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Rhode Island Jewish HERALD

The Only English-Jewish Weekly in Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts

Special Occasions
PAGES 8 & 9

VOLUME LXVIII, NUMBER 42 | ELUL 12, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1998 | 35¢ PER COPY

Jewish War Veterans Want Memorial at Lincoln Park Cemetery

by Emily Torgan-Shalansky
Jewish Community Reporter

At their June 14 annual meeting, the Jewish War Veterans of the Department of Rhode Island declared themselves unanimously determined to create a memorial wall, at the Veteran's Memorial Cemetery in Warwick, in honor of their deceased colleagues.

On Aug. 31, State Commander of the Jewish War Veterans Irving H. Levin walked the perimeter of the Lincoln Park Cemetery, Rhode Island's largest Jewish burial ground. There, he discussed the project and the feelings behind the veterans' collective yearning for a permanent memorial inscribed with the names of Jewish Rhode Islanders who had served then passed on.

"All of the veterans who left their homes to serve in the U.S. armed forces during war or conflict, not knowing if they would come back physically or mentally maimed, if at all, deserve to be remembered with dignity," said Levin, a former member of an Airborne Division Unit that fought in Europe during World War II. "Those of us who came back with our lives and still have them need to make sure that they are."

Therefore, Levin and his colleagues, who represent Rhode Island's 2,000 Jewish war veterans, want to replace the Mogen Dovid-shaped vinyl panels that currently bear those names with a 6-foot tall, L-shaped memorial wall that will provide 52 feet of speckled granite engraving space to dedicate to those men and women.

"We've been having a lot of trouble with this," said Levin, as he gazed at the vinyl panels of both the Mogen David construction and the additional panels that had been placed on the veterans' land after the initial panels had filled up.

On the vinyl sheeting, heat and humidity had twisted and shriveled many of the white plastic letters that spelled the 1,875 names of the dead.

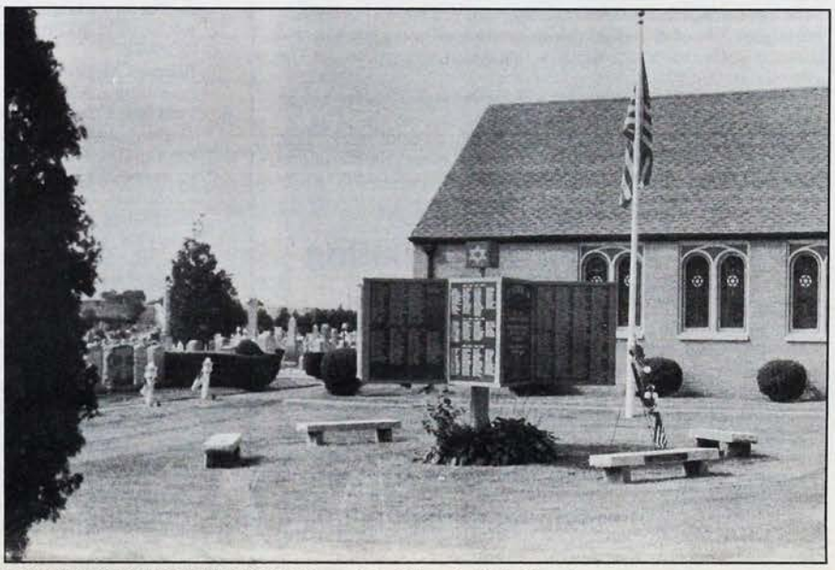
On one panel, the "e" and the "n" in Earle F. Cohen's name had melded together; in another, the "h" that spelled the late Harry Falstein's last name had stretched so that his name appeared to read "Mary."

"We just fixed this," Levin sighed.

On the grass between the cemetery's stone arch dedicated to Jewish Rhode Islanders who were missing in action and killed in action overseas and a neat row of Mogen Dovid headstones marking the graves of 12 Jewish Rhode Islanders who had fallen abroad, the peeling panels jarred the eye.

"They began as a wonderful idea," said Levin as he traced the cemetery's history.

According to Levin, a Cranston resident who achieved local fame as an advocate for veterans' causes during the 20 years he served in the Rhode Island General Assembly, the land was granted to the Jewish War Veterans by the Chesed Shel Emas, or Jewish burial society, in 1949.



THE JEWISH WAR VETERANS' Memorial at Lincoln Park Cemetery.
Herald photo by Emily Torgan-Shalanksy

Because Torah law states that Jewish people must rest in Jewish burial grounds, said Levin, many of the Jewish War Veterans called for space in a cemetery that had been designated as Jewish.

"The state's veterans' cemetery, which is located in Exeter, is non-sectarian," Levin said.

As Jewish veterans who had survived the foreign wars and returned home began to reach the end of their lives, the Rhode Island Jewish War Veterans would visit their graves, which were located in various cemeteries across Rhode Island, and decorate them with American flags and bronze Jewish stars.

"We did the decorating in Lincoln Park Cemetery, the Temple Beth-El Cemetery, the Woonsocket Cemetery, the Newport Cemetery, the Middletown Cemetery and the Touro grave in Newport," remembered Levin. "Although Seymour Davis still decorates the veterans' graves in Newport and Middletown and Bernice Salzburg has continued to flag the graves in Woonsocket,

(Continued on Page 15)

European Firms Latest to Join Rush to Settle Holocaust Claims

by Mitchell Danow

NEW YORK (JTA) — In a major step toward settling wartime claims, four European insurance companies signed an agreement recently that will eventually provide millions of dollars in compensation to Holocaust survivors.

The agreement, signed here recently by the insurers, Jewish officials and U.S. insurance officials, comes one week after Italy's largest insurer, Assicurazioni Generali, signed the same memorandum of understanding and agreed to pay $100 million to settle Holocaust-era claims. One week before that, Switzerland's largest insurer, Zurich Allied, signed the memo.

The companies signing the memo included Germany's leading insurer, Allianz Holding, France's AXA Group, and the Winterthur and Basel insurance firms in Switzerland.

All of the companies are among 16 European insurers targeted in a $16 billion class-action lawsuit filed last year by Holocaust victims and their families, who alleged that the firms withheld, concealed or converted the proceeds of policies sold before World War II.

The memorandum, signed by the insurers in an effort to block the suit from going forward, calls for:

- creating an international commission to probe the firms' archives for unpaid insurance claims;
- establishing a claims resolution mechanism to settle the claims; and
- immediate contributions by the firms to a fund from which the claims will be paid and to a second humanitarian fund, similar to one created last year in Switzerland, to help Holocaust victims.

The international commission will comprise 12 members — six representing the insurers and European regulators and six drawn from Jewish groups, according to Elan Steinberg, executive director of the World Jewish Congress. He said the commission will also have a chairman independent of any of these groups.

Steinberg, who called the signing a "major step toward justice," said the move is significant because it establishes a process for resolving survivors' claims.

"We can't simply settle with the insurers," he said, "because it is impossible at this point to know the exact value of the prewar policies involved in the claims."

But he pointed out that preliminary assessments of the policies put them at between $2 billion and $2.5 billion in today's currency — 10 times their value in postwar dollars.

The insurer's decision to sign the memo was also prompted by mounting pressures from state insurance commissioners across the United States, who threatened to impose sanctions on the firms' U.S. subsidiaries if there were no resolution of Holocaust-era claims.

Recently, Switzerland's two leading commercial banks agreed to a $1.25 billion settlement of claims dating from that era. Observers of the restitution process say that settlement also prompted the insurers to begin signing onto the memorandum of understanding.

The Swiss banks settlement has also had major repercussions among German firms:

- Two of Germany's leading banks, Deutsche Bank and Dresdner Bank, have confirmed that they are negotiating with Jewish officials to reach a possible settlement. The banks face an $18 billion class-action lawsuit over allegations that they knowingly laundered gold and other valuables stripped from concentration camp victims.
- Germany's third-largest bank institution, Commerzbank, said it had appointed a panel of independent scholars to probe whether it profited from gold and jewelry looted from concentration camp victims or was withholding the proceeds of bank accounts from their rightful Jewish owners.
- The Bonn government suggested that German companies could channel money into funds for Holocaust survivors in Eastern Europe as a way of preempting lawsuits against them by former Jewish slave laborers and other groups. The suggestion that private German firms contribute to such a fund came days after Chancellor Helmut Kohl said the government would not participate. He noted that Germany has already paid more than $55.5 billion since the end of the war in various forms of Holocaust compensation.
- Two leading German firms recently announced their intention to make available substantial funds for former Nazi slave laborers. Volkswagen said that it would make its own payments to claimants. Daimler Benz, the Stuttgart-based industrial giant, said it would be willing to contribute to an already existent government fund for former slave laborers.

(JTA correspondent Daniel Dagan in Bonn contributed to this report.)

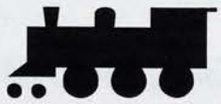
HAPPENINGS

Mancini Photograph Exhibit

Photographs of the Pawtuxet River, Scituate Reservoir and local mills, taken by Salvatore Mancini, are currently being exhibited in the Rear Gallery of the Cranston Public Library, 140 Sockanosset Cross Road.

The black and white photographs were taken with a 4 x 5 view camera and will be exhibited through Sept. 30. The exhibit is free and open to the public during library hours.

Annual Model Train Show at South County Museum



Members of the Mohegan-Pequot Model Train Club will be returning to Narragansett's South County Museum on Sept. 5 and 6 with a wide assortment of model trains for the fourth year. Featuring hundreds of cars, the highlight of the show is the "cookie" train. Operating engineers of the club will be on hand to demonstrate and answer questions. The show hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily

Admission to the museum is $3.50 adults, $1.75 children 6 to 16. Members are free.

The South County Museum is located on Boston Neck Road, Scenic Route 1A, with the entrance directly opposite the Narragansett Town Beach pavilion.

Poetry Writing and Reading at Barrington Library

Local poets who participated in the Poetry Writing Workshop series at the Barrington Public Library this summer will read their poetry on Sept. 8, at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the library.

The program, called Poets Read, invites the community to listen to poems inspired by a variety of writing exercises assigned by teachers Catherine Boisseau and Ingrid Wild Kleckner. Community Services Librarian Lauri Burke notes, "The exercises given are purposely designed to 'go against the grain' and elicit fresh and emotionally vivid work from the writers. For example, one exercise required the poets to write down something or someone they truly hated, then to turn around and write a love poem to that person or thing. The results were very strong."

Poets Read is free and open to all.

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Calendar: September 3rd thru September 13

4 **19th Annual Classic Yacht Regatta.** View this regatta right from shore! More than 100 classic wooden yachts built between the late 1800s and 1955 compete on Narragansett Bay. Fort Adams State Park, Museum of Yachting, Newport, Sept. 4 to 6, 847-1018.

"The Threepenny Opera," by Betrolt Brecht and Elisabeth Hauptman. Music by Kurt Weill. Trinity Repertory Company, 201 Washington St., Providence, Sept. 4 to 30, 351-4242.

5 **18th annual Arts and Crafts Guild Fair.** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. See island art and enjoy the harbor view at the fair. Island-made jewelry, watercolors, photoagraphy, and various crafts on display. Esta's Park, Block Island, 466-2982, (800) 383-2474.

Waterfire Providence, 7:13 p.m. Sixty bonfires illuminate the waters along the Providence River, accompanied by rhythmic music. Stroll along the riverbank walkways, or paddle a boat along the river to enjoy this unique event. Weather permitting. Waterplace Park, Providence, 272-3111.

Labor Day Beach Party 6 p.m. Day-long family activities including sand sculpture, concerts, children's performers, games and contests. Easton's Beach, Memorial Blvd., Newport, 847-8875.

Moonlight Cruise on a Glass-Bottom Boat. 7 to 9 p.m. Spy upon creatures below the water depths on the Night Heron. View a stunning sunset and a shimmering moonrise on the calm waters of Pt. Judith Salt Pond. Snug Harbor Marina, Gooseberry Road, South Kingstown, 783-9977.

Farmers Market, every Saturday, Hope High School, corner of Hope and Olney streets, Providence, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Now until the end of October.

