

# Rhode Island Jewish HERALD

Education

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## Sugarman's Will Stay on at Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel

by Emily Torgan-Shalansky  
Jewish Community Reporter

Although reports of the Sugarman family's recent sale of its Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel to funeral services giant Service Corporation International surprised Rhode Island's Jewish community, Funeral Director Jill Sugarman said the change of ownership will not alter Mount Sinai's relationship with the population it has served since the mid-1970s.

"We'll still be here," said Sugarman of the East Side business that her father, Mitchell Sugarman, founded in 1975. "On Aug. 25, we sold the business, but nothing will change except that the public will see better facilities and equipment."

Although SCI now owns the Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, Sugarman will continue to serve as its manager and funeral director. Her father who is now semi-retired, will stay on as a consultant.

Funeral service from the Sugarman family has been part of

Jewish life in Rhode Island since the 1870s, when Mr. Sugarman's father, Max, emigrated to the state from Sweden. Shortly thereafter, Max began to provide the community with the Jewish funeral rites he had learned in Europe, and he later founded the Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel in Providence.

At present, both chapels are operational and separately owned.

According to Ms. Sugarman, she and her father began to consider various buyers as a way to continue with their business.

"We sold Mount Sinai because we thought it was the best way to secure its future within Rhode Island's Jewish community," Ms. Sugarman explained. "We decided to go with SCI because it owns many Jewish funeral homes and understands Jewish funeral service, and also because it will give us independence."

According to Ms. Sugarman, her father knew that he wanted her to succeed him as his retirement years approached.

Ms. Sugarman, a 30-year-old Rhode Island native who earned a law degree from Suffolk University Law School in 1993 and entered the family business in 1995, wanted to work with a company that would provide both upgrades and autonomy.

"My father wasn't going to trust anyone but me with his business," she explained. "With SCI, I completely trust that it will continue with a Sugarman or a Jewish person from the community. With the other firms, I wasn't so sure."

SCI, a Houston-based company, is the largest funeral enterprise in the world. Traded on the New York Stock Exchange, it has 3,700 funeral service locations, cemeteries and crematoria worldwide.

The company began in 1962 when its CEO and founder Robert Waltrip realized that the funeral business was a fragmented industry made up of small businesses. Waltrip's notion that funeral homes that operated in a "cluster" could combine their

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### 20th Birthday Celebration

On Nov. 15, Alperin Schechter Day School alumni enjoy a chance to get together again at their school's 20th birthday party.

Herald photo by Emily Torgan-Shalansky

## Plans Underway For Orthodox High School

by Emily Torgan-Shalansky  
Jewish Community Reporter

Eversince Rhode Island's only Jewish high school for boys closed, members of the local Jewish community have dreamt of, hoped for, and planned another one.

Although years of disappointment have driven the boys' high school from the minds of many, the New England Academy of Torah Foundation, which was forced to give up its high school for boys at the Providence Hebrew Day School in 1994, has yet to give up its hopes.

Last week, NEAT high school project consultant Michael Spingarn announced that the foundation had raised \$1.6 million in pledges toward a new high school's \$3.5 million total cost. He also released drawings of the building.

"We hope to open with a ninth grade, and perhaps also a tenth grade, in the fall of 2000," Spingarn said. "If the building is not ready for the students we envision having by that time, we can hold classes at Congregation Sons of Jacob [at 24 Douglas Ave. in Providence]."

As Spingarn told *The Providence Journal* in a recent article, the school would be called the Mesifita High School of Providence, and architectural designs for the school by Norton E. Salk show that the new structure would be added onto the New England Rabbinical College at 262 Blackstone Boulevard.

A boarding school, the structure would include classroom and living quarters for 120 men,

including 80 Mesifita students and 40 New England Rabbinical College students who would be housed at the high school during the renovations.

Some of the total funding, Spingarn said, would be used to renovate 60 Taft Avenue, which is used as a girls' dormitory by the female high school students who attend the New England Academy of Torah's high school for girls at the Providence Hebrew Day School.

"It will take about \$2.5 million to complete the building, and we will need about \$500,000 to cover costs for the first two years," he said. "Our priorities are construction money and operating capital."

Spingarn, who is president of Development Associates Group, a New Rochelle, N.Y., firm that raises funds for Jewish projects, has already achieved local success by recently helping Congregation Young Israel of Sharon, Mass., to raise \$1.3 million to purchase a temple.

Neither he nor the NEAT foundation members are troubled by the efforts of another Orthodox community group to start a high school for boys and girls at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island in 1999.

"The best thing for Providence would be to have a boys' school, a girls' school, and a boys' and girls' school," he said. "There are a lot of young people out there, and I wish that we could service all of them."

Still, while Spingarn and NEAT foundation member Tho-

(Continued on Page 19)

## November is National Adoption

by Kimberly Ann Orlandi  
Herald Editor

It is something many of us take for granted, our parents. They nursed us when we had chicken pox, they attended every dance recital. They sacrificed luxuries to put us through college, and now they are still there offering their support, guidance and love some 30 years later. But for hundreds of children throughout Rhode Island, and thousands more across the country, who do not know the joy of having parents, that's where Adoption Options comes in.

Adoption Options is a non-sectarian, non-profit program of Jewish Family Services, which assists prospective adoptive parents, and those parents wishing to put a child up for adoption, in creating a happy family.

The agency is open to all people, regardless of race, religion or creed, and all it takes is an application.

"The prospective parent will come in to meet with one of the counselors and fill out an application," said Toby Zaitchik, adoption coordinator at Adoption Options. "After a careful

initial screening of the prospective parents, the next step would be a home assessment, so we can determine what their needs and desires are."

The home study is usually conducted by a social worker who visits the family in their home to determine whether or not the family is ready for adoption. The visit is more than just to see if the house is kept neat and clean, it's a way to address any questions or concerns a family may have about adoption. Parents don't have to be well educated or rich, they just have to be good parents.

According to Zaitchik, the face of adoption has changed dramatically over the last 20 years. Today, there are less restrictions

on the process with regard to age, social class and economic situations. The adoption process has become more open, and offers both the natural parent and adoptive parent

more in the way of choice when it comes to placing and adopting a child. Although the majority of people adopting are husbands and wives, Zaitchik is seeing more younger couples, single people and people in their 50s.

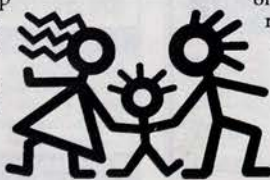
The primary role of Adoption Options is to act as a liaison between the adoptive parents and natural parents. The families using Adoption Options are not necessarily adopting through the agency's birth parents. They may choose to use an international, private or state agency. In that instance, Adoption Options would negotiate that adoption.

The agency offers counseling sessions, an information library interested parents can browse, and wealth of resources and networks they can refer parents to if they can not meet the family's needs.

"We work with birth moms who want some control over where their child goes," said Zaitchik. "In those situations, it is not us setting the guidelines, but the birth parents who are determining the restrictions of the adoption. This is something agencies never did in years past."

Whether it be an international adoption, private adoption, adopting a special needs child, or a child in foster care, there are many options to the adopting process. The process, however, isn't going to happen overnight, in some instances an adoption may take several months or sev-

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# HAPPENINGS

## Entertainment For Kids

November

- 20 **Providence Children's Museum**, 100 South St., Providence, hosts "Preschool Fridays: Stories Aloud." Children 3 to 5 listen to Mother Goose tell her classic tales. 9:40 a.m. to 1:50 p.m. Call 273-KIDS.
- Black Box Theatre**, 1 Allens Ave., Providence. Teen directed one-act plays. 7:30 p.m. Call 331-7174.
- 21 **Providence Children's Museum**, 100 South St., Providence, hosts "Pets and People." Children ages 3 and up meet a real live dog and discover the joys and responsibilities of dog ownership. 1 to 3 p.m. Call 273-KIDS.
- Help the animals of Roger Williams Zoo** celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday with "Thanksgiving for the Animals." Help feed the zoo's wild, free-roaming animals by bringing an edible ornament to hang. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- 25 **Toss-a-Turkey Contest**. Kids put on your rubber gloves and toss a rubber turkey as far as you can to win a prize. 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Nov. 27 through 29. Oop! Gift Gallery, 297 Thayer St., Providence. Benefits Make-A-Wish.

## Temple Shalom Welcomes New Affiliates

Temple Shalom, the Conservative Congregation of Newport County, will welcome new affiliates at a New Member Sabbath on Friday evening, Nov. 20. The evening will commence with a special worship service conducted by Rabbi Marc S. Jagolinzer and Laura Berkson, director of music. The following new members will be welcomed into the congregation: Stewart J. Abramson, Beverly Adler, the Deware family (John, Marilyn, Jonathan and Jeffrey), the Hodosh family (Drs. Alex, Cornelia, Sarah and Benjamin), Burt and Marsha Jagolinzer, the Ponce family (Jerry, Karen and Daniel), Rosalie Trust, and the White family (Eric, Pamela, James and Nicole).

Rabbi Jagolinzer and Temple President Joseph Danin will present new affiliates with gifts.

A special highlight of this New Member Sabbath will be the formal dedication of new Torah mantles donated to the congregation during the past year by: Melvin and Patti Alperin in honor of Joseph Dannin, Stephen and Leslie Saunders in honor of Rebecca Saunders, and the Salk family in memory of Burton Salk.

A traditional Shabbat dinner will conclude the evening.

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## Calendar: November 19th to November 25th

- 19 **Craft Show**, Rhode Island Convention Center, One Sabin St., Providence. Call 458-6000. Nov. 19 through 22.
- Rhode Island Holocaust Memorial Museum** continues its film series with, "Because of That War." 10 a.m., 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence. Call 453-7860.
- 20 **Outstanding Citizen Award Dinner**, Providence Biltmore Hotel, Providence, honors Dr. Patricia Feinstein. 6:30 p.m. to midnight. Call 781-2698.
- Northeast Wildlife Fine Art & Nature Expo**, Rhode Island Convention Center, One Sabin St., Providence. Nov. 20 through 22. Call (978) 374-5228.
- Learning Connection**, 201 Wayland Ave., Providence, sponsors three workshops dealing with personal finance. Nov. 20 through 22. Fees \$39 to \$69. Call 274-9330.
- Rhode Island College Wind Ensemble** performs work by Richard Cumming, composer-in-residence at Trinity Repertory Theatre and faculty member at RIC. 8:15 p.m., Roberts Hall. Tickets \$7 general; and discounts for students and seniors. Call 456-8090.
- Theatre Department of Providence Country Day School** performs "Arsenic and Old Lace," 660 Waterman Ave., East Providence. 8 p.m. Tickets \$6 adults, \$5 students (18 or younger) and seniors. Call 438-5170.
- 21 **Montgolfier Day Balloon Regatta**, State House lawn, Providence. 15 to 20 hot air balloons rise over Providence commemorating the anniversary of the first unmanned space flight in Paris, 1783. 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. Raindate is Nov. 22.
- Turkey Trot Road Race**. A 4.3-mile run for all ages. 10 a.m., East Providence Recreation Center, 100 Bullocks Point, East Providence. Call 433-6360.
- Holiday Art and Craft Expo**, Community College of Rhode Island, Knight Campus, Warwick. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Nov. 21 and 22. Call (860) 529-2123.
- Rhode Island School of Design**, Metcalf Refectory, 55 Angell St., Providence, "Fall Student Art Sale." 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 454-6342.
- The Perishable Theatre**, 95 Empire St., Providence, welcomes Keith Muslow's "All That And a Bag o' Chips." Unique blend of funny and original songs and stories, tongue-twisting poems to a rhythmic piano style. Tickets \$6 adults and \$3 children. Nov. 21 through 28 and Dec. 5. Call 331-2695.
- Tellabration 98!**, AS220, 115 Empire St., Providence. 8 p.m. Tickets \$6. Call 831-9327.
- 22 **"A Show of Hands"** annual crafts fair. Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 861-8800.
- Fall Concert and Candlelight Dinner**. The Chorus of Westerly presents Mozart's Mass in C Minor. Two candlelight dinner seatings, 6 and 8 p.m., reservations required. Call 596-8663.
- The Bowling Academy**, East Providence, hosts a bowling party to welcome Big Brothers of Rhode Island to the city. 9 a.m. to noon. Call 722-6300.
- 23 **The Sarah Doyle Gallery**, 185 Meeting St., Providence, presents "The Fiber Show — a juried textiles exhibition." The show will be juried by Susan Sklarek, of the Rhode Island School of Design's textile department. The exhibit runs through Dec. 17. Call 863-2189.
- 25 **The Providence Performing Arts Center** welcomes "Show Boat." Nov. 25 through Dec. 13. 220 Weybosset St., Providence. Call 421-ARTS.

## Brunch Lecture on Jews of Portugal

On Nov. 22 at 9:30 a.m., there will be a brunch and lecture on "The Books Buried Under a Tree: Jews in Portugal." This is part of a series co-sponsored by Temple Emanu-El's Kulanu and Adult Institute. Following brunch, Professor Naomi Parker will make her presentation. She will give a concise overview of the history of the Jews in Portugal from the beginning through the 20th century. She will also share some fascinating diaries, anecdotes, and literature written by Portuguese Jews. Parker will add new material to the lecture she presented at the Leisure Club last year.

Parker is assistant professor of Portuguese at Rhode Island College. She received her B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Brown University in creative writing and Portuguese studies. She has a particular interest in the Jews of Portugal.

The brunch is open to the public. There is a nominal donation for breakfast.

## Hospice Care of RI Offers New Programs

Hospice Care of Rhode Island will offer six support programs, "Coping with the Holidays," on three Wednesdays in December.

Interested adults may choose to attend one of the programs, which will be held twice a day on Dec. 2, 9, and 16 — at 3:30 or 7 p.m. All sessions will be held at the Hospice Care of Rhode Island office, 169 George St. in Pawtucket.

The free support groups offer participants help in coping with the holiday season, which can make the loss of a loved one particularly acute. An experienced counselor will guide group members and give information about the grieving process. Group participants will be able to express their feelings in a secure and comforting atmosphere. Anyone who has suffered a loss is welcome, whether or not the family received hospice care.

For more information or directions, contact Hospice Care of Rhode Island, a Lifespan partner, at 727-7070.

## Directory to this week's Herald

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



# JEWISH COMMUNITY

## Alperin Schechter Celebrates Its 20th Year

by Emily Torgan-Shalansky  
Jewish Community Reporter

On Nov. 15, the Alperin Schechter Day School celebrated its 20th birthday with a party that was even more special than most that mark years ending with "0."

Its special quality did not come from decorations, food, or any single one of the 200 staff members, alumni, parents and supporters who gathered in Temple Emanu-El's auditorium for the occasion.

Instead, the party that heralded ASDS' transformation from an idea into Rhode Island's

interim director and co-founder, also focused on the growing Schechter community.

As Stein expressed her joy at having reached the school's 20th birthday, she spoke to all present rather than individuals.

"We celebrate all of our dedicated supporters," she said. "They are the parents, grandparents, and community leaders who all worked so hard. We thank all of our talented faculty and staff members."

When Stein declared that one of ASDS' greatest strengths was its ability to build community, whistles and cheers broke out.

decision that will have a positive effect on rest of their children's lives.

"When we make the choice to send our children to Jewish day schools, we are giving them a message and a sense of Jewish rootedness that will be with them forever," she said.

Strassfeld then admitted that motherhood is an extremely difficult job.

"The process of raising Jewish children who will be intertwined with their people is very serious," she said. "When I think about it, I have to look for answers, and I know that I will succeed only if I let Jewish values deepen and grow in my own life."

Using Jewish prayers and Holy Text as examples, Strassfeld showed how Jewish values must be transmitted through the generations by parents and teachers to their children.

Strassfeld concluded her remarks with the story of Moses.

"It's ironic that when Moses could finally see the Promised Land, G-d told him he would not be leading his people into it," she said. "G-d taught us all that we do the best we can, but ultimately our job as parents is to help our children find their own Promised Land and go places that we will never be able to enter."

ASDS Vice President, Susan Froehlich, introduced a video about ASDS that she had written, produced and directed with fellow Schechter parents Merrylee Felder and Jana Brenman.

The video project, which was initiated by ASDS co-president Deb Shuster during the summer, was compiled for the 20th anniversary party and will also be utilized as a promotional tool.

In a separate interview, Felder, who runs Luckyman Produc-

The committee, said Froehlich, sorted through more than 1200 archival photographs from various parts of the school's 20 year experience and turned to longtime Schechter supporters for information about them.

The video-making process



ASDS ALUMNI Rachel Alexander, left, and Dan Stein at the 20th birthday celebration. In 1978, both were members of the school's first graduating class. Herald photos by Emily Torgan-Shalansky

first Conservative day school was special because it was rich with shared memories and experiences that made the guests aware that the milestone in the school's life also marked one in their own.

Co-president of the ASDS Board of Directors Leah Ehrenhaus-Hersh opened the

"So we celebrate community - the community that established and supported this school through its first 20 years, and we continue to build community to see this school not only through the next 20 years, but through the next 120!" she declared.

Next, the evening's guest speaker, writer and activist Sharon Strassfeld, shared her experiences as a mother and a co-founder of a Jewish school, New York's Abraham Joshua Heschel School.

A native Rhode Islander who co-authored the *Jewish Catalogue*, Strassfeld's most recent book, *Everything I Know*, was recently published by Scribner's.

"I know how precious this event is," said Strassfeld. "I know that it's an act of faith to look to a community and summon the courage to begin an institution."

What comes after that initial step, Strassfeld said, are a second stage in which the newborn institution begins to sink into the community and a third stage, during which the school requires ongoing support.

"By then, the newness has dimmed," she said. "There is relentlessly hard work that calls for willing volunteers who are willing to forgo glamour and dedicate themselves to the task at hand, and we owe them."

According to Strassfeld, parents such as the ASDS families who send their children to Jewish schools are making a critical



SUSAN ODESSA, left, and Bari Harlam served as event co-chairs for the 20th birthday party.

tions in Seekonk, Mass. said that she, Froehlich and Brenman recognized the 20th birthday party as an opportunity to create a video that ASDS had needed for some time.

"We wanted people to be able to view what a Conservative Jewish day school is all about," Brenman explained. "We wanted them to know about the sort of feelings their children will have here and also what they can expect the school to provide."

also included a letter that was sent out to ASDS alumni and families requesting responses that could be used to help develop the film's narrative.

After the introduction, heads swiveled from stage to screen and a hush fell over the room that was soon punctuated by laughter and shouts of recognition.

