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# Rhode Island Jewish HERALD

Jewish  
Community  
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## What Were The Top Issues Affecting Jews in 1998?

Attempts to erode the separation of church and state; the highs and lows of the Middle East peace process; a rash of hate crimes and Holocaust restitution issues dominated the Anti-Defamation League's annual list of Top Ten issues affecting the American Jewish community in 1998.

"Attempts to knock down the wall between church and state and the Middle East peace process continued to be issues gripping the American Jewish community," said Howard P. Berkowitz, ADL national chairman, and Abraham H. Foxman, ADL national director. "Efforts such as the misleadingly named 'Religious Freedom Amendment,' which was rejected by the House of Representatives, were dangerous assaults on religious liberty and nothing more than religious coercion in disguise."

### The ADL's 1998 Top Ten Issues

Among the major attempts to erode the wall between church and state was a proposed constitutional amendment that would have allowed organized prayer in public schools during school hours, other forms of religious expres-

sion on public property, and federal funding of religious school, religiously affiliated groups, and religious activities. While a majority of the U.S. House of Representatives voted for the amendment, it failed to get the two-thirds vote needed for passage.

**The Israeli and Palestinian peace process experienced highs and lows.** In the same year that Israel celebrated its 50th year as a Jewish State, the Israeli-Palestinian peace process took an important step forward. After 18 months of stalemate, Israelis and Palestinians signed the Wye River agreement. However, the continuing issue of Palestinian compliance, the fall of the Netanyahu government and the scheduled elections in April could once again put the progress of the peace process on hold.

**Hate reared its ugly head.** The brutal, racially motivated murder of an African American by suspects linked to white supremacist groups in Jasper, Texas, and the vicious, bias murder of a gay University of Wyoming student shocked and horrified the entire nation.

While an ADL pool showed that the number of Americans who hold strongly anti-Semitic

views has dropped from 20 percent to 12 percent since 1992, it revealed that there are still 20 to 25 million Americans who fit that description.

**Issues surrounding Holocaust restitution continue to unfold.** Switzerland's two largest banks reached a large settlement in a lawsuit against them for material losses suffered by

"Attempts to knock down the wall between church and state and the Middle East peace process continued to be issues gripping the American Jewish community."

Howard P. Berkowitz,  
ADL national chairman, and  
Abraham H. Foxman,  
ADL national director.

the Jews of Europe during the Holocaust. In the wake of the settlement, probes continue into countries, insurance companies and businesses about their role during the Holocaust era.

**Fundamental Muslim extremists and Palestinian terrorists escalated their attacks on the United States and Israel** with the bombings of U.S. embassies in Nairobi, Kenya and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and the bombings of civilian-populated centers in Israel. These terrorist actions claimed the lives of hundreds of innocent people and injured thousands more.

In Israel, Islamic militant extremists continued to target Israelis with attacks in Beersheba, Tel Aviv, the Gaza Strip, and on the West Bank.

**The United States' crack down on terrorism.** Convictions in the fight against terrorism took place in New York City, Denver, Oklahoma City, and Bridgeview, Ill. With tough new anti-terrorism laws and large increases in anti-terrorism funding, the FBI reportedly is scrutinizing some 20 U.S. groups with suspected links to terrorists, and grand juries in New York, Chicago and Tampa are investigating a number of radical Islamic groups.

**Historic anti-Semitism in Russia renewed amidst economic and social turmoil.** Economic turmoil and social dislocation in Russia gave rise to renewed anti-Semitism. Among a

slew of incidents, the most serious were the anti-Semitic statements made by several elected officials, including the head of the Communist party, and the lack of response from the Russian Parliament.

**Farrakhan's anti-Semitism.** Minister Louis Farrakhan, leader of the Nation of Islam was afforded a platform by the nationally acclaimed NBC news program "Meet the Press." Farrakhan used the television platform to promote his anti-Semitic lunatic conspiracy charges, his demagoguery, and his anti-American hostility.

Farrakhan protégés Khalid Muhammad and Malik Shabazz, who have long established records of virulent racism, anti-Semitism, and bigotry, led the Million Youth March in Harlem, New York, to spread their violence-laden rhetoric.