6 **1998 R.I. Labor and Ethnic Heritage Festival**, noon to 6 p.m. Honoring Rhode Island working and ethnic communities, and encouraging the cultural interaction of people through the arts. Musical performances, storytellers, dramatic presentations, historic site tours, painting exhibits, folk arts and crafts. Slater Mill Historic Site, 67 Roosevelt Ave., Pawtucket, 725-8638, 463-9900.

Blackstone River Slater Mill Boat Tour. View the Blackstone River and surrounding historical areas aboard the 14-passenger river craft Spirit of the Blackstone. Call for schedule. Slater Mill Historic Site, 67 Roosevelt Ave., Pawtucket, 724-1500.

Family Day at Blithewold, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Old-fashioned fun for the entire family. Antique cars, refreshment tent, lawn games, music, pony rides and outdoor activities for children. Blithewold Mansion & Gardens, 101 Ferry Road, Bristol, 253-2707.

7 **13th Annual Conimicut Days Festival**, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; concert, 7:30 to 9 p.m. Arts, crafts, historical exhibits, children's events, and food topped off by a concert in the evening. Village of Conimicut, West Shore Road, Warwick, 738-3749.

8 **Providence Art Club.** Weekdays, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sat., noon to 3 p.m.; Sun., 3 to 5 p.m. Main & Dodge Galleries feature the past and recent works of native Rhode Islander Maxwell Mays. Highly personalized depiction's of local history and images, some quite factual and others purely imaginative and fun-loving. Providence Art Club, 11 Thomas St., Providence, Sept. 8 to 18. 331-1114.

11 **South County Hospital's An Evening at Rosecliff**. 6:30 to 11:30 p.m. An elegant evening of dining and dancing. Black tie optional. Silent auction. Proceeds to benefit the expansion of cardiopulmonary rehab services. Rosecliff Mansion, Bellevue Ave., Newport, 782-8020, ext. 490.

Sunset Hike with Llamas. Call for time. Hike through forest trails accompanied by these savvy South American trail blazers. Groups of six or more required. The Llama Farma, Nate Whipple Highway, Cumberland, 334-1873.

14th Annual Providence Waterfront Festival. Sept. 11, 7 to 11 p.m.; Sept. 12, noon to 11 p.m.; Sept. 13, noon to 7 p.m. Multi-cultural mix of performers, children's activities, folk artists, storytellers, arts and crafts and an international food court. River tours, canoe and kayak races, and a daylong jazz festival on Sept. 13, Waterplace Park, Providence. 751-1177.

12 **Apponaug Festival**. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Crafts, food trolley rides, and live entertainment by the Navy Band. Apponaug, Post Road, Warwick, 732-5651.

Historic Bristol Harbor Tour. 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Paddle along Poppasquash Neck, Hog Island then paddle back to Bristol Harbor and the Herreshoff Marine Museum. A gourmet deli lunch is provided. Sakonnet Boathouse, 169 Riverside Dr., Tiverton, 624-1440.

Pasta Challenge. All you can eat pasta and sauce from 25 to 30 area restaurants. Sponsored by Keep Providence Beautiful. Johnson & Wales, Gaeabe Commons, Providence, 351-6440.

13 **Apple Social**. 1 to 4 p.m. Variety of homemade apple desserts served on the ground of a 17th-century farmhouse. House tours available. Smith-Appleby House, 220 Stillwater Road, Smithfield, 231-7363.

Tiverton Century Ride. A 100-mile century ride for participants who fund-raise for the Leukemia Society of America. Call for more information. Tiverton, 943-8888.

Israeli Artist Village on Exhibit

Ein Hod: An Israeli Artists' Village will be on exhibit Sept. 13 through Nov. 15. Artists' reception is Sept. 13 from 4 to 6 p.m. at Starr Gallery, Leventhal-Sidman Jewish Community Center in Newton, Mass.

In celebration of Israel's Jubilee Year, the Starr Gallery presents Ein Hod: an Israeli Artists' Village. Featuring the work of five artists from this unique artists' village, the exhibition includes sculpture by Dan Zaretsky, jewelry by Maya Offir, wearable art by Leah Ben Arye, ceramics by Judith Halfon, and paintings and monotypes by Ora Lahav-Chaalitel. For more information, call (617) 558-6485.

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

JEWISH COMMUNITY

Religious School Registration at Congregation Agudas Achim

Congregation Agudas Achim in Attleboro will hold a registration and parent information night on Sept. 10 at 7 p.m. at the synagogue, 901 N. Main St., Attleboro. The religious school holds classes for children in preschool through seventh grade and participates in an area-wide program for junior high and high school students.

Kindergarten through second-grade classes meet on Sunday mornings at Congregation Agudas Achim while students in third through sixth grade attend on Wednesday afternoon as well. A special pre-bar/bat mitzvah class for seventh graders meets Monday and Wednesday afternoons. The religious school classes include curriculum on Jewish holidays, Hebrew language, bible, prayer and Jewish history. The first day of school for students will be Sept. 13.

Students in grades eight to 12 are encouraged to participate in the Harry Elkin Midrasha program which holds classes on Sunday mornings in Providence.

On Sept. 10, parents will have the opportunity to tour the Agudas Achim Religious School and register children. In addition, there will be a presentation about the Gift of Israel Savings Program which the synagogue has recently begun.

For more information, call (508) 222-2243.

Congregation Ahavath Achim Holds Shabbat Dinner

Join your friends and family for Shabbat. The Robert Genensky family Shabbat dinner will be held at Congregation Ahavath Achim of New Bedford, Mass., on Sept. 18. Evening services begin at 6 p.m. Dinner will be served following services. Call for information and reservations by Sept. 13 at (508) 994-1760.

Rosh Hashanah Greetings Insert in Next Week's Paper.

Discover The Real Israel

You've heard about it, read about it, argued about it and even dreamed about it. Isn't it time you discovered the real Israel for yourself? Then the WUJS Institution in Arad, Israel, is definitely something to consider. It consists of an international and pluralistic yearlong program for young Jewish professionals (21 to 40), career development and job placement in all professions throughout Israel, one of the country's finest Hebrew language programs, a diverse listing of engaging Jewish and Israel studies classes, off-the-beaten-track hikes, seminars and workshops and community volunteer experiences.

In addition to its regular program, the WUJS Institute offers several specialized programs, including the Arad Arts Project (held every October) for accomplished visual, literary and performing artists; the Environmental Track; and the Computer Training Program, in collaboration with the Technological College of Beersheva. Sessions begin every October, February, and June, so why wait to begin the adventure that will last a lifetime?

For further information, contact (888) WUJS INS, <wujsusa @international.com>. <www. wujsarad.org>, or call Ruth Page, Israel desk director at 331-0956, ext. 181.

Learn Hebrew in One Day

Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard St., Providence, is offering a daylong class that promises to have you reading Hebrew in just one day. This "marathon" has proven successful around the country for those who have no Hebrew experience or for those who are just feeling "rusty." It is a wonderful way to prepare for the High Holidays. "Hebrew-in-a-Day" will take place on Sept. 12 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The cost is $20 for materials and lunch. For more information, call 331-6070.

Nationality Day

Denille Wachtenheim ASDS Middle School student proudly displays her exhibit. *Photo courtesy of ASDS*

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		Honey-Glazed Carrots	$4.99 lb.

OPINION

Memories of Rabbi Levy

The following pieces were submitted by friends and congregants of Rabbi Levy's Chai Center in Warwick:

Rabbi Levy was a charismatic, colorful, and warm human being. He had a marvelous sense of humor and a humble manner about himself. He brought all of us back to our Jewish roots and for that we are very grateful.

Rabbi Levy was a great storyteller and it is our turn to tell a story about Rabbi Levy.

There was a time three years ago when I had run into a long string of bad luck. One Saturday after services at the Rabbi's house, I mentioned this bad luck to the Rabbi. He asked me whether I had a mezuzah on my door. I answered, "yes." He then asked me if I knew whether it was a "kosher" mezuzah. I answered that I did not know. He said that if it wasn't a "kosher" mezuzah that was the cause of my bad luck. He would come over to my house the next day and check it out.

The next day Rabbi Levy arrived, checked out the mezuzah and discovered that, in fact, it was not a kosher one. He replaced it with one of his own and said that my luck will improve. The very next day and from then after my luck did a complete turn around.

We both now carry a "kosher" mezuzah with us when we travel and each of my children have one as well.

We hold the memory of Rabbi Levy in our hearts and minds forever.

Submitted by
Mark and Ronni Neckes.

* * *

I thank you for the way your family, including your beautiful children, has helped me feel welcome and worthwhile as a person over the last few years. As a result, the following changes have occurred and continue to evolve in my life.

For the last two years, I have been doing a great deal of reading and trying to apply many of the idea daily. I have been putting on tefilin regularly and trying to stay aware of the midot by applying them in my daily life. Shabbat has begun to stand out in the week for me as a time for rest, worship, study, and good fellowship (and cholent!). I have become more aware of Kashrut and have been trying to become more observant.

My life has been enriched in so many ways due to knowing the Levys. Thank you for coming to Rhode Island and positively influencing me and so many other people.

Submitted by
Stanley L. Freedman.

* * *

Every once in a while our lives are touched by another soul who shines G-d's light wherever he goes, who lives and gives openly and non-judgementally from a deep and caring heart. This person, this soul reminds us that there is a greater plan, a bigger picture, a joy of spirituality, a goodness of giving and sharing and reminds us that prayers are answered, faith is pure and each soul counts.

It is no coincidence that Rabbi Eliezer Levy and his wife Chanie were sent here to Rhode Island. Rabbi Levy, who I will miss dearly, for his loving ways, his warm welcoming smile, and the twinkle in his eyes when he related stories of the Baal Shem Tov. I know with every bit of my belief his soul is in a higher place and that he will watch over his family from above.

In knowing Rabbi Levy and sharing a number of conversations about Chassidic philosophy and Kabbalah I know his faith and hope were unshak-

(Continued on Page 15)

A Tribute to Tara

by Cary Eichenbaum

When I first heard the news that *Rhode Island Jewish Herald* editor, Tara Lisciandro, was leaving the paper to become executive director of the Rhode Island Holocaust Memorial, I greeted the developments with mixed emotions.

On one hand, I was extremely happy for Tara, who has become a good friend, for reaching this monumental occasion in her life. She had told me recently she had always wanted a job promoting Holocaust awareness and, as the world heads toward the 21st century, I was elated that Tara, a very likable woman and hard worker, would now get the opportunity to help shed light on one of history's most heinous crimes to many new generations of Rhode Islanders. I am also positive that Tara will do just as good a job at her new position as she did at her old one.

On the other, definitely more selfish hand, I was saddened to be losing the best editor I had ever worked for in the 19 years I have written for newspapers. Tara is by far the greatest reviser (of my stories), the most courteous and prompt, and friendliest of editors I have ever worked for. I believe I can also speak for my late father Ray, also a major contributor to the *Herald* for many years, in saying that you, Tara, are the fairest and most accurate editor an Eichenbaum has ever written for.

Tara, you are an even more amazing woman because you know so much about Jewishness and Yiddishkeit, so much about Judaism and its customs and practices, so many Yiddish expressions, yet you are not even Jewish. You are a true role model to any American who wishes to learn the most he or she can about another's religion. And the only higher virtues that you possess are your desires to learn more about our Jewish ways and customs. Truly, your friendship to the Jews of Rhode Island knows no limits, and every Jew of this state should feel extremely fortunate that you have entered our community.

Tara, my beloved father, of whom we have spoken many times, had many loves and passions in his life — including the revered Yankees, Blackstone Boulevard, our poodle Licky and, of course, his family — but the two things that held his admiration higher than any other were the R.I. Holocaust Memorial and the *Herald*. After all, he was highly instrumental in the founding of the memorial on Elmgrove Avenue in 1989, and his columns in the *Herald*, mostly concerning the Holocaust, were read by and enjoyed by thousands of Ocean Staters right until his untimely passing in 1993.