The film showed scenes of life at the school in its various (Continued on Page 19)



PENNEY STEIN, a co-founder of ASDS who is now serving as its interim director, enjoys the birthday bash.

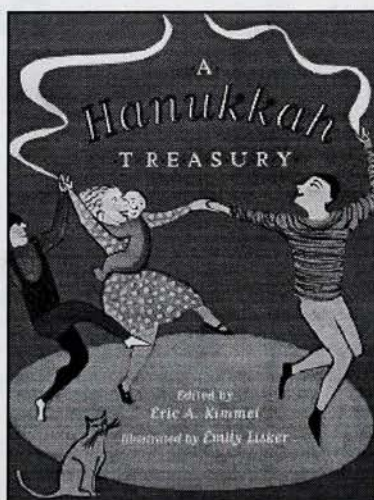
program by pointing to the school's metamorphosis from the 10-student kindergarten of 1978 into the established community institution that this fall welcomed 231 students from grades K through 8.

"Tonight we will celebrate all that we have accomplished in just 20 years," she said. "We will look at a school that has grown from 10 to bursting, at a wonderful faculty, and at a community that now includes parents, alumni and lay leaders."

Penney Stein, ASDS' acting

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# OPINION

## NCSJ Commends President Yeltsin for Swift Response

The National Conference on Soviet Jewry commended Russian President Boris Yeltsin for his swift response in condemning ethnic hatred in Russia. President Yeltsin publicly denounced the "aggressive statements of a number of Communist leaders on the issue of nationalities."

In that statement on Nov. 6, Yeltsin also stated, "Any attempts to insult ethnic consciousness, limit the rights of citizens based on their ethnicity, will be stopped." The NCSJ urges the Russian government to extend their efforts and take concrete actions to address the fundamental causes of anti-Semitism. This includes engaging in initiatives that foster pluralism and multi-ethnic understanding as well as developing the democratic structures needed to combat ethnic hatred and anti-Semitism in Russia.

Recently NCSJ issued a formal statement condemning the failure of the Russian Parliament (Duma) to censure one of its members. Gen. Albert Makashov, for blatant anti-Semitism and inciting ethnic hatred. Following an intense debate that was filled with anti-Semitic rhetoric, the Parliament narrowly defeated the resolution by a vote of 121 to 107. Petr Shelish, a Jewish member of Parliament, told the NCSJ that the motion presented before the Duma was a mildly-worded resolution that did not specify anti-Semitism, but mentioned the threat of racist statements to Russia's national ethnic accord. An NCSJ representative visited Moscow recently to meet with Shelish and to convey to other officials the organization's concerns about Makashov and the growth of anti-Semitism.

cerns about Makashov and the growth of anti-Semitism.

Out of 132 Communist members in Parliament, only one, Duma Speaker Gennady Seleznev, voted in support of censure. Deputy Prime Minister Yuri Maslyukov, also a Communist, has called the Parliament's decision a "disgrace."

"General Makashov's ultra-nationalist, anti-Semitic rhetoric — leading chants that call for 'death to the Yids,' and blaming Jews for Russia's current economic crisis — is deplorable," said NCSJ chairman, Denis C. Braham. "We are grateful to those Russian officials who have criticized his behavior, and urge the government to censure any official who spreads ethnic hatred."

"The NCSJ is prepared and eager to assist Russian government officials in developing the needed structures to combat anti-Semitism," said NCSJ President Howard E. Sachs. "We have expressed our willingness to help to senior Russian officials."

In Washington, the NCSJ has been in contact with the National Security Council and the U.S. Department of State urging them to raise the issue and has requested their help in getting responses from high-level Russian officials. NCSJ released an action statement on Nov. 9, calling for its constituents to write letters to the Russian leadership, commending them for criticizing Makashov's anti-Semitic rhetoric and urging Russian leaders to censure officials who espouse anti-Semitic hatred and develop initiatives to combat ethnic hatred.

## The Bride of Kristallnacht

by Cindy Halpern

Jenny Klein, chairwoman of the program committee of the Holocaust Museum, stood before the assembled audience at Temple Emanu-El's Bohman Meeting Hall with solemn dignity. She explained that her mathematical mind told her that the Night of the Broken Glass took place 60 years ago. But her heart had difficulty in accepting how much time had passed.

Anyone who has had the privilege of serving with Jenny Klein on community committees knows that Jenny is forever a teacher who seeks to educate students of all ages. She had asked her dear friend, Herta Hoffman, to tell us her story in hopes we would better understand what it was like to witness a world being destroyed by blind hatred.

Herta Hoffman, who will be receiving the volunteer of the year award, gave us a look back to her Austrian youth, when her country was a democracy and life was comfortable. She spoke of living in Linz and watching the cancer that was Nazism begin to spread. People didn't openly embrace Nazism for it was then against the law to do so. But they inwardly welcomed what a native son preached across the border.

Despite the growth of the Nazi tumor, Herta learned about love and accepted a proposal of marriage. But when she should have been selecting the perfect wedding dress and patterns for silver, she and her husband-to-be were talking about how to escape a land that was no longer their home.

But even a happy wedding ceremony was denied the couple. Hoffman explained that on Nov. 7, 1938, a young Jew named Herschel Grynszpan murdered a third secretary Nazi diplomat in Paris because his Polish-born parents were deported from Germany and dumped on the Polish frontier.

The result was Nazi revenge riots in which every window in every Jewish shop throughout Germany and Austria were shattered and most of the synagogues were burned to the

ground. Thugs broke into Jewish homes and 20,000 Jews were sent to concentration camps.

Herta's fiancé had a quota number for America, so his life was spared. The wedding ceremony took place in a building next to the destroyed synagogue with only her parents for witnesses. The couple endured another year under Nazi rule. They didn't dare go out much, for Jews weren't welcome anywhere.

They immigrated to America in September 1939. It was a bitter-sweet escape. Herta's parents were promised that in another 6 months, they, too, could leave tyranny for freedom. But it was not to be. Herta told us that the American State Department was quite anti-Semitic. The processing of paper work was delayed to prevent many Jews from immigrating.

Because of this political policy, Herta Hoffman's parents never set foot in America. In 1942, they were sent to Theresienstadt, once a fortress to defend Hapsburg Bohemia against the Prussians. At Theresienstadt, 150,000 Jews passed through its gates. Many of the elderly perished, including Herta's father, Alfred Pisk. Her mother, Hilda, who had been a devout Zionist, survived, only to be transported to the death camps in Poland. Mrs. Pisk died just weeks before she would have been liberated.

Herta produced the white book that serves as a tombstone for the victims of Theresienstadt. The Germans, according to her, kept good records of the atrocities

ties they committed. But nevertheless, she held tight to the book, for it was all she had left of her parents.

Klein, always wise in her ways, then emphasized to us that the future is what matters most by introducing us to Irving Fain, a young man who took part in the March of the Living. It is a program in which Jewish youth travel to Poland to see the death camps for themselves as a witness to history. They then travel to Israel, the land of the living, to understand that the Jewish people did not perish as the Nazis intended.

Fain read a letter written by Fred Friendly, a Jewish youth serving his country as an American soldier, who became another witness of German brutality against the Jews.

Fain then spoke of his time in Poland. He talked to Polish who were ignorant of their role in genocide. He visited a fire station which was once a former synagogue. The only trace of a Jewish presence was the vacant spot where the Ark once stood proudly. He felt that Poland was a sad graveyard of a once-vibrant community.

But he didn't leave us feeling as if we had just said kaddish. He reflected on his mission as a member of the third generation to carry the lessons of the Holocaust upon his shoulders.

Hoffman, the bride of Kristallnacht, inspires us all by surviving and telling her tale. We are her children and grandchildren who will carry on her cherished legacy.

## 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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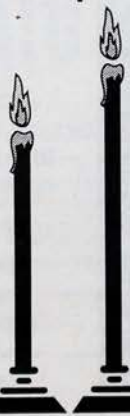
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Candlelighting  
November 20, 1998  
4:04 p.m.



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

## Passing the Test

Has G-d tested you?

Every life has some troubles. You may have lost a loved one, or had financial difficulties. You may have physical or emotional challenges.

Have you come through a life-threatening disease, though? Or endured a natural disaster? Or been lost beyond the reach of civilization, say in a desert for 40 years? Have you suffered the relentless evil of others.

There is something oddly transforming about these events... but we'll discuss that in a moment.

If you have lasted through some major event, you may understand the plight of Avraham in this week's portion, *Vayeira*. Not only is he asked to sacrifice his beloved son, Isaac, but G-d hints in passing that He has tested this man "on numerous occasions and you have successfully passed all

the trials. Please withstand this test as well, so that it may not be said: 'The earlier tests were meaningless.'"

Some have read this passage and have been horrified at the task G-d sets for Avraham. Even though Isaac is spared at the last minute, it must still have been torture for both father and son up to that point. The same is said of Job, who later is put through even more extreme and

Frequently, it is only afterwards that they announce they have "found G-d." For many of them, coming out the other side only deepens, or awakens, their faith. "I cherish every day now, and live it to the fullest."

So the question is not "Why would you cling to a G-d who tests you like this?" but "How strong can your faith really be if it has not been severely tested?"

It's a question only you can answer. Why wait to see what awaits in the year ahead? Assume the best... and conduct yourself as though you had come through the test.

Prove — to yourself if no one else — that faith is not a matter of joy at escaping the worst, but a matter of appreciating what you have without experiencing the threat of losing it.

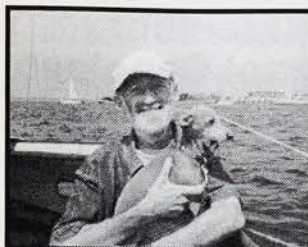
Submitted by Chabad of West Bay CHAI Center.

## Torah Today

attenuated torment. What kind of G-d, it is asked, punishes his loved ones his way?

But think... about your own tests, or those of others who experience great trials. Think of those who escape drowning, conquer cancer, or survive evil.





## Till Thanksgiving

by Mike Fink  
Herald Contributing Reporter

November or Cheshvan drops off into a brown study, a Yiddish mood mix of *struss* and *hamish* homecoming. November gets on my nerves from start to finish. Under the full moon our boy dragged home a pillowcase



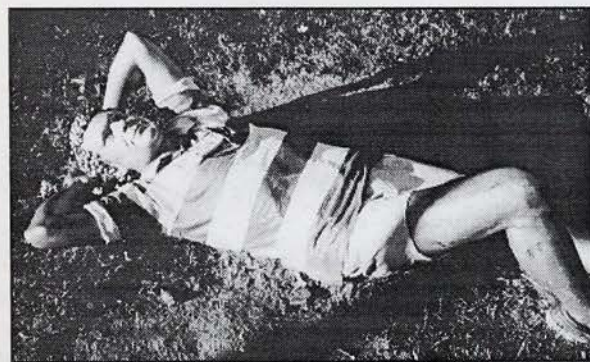
pushed in tight with chocolate and nuts. The dog'll sniff them out! Your mother will toss them away! But no, he hides the hoard behind the door to a stairwell from his lair to the attic. A ghost scratches overhead all night long! Of course, the phantom takes shape as a squirrel on a hunt not haunt that chewed through the gutter filled with brown oakleaves into the cozy crawl-space. It didn't happen that way, protests my son. Well, almost.

Gordon Brier stuffed with pillows showed up on the block as Governor Lincoln Almond to

rean sculpture strikes me as more poetic from the rear than face forward. The figure looks lonely, a solitary sentry, as if he doesn't quite know what it's all about. I've been asking my students from Korea to question their parents and grandparents about their experiences of the era. Another person like a lost doll lies amid the acorns and nutbrown leaves of November. It is a lazy, good-for-nothing youth in loose untied sneakers, just hanging around—a witty and gaudy modern casting among the heroic ghosts of bronze and marble, literal not allegorical.

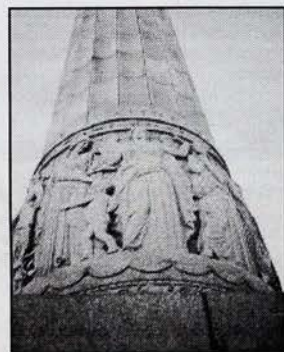
The pigeons that stay all year round wear the murky sad colors of November, gray and amber with oil-slick rainbow hues, make me think of the carrier pigeons of Armistice Day, soft living cell phones with hearts that beat and wings that flutter, cooing messages of peace at the base of the column to celebrate the end of war and conflict.

The month will close with the summons to our children to come to the hearth, the uniquely American and vaguely Hebrew holiday of Thanksgiving, a friendly truce between natives and settlers, longtime or recent residents of our roadsides. The table becomes a temple altar, the board a bima, or even the boards of a theater where we act out our roles whatever they may be on the soil-brown earth. November weeks are natural, native, nervous, nostalgic, national



bring block costume party to neighborhood polling booth on election day. I put on my stubborn "FDR Again" pin, but it falls off my lapel among the yellow maple-foliage piles rustling at my feet. Shari Lewis also came back from beyond among the ghostly spirits in the chill twilights of early November. The ninth month quickly turns backward to Armistice Day as I persist in calling the eleventh numeral on my calendar. Like the verses of the Great War, the monuments of recall had lyrical class and idealistic grandeur. The fine lady on the high pedestal across from the courthouse looks more like peace and ceasefire than like victory to me. On that riverside lawn the new Ko-

and neighborly. We are all Noah for 30 days till Chesvan carries into Kislev and the kindling of new lights.



Herald photos by Mike Fink

## My Heart and I Agree

by Mike Fink  
Herald Contributing Reporter

Sometimes a song sticks and stays like a shadow. "Golden Earrings" leads and follows my footsteps. Something about the street accordion and alley or bridge fiddle makes the oldtime Hollywood version of a Gypsy tune mix with the kitsch words into a tsigane-Yiddish cocktail of sentiment and romance. It's a ballad about fate and fire-light, and it came out just after Auschwitz spilled the blood of Jew and Gypsy into the rivers of east Europe.

This tale "that's known to very few" keeps me company along my own trail. I danced with dates to its sweet strains in high school. Upon my travels I ask for it from the pianist or a duo or trio in Budapest, London, or some roadhouse pub. I even sang it myself on TV and also in a Paris cafe.

I dropped off the Axelrod sheet music at Barbara Greenberg's encampment on Fourth Street, hidden by a latticework veranda. She played it on her violin at "the wedding of the century." No, not the Windsors' at the Chateau de Cande. The nuptials of the Blazers (a Gypsy name, if I can stretch a point and pun) gave bright beshieri to the vestry of Temple Emanu-El. "I promise I'll do your favorite," Barbara had pledged from her pew in the mainsanctuary, where I listened to my wife sing in the choir and watched the parade from Bor-

deaux and Provence moving regally down the aisle to the *chuppa*. And then there she was by the wine bar with her bow bringing out the sentimental but also strange tones of the story the Gypsies know is true...that your love belongs to you.

In this year of George Gershwin revivals and Jerome Kern celebrations, I find all the high-tone compositions of the



popular culture of yore coming back in a spill of sounds and a gush of recall. I asked Lindsay Adler, who stops by at the Hope Street Cafe and Gallery to do her charming gig, if she could lay her hands on "Stella by Starlight."

Meanwhile I did my own research at Round Again Records on Wickenden Street. They didn't have the Sinatra rendition in their bins, but I found Vic Damone's version. "A great symphonic theme—that's Stella by Starlight, and not some dream," he croons. The rhymes stir in a robin's refrain from years of endless springs and the flow of a brook in the shade of ancient trees. "My heart and I agree: she's everything on earth to me." Wow! I fell for this fable on a summer's night in Maine, under a sky of velvet and sapphire ringed by perfumed pines,

somebody's radio blaring the hit through the moonlit evening. Of course, Stella means "a star," and I had a Canadian aunt who seemed glamorous to me with her jaunty jaw and her hearty laugh, but it wasn't a song tied to a crush or a face, only the yearning in the vocals and the phrasing. And I enjoy the hunt, the pursuit of the haunting notes, the kindness of my East Side Gypsies who bring them back from out of the past. Remember the plot to "Golden Earrings?" A vet who dropped on silk from the sky into the ring around campfire goes back in the postwar period of depression to rejoin the caravan—an absurd and superb fantasy in black and white. A celluloid poem with a minor key harmony to last after the reels have turned and twisted.

Like brandy, books and buddies, ballads get better as time goes by.

On a November weekend I caught just the right moment for Lindsay's eloquent rendering of "Stella" and asked for some background on its origins. Turns out Victor Young, born in Chicago in 1900, studied music in Warsaw, Poland, worked in Hollywood, won a posthumous Oscar for the score of "Around the World in Eighty Days," and put together the themes of "Love Letters" and, yes, "Golden Earrings," also, "Mona Lisa." I stopped by at temple libraries to check out the possible klezmer roots of my favorite sounds. So far all I got was a brief word from Barbara Greenberg: "Schmaltz!" All I know is, "My heart and I agree."

## Hard To Vote

by Mike Fink  
Herald Contributing Reporter

The *Providence Journal* review raved and gave "Life Is Beautiful" all five stars at its disposal. The critic called the movie "warm." The *Phoenix* agreed about the film being warm. But Gerald Peary flayed it and called it "pernicious." I co-jured the documentaries of the Newport Film Festival with Peary. I have great respect for his judgment—and also for his personal warmth. He's perfectly capable of weeping when he feels deeply.

We joined a long line to catch the early show of "La Vita e Bello," and box office popularity always puts me on guard. If everybody else likes or looks forward to a flick, I recoil. I hate to join a bandwagon.

I spoke up to the couple in front of me. "I bet this is just a tearjerker," I broke in. They didn't mind. They even asked us to sit with them. But I have to sit alone, close to the screen, to read subtitles. Well, can life be beautiful even in a concentration camp?

The only answer I can offer is a mix. If you look at this effort too earnestly, too literally, it can make you cry or wince. Yes, it is

a cheap cop-out. To show survivors as cheerful and grateful souls is unconscionably unrealistic. To emphasize the charm and grace of the victims makes it too smugly comfortable for the audience to care and then congratulate themselves for their sympathy.

On the other hand, if you see the show as an artistic, perhaps even subtle, study in cinematic design, then its poignancy is earned. The actor-writer-director, Roberto Benigni, shows fascist Italy in a distinctly unflattering light.

He reveals the madness and cruelty of the Germans without compromise. He avoids scenes of brutality not from squeamishness but because he has chosen a tone and a mood of elegy, not immediacy. If you read the reviews and enjoy debate, you will get more, not less, from this strange spectacle on the silver screen. Instead of falling into it, you can savor its pace, its graceful script, its horror withheld and implied and all the more dreadful for not being obvious.