**The United Nations General Assembly acknowledged anti-Semitism as racism** in an historic and long overdue decision. The step was particularly significant due to the United Nation's omission of any direct reference to the Holocaust or specifically to Jewish victims of World War II in its 1995 declara-

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## Berkson Brings Jewish Music to Community and Beyond

by Emily Torgan-Shalansky  
Jewish Community Reporter

When Laura Berkson is speaking rather than singing, it's her kindness that is initially striking.

Sitting in a Temple Shalom classroom wearing a homespun sweater and a warm grin, Berkson seems more like an old friend than a musician whose original Judaic and folk music are garnering increasing national recognition.

"I'm like a juggler, but I can't actually juggle," laughed Berkson of her hectic schedule, which centers around a seamless voice that infuses her songs of celebration, political rebellion and love with her passionate convictions.

A 40-year-old resident of Kingston, Berkson also works hard at sharing her talents locally.

In addition to being a singer, songwriter, educator and performer who has produced two recordings, "Laura Berkson" (1989) and "Wiggle and Swish" with Laura Berkson and

Friends" (1995), she also serves as director of music at Temple Shalom, teaches at Alperin Schechter Day School, and is an artist-in-residence at Hasbro Children's Hospital.

After requesting that local musicians Fishel Bressler and Bill Harley receive credit for their "many contributions" to "Wiggle and Swish," Berkson explained her calling.

"My feeling is that when you're singing, you're praying," she said. "Anytime you share it, you spread that gift around. When you involve people in singing and groups, you break down a lot of barriers between them."

Berkson is particularly interested in Jewish music.

"When I work with music that is Jewish in origin, I feel it's the best way for me to express who I am," she said.

Berkson then discussed herself with the same directness that envelops her lyrics.

"I am very concerned about social justice and peace, and helping people to connect in a

way that makes them see past the surface," she said.

Berkson developed her interest in Jewish music after taking up the piano during her Buffalo, NY, childhood.

As a teen-ager from a Reform home, she was very active in NFTY and went on to attend a UHAC camp.

"That was during the '70s, and there was a lot of new Reform music coming out then," she said. "I listened to a lot of Debbie Friedman, and Jeff Klepper and Dan Freedlander were my camp counselors. I was moved spiritually by the new music in a way that I had never been before."

Berkson began writing songs about the current events and social issues that she had learned about in her youth group, and used her music to help her get through the difficulties of an itinerant childhood that eventually brought her family to Providence.

Although the family moved yet again, Berkson retained her fond memories of the state throughout her years at Vassar



Laura Berkson

College, where she majored in psychology and taught music at a local synagogue.

After completing an M.A. in Jewish communal service at Brandeis University, Berkson returned to Rhode Island to serve as director of family life and Jewish experience at the JCCRI.

"Part of that job was to do intergenerational music programming," she remembered. "It was really fun."

After more than two years at

the JCCRI, Berkson left her position to spend several years performing on the national folk music circuit and at women's festivals.

"I did a lot of touring and I loved it," she said of the 51 different coffeehouses, clubs, festivals and events she played in during her time on the circuit. "I loved getting to know people from all over the country, and I did all right at it."

(Continued on Page 15)

# HAPPENINGS

## Entertainment For Children

The Providence Children's Museum 100 South St., Providence, announces the following January activities. Call 273-KIDS.

### January

- 7 **Play & Learn**, 3 to 4:30 p.m., young learners ages 2 to 4 are invited to play games that stretch their imaginations and skills in the cozy environment of *Littlewoods*.
- 8 **Music Makers**, 9:40 a.m. to 1:50 p.m., preschoolers ages 3 to 5 get into the rhythm and find a passion for percussion. Kids bang and shake an array of rhythmic instruments, exploring their historic origins and traditional uses. They then create their own drums so the beat can go on at home. Pre-registration for an 8-week series is recommended for this program. Call 273-KIDS, ext 234, for enrollment information. There may be space available for same day registration. There is a \$1 fee above the price of admission for same day registration.
- 9 **Pets & People**, 1 to 3 p.m., visitors ages 5 and up meet and cuddle two friendly rabbits. Touching the bunnies' soft fur, and asking questions of animal experts, kids learn the basics of rabbit care and find out if a rabbit is the right pet for their families.
- 10 **Violin Vibes**, 1 to 3 p.m., kids ages 7 and up hear a young violin virtuoso share the rewards of practicing and playing. Kids learn the intricacies of fingering, plucking and bowing. After hearing a tune-up and a masterful performance, musicians-to-be get a chance to finger a fiddle themselves. Same day registration at admissions desk. There is no additional fee beyond the price of admission.