And now, Tara, you will have played a major role in both of these organizations my dad held so dear. I know I speak for my entire family in saying that my father would have been the first to congratulate you on a job well done at the *Herald*, and also welcome you with open arms to your new position at the Holocaust Museum. He would have been just as sure, as I am today, of the wonderful job you are going to do as Beth Cohen's successor.

(Speaking of Beth, I would like to thank her for the wonderful job she did at the memorial all these years, as well as all the assistance she has provided for my family and myself. Everybody who has ever worked with or visited the R.I. Holocaust Memorial owes Beth gratitude.)

Tara, I would also like to thank you for your accurateness, your journalistic capabilities (taught at your school and mine, as well as my Dad's, URI) and promptness in returning phone calls. Every newspaper editor in this country could take a lesson from you in how to run a paper. You and your gracefulness will be missed at the *Herald*.

As I reach out to welcome the new *Herald* editor, I would also like to wish Tara Lisciandro all the best as she embarks on her new career. I am positive that she will bring her high-octane energy to the museum and continue with the fine work she began at the *Herald*. I wish you, Tara, only happiness, health, and success as you start this new chapter in your life.

Cary Eichenbaum
Providence

Have An Opinion?

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

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Rhode Island Jewish Herald, P.O. Box 6063
Providence, RI 02940 or fax to 401-726-5820

RHODE ISLAND JEWISH
HERALD

(USPS 464-760)
Published Every Week By The
Jewish Press Publishing Company

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East Providence, R.I. 02914

Periodical Mail postage paid at Providence, Rhode Island. Postmaster, send address changes to the Rhode Island Jewish Herald, P.O. Box 6063, Providence, R.I. 02940-6063.

Subscription rates: Thirty-five cents per copy. By mail $15.00 per annum. Outside Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts; $20.00 per annum. Senior citizen discount available. Bulk rates on request. The Herald assumes subscriptions are continuous unless notified to the contrary in writing.

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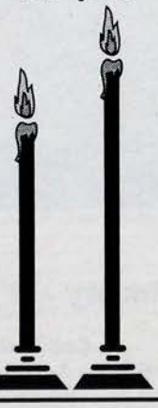
The Herald is a member of the New England Press Association and a subscriber to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Candlelighting
September 4, 1998
6:58 p.m.



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

Living With The Rebbe

Torah Today

The first verse of this week's Torah portion, *Ki Teitzei*, seems to contain a grammatical error. "When you go forth to war against your enemies," it begins, "and the L-rd your G-d will deliver him into your hands." Why does the Torah begin the verse with the plural — enemies — and continue in the singular?

Every word in the Torah is exact; every letter conveying a multitude of nuances and meanings which teach countless lessons. This verse, which seemingly deals with the subject of conventional war fare, alludes to a different type of war, a spiritual war which is waged by every individual.

A Jew may face two types of enemies: one which threatens his physical existence and one which threatens his special holiness as a member of the Jewish people — his Jewish soul. The Torah uses the word "enemies" to refer to both these threats, for the body and soul of the Jew work in tandem, united in their service of G-d. Whatever imperils one's physical well-being threatens one's spiritual equilibrium, and vice versa.

The Torah tells us how to emerge victorious over both types of enemy: "When you will go forth," A person must gird himself with the strength that comes from absolute faith in G-d, even before encountering the enemy. Next, one's approach must be that of ascendancy — against (literally 'over') your enemies." Know that G-d Himself stands beside you and assists you in your struggle.

Armed in such a manner, victory assured not only against conventional enemies, but against the root of all evil — the Evil Inclination, equated in the Gemara with "the Satan (enemy of the soul), and the Angel of Death (enemy of the physical body)."

When a Jew goes out to "war" fortified with the knowledge that there is no force in the world able to stand in the face of goodness and holiness, not only are external manifestations of evil vanquished, but its spiritual source is defeated as well. The Torah therefore uses the singular — enemy — to allude to the Evil Inclination, the origin and prototype of all misfortune.

The verse concludes with the words "and you shall take captives of them." If a Jew is not careful and falls prey to the Evil Inclination, all of his higher faculties, given to him by G-d to be utilized for good, also fall into its snare. The Torah teaches that sincere repentance has the power to redeem these captive prisoners, elevating them until even "willful transgressions are considered as merits."

Such warfare brings Moshiach and the Final Redemption closer, when the Evil Inclination will be totally vanquished and the victory over sin will be permanent.

Adapted from the works of the Lubavitcher Rebbe. Submitted by Rabbi Laufer, Chabad House, Providence.

FEATURE

Tammuz Through to Tomorrow

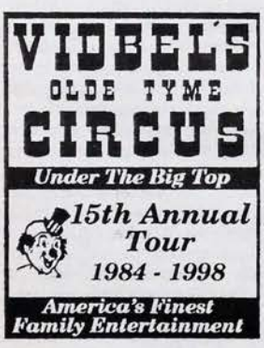
by Mike Fink
Herald Contributing Reporter

Flip through the flippant fun and sun of your time off. Sum up your summer. Hadassah's third big top, put right on the parking lot of a shopping plaza at Salt Pond, marks a high point of this past season. Vidbel's Old Tyme circus seats only a few benches of tots and their elders, but the acts and the performers take your breath away with their skills and their charms.

A Back to School stunt features an acrobat professor-bookworm whose pretty pupil makes fun of his nerdiness. But he does handstands and shenanigans on stacks of books, wearing glasses and a bowtie, and makes you feel the zest and bounce of schooldays. He gets the last laugh and exits with the mocking maiden.

Pairs of slim, stunning, scintillating Cambodian gymnasts bring faraway and long-ago to the tent, incredible as fabulous creatures in a storybook jungle as they dance and pose in beaded tights. Clowns in huge oversize shoes punctuate the more ethereal acts, and a grouping of bears moved with such poise half the audience wondered if they were people in costume or superbly trained beasts. (They were real, all right, we were assured by the barker at intermission.)

A fine black horse pranced and circled about while a princess in a silvery blue train led the courtly dance. And Susan Vidbel, star and owner of the entire show, did a lovely finale on the high wire. As usual, part of the delight of a late summer travelling canvas comes from the small repertory mood. Stars sell candy and popcorn, balloons and coloring books. The ringleader chats to me about his past and future. "I graduated from Clown College, but the school folded. It no longer exists. I go up and down the coast with the show, wearing the gaudy jacket and changing my voice to suit the occasion."



This audience holds many familiar faces. The ladies of Hadassah fill me in on other audiences for their sponsored spectacle. "We bring the clowns to Hasbro Children's Hospital. The kids love them. The clowns offer them comfort and hope. And those dolls we sell are used by the doctors and nurses to help the children understand their own bodies. We care about the summer pageant for good reasons." I like hearing Hadassah getting credit over the loud mike to be heard throughout the land of South County.

Among my other souvenirs of these rambling weeks I find the ticket to the International Museum of Cartoon Art, which moved from nearby Connecticut all the way to Boca Raton. The good old flourishing days of Rube Goldberg and Al Capp live again on the white panelled walls of this small gallery, where the early Popeye sketches vie with equally brilliant current funnypage fare.

Robert Starkey at Ravens Nest

Sometimes I feel the fragility of creative courage. We go for the junk not the jewel. I fear for the fate of the folks who give us their very best, am I being paranoid? At Ravens Nest in Wakefield the high hallway holds this summer's day lilies and the lost iris blooms of springtime on the handsome canvasses of Robert W. Starkey. You'll find the herds of cattle on sunlit pasture, the trunks of hardwoods and pines in dark green shadow, river rocks shining in light, and a hint of autumn. The artist reception featured the usual gracious salads and tall crystal glasses of white wine, the class act you expect at this bookstore-gallery-cafe.

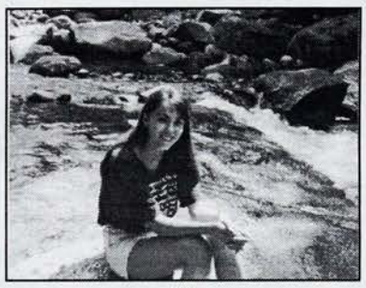
A beer at the White Horse Tavern, a new sculpture at the Narragansett Wall, some good corn from roadside stands or neighbor's private gardens, and a few sliced plums and nectarines mixed into my morning cereal, all are worth noting in my journal. I had my hair and beard trimmed by a local barber who is a Narragansett. His coiffeur shop serves also as a trading post for Indian trinkets and newsletters. We put a new sink in our kitchen and replaced the rusty spice cabinet with an oiled wood chest. A couple of surprise guests graced our table and deck. Already I have plans for next summer's household refreshments and restorations. I took in a video version of "Captains Courageous" with Melvyn Douglas. My September song is a ballad to the happy bygone days of Tammuz and Av.

My Own Princess Di

by Mike Fink
Herald Contributing Reporter

Diane kept me up to date on all the details of her wedding plans. From the day Jim asked her to marry him, to the verses on the invitation, the mistakes the seamstress made on the dress, the search for the perfect spot, the list of guests, table etiquette for couples or parents who have broken up, flowers and photographs, the ice and fruit sculptures. I grew familiar with it all. She handed me a book of poems and I agreed with her choice of phrases to be read at the ceremony.

The bride serves me my glass and my bowl at the lunch counter where I hang out with the staff of J&W grads in the former Quiet Bar at the Marriott. The delightful incongruity of sharing a banquet Round Table with all the bartenders and managers wins me over heart and soul. It's fun to go over the show once I've been backstage.



Di
Herald photo by Mike Fink

Diane chose a place with a gorgeous late summer garden and with an arbor of old shade trees. Under iffy skies she marched, all regal self-confidence and pride, with her fiance down a long lawn aisle to a gazebo that looked remarkably like a chuppa. There is a song that takes its lyrics from "Rabbi Ben Ezra," by Robert Browning. You know the line, "Grow old along with me. The best is yet to be." I was anxious to meet her dad, who came here from Poland in 1959. He is ill and alone: I know that Diane worries about him, even though she has built her life without him. I shake his hand and share some thoughts about the flowers and trees. "I remember them in Poland," I say, and he says the same thing back to me. I tell him how much I respect and admire Diane. I'm flattered to be asked to this nuptial and want to sing for my supper.

The friendly manager of the place we all met one another, Eric Schwartz, went through the same Providence schools as our daughters. He is about to take off to study cuisine in Turino, Italy. "Fennel was a Roman Jewish invention, and so was the famous deep-fried artichoke," I tell him across the wide table, just to establish a bond as co-religionists. "I hope they teach me patience and art, the things that aren't emphasized in American cooking," he returns, looking already as though he'll fit right in, with his dark hair and eyes, his neat build, his easy-going manner. There's another server named Andrew, who is also Jewish, but whose body language is quite different. Like most of his cohorts, he lifts weights, works out, and bursts through his shirt and jacket with meso-morphic macho, even though, in fact, he also has great artistic talent and computer skills.

I introduce my friends from J&W and the Marriott by their first names. Some have already met my wife—they may stop by our house for a visit, or I may just tell their tales around my hearth. Deyan came to our shores from Bulgaria and has come to the wedding from a summer at his father's bar in his native land. "But he gambled away the profits, and he's broke again." Deyan's a big guy, in a fancy t-shirt, with a great laugh, and a fine friend to his peers.

His pal Glenn moved from the Marriott to Mediterraneo and now to Silvio's in Johnston, but he brings jokes, sallies and stories to the festive board. He makes Deyan the butt of his humor. He wears a black satin shirt and sports a thin black beard. The kind-hearted girls all look like movie stars. My wife admires the butterfly pins a hostess who has flown in from California, wears to hold up her gown. She also gives some advice to a waitress guest who is expecting her second baby. We can talk about these personalities on the way home. I'm thrilled to be here among this Bacchanalian company on this occasion that brings together such a diverse group.

Folks come and go at an inn. You get a better job somewhere else. You drive on. You form other habits and connections. But at a ritual of marriage there is a stopped moment of shared joy and harmony. That's why the ladies cry, and take home the small placesetting pot of ivy.

I offer a toast in words to a bride who means far more to me than Princess Diana. My own Diane has all that gracious stateliness, without a touch of vanity. The great trick of Rhode Island: the way we can attend each other's mitzvot like spirits of divine good will upon one and all.