So, where do I stand, on the thumbs up or down side? My verdict, for whatever it's worth, balances the two weights. I press slightly toward yes. I did not bound out of my seat, angry, or

moved. Instead, I thought, with raised eyebrows, that this screenplay fits into the mode of the '90s, our decade of defying taboos and borders, placing comedy and tragedy, the trivial and the deep, side by side, to test ourselves and all our powers. Boo and hiss me if you will, but I think if you liked this movie too much, you shouldn't. But if you found it hard to vote, you're on the side of freedom and beauty.

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# JEWISH COMMUNITY



## Music Runs in The Cherlin Family

The musical Cherlin family consists of the following members: Top row left to right, David Cherlin, son; Maurice "Moe" Cherlin, father; Richard Cherlin, son; all professional musicians. Next to Richard, Seth Mendelson, grandson. Bottom row left to right: Tess Cherlin, granddaughter; Adam Mendelson, grandson; Darcy Cherlin, granddaughter, and Noah Mendelson, grandson.

## Synagogues Encouraged to Reach Out to Jewish Elders

Focusing their energies on young families, many synagogues have neglected their older members. A new Brandeis University publication, *Help, Opportunities, and Programs for Jewish Elders: An Action Guide for Synagogues*, for the first time offers hundreds of programming ideas, resource information, and program models that show congregations how to move from planning to implementing successful programs for older adults.

The *Action Guide* covers eight areas: needs assessment, volunteer training, synagogue accessibility, care giving and assistance with daily life, educational programs, social programs, religious/spiritual programs, and programs that celebrate the lives and achievements of the elders of the congregation. Detailed information is included so that synagogues can adapt ideas to suit their own needs. The 140-page book presents lessons from the field culled from in-depth interviews with dozens of synagogue volunteers and professionals who work with older adults. The guide will motivate congregations to build their older adult services and stimu-

late creativity among program planners.

Programs included in the *Action Guide* were identified through an extensive national search undertaken by the Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies at Brandeis University. "It was gratifying to speak with people all over the country who are doing synagogue-based work with the seniors and locate such a rich array of diverse programs and services," said Amy L. Sales, research associate at the Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies at Brandeis University and the publication's senior author.

*Help, Opportunities, and Programs for Jewish Elders: An Action Guide for Synagogues* was conceived and sponsored by the Grotta Foundation for Senior Care, a New Jersey-based foundation whose mission is to enhance the quality of life of the elderly and their family caregivers.

Copies of the publication can be ordered by contacting the Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies at Brandeis University (Mailstop 014, Waltham, MA 02454; fax: 781-736-2006; tel: (781) 736-2066).

## Moetzes Gedolei HaTorah Members Grace Upcoming Agudath Israel Conclave

A prime motivation of the thousands of Jews who travel from throughout the tri-state area and across the country to participate in part or all of Agudath Israel of America's national conventions is the opportunity to be in the presence and hear the words of renowned Torah leaders from both the United States and abroad.

Among the many rabbonim who will be participating in deliberations or addressing the gathering at various points over the course of the organization's upcoming 76th National Convention — set to open at the Parsippany Hilton, in Parsippany-Troy Hills, N.J., on Nov. 26, will be esteemed members of the Moetzes Gedolei HaTorah: Rabbi Simcha Bunim Ehrenfeld, the Mattesdorfer Rov; Rabbi Yitzchok Feigelstock, Rosh HaYeshiva, Mesivta of Long Beach; Rabbi Avrohom Chaim Levin, Rosh HaYeshiva, Telshe (Chicago); Rabbi Yaakov

Perlow, the Novominsker Rebbe; Rabbi Aharon Schechter, Rosh HaYeshiva, Yeshivas Chaim Berlin; and Rabbi Elya Svei, Rosh HaYeshiva, Yeshiva of Philadelphia.

The convention's opening afternoon will feature Rabbi Levin presenting an overview for one of the four concurrent symposia, entitled "Surrounded From All Sides: Protecting Our Neshamos From a Culture of Decadence."

On the convention's Shabbos afternoon, Rabbi Ehrenfeld will speak at the Yiddish Sholosh Seudos.

The convention's theme this year, "B'shteit Einayim: An Eye of the Past, A Vision for the Future," alludes to the influence and wisdom of the recently departed Agudath Israel leader Rabbi Moshe Sherer, z"l — B'shteit Einayim is the name of his sefer of collected essays. At the Motzoei Shabbos keynote session a hazkora for Rabbi Sherer will be delivered by Rabbi Perlow.

A major address at the Motzoei Shabbos keynote session will be delivered by Rabbi Svei.

In addition to the addresses by Moetzes Gedolei HaTorah members, the Motzoei Shabbos session will feature a message from Agudath Israel of America Executive Vice President Rabbi Shmuel Bloom and an address by Rabbi Aaron Dovid Dunner, Dayan, Hisachdus Kehillos HaCharedim (London), the evening's guest speaker.

Serving as the keynote session's chairman will be Rabbi Ephraim Wachsmann, Rosh Yeshiva, Yeshivas Adas Yereim (Monsey), while Rabbi Chaskel Besser, a member of Agudath Israel of America's Nesius (presidium), will offer welcoming remarks.

All convention sessions are free of charge and open to the public. For more information, call Rabbi Avi Shafra, (212) 797-9000.

## Novelist Anne Michaels To Be Awarded 1998 Ribalow Prize

### Elie Wiesel Among Judges

First-time author and award-winning poet Anne Michaels of Toronto has been selected as the 1998 winner of the prestigious Harold U. Ribalow Prize for her novel *Fugitive Pieces*, published by Alfred A. Knopf in March 1997. This year's judges were Elie Wiesel, N. Scott Momaday and Robert Cohen, last year's Ribalow recipient. The award was established by the family of the late Harold U. Ribalow, noted editor and writer.

Administered by *Hadassah Magazine*, the Ribalow Prize is awarded annually to an author for a work of fiction on a Jewish theme. *Hadassah Magazine* is published in New York by Ha-

dassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America. The largest circulation Jewish publication in the United States, *Hadassah Magazine* is distributed monthly to its more than 300,000 members nationwide.

*Fugitive Pieces* is the story of Jakob Beer, orphaned in Poland as a young boy during World War II and rescued from hiding by a Greek scholar. After being secreted to a Greek island, Jakob is raised in seclusion during the last years of the Occupation in a private world made meaningful by poetry, cartography, botany, art, geology and ancient history.

Chaim Potok calls *Fugitive Pieces* "an utterly mesmerizing

novel... that illumines through the lights of language and intelligence the heart of a hitherto hidden human landscape."

The prize ceremony will be held at Hadassah headquarters on Dec. 7. The keynote speaker for the event will be David Altschuler, director of the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York.

Submissions for the 1999 Ribalow Prize must be received by April 1, 1999. The prize is given to an author deserving of recognition for a novel or book of short stories on a Jewish theme. No unpublished material is considered. The book must have been published first in English and during the previous calendar year.

## Turkey Hill Dairy Earns Orthodox Union Certification

Turkey Hill Dairy has earned Orthodox Union certification for all of its product lines. The dairy's plant and products, previously maintaining "Ko" certification, are now under the supervision of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America. All of Turkey Hill's newest products, introduced this year, will display the OU and OUD symbols on the packaging. However, other products will bear the Ko symbol until current packaging is revised.

The family-run dairy, known

for its unique flavors, produces Premium Ice Cream, Gourmet Lite Ice Cream, Fat Free Ice Cream, Fat Free No Sugar Added Ice Cream, Frozen Yogurt, Non-fat Frozen Yogurt, Sherbet, and Premium Ice Cream and Frozen Yogurt Sandwiches. In addition, Turkey Hill offers an extensive line of iced teas and fruit drinks. Ice cream and frozen yogurt sandwiches, sherbet, and herbal iced teas are among the dairy's newest products, which immediately will reflect the OU and OUD certification.

Turkey Hill currently is ranked the fifth largest premium ice cream brand in the country. The dairy markets its desserts and drinks as "Imported from Lancaster County" and credits its locale and heritage for the superior quality and unique flavors of its products.

For more information about Turkey Hill flavors or products, call toll free (800) MY DAIRY (693-2479). E-mail comments or visit the website at <www.turkeyhill.com>.

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## RIHMM Sponsors Two Presentations

The Rhode Island Holocaust Memorial Museum presents Nick Del Palzo, photojournalist and creator of "Triumphant Spirit, Portraits and Stories of Holocaust Survivors," on Dec. 8 at 6 p.m. for the opening reception of the "Triumphant Spirit" exhibit at the University of Rhode Island, Shepard Building, downtown Providence. Call for ticket prices and reservations.

Also, Helen Epstein, author of *Where She Came From* and *Children of the Holocaust*, will speak on Dec. 10 at 7:30 p.m. at the Rhode Island Holocaust Memorial Museum. The author will speak about her newest book as well as her role as the daughter of a Holocaust survivor. A dessert reception and book signing will follow. R.S.V.P. by Dec. 4.

The author's books will be available at the JCCRI Book Fair, Dec. 1 through 25, as well as at the above events. For more information, call the Rhode Island Holocaust Memorial Museum at 453-7860.



# JEWISH COMMUNITY

## Memorial Foundation For Jewish Culture Offers Unique On-Line Outreach Program

A unique virtual *havurah*, or fellowship, designed to aid Jews with little or no connection to their religion in determining how — how or whether — to raise their children Jewishly, has been launched by the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture.

An umbrella group of 58 internationally Jewish organizations representing all branches of Judaism, the foundation seeks to answer this thorny question in innovative fashion by reaching out to marginally affiliated Jews through the Internet.

Founded in 1965 with reparations from the former West German government, the Memorial Foundation's mandate since its inception has been to rebuild Jewish life worldwide in the aftermath of the Holocaust. In fulfillment of that mission, the foundation now seeks to assist Jews who are questioning the purpose and precepts of their ancestral faith through a unique on-line guide to Jewish law, lore and life.

Titled *Mishpacha* (Hebrew for family), the foundation's program — a guide to Jewish life, featuring a three-month course on the Internet for families looking to find themselves Jewishly, and to explore their needs and concerns with others who are searching as well — will begin

on Dec. 1. It will be the first on-line outreach program of informal Jewish education for marginally affiliated Jews to be offered by a non-denominational body. Its website address is <<http://www.mishpacha.org>>.

Available free-of-charge to anyone who logs on, the *Mishpacha* website will contain most of the information disseminated by the foundation in two pilot projects it conducted in the past year on Jewish identity, beliefs and observance, ethical values and behavior; the Hebrew calendar, Jewish holidays and life-cycle events. The relevancy of such subject matter to the lives of the participants will be among the key issues to be discussed on line.

### World's First Virtual Havurah

"One goal of the project will be to create the world's first virtual *havurah* — virtual communities of families who will interact through a chat room with a Jewish educator/moderator — and with each other," said Dr. Jerry Hochbaum, executive vice president of the Memorial Foundation.

Noting that the program is specifically designed for Jewish couples who are questioning whether or not to raise their chil-

dren as Jews and who want to share their dilemmas with those having similar concerns, Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler, president of the Memorial Foundation said: "The decisions these families will have to make — whether or not to affiliate Jewishly, or to raise their children as Jews — will have a significant impact on the Jewish community for generations to come. By presenting this information about Judaism and Jewish life on the Internet in a non-threatening, non-partisan manner, the foundation is providing these couples with the facts they need to know to make informed and intelligent choices about their future — and that of their children."

The on-line *Mishpacha* project is modeled after the foundation's Jewish family education programs for marginally affiliated Jewish families in St. Louis, Mo., and Metrowest, N.J., and ongoing family seminars conducted throughout the former Soviet Union and other countries worldwide. *Mishpacha* is a member of Shamash: The Jewish Internet Consortium.

Since its foundation, the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture has awarded grants totaling more than \$67 million to support the documentation of the Holocaust; train rabbis, scholars and communal workers, and build new institutions of Jewish scholarship, education and culture in more than 30 countries worldwide. *Mishpacha's* outreach across cyberspace is the foundation's latest effort to strengthen and enrich Jewish life in all its manifestations.

## Adler Pollock & Sheehan P.C. Announces Additions

The law firm of Adler Pollock & Sheehan, Providence, announced that two new attorneys have joined their firm.

Wendy S. Buckler is an attorney in the litigation group. A 1998 graduate of Roger Williams University School of Law, Buckler was a Dean's Scholar and faculty research assistant.

While in law school, Buckler served as a student attorney for the Roger Williams Criminal Defense Clinic, as a judicial clerk for the Hon. Victoria Lederberg and as a judicial intern for the Hon. Robert Pirraglia. She received the CALI Excellence for the Future Award in both Appellate Advocacy and Interviewing and Counseling. Buck-

ler is a member of Temple Beth-El.

Lewis N. Segall practices in the firm's corporate law group. Segall received his law degree in 1998 from Northeastern University School of Law where he served as a head teaching assistant for the legal practice program and a faculty research assistant. In addition, he was treasurer of the Jewish Law Students Association.



Wendy S. Buckler, Esq.



Lewis N. Segall, Esq.

During law school, Segall served as a law clerk at Adler Pollock & Sheehan, at the Boston-based firm of Shames & Litwin, and at Boston Edison, Co. He also was a judicial intern for the Hon. Barbara A. Lenk, an associate justice of the Massachusetts Appeals Court.

ler is also a member of the American Inns of Court.

Buckler received her undergraduate degree from Boston University, magna cum laude, in communications in 1978. A resident of East Greenwich for more than 16 years, Buckler currently resides in Providence. She

Segall received his undergraduate degree in 1993 from Syracuse University in broadcast journalism where he was on the dean's list. A resident of Dedham, Mass., he is active in the Rhode Island Bar Association's Volunteer Lawyer Program.

## Temple Sinai Seniors Will Meet

The next meeting of the Temple Sinai Seniors will be a potluck dairy luncheon and game day. It will be held on Nov. 20 at noon at the temple, 30 Hagan St., Cranston.

As soon as possible, call Baila at 461-6124 to tell her what you would prefer to bring. Choose salad or dessert or offer other suggestions to make it a delightful day. Guests are invited. Reservations are a must.



## Israel Bonds Presents 'Gates of Freedom' Award to Gorbachev

Former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev receives Israel Bonds' "Gates of Freedom" Award at a recent gala dinner at the New York Hilton where he was honored for his "courageous leadership" in opening the doors of his country to allow mass immigration to Israel. Presenting the award, sculpted by Aaron Bezalel, is Burt Resnick, Israel Bonds Chairman of the Board (right). Looking on (left to right) are Israel Bonds President and CEO Gideon Patt and National Campaign Chairman Irwin Hochberg. The proceeds from sales of Israel Bonds have played a crucial role in the absorption of these new immigrants, who have transformed every aspect of the country, from the economy to its cultural life.

Photo by Sharon Faulkner

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# JEWISH COMMUNITY

## Providence Chosen as One of Four Pilot Communities

Providence is one of four Jewish communities nationally which has recently been selected to participate in a new and innovative three-part program teaching Jewish civics to area teen-agers.

The Jewish Civic Initiative, or JCI, co-sponsored by The Washington Institute for Jewish Leadership and Values and the Jewish Education Service of North America, offers teens involvement in the social and political affairs of America as well as on-going ties to Jewish religious and communal life. Students join the initiative during the sophomore, junior, or senior year of high school. Over the course of the ensuing 12 to 24 months, they participate in an innovative Jewish civics curriculum, attend a four-day leadership seminar in Washington, D.C., and then undertake a community service project in their home community to effect some positive social change.

"We chose Providence because of its commitment, infrastructure, and because of the forward-looking leadership of the Community High School of the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island," said Rabbi Art Vernon, director of educational development services for the Jewish Educational Service of North America. "By choosing Providence, we hope to demonstrate nationally that other Jewish communities can be empowered to reach out successfully to Jewish teen-agers."

Providence joins Boca Raton, Dallas and San Antonio as the four pilot communities for JCI

in this, its fifth year of operation. Other communities selected in past years, but still engaged with JCI are Akron, Baltimore and Buffalo, which piloted JCI in 1994-1995 and are now in their fourth year of the project; San Francisco, San Diego, and St. Paul, which came on board in 1995-1996 joined by the communities of Atlanta, New Haven and San Jose in 1996-1997. Last year, Dayton, Saint Louis and Columbus joined as well. Initial indications from those communities offer encouraging signs that the mix of educational experiences and the collaborative, inter-agency approach to area teens has enabled each of the communities to involve far more teens than had previously been formally associated with the organized Jewish community.

"Jewish teens care about the world around them," said Rabbi Sid, president of the Washington Institute for Jewish Leadership and Values, "but they often do so without any grounding in Jewish values and with little contact with the organized Jewish community. JCI provides both Jewish learning and a Jewish context for social activism even as students see that they can fulfill the mandate for the tikkun olam in non-Jewish settings."

The cornerstone of JCI is the curriculum which was co-published by the Washington Institute for Jewish Leadership and Values and the coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education. *Jewish Civics: A Tikkun Olam/World Repair Manual* not only provides an overview of

how the American Jewish community has addressed political and social issues but also offers a unique Jewish values matrix to help students understand how Judaism can affect their decision-making process.

All the pilot communities will develop a consortia of agencies and institutions to help promote JCI in the community. The Washington Institute for Jewish Leadership and Values will offer training to teachers for the use of the curriculum. Upon the completion of their course work, JCI students will receive funding from the community to participate in a JCI Retreat in Washington, a program based on the highly acclaimed Panim el Panim: High School in Washington program. Other area agencies may then be involved in the community service project(s) which the participants undertake.

The Jewish Civics Initiative is funded, in part, by grants from the Nathan Cummings Foundation, the Dorot Foundation and the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Foundation. Local community funding is made possible by the UJA/Federation campaign. This year's JCI program begins with the JCI Intensive, a four-day training program in the Civics/Tikkun Olam curriculum. The course takes place on four Sundays, from 1 to 5 p.m. at the BJE/RI. The dates are as follows: Jan. 10 and 24, 1999; and Feb. 7 and 21.

The trip to Washington, D.C., is scheduled for March 7 to 10.

For more information about JCI locally, call Robin Damsky or Barbara Dwares at 331-0956.



## 20 Years of Show Business

Local comedian, magician, and entertainer Lon Cerel, is shown with veteran performer Ed McMahon, at a Friar's Club luncheon on Oct. 29 in New York City. The occasion of Cerel's visit to the Big Apple was the celebration of his 20th year in show business. He graduated from Providence College in 1978.

## Jewish War Veterans Calendar Available

The 1998 Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. limited edition calendar is now available through the JWV national headquarters.

