cardboard shuk for falafel, fresh oranges and beaded jewelry.

Then, with assistance from the faculty, groups of children wrote prayers on small pieces of paper, then tucked them into the cracks of a Western Wall comprised of sponges.

Moving into "Beersheva," children gathered around a sand table to take part in an "archeological dig" for ancient Israeli coins to take home while munching the date brownies that introduced them to the region's crops.

"We made the 'coins' from a aster-of-paris coin mold, then tinted them," said Novick.

In a classroom that replicated Afula-Gilboa, a part of the lower Galilee traditionally known for its kibbutzim, youngsters surrounded a papier-mache cow and tugged on a water-filled glove suspended from its abdomen to "milk" it.

"They also measured the 'milk,' so it served as a math lesson," explained Novick.

Because Afula-Gilboa is also noted for its sunflower products, children also planted sunflower seedlings and placed them under a grow light.

As the interactive exhibition continued, the youngsters made fish prints and orange juice at the Sea of Galilee, stopped in Chaifa to take in pictures of the city and to try out some Israeli dance steps, then headed for Eilat.

"We wanted to give the students an overall awareness of Israel as a Jewish homeland."

Kathy Novick

To gain familiarity with the coastal city, they sifted through a sand table covered with seashells, contemplated a science exhibit of replicas of ocean life, and dipped magnetized fishing poles into a wading pool to catch construction paper fish that bore paper clips on their bodies.

At Masada, which was depicted with brown construction paper and paints, youngsters manned a clever pulley system fitted with paper cups to transport visitors up and down.

As the four-hour vacation came to a close, many tired but excited youngsters lingered around the exhibits and shared their adventures.

"I liked the shuk best, because I like to buy things," explained Samantha Pilivan, a 5-year-old.

"I liked Eilat, because I love to fish," said Devin Samuels, also 5. "Someday I'll really go fishing in Israel."

Museum Director

Coordinate educational resource center and outreach program.
Enhance and administer development.
Oversee marketing and public relations.

Send Resume to:

E. Frank
RI Holocaust Memorial Museum
401 Elm Grove Avenue
Providence, RI 02906

Correction

On page 3 of the May 7 issue a photo was incorrectly identified as Albert Silverstein, URI professor and intertransport survivor. The Herald regrets the error.

NCJW Honors Riesmans

by Emily Torgan-Shalansky
Jewish Community Reporter

Stormy skies did not dampen spirits at the National Council of Jewish Women's 1998 Community Service Award Luncheon honoring Marcia and Robert Riesman.

Despite the rains that raged outside, some 200 people arrived at the Marriott Hotel, shaking first umbrellas then hands before sitting down to the 20th annual luncheon.

After Committee Chairperson Eunice Greenfield stepped to the podium to thank about 55 NCJW members for their efforts with a witty poem, section copresident Nan Levine provided an update on the Rhode Island section and the organization's present goals.

"We are a volunteer organization inspired by Jewish values," said Levine of the NCJW, the oldest national Jewish women's volunteer organization. "Through research, educa-

tion, and community service, we work to ensure individual rights and freedom."

Levine emphasized NCJW's long-standing commitments to

preserving abortion rights and ensuring adequate childcare. She discussed the new Ruth Markoff/NCJW Library Media

(Continued on Page 19)



AT THE NCJW 1998 Community Service Award Luncheon, Dorothy Nelson (left) congratulates honorees Marcia and Robert Riesman.

Herald photo by Emily Torgan-Shalansky

JCC Annual Meeting (Continued from Page 1)

1998-1999 Slate of Officers

President Alan Litwin; 1st Vice President Barbara Harris; Vice President Charles Adler; Vice President Jenny Klein; Vice President Marlene Fishman Wolpert; Treasurer Douglas Emanuel; Associate Treasurer Rose Mossberg Malkin; Secretary Paul Formal; Associate Secretary Cindy Feinstein

Slate of Directors

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Bruce Chozick, Paula Finkelman, Merylee Felder, Sharon Gaines, Jules Gelade, Arnold Kaufman, Paul Kazarian, Cantor Robert Lieberman, Cathy Mann, Jeffrey Padwa, Debra Page, Susan Sklarek, Lori Ullman

2-Year Term (1998-2000)

Herta Hoffman

1-Year Term (1998-1999)

Lisa Bergman, Deborah Raskin, Lawrence Soforenko

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Frank received citations for their efforts, and Erin Barry received the C.S. & I.S. Low Award for youth leadership.



Alan H. Litwin
JCCRI president

Herald photo by Emily Torgan-Shalansky

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OPINION

Remembering Forgotten Names

To the Editor:

We proudly celebrate the 50th anniversary of the State of Israel. Names of many prominent individuals, national and local, who were major figures at this time are frequently mentioned within the aspects of the media.

However, two important names are consistently omitted. Former American Presidents, Harry S Truman and Richard M. Nixon, were both leading participants within the annals of the State of Israel.

When Israel, as yet unnamed, was about to be declared a state

on May 14, 1948, tremendous pressure was put on Truman not to recognize its existence. His own State Department was rabidly pro-Arab. Members of both his State Department and of Congress raved about the dire need for Arab oil. Others claimed the Arabs would push Israel into the sea.

The Secretary of State Gen. George Marshall, the architect and hero of World War II, was adamantly against recognition, and threatened to resign his post. He spoke on the subject with all the weight of his repu-

tation, his face purple and his anger just barely under control.

To the British, Truman was "carelessly pro-Zionist." The position of many distinguished White House personnel, and other ranking public individuals were based on anti-Semitism, and not on diplomacy.

On May 14, 1948, at midnight in Jerusalem, 6 p.m. in Washington, the first Jewish State in 2,000 years was declared in existence by David Ben-Gurion. Eleven minutes later, at the White House, President Harry S Truman, by virtue of being the leader in this country, and the most powerful man in the world, announced the recognition of the State of Israel, the first chief executive of any country to take this action. He, therefore, brought the prestige and support of this country to this fledgling nation. This great president, against all odds, performed an act of justice, humanity and moral ethics with courage and dignity, without regard to political expediency.

The *Rhode Island Jewish Herald* published a letter I wrote to the editor (Aug. 3, 1995) in defense of Richard Nixon, written on the occasion of the death of Rabbi Baruch Korff on July 26, 1995, in Providence.

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A Vision For The 21st Century

by Velvel 'Wally' Spiegler

The new millennium already promises to be characterized by a radical shift in consciousness. We're already seeing the effects of this momentum. Some call it the New Age, the paradigm shift, the Age of Aquarius but however it's labeled we're seeing its budding effects with such concerns as the environment, civil rights, and the return of many to the roots of their heritage, their religion. Two recent *New York Times* best-sellers, Gary Zukov's *Seat of the Soul* and James Redfield's *The Celestine Prophecy* suggest this new consciousness. The message they broadcast predicts a higher dimension, a fourth dimension, a spiritual level beyond that of ordinary consciousness, a place where we can view life from a loftier crest. Judaism needs to be at the forefront of this movement. We need to fulfill our imperative to be a holy nation, a light among the nations of the world; we can only do this by first creating peace, harmony, and unity among ourselves.

The plurality issues we are witnessing, on the outset, seem to have reached a dead end; Orthodox spokesmen have faith that their cause will eventually prevail while non-Orthodox groups continue the battle in

court or in the political arena. The proposed solution lies in spiritual Judaism, in approaching the higher consciousness. Certain extraordinary Jewish sages practiced Kabbalah since the days of the Temple in Jerusalem. To the surprise of many, Kabbalah is not the philosophical or intellectual pursuit that it appears to be. It's a meditative practice that's designed to teach the practitioner deep self-understanding or as the ancient adage implied "know thyself." Self-knowledge is the basis of the spiritual life. Getting close to G-d is synonymous with deeply exploring the contents of consciousness; the closer we get, the more joyful and euphoric life becomes.

This will create a Judaism that brings us back to Torah in such a way that traditional forms remain unchanged but we will change by the new Jewish spirituality. This would not require a restructuring of Judaism: no need to delve into Eastern religions, no need to create new forms of prayer and rituals. Judaism has everything built in to provide a rich spiritual life. We would, however, have to learn to look deep within to find spiritual satisfaction from our own congregations, from our own rabbis and cantors.

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The Feinstein Chronicles

May 1998 — No. 10

A Day in The Life...

8:45 a.m. — Off to elementary schools in West Greenwich and Coventry... Told all students of their power to do good. Thanked them for all the good deeds they have been doing. Asked them to promise no day would pass without them doing at least one good deed for someone else.

11:30 a.m. — Back at the office. Answering messages/mail.

12:15 p.m. — Telephone conference with national hunger activists — how best to get federal government to help us meet needs of 10 million hungry Americans.

12:30 p.m. — Discussion with public education fund director on Feinstein Scholarships next year.

1:25 — Fast lunch — leftovers.

2 p.m. — Making notes for speech at Rotary affair tonight.

3 p.m. — Conference call with Johnson & Wales community service staff on next R.I. projects.

4 p.m. — Visit from J & W president to discuss graduate school.

5:30 p.m. — Visit from neighborhood children for candy.

5:45 p.m. Writing "Chronicles" column due tomorrow.

6 p.m. — Looking for my notes for Rotary speech tonight.

7 p.m. — Looking for parking space near Rotary affair.

7:30 p.m. — Giving speech asking Rotary to match \$1 million challenge to feed hungry Americans and join me in telling our government to make ending hunger a priority.

10 p.m. Back home.

10:45 p.m. Preparing notes for visits to Burrillville and Woonsocket elementary schools tomorrow.

11:30 p.m. — Bedtime. Wife away — miss her. Hope I can find a clean shirt tomorrow. Must remember to get more candy.

Alan Shawn Feinstein
The Feinstein Foundation

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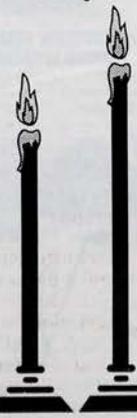
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Candlelighting

May 15, 1998

7:41 p.m.



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

Lag B'Omer

The Counting of the Omer

Fifty days separated the going out of Egypt from the giving of the Torah. Each day from the second night on was counted by the Jews, and each day's higher number reflected a progress from the previous day in the preparation to receive the Torah. We, too, are commanded to count each day from the second night of Pesach until Shavuot, the festival marking the giving of the Torah. We use this time to prepare ourselves, each day more than the day before, to be ready to receive the Torah anew.

The counting of these 49 days, which is done with a blessing every night after the evening prayers, is called "The counting of the Omer." These days are given the name Omer, from the offering which was brought to the Holy Temple on the second day of Pesach, the night of which the counting begins. The Omer offering is a certain measurement of grain from the new crop offered to G-d. Only after this offering was brought were the rest of the grains from the new crop permitted to be used. An offering of barley was brought on Pesach, while on Shavuot, two loaves of bread baked from wheat of the new crop were presented.

Submitted by Rabbi Laufer, Chabad House, Providence.

Acceptable For You

by Lucy H.F. Dinner

We who stand so removed from the ancient world of blemishless priests and burnt offerings, in this week's Torah portion, still have a great deal to learn from the depiction of the priestly duties in *Parashat Emor*. Though the details of the sacrifices may be distasteful to our 20-century palate, they reveal an underlying attitude that the priests were to bring to their duties. A twist on one world in this portion teaches that beyond the particular offerings, attitude is paramount.

In Leviticus 22:19, Moses instructs Aaron and his sons that the sacrifices must be "acceptable for you," *lirtzonchem*. Why does the text state "acceptable for you" and not "acceptable for G-d"? Rashi interprets phrase to mean "propitiation for you before [G-d]." The offering serves to accrue goodwill for the priest; it counts on his behalf.

The phrase "acceptable for you" suggests an obligation beyond the physical *mitzvah* performed by the priest. "Acceptable for you" implies a willingness and desire by the priests to make an offering worthy before themselves and G-d. Prior to the priests' inspection of the of-

fering good conducts. (Nehama Leibowitz, *Studies in Leviticus*, p. 207)

The completion of the *mitzvah* hinges on the intention combined with the action.

From its early years, Reform Judaism has emphasized the prime importance of the books of the Prophets that teach that acts of goodness and justice outweigh meaningless sacrifices. For generations, Reform Jews interpreted the prophets as casting aside ritual for the centrality of righteous acts. Yet, the Torah never meant for it to be an either/or choice. The vain offerings, the ones made without desire for acceptance, those were the offerings rejected. Jewish rituals are only complete when they combine action and intention to affect the way one lives.

When we participate in a *mitzvah*, the act is only complete if we bring our willing-

(Continued on Page 19)

Living Torah

fering for blemishes or defects, they must first assure that they come with a willing mindset. Intention matters.

Nehama Leibowitz, '1, a renowned Torah scholar of our day, shares a similar sentiment, interpreting further verses of Leviticus 22.

The exactness and loving care with which [one] performs a precept raises its value in [one's] eyes. The *mitzvah* [one] performs is a symbolic act, a means of



Bravo and Encore

by Mike Fink
Herald Contributing Reporter

There wasn't a false note or a dry eye at the Three Cantors Concert. Wait a minute. If you picked up a missed bit of melody, it may be because even the Philharmonic performers played with tears streaming down their faces, blurring the little scribbles on the music.

Cantor Robert Lieberman pours out the deep sounds and invests them with his joy and his gusto. Cantor Brian Mayer brings his eloquence and enthusiasm to their duets, which work with the zest and humor of The Ink Spots of long ago. Mixed with the whimsy of their alliance is the rich melancholy: the juxtaposition is what moves us. And then, stunning and shining in a green gown, Cantor Ida Rae Cahana looms upon the stage with the inspiration and grandeur of the Statue of Liberty! Her voice thrills and uplifts.

Once again, even the announcements were presented with the poise and tact we have come to expect from the representatives of the Jewish Federation—the love of Israel that shines forth from the eyes and in the words of Myrna Rosen, and from the straightforward clarity and concern of Edward Feldstein. This reporter found himself wiping his eyes right from the start of the show.

My son beside me never noticed that I was gasping and stifling sounds the whole time! The program carried us along throughout the history of our holy land, from ancient times through terrible recent events and leading to the inevitable, and superb version of, the "Hatikvah," which combines the Zionism of pre-Holocaust to

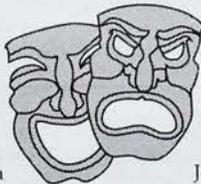
the patriotic pride of Now. I'm sure each of you who were there has a favorite piece, a choice word, a credit to render among the many people who put the fabulous act together. I can only share a tiny corner of the universal acclaim and congratulate everybody equally.