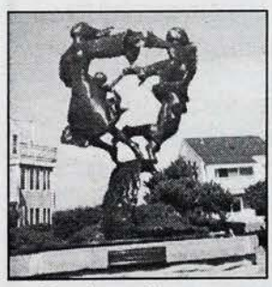
Elul Elocution

by Mike Fink
Herald Contributing Reporter

We call our spiritual September Song "Elul," an acronym for the Song of Songs, with its love lyrics initials. Sources say the name of the month makes a poetic sound like the siren lure of a girl murmuring ballads. Really.

We are among weeks of regret, longing, and a call to action, like a mixture of the cries of migrating geese, the pounding of the surf as tide breathes deeply in and out, the sighs of schoolchildren, the bumping of moths against the screendoor.

On one of these very last long twilights before the fall, we took some guests to our nearby Narragansett wailing wall, along the promenade by the stone towers, the final remnant of the greatness that was here before floods and fires and bulldozers took it down and away. You can imagine a touch of Jerusalem if you're so inclined. Troops of teens sit and sway their feet, looking for something. The waves behind them make a soothing, sweet, velvet sound. A row of spectator benches, some of wood, some of steel, several bearing Jewish family memorial names, stand, mostly empty, giving a contemplative, but also phantom, ghostly, elegaic note to the misty landscape. Our guest crooned the words to a few oldtime melodies. "I was born for language in music, not everyday usage. I got rhythm, but not an ear for travel." His boy has a trained white mouse that nestles cheerfully in his hand. There isn't much to do on an evening late in the season at the start of Elul except go over old tales and sorrows past, and new hopes and dreams.



Dancing on the waves.
Herald photo by Mike Finke

Cafes down in South County close their doors far too early. We get to the bookstores just as they pull their gates and start dimming the lights. I manage to sneak a few peeks at a shelf of volumes on "feng shui," the Hong Kong art of giving symbolic serenity even to a crowded living unit. Lay your path in curving lines, use mirrors and water with thought and care, be sure to hang a picture of your eldest relative on your walls.

So I search for symbols the way I hunt for hidden cucumbers in my garden patch. The magical voices of my two daughters on the cell phone, checking in from beyond our borders at the shore, sound like "elul," the faroff refrain in a seashell, the harmony and the homily all around us. I do my morning trek along the beach and study the noble wreckage of the sand castles the small-fry have left the afternoon before with their eager efforts on the brink of school. They seem to know that all buildings will come down, but they accept the ends of things with laughter at the time to come.

Soon I will have to reach for more formal duds from my closets. I revel in my bare toes and open collars till the day I have to take aim and stretch toward the stars and answer to the sighs of the sign of the ram's horn.

JEWISH COMMUNITY

RIHMM Director of Education Leaves to Further Study Holocaust

by Irina Goman

Beth Cohen has been serving as the curator of the Rhode Island Memorial Museum since March of 1989. Using her experience in museum work and Holocaust studies, Cohen started her position with the goal of educating people on the Holocaust and to keep the memory of it alive. Nine years ago, Cohen stated, "I hope to continue outreach in the community by working with teachers and encouraging visits by school groups, to record the oral histories of survivors in the area and to develop the RIHMM as a resource for the state." She did accomplish her goal. Cohen shares her memories in her last interview for the museum.

Q: What, in your opinion, is the best way to keep the memory of the Holocaust alive?

A: There are two ways of remembering. Education is the best way — trying to help teachers, so that they can teach the facts about the Holocaust to their students, bring the Holocaust survivors to classrooms... stories need to be passed down to the next generation. What one person thinks about the Holocaust is not necessarily what another person thinks should be remembered. People must reach an understanding.

Q: What impact do you think workshops, like Facing History and Ourselves, have on changing stereotypical thinking?

A: Facing History is a methodology; it is a way of teaching about the Holocaust. Teachers come back year after year because they enjoy the interaction and discussion with other educators. One of the goals of Facing History is to get students thinking critically about the subject, not just to have them learn facts; to evaluate, to look at the Holocaust in an analytical way.

Q: What do you think is the most effective way for dealing with the Revisionist movement?

A: I personally feel that the Revisionist Movement is an another form of anti-Semitism. It's been the philosophy and the policy of the museum not to deal with it. To deal with it directly basically gives the Revisionists a platform that says there is something to say, something to argue about.

Q: You have attended a three-week seminar in Israel for educators from abroad. What are some of the things you have learned about the Holocaust from the Israelis?

A: I learned a lot about the history from this intensive seminar with professors — the top scholars in the world. The development of the awareness of the Holocaust in Israel is compared to that in America, which is really very different. The highest percentage of survivors went to Israel. When Israel was first established, as here [in America], the survivors were very quiet. As they have gotten older, there has been a need for survivors to speak. Now, people feel more comfortable listening, too. Israel is a much smaller society where everybody knows somebody who is a survivor; it [Holocaust] is a part of the fabric of the society.

Q: You have been at the museum for nine years. How do you hope to continue your work?

A: I am about to start a Ph.D. program in Holocaust studies. I am shifting my focus to a more scholarly direction, but having worked in the field for nine years has been a wonderful opportunity for me to meet all kinds of people.

Q: What are some of the challenges your successor at the museum should expect?

A: There are going to be different challenges of the job. One of the biggest challenges is that the survivors, unfortunately, are not going to be with us in a coming generation. Anybody who is involved with Holocaust education in Holocaust centers faces a challenge of defining it without the help of witnesses. There have been thousands of letters over the years by students who have said, "I've read books, seen films, but there is nothing that compares to the experience of meeting a real person and getting a chance to hear your story."

Q: What was the most memorable experience during your nine years as the director of education?

A: For me, the exciting part is meeting wonderful people and listening to their stories. I was involved with interviewing for Steven Spielberg's "Shoah" project. It is a video testimony of 20,000 survivors from around the world... catalogued to be kept in five locations. One of the most exciting programs I helped arrange was when one of the survivors went to speak in a prison to a few hundred men. For him, that was really an amazing connection. The prisoners lined up to shake his hand.

Q: How has your position at the museum affected the way you view life?

A: It has given me an appreciation for what I do have — the safety of my family. You cannot help but be reminded of that constantly when you hear stories about the Holocaust over and over. It makes one more aware of how much one has.

For more information on Rhode Island Holocaust Memorial Museum, call the executive director, Tara V. Lisciandro, at 453-7860.

Congregation Agudath Achim Holds Sabbath Service For New Members

A Sabbath service of welcome for prospective and new members will take place on Sept. 11 at 8 p.m. at Congregation Agudath Achim, 36 Winthrop St., Taunton, Mass.

We invite individuals and families from the area to meet the rabbi and officers and to get answers for their questions. The Taunton synagogue is proud of its religious school and accommodates the needs of a diverse group. The synagogue is a friendly congregation which welcomes families of which there are both Jewish and non-Jewish members. The Egalitarian Conservative synagogue combines Jewish tradition and values with contemporary insights and lifestyles.

Agudath Achim's moderate fee structure takes into account individual financial considerations.

You are invited to make Congregation Agudath Achim the center of your Jewish life and become part of the family.

If you have any questions, call the office or speak to Rabbi Maurice Weisenberg at (508) 822-3230.

A pre-Selichot program and social hour featuring the acclaimed documentary, "Exodus 1947," narrated by Morley Safer, will take place on Sept. 12 at 9 p.m. at Congregation Agudath Achim. The Selichot service, conducted by Rabbi Maurice Weisenberg and Cantor Stanley Lipp, will be at 10:30 p.m. Newcomers are invited to attend.

Author Gilman to Speak About 'Doing Work You Love'

According to career coach and author Cheryl Gilman, doing work you love allows you to expand your natural talents and passions, adapting those to the marketplace. Gilman will present a free workshop, Doing Work You Love, based on her book of the same name, at a Sept. 14 program co-sponsored by Barnes and Noble Booksellers and Career Moves at JVS.

Gilman says that part of finding the career that fits involves debunking common myths about work. "Myths such as 'you have to be good at one thing your whole life' are so ingrained in our thinking," says Gilman, "that we don't recognize them or the fact they are keeping us back." These myths must be unlearned, and Gilman's book provides the tools and language to do just that.

At the workshop, Gilman will help participants learn to focus on the positive and create a career to be passionate about and still earn a living. Using real life examples, effective exercises, and Gilman's insights, Doing Work You Love includes advice on how to uncover the skills you have but were taught to deny; overcome fears that keep you from moving ahead; and recognize and let go of myths about what "work" should be.

Copies of Cheryl Gilman's book *Doing Work You Love* will be available for purchase at the seminar. The free program, to take place at Combined Jewish Philanthropies, 126 High St., Boston, will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a career book fair, with Gilman slated to speak at 6:15 p.m. R.S.V.P. by Sept. 11 to Leah Oko at (617) 451-8147, ext. 104.

R.I. Hadassah to Hear Dr. Leslie Fishbein Speak

The Nurses Council of the Rhode Island Chapter of Hadassah is sponsoring a program focusing on the connection between spirituality and a person's well-being to be held on Sept. 13 at 10 a.m. at the Shalom Apartments, Warwick.

Fishbein will speak on "Shrink or Shaman — Psychiatry in the 21st Century." She heads the psychiatric consult department at Berkshire Medical Center in Pittsfield, Mass., and is on the staff of the University of Massachusetts Medical School. Fishbein is a member of the board of the national conference in her home town of Lenox, Mass., and serves on the conference's liaison team that serves people in the community who are in need of emotional or psychiatric counseling. The doctor will offer her insightful views and respond to questions from the participants. She is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Medical School and served her residency at Yale-New Haven Hospital.

A light brunch will be served and members are asked to call the Hadassah office at 463-3636 for reservations.

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JEWISH COMMUNITY

Consulate General of Israel Calendar of Events

This is a preliminary listing of events for Fall 1998. To join the Israeli Consulate of New England mail or e-mail list or to receive updated information, call (617) 542-0041 or write <israelcg@world.std.com>.

• **Sept. 10. Professor Ephraim Inbar**, director of the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies at Bar-Ilan University, speaks on the topic of "The Peace Process and Israel's Security" at Congregation Kehillath Israel, Brookline, Mass., 7 p.m. Presented by The Consulate General of Israel to New England, CAMERA and the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston.

• **Sept. 13 to Nov. 29. Ein Hod Artists Exhibit.** Presented by The Starr Gallery, Leventhal-Sidman Jewish Community Center.

• **Sept. 19 to Jan. 17. Reflections of Monet Exhibit** is a collection of art that relates to Monet's late paintings, making a connection between the Monet in the 20th Century exhibit and contemporary art, Israeli artist, Larry Abramson's work will be displayed along with others. Presented at the Foster Gallery, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, by the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, in cooperation with the Consulate General of Israel to New England.

• **Sept.14 to Oct. 1. Temple Beth Shalom**, Cambridge, Mass.

• **Oct. 14 to 28.** Jewish Federation of Greater Springfield, Springfield, Mass. **Rabin Remembered Exhibit** is a series of photographs highlighting the life of the late prime minister and his accomplishments as a soldier, diplomat, leader and peacemaker. Presented by The Consulate General of Israel to New England.

• **Oct. 15 to 17. Dr. Ron Kronish**, director of the Interreligious Coordinating Council in Israel, lectures on interfaith relations in Israel. Presented by the Consulate General of Israel to New England.

• **Oct. 15 to 18. Professor David Menashri**, chair of the department of Middle Eastern and African history and senior research fellow at the Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies at Tel Aviv University, lectures in the region. Presented by the Consulate General of Israel to New England.

• **Oct. 25. Israel at 50: Progress and Promise** symposium celebrating the progress of the young State of Israel in education, health, environment, economy, arts, immigration, science and technology and the role of women — and the promise for the future. For registration information, call (617) 566-0666. Presented by The Consulate General to New England together with American Associates of Ben Gurion University of the Negev, American Committee for the Weizmann Institute of Science, American Friends of Hebrew University, American Society for Technion, Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, Israel Bonds, Jewish National Fund, Amit Women, NA'AMAT USA in cooperation with The Israel Aliyah Center.