**If you have an event you would like featured on our Happenings Page, please send it to the Rhode Island Jewish Herald, P.O. Box 6063, Providence, R.I. 02940 or FAX 726-5820**

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## Calendar: January 7th thru January 14th

- 7 **Mystic Seaport** is offering free admission during "Library Free Days," for library cardholders from Washington County. Jan. 7 through Feb. 12. A 50 percent discount will apply for one accompanying guest. Winter hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call (888) 9SEAPORT.
- 8 **There may be a chill in the air** but golfers will descend upon the Rhode Island Convention Center for the Rhode Island Golf Show Jan. 8 through 10. Call 458-6000 for information.
- 9 **Do you tango?** Do you want to learn? Join the fun at Knights of Columbus Hall, 1047 Park Ave., Cranston. Tango lessons 7 to 8 p.m. and dancing from 8 p.m. to midnight. Coffee, tea and pastry. Smoke-free. \$10 per person, couples and singles welcome. Call 821-4108. Sponsored by K & S Music.
- Stone Soup Coffeehouse**, 15 Hayes St., Providence, presents singer/songwriters Laura Berkson and Mary Ann Rossoni, 8 p.m. Tickets \$8. Call 781-0061.
- Providence Performing Arts**, 220 Weybosset St., Providence, presents the Big Screen Movie Series with Rogers and Hammerstein's "The King and I." 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. Call 421-ARTS.
- The Stadium Theatre**, Monument Square, Main St., Woonsocket, presents John Cafferty and the Beaver Brown Band. 8 p.m. Tickets \$10. Call 762-4044.
- 10 **Leventhal-Sidman Jewish Community Center**, 333 Nahanton St., Newton, Mass., presents recording and performing artist Bill Harley. Harley will perform for the Magic Ark Series, Jan. 10 at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Tickets are \$7. Call (617) 965-5226.
- Champions on Ice 1999 Winter Tour**. Featuring Oksana Baiul, Brian Boitano and Dorothy Hamill, Providence Civic Center, 3 p.m. Call 331-2211 to charge by phone.
- Join the Jewish 49ers** for an afternoon of candlepin bowling, Fairway Bowling, 721 Worcester Road, Natick, Mass. 1 p.m. To reserve your lane, call Margie (617) 469-9171 or Roz (508) 872-1715.
- Greg Picollo and Heavy Juice** bring their jazz sound to Mohegan Sun, Mohegan Sun Boulevard (exit 79A off 395), Uncasville, Conn. Call (800) 294-8000.
- Camp JORI reunion and open house** at the Jewish Community Center, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence. 2 to 4 p.m. To receive information and application materials, call 521-2655.
- 12 **The Providence Bruins** take on the Springfield Falcons at the Providence Civic Center, One Lasalle Square, Providence. The puck drops at 7:05 p.m. Tickets can be charged by calling the box office at 273-5000.
- The Cranston Public Library Auburn Branch**, 396 Pontiac Ave, offers a family reading program, beginning Jan. 12. The program teaches reading, writing and basic computer skills to adults and their children. Tuesday and Thursday evenings, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Call John at 781-6116 for info.
- 13 **The Wizard of Oz on Ice**, Providence Civic Center, Jan. 13 through 17. Tickets \$10. Call 331-2211 to charge by phone.
- Mount Hope Bay Chorus** performs at the East Providence Senior Center, Waterman and Pawtucket Avenues, East Providence, 7:15 p.m. Call 821-1124.
- Hospice Care of Rhode Island** is offering a six-week bereavement support group for adults grieving the death of a loved one. The group will meet each Wednesday, beginning Jan. 13 through Feb. 17, at 7 p.m. HCRI office, 169 George St., Pawtucket. Call 727-7070.
- The Showcase Cinema**, Seekonk, 775 Fall River Ave., will show the open captioned version of "ANTZ" to deaf and hard-of-hearing. Check local listings for times or call (508) 336-4965.