What an audience! You saw everybody in town you ever knew, and at the reception in the lobby following the finale, I overheard a few comments. "I thought it was perfect!" said Abe Shapiro, whose wife

Larisa sang in the chorus. They are from Russia, a refined, delicate, handsome couple, who speak about the differences and similarities between Jews and "Russians."

"The Russians drink more vodka, but I knew a few Jews who could hold their own," smirked Abe, who was proud as punch spiked with vodka of his wife's voice and verve with the choir.

Remember the slogan "Israel Is Real" of a few poster seasons ago? That's how you emerged into the spring twilight after "Three Cantors." You felt the triumph and the fulfillment of this small nation now 50, along with the awful tragedies, sacrifices and sorrows sewn into the fabric, scattered into the soil, of the land around Jerusalem the capital. It was paced to perfection: you heard "Ha-Kotel"—the ballad of the Western Wall—just before the anthem, and it summed up the show. Congratulations to all for making it shine there in the marvelously restored halls of the Veterans Memorial Auditorium at the brink of the month of May.



Lost Children, Mother and Child

by Mike Fink
Herald Contributing Reporter

Catch the last weekend of "Kindertransport" and don't miss the last train or boat to the NewGate Theatre. It's really a superb piece of work and offers an evening of authentic value.

I found a parking lot right smack next door to the church entrance where you take an elevator up to the intimate squared-off space where the performance is held. All you see is a trunk at stage center and a few pieces of furniture around the edges where the seats are only a footstep away from the action.

Excuse me for taking so long to get into the play. You have two actresses taking the same central role, one a youngster with a German accent and the other a matron with British cockney slang. An elder seems to switch her body language, aging a full generation from scene to scene or even in mid-movement. It takes a moment to catch on. This is the moving and dreadful tale of a girl sent away from her luxurious, but profoundly unsettled, life in 1939 to an uncertain fate in pre-war England over the rough channel into solitude.

Her adoptive mother is kind, but unaware of the depth of the anxiety of her charge. A sort of chorus of girls with the fake surname "Sarah" files past around the perimeter of the dramatic focus and small spotlight. There is a stalwart daughter who opens that trunk and digs out the secrets of the family past. I can't go on about the plot to any point except to celebrate the passion, skill, poetry, and care with which the story is projected. The actors themselves were deeply involved with the parts they played. Even the audience, some of whom had been hidden children themselves, only add to the meaning of the evening.

There are some surprises even at the very brink of the close, and the script was put together from a number of sources. The survivors of this

chapter of the Holocaust had mixed reports of their lives in Britain. Some found hills of happiness, others only wells of loneliness. Some were dealt with nobly, others signably. Jews went to Palestine or fought the Nazis. Others blended in and buried their past. A few parents made their way "out" and joined their lost children. Many died horribly in the camps, leaving orphans safe but unsound. The effort to translate a special generation for the select congregation who gather for these performances has a nobility of its own. It also has a forthright femi-

I stayed briefly after the show to meet the cast. I shook hands with director Steven Pennell and some cast members including "Eva," Alletta Cooper, and the later "Evelyn," her adult and English self, Janette Gregorian. Janette wiped the tears, not the mascara, from her eyes as she told me she compared the basic tale to that of her own Armenian relatives. "They too died in a genocide not acknowledged either by the murderers and their heirs, or even by the public, which generally simply doesn't know what happened."

This NewGate repertory com-



The cast of "Kindertransport" Photo courtesy of NewGate Theatre

nism. Playwright Diane Samuels reveals ties and troubles between mothers and daughters in a script that has only short speeches for men, either benign or threatening.

pany puts out a mission statement which bears printing here. "We are committed to producing new and established works which challenge both artists and audiences." That about sums it all up.

Long Live The King of Lines

by Mike Fink
Herald Contributing Reporter

It took 10 years for Susan W. Dryfoos to show Al Hirschfeld the result in 35 mm of all that videotaping and filming she had done of his life and work. "Gee, I wish I were 90 again," he told her and added, "I don't look back on the past. I am eager for the future!" Now keep in mind that Al Hirschfeld, the scribbler of those wild line sketches of the great stars of stage and screen, is now 95 and going strong, still driving and going out on dates!

The writer-director of "The Line King"—which won an academy award nomination for best documentary—brought the print to town to show at the R.I.S.D. auditorium in the presence of the alumni, board of trustees, students in the film and video departments, and a general audience that includes her own son. I'll tell you, it was a marvelous, even miraculous, accomplish-

ment. Al Hirschfeld caricatured virtually everybody throughout our century, and that includes Garbo and Dietrich, Hepburn and Josephine Baker, Ella Fitzgerald and Satchmo (Louis Armstrong) and Judy Garland and Liza Minnelli. Your eyes move over, under, around and through all the famous faces and bodies including your favorites, and you roar with laughter at the gentle satire of his free-wheeling pen.

This reviewer enjoyed every single moment of a lengthy and thorough but ever restless and always entertaining quest for the essence of a remarkable artist. Al brought delight and joie de vivre to every touch of ink, the moving dot that dances with Astaire and shares the virtues of style, light-hearted elegance, and a mix of perfectionism and debonair care-free whimsy.

Hirschfeld was born in 1903 to an odd family, a hardworking mom and an unemployed house-

husband dad. He got both the effort and the effortlessness as his heritage, and his longevity into the bargain. "G.B.S. claimed he earned his long life from not smoking, drinking or eating meat. But Churchill credited the cigars and the brandy. So what can I add?" tosses off the impish and unpredictable cartoonist.

Susan Dryfoos has made a movie that traces the history of American theatre at its liveliest and most creative, but it never mourns, never drags, never misses a beat, replacing sentimentality with understatement and the sharpest, and also gentlest, wit. We hear Maria Riva, Dietrich's daughter and biographer, pay homage to Hirschfeld, but we also tune in on the irony of Al's daughter, who has two children, but

"never found the right man," because she was too close to her dad. You may recall that Al's trademark has always been to write the name "Nina" in every single drawing he ever made.

The screening was followed by a question and answer session, and I made so bold as to ask something that was on my mind.

First, I expressed my thanks for a wondrous afternoon with Susan and Al, who made this dynamite flick together. Then I put it this way. "His pen with its exaggerations and yet basic good will is just pure Yiddish in line instead of word. Why is there never any recognition of his Jewish identity?"

Susan W. Dryfoos rose to the issue. "I wanted to bring it up as well. But he wouldn't bite." So I

went away thinking that each generation sets up its own rules. The first thing Jews did in America was to fit in and make do and create a new culture here. Now we go back and want to regain a lost cause. Among the parents of students in the auditorium I met a couple who said, "Jews will vanish because they love it here and have found the freedom they sought." I couldn't tell if they were bragging or complaining. They introduced me to their son. I hoped next year he might take my course in Jewish Narrative and mix it in with my Hollywood History survey. Then "Line King" could come back in full force, growing like a seed planted in the merry merry month of May.

A postscript. The Disney studio credits Hirschfeld with the inspiration for its geni and magic creatures, whose flexibility comes from the study of Al's career. Imagine that! 95 years young!



JEWISH COMMUNITY

Local Authors Chronicle Jews of Rhode Island

by Tara V. Lisciandro
Herald Editor

They finished each others sentences and thoughts. No matter what they were asked, with one simple glance they both shared the same thoughts. This may be the reason for their new book, *Jews of Rhode Island 1658-1958*, (Arcadia, April 1998) being completed in just a little more than one year. Both Geraldine Foster and Eleanor Horvitz (as well as Judith Weiss Cohen, co-author, editor and friend, to whom the book was dedicated after she passed away November 1997) have worked together for many years on numerous projects with the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association. However, a book of this nature was a true "first," for the authors.

Foster is past president of the Bureau of Jewish Education, RI

Jewish Historical Association and Women's Division of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island. Her father, Beryl Segal, was a founder of the historical association.

Horvitz is the current librarian and archivist of the association and has written a number of articles on local Jewish history. Both authors attended Pembroke College in Brown University, and both enjoyed studying history and literature.

After being contacted by Arcadia Publishers, Foster and Horvitz agreed that the book was a necessity for the community. "We wanted to tell a history," they said. And that they did, in eight distinct chapters that begin with the first Jewish settlers in Newport and end with the various professions of Jewish community members. The collection of photos vividly il-



AUTHORS GERALDINE FOSTER AND ELEANOR HORVITZ feel right at home in the archives of the R.I. Jewish Historical Association.

Herald photo by Tara V. Lisciandro



PEMBROKE COLLEGE Banjo and Guitar Club, 1896. Clara Gomberg is seated on the left.

Photo from *Jews of Rhode Island 1658-1958*, Arcadia, 1998.

lustrates the history of the Rhode Island Jewish community. More than 200 black and white photos, most of them from the RI Jewish Historical Association Archives, completes the first comprehensive photographic history of the Rhode Island Jewish experience. A detailed introduction and informative captions allow readers to look at the changes, and similarities, of the Jewish community through its earlier years. *Jews of Rhode Island*, portrays a broad history of the strong Jewish community that formed within Rhode Island.

"We decided that we had to limit our time frame," said Foster, "so we began with the earliest period of Jewish settlers to Newport and finished in 1958." Why 1958? "1950 was a watershed year in this community. They grew they built and expanded." Horvitz added that the book was

also done in such a way as to create interest in the origins of the RI Jewish community. "Then people could deduct from there," about their families and the changes they made, the directions they went in, said Foster.

The book is, "not just facts, it's people. It's a taste of the rich history here in Rhode Island," according to Foster. The authors agreed that there were too many photos and not enough time or space. "We literally have thousands of photos," said Horvitz. "It took us longer to sift through the photos and come to an informed decision as to which ones we were going to use, than anything else," added Foster. However, Foster and Horvitz appreciated having the many valuable resources from the RI Jewish Historical Association and to urge families and organizations to continue to donate their valuable materials.

The Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association houses hundreds of photo collections. Founded in 1951, the association has been dedicated to procuring, collecting and preserving historical materials relating to the Jewish community of Rhode Island. *Rhode Island Jewish Historical Notes*, is published annually by the association and both authors have contributed detailed articles to the journal for many years.

Jews of Rhode Island 1658-1958 will be available at the RI Jewish Historical Association annual meeting on May 17 at 1:30pm at the social hall of the JCCRI, Providence; Israel Birthday Bash on June 7 on Elmgrove Ave; or by calling the RI Jewish Historical Association at 331-1360. All royalties from the publication will go to the support of the Association and its activities.

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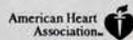
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'Jewish Music of the 20th Century'

The Jewish Chamber Orchestra of Boston presents their spring concert on May 17. The concert begins at 8 p.m., with a pre-concert lecture with the conductor and composers at 7:30 p.m. The program will take place at the Leventhal-Sidman Jewish Community Center, 333 Nahant St., Newton Centre, Mass.

The first Jewish Chamber Orchestra of Boston Composers Commission concert features two world-premier commissions by Boston composers. Daniel Gil's "The Inner Chambers of the King-Fantasy on Hasidic Niggunim" and John McDonald's "Meditation and Epicede," written for the City of Boston's 1998 Yom HaShoah Holocaust commemoration ceremony, will be presented. Also included on the program are Ernest Bloch's "Suite Modale" for flute solo and string orchestra, and Serge Prokofiev's "Overture on Hebrew Themes."

For more information, call the Leventhal-Sidman box office at (617) 965-5226. Tickets available at the door for \$7 general admission and \$5 J.C.C. members and seniors.

Touro Fraternal Selects New Officers

West Bay residents dominated the new officers and board members selected to lead Touro Fraternal Association at the organization's annual elections recently held at its headquarters Rolfe Square, Cranston.

Six members were elected to serve three-year terms on the association's 18-person board of directors. Officers of Touro's two lodges were elected for one year.

Touro Fraternal Association (not affiliated with Touro Synagogue) is marking its 80th year of service to its members and the community. With more than 600 members, Touro is the largest and independent Jewish fraternal order in New England. Re-elected to the board were Morton Coken; Arthur Poulsen, the current board chairman; Joel Pressman of Cranston; and Barry Shaw of Warwick. Burton Fischman of Providence was elected to his first term on the board.

The officers of Harmony Lodge are Alan Lury of Pawtucket, president; Dr. Aaron Sherman, Warwick, vice president; Richard Glucksman, secretary; and Peter Hodosh, treasurer, both of Cranston.

Elected to office in Friendship Lodge were Andrew Gilstein, Warwick, president; Jeffrey Goldberg, vice president; Paul Isenberg, treasurer, both of West Warwick; and Ronald Berman, Warwick, secretary.

The new officers and board members will be installed at Touro's annual installation dinner in May 27. Andrew Lamchick, a past president and member of the board, will serve as installing officer and Robert Miller, vice chairman of the board, will be master of ceremonies.

JEWISH COMMUNITY

Through The Eyes of a Child

by Cindy Halpern

Although it was apparent to everyone that I was guilty for having my daughter miss a day of school, they greeted Robin and me warmly as we boarded the bus at pole 7 at the Warwick Mall. It's the usual pick-up point for chartered passengers going on day trips.

However, 12-year-old Robin wasn't bound for Six Flags Amusement Park. She was accompanying us on the R.I. Holocaust Museum's sponsored trip to the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York City. Today, she was to learn lessons she couldn't learn in the classrooms.

Robin was fascinated by the faces and voices of Jews of a century ago on the brightly lit first floor. She saw images of children who were immigrants to America. She lingered at the display case where a long white dress a girl had once worn for her Reform Jewish confirmation service could be viewed.

"Mommy, the sleeves are so narrow," she observed. I suggested that maybe children were thinner then. She disagreed, "That girl wanted to make a fashion statement."

Frankly, she wasn't as interested in the images of synagogues and Sabbath, "But we celebrate the Sabbath and have synagogues, too. Except I like our synagogue better, don't you?"

But on we went to the second floor to "The War Against the Jews" where there was little light to lead our way. Here, Robin looked on in horror when she understood that children couldn't go to a cafe for ice cream anymore because Jews were considered inferior to other German children. "We are just as good as they are!" she said.

She heard the recollections of a girl whose parents saw her off at the Prague train station as she was about to begin her journey alone on the Kindertransport to England.

"But Mommy, didn't she ever see her parents again?"

"No."