The beautifully photographed calendar uniquely reflects the faces of Jewish service personnel and veterans.

The calendar includes Jewish holidays for the year 1999 and historic military dates of importance.

The calendar is free while supplies last.

To order write to: 1999 Calendar, c/o The Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A., 1811 R Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.

## Jewish Chaplain's Council Brightens Chanukah For Jewish Military

Faithful to an 80-year-old mandate, the Jewish Welfare Board Jewish Chaplain's Council through its network of Jewish military and Veterans Affairs Medical Center chaplains, and Jewish lay leaders, is providing services and gifts to Jewish military personnel worldwide and hospitalized veterans during Chanukah — the Festival of Lights — Dec. 13 to 21.

Chanukah menorahs, candles, and an assortment of gifts underwritten by the JWB-Women's Organizations Services Chanukah program, will be sent in ample time for on-the-scene distribution to Jewish military personnel and their families stationed overseas. Stateside personnel will also receive parcels.

The JWB-WOS Chanukah program is a tangible reminder that Jews across the spectrum of affiliation care about men and women in uniform and want them to experience "a touch of home."

"Wherever I go in my circuit-riding responsibilities with the Army throughout the European Command — including Bosnia — appreciative servicemen tell me how important these gifts from home are to their morale," said Chaplain Ben Romer, based in Heidelberg, Germany. "It reminds the troops that they're not forgotten," he adds.

From the demilitarized zone in Korea where Army Chaplain Chanoch Fields serves; to Okinawa, Japan, where Chaplain Mitchell Schranz, U.S.N., ministers to Jewish personnel, and supervises Jewish lay leaders and Misawa Air Base, and Guam; to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, where newly assigned chaplain Sean Gorman, U.S.N., serves, Jews in the Pacific Command will have their observances enhanced by the support given through the Jewish Community Center Association.

In Europe, in addition to Chaplain Romer, Chaplain Arnold E. Resnicoff, HQUSEUCOM, Stuttgart, Germany; Chaplain David Kaye at Ramstein Air Base, Germany; Chaplain Brett Oxman at RAF Mildenhall, UK; and Chaplain Jonathan Panitz with the Sixth Fleet based in Italy will provide their personnel with the delights of the Chanukah season through the attention of Women's Organizations Services.

For more information, or to find out how you can support this Chanukah program, contact Rabbi David Lapp or Rabbi Nathan M. Landman, JWB Jewish Chaplains Council, JCC Association, 15 East 26th St., New York, N.Y. 10010; (212) 532-4949; fax (212) 481-4174; e-mail < david\_lapp@jcca.org > or < nathan\_landman@jcca.org >.

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Let the Herald know about new and exciting programs and activities in the Jewish Community

Send your information, photos and stories to:

The R.I. Jewish Herald, P.O. Box 6063, Providence, R.I. 02940



## MILESTONES

### Susan Kudish Weds Matthew Brennan

Susan Lynn Kudish of North Providence, R.I., and Matthew Jacob Brennan of Cranston, R.I., were married on Sept. 6 at Temple Emanu-El of Providence. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Kudish of Cranston. The bridegroom is the son of Ruth Brennan of Cranston.

Rabbi Wayne M. Franklin officiated at the ceremony with Cantor Brian Mayer participating. The reception was held at the Foxwoods Golf & Country Club at Boulder Hills.

The bride was given in marriage by her father.

Judi Pompei was matron of honor.

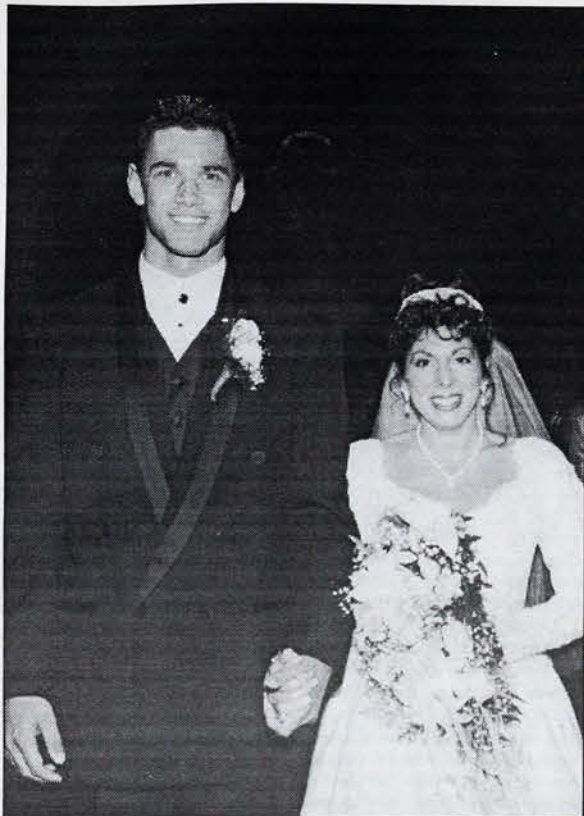
Bridesmaids were Brenda Iadevaia; Kerri Kudish, sister-in-law of the bride; Lauren Guncheon; and Michelle Snow.

Myron Mendelowitz was best man. Ushers were Dennis Dimauro; Richard Kudish, brother of the bride; Jeffrey Mancini; and David Ruggieri.

The bride graduated from the University of Rhode Island and is employed by Fleet Investment Services as an account assistant.

The bridegroom is a graduate of Bryant College and is employed by Deloitte & Touche LLP as an accountant.

They honeymooned at Disney and also took a cruise to the western Caribbean. They have made their home in North Providence.



Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Jacob Brennan

### Julie Kahaner to Wed Rick Levin

Dr. Harvey Kahaner and Elaine Kahaner of Manchester, Conn., announce the engagement of their daughter, Julie Lynn Kahaner, to Rick Levin, son of Mitchell and Shirley Levin of Narragansett, R.I.

The bride-to-be, a graduate of the Kingswood-Oxford School, holds a bachelor of arts in classical civilization from Boston University and a master's degree in health communication from Emerson College and Tufts School of Medicine. She recently completed a post-graduate program in computer networking at Boston University and is working toward certification as a Microsoft systems engineer. She currently works for Digital Equipment Corp./Compaq Computer Systems in Marlborough, Mass.

Her fiancé is a graduate of Cranston High School West, holds a bachelor of science in business administration from the University of Connecticut, a master's degree in special education from the University of Hartford, and a Juris Doctor from Boston University School of Law. He currently works as a judicial clerk for the Hon. Ellen Bree Burns of the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut. In the fall of 1999, he will become an associate with the law firm of Hale & Dorr in Boston, Mass.

A wedding is planned for August 1999.



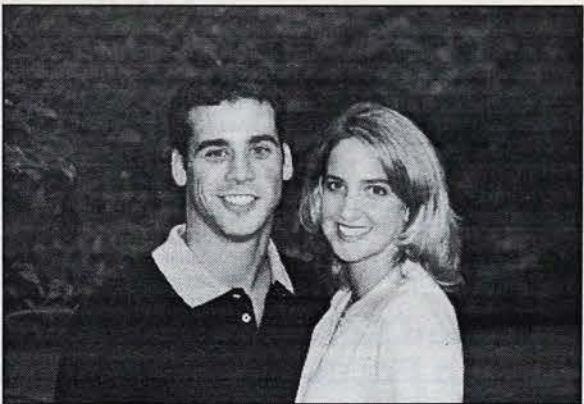
Rick Levin and Julie Lynn Kahaner

### Jennifer Joseph to Wed Steven Wolfe

Mr. and Mrs. Alan Joseph of Sharon, Mass., announce the engagement of their daughter, Jennifer Lyn Joseph, to Steven Andrew Wolfe, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alvin B. Wolfe of Lexington, Mass., and grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Miller of Warwick, R.I.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and is a medical sales representative for the G.D. Searle Co. Her fiancé is a graduate of Ithaca College and is a manufacturer's representative and partner in Wolfe Sales Agency, Burlington, Mass.

An October is planned.



Steven Andrew Wolfe and Jennifer Lyn Joseph

### Local Student at Hartwick College

Melissa J. Datz, daughter of Steven Mark and Roberta Anne Datz of West Warwick, R.I., is a member of the Class of 2002 at Hartwick College in Oneonta, N.Y.

As part of Hartwick's Foundations for Success, a six-week course for all first-year students, Datz will design her own web page, which will be placed on the college web site, and create an electronic portfolio. Throughout her career at Hartwick, Datz will keep important academic and personal work in the portfolio, such as internship paper, lab reports, composition essays, first-year seminar projects and more. When she graduates, Datz will have an evolving record of her college career.

Students store their portfolios on the hard drive of their own notebook computer. Hartwick has given notebook computers to all first-year students since 1993.

### Deborah Feldstein to Wed Alexander Bartfeld

Barbara and Edward Feldstein of Providence, R.I., announce the engagement of their daughter, Deborah Sue, to Alexander Robert Bartfeld, son of Carol and Peter Bartfeld of London, England.

The bride-to-be is the granddaughter of Harry Feldstein and the late Eva Feldstein and the late Fannie and Philip Levine. Her fiancé is the grandson of Susan Nassau and the late George Nassau and Arthur Bartfeld and the late Kaethe Bartfeld.

The bride-to-be graduated from Lesley College and will graduate from Boston University in May with a master's degree in social work. Her fiancé graduated from Oxford University with a master's degree in engineering and is employed by Andersen Consulting.

The date of the wedding has been set for May 30, 1999.

### Glenn Pansey to Wed Howard Rudin

Joel and Marsha Pansey of Glendale, Ariz., formerly of Providence, R.I., announce the engagement of their daughter, Glenna L. Pansey, of Glendale, Ariz., to Howard M. Rudin, of Glendale, Ariz., son of Mark and Anita Rudin, of Glendale, Ariz., formerly of Providence, Mass.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Arizona State University — Academy of Video Production, and has an associate degree from Glendale Community College. She is a bookkeeper and owns a video production company.

Her fiancé has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Northeastern University and is employed in the criminal field.

The date of the wedding has been set for Feb. 21, 1999.

The grandparents of the bride-to-be are the late Gilbert and Mollie Pansey, and the late Louis Goodman, and Gussie Goodman of Phoenix, formerly of Providence.

The bridegroom is the grandson of Benjamin and Rose Rudin of Massachusetts, and the late Hyman Sinman and Elinor Sinman of Los Angeles, Calif.



#### Erik Harris Brenner

Jeremy Adam Brenner and Sandi Lynn Brenner of 26 Peace Pipe Trail, Smithfield, R.I., announce the birth of their first child and son, Erik Harris Brenner, on Sept. 27.

Maternal grandparents are Judith Liffman Darter of Baldwin, N.Y., and Jay Darter of W. Palm Beach, Fla. Paternal grandparents are Shirley Brenner of Woonsocket, R.I., and the late Judge Samuel Harry Brenner.



#### Maya Julia Alperin

Robin and Charles Matthew Alperin of Brighton, Mass., announce the birth of their daughter, Maya Julia, on Oct. 23. Her maternal grandparents are Sharon and Stephen Yaras of Cranston. Her maternal great-grandmother is Ruth Weinberg, also of Cranston. Maya's paternal grandparents are Mindy and Daniel Alperin of Bedford, Mass.

Maya is lovingly named for her maternal great-grandfather, Julius (Julie) Weinberg and her great-great-aunt, Marcella Bickoff.

#### Correction

In the Oct. 29 issue on page 9, Christine C. Neville's name appeared incorrectly. The *Jewish Herald* regrets the error.





# EDUCATION EQUALS ACHIEVEMENT



## Noah Makes a Surprise Visit

Noah, who starred in a recent Torah portion, was "flooded" with questions by the Providence Hebrew Day School kindergarten. The biblical character looks a lot like the school's dean, Rabbi Mordechai Nissel.

Photo courtesy of PHDS

## Moses Brown School Admissions Open House

Moses Brown School will host an admissions open house on Jan. 10, 1999, for prospective families of students from nursery to grade 12 for the 1999-2000 school year. Moses Brown School is located at 250 Lloyd Ave. in Providence. Tours and faculty will be available from 2 to 4 p.m. There will be student performances at 2 p.m.

The event will acquaint prospective families with the faculty, students, curriculum, and educational mission of Moses Brown School. This will be the final open house during the 1998-99 school year.

For further information, contact the Moses Brown School at 831-7350.

## Moses Brown Announces Student Leaders

Moses Brown Upper School announces the following student leaders elected for the 1998-99 academic year:

Senior Jesse Freedman of Pawtucket — Senate president, editorial staff of *The Mosaic* (student yearbook).

Senior Seth Weitberg of Pawtucket — Senate vice president and will also head the Frisbees Club.

Junior Jennifer Feinstein of Cranston will serve as a contact for Amnesty International/Student Action Group.

Seniors Luke Hartman of Harrisville and Justin Perlman of Providence, French Club.

Senior Jack Levy of Providence, Outdoor/backpacking.

Senior Becky Shaw of Providence will serve on the Discipline Committee.

Junior Lauren Wier of West Warwick, Spanish Club.

## A Visit to Roger Williams Memorial Park

by Judy Deutsch  
Third-grade Teacher  
Providence Hebrew Day School

All third-graders in Rhode Island study the history and geography of the state. It is an exciting topic rich in the theme of freedom of speech and religion. It is the story of the determination of a small group of people for a cause we want our children to appreciate and cherish. It is also a topic that lends itself to field trips.

And so, on a near perfect New England fall afternoon, the third-grade class from Providence Hebrew Day School headed by bus to Roger Williams Memorial Park. Classroom preparation included appropriate coverage of Rhode Island history from the Ice Age to 1776. The Providence Preservation Society had provided us a video with which we could learn about architectural elements of the pre-Revolutionary homes of the Northeast.

Upon arrival at the "second smallest national park," according to our guide who introduced herself as Claire, the children stood on the ground which we had studied. We recounted Verrazzano's accidental visit to Narragansett Bay while in search of a shorter way to the riches of the Orient.

The children knew that more than 100 years later William Blackstone became the earliest white man to settle in this territory in Massachusetts Bay Colony. They shared with Claire in telling the story of Roger Williams, his trial during which he was found guilty of disagreeing with the Puritans' authoritarian ways in Massachusetts Bay Colony and his determination to cling to the reason why he left England. Rather than being shipped back to England, he fled south in the middle of winter and wandered in the wilderness until he was saved from starvation by the Indians.

We discussed how the small colony, named Providence, was established by 100 people who agreed with Roger Williams. We stood where the first homes had burned to the ground during the King Phillip War because the angered Indians were losing their sacred land to the white man.

And finally we discussed

pointed out where Edgar Allan Poe had visited a young woman the year he resided in the neighborhood. I promised to find one of his poems to read to them. Claire added a very special touch showing us the site of the first Jewish Community Center, and telling us about the activities of the first Jewish settlers, and the location of their



MS. DEUTSCH'S THIRD-GRADE CLASS at Providence Hebrew Day School.

Photo courtesy of PHDS

how these early settlers resented being taxed by England to pay for the French and Indian War, declaring independence on May 4, 1776, two months before the other colonies. Then we trekked up the steep hill to Benefit Street.

"What do you see now?" Claire asked. When called on to answer, one boy said, "There's a pediment over that front door and it is beautiful!" Others, too anxious to wait called out, "Look at the belt course on that house..." "and the balustrade..." "the fan light..." "the corner blocks on that building are different from those!" We discussed "stone enders" and how form and function related.

As we walked up the street, the children absorbed more of the beauty of this precious historical area of Providence. Claire

temple. Westwood before the oldest school, the Shakespeare House, the Colony House, and looked across to the state capital. What we studied became so real.

All the while the weather was changing. The sky turned to dramatic gray and black clouds, the wind whipped leaves around our legs. They crunched and rustled as we walked along the brick walkway admiring boot scrapers and door knockers, easily picturing this street 250 falls ago.

Claire was clearly delighted by the children, helping to right wind-tilted yarmulkes, and trying to answer each and every question. At the end she told us she'd given many school tours but that the excitement, enthusiasm and knowledge of this group was special. I felt pride in my class and my state.

## Solomon Schechter Day School Conference to Focus on Moral Life of Schools

The Solomon Schechter Day School Association of The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism has announced that its national conference for professional educators and lay leaders will be held at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America on Dec. 13 and 14, followed by in-service sessions for professional educators on Dec. 15 and 16.

Professor Philip W. Jackson, emeritus professor in the departments of education and psychology at the University of Chicago and the author of *The Moral Life of Schools* (with R. Boostrom and D. Hanson), will be the scholar-in-residence. During three presentations, Professor Jackson will focus on the need to use the school setting to establish a moral framework for children.

According to conference co-chair Bob Tornberg, principal of Cohen Hillel Academy, "This summer, Americans witnessed the conviction of a 12-year-old and a 14-year-old for murdering their teacher and classmates, as well as the spectacle of our president confessing his sins on

national television. For those reasons, as well as the less dramatic but ever-present classroom moral issues such as exclusion of 'uncool' classmates and lying to cover misdeeds, it is clear that society needs schools to deal proactively with moral concerns."

Rabbi Robert Abramson, director of education at the United Synagogue, adds that the conference will also offer workshops on administrative and financial matters important to Jewish educators: marketing, legal liability, board/head relations, capital campaigns and technology. Specialized workshops will be included for admissions directors and business managers. A pre-conference introductory session will be available for first-time conference attendees, both lay and professional.

Steven Lorch, Jerry Kliber and Linda Greenesid, co-chairs of the conference, point out that participants will have opportunities to socialize with new acquaintances and old friends. There will be a musical program offered

Aaron Tornberg and a Sunday evening cocktail party and tour of the Lower East Side Tenement Museum.

According to conference coordinator Kay Pomerantz, senior assistant director of the USCJ department of education, "I am confident that valuable information gained in sessions, combined with the opportunity to share ideas and experience with members of the Schechter community, will leave both lay and professional conference participants energized and better equipped to carry out their work."

For further information, contact the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism Department of Education, (212) 533-1000, ext. 2500, or send an e-mail to <education@uscj.org>.

Founded in 1913 by Dr. Solomon Schechter as the association of Conservative synagogues in North America, the United Synagogue serves as a resource to its affiliated congregations and works to formulate a Conservative Jewish response to pressing social and religious issues.

## Alperin Schechter Day School

85 Taft Avenue, Providence

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# EDUCATION EQUALS ACHIEVEMENT



## What's Happening at ASDS?

The following events are taking place at Alperin Schechter Day School.

• **Book Fair.** Big news — our annual Scholastic Book Fair will kick off on Dec. 6 (at the same time the Toy Fair is running). The Book Fair will continue through Dec. 11.