## Drama Workshop for Young Adults at the Library

Students in grades 6 through 9 are invited to participate in a drama workshop at the Barrington Public Library led by Angela Brayman. Brayman has studied Theatre Arts in New York City and has coached theater programs for children of all ages. Students will be given the opportunity to explore various acting techniques. No previous drama experience is necessary.

The workshop will be offered Monday evenings, Jan. 25 through Feb. 22, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Registration is required and begins Jan. 11 by phone at 247-1920, ext. 2, or in person at the library's reference desk. This program is free and is sponsored by the Friends of the Barrington Public Library. Space is limited.

## Take a Winter Walk at Fisherville Brook Wildlife Refuge

Enjoy a leisurely stroll around the pond at Fisherville Brook Wildlife Refuge in search of wildlife in winter during the Winter Walk on Jan. 9 at 10 a.m. From frolicking otters, to bluebirds, to snowfleas, there is plenty of life to be observed even in the "dead" of winter.

The fee for this program is \$3 for Audubon members, \$5 for non-members, \$1 for member child, \$2 for non-member child. To register, call 949-5454.

Winter can be one of the most peaceful times to visit Fisherville Brook. Although the refuge appears to lack the wildlife activity found in spring and fall, there is still plenty to observe during this quiet period.

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

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Barney's, East Avenue, Pawtucket  
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Lower East Side Deli & Market, Hope St.  
EastSide Marketplace, Pitman St.  
East Side Prescription Center, Hope St.  
Rhoda's Judaica, Hope St.

# JEWISH COMMUNITY

## J&W University Appoints Lefkowitz Jewish Chaplain

by Emily Torgan-Shalansky  
Jewish Community Reporter

Rabbi Benjamin Lefkowitz is not completely certain that he is the first-ever Jewish chaplain to serve at Johnson and Wales University, but he does know that his new part-time position will keep him very busy.

"The vice president of the J&W Hillel Association 'guesstimated' that there are about 1,000 Jewish students here," he said. "Before I came, Jewish Service Campus Corps fellows from the Brown-RISD Hillel were spending time here, but the students needed more."

ism or deepen it," he explained. "I want to awaken, or maybe reawaken, that sense of connection in them. I want to help them in terms of recognizing their needs as Jewish students."

Placing Jewish spirituality and activities directly into J&W mainstream life is one of Rabbi Lefkowitz's main objectives.

"For the first time this year, we had High Holy Day services here," he said. "In the past, the students made arrangements to go to local synagogues, or to the Brown-RISD Hillel."

Rabbi Lefkowitz also brought an Ark from his home and set it

many are mature beyond their years."

Together, Rabbi Lefkowitz and the students worked on planning a Hanukkah party, a trip to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., and more.

Also, because J&W is on a trimester system, the rabbi looks for Jewishly oriented programs abroad and at home that will be compatible with the somewhat unusual schedule.

As a Jewish chaplain, Rabbi Lefkowitz also provides counseling services for the students who drop by his office.

"We talk about how campus life is going," he said. "It's mostly about personal issues, but there are sometimes Jewish questions as well."

According to the rabbi, he is also responsible for representing the J&W Jewish community.

"I'm doing diplomatic work, and I wasn't even confirmed by the Senate," he laughed. "I make the needs of the non-Jewish community known to the Jewish community."

During the High Holidays Rabbi Lefkowitz received many calls from students and their parents who were concerned about missing classes during the High Holidays.

"One of the first things I did here was to circulate a university-wide memo explaining why Jewish students would be absent. I'm helping the students to understand how to make such concerns known."

According to the rabbi, the J&W administration has been very receptive to his concerns.

"Every time I have raised an issue they have been very attentive, and that's very important," he said. "If I can establish the feeling that this is a good place to be Jewish as well as to get an education I will really have accomplished something."