• **Oct. 26 to Nov. 1. Theatre Company of Jerusalem** has created a distinctly Israeli theater form, performing original works integrating modern techniques with ancient biblical and Talmudic texts. Presented by The Leventhal-Sidman JCC together with The Consulate General of Israel to New England.

• **Nov. 5 to 15. 10th Boston Jewish Film Festival.** Presented by the Boston Jewish Film Festival.

• **November. Jewish Community Book Fair** opens featuring readings and book signings by Aharon Appelfeld and Haim Gouri. Presented by The Leventhal-Sidman JCC.

• **Dec. 2. Nachman Shai**, director general of the Second Television and Radio Authority in Israel, lectures in the region. Presented by the Consulate General of Israel to New England.

Rosh Hashanah Machzor Available

The Jewish Heritage for the Blind has available an Hebrew-English-High Holiday *Rosh Hashana Machzor* in large print or braille in two deluxe volumes free of charge to the visually impaired.

Mail or fax your request to Jewish Heritage for the Blind, 1655 East 24th St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11229, fax: (718) 338-0653. Include your phone number to confirm delivery. A note from your eye-care specialist describing your condition must be enclosed.

Wholesale Klezmer Band at CAV

The Wholesale Klezmer Band

The Wholesale Klezmer Band will bring its rousing, down-home style of Yiddish music back to CAV, 14 Imperial Place, in Providence on Sept. 13 at 7:30 p.m.

The Massachusetts-based group will return with its unique blend of traditional Yiddish dance music, original tunes, political songs and more. The eight-member band's performance there last spring was a sellout.

"This is Soul Music with a heimish (down-home) intelligence that really delivers," wrote Jack Gabriel in *Tikkun* magazine recently.

Ari Davidow, who edits the on-line "Klezmer Shack" website, called Wholesale "one of the nicest and most authentic-sounding klezmer and Yiddish revival bands performing."

With three albums to its credit, the 16-year-old band has performed at coffeehouses, concert halls, festivals and dances throughout the East Coast, shared the Carnegie Hall stage with Pete Seeger and Sweet Honey in the Rock and played at Bill Clinton's presidential inaugural.

For reservations, call 751-9164.

Zamir Chorale Holds Auditions for 30th Season

The Zamir Chorale of Boston, specializing in music from the various Jewish traditions, will hold auditions for its 1998–99 season at Hebrew College, 43 Hawes St. in Brookline, on the evenings of Sept. 13 and 27, from 7 to 10 p.m. Auditions are by appointment only, and must be scheduled in advance, by calling the Zamir office at (617) 325-6113. Candidates must have good vocal quality, the ability to sight read music, and previous choral experience. In addition to auditioning, candidates are required to attend open rehearsals at Hebrew College on Sept. 8, 15, and 24, from 7:15 to 10 p.m.

The Zamir Chorale's 30th anniversary season, under the direction of founder and artistic director, Joshua Jacobson, will include concerts in the greater Boston area, as well as Portland, Maine; Providence, R.I.; and Albany, N.Y., and will culminate in a two-week concert tour of eastern Europe, featuring performances at significant Jewish sites in Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Austria.

The 50-week adult chorale, dubbed a "virtuoso outfit" by the *Boston Globe*, is committed to the highest quality performance of music spanning thousands of years, four continents, and a variety of styles, both popular and classical. Zamir's repertoire includes Jewish liturgical pieces, major classical works, newly commissioned compositions by contemporary Jewish composers, and Israeli, Yiddish, and Ladino folksongs.

The Zamir Chorale performs throughout the United States, and has also toured Great Britain and Israel, appearing with the Jerusalem Symphony and Israel Philharmonic Orchestras under Zubin Mehta and Daniel Barenboim. Zamir currently had 10 recordings on the HaZamir label, ranging from Baroque masterworks to seasonal celebrations.

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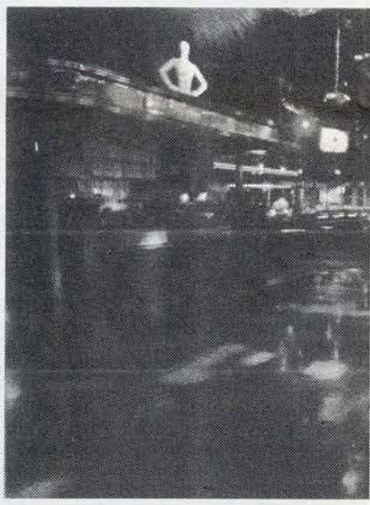

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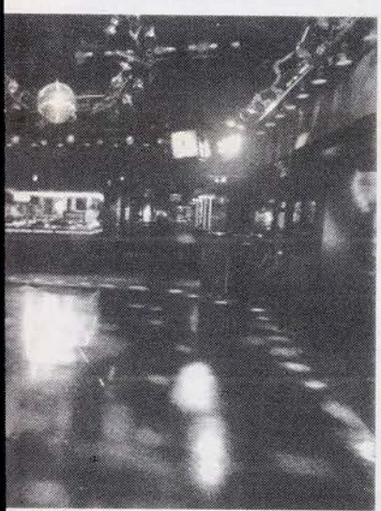

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After the rings are exchanged, the rice flies and the honeymoon is over, newly married couples set to the task of building their lives together. They usually begin by getting settled in their new home.

When creating a home for two, follow these five steps to completing a successful home merger, and you'll be well on your way to living happily ever after:

Think versatile furniture. No extra bed? Futon furnishings can turn a living area into an instant guest room. Futon frames are available to suit any decor, from contemporary hardwood mission styles to the newest frames with plush, upholstered arms. Simply change the futon cover any time you feel like giving the room a fresh, new look.

Practice the art of compromise right from the start. If he can't part with his favorite chair, but you can't bear to look at it, consider a stylish new slipcover, or drape it with a throw and a few trendy pillows. A closet organizer will merge his wardrobe neatly with yours and also may help prevent early morning lovers' quarrels.

Discover new storage space. Create a table with a trunk, decorative hatboxes or suitcases to store everything from photo albums and mementos to quilts to cuddle under on chilly evenings. Underbed storage boxes hide seasonal items or sports equipment, and an ottoman with storage capabilities is a perfect place to keep books, games or sewing items.

Accessorize for less money with a little creativity. Display platters, hand-painted bowls and pottery as art in the space above your cabinets. Add personality with pictures, hanging unique frames along a wall or a hallway to display favorite snapshots.

Remember, the eclectic look is in. Your stuff and his stuff can be compatible. Mix and match old favorites with a few new pieces you select together.

FEATURE

Tzeirei Chabad Recreates 18th Century 'Shtetl'

As the 300th anniversary of the Baal Shem Tov's birthday is celebrated around the world (Sept. 9), Tzeirei Chabad Israel (The Chabad Youth Organization, Israel) has brought his life, history and teachings alive in a wondrous exhibit, delighting children and adults alike. With special effects and artistry that match the rest of Israel's museums, this splendid 18th-century "shtetl" reproduction — including a beautifully designed and constructed "movie set" village, a museum, storytellers, music, arts and crafts — opened in July in Kfar Chabad, just south of Tel Aviv and will remain open throughout the year. English- speaking guides are available for tourists.

Enter a smoke-filled time tunnel, your way lit by flashing strobe lights, your senses befuddled by strange sounds and sights as you travel backwards in time, emerging finally in the early 18th century, when the Baal Shem Tov, revolutionary found of Chassidism, lived. Wander through forests where the mystics prayed, meet the craftsman and sellers of wares in the "shtetl" market of Mezhibuz, Ukraine; visit the beautiful replica of the Baal Shem Tov's synagogue; board a modest horse-drawn cart driven by a coachman of yore, and learn about Israel Baal Shem Tov, whose revolutionary philosophy and example gave rise to the great Chassidic dynasties of Central and Eastern Europe that flourish today in Israel, the United States and throughout the world.

GOATS WANDER ABOUT in the 18th-century shtetl of Medzibuzh recreated in Kfar Chabad to mark the 300th birthday of the Baal Shem Tov. The exhibit, organized by the Chabad Youth Organization in Israel, will remain open throughout the year with English-speaking guides available for tourists.

Photo by Mickey Freidin

In "Mezhibuz," visitors delight in the scenery, costumes, special effects and dozens of hands-on crafts. They have a chance to make olive oil with the shtetl oil maker and hats with the shtetl haberdasher; draw water from the village well; pet sheep and goats, and hear stories and music from Baal Shem Tov's time.

More than 10,000 children have already visited the exhibit, and now with camps coming to an end, Israeli families looking for vacation attractions are flocking to this new and unique tourist site.

The Baal Shem Tov traveled from shtetl to shtetl, emphasizing the infinite value of every Jew, no matter their level of Jewish scholarship, and infusing the Jewish masses with a renewed sense of spiritual connection to their Creator. He encouraged his fellow Jews to open their hearts to G-d in joyful prayer, song and dance. He was able to convey complex Kabbalistic teachings through simple parables, inspiring hope, optimism, and love for G-d and His creation. His message of Jewish unity — transcending all differences in scholarship, economics, or status — is as vitally relevant today as it was in his time.

The exhibit and activities are expected to remain open throughout the school year.

Visitors to Israel can make reservations for Tzeirei Chabad's Baal Shem Tov exhibit by calling in advance to (972)-(0)3-9607-588, ext. 128.

Swiss Banks Settlement Evokes Mixed Emotions Among Survivors

by Naomi Pfefferman
Jewish Journal of Greater Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES (JTA) — Fred Diament spent his teen-age years in concentration camps. He watched his older brother hanged in Auschwitz.

Today, he sits on an advisory board that will decide how to distribute some $32 million from a Swiss humanitarian fund, established last year by Switzerland's top banks, for needy Holocaust survivors in the United States.

When Diament heard that the banks agreed to pay another $1.25 billion to resolve a class-action law suit filed by survivors, he was "absolutely jubilant."

"It's a great moral victory. Finally there is some justice," said Diament. "The world has finally recognized that the most 'civilized' nation in history plundered billions from the Jewish people."

While $1.25 billion is only a fraction of the stolen Jewish assets, Diament said, he is a realist.

"The biological clock is ticking," he said. "The average survivor is aged 75 to 95. The longer it takes to settle the matter, the more people who really deserve this money will be gone."

Lithuanian survivor Si Frumkin, a senior adviser to the Association of Holocaust Survivors from the former Soviet Union, was blunter.

"I'm very satisfied that those Swiss S.O.B.'s will finally have to pay," he said.

Not every survivor interviewed was so pleased, however.

Diane Jacobs, for one, calls the amount of the settlement "total theft, though it's the best we can do for now."

During a telephone interview, the retired catalogue designer said she grew up in a Jewish military family, in a luxurious Berlin household with servants and chauffeurs. Her father, a decorated World War I veteran, owned 16 beach inns on the Baltic Sea. Periodically, the family visited Switzerland so he could deposit money in his Swiss bank accounts.

Three decades after he died in a concentration camp notorious for its human medical experiments, Jacobs began approaching the Swiss banks about her father's money. She told officials she did not have the account numbers, because it was not customary for fathers to discuss such details with young children. The bankers' rebuff was always the same: "You don't have an account here. There was never such an account."

Flora Rosman, whose father, Shmuel, regularly deposited a significant part of his business proceeds in Swiss accounts, also deemed the settlement "too little, too late."

When the Transylvanian family arived in Auschwitz in May 1944, Shmuel said, "Stick together and we'll meet at home." It was the last time Rosman ever saw her father.

After the war, her mother, Piroska, tried in vain to retrieve her late husband's money from the Swiss banks. "She wasn't able to get any response from them at all," Rosman said. "It would have meant so much to her if the banks had settled during her lifetime."

Diament believes the Swiss banks settlement will pressure other banks and insurance companies in Europe to follow suit.

"In the end, however, even a settlement of $10 billion wouldn't be enough," said Lidia Budgor, president of the Council of Holocaust Survivor Organizations. "Can the money replace my two little brothers and sisters who were murdered a half hour after arriving at Auschwitz? Every night, when I am alone, I still think about how hungry they were when they went to the gas chambers."