• **Happy 20th Birthday!** ASDS celebrated their 20th birthday on Nov. 15 with members of the ASDS family and Jewish community. Gov. Lincoln Almond sent an official recognition of the day.

### From the Science Coordinator, Elaine Mangiante

**Grade Two** — Students in second grade are beginning their experience in science by developing one of the most important skills used by scientists — observation. The children are learning the different properties of objects through hands-on activities. For example, students make predictions about whether an object will sink or float. Students are also examining other properties such as length, width, height, capacity, states of matter, etc.

**Grades Three** — The Life Science unit for third grade is the study of plant and animal populations. Students are discovering the habitat needs for a particular population to survive. They have also examined some social insect populations such as bees and some wasps. They will compare these social groups with populations of individuals

that live in a solitary way, such as worms. We will go on a field trip to Caratunk Wildlife Refuge to explore ways in which plant and animal populations survive the winter in our area.

**Grade Four** — We begin the year with a study of Relative Position and Motion... first on earth... and then in outer space. This unit coordinates with the social studies unit on map reading. Students learn how to read rectangular and polar coordinates maps. They also learn how to use a compass, read a topographic map and make a contour map on their own. Later, we will study the position of the earth relative to the moon, the sun, the planets, and other bodies in space. As a final project we will make the planets to scale and set them at their correct relative distance from each other along Blackstone Boulevard.

**Grade Five** — The Life Science topic for fifth grade is the study of communities. Students have learned about food chains and food webs in a community of plants and animals. At this grade level we now take the study outside to closely examine the real world. Students will go to the Caratunk Wildlife Refuge to collect data of the abiotic and biotic features of a field and a forest. This information will be recorded and compiled on two drawings to compare these two communities. Students will gather their information by interviewing experts from the department of environmental management on their topic.

## A Special Morning of Magic



For many years the Providence Hebrew Day School has sponsored a Magic Show at its school and invited disabled children from the area schools to attend. The purpose is twofold: bring some fun and laughter to lives of children and to give PHDS students a chance to interact with "special" children their age.

This year children from Bradley Hospital, Eleanor Briggs, Camp E-Hun-Tee, Meeting Street School, Spurrink, The Cranston Center and the Grodon Center were invited. Also invited this year were children from the JCC Pre-School and the Alperin Schechter Day School.

Tom Carrier, the magician, brought smiles and laughter to almost 100 children. The cost of this program is offset by the generous donations of local businesses. *Photos courtesy of PHDS*



## Give the Gift of Togetherness With Books

by Kimberly Ann Orlandi  
Herald Editor

During the holidays, it's easy to get caught up in the excitement and frenzied nature of the season. With dinners to prepare, family and friends to visit and presents to purchase we can quickly lose sight of what the holidays are all about—family. This season, when searching for the perfect present for your children or grandchildren, give them something that you can enjoy together. Give them the gift of reading.

*Once Upon A Shabbos*, by Jacqueline Jules, Kar-Ben Copies, Rockville, Md., 1998, is a wonderful story about the meaning of Shabbos. Bubbe and Zayde invite their grandchildren, Shira and Jacob, to spend Shabbos with them in their Brooklyn brownstone. When Bubbe discovers she is out of honey for her traditional Shabbos kugel, she sends Jacob, then Shira and finally Zayde off

with the bear upon her return home, something unexpected happens!

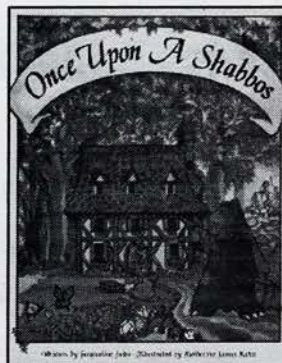
The colorful illustrations of the book add dramatically to the reading experience. *Once Upon A Shabbos* is fun reading for children of all ages.

All of us, at some points in our families' existence, can trace our ancestors to Ellis Island and *Journey to Ellis Island—How my Father came to America*, by Carol Bierman, Hyperion/Madison Press, 1998, is a magical adventure tracing the exciting journey of a Russian-Jewish family as they flee the destruction of Russia in 1916 and make their way to America. What makes this story so appealing and a book that can be passed down from your children to their children is not just the magnificent narration but the extraordinary illustrations of immigrant life mixed with real, true-life photographs of life aboard the Rotterdam, one of the many passenger ships that transported Europeans to America. It's a story of perseverance and courage at any cost. Life on board these ships was less than accommodating for members of the third class. Often confined to the bottom of the ship and confronted with less than adequate living conditions, our immigrant forefathers had no easy task coming to America. And once they arrived, the situation often got worse with unnecessary red tape and bureaucratic tie-ups in the processing at Ellis Island. But, for these immigrants, nothing was worse than the places they were escaping. Each one of us can thank our parents, grandparents or great-grandparents for not giving up the struggle for freedom when the cards were stacked against them.

This book is a warm-hearted story about what it took to make it in America, and a story children of all ages should be familiar with.

And for the little one just learning their ABCs and 1, 2, 3s

, *Alison's Zinnia*, by Anita Lobel, Mulberry Books, New York, 1990, is a fun way for the youngsters to learn their alphabet while associating letters with flowers. There are 26 letters of the alphabet, and each letter corresponds with a flower the little girls of the story give to one another. For example, "Crystal cut a Chrysanthemum for Dawn." "Dawn dug a Daffodil for Emily," and so on. Young children will be mesmerized with the floral illustrations of the book, which are so deep in color, so rich in detail, it's as if



you could reach out your hand and pick a lady slipper right off the page.

This holiday season, purchase gifts that the whole family can enjoy together. Unfortunately, they don't stay young forever, so why not enjoy them while you can.

**Happy Chanukah!**



## Wheeler Hosts Open House

Interested students and their families are invited to The Wheeler School's annual open house, Nov. 21 from 9 a.m. to noon on the campus at 216 Hope St. in Providence.

Visitors will be able to tour the classrooms, meet the teachers and collect information about the 110-year-old independent school for children in nursery to grade 12.

A new feature this year will be special tours of the school's 122-acre farm and athletic facility in Seekonk, Mass. The property is home to playing fields, tennis courts, a ropes course, a historic home (Columbine Hill), the Wheeler summer camp and is the site of the headwaters of the Runnins River.

For information about the open house, call the admission office at 421-1800.

## Who's Who Top Tips For Parents

Drawing from *Who's Who Among American High School Students* research, and in response to studies conducted by the U.S. Department of Education and several education groups, *Who's Who Among American High School Students* has developed a checklist for parents to use to become a stronger influence in their teens' lives:

1. **Talk with your child:** If parents do not supply their kids with information about sex, drugs, alcohol, cheating, etc., children can be easily swayed by peers with misinformation. While some parents may find such conversations embarrassing, not holding them could have tragic consequences.

2. **Set a good example for your child:** Parents who smoke, drink, use drugs or watch television excessively, may find their child rejecting their warnings against these behaviors as hypocritical. But if parents demonstrate that reading and education are important to them, it will become important for their children.

3. **Maintain an adult presence in your child's life:** Parents should not allow peer pressure to set their child's values but instead have regularly scheduled family time.

4. **Communicate tough, but fair and consistent rules:** Explain to your child the purpose behind the rule and let him or her know when the rule is no longer necessary. Ensure that your child earns privileges instead of being automatically given them.

5. **Work with your child's teachers:** Make sure your child knows that any inappropriate behavior at school will have consequences at home because of the importance of acquiring a good education.

### ALISON'S ZINNIA



BY ANITA LOBEL

to the grocery store. Each returns without the honey and with a story of being confronted by a hungry bear who growls, "Give me your honey or I'll eat you up."

When Jacob, Shira and Zayde all give the bear their jar of honey, Bubbe realizes that her family is *meshugah* and sets out to get the honey herself. But when she comes face-to-face



## FEATURE

# Teachers Teaching For The Joy of It

by Kimberly Ann Orlandi  
Herald Editor

*The business of the American teacher is to liberate American citizens to think apart and act together.*

— Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, Jewish leader and activist, quoted in *A Little Learning Is a Dangerous Thing*.

Over the last few years, the role of a teacher has changed dramatically. No more are they thought of as "the old woman wearing horned-rimmed glasses and her silver gray hair pulled severely back in a bun." Today, teachers are counselors, friends, father figures, and mother figures, as well as educator, and for their important role as the nurturers of our children's education and future, several local teachers were recently recognized among the country's best in the publication *Who's Who Among American Teachers*. The publication recognizes 5 percent of a nation's high school teachers, who are nominated by their students. The students nominating have to meet certain academic standards before their selection is considered. Thomas Gentile of The Feinstein High School, Providence, and Robert Charles Feinberg of Coventry High School were among the chosen few.

Gentile began his teaching career at Classical High School, his alma mater, 20 years ago, as a Spanish teacher, but for the last five he has taught at The Feinstein High School.

"I've always enjoyed teaching," said Gentile. "At Classical it was that quest for knowledge and desire to better one's self, here at Feinstein it's a desire to better everyone else."

In order to be selected for The Feinstein High School, teachers have to endure the same interview process that each student faces. Like the student, a teacher's eligibility for acceptance is based not just on their résumé but their community service as well. Gentile devotes much of his time to writing for a Spanish newspaper in the Providence area as well as having his own Spanish radio show on WELH.

"I was ready for a community service school. I was looking for a change other than the traditional education at Classical and I found it," said Gentile.

Looking around Gentile's classroom, you may get the impression that his class is all business, no fun, but not true says Gentile. A large majority of his teaching philosophy deals with education through enjoyment. For Gentile, if a student doesn't enjoy what they're learning, they won't learn.

"The kids will work as hard today as they did early in my career, the only difference is you have to show them more now how much your particular subject will affect the rest of their lives," said Gentile.

When speaking to Gentile about his career and his students, his face seemed to light up with every question asked. It is evident he truly loves what he does and has a genuine affinity and respect for his students. For Gentile, the greatest reward to 20 years of teaching is to see his former students succeeding in life and many come back to thank him for being not just a teacher but a friend. A few years ago, Gentile had a student approach him to be his confirmation sponsor. "I was so thrilled,"

said Gentile. "It really meant a lot to me."

Like Gentile, Feinberg is a teacher dedicated to his craft. What is unique about his circumstances is that teaching was not his first career choice. Feinberg was a history major at the University of Rhode Island preparing to attend law school when he got sidetracked and traveled to Europe instead. After a few years of bouncing from job to job, Feinberg was ready to "put down some roots," and decided that teaching would be a good way to do that. (Incidentally, his father had been a teacher in the Coventry School system for 34 years.) He worked two jobs, received his teaching credentials at night from Providence College and started his teaching career much the same way all teachers do, substituting. For 1997 he substituted at Coventry Jr. High until he received a three-quarter position then one week later was hired full-time. He spent seven years at the junior high until moving over to the high school five years ago where he teaches history to students in grades 10 through 12.

"I do have some regrets," admitted Feinberg. "I had always wanted to become an international lawyer, but I love teaching. I find it very worthwhile and rewarding."

Both Gentile and Feinberg believe all teachers have a caring quality usually found only in parents. Feinberg likens teaching to being a parent in that you're not always going to be loved by your kids, but what you do for them now is going to have a positive effect on them later. Both Gentile and Feinberg take offense to those people who

criticize teachers as overpaid and underworked. A teacher's job responsibilities do not end when the school bell rings at 2 p.m. Feinberg still takes graduate courses at Harvard during the evening and says that "teachers are primarily dedicated people who are here every day because they want to be." He jokes that if he wanted to make a lot of money, he would have pursued his law degree.

"Are there people who call it quits at 3 p.m.? Yes, but they are the unhappy ones," said Gentile, "and really the unfortunate ones because they don't let the students into their lives and the students realize that."

Feinberg gives great credit to his wife and family for their support over the years and assisting him in finding a place in his life where he enjoys what he does. His wife, Jan, is a news assistant at the *Providence Journal* but still has time to raise four kids and one husband. He is the proud father of an 18-year-old stepdaughter, Laura, who is attending Rhode Island College; a natural 8-year-old son, Kurt; and two adopted Korean boys, Benjamin 3 years old, and Samuel who turned 7 months on Nov. 16.

"Without their support and the support of my mother and father, I don't know if I'd be sitting here talking to you," confessed Feinberg.

For Gentile, his greatest inspiration came from a French teacher he had while at Classical. "Ms. Martin was a big influence on me becoming a teacher," said Gentile. "Years later I went back to Classical and told her that the one thing I remembered from her class is the way she taught vocabulary without us-

ing any English and I incorporated that into my teaching."

"It also makes it worthwhile when someone says, 'I didn't like your class,'" said Feinberg. "At least they thought about it."

Feinberg and Gentile were overwhelmed when their students nominated them for the *Who's Who Among American Teachers*. For Feinberg, this was his second nomination and just as important as the first. Although both agree that awards aren't as important as the teaching itself, it was an honor for both of them because it was coming from their students.

Teaching is a career you enter because you love it. You enjoy working with kids and you find great personal growth in helping those youngsters achieve their ultimate goals. Unfortunately, teachers often receive a blackened image from the press and community, especially around contract negotiation time, but since these are the men and women who often spend more time with the children than many parents do, shouldn't they be the best? And aren't the future politicians, doctors, lawyers and teachers worth the best?

"I do see myself retiring as a teacher," said Feinberg, "but not right away, I do have a family to support," he joked.

"In order to succeed as a teacher, you have to look for the way of getting to that one kid who seems to be impenetrable. You have to keep the belief that kids are wonderful. Where would we be if we thought otherwise?" said Gentile.

As soon as he doesn't believe that, that will be the time he gets out of teaching.

## Swiss Panel Charges Politicians Made Anti-Semitism 'Acceptable'

by Fredy Rom

ZURICH (JTA) — The debate about Switzerland's wartime dealings with the Nazis has fueled a wave of anti-Semitism in the Alpine nation, the country's human rights watchdog panel said.

The Federal Commission Against Racism said in a report issued Nov. 5 that "latent anti-Semitism is again being increasingly expressed in public by word and by deed."

The panel added, "Comments from politicians helped

make anti-Semitism socially acceptable."

The Federation of Jewish Communities in Switzerland, the umbrella group representing the country's 20,000 Jews, welcomed the panel's report.

"The commission's findings show that there is a significant need in Switzerland to improve education so that there is better knowledge of and communication with the Jewish minority," the federation said in a statement.

Thomas Lyssy, the feder-

ation's vice president, said in an interview on Swiss Television that the community is expecting the government to be "more outspoken" in condemning all manifestations of anti-Semitism.

In New York, the Anti-Defamation League also welcomed the report, calling it "honest, hard-hitting and realistic."

The report recognizes that recent manifestations of anti-Semitism are a "classical response of a society in crisis which blames Jews for problems it is unwilling to face," the ADL said.

For months, there have been reports of Swiss and anti-Semitism in reaction to pressure from the World Jewish Congress and other groups for the nation's banks to settle Holocaust-era claims. Resentment against the

Jewish-led calls grew further after the nation's leading banks agreed in August to pay \$1.25 billion to settle the claims.

The anti-Semitic backlash also surfaced in the wake of recent, well-publicized cases in which Holocaust refugees sued the Swiss government for turning back Jewish refugees during the war.

In August, Switzerland's president used the commemoration of Swiss National Day to issue a call against anti-Semitism.

Flavio Cotti called on the Swiss to reject anti-Semitism, despite what he called "unjustified" attacks against Switzerland for its dealings with Nazi Germany.

Swiss anger over what its citi-

zens consider efforts to tarnish the country's image recently spilled over against a new target — a member of the nation's Parliament.

Jean Ziegler, who is also a professor at the University of Geneva, called on Switzerland's banks to honestly confront their wartime actions in his book *The Swiss, the Gold and the Dead*.

A group of Swiss financiers and businessmen recently filed criminal charges against Ziegler, saying he was "an accomplice to blackmail" of the nation's banking system.

A parliamentary committee is expected to determine soon whether Ziegler will be stripped of his parliamentary immunity so he can be tried on the charges.

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## FEATURE

## Italy Struggles With Memory of Fascist-Era Anti-Semitic Legislation

by Ruth E. Gruber

ROME (JTA) — Sixty years ago, fascist Italy enacted anti-Semitic legislation that led the way to the Holocaust in this country.

Italy's public authorities and the country's Jewish community are marking the anniversary with a series of commemorations, conferences, publications and other activities.

They are aimed both at memorializing the Jews who were persecuted as well as condemning the anti-Semitic policy of the fascist state.

But they also are directed at examining the behavior of most mainstream Italians who did little to protest or combat the racist laws.

"I'll never forget the indifference," recalls Tullia Zevi, until recently the longtime president of the Union of Italian Jewish Communities. "It was bitter. Nobody took a stand."

The fascist government of dictator Benito Mussolini passed the first of a series of anti-Semitic laws on Sept. 2, 1938. The laws were fully in place on Nov. 17, 1938, and affected more than 48,000 people.

They barred Jews from public life and subjected them to a wide range of humiliating restrictions and persecution.

Among other things, they barred Jewish students and teachers from public schools and universities. They barred Jews from marrying non-Jews, from working in a long list of professions, from serving in the army, from employing Christian servants, from staying in hotels, vacationing at resorts and placing classified ads in newspapers.

Thousands of Jews fled the country, including talented intellectuals and scientists, such as Rita Levi Montalcini, who won the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1986.

The racist laws were a particular shock for Italy's highly acculturated Jews. Unlike the case in Nazi Germany, the laws came with relatively little warning and more or less reversed the prior policy of the fascist regime.

Jews had been active participants in Italy's independence movement, the Risorgimento, in the 19th century, and most felt a profound sense of Italian identity.

A number of Jews were early supporters of Mussolini, and while many Jews were anti-fascist, thousands of Jews had joined the fascist party.

"The racist laws represented a deep wound, not just for the Jews, but for the country as a whole," the Milan Jewish magazine *Il Bollettino* said in its October issue. "For the first time the united state constructed in the Risorgimento cut off a group of citizens who had participated, side by side with others, in the construction of that state."

Recalled Zevi, who was a teen-ager when the fascist laws were imposed and fled Italy

with her family to the United States, "From one day to the next, we became nobodies, ghosts. It teaches you about the fragility of the human condition."

Indeed, part of the problem in looking back is the fact that many older Italians must confront their own behavior in the face of the persecutions.

Italy entered World War II as a Nazi ally and ended it on the side of the Allies. The Italian fascists arrested Jews and interned them in prisons and concentration camps, but Italian Jews were only deported to death camps after the Germans occupied Italy in 1943.