## Museum of the Mikveh is Back

Bigger and Better  
Than Ever

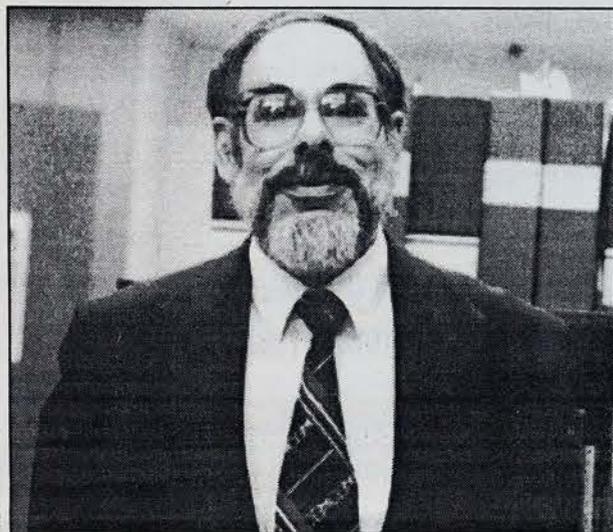
The Mikveh Outreach International program, under the leadership of its founder and director, Rabbi Imanuel Ravad, has renewed its national activities, recovering from the loss last year of its van holding much of its traveling Museum of the Mikveh exhibits. Rabbi Ravad voices his thanks and appreciation to a private donor who recently supplied a larger vehicle that was formerly used as an ambulance and converted into a replacement to transport the traveling museum exhibit. Rabbi Ravad has added new titles to his already lengthy list of Mikveh Outreach articles and publications. He is the author of "To Stand Alone With G-d" and "Where Are My Children? Where Are My Flowers?" and a

highly effective video presentation on the origins and importance of the mikveh for Jews of all backgrounds.

Rabbi Ravad has been committed to promoting the cause of Mikveh Outreach in Jewish communities around the world for more than two decades. He has appeared at the most prominent conventions and gatherings of world Jewish leaders and educators in order to spread the message of Mikveh Outreach and distribute his educational materials. He has lectured on mikveh education and related Jewish topics in Jewish communities large and small across the continent.

His publications, in several different languages, are designed to appeal to Jews of all backgrounds. They explain the

(Continued on Page 15)



Rabbi Benjamin Lefkowitz

According to Rabbi Lefkowitz, the university wanted Jewish leadership that would be a direct part of their community.

"Having a rabbi on campus is good," he said. "It's good in terms of the Jewish presence, and also in that it makes people feel that there is someone here who is solely devoted to Jewish issues."

Beyond the J&W campus, Rabbi Lefkowitz is also currently serving as rabbi at Temple Beth Sholom in Hull, Mass., and as chaplain at Star of David in West Roxbury, Mass. As an adjunct instructor at Stonehill College in Easton, Mass., and at the Community College of Rhode Island, Rabbi Lefkowitz has experience in both religious and academic settings.

As his new responsibilities develop at J&W, he is utilizing prior experience from both settings, for as a Jewish chaplain, Rabbi Lefkowitz hopes to generate a greater sense of Jewish identity directly on campus.

"I want to see the Jewish students grow as people and maintain their connection with Juda-

up in McNulty Hall for the holiday and Shabbat services that are presently conducted with borrowed Torahs.

"We hope to obtain a Torah of our own," Rabbi Lefkowitz said. "We will be looking to students, their families, the community and other resources for a Torah that will be our own rather than one on loan."

So far, the rabbi said, his work with the J&W Hillel club to promote Jewish activities on campus has received a very enthusiastic response.

"I find the students very enjoyable," he said. "They're very eager to connect Jewishly, and



THE NEW MOBILE HOME of the museum exhibits of Mikveh Outreach International/Mikva=Tikva as it tours Jewish communities large and small throughout North America.

Photo courtesy of Mikveh Outreach International

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# OPINION

## National Conference on Soviet Jewry Condemns Latest Anti-Semitic Tirade by Russian Communist Party Chief

The National Conference on Soviet Jewry condemns the latest attempt by the Russian Communist Party leader Gennady Zyuganov to blame the Jewish people and Zionism for the serious economic and social problems besetting the Russian Federation today.