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FEATURE

Museum Promotes Identity Among Jewish Teens Through Arts Program

by Julia Goldman

NEW YORK (JTA) — Asking questions is an important part of Judaism.

And this summer they were central to an arts program at The Jewish Museum here that was aimed at fostering Jewish identity among teen-agers.

"Layers," an exhibit of artworks produced by the teens, that opened at the museum in August, reflects the blending of art and identity.

"It's all about looking at who you are," Aaron Roller, 16, said as he stood beside his Chanukah lamp composed of miniature portraits of dancing rabbis with clay fedoras for candle holders.

For four weeks, 14 teen artists studied under working painters, printmakers, sculptors and videographers. They met with curators, explored museums and visited artists' studios as part of the museum's program for New York-area teens.

And all the time, they asked questions: "Is this good art?" "Does it belong in a museum? "does anybody want gum?"

But perhaps the most important questions the group of Jewish high school students addressed were, "How does our identity relate to our own art? How does it relate to other people's art?"

Integrating art and Jewish content is the program's main goal, one that represents a growing trend in programming for Jewish youth: appealing to teens' hobbies and interests — from the arts to sports to ecology — as a way to encourage commitment in the years following a bar or bat mitzvah, when many young Jews fall away from active Jewish life.

"We wanted to give kids who are really interested in art the opportunity to do it in a Jewish contest," the museum's director explained.

"And kids who are Jewishly identified could be exposed to art opportunities they wouldn't be otherwise," said Joan Rosenbaum, who credits her career choice to early experiences at her local art museum and classes at the nearby Jewish community center.

SummerArts was her way of bringing those influences together for a new generation.

Recent studies of Jewish youth initiatives have called on communities nationwide to devote more resources to the needs of teens, and to make a range of Jewish experiences available to Jewish youth.

Sponsored in part by Jewish Continuity Funds from the UJA-Federation of Greater New York, the SummerArts program, now in its second year, is intended not just as an arts experience but also as "a forum for issues of identity."

"We're planting seeds, having them start examining their own world," said Amy Trachtenberg, the program's coordinator.

Across the country, many Jewish Community Centers and some Jewish museums — the B'nai Brith Klutznick National Jewish Museum in Washington, D.C., and the Meisel Museum of Jewish Art in Denver, for example — offer one-day art workshops for adolescents. Genesis, a teen summer program at Brandeis University, also combines Jewish content with the arts and humanities.

But SummerArts organizers maintain that their program is uniquely effective, because it exposes participants to the museum' extensive collections of archaeology, ritual objects, fine arts and contemporary painting and sculpture, puts students in contact with successful Jewish artists and experienced teachers, and brings students from diverse Jewish backgrounds together.

"None of my friends are doing anything like this," said Judith Kaplan, 16, of Long Island, who woke at 6 a.m. each morning to reach the museum by 9:30.

"None of my friends are Jewish. I really wanted to meet Jewish kids."

Many of Kaplan's fellow fledgling artists — a third of the group attends Jewish day schools and two are Russian immigrants — agreed that expanding their social circles was as important a consideration in signing on for the program as was enhancing their artistic abilities.

And SummerArts participants noted a lively exchange of ideas across denominational lines — with topics ranging from feminism and morality to kashrut and Jewish stereotypes — as one of the program's most effective aspects in transforming their conceptions of Jewish identity.

"We're not all Orthodox and that's different than you'd get at another place," said Jillian Copeland, a 16-year-old sculptor from Manhattan, speaking about teen programs, including Israel-experience trips sponsored by synagogue groups.

Steven Serels, 15, a yeshiva student from New Rochelle, a suburb north of New York, observed that socializing with secular Jews his age had allowed him to "speak about religion without being annoyingly patronizing or assuming they don't know anything."

Besides looking outward, however, students were looking ahead.

Na'ama Fogel, 16, whose yeshiva, she said, does not have a rigorous art program, was drawn to SummerArts as a way to bolster her applications to college art programs.

Teachers — like Ken Aptekar, whose overtly Jewish paintings sell to a broad audience, and Jane Kent, who is publishing a book of her prints — served as artistic and professional role models because, students said, they "make money; they have

(Continued on Page 15)

Learn In Your Living Room

Beginning Sept. 15, the website of the Jewish Theological Seminary will expand to include Learn@JTS. This innovative effort will reach out to people with the wealth of information available through JTS and boost Jewish literacy worldwide.

Chancellor Ismar Schorsch will inaugurate the online learning center with a live chat on Sept. 24 at 8:30 p.m.

"I'm looking forward to the opportunity to interact with people in the Jewish community who would not otherwise be able to take advantage of learning through JTS," said Schorsch.

"One of JTS's goals is to be a lifeline to Jews in communities throughout the world, regardless of their level of Jewish literacy, enabling them to further their Jewish education. If the Jewish people are to survive and thrive in the next millennium, the richness of our sacred texts and traditions must become familiar," said Dr. Steven M. Brown, director of the Melton Research Center for Jewish Education at JTS, which has developed the distance learning center.

Through a user-friendly, attractively designed table of contents, subscribers will be able to conveniently link up to eight separate sites, including:

- Kids' Corner — a variety of learning opportunities for children including egalitarian holiday posters to download and color
- Reading Opportunities — sample excerpts from new and exciting Jewish books
- Quote of the Week — the wisdom of the sages at your fingertips
- Parashat HaShavuah — the chancellor's commentary on the weekly Torah portion
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Everything accessible through Learn@JTS is free except courses offered through the Distance Learning Project. For more information about these and other programs at our website, contact Michael Starr, director of distance learning at JTS, at <dlp@jtsa.edu> or (212) 678-8897 or visit Learn@JTS at <http://learn.jtsa.edu>.

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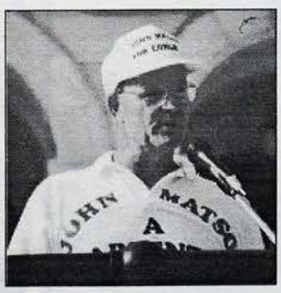

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Haffenreffer Museum Gets Ready for 7,000 Children

How do you deal with more than 7,000 children over a 10-month period? Lyn Udvardy, who runs the education program at the Haffenreffer Museum of Anthropology, said you do it by offering programs that keep kids' hands and minds busy as they soak up information about native peoples.

"Over 5,000 schoolchildren from Rhode Island and our neighboring states visit the museum every year, from September through June. We also go out to schools and reach another 2,000 children that way," Udvardy said. "Long experience has taught us that you have to give children more than lectures. Even the most fascinating information about Hopis or Eskimos only goes so far when you're dealing with children who range in ages from 4 to 17."

That's why children on school trips to the Haffenreffer Museum get to make pots, grind corn, dance, sit around a campfire in a wetu (a Wampanoag home made of saplings and bark, also known as a wigwam), handle Eskimo tools and clothing, visit King Philip's chair, make pemmican, use a bow drill, go on a nature walk, and take part in many other activities that use all five senses and keep boredom at bay. Children also enjoy parting with a little of their spending money at the museum's gift shop, where they can buy reproductions of Native American toys, crafts, books, and other souvenirs of their trip.

School groups visiting the museum from September through November learn about native people of Southeastern New England. In December and January, the Pueblo people of the Southwest are studied. During February and March, native people of the Arctic — The Eskimo — are the focus, and from April to June the native people of the Plains are the subject of the museum's education program.

Although the educational staff at the Haffenreffer Museum is small — just Udvardy and education specialist Patsy Sanford — about 25 trained volunteers and docents contribute more than 3,300 hours of their time each year to ensure that children have fun in addition to an educational experience when they visit the museum.

Parents or teachers interested in knowing more about the Haffenreffer Museum's school programs, learning about program fees, scheduling a visit to the museum, or having the museum come to the classroom, may call 253-8388 or 253-1287 during regular business hours.

The Haffenreffer Museum of Anthropology, Brown's "university museum," is a treasure house of fascinating artifacts from the native peoples of the Americas, Africa, Asia and the Pacific. It is recognized as one of the leading anthropological teaching museums in the Northeast. The museum's four intimate galleries offer a stimulating setting in which to learn about other peoples and their cultures. Located in Bristol, R.I, on traditional lands of the Wampanoag peoples, the Haffenreffer Museum will relocate in less than three years to two of the most prominent landmarks in Providence's historic district: the former Old Stone Bank and the Benoni Cooke House on South Main Street.

The Haffenreffer Museum offers public lectures, performances, symposia, festivals, and a broad range of related programs and events. The museum is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays from September through May.

Save The Bay Celebrates Bay Boating and History

On Sept. 10, join Save The Bay to celebrate Narragansett Bay's world renowned boating industry, its long history and its lasting heritage at the Herreshoff Marine Museum, located on Narragansett Bay.

The Herreshoff Marine Museum and its America's Cup Hall of Fame are home to almost 150 years of international sailing tradition. Located at the site of the world-famous Herreshoff Manufacturing Co., the museum displays more than 50 classic sailing and motor yachts dating back to 1859, steam engines, photographs and other sailing memorabilia. The Save The Bay Herreshoff tour will highlight the important relationship between the sailing industry and Narragansett Bay as well as boaters' continued love affair with the bay. The evening will conclude with a guided tour of the museum's model room by Halsey Herreshoff, a master boat builder and the grandson of Capt. Nathanael Herreshoff.

"We are very pleased to offer this unique program and reach out to a broad audience," said Save The Bay membership programs coordinator Eve Formisano. "Sailing and the boat building industry are key to Narragansett Bay's charm, history and heritage. It is one of the reasons so many people cherish the bay and consider it our greatest natural resource."

The Save The Bay Herreshoff Marine Museum tour will be held on Sept. 10 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Refreshments will be provided following the tour. The price for Save The Bay members is $2 and $4 for non-members.

For reservations and directions, call Save The Bay at 272-3540.

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By Rivercraft

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Downtown Providence-Waterplace Park Tours, departs Davol Square, Sept. 5 and 7, Sept. 19 and 20, 26 and 27; and Oct. 3 and 4. Providence Waterfront Festival, Sept. 11 to 13. Evening tours during "Waterfire Providence" dates.

Pawtucket-Slater Mill Pond Tours, departs from Slater Mill Landing. Labor and Ethnic Heritage Festival, Sept. 6, noon to 5 p.m., 30-minute tours. Oct. 17 and 18, 24 and 25, 30-minute tours. All tours $5 per person.

Woonsocket-Autumnfest weekend shuttle, departs World War II Park, Oct. 10 to 12, all regular weekend tours hours 1 to 4 p.m. during festival hours.

By Train

Come aboard the Providence & Worcester Railroad for a relaxing and informative **Fall Foliage Train Tour** along the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor. Round-trip from Cumberland to Worcester, Mass., Oct. 17, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Advanced reservations required, 724-2200.

By Automobile

Take a scenic 85-mile **self-guided auto tour** throughout the colorful and spectacular hills of the Blackstone Valley. Call for free brochure, 724-2200.

By Air

See the lovely foliage and pastoral settings with **scenic airplane and helicopter rides** departing from North Central State Airport, Lincoln. Call Skylanes, 333-1440.

By Canoe and Kayak

Travel the waterways of the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor in Rhode Island. Call for a free *Canoe Guide* at 762-0440.

Rent canoes and kayaks or take part in **guided canoe tours and instruction** along the Blackstone River. Call Baer's River Workshop for details, 453-1633.

By Foot

Discover the history, culture and nature of America's Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor. Join National Park Service Rangers for **narrated walking tours** of quaint country villages and historic sites dressed in their autumn splendor. Call for information, 762-0440.

By Bicycle

Rent the six-passenger **Blackstone Valley Surrey** and explore scenic byways. Call for rates and reservations, 724-2200.

Ride around the Blackstone Valley with **scenic bicycle tours** offered by the Narragansett Bay Wheelman. Call for locations, 435-4012.

By Farm

Bring the family to **pick your own** Blackstone Valley-grown fresh fall produce from the harvest at area farm stands. Call for free brochure, 724-2200.

By Horse

Trail ride the lovely rustic and natural settings of Lincoln Woods State Park on horseback. Call for horse rental and public riding events. Sunset Stables 722-3035, Lin's Riding Academy, 726-9445.