"I remember how I got locked in the bathroom when I was on the airplane to England to visit

Grandma Rose. You came to find me. I was glad I wasn't on that plane without you."

"Me, too." I shook at the thought of such a possibility. Then she saw the children's identification cards stamped with a "J," and meal ration tickets that remained unused.

"Grandma Tina had an identification card, didn't she?"

"Yes."

"But she has never showed me it."

"I know. She hasn't showed me it either," I said truthfully.

We saw people's mail written in Yiddish, Polish, German, and other languages. "I don't feel right reading someone else's mail," she said nervously. But that was before she saw chess sets belonging to children of Terezin. "They died, didn't they? They never finished their games because they went to Auschwitz."

She had had enough. "I want to go to the next floor."

So we did. There, she happily discovered under very bright light that the movies and songs she likes best had Jewish connections. The cowardly lion in the "Wizard of Oz" was Jewish, the director of "My Fair Lady" was too. Billy Joel and Paul Simon are Jews. Spielberg created E.T. Jack Benny, George Burns, and Milton Berle were names that meant nothing to her.

"I am happy, Mommy, that so many Jews helped make good movies. Without them, there wouldn't be a 'Wizard of Oz.' I can't imagine that, can you?"

Later, at a restaurant called Rashner's, Robin was served the largest sundae I had ever seen. "In America, Jewish children can eat ice cream in a public place," Robin stated. "Here we can grow up to make movies and sing songs like Barbra Streisand did in 'Yentl.' Of course, there couldn't be, 'Fiddler on the Roof' without Jews."

At the end of the long day, when we were being dropped off at pole 7, everyone smiled brightly at Robin. They were pleased by her presence as proof that our Jewish heritage was being transmitted to yet another generation.

Celebrate The Gift of The Tablets in NY Mountains

The scenic spring splendor of the New York mountains provides a beautiful backdrop and relaxing atmosphere to celebrate the Gift of the Tablets, Shavuot. The Concord Resort in New York has a variety of packages available for families who need a spring holiday, or the busy singles in search of a get-away.

Join Concord Resort for a traditional glatt dining experience, one of the few resorts still providing glatt and kosher meals. Singles can take part in the 24-hour "Meet and Shmooze" Center to meet that special someone their busy city life keeps them hidden from.

A special holiday program and service is planned featuring Rabbi Seymour Freedman and Cantor Gary Buchwald.

The Concord Resort has 40 tennis courts, an indoor pool, the Monster world-class golf course, and a host of daily activities for kids and parents alike.

For more than 60 years, The Concord Hotel has welcomed the most illustrious names in entertainment, including such stars as Rosie O'Donnell, Barbra Streisand, Milton Berle, Joan Rivers, Joy Behar ("The View"), Buddy Hackett, Liza Minnelli, to name a few.

Reservations can be made directly by calling (800) CONCORD.

Nominations For The 1998 JFS Family of The Year Award

There is still time to nominate a family for the 1998 Jewish Family Service Family of the Year Award, although the deadline for submissions — midnight of May 29 — is rapidly approaching. The award — which honors exemplary families — was founded in 1995 in keeping with the mission of JFS to sustain, nurture and strengthen the well-being and stability of families and individuals throughout the life cycle, with emphasis on Jewish traditions and values.

Members of the community are invited to submit a profile of a family who meets the high standards which have been established for the award. Because many of the nominees over the last three years have met the criteria, the selection committee has bestowed the award on more than one family at an annual ceremony held in conjunction with the JFS annual meeting.

In making nominations, community members are asked to consider: What strengths and values do we admire in family life? What are the everyday qualities that we take for granted, yet provide the basis for a strong family unit?

The rules for eligibility are simple:

1. A family is defined as more than one person.
2. At least one member of the family must be Jewish.
3. Individuals may nominate only one family.
4. Relatives of the staff of Jewish Family Service are not eligible.
5. Relatives of the Family of the Year Committee are not eligible.

The awards will be announced at the Jewish Family Service annual meeting on Oct. 21. For nomination forms and additional information, call 331-1244.

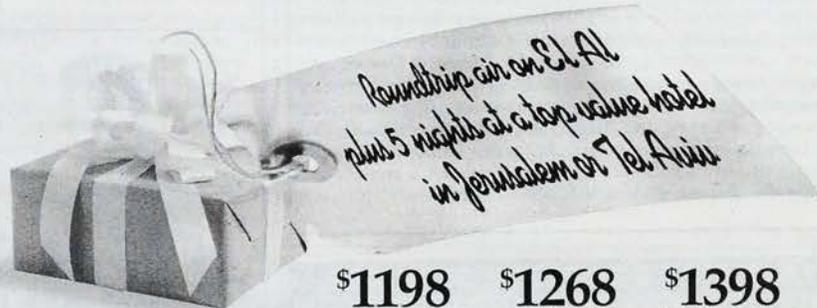
Temple Emanu-El Leisure Club

The Temple Emanu-El Leisure Club will hold its next meeting on May 17 at 2 p.m. in the Bohnen Vestry. The guest speaker for the afternoon will be Professor Alan Zuckerman who will speak on the subject "Israel-Palestinian Reconciliation."

Zuckerman is professor of political science at Brown University and has served as a visiting professor and scholar at Tel-Aviv University, the University of Pisa, and the University of Essex. His publications include studies of *Party Activists in Israel*, *The Political Behavior of American Jews*, *Social and Political Division*, *Jewish Communities of Inter-War Europe*, and *The Transformation of the Jews*, a comparative analysis of Jewish communities in Europe, the United States and Israel over the past two centuries.

A social hour will follow the program.

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Golf Takes On A New Stroke

The Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island Charity Golf Tournament and Auction will take place at the Ledgemont Country Club in Seekonk on June 8. The event will begin with an 11:30am buffet lunch, at 12:30 the golf tournament will begin and at 5:30 dinner, hors d'oeuvres and dessert will be served while the silent and live auctions take place.

The live auction will include a signed glass sculpture by Steven Weinberg, a 7-day Carnival Cruise for two, a multi-strand fresh pearl necklace by Lori Shulkin designs and much more.

The event is being co-chaired by Stacy and Doug Emanuel and Donna and Harley Frank. Integral to their success is a new overall plan for the event. The goal is to offer both a full day of golf and an elegant evening auction, which participants can choose to enjoy as an evening package deal or as two entirely separate events. With two focuses, the committee hopes to create a fund-raiser that appeals to more than those interested in golf and auctions.

All participants must RSVP by May 22. Call Debbie Blitz at 861-8800 for more information and registration.



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JEWISH COMMUNITY

First Statewide Maccabi Games Are a Success

On April 26, despite threat of bad weather, 260 youngsters from across the state, including residents from Providence, Newport, and South County, participated in the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island's First Rhode Islands Maccabi Youth Games held in honor of Israel's 50th birthday.

The opening ceremony be-

person, welcomed the crowd and the D'Var Torah was given by Rabbi Jagolinzer, president of Board of Rabbis. Introductory remarks were made by both Alan H. Litwin, president of JCCRI, and Richard Kaplan, vice president of Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.

Following a presentation of R.I. National Maccabi Team, a

ter of Rhode Island is proud to publicly recognize Sara DeCosta for her efforts both on and off the ice as an accomplished athlete and as a positive role model for young athletes throughout the state." Sara DeCosta, the goalie of the U.S. Olympic Gold medal-winning hockey team, then remained at the games and was available to meet, greet, show off her medal and sign autographs.

The R.I. Maccabi Games were organized on the heels of last year's success at the Regional Maccabi Games in Hartford — the team came home with 32



R.I. YOUNGSTERS enjoyed participating in a variety of team sports during the Maccabiah Games. Photos courtesy of JCCRI



RABBI MARC JAGOLINZER gives the D'Var Torah during the first-ever statewide Maccabi Games.



SARA DeCOSTA was awarded a special Certificate of Appreciation by Alena Kacal.

gan with an Athletes March followed by the singing of the national anthem and "Hatikvah," led by Cantor Stanley Rosenfeld. Alena Kacal, the games chair-

special Certificate of Appreciation was awarded to Olympic Gold Medalist Sara DeCosta by Alena Kacal. The certificate read, "The Jewish Community Cen-

medals — and as the JCCRI's 1998 team gears up for the Nationals this August in Detroit. The National Maccabi Youth Games, an Olympic-style sports competition and camaraderie featuring sports, social, and cultural events. They are modeled after the international amateur competition: the Maccabiah Games, held every four years in Israel.

The 260 children who participated will be honored on the Main Stage at Israel's 50th Birthday Bash Street Festival and Celebration on June 7.

Hadassah Annual Meeting and Installation of Officers

Lorraine Webber, president of the Rhode Island Chapter of Hadassah, will be installed for a second term at the organization's annual meeting to be held on May 27 at the Jewish Community Center, Providence.

Susan Smoller, a past president of the Kent County group, will install officers of the chapter and the seven statewide groups. Rabbi Leo M. Abrami, spiritual leader at Temple Am David in Warwick, will speak about his lifelong friendship with Ruth Dreifuss, president-elect of Switzerland, relating stories of that country prior to World War II and the rescue of thousands of Jews.

The chapter's slate of officers for the coming year include: Shirley Schreiber, vice president for administration; Jenny Klein, vice president for education; Dr. Meredith Drench and Barbara Portney, co-vice presidents for programming; Deborah Rosenfeld, vice president for membership; Roz Guarnieri, recording secretary, and Arline Lubner, assistant treasurer.

The evening's event begins at 7 p.m. with a social hour. Members and their friends are invited to attend and should notify the chapter office at 463-3636 by May 20.

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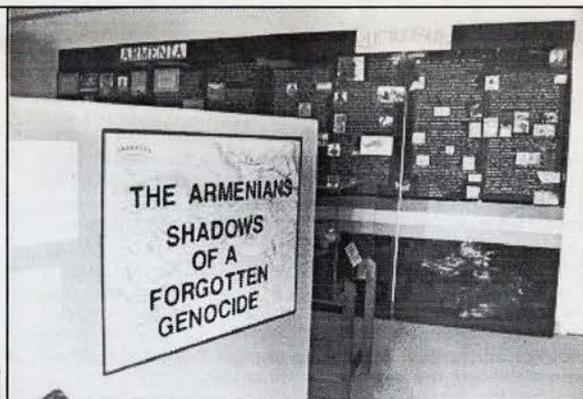
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Shadows of a Forgotten Genocide

photos and text by
Tara V. Liscianro
Herald Editor



During the period of Holocaust Remembrance (approximately one month), the Jewish Community Center of RI Gallery 401 housed a special exhibit entitled, "The Armenians: Shadows of a Forgotten Genocide." The exhibit consisted of a series of photos, maps, written histories, artifacts and videos and was made possible by the RI Holocaust Memorial Museum and an anonymous donor.

Open to the general public, the exhibit reminded visitors of the Armenian Genocide which must be understood and remembered, like the Holocaust. The commonality of the Jewish and Armenian experience were highlighted throughout the gallery.

Contact the Armenian Library and Museum of America for more information: 65 Main St., Watertown, Mass. 02172; (617) 926-ALMA.

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JEWISH COMMUNITY

Newport County Celebrates Israel's 50th in Grand Style

A large crowd recently filled the pews of Temple Shalom, the Conservative Congregation of Newport County, to celebrate a very special Shabbat of Commemoration in honor of Israel's 50th Anniversary. Rabbi Marc S. Jagolinzer, who compiled a special worship booklet for this service, wished all those present Shabbat Shalom and asked the congregation to rise as he lit a memorial candle for all those who fell in Israel's wars in defense of the State of Israel. Then, a special Yizkor was recited by all. Special readings and prayers were offered throughout the traditional Shabbat eve service. The Rev. James C. Miller, executive minister of The Rhode Island State Council of Churches, spoke about his feelings and devotion to Israel as a Christian. The service was followed by a dinner and a special birthday cake in honor of this milestone occasion.



The Jewish communities of Newport County and South County came together once again to celebrate the 50th anniversary during a community celebration. The Kadimah Band of Massachusetts provided the wonderful music. Children from the Samuel Zilman Bazarsky, Touro and South County Religious Schools offered presenta-

tions, which were followed by Israeli singing and dancing.

Rabbi Jagolinzer, chairman of the event, welcomed the large assemblage and presented certificates of honor to all those students of the participating religious schools who wrote a piece entitled "What Israel Means to Me as an American Jewish Student." Those who were recognized included: Naomi Herstoff, Virginia Leary, Andrea Leary, Jason Bazarsky, Jake Cawley, Matthew Cawley,

Danya Martin, Davis Spohn, Lauren Abernathy, Becky Saunders, Helena Touhey, Kirsten Malise, Aaron Weininger, Zack Bazarsky, Bryan Abernathy, Ben Kahn, Brian Erhartic, Eric Saunders, David Snyder, Jeremy Souza, Lucas Barry, Sarah Romanelli, Haley Gerstein, Jessica Benisch, Samara Martin, Rachel Goldstein, Danielle Zakrajsek, Gabi Scheff, Daniel Combs, Andrew Lichaa, Stephanie Zakrajsek and Emma Reidy.

Rabbi Mordecai Escowitz of Touro Synagogue offered a prayer for the State of Israel and the Rev. Ethan Adler of Temple Beth David prayed for peace. The morning concluded with the singing of "Hatikvah" and happy birthday to Israel.



Can You Help Us?

Once again we turn to the readers of the *Rhode Island Jewish Herald*. We have been trying to play detective and although we have several clues, we still cannot identify the lady behind the counter of what appears to be a store with Jewish products.

One of the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association followers saw this photograph at a flea market together with an envelope. A photographer enlarged the negative. There was this clue: Written on the envelope, which was addressed to Rena Malin, there is also the name of a Mrs. Shapiro.

Research into the *Providence City Directory* brought additional clues. Rena Malin is the daughter of Samuel (died in 1943) and Fannie Shapiro. She had a sister, Selma, who died in 1985 and in Selma's obituary was the information that Rena survived her sister.

Can the pieces of this puzzle be assembled so that we can learn the name of the woman — the name of the market and its location?

Call us at the R.I. Jewish Historical Association at 331-1360, if you can help solve this particular mystery.

R.I. Holocaust Museum Houses Collection of Personal Artifacts

The R.I. Holocaust Memorial Museum, located at 401 Elm Grove Ave. in Providence, contains a wealth of personal artifacts that have been donated by local survivors and their families.