At a time when Zyuganov should apologize for not taking appropriate action against members of his party for fanning the flames of hatred and intolerance, he instead further escalated the problem. Zyuganov sent a letter to Russia's national security chief and justice minister that is littered with some of the worst anti-Semitic, anti-Zionist language used by a senior Russian elected official since the fall of the Soviet Union.

Zyuganov's comparison of Fascism to Zionism is completely unacceptable and is one more attempt by the Russian Communist Party to rewrite history. It appears Zyuganov wants to return to the dark days of the USSR when "anti-Zionism" was interchangeable with "anti-Semitism."

Earlier anti-Semitic comments by Russian Communist Duma members General Albert Makashov and Viktor Llyukin were seen as ugly and unfortunate, but were considered by some as isolated cases. However, when the leader of one of the largest political parties in Russia issues an extreme message of hate, it is time for the Russian government and those in Russia who believe in an open and free society to speak out forcefully in condemning Zyuganov's message and his political party.

NCSJ calls upon President Boris Yeltsin and Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov to immediately condemn Zyuganov. They should take appropriate action to ensure that Zyuganov's harmful and dangerous views do not become an acceptable and larger part of the political discourse in Russia.

*The National Conference on Soviet Jewry is a coalition of 48 national organizations and more than 300 local community councils and federations.*

## Super Bowl Mysticism

by Mordechai Siev

In 1997, I watched the Super Bowl with a group of students at Tel-Aviv University. As the Packers advanced on the Patriots, I racked my brain to think of some words of Torah I could present at half-time to inspire the students and turn the affair into a holy gathering.

The ending horn sounded. After some refreshments, I opened my remarks by saying that the most important thing on a football team is unity and a support system. The many individuals have to make sacrifices for the good of the whole team. As an ex-offensive tackle, I can attest to that strongly. Similarly, *Chasidut* demands of us the same kind of self-sacrifice and humility, even for a Jew you have never met before, and tells us that *ahavat Yisrael* (love for every Jew) is the basis of the whole Torah.

Here is another parallel. *Chasidut* teaches us about diminishing our bodily needs as a way to get closer to our spiritual po-

tential. In football, too, you sometimes have to "give up your body" to break the wedge or throw a down-field block, which is a kind of self-sacrifice for the cause.

There is also an idea in football that in order to advance the ball, you may have to take a step back or go on an end-around in order to run a long distance just to get back to cross the line of scrimmage where you started, and hopefully gain some yardage. Chasidic doctrine explains that the soul has to make a descent into a body in order to accomplish an ascent after 120 years in this world. Although you may take one step back by failing a test in Judaism, you can then go two steps forward. We should always be in the process of moving even if it temporarily knocks us down, rather than just remaining at the same level.

Finally there is the idea in football (and in all sports) of a comeback, the "cardiac kids" who never give up or ever think that all hope is lost. Chasidut

tells us that a Jew is never lost no matter how far away from the Torah "team" he or she seems to be. The soul-spark inside always remains pure and holy, and is never disconnected from its source.

This also applies for any level of *teshuva* (return); it is never too late.

All the times I've watched football I could never really understand why it captivated me so totally. Now, after putting together a parallel between football and *Chasidut* that the kids at Tel-Aviv University could understand and relate to, it all comes together.

I realize that we have to learn to see how all aspects of our lives are interconnected, and how G-d is part of every one of these aspects, even the most mundane. We need to integrate, harmoniously and in a practical manner, the spiritual and physical in our lives. Moshiach Now!

*Reprinted with permission from The Ascent Quarterly. Safed, Israel.*

## The Community Failed With One of Their Own

To the Editor:

My wife and I would like to extend a *yashar koach* to Jeffery Weener for his gallant effort at raising the level of *yiddishkeit* in Rhode Island. The Lower East Side Deli opened its doors on Hope Street just over a year ago. Kosher traditional and gourmet food were prepared under the diligent supervision of Rabbi Mitchell Levine who runs the VAAD. *Glatt* meat and *cholov yisrael* cheese were routinely sold. Most importantly, the store was *shomer shabbat* (closed during the Sabbath). The deli also prepared kosher food for Jewish patients at the Miriam Hospital. Weener brought honor to our Jewish community when he opened his business.