By Llama

Hands-on **Hiking with Llamas** exploring the countryside of the Blackstone Valley. Call for information and rates. The Llama Farma, 334-1873.

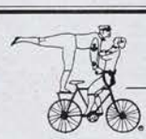
By Exploring the Valley

For more fall fun to see, do, and enjoy in Rhode Island's Blackstone Valley, call, write or drop by for your free *Blackstone Valley Resource Guide*. Blackstone Valley Tourism Council, Blackstone Valley Visitor Center, 171 Main St., Pawtucket, R.I. 02860. 724-2200. E-mail <BV Tourism @aol.com>.

BVTC is the state designated tourism development agency for the northern R.I. communities of Pawtucket, Central Falls, Woonsocket, Cumberland Lincoln, Smithfield, North Smithfield, Glocester and Burrillville.

The Blackstone River is an American Heritage River located in the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor.

If you have an event you would like featured on our Arts & Entertainment, please send it to the Rhode Island Jewish Herald, P.O. Box 6063, Providence, R.I. 02940



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Trinity Opens 35th Season

After closing last season with the ultimate family musical, "The Music Man," Trinity Repertory Company invites audiences to leave the kids at home and enjoy an evening of dark, dangerous, deliciously nasty fun, "The Threepenny Opera." Alan MacVey ("A Midsummer Night's Dream") directs this modern classic musical by Bertolt Brecht with music by Kurt Weill. Trinity Rep's "Threepenny" is the first American production to combine Robert D. MacDonald's recent translation of the book with Jeremy Sams' fresh translation of the lyrics. Previews begin Sept. 4 and performances run through Oct. 11.

This is "The Threepenny Opera's" season for celebrating. 1998 is the 70th anniversary of the play's premiere, the 100th anniversary of Brecht's birth, and the 270th anniversary of "The Beggar's Opera," which Elisabeth Hauptmann adapted for "The Threepenny Opera." Since it burst onto the scene in Berlin in 1928, "The Threepenny Opera" has inspired thousands of productions around the world, a film, a novel, and innumerable musical recordings, from Lotte Lenya to Bobby Darin. Yet the play's socio-political importance equals its theatrical significance, with rollicking entertainment cloaking Brecht's indictment of a morally corrupt capitalist society.

Working with Weill's irresistible music, Brecht enticed his audience with a lavish lineup of characters; Macheath (Mack the Knife), the dangerously seductive underworld kingpin; his innocent sweetheart Polly Peachum; Polly's duplicitous, diabolical parents; and Lucy Brown and Jenny Diver, just two of the wronged lovers seeking revenge against Mack. "The characters have impulses pushing in every direction," said MacVey, "and this makes them very human, often funny, and sometimes frightening."

Brecht set "Threepenny" in London at the time of Queen Victoria's coronation. Trinity Rep's production takes place in the London of tomorrow, at the coronation of King William V — "just after the next crash," said MacVey.

Playwright, poet, and theorist Bertolt Brecht and composer Kurt Weill worked together in Berlin in the late 1920s. After leaving Germany at the rise of Nazism, both gained worldwide — Brecht as a theatrical trailblazer, and Weill as a musical innovator in both "serious" music and commercial theater.

Trinity Rep continues Humanities Rep this season, a free post-show discussion series with moderator Sam Coale and guest speakers from the Rhode Island community. The play's Humanities Rep will be held on Sept. 12 following the 2 p.m. matinee. Another free program available to subscribers and patrons is Food for Thought — a conversation between audience members and the production's artistic team. Subscribers and patrons are encouraged to ask questions, express an opinion, and chat with the actors, director, and designers of the show. Food for Thought for "The Threepenny Opera" will be on Sept. 6, following the 7 p.m. performance.

Tickets for "The Threepenny Opera" are now on sale and range from $25 to $34, with student senior, and disabled discounts available. For ticket information, call the box office at 351-4242. For group rate information, call 521-1100, ext. 223. Visit Trinity Rep's web site at <www.trinityrep.com>.

Hawks in Flight

A raptor in flight can be an awe-inspiring sight, but very difficult to identify. Learn the finer points of identifying these birds of prey on Sept. 12 at 7 p.m. at Fisherville Brook Wildlife Refuge. Raptor expert Joe Zbyrowski will present an evening of tips on raptor identification with an informative slideshow. He will particularly focus on identifying these birds in flight.

The fee for this program is $3 for Audubon members and $5 for non-members. Pre-register by calling 949-5454.

Fall is an excellent time of year to catch a glimpse of these incredible aviators. Many raptors migrate to warmer climes once New England days begin to shorten. To aid in their travel, they rely on solar thermals to soar high in the sky while expending very little energy. In certain parts of the country, it is not uncommon to see hundreds of these feathered creatures at one time traveling south.

To get to Fisherville Brook, take Route 4 to exit 5B. (Route 102 North) Take 102 North for approximately 4 miles to Anderson Quality Furniture; turn right onto Widow Sweets Road and take the second right onto Pardon Joslin Road. The refuge parking lot is approximately 3/4 of a mile on the right. For more information, call 949-5454.

Waterfront Festival at India Point Park

Join in the excitement of Providence's huge end-of-the summer celebration, the 14th annual Providence Waterfront Festival, Sept. 11 to 13 at India Point Park.

As always the festival has an international food court, arts and crafts booths, water activities, and a continuous array of entertainment. The Providence Waterfront Festival holds a long-standing reputation of bringing only the best in entertainment to its stages and this year is no exception. Look for spectacular World Music on the Main Stage. On Sept. 13 the Providence Waterfront Jazz Festival is back, with national acts. The kid's stage is full of the region's finest performers, bringing exceptional stories and music to the entire family. Take part in an interactive arts workshop or catch the act of a roving performer. Plan to spend the day by the water and celebrate the last days of summer!

On Sept. 12 the festival gates open at noon. Plan on staying for a while. There's plenty to do, and truly something for everyone in the entire family! The main stage will feature music from around the world.

The kid's stage will include environmental entertainer, Chris Rowlands. Multi-talented storyteller, musician, and visual artist, Keith Munslow, takes the stage bringing out the child in all of us. Leonard Solomon, a one-man band like you've never seen, fills the stage with music. An artwork in itself, his majestic bellowphone makes music somewhere between a symphony orchestra and a oom-pah band. The Mime Circus is back with its wildly entertaining blow-up puppets and action-packed show.

Scheduled throughout the day are interactive for activities for children as well as adults.

Come back on Sept. 13 at noon and relax with some cool jazz. The Providence Waterfront Jazz Festival comes to India Point Park with world class music. Willie Myette and the Jazz Kids start off the day.

Don't miss a beat! The festival takes place on Sept. 11, 7 to 11 p.m.; Sept. 12, noon to 11 p.m.; and Sept. 13, noon to 7 p.m. With daily admission at $4, it is the best entertainment value in town. For information, call 751-1177.

Check out our website: <http://www.caparts.org>, e-mail: <festival@ids.net>.

'Night and Shakespeare' and 'Azu The Future Seer' at Perishable Theatre

Actor, director and playwright Ricardo Pitts-Wiley will present two new plays at the Perishable Theatre, located at 95 Empire St. in downtown Providence. "Night and Shakespeare" is a collection of songs and blues poems by Pitts-Wiley with selected scenes and sonnets from the works of William Shakespeare, that deal with the magic and power of the night hours. The show features an eight-song folk and pop score by Pitts-Wiley and his longtime collaborator Robert Schleeter.

"Night and Shakespeare" is a journey into night and the effect it has on humans and nature. The show is directed by Pitts-Wiley. He most recently appeared as Othello at the Westerly Shakespeare in the Park, as John in the Providence Black Repertory's production of "The Island," and as Oral Jackson in the world premier of "Only in America."

"Night and Shakespeare" will play at 8 p.m. Sept. 17 through the 26. All tickets are $10. For reservations, call 331-2695.

"Azu the Future Seer," is a one-man show for children which is written and performed by Ricardo Pitts-Wiley. It will be presented Sept. 19 and 26 at 2 p.m. All tickets are $5. For reservations, call 331-2695.

Azu travels all over the continent of Africa, telling stories, trying now foods, learning and sharing children's games and predicting the future. He is both welcomed and feared by the people in the villages he visits. He always brings laughter and fun, and his predictions help the people prepare for planting, hunting and fishing as well as for drought and famine. He also looks into his magic fire to see the future of the village's children.

The Krause Gallery to Feature Rita Leviten and R. Michael Torrey

The Krause Gallery at Moses Brown School will exhibit paintings by Rita Leviten and sculpture by R. Michael Torrey from Sept. 7 to 18. The Krause Gallery is located in the Jenks Center at Moses Brown School, 250 Lloyd Ave., Providence. The opening reception will be Sept. 10, from 6 to 8 p.m. The show is free and open to the public weekdays, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and by appointment. A gallery talk will be held Sept. 13 from 2 to 3 p.m.

Leviten has an impressive exhibition history that spans back to the 1950s. She has exhibited throughout the United States, as well as Canada, Russia, Japan, Mexico, and Australia. She has received a number of distinctions and has contributed to several art publications. Currently, Leviten is producing new works in the following media: monotypes, monoprints, collages, photography, and handcast paper.

Torrey's woodworking is a self-taught art. He seeks to incorporate the past with the present and future in his works. Since 1995, Torrey has designed and built furniture under the name Peace O' Wood. He counts among his influences Japanese architecture, airframe design, Art Deco, 1950s automotive design, and Dr. Suess.

For information call Moses Brown School at 831-7350.

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OBITUARIES

STEVEN P. BLOCK

PROVIDENCE — Steven P. Block, 49, of Broadway Ave., Newport, died Aug. 29 at the Phillip Hulitar Hospice Center, Providence. He was the son of Seymour and Harriet (Kleinfeld) Block of Warwick.

Born in New York, N.Y., Block was a lifelong artist specializing in oil painting. His work has been displayed at AS220 in Providence, Newport and Boston.

Besides his parents, he leaves one brother, Jeffrey D. Block of Jupiter, Fla.; two sisters, Ellen S. Bensusan of East Greenwich and Karen A. Belanger of Cranston; one nephew and three nieces.

Funeral services were private and were held at Winfield and Sons Funeral Home, North Scituate, R.I.

DR. SUMNER I. RAPHAEL

PROVIDENCE — Dr. Sumner I. Raphael, 80, of Fort Avenue, a retired obstetrician, gynecologist and medical professor, died Aug. 24 in the Jane Brown building of Rhode Island Hospital. He was the husband of Barbara (Cohan) Raphael.

Born in Boston, a son of the late Albert and Frieda (Feinzig) Raphael, he lived in Providence for many years before moving to Cranston in 1995.

He maintained a private practice in Rhode Island for many years and was on the staff of both the Rhode Island and Miriam hospitals before retiring in 1995. From 1980 to 1994, after a year as interim chief, he was associate chief of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Women & Infants Hospital. From 1984 to 1991 he was also director of ambulatory services at Women & Infants.

He was a Navy veteran, serving as a lieutenant junior grade in the Pacific during World War II.

A graduate of Tufts University and its medical school, he served as an associate clinical professor there.

He was a clinical professor at the Brown University School of Medicine from 1984 to 1994 and a member of the executive committee from 1979 to 1980.

He was a member of Temple Beth-El in Providence and the Rhode Island Golf Association, serving as past president.

Besides his wife, he leaves a daughter, Joan Raphael of Chelsea, Mass.; a son, David Raphael of Panton, Vt.; and three grandchildren. He was the brother of the late Helen Mover.

The funeral was held Aug. 30 at Temple Beth-El, Orchard Ave., Providence. Burial was in Sharon Memorial Park, Sharon, Mass. The service was coordinated by Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence.

DAVID TARSKY

PROVIDENCE — David Tarsky, 86, of 209 River Road, Lincoln, died Aug. 24 at Steere House Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Providence. He was the husband of Mary (Keough) Tarsky.

Born in Providence, a son of the late Abraham and Jennie (Epstein) Tarsky, he had lived in Lincoln for the past 50 years.