- A yellow star that was given to an American Jewish soldier in France by a French Jewish girl. Her fate is unknown. He donated the star as a symbol of her life.

- A crochet hook made by a girl at Auschwitz from her wood bunk. It was her prize possession, given in gratitude to the family that helped her in New York City once she came to America. It is a testament to her strength and survival.

- Currency from the Lodz ghetto, printed by Jews with a picture of the controversial leader, Chaim Rumkowski. Dwellers in the ghetto were daily faced with horrible choices and bleak prospects for the future.

- Family photographs, prayer books issued to American servicemen who were liberators, letters in Yiddish, correspondences from before the war and right after... remembrances of lives that were, of destruction and despair, of striving and hope.

These are small tokens that represent lives that were savaged by the Nazi regime. By themselves the items may seem insignificant, yet the story behind the objects helps the viewer

to identify with the mothers, fathers, children, grandparents and relatives who were attacked by the forces of evil. Millions perished, some survived, all were human and, through these artifacts, a personal connection is made with them.

Many members of the community have donated artifacts to the museum, hoping to help others remember the tragedy of the Holocaust. For example, Herta Hoffman gave the museum the passports she and her husband used to leave Austria for America, where her husband had relatives who had acted early to help get him out with his new bride. Because of backlogs at the consulate, her parents were unable to get the necessary paperwork in time and were eventually killed by the Nazis. The passports tell not only of those who were lucky enough to escape, they also tell of the millions who were left behind, who were caught without means of escape or for whom escape came too slowly.

The R.I. Holocaust Museum also houses a circulating library of books and videotapes which are available to the community. The collection includes materials appropriate for children as well as adults. For more information about the museum or the circulating library, call 453-7860.

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Fit For Spring Health Connection Programs

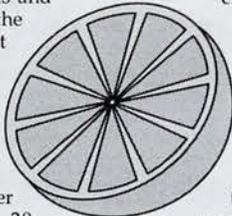
The barbecue grill creeps out of the garage, the picnic basket and cooler make their way to the front of closet, and your bathing suit, shorts and sundresses find themselves at the top of your drawer — whether you like it or not. Spring is here, and while its arrival generally brings warmer weather and enjoyable outdoor activities, many of us wish we had some extra time to lose our winter waistlines before shedding our sweaters. But it's never too late to start becoming more conscious of the foods you eat (or don't eat enough of) and getting regular exercise.

Losing weight is easier for some people than others, as evidenced by the diet fads and pills we see in magazines and on the shelves of the store every day. But eating a healthy, low-fat diet and getting regular exercise throughout the week is something everyone can benefit from, whether it helps you lose 20 pounds, 5 pounds, or just to make you feel better overall.

Exercise is a key factor in long-term weight loss for a few reasons. Through regular exercise, you force your body to use more calories than it takes in and draw on stored energy, or fat, for its fuel. In the beginning, mainly water and lean muscle protein are lost, but as weight loss continues, your body will burn more fat and less protein. Try a daily walking regimen, gradually extending the length and distance of your walks over

time, or participate in community athletic events such as walks and runs sponsored by various charities, which are popular in springtime.

When it comes to food, try not to focus on counting calories and fat grams, but instead on a more balanced diet with an emphasis on a variety of plant-based foods. Fruits, vegetables and whole grains are naturally lower in fat and calories, and are crucial to overall good health. Pay special attention to what you snack on, since this is where unnecessary, fatty foods can sneak into your diet. Snack on raw veggies, fresh fruit, air-popped popcorn or pretzels. If you're one that normally craves something sweet after a meal, try fresh fruit instead of a rich dessert.



Health experts recommend a gradual weight loss of one to two pounds a week, so don't get frustrated or give up if you're not losing weight as fast as you'd like. You didn't gain the weight overnight, and you're not going to lose it overnight, either. A slow and steady pace will help you shed body fat while building muscle, which will make it easier to keep the lost weight off.

For a free brochure with more tips on how to trim down, send a self-addressed, stamped (55¢), business-sized envelope to: American Institute for Cancer Research, Dept. TD, P.O. Box 97167, Washington, D.C. 20090-7167.

From cancer screenings to an arthritis workshop, the Lifespan Health Connection is sponsoring a number of activities to improve the health of area residents. To register for any program, call 444-4800. The following are among the events slated for May:

Skin Cancer Screenings — Free full-body screenings to detect skin cancer will be held at Rhode Island Hospital on May 18 from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

Diabetes Education Series — May 14 to June 18 (six-week program), 10 a.m. to noon, Cafeteria Conference Room, The Miriam Hospital.

High Blood Pressure Workshop — May 19, 6 to 9 p.m. Marriott Hotel, Orms Street, Providence. Includes blood pressure, blood sugar and cholesterol screenings, plus a health risk assessment. Presented in conjunction with the American Heart Association.

Supporting Brothers & Sisters of Kids with Disabilities

or **Chronic Illnesses**, May 21, 7 to 9 p.m. Rhode Island Hospital. Debra Lobato, Ph.D.

Healthwise® Class for Seniors, May 21, 1 to 2 p.m. Sopkin Auditorium, The Miriam Hospital. Learn to improve the care you provide for yourself, as well as ways to improve communication with your doctors. Janis Furlong, R.N.

CPR Training: Adults and Children, May 21, 8 a.m. to noon, Middle House, Rhode Island Hospital, \$5 fee for materials.

Maintaining Healthy Skin for Life, May 21, 7 to 8 p.m., The Miriam Hospital. Lori Ullman, M.D.

The Truth About Diet Pills, May 26, 7 to 8 p.m., Lecture Hall, Fain Health Centers, The Miriam Hospital. Vincent Pera, M.D.

Senior Fitness, May 27, 7 to 8 p.m. Center for Cardiac Fitness, 1300 N. Main St., Providence. Daniel Forman, M.D., and Florence Dagata, winner of DEA's "Keep Fit" Contest.

Put a Spring Into Your Step

Walking is one of the most popular forms of exercise in America. The reasons are obvious — walking doesn't cost any money, and it can be done by almost anyone, almost anywhere, at just about any time. But is something as simple as walking really beneficial to our health? Absolutely, say health experts. Walking helps burn fat and calories, relieves stress, strengthens the heart and decreases the risk of some forms of cancer, according to the American Institute for Cancer Research. All great reasons to put a little spring into your step.

While there's an endless variety of exercise options available today, taking a daily walk is one of the simplest, making it an especially good way for people who aren't accustomed to regular exercise to begin. The American Institute for Cancer Research recommends getting at least one hour of moderate physical activity every day. An hour's brisk walk each day is a great way to fit this in.

Not only can walking regularly help lower risk for heart disease, diabetes and cancer, it can also be a key to healthy weight loss. A 150-pound person, walking at a moderate pace, burns about 5.4 calories per minute. Multiply 5.4 by 60 minutes, and that's 324 calories burned in just an hour of walking. Grab a pair of free weights while you walk, and you can also strengthen and tone your arm muscles.

If it's difficult to find one whole, uninterrupted hour to walk during your day, or if you're just beginning a walking regimen and want to start slowly, break your walk up into half-hour or 15-minute increments.

You can probably fit more walking into your everyday lifestyle than you realize. For instance, do you usually drive around the parking lot looking for the closest spot to the door? Start parking further away. And make it a goal to start taking the stairs instead of the elevator whenever possible.

Staying physically active, even in small ways, can mean a healthier, trimmer you, and less risk of chronic illness.

R.I. Health Care Association Offers Free Guides on Nursing Home Care

In observance of National Nursing Home Week, May 10 through 16, Rhode Island Health Care Association is offering free consumer guides regarding nursing home care. The guides, published by American Health Care Association, addresses a variety of topics relating to nursing home care, including information regarding the admissions process, financing and how to choose a nursing home. "Finding out about nursing home care is a complex and emotional process. Providing consumers with information that enables them to make educated decisions is key to what Rhode Island Health Care Association is all about," said Alfred Santos, executive vice president of RIHCA.

Individuals interested in receiving a free copy of the consumer guides may call RIHCA at 732-9333. Information can also be obtained from any of RIHCA's 68 member homes. To find a RIHCA member in your area, call RIHCA at the number above.

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HEALTHWISE

Are You Savvy About Sports Safety?

The element of surprise. In sports, it's integral both to achieving victory and guarding against injury. It means learning the surprising dangers of high-impact or outdoor sports to the eyes in order to find the right protection. Like knowing UV rays are more likely to cause cataracts in outdoor-sports participants who have brown eyes rather than blue eyes. Or, that while racquetball poses great risks, the sport responsible for the most eye injuries in the United States remains basketball.



Test your knowledge of sports and eye health. You may surprise yourself:

- Children ages 5 to 14 sustain the most eye injuries while playing what sport?
 - Soccer
 - Ice hockey
 - Baseball
 - Basketball
- Complete this sentence: _____ of eye injuries from sports

are preventable.

- 70 percent
- 50 percent
- 90 percent
- 25 percent

3. Eyeglasses made of which material are the most impact-resistant?

- Glass
 - Polycarbonate
 - Plastic
 - Hard resin
4. High altitude increases harmful UV radiation.

True or False

5. Skiers are exposed to more UV light than other sports participants, as fresh snow reflects up to _____ of UV light.

- 60 percent
 - 50 percent
 - 80 percent
 - 45 percent
6. UV radiation is more dangerous in the summer than it is during the spring and winter months.

True or False

7. Which sport has the least incidence of eye injuries?

- Soccer
 - Swimming
 - Volleyball
 - Golf
8. If you are exposed to UV light for an extended period of time without proper eye protection and experience pain, feeling like sand is in your eyes, red and/or teary eyes, sensitivity to light and eyelid swelling, you may be suffering from which condition?

True or False

9. Which sport has the least incidence of eye injuries?

- Snow blindness
- Glaucoma
- Presbyopia
- Cataracts

Answers
1. c, 2. c, 3. b, 4. True, 5. c, 6. False, 7. c, 8. a

Memorial Hospital Offers Adolescent Fitness Program

Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island will conduct a four-week program for overweight adolescents called "Let's Get Fit!" beginning June 4.

Geared toward adolescents 7 to 12 years old, the program teaches parents and children about nutrition and preparation of healthy meals and snacks. Children will discover fun and effective physical activities with the guidance of an exercise specialist. Learn how the family can help solve underlying problems while meeting others with similar concerns. Parents and children will also have an opportunity to sample low-fat snacks and will be provided with a set of recipes.

The program will be held on June 4, 11, 18 and 25 from 5 to 6 p.m. at Memorial Hospital. The cost is \$60 for an adolescent and parent together. The fee includes the program and all materials. The class is limited to 24 people. Call Jane Sylvestre at 729-2574 to register.

Relay For Life

Imagine walking around in circles for 18 hours. Now, imagine the steps you'll be taking to help fight cancer. Become part of a community that takes up that fight by joining the American Cancer Society's 18-hour Relay for Life. This unique fundraising event is being held in the following four communities around Rhode Island:

• May 29 and 30 — Paolino Recreation Center Outdoor Track at Roger Williams University, Bristol

• June 5 and 6 — Westerly High School Track, Westerly

• June 12 and 13 — Bain Middle School Walking Track, Cranston

• June 19 and 20 — North Kingstown High School Track, North Kingstown

The Relay for Life is a fun, team-building event for companies and a great family and friends get-together. Businesses, neighborhoods, social groups, families, friends and organizations are encouraged to form teams of 8 to 14 members. Team members will take turns on the track walking or running relay style in shifts. Plan to barbecue, play games and have fun raising money to help fight cancer. To join, call the American Cancer Society in Rhode Island at 722-8480.

Funds raised for the Relay for Life are used to support services and programs for cancer patients and their families, including a toll-free cancer information line: (800) ACS-2345, Reach to Recovery for women with breast cancer, and support groups like "Man to Man." Of every dollar raised by the American Cancer Society in Rhode Island, 76 percent goes directly to cancer research, education, and service programs, with 5 percent going to management and 19 percent to fundraising.

Rise & Shine With Fruit

Fresh Fruit Omelet

Makes 2 servings

Think of this as a quick and easy fruit crepe. Choose the fruit according to the season: in summer, use berries, pitted cherries, or sliced peaches, nectarines or apricots.

- 2 cups fresh fruit
- 1/3 cup sour cream or yogurt
- 2 or 3 Tbsp. honey
- 1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 2 Tbsp. butter
- 4 to 6 eggs, well beaten
- 3 ounces cheddar or goat cheese, grated or crumbled
- Chopped fresh mint for garnish (optional)

Position an oven rack 6 to 8 inches from the broiler, and preheat the broiler.

Clean the fruit and cut it into bite-size pieces, if necessary. Set aside.

In a small bowl, stir together the sour cream, honey and cinnamon. Set aside.

Melt half the butter in an 8- to 10-inch omelet pan or skillet over medium heat. Pour in half

the beaten eggs. As the eggs cook, use a spatula to lift the edges, letting the uncooked egg run underneath. When no loose egg will move to the edge, remove the pan from the heat, and sprinkle on half the cheese. Place the pan under the broiler just until the cheese is melted and the egg is completely set.

Spread half the fruit on one side of the omelet, and top it with a generous dollop of the sour cream mixture. Fold the other side over the fruit, and slide the omelet onto a plate. Garnish with more sour cream mixture and fresh mint. Cook the second omelet in the same way: that one is for you!

Do ahead: Stir together the sour cream mixture. Wash the fruit; peel and cut any that won't discolor or soften; cook if desired. Crumble the cheese. Store all, covered, in the refrigerator.

In the morning (15 to 20 minutes): Cook and fill the omelets as directed. Sprinkle fresh mint on top, if desired.

High Blood Pressure Workshop

More than 50 million Americans have, or are at risk for, high blood pressure and its consequences. About 65 percent of them are aware of their condition, yet fewer than half are being treated.

The Lifespan Health Connection, American Heart Association and Roger Williams Medical Center are co-sponsoring a free workshop, *Dispelling the Myths of High Blood Pressure Treatment, Reducing the Fears*, on May 19 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Providence Marriott on Orms Street.

Preregistration is required as space is limited. To register or for more information, call 444-4800.



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FEATURE

Thousands Take a Taste of The Nation

by Tara V. Liscandro
Herald Editor

For the 11th consecutive year, Share Our Strength's Taste of the Nation, was a great success. An estimated 2,000 people recently poured into the RI Convention Center to support the RI Community Food Bank, Amos House, The Wiley Center and various international hunger relief organizations. As guests enjoyed numerous gourmet delicacies from well-known local restaurants, breweries, wineries and bakeries, 80 percent of their generous donations was going to assist an important social problem, hungry neighbors in Rhode Island and throughout the world.