About 8,000 Italian Jews were deported.

Indeed, Italians have won praise for their role in helping Jews survive during the war.

As a result, there has been a tendency to "push the idea that attitudes of solidarity shown by many Italians during the German occupation, when Jews risked deportation, had actually begun as early as 1938," according to an article in the Milan newspaper *Corriere della Sera*.

A survey of the grandparents of students at a Milan secondary school, the article said, showed that many thought that Italian anti-Semitic laws were only introduced after the German occupation.

A 1995 poll of young Italians ages 16 to 24 showed that only little more than 38 percent knew that Italy had ever imposed anti-Semitic laws.

The commemoration came at a time when renewed interest in the history of World War II is coupled both with a fading of memory and with debates over the true nature of Italian fascism and its legacy.

"There is a greater awareness in society, a continuous increase of information," Michele Sarfatti, a researcher on anti-Semitism at the Milan-based Center for Contemporary Jewish Documentation, told JTA.

"But at the same time," he said, "the generations are changing. The people who actually remember that period are leaving the scene."

A popular book and movie this past year brought the problem before the public in different ways.

The award-winning movie "Life is Beautiful," which recently opened in the United States, tells the story of an Italian Jew who was deported to a death camp by the Nazis after the occupation. Fascist-era Italian anti-Semitism, however, was largely glossed over.

The film makes clear the extent of Jewish assimilation in Italy — the hero is not identified as a Jew until a shocking anti-Semitic incident halfway into the film.

In the book, *The Word Jew*, on the other hand, non-Jewish author Rosetta Loy focused on her own childhood memories of how the racial laws were accepted without protest by her own family and neighbors.

## Educators Turn to Text Study For Inspiration in Classrooms

by Rahel Musleah

SAN ANTONIO (JTA) — Jewish educators are looking to traditional sources for inspiration in the classroom.

"Text study is an essential element for becoming better educators," said Kyla Epstein Schneider, an adjunct professor at the Cleveland College of Jewish Studies. "If teachers don't deal with texts as foundations of Jewish learning, then they are doing 'feel-good' Judaism. Text study can only enrich their teaching and their personal growth."

With that in mind, a beit midrash, or house of study, was for the first time made an integral part of the annual Conference on Alternatives in Jewish Education, which is sponsored by the New York-based Coalition for Advancement of Jewish Education.

Some 150 Jewish educators from across the country gathered daily at the August conference here over a three-day period in a yeshiva-like atmosphere that the beit midrash organizers call the havruta project.

The project pairs people on a one-to-one basis so they can engage the sources without the intervention of a teacher. To assure the study process did not intimidate newcomers, the texts and accompanying traditional and contemporary commentary were laid out in a booklet specially created for the conference and facilitators introduced the material.

"Instead of making the teacher — a personality — the center of the class, the text is the center," said Raphael Zarum, one of the leaders of the British equivalent of CAJE, Limmud, which introduced the havruta project at their conference in 1997 and collaborated with CAJE on the beit midrash.

"I want everyone to be a source," said Zarum. "If you rely on someone else to learn, you're secondary."

CAJE organizers hope teachers will use the material and the process in adult education and high school programs across the country.

Luann Watson, who teaches at Temple Achdut Vesholom in Fort Wayne, Ind., said that the beit midrash set her on the right path for teaching fourth-graders.

The CAJE beit midrash is indicative of a trend across the country towards more traditional text study.

The havruta project sponsored by the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in New York began four years ago and

is now used in some 140 Conservative congregations, according to Marilyn Werman, JTS program's administrator.

Bill Moyers' "Genesis" series on public television fostered a new enthusiasm for the Bible and has spawned many text study groups. The Florence Melton Adult Mini-School, a two-year course in which students study philosophy, history and ethics, has doubled its enrollment over the past five years to some 2,000 in 38 cities around the world.

In Reform congregations, "there is a heightened interest in learning not about Judaism, but learning Judaism, in learning not about text, but learning text itself," said Rabbi Jan Katzew, director of the department of Jewish education at the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. Katzew cited a call he received recently from the adult education chairperson of a congregation asking for assistance in setting up a literacy program.

"He said, 'We don't want speakers to come and do it for us. We want to engage the texts ourselves.'"

What used to be called adult education institutes are now called batei midrash in many communities. "Institute is a term that has academic panache," said Rabbi Robert Abramson, the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism's director of education.

"Using the term 'beit midrash' represents a turn towards authentic Jewish experience with an added dimension — the role of personal meaning in relations to the text. Study does not just become an academic exercise; it attempts to ask: 'what does this mean to me?'"

Rabbi Cherie Koller-Fox, one of the founders of CAJE, said that the beit midrash signaled

what has been missing from the annual conference.

The conference offered many courses on Torah study and spirituality, but these were largely on the practical level.

Teachers think that they need practical skills and "we need to send them back with paper and tools and programs" about Torah study and spirituality, "but that is only a third of what we have to do," said Keller-Fox, the spiritual leader of Congregation Eitz Chayim in Cambridge, Mass.

"There should be no day in a CAJE schedule without limmud and 'kavannah' — without an infusion of Torah and spirituality," she said. "You can only teach for so long before you need to be filled up again. Nothing fills you up like Torah."

While the beit midrash was an innovation for CAJE, those planning the study sessions also had to address the anxiety of participants.

"Adults without grounding in texts are afraid they will feel foolish or stupid approaching an area in which they have no expertise," said Abby Wiener, a teacher at The Jewish Day School in Allentown, Pa., and one of the beit midrash facilitators at the CAJE conference.

Aside from scheduling conflicts during the conference, that anxiety may be one reason the beit midrash attracted only about 10 percent of the 1,500 teachers, principals and lay people who attended the conference.

For those who did participate, the beit midrash offered a "democratic and trans-denominational experience," said Ed Frim, executive director of the Commission on Jewish Education in Columbus, Ohio. "Everyone is looking for a connection to tradition. This empowers people to make Judaism their own."

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## FEATURE

## Names From Fame and Obscurity — Leonard "Lenny" Bernstein

by Kimberly Ann Orlandi  
Herald Editor

It is probably one of the most famous Broadway shows of all time. The story of a young Hispanic girl in New York City who falls in love with a boy from the other side of the tracks. A modern day Romeo and Juliet set against the turbulent backdrop of New York's Hell's Kitchen. Passion, energy, animosity, youth and love all describe Leonard Bernstein's magnificent collaboration with choreographer Jerome Robbins and lyricist Stephen Sondheim in their 1957 production of "West Side Story."

That was at the height of Bernstein's career, a career which took off like a skyrocket during the postwar era and never seemed to slow down. Even in death, Bernstein remains a musical icon to industry and audiences alike.

Named after his maternal grandfather, Bernstein was born in Lawrence, Mass., to Russian-Jewish immigrant parents on August 25, 1918. Even as a toddler, Bernstein was inherently drawn to music. Although the family was without a piano in their Roxbury home, he was intrigued by the Victrola which was inherited from his mother's father. But the biggest influence on his musical talents was the religious music heard at Temple Mushkan Tefila. His sister Shirley, born October 3, 1923, also shared her brother's love of music. She made her singing debut in Bernstein's production of "On The Town." The founder of Paramuse, an agency for artists in the dramatic and television fields, she recently passed away on May 3, 1998 after a prolonged illness. His younger brother, Burton, had been a staff writer for *The New Yorker*.

Bernstein's gift for music was discovered at an early age; he was so advanced in the study of piano and musical composition, that he would often challenge his teachers. One teacher said, "This boy is gifted, I can't keep up with him anymore," and with that he sealed his fate as one of the most influential members of the music industry. Bernstein went on to study music at the

Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia under Fritz Reiner

after completing his undergraduate work at Harvard University. He studied at the hands of some of the best conductors in the business, including Reiner and Serge Koussevitzky at Curtis, two legendary Jewish conductors of the Chicago and Boston symphony orchestras respectfully. His big break came in 1943 when, at age 25, he was asked to replace an ailing Bruno Walter, another influential Jewish conductor, as guest conductor of the New York Philharmonic on a nationally aired afternoon radio broadcast. As a result of his magnificent performance, he was offered the assistant directorship for the philharmonic.

"How could I know my son was going to grow up to be Leonard Bernstein?" said his father Samuel.

Bernstein proved, throughout his career, that music was more than just black dots on a sheet of paper. It was emotion, feeling. It provoked a sense of passion in those who not only listened, but played, and there was nothing more memorable than to watch Bernstein at work. His enthralling body movement during a performance became as instrumental to the overall performance as the music itself. His animated nature was the result of watching Koussevitzky's flamboyant mannerisms at the podium, and that, combined with Reiner's intense training, was what made Bernstein a musical institution unto himself.

As his star began to rise as a conductor, so, too, did his career as a composer. During World War II, he took advantage of the country's patriotic feeling and created the "Jeremiah" symphony and "Fancy Free" ballet, which was

later adapted into the Broadway show "On the Town." But



Leonard Bernstein

Bernstein's life wasn't all conducting. He did teach at

Tanglewood, the summer home of the Boston Pops since 1936, and later at Brandeis University. Along with his symphony and Broadway credits, Bernstein successfully tackled film scoring with "On the Waterfront," starring Marlon Brando. For Bernstein, it was important to expose people of all races, religions and ages to the world of music, and he did that by including musicians of color within his symphonies, much to the chagrin of his fellow conductors and musicians, as well as teaching children that classical music didn't have to be restricted to the older generations.

Upon retiring from his responsibilities as conductor of the Philadelphia Orchestra 12 years after he began, he traveled the globe, appearing as guest conductor for symphonies from New York to Tel Aviv, but always enjoyed returning home to New York. Despite his jet-set life-style, New Yorkers silently

claimed the famed conductor as one of their own, and they showed their love and appreciation for him and his work by lining the streets of Times Square and Broadway waiting to get into the theaters in which he performed.

In October 1990, the masterful conductor and colorful performer died in the city he called home—New York. At age 72, he was buried beside his wife, Felicia, who had died 12 years before. Bernstein left behind not only sons, daughters, grandchildren and friends, but he left a legacy in the world of classical music. A legacy by which all other conductors and composers would be measured. This year, Bernstein would have celebrated his 80th birthday, and in recognition of that, concert halls around the world will be filled with the harmonious music of Leonard Bernstein. On Nov. 19, the Gershwin Theater, in New York, will host the premiere of the New York Public Theater Production of "On the Town." For information on how to purchase tickets, call Ticketmaster at (212) 307-4100.

## Court Orders U.S. to Support Survivor's Compensation Claim

by Daniel Kurtzman

WASHINGTON (JTA) — In the long-running, carefully considered process of securing compensation for Holocaust survivors who suffered at the hands of Nazi Germany, somehow Jack Miller has fallen through the cracks.

The 70-year-old survivor only wants what he believes should be rightfully his — the same lump-sum payment other U.S. nationals who were interned in concentration camps are due to receive from the German government in coming months.

The U.S. State Department, however, has refused to put forward Miller's claim. In fact, it has vigorously fought a lawsuit Miller filed seeking to force the department to present his case for the German government to consider.

But now a federal judge, siding with Miller, has ordered the department to do so.

Under terms set forth in a 1995 U.S. court ruling, which awarded Hugo Prinz and 10 other Americans imprisoned by the Nazis some \$2.1 million, the United States and Germany have been negotiating an agreement that would provide payments for more than 200 additional American survivors of the Holocaust.

Miller, a U.S. citizen who is now living in Santiago, Chile, submitted a claim for compensation under the agreement in 1997, but the U.S. Foreign Claims Settlement Commission, based on guidance from the State Department, rejected it. The commission determined that Miller did not qualify for compensation because he had previously been receiving a special pension for non-U.S. citizens from the German government.

That pension, however, was erroneously awarded to Miller. In 1995, the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany awarded him a \$290 monthly pension based on the understanding that he was not a U.S. citizen at the time of his internment.

Until recently, that had been Miller's understanding as well. For years, the United States did not recognize Miller as an American victim of the Holocaust because he was born to an American mother overseas. Up until 1994, U.S. law only recognized those born abroad to American fathers as citizens, and Miller's father was Slovakian.

But a 1994 law passed by Congress retroactively conferred citizenship on children born abroad to American women. That technically makes Miller ineligible for the pension he is currently receiving from the German government for non-U.S. citizens, and the German government has a right to reclaim it.

If that happens and if the U.S. government does not espouse his claim to Germany, Miller could be left with no compensation, while also facing the prospect of having to come up with a way to repay what he has already received.

Indenying Miller's claim, the commission took the unusual step of determining the monetary amount — \$95,000 — that Miller would be eligible to receive if the State Department did submit his claim.

For a Holocaust survivor living "hand to mouth," as his lawyer describes, the material difference is huge between the \$290 monthly pension he is currently receiving and the \$95,000 lump-sum payment for which he would otherwise be eligible.

In ordering the State Department last month to support Miller's claim, U.S. District Court Judge Harold Greene said that "to render a decision in favor of the Department of State would mean that this plaintiff — a man who was interned in a concentration camp, who watched as his father was tortured, who was starved, beaten and physically abused, and who was forced to engage in hard labor — would be deprived of compensation from any source."

Greene added that the State Department has "shed ample paper tears about the plight of Holocaust victims, the need for morality, and the responsibility to compensate those victims. Yet the deeds do not match the words."

The State Department, meanwhile, is asking the judge to stay the order. If that fails, the department intends to seek an emergency appeal.

The matter has taken on some urgency because the United States and Germany are close to wrapping up the agreement on compensation.

Steven Perles, Miller's lawyer, said if a stay is granted, that would effectively end Miller's chances of receiving compensation under the agreement because the claims process is due to be completed by the end of the year.

Perles said it remains to be seen "whether the government is going to be so difficult here that they will attempt to hold up the whole program in order to prove that no one can tell the State Department what to do. That would be catastrophic for a lot of these rather aged survivors."

State Department officials would not comment on the case.

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## ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT



## Sharing Her Gift of Music

by Kimberly Ann Orlandi  
Herald Editor

Music is the universal language  
of mankind

— Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Whether you are Jewish, Catholic, Protestant, or everything in between. Whether you are black or white. Whether you are young or old, there is one common thread that links us all together as a community—music, and for pianist, composer and performer Judith Lynn Stillman that thread is blind to any racial, social or religious differences.

As a follow-up to her 1990 hit release *Christmas Remembered*, Stillman has recently released *Christmas Reflections*, on North Star Music, for the 1998 holiday season. She is well aware of the fact that many may find it "odd for a person of the Jewish faith to be singing Christmas carols," but she strongly defends her decision to create this second CD. For Stillman, it was an artistic endeavor and not a religious one.

"What I'm trying to do is reach out to as many people as I can through music, and in particular with classical music. And in a subliminal way, I'm now bringing classical music to people who may otherwise not hear it," said Stillman.

Unlike a traditional Christmas CD, *Christmas Reflections* takes a Christmas carol, such as "The First Noel," and layers it with a classical piece such as "Brahms Waltz," or "Oh Come All Ye Faithful" woven with Bach's "Goldberg Variations." According to Stillman, this CD is both similar and different to her first in that she includes some exquisite chamber performances but adds a taste of New Age to some of the selections. Her hope is that people go away humming Bach or Ravel and not necessarily know why. Although the musical selection may deal with non-Jewish faith songs, the overall composition of the pieces are classical in nature and, in most instances, it becomes difficult to decipher where the Christmas carol begins and ends due in part to the pronounced nature of the classical selection. This CD offers people of all religions exposure to the world of classical music.

Although Stillman had a tremendous amount of artistic free-

dom when it came to choosing the musicians and creating the arrangements, she credits her engineer, Jack Gauthier, with creating the melodic sounds present on the CD.

"He is the true artist," said Stillman, whose artistry in creating music includes both performing and teaching.

She is currently Artist-In-

their social class, to have fine music playing in their house," said Stillman.

Liana has not expressed an interest in following in her mother's footsteps and playing the piano, but she has exhibited a genuine talent for acting and singing. She has performed with Trinity Repertory Company, Pershable and New Gate Theaters, as well as the Children's Theater Production of "Annie."

"I'm conscious not to push her into anything," said Stillman. "I want her to find her own niche."

Over her 25-year career, Stillman has experienced many highs and lows, but she is always careful not to dwell on those low points and to concentrate on only the positive, while learning from the negative. She has recorded with renowned jazz artist Wynton Marsalis, and recently performed for the first lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton, on her last visit to Providence. But probably the greatest point of her career was when she discovered the majesty of chamber music for the first time, and it is that sense of wonder and ultimate

fulfillment she hopes to bring to audiences with the release of *Christmas Reflections*.

"I feel very lucky to be able to do what I do. In many circumstances, be it writing or performing, I feel as if I have a G-d-given gift and that's where religion comes in. If I can share my talent, that is my mission. I just feel so very lucky to have this gift," said Stillman.

To purchase a copy of *Christmas Reflections*, call North Star Music, 22 London St., East Greenwich, 1-800-346-2706 or fax 886-8886. Visit North Star's website at <www.nothstar.com>.



Judith Lynn Stillman

Residence and professor of music at Rhode Island College, where she was named both the Maixner Professor for Outstanding Teaching and the Thorp Professor for Distinguished Creative and Scholarly Activity. She is also on the piano faculty at Brown University.

"Teaching and performing are both very important to my artistic development," said Stillman. "To choose one I prefer better is impossible," she laughs.

Ever since the age of 3, Stillman has known what she wanted to pursue in terms of a career. She entered Juilliard on a scholarship at age 10 and went on to receive both her master's and doctorate from the famed music institute. Her mother was a singer and the house was always filled with the sounds of classical music and her mother at the piano. She had three older brothers: the middle one was a talent when it came to playing the piano. "I guess that's where I became intrigued," said Stillman, who now tries to expose her daughter, 11-year-old Liana, to the joys of music.

"I think it's important for everyone, no matter what

## Thanksgiving 'Feast' For Animals at Roger Williams Zoo

Mix up a nutritious feast for wildlife Nov. 21 at Roger Williams Park Zoo.

"Thanksgiving for the Animals" is a great opportunity to make creations for wildlife like squirrels, chipmunks, rabbits and birds in your own backyard. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., edible crafts stations will be set-up to create treats like food chains with popcorn and cranberries, bird pudding (with suet, peanut butter, eggs and bird seed) and honey sticks (spaghetti, honey and birdseed). There's even a fast food station with how-tos for hanging pretzels in trees and building fruit ships out of oranges.



Anyone who brings a canned good to help the Rhode Island Community Food Bank and to aid the hurricane victims in Central America will receive half-price admission for this special event. The U.S. postal truck

will also be on hand with a special cancellation of their new tropical bird stamp.