He was a member of Temple Beth-El and its Brotherhood, Touro Fraternal Association, and the Cranston Senior Citizens Association.

He had been a foreman for B.A. Ballou Jewelry and Forster Jewelry until his retirement 21 years ago.

Besides his wife of 50 years, he is survived by a sister, Sophie, of Riverside. He was also the brother of the late Samuel, Joseph, Lillian, Josephine and Anne.

Funeral services were held on Aug. 25 at Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence. Burial was at Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

FREDA TUROK

EAST PROVIDENCE — Freda Turok, 83, of 20 Randall St., Providence, died Aug. 26 at the Health Haven Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, East Providence. She was the wife of the late Michael Turok.

Born in Russia, a daughter of the late Mendel and Zlata Polykovskay, she lived in Providence for 17 years.

She was a member of Temple Emanu-El and a former member of the Golden Agers Club at the Jewish Community Center.

She leaves two daughters, Faina Tabenkin of Providence and Galina Chaiko of Cleveland, Ohio; a sister, Basya Polykovskay in Russia; four grandchildren and a great-grandson.

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

Tel Aviv Blast Injures 21, Setting Back Peace Talks

by Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israeli officials stepped up security in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem after a bomb filled with nails exploded on a busy Tel Aviv street during morning rush hour on Aug. 27.

At least 21 people were injured in the attack, including two young children.

The bombing occurred amid reports earlier in the week that progress had been achieved in Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

In the wake of the attack, police reinforcements were dispatched to beaches, shopping and entertainment centers, and pedestrian malls in the country's two largest cities. Security checks at Ben-Gurion Airport were intensified.

Israeli leaders of all political stripes were soon demanding that the Palestinian Authority condemn the attack.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat did so — but only in a private conversation with Knesset Member Saleh Tareef of the Labor Party.

He said he condemns those who attack Israeli citizens. In the past, Palestinian officials, including Arafat, have made a distinction between Israelis and settlers.

The Palestinian leader also said the explosion may have been the work of common criminals, not terrorists.

Arafat told Tareef that he did not share the optimistic reports published earlier that Israel and the Palestinians were nearing agreement for a further Israeli redeployment in the West Bank. He said there is still a long way to go "because of Netanyahu's positions."

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned that unless the Palestinian Authority acts against terrorism "in both deeds and words," there will be no agreement.

The prime minister pointed out that although Arafat has denounced attacks on Israeli citizens, the Palestinian leader has not yet condemned the murders earlier this month of two Israelis in the West Bank because the victims were settlers.

The bomb that exploded had been placed in a garbage can at one of Tel Aviv's busiest intersections, the corner of Allenby Street and Rothschild Boulevard.

It was the first attack in Tel Aviv since March 21, 1997, when a Hamas suicide bomber detonated an explosion at the Cafe Apropo, killing three Israelis and wounding 47 others.

Hamas leader Sheik Ahmed Yassin said the explosion was probably the work of Jewish extremists seeking to derail the peace process.

One day before the explosion, Yassin called for attacks on Israel to retaliate for the recent U.S. missile strikes in Sudan and Afghanistan.

Clashes involving Jewish settlers and Palestinians in Hebron have increased after Rabbi Shlomo Ra'anan's murder. Tensions there escalated after the Israeli army responded to the killing by imposing a round-the-clock curfew in the estimated 30,000 Palestinians living in the Israeli-controlled part of the heavily Arab city.

Arms Inspector Denies Charges He Shared Intelligence With Israel

by Matthew Dorf

WASHINGTON (JTA) — A seven-year veteran of the U.N. inspection team monitoring weapons in Iraq is denying that he shared classified information on Saddam Hussein's weapons program with various countries, including Israel.

Scott Ritter, who is under investigation by the FBI for allegedly leaking classified U.S. documents, has meanwhile quit the U.N. weapons inspection commission for Iraq, known as UNSCOM. In a scathing resignation letter, he accused the Security Council and the United States of making a "mockery" of the program.

Israeli officials had no direct comment on the charges. One Israeli official said the Clinton administration notified the Israeli Embassy in Washington about the investigation.

When asked whether he is an Israeli agent, Ritter, who did not respond to a request for an interview, said that there is "no truth to that whatsoever."

Ritter's colleagues reportedly said the FBI probe contributed to his decision to leave the U.N. post. These colleagues also defended Ritter, telling *The Washington Post* that he stands on solid ground in his fight against the FBI.

Sources said Ritter's information-sharing was explicitly authorized by the head of the weapons inspection program, Richard Butler, and his predecessor. In addition, because Ritter did not maintain his American security clearance, any U.S. information provided to him was declassified, the *Post* reported.

Ritter worked at UNSCOM's New York headquarters from 1991 to 1998. During the past two years, he frequently drew the ire of Iraqi officials as he tried to uncover Iraqi attempts to conceal its remaining capabilities to develop missiles and weapons of mass destruction.

After Ritter resigned, Iraq claimed to have exposed his links to the Mossad and the Central Intelligence Agency.

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Estelle Greenburg of Warwick and family would like to thank everyone who sent cards and donations in memory of her daughter
Corinne Greenburg Levin

CLASSIFIED

Jewish Museum

(Continued from Page 11)

respect" and are "doing real things."

Figuring out how to communicate Jewish identity is integral to Aptekar's work, which incorporates words and images in different media.

"I tried to push them to engage with the questions," Aptekar said of the students. "Once they lent themselves to it, they came up with their own responses to the conflict of how others define us and how we define ourselves."

Discussions with established artists, including the sculptor George Segal, further illustrated the viability of an artistic career that deals squarely with Jewish themes.

And access to the museum's vast collections provided another essential element of the SummerArts program: an expanded definition of art and Jewish culture.

"So they don't think of Jewish art as a menorah," one museum educator said.

Tobi Khan, the leader of weekly sessions on ceremonial art, encouraged students to break free from traditional ideas of ritual objects, both in form and in purpose.

"We want to give them a visual, positive Jewish experience without telling them, 'do this, do that,' said Khan, whose own ceremonial art is currently in a traveling exhibition in the United States.

In response to Khan's challenge, the teens devised innovative pieces, such as a yahrzeit lamp formed from empty wine bottles — titled "A Toast to His Memory" — and an abstract history of Jewish migration composed of multicolored baubles and shiny brooches representing "streets paved in gold."

Pircha Africk's Havdalah spice box — painted black and topped with a thick coat of sparking purple nail polish — took its title, "Welcome to the Dollhouse" from a recent independent film about teen-age angst.

Viewing works by Chaim Soutine and Marc Chagall in the museum's galleries inspired some of the paintings by Alina Sirota, who had not realized some of her favorite painters were Jewish.

The 16-year-old Russian immigrant, who lives in the Bronx, exclaimed: "To know somebody else like me is an artist, it's great!"

Memories of Rabbi Levy

(Continued from Page 4)

able. The trips I made to Brooklyn for IDS were of great impact. Knowing Rabbi Levy has been an honor and a joy. Being able to share "Yiddish" our Mame Loshn, to feel welcomed in his home for Shabbas dinner, to pray and cry with when my father's health begin to rapidly decrease gave a sense of belonging and "Huynishkeit."

Rabbi Levy brings a message — did anyone hear it? Rabbi Levy will be missed here — but I am sure his soul is doing the work on a higher level. So in your quiet moments late at night, think about the messenger and say a quiet prayer for his soul. But most of all, remember there is a young woman with five children to raise — five kinderlach who he loved dearly. And next time a messenger is sent, listen beyond the words — listen with your ears and your heart.

Submitted by
Cindy Gilman

***

Aaron was being put on trial for the sin of the golden calf. That's how I met Rabbi Eliezer Levy, or Lazer, as we later called him. My husband Jeffrey and I, both lawyers, had volunteered to put on a mock trial of Aaron for the student of a local Hebrew school. I was one of the prosecutors and my husband was one of the defense attorneys. Believe it or not, it was a very effective way to teach and study the pertinent Torah portions.

Who better to testify as an expert on Torah (and free of charge besides) than the local Chabad Rabbi? As I recall, Lazer testified in a thick Brooklyn accent, thereby adding tremendous credibility to his conclusions and opinions.

Fortunately for Aaron, Laser's expert testimony (concluding that Aaron's actions were reasonably justified) resulted in Aaron's acquittal. After the trial, Jeffrey kept returning to Lazer and Chanie's house, for more discussion, some noshes, and some "l'chaim." First it was Shabbas services with a little cholent afterward. Then the kids began going with Daddy and being pregnant and, by this time, bedridden bringing me home a bowl of cholent and great stories. Alexa, our daughter, would tell me that all the Levy kids knew the Shema, too, and she talked about playing on the swings with her new red-haired friend named Mussi. Soon we were all invited over for a Shabbas luncheon. "How can we return the favor?" I asked, by that time being 10 months pregnant and hardly able to move, much less entertain. "Just let our children play together," Chanie replied and Lazer agreed.

Laser gave so much more than he ever took. Sure, he challenged us to always do one more thing, one more mitzvah. But when we did it, it was a gift to ourselves. "So are you coming Shabbas?" He would call and ask every week, expecting a "yes" in his Lazer way, but being gracious and yet clearly disappointed if the answer were a "no." He wouldn't ask for an explanation, but would accept the answer nonjudgmentally. I wish I could learn how to do that.

Lazer was the reason we bought a sukka, and not just any sukka, but one as large as our patio, and the deluxe edition with zippers up the sides and prayers printed on the canvas walls. I think we have the only sukka in East Greenwich. Lazer was the reason we started going regularly to Shabbas services as a family. We started celebrating Havdalah and were pleased one Sunday when Lazer told us we could celebrate Havdalah anytime before Wednesday. We changed all of our mezuzot. My husband got a new tefilin, a new tallis, and a trip to the mikvah.

Lazer was there us when we needed him. He patiently answered my distraught husband's lawyerly questions at length. He guided us. He did what needed doing. He explained what needed explaining. He said just what we needed to hear. He had great intuition, insight and perspective.

The greatest joy he had was finding a Jew who wanted to learn about Judaism who was receptive to his teachings. But he, in turn, brought us great joy in learning about our religion. He was an enthusiastic and knowledgeable rabbi. He was modest about his extensive knowledge.

He was filled with love for his babies whom he would wave in the air like a challah, and for Chanie, his family, his students, and his fellow Jew. He taught us to see the world through Jewish eyes. He was my Rabbi and my spiritual leader. He changed my life. He was my friend. I miss him very, very much.

Submitted by Jodi Gladstone

Veterans

(Continued from Page 1)

we found that we were having trouble with the decoration."

According to Levin, the bronze Mogen Dovids were frequently stolen, and the ground crews who groomed the various cemeteries would remove the markers to cut the grass, then inadvertently return them to the wrong graves.

"Also, as the World War II veterans began to get older, we found that it was hard to keep the process up," Levin said.

Then, said Levin, late Jewish War Veteran Philip Simon and his wife, Emma, came up with a new concept of how to honor Rhode Island veterans who had passed away since returning from the wars, and in the early '80s, the vinyl panels they had envisioned were erected.

Still, said Levin, if collective memory is to stretch into the future, the original monument must be replaced with one that can better withstand the ravages of the elements and time.

"We need to honor them," Levin said. "We need a transfixed wall."

Clutching a photograph of a gleaming 52-foot granite wall recently erected by the Bristol Veteran's Council that had inspired his department, Levin admitted that the fundraising efforts would be extensive.

"We estimate that the wall and the new walkway, which will be set with bricks and plaques bearing the names of donors, will cost about $150,000 once all the names are engraved," he said. "We will be setting up a corporation entitled the Jewish War Veterans of Rhode Island Memorial Wall of Honor, Inc., and we will be setting up special phone systems for people who want to make donations or who want to buy bricks for the walkway, which cost $100 each."

Until that time, Levin encourages interested parties to contact him at 467-3434.

"Many of the veterans are growing older, and I feel that if we do not do it now, we will never be able to," Levin said. "These people made great sacrifices for their country and their families, and they deserve to be memorialized forever."

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Participants will also learn how to go about getting a baby-sitting job.

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