Annually, the Taste of the Nation event grows in popularity because of what it has to offer to the entire community. While local and extraordinary culinary artists and chefs show off their newest creations to guests, thousands of dollars are supporting those less fortunate. "It is our hope that in the near future we will no longer have to address the problem of hunger in our community," stated Guy Abelson, chairman of Taste of the Nation, "Your help and your presence here tonight bring us one step closer to this goal."

Eleven years ago there were only 11 restaurants at the first Taste of the Nation, this year there were more than 100, 40 more than last year. Guests wandered from one intriguing stand to the next sampling a variety of pastas, meats, soups, vegetables, breads and more. New and original beers and wines were available as well as juices, fresh spring water and cocktails. To finish off the perfect "meal" were numerous, rich cakes, cookies, petits fours and other mouth-watering desserts.

Restaurants and cafes were at their best, showing off their most imaginative and tasty plates and beverages of the year.

Updates and restaurant news were also readily available for everyone as well. A host of chefs, hostesses and assistants were busy handing out newsletters and other materials about their establishment.

While enjoying good food, music and conversation, much was being done to help make Rhode Island the first hunger-free state. All guests were educated with a variety of materials about the various services which are assisting in ending hunger here and internationally.

What Does Success of 'Seinfeld' Say About The Jews of America?

by Rebecca Segall and
Peter Ephross

NEW YORK (JTA) — "Too Jewish" was the way a top Jewish television executive dismissed the original plot for "Seinfeld."

So it is not surprising that when the TV show was given a second chance by NBC a year later in 1990, co-creator Jerry Seinfeld was uncomfortable producing specifically Jewish plots.

"He tried to avoid it from the beginning," said a Jewish co-producer and "Seinfeld" scriptwriter, Gregg Kavet.

But with a significant number of Jewish writers on the show — most recently, says Kavet, there were "six and a half" out of 10 — perhaps "Seinfeld" was bound to deal with Floridian parents, kosher girlfriends, Jewish singles events and even the "Soup Nazi."

As Jerry and his sidekicks — Elaine, George and Kramer — close their nine-year run atop the Nielsen charts, and as millions of devoted fans around the globe prepare to watch the show's final episode May 14, it is obvious that the quirky witticisms and neurotic, oddball idiosyncrasies of its four singles living on Manhattan's Upper West Side were not too Jewish for America.

So what does its success say about Jewishness in America? And in what way was "Seinfeld" — the show and its characters — Jewish anyway?

In a recent article in *The Washington Post*, television critic Tom Shales declared that the problem with "Seinfeld" is not that it was too Jewish, but "too self-hatingly Jewish."

And there's no doubt that Shales' argument appears to have some merit. Think of some of the episodes that dealt specifically with Judaism:

- After Elaine — who plays a non-Jewish woman in the show — seeks counseling from a rabbi, the rabbi divulges one of her secrets on a national television talk show.

- An exacting chef/proprietor of a neighborhood soup stand is called a "Soup Nazi."
- The mohel that Elaine finds for a friend's child's bris is so high-strung that he mistakenly cuts godfather Jerry's finger instead.
- Jerry and his girlfriend-of-the-week are caught by Jerry's arch-enemy, Newman, making out during "Schindler's List."
- In an episode titled

"Shiksappeal," Elaine discovers that Jewish men like her because she is not Jewish.

Rabbi Jonathan and Judith Pearl, co-directors of the Jewish Telemages Resource Center, a project that traces the way Jews are depicted on television, agree with Shales.

"Seinfeld" became unfunny "whenever it dealt with Jewish issues," said Jonathan Pearl, a media scholar and Reconstructionist rabbi living in Queens, N.Y.

"I think when someone pokes fun out of love and affection, it comes through no matter how stereotypical or offensive it might seem," he said.

But the Pearls, who will soon publish their first book on how Jewish themes and characters have been portrayed on television, find "Seinfeld" to be blantly hostile toward Judaism.

Pearl contends that "Seinfeld" reinforces "unfortunate" stereotypes regarding Jewish clergy, ritual and Jewish women, rather than using its power to produce honest and positive depictions of Jews and Judaism.

But Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League and a huge "Seinfeld" fan, believes that Pearl may be missing the point.

"Getting more positive messages out about Judaism is not what 'Seinfeld' is about," he said. "It's comedy."

Furthermore, he said, considering the longevity of the hit, "Seinfeld" could have had even more offensive episodes.

Foxman takes issue with only two episodes — the one with the "Soup Nazi" because, he said, it trivializes the Holocaust, the one involving the nebbishy, untrustworthy rabbi who betrays Elaine.

But Foxman adds, "The Jewishness of the 'Seinfeld' characters were worn comfortably and naturally on their sleeve."

Defenders of "Seinfeld" point out that the Jewish characters are no more blantly stereotypes than are other minorities.

But Jews — of all generations — are among the show's biggest fans. And judging from numerous discussions in Jewish chat rooms on the Internet, the vast majority of Jews are not irked by the questionable depictions of Jews.

"The Jews have arrived," said California Rabbi Harold Schulweis, in the sense that they are seen as representing average Americans.

"We no longer are asking, 'What will the anti-Semites say?'" he said.

But the flip side, he said, is that the show also reflects how Jews have lost their uniqueness.

"Seinfeld" accurately reflects a lack of purpose and spirituality in the life of most American Jews today," said Schulweis of Congregation Valley Beth Shalom, outside of Los Angeles.

Moshe Waldoks, the co-editor of a book titled, *The Big Book of Jewish Humor*, places the issue in a historical perspective.

Waldoks says there are two types of Jewish humor in "Seinfeld": "Jewish humor" and "Jewish-style humor."

What he calls Jewish humor emerged from the cultural uneasiness that emerged after the birth of the *haskalah*, the Jewish Enlightenment, in the early and mid-19th century. This humor resulted from the more modern, European-oriented Jews making fun of their "country bumpkin" cousins, the Jews of the shtetl, and their Chasidic rabbis, who were often depicted as charlatans.

When "Seinfeld" ridicules rabbis or mohels, it is taking part in this tradition, according to Waldoks.

Jewish-style humor, Waldoks says, resulted from the tension between Jewish comedy and American culture that began earlier in the 20th century.

The balancing act of children of immigrants caught between the Old World and the New helped to mold this style, which is full of cynicism and verbal word play.

The comedians, afraid of negative reactions, often de-Judaized their subjects.

Vaudeville comics and the Marx Brothers were prototypical examples of this tradition, says Waldoks. For more recent examples, watch any early Woody Allen movie.

Seinfeld's own real-life childhood is one that many American Jews would recognize.

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., and raised in Massapequa, Long Island, Seinfeld graduated with honors from Queens College with a degree in communications.

Although he has kept his conspicuously Jewish name — and occasionally made headlines dating a younger Jewish woman — he is intrigued by Eastern religions, and by the pragmatism of the Church of Scientology, he told *The Washington Post*.

The show's other real-life Jewish actor — Jason Alexander — has an intentionally unrecognizable Jewish name, but a stronger Jewish affiliation.

Alexander — Seinfeld's high-strung, bald, chunky sidekick, George Costanza — was born Jay Greenspan, and is now an occasional spokesman for the ADL.

"Alexander went on an ADL trip to Israel," Foxman recalls, and "came back and said he wanted to do something."

Indeed, Alexander has done some public speaking for the group and has narrated and starred in an ADL film.



THOUSANDS OF RHODE ISLANDERS enjoyed gourmet food and drink at Taste of the Nation at the R.I. Convention Center.

Herald photo by Tara V. Liscandro

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FEATURE

U.S. Holocaust Museum Plans Extensive Educational Outreach

by Daniel Kurtzman

WASHINGTON (JTA) — When the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum opened its doors in 1993, officials held out modest hopes, but expressed quiet trepidation, about how the museum would be received by the public.

Five years and 10 million visitors later — nearly four times the number initially projected — officials are still amazed by the museum's unanticipated popularity.

"There had always been questions about how a museum dedicated to telling the story of the Holocaust would speak to large numbers of people on an ongoing basis, and I think what we have now is evidence beyond our wildest expectations," said Ruth Mandel, vice chairman of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council.

Some 80 percent of the visitors are not Jewish, about 14 percent are foreigners and 18 percent have come to the museum more than once.

And in an effort to expand its outreach the museum has developed traveling exhibitions,

four of which are now touring the United States.

The founding chairman of the memorial council, Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel, had thought that the museum would serve as a useful, but small, memorial and educational resource. "It surpassed my ambitions," he said.

Despite its success, the museum's founders and others dedicated to preserving the memory of the Holocaust believe it is too soon to measure the museum's efficacy — the true test will come in 50 years' time.

"Unless we start thinking today about where this museum will be 50 years from now, we are missing the point," said Miles Lerman, chairman of the council.

Given the results of a survey commissioned by the museum to coincide with its fifth anniversary, a lot of educational work remains to be done.

The survey showed that one out of five Americans don't know or aren't sure Jews were killed in the Holocaust — or that it occurred during World War II. More than 70 percent falsely believed that the United

States granted asylum to all European Jews who wanted it.

But four out of five Americans surveyed picked the Holocaust as one of history's most important lessons, and two-thirds said they would like to learn more about the Holocaust.

Deborah Dwork, director of the Center for Holocaust Studies at Clark University in Worcester, Mass., said she found it "appalling" that such a high number of Americans were uneducated about the Holocaust. But she said it was positive that a majority wanted to learn more about the event, calling it "a clarion call for education."

Significant majorities of Americans have heard of the museum (77 percent) and would be interested in visiting if they were in Washington (61 percent), according to the survey of 1,641 adults, which has a margin of error of 2.5 percentage points.

Dwork said the most important role the museum can play is a "stimulus and a catalyst for further education."

The museum is already looking ahead.

To make sure that scholars who are teaching lessons of the Holocaust in 2050 are as knowledgeable as today's scholars, Lerman said the museum would facilitate the training of a new cadre of Holocaust scholars through its newly established Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies. It

also plans to develop an international consortium of universities with a Holocaust chair at each place, and to set up a lending library for high school teachers.

While the museum's central commitment remains honoring the memory of those who perished in the Holocaust, some activists have underscored the importance of actively applying the lessons of the Holocaust to world affairs.

Toward that end, in 1995, at a time when interethnic conflicts were raging in Bosnia and Rwanda, the museum created a Committee on Conscience to provide a collective voice to address global genocide.

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

"The idea that we would use the memory and the meaning of the Holocaust as a tool, as a weapon in the fight against any genocide is, in my judgment, the greatest honor we can pay the victims of the Holocaust," said Hyman Bookbinder, a founding member of the museum's council who now sits on the Committee on Conscience.

"We haven't really developed the full arsenal of things we might do," he added.

Some activists would rather the museum not take venture into such territory, fearing that

the politicization of such a venerable institution would betray the memory of the victims.

Lerman rejects that view. "Are we going more and more in a political direction? No. But we are going more and more in an active moral direction," Lerman said.

Those tensions collided in January when the museum became embroiled in an embarrassing public controversy surrounding an on-again, off-again invitation to Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat to visit the museum. Asked by the State Department to receive Arafat for a tour, Lerman extended an invitation, retracted it, then extended it again before Arafat ultimately declined to visit.

Museum director Walter Reich, who staunchly opposed the idea of a visit and advised against it, was forced to resign as a result of the episode.

Museum officials say they have put the incident behind them, although officials have not yet started a search to permanently fill the position. Sara Bloomfield, who has been associated with planning and operations since 1986, is serving as the museum's acting director.

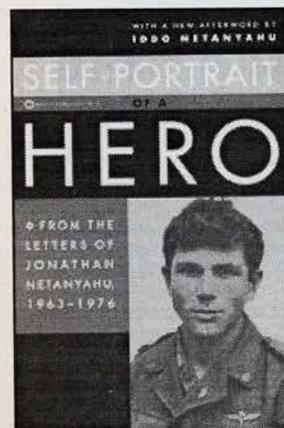
"We needed to just have a period of getting back to work," Mandel said. "I think it's important for things to settle down and move normally before we take this up."

Self-Portrait of a Hero

From the Letters of
Jonathan Netanyahu,
1963-1976

On July 4, 1976, a team of crack Israeli commandos stormed the old terminal building at the Entebbe airport in Uganda, where 103 hostages were being held captive by international terrorists and Idi Amin's Ugandan Army. While the entire world held its breath, the commandos — led by a 30-year-old Lieutenant Colonel by

the name of Jonathan "Yoni" Netanyahu — executed one of the greatest rescue raids in history, whisking the hostages away to safety within one hour. Two legends were born on that fateful day: one, the legend of the raid itself, which brought honor and respect to Israel's armed forces; and two, the legend of Yoni Netanyahu, who fell in the battle that ensued during the historic rescue mission he so bravely led. Yoni became an instant hero, not just in Israel but around the world, and tales of his other heroic accomplishments as a soldier in the Israeli military have inspired millions.



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Self-Portrait of a Hero presents letters Jonathan Netanyahu wrote to family and friends over the course of 13 years, from shortly after his 17th birthday to just days before he was killed in Uganda. For nearly all of this period, Yoni was in Zahal — the Israeli army — where time and again he distinguished himself as a member of its most elite corps. His early letters offer a rare inside look at the remarkable process by which a young man became a superb soldier, while subsequent letters feature vivid accounts of his experiences in decisive battles during the Six Day and Yom Kippur Wars.

Like all great war heroes, Jonathan Netanyahu was tough, focused and disciplined, and while his letters display that side of him they also reveal a compassionate, even vulnerable, young man dedicated to peace and love of country.

Supplemented by background information pertinent to the periods during which the letters were written, as well as an Afterward that recounts the Entebbe raid and sheds light on Yoni's views in the latter years of his life, *Self-Portrait of a Hero* adds up to much more than a collection of letters written by one proud Israeli soldier.

Poll of Jews, Blacks Yields Mixed Numbers

by Rebecca Segall

NEW YORK (JTA) — Fewer American Jews than blacks believe that relations between the two groups have improved during the past year, according to a new national survey.

But both blacks and Jews agree that more should be done to educate school children about slavery and the Holocaust, according to the results of the poll, which was conducted for the New York-based Foundation for Ethnic Understanding.