All Thanksgiving for the Animals activities are free with regular zoo admission. Roger Williams Park Zoo is open every day except Christmas. Winter hours (October through March) are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Admission is \$6 for adults, \$3.50 for children (3 to 12) and seniors. For more information, call the zoo at 785-3510.

## Potters of Newport County Hold Holiday Sale

The Potters of Newport County will hold their second annual Holiday Pottery Sale on Nov. 28 and 29, at the Elks Lodge, 141 Pelham St. (across from Newport Art Museum), Newport. Hours are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday.

Participating potters are Jillian Barber, John Burrows, Bridget Butlin, Jean Cannon, Rosemary Day, Suzanne Hauerstein Walsh, Hannelore Hutchison, Susan Kremer, Irene Parthenis, Lynda Rego, Harry Spring, Mika Seeger, Lee Segal, Lynne Spingler and Brenda Wrigley.

Works will include functional and decorative pottery, raku, ornaments and sculpture for yourself or holiday gift-giving.

Also planned on both days is an Empty Bowls fund-raiser. Empty Bowls is an international project created to fight hunger. Potters who participate make and donate bowls (perfect for cereal, soup or ice cream) to the fund-raiser. Money raised from the sale of the bowls will be donated to the Women's Resource Center of Newport and Bristol Counties and the Seamen's Church Institute. Admission is free and the public is invited.

## Antiquarian Book Fair Will Be Held

The 22nd annual Boston International Antiquarian Book Fair will be held Nov. 20 to 22 at Hynes Convention Center, 900 Boylston St., Boston, Mass.

Opening night is Nov. 20 from 5 to 9 p.m. Tickets are \$10. (Opening night ticket valid throughout the weekend.) On Nov. 21 the fair opens noon to 7 p.m. and Nov. 22, noon to 5 p.m. Tickets are \$5.

For more information, call Commonwealth Promotion at (617) 266-6540. Sponsored by the Antiquarian Booksellers' Association of America. For further information, contact the web site at <www.bostonbookfair.com>.

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Performing Arts Events  
at Moses Brown School

Moses Brown School will present a Faculty Music Recital on Nov. 22 at 3 p.m. The concert will take place in the Sinclair Room at Moses Brown School, 250 Lloyd Ave., Providence. Faculty members of the music department and adjunct instructional staff members will perform solo and ensemble selections of classical and jazz music. Original compositions will also be performed. Head of school Joanne Hoffman, will serve as emcee. The concert is free and open to the public with refreshments to follow.

For information, contact Moses Brown School at 831-7350.





## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

### The Shirim Klezmer Orchestra Performs

The first annual George Araujo Memorial Sunday with the Shirim Klezmer Orchestra will be held on Nov. 22. The orchestra will play Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker Suite." Doors open at 7 p.m. Show starts at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10.00. Come early if you want a table. The Shirim Klezmer Orchestra, an offshoot of Naftule's Dream, is the new wave of

klezmer. The *College Music Journal* says "...both true to the tradition of Yiddish theater and wildly innovative." The band was featured on the soundtrack of Woody Allen's "Deconstructing Harry" and has toured the United States and Canada.

Fronted by the virtuosic and passionate playing of klezmer veterans Glenn Dickinson, clarinet, and David Harris, the band

evokes the seething fervor and joy of the Jewish minstrels who kept people laughing and crying in the shtetls (small Jewish villages) of eastern Europe for hundreds of years.

Glenn & David are joined by pianist/accordionist Michael McLaughlin, tuba player John Manning, Eric Rosenthal on drums, multi-instrumentalist Anthony Braxton, and banjo player Peter Fitzpatrick. An ensemble such as this is a rare thing, so don't pass up the opportunity to hear The Shirim Klezmer Orchestra.

George Araujo was a Fox Point native who gave much to the city of Providence. In 1951 he was New England Athlete of the Year and in 1952 he fought for the Golden Gloves Championship at Madison Square Garden. At the time he was the ultimate hometown boy made good.

After losing his bid for the title, at the ripe-old age of 22, he retired from professional sports and had a great many experiences including joining the Peace Corps. In spite of and maybe because of his pugilistic beginnings, his greatest loves were painting and philosophy. He devoted his later life to creative pursuits.

AS220 and The Pork Chop Lounge are proud to present this cultural event in his name. We are sure he would have loved it and you will too.



The Shirim Klezmer Orchestra

Photo courtesy of AS220

### Brown Dance Ensemble Soars in Fall Concert!

The Brown Dance Ensemble's Fall Concert will be presented by the Brown University department of theatre, speech and dance for one week, Dec. 3 to 6, at 8 p.m. in the Ashamu Dance Studio in the Catherine Bryan Dill Center for the Performing Arts.

The concert is a blend of guest, resident, and student choreographers with highlights that include the work of Anita Gonzalez, formerly of Urban Bush Women in a powerful and driving tour de force piece that is sure to be a crowd pleaser.

Faculty member and resident choreographer, Michelle Bach-Coulbaly, will present two pieces, one of which is a comic romp to a Mozart Divertimento, capturing the composer's musicality and sense of humor.

Guest choreographer Anna-maura Silverblatt is developing an evening-long work depicting the Jewish Holocaust entitled "But," which will be performed in its entirety during commencement weekend. Audiences at the Dance Ensemble Fall Concert will be witness to excerpts from this powerful and emotional piece as it evolves.

The Brown Dance Extension, popularly known as RepCo, will perform a revival, a premiere, and two dances from the repertoire. The works from the repertoire include "Requiem" by Colin Connor with music by

Gabriel Faure, and "Tenant of The Street," a 1939 solo about a homeless woman, choreographed by Eve Gentry. "Flow Form" by Ruth Andrien, a former soloist with the Paul Taylor Dance Company, is returning to the repertoire after five years. A favorite with dancers and audiences alike, "Flow Form" is a lush and lyrical exploration of water, to an original score by Mike Ford. The company will also premiere "Trails and Turns," a new work by Amy Kail and Laura Bennett (Brown '92) with an original score by Tom Farrell.

The Tap Ensemble is a new addition to the rich and exciting Brown dance scene. For the third year in a row this dynamic group will present an original tap number inspired by the legacy of this unique American art form.

Also featured will be a new work by Chris Elam's innovative and acclaimed "Misnomer Dance Theatre" and works by students Nancy Rimmer, Cara Murray, Kate James, and Jessica Gaynor.

Ticket price is \$5 general admission. Phone reservations are accepted with Visa/Mastercard. Box office hours are Tuesday through Friday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets may also be purchased at the door on the evening of performance. For more information or to make reservations, call 863-2838.

### Perishable Theatre Announces Auditions

Perishable Theatre is looking for actors for their winter Mainstage production of "Gretty Good Time" by John Belluso and directed by Vanessa Gilbert. Belluso is a Warwick native currently residing in New York City. Gilbert is associate artistic director at Perishable.

Auditions will be held Dec. 1 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Dates of the show are Feb. 27 to March 28 with rehearsals starting Jan. 11. Needed for this production are three men, two in their 40s and one in his mid-20s to mid-30s and three women — one woman (32) suffering from post-polio paralysis with only partial use of her right arm, one woman (64) a friend in the nursing home and one woman (18) preferably of Asian descent.

For an audition slot the actors must call the theater at 331-2695 and make an appointment. There will be a small stipend for the actors. The Perishable Theatre is located at 95 Empire St., Providence, R.I.

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### RIC Wind Ensemble Provides 'Something Old, Something New'

The world premiere of pianist-composer Richard Cumming's latest work, "Concertino for Piano and Band," will highlight the Rhode Island College Wind Ensemble's Nov. 20 concert with the theme of "Something Old, Something New."

This first concert of the season for the wind ensemble will begin at 8:15 p.m. in Roberts Hall auditorium.

The title, "Something Old, Something New," reflects the 250-year span of original music for winds represented on the program, said Rob Franzblau, ensemble conductor.

The concert will begin with Handel's Overture to the "Royal

Fireworks Music," one of the earliest compositions written for massed winds and percussion. Also on the program is Strauss' Serenade in Eb Major, Opus 7; Bennett's "Suite of Old American Dances," Mahr's "Fantasia" in G, and Grafulla's "Washington Grays March."

Cumming, the prolific composer-in-residence at Providence's Trinity Repertory Theatre and long-time music faculty member at RIC, was asked to write a composition for solo piano and band which could contribute to the literature for young musicians.

The work was commissioned by the RIC Wind Ensemble.

"He has responded with a delightful eight-minute 'mini-concerto' in one movement: Allegro, Adagio, Allegro," said Franzblau.

"Cumming's style is melodious, witty and accessible; this piece represents his first offering for the full resources of the modern wind band."

Tickets are \$7 general admission; \$5 for senior citizens and non-RIC students. RIC students admitted free. For more information, call 456-8244.



### Russian Violinist to Present Chamber Music Recital

The noted Russian violinist Alexey Shabalin will present a recital of chamber music on Nov. 29 at 3 p.m. at Wheeler Hall, The Wheeler School, Providence. He will be assisted by guitarist Mark Davis (of the Mair-Davis Duo) and pianist Marianna Rashkovetsky. Their program will include:

Franck — Sonata in A major for Violin and Piano  
Saint-Saens — Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso  
Guiliani — Grosse Sonata for Violin and Guitar  
Albinoni — Sonata in A minor for Violin and Guitar

The concert is being presented to benefit the educational programs of The Conservatory at Wheeler. Tickets are \$15 general admission, and \$10 for seniors and students.

A graduate of the Moscow Conservatory, Shabalin has won numerous competitions, has toured internationally, and performed with the "Moscow Soloists." Of his December 1997 recital at the Tsai Performance Center in Boston, *Boston Globe* critic Michael Manning wrote that he is "a very gifted and unusually personal violinist" and praised the work of his "very fine pianist Marianna Rashkovetsky."

Shabalin is concertmaster of the New England String Ensemble and the assistant concertmaster of the Rhode Island Philharmonic. He is on the music faculty of MIT and The Conservatory at Wheeler, where he teaches violin, coaches ensembles, and directs the Summer Institute for Strings.

For further information, contact Wheeler Conservatory Director Mark Davis at the Wheeler School, 421-8100, ext. 275.

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



## Michael Allinson to Star in 'The Last Man in Europe'

On Dec. 4, at 8 p.m. Michael Allinson, star of Broadway and London's West End will appear in a one-man show on the life of George Orwell — "The Last Man in Europe." The performance will take place at the Stuart Theatre, Brown University, Waterman Street, Providence, R.I. The show is free and open to the public.

"The Last Man in Europe" was written by Brown University alum, Mark Weston. While various stagings of the piece have been done in and around Manhattan since 1986, the dramatization of it began in 1994, with a staging at the Miniature Theatre of Chester, Mass. Since that time it has had a dozen engagements in the United States and the United Kingdom.

Allinson trained at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art and spent his early career in British repertory companies. He appeared in the West End productions of "Beaux Stratagem" and "Hamlet" with Paul Scofield. He was brought to the United States by Moss Hart to play Henry Higgins in "My Fair Lady" on Broadway. His latest Broadway role was Lord Caversham in "The Ideal Husband."

## A Crafts Fair That Kids Will Love

### A Show of Hands

A crafts fair will be held Nov. 22, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence, R.I.

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It's so much more than a crafts fair. It's fun.  
Children under 12 free. \$3.50 per person with a \$10 family maximum.



## The Search Is On

Laureen A. Krol, executive director of the Barbizon Modeling Agency, is coming to Warwick on Nov. 22 to conduct complimentary auditions at the Sheraton Tara Hotel, located on Post Road near the T.F. Green Airport. Krol will be looking for girls ages 10 to 25 to train for TV commercials, films, magazines, fashion shows and other modeling opportunities in the Boston area through its nationally affiliated modeling agency. No experience is required. This event will be limited to one day only, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and is by reservation only!

All young ladies who wish to be seen by Krol and her staff must reserve a time by calling the Barbizon Modeling Agency at (800) 223-4613. Girls of a junior age must be accompanied by a parent.

The world famous Barbizon School and Modeling Agency was founded over half a century ago on Fifth Avenue in New York City, and has trained thousands either for a professional modeling career, or to develop the "look," poise and confidence that helps in any career.

## Museum Concerts Presents The Cambridge Bach Ensemble

Museum Concerts will be performing early music at St. Martin's Concert Series. The Cambridge Bach Ensemble will be performing music of Bach, Pachelbel, Kerll, and Buxtehude, along with eight voices, cello, viola da gamba, and organ. Performances will take place at St. Martin's Church, Orchard Avenue, east side of Providence on Nov. 29, 3:30 p.m. Tickets will be sold at the door \$10/\$8 seniors and students, \$1 for children under 18 accompanied by parent. For more information, call the box office at 245-6347.

The Cambridge Bach Ensemble returns to the Museum Concerts' series. Founded and directed by Scott Metcalfe, the vocal ensemble specializes in the sacred music of 17th-century Germany, interpreting Bach's sacred music as the culmination of the rich tradition of German church music. The ensemble also brings alive the extraordinary but largely unfamiliar work of Bach's predecessors. All programs include solo organ works, drawing the connection between organ music and the vocal music that was a part of its original context.



The Cambridge Bach Ensemble  
Photo by George Mastellone

## The Great White Way Shines Bright for Young Actress

by Kimberly Ann Orlandi  
Herald Editor

At age 25, Sara Brenner has her whole life ahead of her to settle down and have a family, but for now, she has foregone her college education to get a hands-on education of life on the road as a Broadway actress.

Born in Winnipeg, Canada, and now residing in Toronto, Brenner's career began in a Toronto summer theater production of "Anne of Green Gables," where she portrayed Diana Berry. She credits her grandmother and sister with encouraging her love of the theater. Her grandfather, however, wasn't too much of a theater buff as much as he was a sports enthusiast, in particular hockey.

"Being Canadian, it's almost non-patriotic not to love hockey," joked Brenner.

"My grandmother always loved the theater," she said as I caught up with her from a hotel room in Los Angeles. For Brenner, traveling has become an integral part of her life. She recently spent four years tour-

ing with the Livent company's production of "Phantom of the Opera," where she portrayed Meg. Livent recently picked her up to star as the grown-up Kim in "Show Boat." That produc-

performance. She does admit, however, that she may like to return to school one day to get her degree, but in the meantime she continues to take acting lessons and works on her singing with a vocal coach. Brenner left a small college outside of Toronto when she was given the opportunity to tour with the production of "Phantom."

"It wasn't an easy decision, and my parents worried that I wasn't getting into a solid career. I think they thought I'd grow out of it," laughed Brenner. Today, her family attends every performance they can and supports her unconditionally.

Five years later, Brenner is performing to sold-out crowds across the globe—London, New York, Detroit, Cleveland, Boston, Cincinnati, Toronto and on Nov. 25 she'll be able to add Providence to that list. Being on the road does have its drawbacks, according to Brenner.

"I don't get to spend as much time as I'd like with my family," said Brenner. "I was able to make it home for Yom Kippur and Rosh Hashanah and I will be seeing them the first week of December, but I won't make it home for Chanukah."

Being 25 years old and away from family and friends is a tough way to not only keep a relationship, but start one at all. Brenner admits that someday she would like to settle down and start a family of her own, but she does not want to give up the theater all together. She does have aspirations of teaching, and maybe even producing and directing her own shows, but until that time she'll continue with doing what she loves most—performing.



Sara Brenner

tion sails into the Providence Performing Arts Center on Nov. 25 and runs through Dec. 14.

"I began dancing at age 8, and by 14 I was taking singing lessons," said Brenner. I knew from a very small age what I wanted to do."

Brenner has achieved in five short years what most actors wait their whole life for. For that reason, she counts her blessings every day, but does admit that she is "waiting for the bottom to fall out."

According to Brenner, the education she receives on the road is more than could have been taught to her in any classroom. She has met many interesting people, and has learned the business from production to

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# OBITUARIES

## ANNI DONATH

PROVIDENCE — Anni L. Donath, 89, of Beechwood at Laurelmead, also known as Anneliese Rosenbaum, a former businesswoman, died Nov. 8 at Beechwood. She was the wife of the late Henry Donath.

She was born Anneliese Rosenbaum in Breslau, Germany, on June 27, 1909. As a young woman she obtained a degree in bookkeeping. In her early 20s she joined a co-ed crew club where she met her future husband, Henry. In 1939 she and her husband escaped the Nazis by obtaining visas to Ecuador on the premise that Henry (in reality a salesman) was an expert in the manufacture of tin cans.

Upon leaving Germany, they first stopped in Paris and then proceeded by ship to South America where they settled in Quito, Ecuador. There Anni opened a dress shop. Their daughter RoseMary was born in 1943. In 1947 the Donath family emigrated to Atlantic City, N.J., where they partially owned and operated a small hotel. After a short period of time the family moved to New York City where they owned and operated RoseMary Dolls, a small doll factory in northern Manhattan. She ran the factory, designed the dolls and kept the books while her husband, Henry, was the salesman and the factory representative. She was an avid seamstress.

She was a member of Hadasah Sisterhood, JERI program, Jewish Federation, and Nar-

ragansett Council of Boy Scouts of America.

She remained in the Washington Heights section of Manhattan until she moved to Providence, R.I., in the summer of 1995.

After closing the business, she began to focus on areas other than work and family. She began traveling all over the world, United States, Canada, Japan, China, Europe, South America, and the Middle East. She rode a camel in Egypt and hiked the ruins of Macchu Pichu. She began to focus on her creative side, taking up painting and sculpture, a passionate endeavor that she continued up until two weeks before her death.

But, to Anni, the most important part of her life was her family. Having lost almost her entire extended family and her mother to the Nazis, she focused on her daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren. She was a lover of life and nature and spent a good part of every day outdoors, she appreciated every flower, every pine cone, every bird. She is survived by her daughter, RoseMary Lowenstein, her son-in-law, Marc Lowenstein, both of Barrington, R.I., and her three grandchildren.

Burial was in Cedar Park Cemetery, Paramus, N.J. Arrangements were by Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence.

## BEATRICE FIELD

RIVERSIDE — Beatrice Field, 77, of Village Drive, Riverside, died Nov. 11 at home. She was

the wife of Irwin Field. Mr. and Mrs. Field were married for 57 years.

Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Max and Fannie (Shindler) Schriber, she lived in Riverside for four years, previously living in West Palm Beach, Fla., and Attleboro, Mass.

She was a former member of Congregation Agudas Achim and its Sisterhood.

Besides her husband, she leaves two daughters, Maureen Canner of Attleboro and Frimette Field of Boston, and a grandson. She was the sister of the late Philip and Celia Schriber and Esther Sorgman.

The funeral service was held Nov. 12 in the Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

## SELMA GOLDMAN

BOSTON — Selma Goldman, 68, of 71 Boon St., also known as Soura Miral, died Nov. 10 at Beth-Israel Deaconess Hospital, Boston. She was the wife of Arnold Goldman.

Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Samuel and Eva (Youngstein) Labush, she had lived in Cranston for many years before moving to Narragansett and Highland Beach, Fla., in 1983.

She was a 1950 graduate of Bryant College and a member of the American Contract Bridge League, where she attained the rank of life master.

She was a founding member of the former Temple Beth Torat,

Cranston, and a member of the Miriam Hospital Women's Association, the Brandeis University Women's Committee and Congregation Beth David, Narragansett. She was a life member of Hadasah and the Women's Association of the Jewish Home for the Aged.

Besides her husband, she leaves a daughter, Linda Burstein of Wayland, Mass.; a son, Howard Goldman of Needham, Mass.; two sisters, Ruth Tolchinsky of Warwick and Irene Shlevin of Pawtucket; and six grandchildren.

The funeral service was held Nov. 13 in Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

## NATHAN KATZ

PROVIDENCE — Nathan Katz, 83, of 46 Woodbury St., a special agent for the U.S. Treasury Department in Providence for many years before retiring in 1974, died Nov. 15 at home. He was the husband of Teddy Grant-Katz, and the late Lee (Stepak) Katz.

A lifelong resident of Providence, he was a son of the late Abraham and Anna (Peretz) Katz.

He was an Army veteran of World War II, and served as an officer in Japan. He was a 1940 graduate of Bryant College. He was a member of Temple Emanu-El. For many years he was a volunteer at McAuley House, St. Anthony House and Holy Name Church.

Besides his wife, he leaves two sons, Donald Katz of Nashua, N.H., and Richard Katz of East Lyme, Conn.; and a grandson. He was the father of the late Jerald Katz, and brother of the late Gertrude Shone, Beatrice Kwasha and Mary Jewett.

The funeral service was held Nov. 17 at Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery in Warwick.

## FRED LASOFF

WEST PALM BEACH — Fred Lassoff, 87, of West Palm Beach, formerly of Hartford, Conn., died Nov. 7 at St. Mary's Hospital. He was the husband of Elizabeth (Hirshkowitz) Lassoff and son of the late Mildred and Benjamin Lassoff.

He was born in Hartford and lived there most of his life.

He was the owner of the Traveler's Spa.

He was a member of Temple Beth Israel, the Masonic Temple and B'nai Brith of Hartford. After his retirement, he joined the Golden Lakes Temple in West Palm Beach.

Survivors include his widow; a son, Dr. Gerald Lassoff of Hemmet, Calif.; a daughter,

Linda Waxler of Dartmouth, Mass.; a brother, Lawrence Lassoff of Boca Raton, Fla.; a sister, Ann Goldfarb of West Hartford; and two grandchildren.

He was the grandfather of the late Jonathan Blake Waxler and brother of the late Nathan Lassoff and Fanny Lassoff.

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

## JASON QUEEN

MIAMI — Jason Queen, 82, of Bal Harbour, Fla., died Nov. 9, at Mt. Sinai Hospital. He was the husband of Jeanne (Gwodz) Queen and son of the late Harry and Rose (Mazur) Queen.

Born in New Bedford, Mass., he lived on Cape Cod, Mass., and in New Bedford before moving to Florida seven years ago.

He was the co-owner of the former Collateral Loan Company of New Bedford until his retirement in 1991.

He was a member of Tifereth Israel Synagogue, New Bedford. He is survived by his wife; a son, Stephen Queen of Hyannisport, Mass.; a brother, Louis Queen of West Yarmouth, Mass.; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Nov. 12 in Tifereth Israel Congregation. Burial was in Plainville Cemetery, New Bedford.

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

## IDA SLAVSKY

WARWICK — Ida Slavsky, 79, of 3 Peabody Drive, died Nov. 10 at Orchard View Manor. She was the wife of Theodore Slavsky.

Born in Staten Island, N.Y., a daughter of the late Isadore and Pauline (Fliess) Kuznesof, she had lived in Providence for many years before moving to Warwick in 1961.

She was a member of the Warwick Social Seniors and Temple Am David. She was a life member of B'nai Brith and the Women's Association of the Jewish Home for the Aged, serving on its board of directors for many years.

Besides her husband, she leaves a daughter, Isabella S. Boss of Cheshire, Conn.; a son, Sigmund Slavsky of Sharon, Mass.; a sister, Sophie Kuznesof of Cromwell, Conn.; a brother, Morris Kuznesof of Long Island, N.Y.; and two grandchildren.

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

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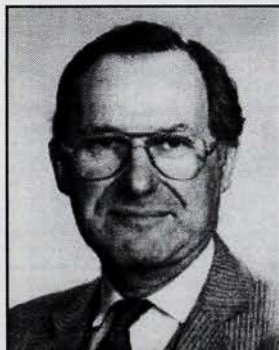
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Dr. Jack Shechter, professor of Bible, "Saying Kaddish,"  
Direction, Spring 1993



# CLASSIFIED

## Adoption

(Continued from Page 1)

eral years. Patience is truly a virtue to cling to when going through the adoption process. The best way to determine which type of adoption is right for you is to read everything and learn the pitfalls and rewards of adopting.

"It's not like it used to be," said Zaitchik. "We don't have children waiting. The minute a child is born, a family has been identified for him. Remember, we work with birth parents."

For those parents looking for an infant to bring into their family, the myth that infants are scarce in terms of numbers is in fact true. According to Zaitchik, with more and more young people and single parents keeping their children as a result of society's acceptance of them, the numbers of infants ready for adoption are small. Last year, the agency placed 12 infants, the most Adoption Options has placed in a long time. The year before it was four, and before that only one.

"Many people want one (an infant), but the fact of the matter is they just don't exist. If they do, they may be the victims of alcohol or drug abuse during pregnancy."

The whole process of adoption has become much more ac-

ceptable in recent years, but there are still those who make assumptions and quick judgments about both the natural parent and adoptive parent. It may be impossible for someone to understand how a person can give up a child, until they are presented with that same situation. Zaitchik compares it to cutting off a limb, but, in most cases, giving a child up is more painful.

"A parent is making the supreme sacrifice by giving up a child. What they are in a sense saying is that I can't give my child everything he or she needs and I want a better life for him," said Zaitchik.

The joys of adopting, according to Zaitchik, far outweigh any negatives. Bringing a child into a loving family to be raised with all of the benefits of that family is something that words just can not describe. Especially at this time of year, no child should be without a family during the holiday season. The whole message of the holidays centers around the family, and what better way to create that aura than looking into adoption.

For more information on adopting, contact Adoption Options at 331-5437 and speak, confidentially, to one of their trained counselors.

## ASDS Birthday

(Continued from Page 3)

stages of development.

As about 200 images of children and educators at costume parties and in science labs, talking and studying, playing and praying flickered across the screen, the soundtrack filled the room with children's singing and teachers' voices.

"We thought we were prepared for the party, but there's something we forgot," said Bari Harlam, co-chair of the event. "We should have put tissues on the tables."

After Penney Stein was called upon to blow out the candles on the ASDS birthday cake, Rabbi Alvan Kaunfer called up ASDS alumni and past presidents to help him lead the prayers.

Happy guests then socialized and reminisced while helping themselves to waffle sundaes.

"My recollection is that the school was hatched in our living room," said Dr. Paul Alexander, a Providence resident, as he surveyed the room. "There are other people here tonight who are probably thinking the same thing."

The school began, Alexander said, when about 10 community members began to meet in each others' homes to discuss the sticky matter of where they would be sending their young children to school.

"The only options were the Orthodox Providence Hebrew Day School or secular schools, and they were not what we wanted," he explained. "I had seen very successful Conservative day schools in New Haven and Maryland."

The Alexanders had been in Providence for less than a year when the time to make a decision arrived.

"A small group of us said 'Let's try it,'" he remembered. "Our friend Ada Beth-Cutler became the teacher and Temple Emanu-El Rabbi Kaunfer, who had a young son, became the first director."

Luck and late-night fundraising sessions followed.

"It was very exciting," he said. "I remember the fundraising sessions and studying state laws about how to create a school from scratch."

According to Alexander, the small group comprised of the Kaunfers, the Alexanders, the Steins and others were fortunate to gain a good reception from the greater population.

"There were major figures who approved of the concept, and they gave us emotional and financial support," he said.

The initial group of ASDS parents was also excited by the fervor for Conservative schools that was then sweeping the nation.

"Many other cities also had Conservative day schools that they had just started, and we felt like we were part of a historical movement," Alexander said.

According to Penney Stein, as well as the practical matters of funding and working out space arrangements with Temple Emanu-El, there were ideological issues to consider.

"We wanted to combine the very best of secular education with a vibrant Judaic studies component and a Conservative philosophy," she said. "I don't know if we understood just what we were getting into. We wanted our children to be better educated than we were, and to

(Continued on Page 20)

## High School

(Continued from Page 1)

mas Pearlman are very optimistic about the proposed high school, Spingarn is aware that there are monetary matters and more that must be resolved before Mesifita can become a reality.

"We'd like to do everything, but it is much easier to raise money for a school that is up and functioning than for a school that is not yet open," Spingarn admitted.

Some \$1.9 million needs to be raised before construction can begin, and the failure of previous efforts may make potential local supporters skeptical.

Also, the article which ran in the *Providence Journal* on Nov. 9 made no mention of Rabbi Eliezer Gibber, the dean and president of the New England Rabbinical College.

Because Mesifita involves the New England Rabbinical College's building and also draws a lot of its appeal by associating itself with Rabbi Gibber, a renowned Jewish scholar and educator, his full commitment is essential to the proposed high school's success.

"We have a letter of support from Rabbi Gibber," Spingarn said.

On Nov. 10, Rabbi Gibber said that while neither he nor his school are presently involved in starting the high school, he hopes that those who are have good luck.

"This is a project of a group of lay leaders," Rabbi Gibber said. "I wish them success. If they are capable of achieving their goals, we will enter into negotiations at some future date."

## IRS Has Refunds For Area Taxpayers

The IRS is looking for 225 R.I. taxpayers who are owed a total of \$127,300 in unclaimed refunds. The average refund is \$566.

"The largest refund is \$8,363 owed to a taxpayer who has not as yet responded to any of our correspondence and the smallest is \$1," Barbara C. Shuckra, public affairs officer for the IRS Connecticut-Rhode Island District, said.

The refund checks were returned to the IRS because the U.S. Postal Service was unable to deliver them. Taxpayers may have provided an incorrect address or moved without giving the IRS their new address. The postal service does not forward refund checks.

Shuckra said the IRS continues to research its computer database to locate these taxpayers. If an income tax return showing a new address is subsequently filed, a new refund check is automatically sent.

"We hope to find these taxpayers when they file their 1998 federal income tax returns," Shuckra said.

Taxpayers should call the IRS toll-free at (800) 829-1040 to inquire about their refunds.

## Sugarman

(Continued from Page 1)

resources and lower their overhead costs revolutionized the industry, and in 1997, SCI grossed more than \$2.5 billion in the U.S. alone.

Although becoming a part of a massive corporation marks a major change for the small family business, Ms. Sugarman said that SCI will respect its long relationship with the community.

"What we say goes," she explained. "We live in this Jewish community, and we know its values and traditions. We will continue things the way they are."

According to Ms. Sugarman, Mount Sinai's present employees will remain with the company. The staff will continue to work with the same Jewish organizations, individuals, and cemeteries. There are no plans for changes in pricing or service, and all pre-arrangements will be honored.

"After the sale, we sent a letter out to the rabbis that informed them about the changes," Ms. Sugarman said. "The Jewish burial laws will be upheld. We're a service business, and we went with SCI because they know Jewish funeral service and they respect it."

According to Ms. Sugarman, SCI's numerous affiliated Jewish memorial chapels in out-of-state locations such as Massachusetts and Florida will help the Mount Sinai staff when community members die out of state.

"If someone passes away in Boston or Miami, I know that I can call a Jewish funeral home that will make sure the Jewish rituals are properly observed," she said.

Back in Rhode Island, SCI intends to help Mt. Sinai upgrade its equipment and facilities.

"The only noticeable changes will be physical improvements, and that I will be making the arrangements rather than my father," Ms. Sugarman said. "We provide a tradition of good service. We intend to continue that tradition and make it even better."

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John F. Kennedy Library and Museum, Columbia Point, Boston, Mass., is looking for volunteers. Interested persons should contact Levina Kim at (617) 929-1336. Position are limited.

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## Alternatives For Your Existing IRA Under The New Tax Law

by Denise I. Kowalewski

The Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 enhanced opportunities for millions of Americans to save for retirement. Not only did the new legislation create two new types of Individual Retirement Accounts — the Roth IRA and the Education IRA — but it enhanced traditional IRAs as well. The enhanced traditional IRA retains its most attractive features and adds new ones, such as expanded eligibility for deductions and penalty-free withdrawals for critical needs. The new Roth IRA offers a tax benefit when you withdraw funds rather than when you contribute and offers many other attractive features as well. Generally, individuals who already have a traditional IRA have the following choices under the provisions of the new legislation.

- **Maintain the existing traditional IRA.** An individual generally does not have to take any steps or change the account to enjoy the expanded deductibility and penalty-free withdrawal opportunities (for specific critical needs) that will become available in 1998.

- **Make deductible contributions to the existing traditional IRA.** Under the new, more generous deductibility rules, many more individuals will qualify for a deduction even if they have not qualified in the past.

- **Make non-deductible contributions to the existing traditional IRA.** Even if an individual

does not qualify for a deductible contribution to a traditional IRA or a contribution to the new Roth IRA, he or she may make non-deductible contributions to a traditional IRA and benefit from the many attractive features of this account.

- **Open a Roth IRA and maintain the traditional IRA.**

If an individual is eligible for a Roth IRA, he or she may contribute to a Roth IRA to take advantage of its tax-free withdrawal feature in future years, while simply maintaining his or her existing traditional IRA.

- **Contribute to both IRA accounts.** If an individual qualifies for a partially deductible IRA, he or she may wish to contribute the deductible portion to a deductible IRA and the balance to a Roth IRA, provided the combined total does not exceed \$2,000 per individual.

- **Convert all or a portion of the existing IRA to a Roth IRA.** There is no premature distribution penalty tax when an eligible individual converts all or a portion of an existing IRA to a Roth IRA. Income taxes must be paid on the taxable amount converted, however the taxable amount can be spread over a four-year period if the conversion takes place in 1998.

Part 3 of a series of financial articles courtesy of Dean Witter Reynolds, 1900 Hospital Trust Plaza, Providence, RI 02903.

## Alperin Schechter Celebrates Its 20th Year

(Continued from Page 19)

be comfortable in both the secular and Jewish worlds."

The school's early egalitarian approach to secular and Jewish education and preference for inquiry-based methods of teaching that encourage individual thinking have remained very much a part of ASDS.

One year after its 1978 opening, the school, which was originally called the Conservative Jewish Day School of Rhode Island, officially affiliated itself with the Solomon Schechter movement than then included more than 60 Conservative day schools in the U.S. and Canada.

Renaming itself the Solomon Schechter Day School of Rhode Island, the school began to gain in popularity and started to add a grade every year until from 1979 to 1987, when it was finally able to offer grades K through 8.

Shortly thereafter, it was again renamed and became the Ruth and Max Alperin Schechter Day School to recognize the support of the Alperin-Hirsch family.

"The next milestone came in 1988, when we had our first double class," Stein remembered. "Now, with rare exceptions, there are at least two classes per grade."

Stein termed the growth "tremendous."

"ASDS has taken on a life of its own," she said. "It's a wonderful, living institution."

Alumni at the Anniversary Alumni from Schechter classes recent and remote made their way back to school for the birthday celebration.

Large groups of recent graduates pulled up to single tables and socialized, but still found some time for contemplation.

"I was really young when I



SUSAN FROEHLICH, left, Jana Brenman and Merrylee Felder created a video about ASDS that was introduced during its 20th birthday party.

Herald photos by Emily Torgan-Shalansky

came here and I loved it the whole time," said Ilana Licht, a '96 graduate who is now a student at Wheeler. "It taught me a lot about leadership. I learned to relate to the teachers and be an individual."

Two members of the ASDS' first class, Rachel Alexander and Dan Stein, also attended the party.

"I feel fortunate to have been taught Judaic studies at the beginning so I could be a leader rather than having to catch up later," said Alexander, a development associate at the Jewish Women's Archive. "I acquired

a love of the Jewish community here. Also, because I graduated from such a small class, I learned that I had a voice and that my voice was important."

Dan Stein, a director at the Dorot Foundation, said that he was surprised to see so many people he did not know.

Although he also attends functions at The Wheeler School and the University of Rochester, where he graduated from high school and college, Stein said that ASDS is a special place for him.

"While I was going to Schechter, I grew up," he said.

## Chanukah is Approaching...

**Chanukah begins December 13, 1998**

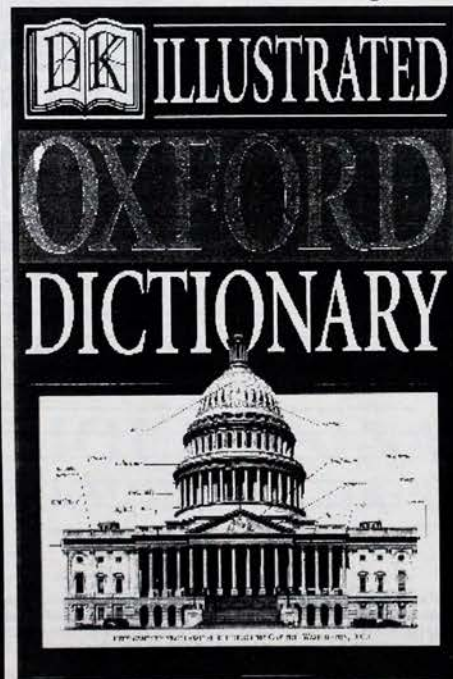
The Rhode Island Jewish Herald will be publishing its annual Chanukah Greetings Issue on December 10, 1998.

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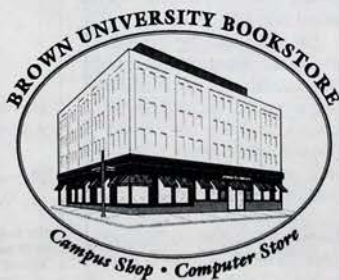
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