The findings, which were recently released at the second annual conference on black-Jewish relations at Yeshiva University in New York, have a margin of error of 4 percent for each subgroup.

For the foundation's president, Rabbi Marc Schneier, the most important finding was the response to the question: "In the past year, has the relationship between African Americans and Jews gotten better or worse?"

Some 43 percent of the Jews and 53 percent of the blacks agreed that the black-Jewish relations in the United States have "gotten better." About 17 per-

cent of Jews and 13 percent of blacks said the relationship had "gotten worse." The remainder said they did not know.

Other findings of the survey include:

- Some 69 percent of Jews and 59 percent of blacks say the two groups should form a partnership to work on civil rights issues.
- Some 59 percent of Jews and 61 percent of blacks agreed that public schools do not teach enough about the Holocaust. About 49 percent of Jews and 71 percent of blacks said the same about teaching about slavery.
- Sixty-one percent of blacks

agreed that African Americans can do more to silence members of their community who preach or promote anti-Semitism.

• Thirty-six percent of Jews agreed that Jews should devote a larger share of their resources to improve the well-being of blacks in the United States.

Schneier said that these results contradict the general perception that relations between the two minority groups are in a state of decline.

Martin Luther King III, newly elected president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, participated at the conference as well.

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FEATURE

Hebrew University Confers Honorary Degree to President Clinton

President Clinton was awarded an honorary doctor of philosophy degree by The Hebrew University of Jerusalem at a recent special White House ceremony to mark the 50th anniversary of the State of Israel. The traditional scroll was presented by the university's president, Professor Menachem Magidor.

President Clinton was the first U.S. president to receive that honor since Harry S. Truman. Truman was praised by President Clinton for signing a document on May 14, 1948, which made the United States the first country to formally recognize the new State of Israel. The President called Truman's swift recognition "one of our proudest moments."

"We look at Hebrew University and see all three pieces of David Ben-Gurion's dream coming to life," President Clinton said in accepting the award. "We see biologists developing techniques to locate a single cancer cell among millions of healthy ones. We see the moral commitment to keeping people's health among the scientists there. We see Hebrew University researchers undertaking efforts in cooperation with Palestinian researchers in East Jerusalem. One of the participants in the project said it's science and peace together. We know that much more is possible."

A number of American Friends of The Hebrew University were in the audience which included dignitaries and prominent Israelis and Jewish Americans.

"Indeed, one of the most important missions of our university is to be the meeting ground for intellectual exchange for people of all cultures," Magidor said. "Values of respect for hu-

man rights, of a community based on mutual responsibilities despite religious and ethnic differences, and the firm commitment to peace — these are what bind us together. We believe this is the reason why the United States has been such a firm friend and supporter of Is-

rael from its foundation. These are the values that bring us together today to express our appreciation and gratitude to the American people by conferring

on its leader the greatest honor that our institution can award: the title of Doctor Philosophiae Honoris Causa. ... It is on such a day that we honor and recognize the ideals we share with the American people."

The Hebrew University was founded by leading statesmen



PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON is presented with an honorary doctorate degree by Menachem Magidor of Hebrew University during ceremonies on the South Lawn at the White House in Washington, D.C. Clinton sponsored the event to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Israeli statehood. AFP photo by Luke Frazza

Bell Atlantic Fights Cyberhate

Bell Atlantic Chairman and CEO Raymond W. Smith recently issued a strong warning about hate groups that use the Internet to foster racial and ethnic violence.

In a speech at Yeshiva University, Smith said there has been an explosion of bigotry in cyberspace and that the civil rights movement should use the same information technology to counter efforts to poison the Internet.

During a conference on Black/Jewish relations, Smith said the Bell Atlantic Foundation is continuing its efforts to fight cyberhate by making a \$40,000 gift to the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding, sponsor of the conference. The grant will be used to establish a Web site dedicated to racial harmony and ethnic understanding.

"By linking the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding to the Internet, millions of Web surfers will now have the opportunity to visit a Web site dedicated to continuing the frank dialogue and the healing process," he said. "No longer will the demagogues be allowed to mislead the on-line community regarding Black/Jewish relations, or go unchallenged from their electronic pulpits."

Smith added, "Cyberhate cannot be mandated out of existence. But it can be countered, if we work together to supplant the on-line voices of prejudice with those of tolerance."

According to a study by the Simon Wiesenthal Center, there are nearly 800 active hate sites on the World Wide Web, a vast majority of which operate outside the United States. "Neo-Nazis, skinheads, militias and extremists of every political bent, stripe and color are going on-line today," he said. "They're building chat rooms to spread their philosophy... They're designing slick Web pages to en-

tice curious readers... and they're plugging into high-speed data networks to move their electronic cargo at the speed of light across state lines and international date lines.

"What is frightening is that many of these groups are specially designing Web sites to attract and enlist children," said Smith.

About the debate over whether or how to control the spread of cyberhate, Smith maintained that "freedom, not censorship is the only way to combat this threat to civility. More, not less, speech is needed on the Web."

"The best answer to cyberhate lies not in legislative fiat, but in the use of information technology itself — in the creation of hundreds of new Internet Web sites, chat-lines, home pages and bulletin boards dedicated to racial and ethnic tolerance and equality.

"In short," Smith said, "it's time to bring the struggle for human decency and dignity into cyberspace: to link the two most powerful revolutions of the 20th century together — those of civil rights and information technology."

To that end, Bell Atlantic has helped launch a number of major civil rights and social justice organizations into cyberspace during the past two years. The Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, the NAACP and the National Council of La Raza have launched Web sites with the aid of Bell Atlantic Foundation grants.

The Bell Atlantic Foundation makes domestic and international philanthropic grants. Its emphasis is on funding new technology applications in education, health and human services, the arts and humanities, and civic development in the communities served by Bell Atlantic. For more information, visit <www.bellatlanticfoundation.com>.

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National Geographic Magazine Publishes in Hebrew

Starting in June, National Geographic will bring its global adventure to readers in Hebrew, broadening the international reach of the magazine.

The Hebrew edition of National Geographic will be available both in Israel and to readers of Hebrew in the United States.

It will be produced in partnership with Hed Arzi Ltd., a publisher of music, books and electronic media, and Maariv-

Modi'in, the publisher of Ma'ariv, a leading Hebrew daily newspaper. Both Hed Arzi and Ma'ariv are owned by the Israel Land Development Co., a company traded on the Nasdaq Stock Market in the United States and on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange in Israel.

Hed Arzi has published National Geographic books in Israel for eight years and distributed the society's videos,

dubbed in Hebrew, for five years.

The Hebrew edition of National Geographic magazine will be published monthly under license from the National Geographic Society and will follow closely the editorial content of the English-language original.

National Geographic's English circulation spans every country of the world. The magazine also appears in Japanese, Italian and two Spanish-language editions, one for Spain and a separate one for Latin America and the U.S. Hispanic markets. The society has been approached by prospective partners to publish National Geographic in Arabic, Portuguese, Greek, German, French, Korean, Chinese and other languages.

The National Geographic Society is the world's largest nonprofit scientific and educational organization. Founded in 1888 for the increase and diffusion of geographic knowledge, the society reflects the world through magazines, books, maps, television and interactive media. National Geographic magazine is the official journal of the society and is sent to nearly 9 million members each month.

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SCHOOLBEAT

Holocaust Arts and Writing Contest Student Winners

"Finding a Voice — Lessons of the Holocaust" was the theme for this year's statewide Holocaust Arts and Writing Competition sponsored by the Rhode Island Holocaust Memorial Museum. Students in middle school and high school competed with entries that included non-fiction, fiction, poetry and drama, painting and three-dimensional pieces. The works were judged by a committee

High School Division

First place, Morris Gastfreund Family Fund Award — Kirtley A. Fisher, Rogers High School, Newport, grade 12

Second place — Miranda Owens, Rogers High School, Newport, grade 12

Honorable mention — Victoria S. Wells, Portsmouth High School, Portsmouth, grade 12

Winners in the art category:

First place winners participated in the Student Awareness Day Ceremony and received a set of books about the Holocaust. Second place winners and the school of each winner also received the set of books. Honorable mention winners were given a certificate. The first place writing winner in the High School Division, Kirtley A. Fisher, a Rogers High School student, received a special award, due to the generosity of the Morris Gastfreund Family Fund.

The Student Awareness Day was attended by upper middle school and high school students and teachers from throughout the state. In addition to the award presentations to students, NewGate Theatre performed selections from "Kindertransport" and a selection from the play "I Never Saw Another Butterfly" was presented by Cranston High School West students.

The mission of the Rhode Island Holocaust Memorial Museum is to

provide the schools and the community with information about the Holocaust so that such a thing might never happen again. The museum, located at 401 Elm Grove Ave. in Providence, is also a vital link for survivors and their families with its exhibits, commemorations and programming.

Program in Portuguese at UMass Dartmouth Offers Scholarships

The 1998 University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Summer Program in Portuguese announced a \$15,000 scholarship grant from the Luso-American Development Foundation.

Everyone interested in attending the summer program, which will take place June 29 to July 31, is invited to call Dr. Frank F. Sousa at (508) 999-9270 to request a scholarship application. The deadline for applications is May 29.

The summer program, in its fifth year, welcomes college students, high school juniors and seniors and returning students. The program yearly attracts more than 100 students from many different states.

Courses are offered include intensive elementary Portuguese to advanced grammar and Syntax. In addition, a course on the art history of Portugal and two literature courses and a theater workshop will also be offered. The summer program will also present a lecture series and a concert series.

ASDS Hosts Puppeteer-in-Residence

Dan Butterworth, puppeteer, recently visited the Alperin Schechter Day School and gave a series of stunning performances for the entire school. Complete with stage, lighting, music and special effects, Butterworth created exciting and moving tableaux using a wide variety of marionettes and puppets.

Butterworth returned the next day for a one-day residency on the art of puppet-making for grades six through eight. Using wire hangers, scraps of material, and their terrific imaginations, students created their own puppets, which ranged from dragons and fabulous beasts to superheroes and glamorous stars.

Students agreed that this was one of the finest cultural enrichment programs ever! Thanks to Susan Waterman, Pat Matusow and the cultural enrichment committee of the ASDS PTA.



DAN BUTTERWORTH and his marionettes. Photo courtesy of ASDS



STUDENTS FROM Cranston High School West presented a selection from the play, "Never Saw Another Butterfly" during the Rhode Island Holocaust Memorial Museum annual Student Awareness Day.

Photo courtesy of Roberta Segal & Associates

composed of educators on the Holocaust and awards were recently presented on the Museum's Student Awareness Day at the Paff Auditorium, URI.

Winners in the writing category:

Middle School Division

First place — David Dufresne, St. Luke's School, Barrington, grade five

Second place — Shannon Poskus, Gallagher Middle School, Smithfield, grade six

Honorable mention — Megan Bookless, St. Luke's School, Barrington, grade six

Mixed media — Laura D'Auguanno, Scituate Middle School, Scituate, grade eight

Middle School Division

First place — Kerri Augenstein, Scituate Middle School, Scituate, grade eight

High School Division

First place — Kate Turner, Tiverton High School, Tiverton, grade 11

Second place — Caitlin Luderer, Tiverton High School, Tiverton, grade 10

Second place — Jill Pilotte, Rogers High School, Newport, grade 12

Honorable mention — Danielle Bassett, Mt. Hope High School, Bristol, R.I., grade nine

Honorable mention — Stephen Jameson, Rogers High School, Newport, grade 12

Temple Beth-El Students Finish Hebrew Study

Thirty-eight students will complete their first year of Hebrew study at Temple Beth-El in Providence. To celebrate this occasion, a special program will be held to honor the students. On May 21, the students will participate in a Siyum to mark the completion of one book of Torah and the beginning of another book. The congregation congratulates the following students and their parents:

Laura Berlinsky-Schine, Jason Berman, Brandon Braverman, Baker Zion, Daniel Forman, Berkman Frank, Zachary Goldberg, Dana Goldstein, David Homonoff, Alexandra Horovitz, Zachary Kahan, Aaron Kerzner, Jacob Koppelman, Jenna Labush, Shaina Lamchick, Andres Lester, Olivia Linder, Amanda Loerinc, Matthew Loomis, Anna Maceroni, Bharat Maraj, Michael Miller, Clare Orenstein, Iersten Oresman, Danielle Oster, Andrew Rotondi, Michael Salk, Samuel Schachter, Chloe Serinsky, William Shore, Nathaniel Silver, Scott Singer, Aaron Spacone, Eric Steinberg, Sarah Tareco, Eric Wasserman, Benjamin Wilkes, and Steven Winter.

The 64th Post-Confirmation High School Graduation will take place at Temple Beth-El during Shabbat services on May 22 at 7:45 a.m. At that time, six dedicated 12th-grade students will be recognized and honored. The congregation congratulates the following graduates and their parents: Irving Fain, Benjamin Garber, Jennifer Phillips, Michael Phillips, Daniel Silverman, and Rachel Steiman.

RIC Bestows More Than 1,300 Degrees at 1998 Commencement Exercises

More than 1,300 Rhode Island College undergraduate and graduate students will receive their diplomas during the 1998 commencement exercises. This year's undergraduate festivities are expected to draw a gathering of 10,000 or more attendees — undergraduates, their friends and families, and faculty, staff and friends of the college — who will hear the wry and humorous observations of Rhode Island native, Spalding Gray, considered one of the foremost monologists of the 20th century. The undergraduate commencement exercises are scheduled for May 23, beginning at 9:30 a.m. on the esplanade in front of the New Building.

About 360 graduate students and their guests will listen to remarks by Paul Binder, founder and artistic director of the Big Apple Circus, a non-profit traveling performing arts troupe dedicated to keeping alive the old-time circus tradition as an expression of American folk art. Binder, who will receive an honorary doctorate of fine arts degree, will speak at the graduate commencement exercises scheduled for May 21, beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the New Building.

Among the graduate students accepting diplomas will be the first graduates of the master of fine arts program, a collaboration with the nationally recognized Trinity Repertory Company and its Conservatory. Nine students, including two who

hold bachelor's degrees in theater from RIC, have successfully completed the three-year program instituted in the fall of 1995. Native Rhode Islander



Paul Binder

Spalding Gray, who will receive an honorary doctorate of humane letters and deliver the address at the undergraduate commencement, also embodies the tradition of combining the performing arts and education, as he finds wisdom and lessons to be learned through the experiences of everyday life.

Honorary degrees will also be bestowed upon two other well-known Rhode Islanders, B. Jae Clanton and Armand M. LaMontagne.



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Prowling CATS Take PPAC

by Tara V. Lisciandro
Herald Editor

After years of success, "CATS" leaped back to the Providence Performing Arts Center this season, for a return engagement, May 12 to May 17. Last year "CATS" became the longest touring company in history. Andrew Lloyd Webber's megahit musical, based on T.S. Eliot's *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats*, first opened Dec. 1983 in Boston and spread nationally until 1989 when it traveled to London and became an international hit as well. A total of four national touring companies of "CATS" formed within a five-year period.

For those who haven't already experienced these whimsical felines, now is the time! And for "CATS" fans who have

already been mesmerized by the music and the magic, once is never enough! Timeless songs such as Grizabella's "Memory" return to PPAC's stage with grace, beauty and style. Directed by Trevor Nunn and choreographed by T. Michael Reed and Richard Stafford, "CATS" is still full of the same exciting drama and original flair.

After 15 years, "CATS" has left almost every audience with not just memories, but music that lingers and a story that steals your heart. More interesting are some of the numbers and little-known facts about the grand musical:

- 229 performers have played various roles in the show over

the past 10 years

- All four tours have played a total of 208 cities in the United States and Canada, for 750 engagements

- 165 cities have hosted the show more than once.

- Atlanta holds the record for hosting "CATS" the most times, at 12 engagements

- "CATS" has played in every state in the United States except for Vermont and New Hampshire

- Trucks that transport costumes, scenery, lights and equipment have traveled 2 million miles

- All touring companies of "CATS" have presented 88 benefits, raising over \$450,000 for AIDS charities as well as thousands more for flood and hurricane relief organizations.

There are just a few more days until "CATS" leaves its last prowls at PPAC. Make sure to take advantage of this special performance.

For ticket information, call the box office at 421-ARTS. PPAC is located at 220 Weybos-set St. in Providence.



Perishable Theatre Presents Sixth Annual Women's Playwriting Festival

Perishable Theatre is the producer of the Women's Playwriting Festival, one of a handful of festivals that is dedicated to one-act plays written by women. The Women's Playwriting Festival is now entering its sixth year of producing new (previously unproduced) one-act scripts by women from around the world, growing significantly every year since its inception. Three winners each receive a \$250 cash prize and a fully staged production for a monthlong run as the showpiece of the festival, which runs week-ends in June each year. This year's festival includes performances by guest performing artists and a textile art exhibit by Karen Gilbert in our gallery. Generous grants from the Rhode Island Committee for the Humanities and the Rhode Island Foundation ADDD Fund provides critical support in the printing of an anthology of the winning scripts with critical commentary provided by area scholars.

The following plays will be presented by May 28 to June 21: "Water From The Well" by Jean Tay (Singapore). One couple in a contemporary rural Chinese village discover the truth about what is in the village's water. Tay graduated from Brown University in 1997 with a double degree in creative writing and applied math-economics. She currently works as a central banker in Singapore.

"Mizz Romaine" by Mary Lou Pilkinton (Austin, Tex.) An elderly black society matron in New Orleans breaks in her replacement night nurse. Pilkinton hails from Texas and New Orleans, and has been selected as "Best of The Fest" three consecutive years for works featured at Austin Frontera/Hyde Park Theatre's Frontera Fest.

"Svetlana's New Flame" by Olga Humphrey (New York, N.Y.). A Russian immigrant blazes through her new life in the United States. Humphrey was recently nominated for the Susan Smith Blackburn Award, and has won the Christina Crawford Award.

For tickets call 331-2695.

RISD Hosts '98 Senior Film Animation Video Festival

Issues of apartheid, cave paintings, the romantic tendencies of teddy bears, captivity, and a collection of vignettes about different types of relationships are just a few of the creative works that can be seen at Rhode Island School of Design's 1998 Film Animation Video Festival. Films will premiere from May 20 through 23 at 7 p.m., at the RISD Auditorium, located on South Main Street in Providence.

Works from RISD's film, animation, and video department have received international attention for their vibrant perspectives, creative use of media, and general excellence. The senior show, which features cartoon animation, experimental animation, narrative live action, experimental live action, and documentary live action, marks the first public screening of works of individuals who may well shape the future of the film industry.

According to John Terry, head of RISD's film animation and video department, every film is an experiment in storytelling, with production methods varying as much as the subject matter itself. He added that with the department's acquisition of ever-changing media technology, "our filmmakers, animators and video artists are able to incorporate an individual voice and passion into their work that has ultimately brought RISD worldwide recognition."

Tickets to the film festival are \$4 per person for the general public, and \$2 per person for students and senior citizens. For a complete listing of the films and show times, call 454-6233.

Pulitzer Prize Winner Drives Into Trinity Rep

Last year's off-Broadway hit sensation, and 1998's winner of the Pulitzer Prize for drama, "How I Learned to Drive," by Providence playwright Paula Vogel will make its New England premiere at Trinity Rep from May 15 through June 28. Produced in association with Perseverance Theatre and featuring veteran Trinity Rep actors Anne Scurria and Tim Crowe, the production has been directed by Molly Smith, a long-time collaborator with Vogel.

"How I Learned to Drive" is a sympathetically told tale about a young girl coming into adulthood and her nurturing but disturbing relationship with an older relative. Both heartbreaking and humorous, this exceptional play examined the shifting balance between victimization and empowerment in a way that renders simple judgment impossible.

"As a director, it's always a thrill to work with a writer at the full peak of her powers as a storyteller and dramatist," commented Smith. "How I Learned to Drive" is an extraordinary

play which presents the best of what theater can be: mesmerizing, personal, and breathtaking in its compassion and beauty. I'm delighted to be returning to Trinity Rep and working with Paula on this play which is a modern classic."

The play received its initial public reading as part of Trinity Rep's annual Providence New Play Festival in 1997. After opening off-Broadway, "How I Learned to Drive" became a major hit of the New York 1997-98 theater season, with rave views from the *New York Times* and the *New York Magazine* among others. Before being awarded the Pulitzer Prize on April 14, the play had garnered 15 other awards, including four Obie Awards, The Drama Desk and the Outer Critics Circle Award.

A Providence resident since 1985, when she became director of the Playwriting Workshop at Brown University, Vogel is the recipient of numerous awards for her writing.

For ticket information, call 521-1100.

Friendly Culinary Conversation

by Daren L. Bulley

I recently attended "A Conversation with Julia and Friends." The panel for this discussion included Julia Child, Jasper White, Johanne Killeen, Molly O'Neill, Nancy Verde Barr, and Anne Willan. The programming was extremely encouraging and thought-provoking. The combination of culinary talent and knowledge on that stage, even after meeting and speaking with many of the gifted chefs at Johnson and Wales University, was intoxicating.

Each of these people represent something I admire. The result of my 28 years of dreaming of becoming a chef like Jasper White, or my goal to be a food writer like Molly O'Neill, columnist for the *New York Times Magazine*. To be the chef and owner of my own internationally famous restaurant like Johanne Killeen of Al Forno, and to have the opportunity to touch, teach, and inspire so many people as Julia Child does daily.

The conversation was wonderful fun, reminiscing about some of the events that shaped their lives, and their culinary careers, including how they began, when they met Julia, and other adventures along the way to where they are now.

The highlight of the evening was when the chefs were each discussing how they got started. I discovered that my idols are real people, and that my goals, although many years down the road, are attainable.

This event was one of many programs offered by the Providence Public Library, a dynamic resource for the community.

Daren Bulley is a culinary student at Johnson and Wales University.

Celebrate Commencement With 'All In The Timing'

The Friends of Brown University Theatre present "All in The Timing," by David Ives, directed by Alexandra Litow ('98).

Winner of the John Gassner Playwriting Award, this critically acclaimed, award-winning evening of comedies is sure to be a sellout! "Like sketches for some hilarious, celestially conceived revue... 'All in The Timing' is by a master of fun. David Ives spins 'hilarity out of words.'" — *N.Y. Times*. "All in The Timing" will be performed May 20 to 24 at 8 p.m. in Leeds Theatre.

Performers include Malina Brown, Shana Harvey, Ryan Phillips, Julia Shaeffer, Ben Steinfeld, and Austin Winsberg.

The stage manager is Julie Novacek with set design by student Lee Savage and lighting design by Kristie Lynn Roldan, costume design by Amy Hofer and technical direction by Jonathan Doughty.

Tickets are available at the Leeds Theatre box office, 77 Waterman St., Providence. Ticket prices are \$15 general admission, May 20 and May 21 prices are \$10 for senior citizens (over 65), Brown faculty/staff, and students. Phone reservations are accepted with VISA/Mastercard. Box office hours are Monday through Friday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and one hour before curtain on the evenings of performance. For more information or to make reservations, call 863-2838.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Fresh Approach to Fashion Design Unveiled at RISD's 'Collection '98'

Student designer's individual approaches to contemporary fashion will be unveiled at "Collection '98," Rhode Island School of Design's annual spring fashion show on May 23 at Veterans Memorial Auditorium, Brownell Street in Providence.

The original designs featured in "Collection '98" demonstrate how RISD apparel design students are taught to meet the exacting demands of the garment industry while still expressing their personal ingenuity in both functional and experimental clothing. Students receive careful training in garment construction including sketching, pattern making, fabric draping,

computer rendering, sewing, and operating a knitting machine.

Student work is critiqued and reviewed by RISD faculty and visiting designers throughout the year. At each semester's end, a distinguished panel of judges selects the best designs for the spring fashion show. The works are assessed in terms of form, texture, color, creativity, and technical execution.

Ticket prices are \$35, \$25, \$15, \$10, and \$5 with all proceeds benefiting RISD's Scholarship Fund. For tickets, call Telecharge at (800) 233-3123 or the Veterans Memorial Auditorium box office at 272-4VMA.

High Wire Art

Gallery Night Providence is hosting a special evening on May 21, when participants will have an opportunity to meet the artists who created the telephone pole sculptures on Wickenden Street. From 6 to 8 p.m., many of the pole artists will be on hand at various gallery stops on Gallery Night to discuss their works and answer questions. A list of artists will be available on the historic ArtTrolleys which shuttle participants around the city to the various galleries, including Hurricane, Helianthus, Picture This, and the Bert Gallery.

Known as "High Wire Art," the outdoor exhibit is the work of local professional artists displaying their sculptures on telephone poles along Wickenden Street. Artist Madolin Maxey conceived of the project in 1994, and now the street is home to 20 sculptures. New works are being added all the time, and there will be 21 new pieces installed in time for the May 21 Gallery Night. All the pieces are donated by the artists.

Gallery Night is free and takes place the third Thursday of every month from 5 to 9 p.m. For more information, contact Catherine Bert at 751-2628 or Madolin Maxey 831-4852.

Wickford Art Association Seeks Photo Entries

Wickford Art Association announces a call for entries for its ninth annual Open Juried Photography Show. The show is open to black and white and color photography; there are no size limits.

Artists are invited to enter their work May 20 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 5 to 6 p.m. and May 21 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Wickford Art Association Gallery, 36 Beach St., Wickford. There is a non-refundable entry fee of \$8/entry, or \$30 for four entries and artists may enter a maximum of four pieces.

All work entered must meet the following guidelines: must have been created within the last three years; must not have been previously shown at the WAA Gallery, must be original, and must be framed, wired and ready to hang.

The opening reception for the show is May 22 from 7 to 9 p.m. The reception and show are free and open to the public. The show runs May 22 to June 4.

The Wickford Art Association Gallery is located at 36 Beach St., Wickford. Hours are 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday, and noon to 3 p.m. Sundays. For information, call 294-6840.

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Theatre-By-The-Sea Hosts 10th Anniversary 'Trio' Special

Theatre-By-The-Sea in Matunuck raises the curtain on a new way to enjoy the best summer entertainment in Rhode Island. In celebration of FourQuest Entertainment's 10th anniversary as successful proprietor of the Theatre-By-The-Sea compound in Matunuck — theater, restaurant, cabaret, and extensive gardens — as well as its "trio" of producers, Richard Ericson, Laura Harris, and Renny Serre.

Theatre-By-The-Sea continues to be one of the best-kept traditions of summer in Rhode Island and, in its 65th season, is a landmark theater destination for thousands of theatergoers. Its "Broadway in a Barn" season is one of time-honored and critically acclaimed classics from the American musical theater. The season line-up is as follows:

May 26 to June 14 — "Forever Plaid," an hysterical and endearing tribute to the close-harmony singing groups of the '50s with many favorite "Golden Oldies" including "Three Coins in a Fountain," "Rags to Riches" and "Love is a Many Splendored Thing."

June 16 to July 5 — "The Sound of Music," a spectacular version of the classic musical about the von Trapp family, featuring the much-loved songs, "Do-Re-Mi," "My Favorite Things," and "Climb Every Mountain." Broadway's got it, and so do we!

July 7 to Aug. 2 — "Grease," an affectionate and delightfully funny send-up of the styles and mores of teen-agers in the '50s — the time to slick back your hair, put on your leather jacket, and get ready for some "summer loving!"

Aug. 4 to 23 — "42nd Street," based on the Busby Berkeley movie classic. "Come and meet those dancing feet..." Times Square comes to Matunuck in this tap-happy celebration of back-stage romance!

Aug. 25 to Sept. 13 — "Godspell," a joyful and moving retelling of the Gospel according to St. Matthew — on the beach — featuring the memorable "All Good Gifts" and "Day by Day."

Call 782-8587 for information and ticket sales.

'The Millionaire' Comes to The Orpheum Theatre

Raquel Welch stars as Epifania in George Barnard Shaw's comic masterpiece "The Millionaire" at the Orpheum Theatre-Foxborough. This tour de force whirlwind of outrageous fortune and the arduous pursuit of true love is a co-production of the Orpheum Theatre-Foxborough and Shakespeare & Company and will run from May 28 through June 15.

"The Millionaire" stars noted Broadway and film actress Raquel Welch as the beautiful Epifania. After losing her father, but gaining an empire, Epifania divorces her inattentive husband, falls in love with a poor Egyptian doctor and accepts a challenge to live as a pauper. Her instincts for acquisition in the business world, however, soon take over in matters of the heart. "The Millionaire" starred Katharine Hepburn on Broadway in 1952 and Sophia Loren and Peter Sellers in a 1961 film version.

"The Millionaire" is directed by Tina Packer, who is the founder of Shakespeare & Company and has directed most of its major productions. Packer trained at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, where she won the Ronson Award for Most Outstanding Performer. Her recent productions outside Shakespeare & Company include "Hamlet," "Othello," "Scheherazade."

For more information, or to purchase tickets, contact the Orpheum Theatre-Foxborough box office, One School St., Foxboro, at (508) 543-ARTS. For group sales information, call (508) 261-7200.



READY FOR THE RUNWAY — A sample of students' designs that can be seen on May 23 at RISD's "Collection '98." Models, Nicole and Jaswant. Photo by Constance Brown

Meditation Program

The Rhode Island Sri Chinmoy Centre will offer a free six-week course in meditation at the William Hall Library, 1825 Broad St., beginning May 14 and continuing weekly through June 18, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

The program will include exercises for improving concentration, relaxation, quieting the mind, and opening the heart. There will also be discussion of Eastern philosophy, diet, meditative music and short readings. The first session will include tips for getting started with a daily routine.

The Sri Chinmoy Centre is a non-denominational meditation group whose members practice meditation as a way of developing more inner and outer harmony. Pre-registration is requested to ensure adequate seating. Participants should wear comfortable clothing and avoid eating for one hour before class. Light refreshments will be served. Call 438-5954 to register.

The program is offered as a free community service by the non-profit center.



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Coffee or Tea/Chocolate Truffle Mousse Cake

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OBITUARIES

ROSALIND CHASET
WORCESTER — Rosalind Chaset, 80, of 40 Sachem Drive, Cranston, died May 6 at the Jewish Health Care Center, Worcester, Mass. She was the wife of the late Dr. Nathan Chaset.

Born in Lawrence, Mass., a daughter of the late Louis and Bessie Kimball, she moved to Florida in 1971 and maintained a residence in Cranston. She had previously lived in Providence.

She was a 1939 graduate of Simmons College and past president of the Brandeis University National Women's Committee. She was a member of Temple Beth-El.

She leaves two sons, Dr. Richard Chaset of Leominster, Mass., and Paul Chaset of Concord, Mass.; a daughter, Ellen Baxter of Sherman Oaks, Calif.; and three grandchildren. She was the sister of the late Joseph Kimball, Esther Altman, Doris Newman and Mathilda Queen.

The funeral was held May 8 in Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. Arrangements were by the Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

E. LOTTIE COHEN

FAIRFIELD, Conn. — E. Lottie Cohen died May 3 at the Jewish Home for the Elderly in Fairfield, Conn. She was the widow of Dr. William B. Cohen and Joseph Cohen.

She was born in Fall River, Mass., the daughter of William and Sarah Cohen.

After graduating from B.M.C. Durfee High School and secretarial school, she was employed as a legal secretary and later became office manager of the family business, the Fall River Wrecking Co.

She was a resident of Providence for sixty years before moving to Connecticut in 1990. She was a member of Temple Beth-El and its Sisterhood, Hadassah, Jewish Home for the Aged, Brandeis University and the Ledgemont Country Club. She was also appointed an honorary board member of The Miriam Hospital Association in recognition of her years of service.

She is survived by a daughter, Beverly Peterman of Stamford, Conn.; a son, Daniel Cohen of New York City; a sister, Ruth Cohen of Quincy, Mass.; four grandchildren; three great-grandchildren, a number of nieces and nephews, including Jane Gross of Warwick, Samuel Olevson of Providence, Paula Zais of East Providence, and Howard Cohen of Barrington.

Funeral services were held on May 5 and interment was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. Arrangements were by Leo P. Gallagher & Son Funeral Homes, Connecticut.

EVELYN D. GREENSTEIN

PROVIDENCE — Evelyn D. Greenstein, 97, of 100 Randall St., a clerk at the former Samson's and Armen's Hardware, before retiring May 10 at the Charlesgate Nursing Center.

A lifelong resident of Providence, she was daughter of the late Bernard and Dora (Greenberg) Greenstein.

She was a member of Hadassah, the Ladies Home for the Aged, the Charlesgate Tenants Association and Congregation Shaare Zedek.

She leaves three nieces, Phyllis Oelbaum of Providence; Sandra Finkelstein of Cranston and Joan Gurland of Springfield, Mass.; and a nephew, William Bilgor of East Brunswick, N.J. She was the sister of the late Edith Bilgor, Claire Levenson, and Jacob and Maurice Greenstein.

A graveside funeral service was held May 11 in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. Arrangements were by Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

ETHEL J. HOCHMAN

PROVIDENCE — Ethel J. Hochman, 86, of Summit Medical Center, 1085 North Main St., died May 5 at the center. She was the wife of the late Hyman Hochman.

A lifelong Providence resident, she was a daughter of the late Henry and Rose (Kaplan) Alberts.

She leaves a daughter, Arlene Adler of Providence; a son, Richard Hochman of Cranston; three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. She was the sister of the late Gertrude Alberts, Irene Bookchin, Lil Chorney and Evelyn Ellensweig, and grandmother of the late Derek Hochman.

The funeral was held May 6

at Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

JACOB OTMAN

PROVIDENCE — Jacob Otman, 56, of 150 Dartmouth St., Pawtucket, died May 5 at Miriam Hospital, Providence. He was the husband of Rimma (Shpilman) Otman.

Born in Russia, a son of the late Chaim and Rosa (Leykin) Otman, he had lived in Russia before moving to Pawtucket three years ago.

Besides his wife, he leaves two daughters, Yelena Otman of Pawtucket and Alla Kapustin in Israel; a sister, Lilya Rosenbaum in New York City; and two grandchildren.

The funeral was held May 6 at the Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence. A graveside service was held in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

ELLIOT RAYMAN

COLUMBUS, Ga. — Elliot Rayman, 71, of Columbus, previously of New Bedford, Mass., died May 6, at his home. He was the husband of Rona (Cohen) Rayman and son of the late Lillian (Bort) and Nathan Rayman.

He was born in Boston and moved to Georgia in 1991. He was a self-employed auditor-accountant who retired in 1992. He was a graduate of the Boston School of Accounting, a member of B'nai B'rith, Shearith Israel Synagogue of Columbus, a member of the Jewish War Veterans and a U.S. Army veteran.

Besides his wife, he is survived by two daughters, Nanette Rayman of New York and Eleanor Armour of Illinois; two sons, Alan Rayman of New York and Jay Rayman of Columbus, Ga., and a sister, Thelma Schwartz of Walpole.

A graveside funeral service was held May 8 at Plainville Cemetery in New Bedford, Mass. Arrangements were by the Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence.

FRANCES A. PEPPER RESNICK

PROVIDENCE — Frances A. "Pepper" Resnick, 61, of 20 East Bel Air Road, Cranston, a self-employed antiques dealer retiring three years ago due to illness, died May 3 at the Philip Hulitar Hospice Inpatient Center, Providence. She was the wife of Sydney Resnick.

Born in Boston, a daughter of Edwin Cohen and the late Ruth (Freedman) Cohen, she lived in Cranston most of her life.

She was a 1959 graduate of Mt. Ida College. She was a life member of Hadassah, and a member of Temple Am David.

Besides her husband and father, she leaves two sons, John Resnick of Pawtucket and David Resnick of Sharon, Mass.; a brother, Sol Cohen of Lake Worth, Fla., and two grandchildren.

The funeral was held May 5 at the Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

ARNOLD SOKOLL

CRANSTON — Arnold Sokoll, 73, of 119 Dellwood Drive, a watchmaker for the Providence Watch Hospital, died May 5 at home. He was the husband of Maejanis (Honingblum) Sokoll.

Born in Fall River, a son of the late David and Sarah (Robinovitz) Sokoll, he lived in Cranston for 28 years, previously living in Providence.

He previously worked for J. Kaplan Jewelers, Providence.

He was a member of the Redwood Masonic Lodge 35 and the Scottish Rite, Valley of Providence.

Besides his wife, he leaves a son, Richard Sokoll, and a daughter, Marsha Vilker, both of Cranston; a brother, Bennett Sokoll of North Dartmouth, Mass., and three grandchildren. He was the brother of the late Robert Sokoll.

The funeral was held May 7 at the Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

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Argentina to Extradite Man Who Headed Camp in Croatia

NEW YORK (JTA) — Argentina will likely extradite a former concentration camp commander to Croatia according to a government official in Buenos Aires.

Argentine officials arrested Dinko Sakic after Croatia re-

quested his extradition to stand charges for war crimes committed while he headed the Jasenovac camp from 1942 to 1944.

Some 85,000 Jews, Serbs and Gypsies were murdered at the camp, which was run by Croatia's Nazi puppet regime.

Armed with a search warrant, a team of policemen showed up at Sakic's house, where two television crews, including CBS, had

(Continued on Page 19)

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Unveiling

The family of the late Ruth Herman wishes to announce the unveiling at Lincoln Park Cemetery on Sunday, May 17, at 4 p.m.

Backyard Conservation What You Can Do

Charity may begin at home, but conservation started on the farm. Farmers and ranchers have long used conservation systems to protect soil, water, air, plant and animal resources. Fortunately, many of these farm-fostered efforts can take root in your backyard, too.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, there are a number of ways homeowners can help protect the country's resources, including:

- **Wildlife habitat.** Trees, shrubs and other plants provide food and shelter for many kinds of wildlife. Bird feeders and houses provide a welcoming environment for feathered friends. A birdbath or backyard pond offers needed fresh water for birds, bats and other creatures.

- **Pest control.** Having the right insects in your garden or backyard can keep pests and weeds in check. Beneficial insects, such as ladybugs and praying mantises, prey on insects that can harm plants. Healthy, vigorous plants can also minimize pest damage. If you use chemical pesticides, choose ones with low toxicity levels that decompose rapidly for a minimal effect on the environment.

- **Water conservation.** Rain water can be collected for watering your lawn or garden. Use a storage barrel to gather runoff

from the eavespouts. A drip irrigation system, such as a soaker hose, can also be used in the garden to minimize water waste and maximize distribution to individual plants.

- **Composting.** All organic matter decomposes, and the resulting product is a nutrient-rich compound that works wonders on all kinds of soil. A compost pile can be started simply with leaves, grass clippings, vegetable scraps and other yard waste. Decomposing microorganisms and need nitrogen, carbon, oxygen and moisture to thrive. In order to

achieve this balance, keep the pile damp; maintain a regular mix of grass clippings and dried leaves; and turn the pile regularly.

- **Tree planting.** Trees in your backyard can be home to many different types of wildlife, reduce your heating and cooling costs, help clean the air, add beauty and color, provide shelter from the wind and sun, and add value to your home.

These tips are part of "Backyard Conservation," a national campaign created by the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service. For more information on the program, visit the Web site at <http://nrcs.usda.gov> or call (888) LAND-CARE for a free color booklet.



Flower Power

National Tutoring Program Helps Disadvantaged Youngsters Blossom

Mix one fun-seeking Israeli college student with one 12-year-old, newly arrived Russian immigrant. Add one disadvantaged child whose father is in jail or an Ethiopian girl living in a cramped, shabby trailer who has never seen a movie nor splashed freely with other children in a cool blue pool. Repeat at least twice a week for 12 months. Watch mixture mature and become almost inseparable. This is the unique recipe for Israel's national tutoring program dubbed Perach (Hebrew for "flower" and the acronym for "tutoring project").

In a recently held annual ceremony honoring outstanding Perach participants, 12 college students had the opportunity to express their gratitude for taking part in the program.

Chosen for their exceptional influence on the lives of their young partners, participants described their experiences and the project that made it all possible. Founded more than 20 years ago with the help of Professor Haim Harari, then dean of the Weizmann Institute of Science's Feinberg Graduate School, the program offers scholarships to students, from both private and public funds, covering up to 50 percent of college tuition. In return: a commitment to the Perach cause, saving disadvantaged children from falling through the cracks in Israeli society.

"Recognizing the great po-

tential of college students' influence on these kids, we built an intense program, said Amos Carmeli, Perach's national director.

Take Gadiel Daltorf, a geography major who himself was once at the receiving end of the program. On an almost daily basis he tutored Sergei, a 12-year-old Russian immigrant, son of a

The program's success is astounding, attested to by the ongoing and numerous requests made by disadvantaged parents eager for their children's inclusion in Perach. Even though the program, managed out of the Kugler Perach Office Building on the Weizmann Institute campus, reaches out to 45,000 youngsters all over Israel, not all re-

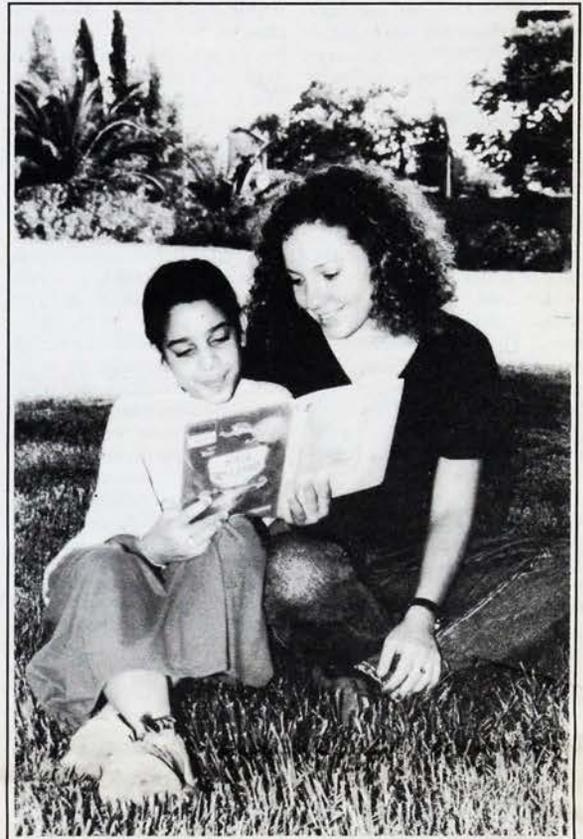


Photo courtesy of American Committee for Weizmann Institute of Science

quests can be fulfilled. Perhaps the most important contribution is to the child's — and the mentor's — self-esteem. As Daltorf puts it, "When during a neighborhood soccer game I heard Sergei, who hardly ever spoke, shouting at his teammates that they ought to kick better, I knew he was headed in the right direction."

single mom. Daltorf soon became Sergei's surrogate brother.

As Ayelet Arkin, who tutored an Ethiopian girl, said, "I fell in love with her the first time she took my hand. Perach has always been something special to me, something else. It pours light into the lives of children who feel that they have no one to look up to."

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