A couple of weeks ago Weener had to close his doors as his kosher *shomer shabbat* deli was not as successful as he wished. The only twist on this story is that his deli was a success from the start. It was the Jewish Community who failed to see its obligation of being a partner in his business.

The Reform, Conservative, and Orthodox movements in Rhode Island share in this failure for a multitude of reasons of little merit. I suggest we take a moment to look into a mirror and ask our reflection who we are. Weener did a year ago and knew the answer.

Steven Schechter, M.D.  
Providence, R.I.

## 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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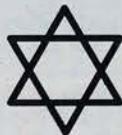
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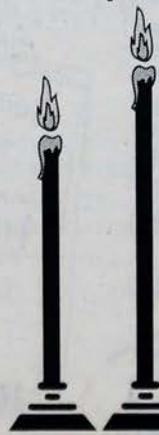
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## Candlelighting

January 8, 1999

4:15 p.m.



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

## It's Not Where We Start It's Where We End Up

With the possible exception of *Parashat Bereshit*, it is difficult to find another Torah portion that covers as much time as *Shemot* does. According to our tradition, Moses' life was divided into three segments, each 40 years in length. In this week's *parashah* we fast-forward through the first two of those segments. In a mere five chapters, we cover eight decades in the life of this remarkable leader, including his birth, his existence as a prince in Egypt, and his initial encounters with G-d in the desert. However, it takes the rest of the year for us to learn about the remaining 40 years of Moses' life.

Why, one wonders, is such a disproportionate amount of attention paid to the later third of Moses' life? Certainly a person's childhood and adolescence are critical in shaping his or her vision of the world. Moses especially must have been deeply affected by the circumstances of his birth and his subsequent disconnection from both his real and adopted families. Surely these experiences, as well as the

episode in which Moses witnesses the burning bush, merit more than just a telescopic treatment in the Torah.

Perhaps the brief chronicle of Moses' first 80 years and the lack of emphasis the Torah places on this period are meant to be perceived as a message. By speeding through the description of Moses' early and middle years, the Torah is making the statement that beginnings are less important than endings in life. In other words, a human

being's worth is not determined by where that individual came from but rather by what that person ultimately accomplished.

This message has tremendous relevance for us today. Too often we spend our time dwelling on the past instead of focusing on our ultimate goal in life. What really counts is where our experiences lead us and what we have learned along the way.

This week's *parashah* encourages us to ask ourselves tough questions about where our own personal journey is leading. Are we still growing and learning? What is it that we seek? Are we moving in the right direction toward a worthwhile destination? Are we basking in the sun of a previous generation's accomplishments, or are we endeavoring to make our own mark in the world?

One final word. Only after Moses has undergone the initial stages of growth and development is he ready to embark on his most important journey and assume the mantle of responsibility of leading the Children of Israel through the desert. And how old is he when he begins the final segment of his life? Eighty years old. Perhaps it's time that we who live in a society that tends to worship whatever is young and new seriously reconsider how important and valuable our seniors really are.

Philip Bregman is the rabbi at Temple Shalom in Vancouver, B.C.

## Living Torah



## Twilight Toast

by Mike Fink  
Herald Contributing Reporter

My daughter just won early admission to Columbia. Please, drink a toast to her success!" Rob Handwerker joined me at the window table in the cafe with a smile and a handshake. It was midmorning break time. "I can only stay for a couple of minutes," he added.

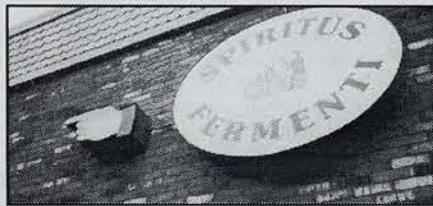
"Then, how can we do a proper clink of glasses?" Rob has a lot of style. Under the now silver mane there is a leonine, proud face with a beaming grin. He was once my student, and bears the mark of an era of showmanship and panache. "You do learn a few things as time goes by. You look around at the beautiful things you took for granted when you were just looking for kicks.

"I'll tell you what. You go down when your day is done, this afternoon, to the lounge that overlooks the rink. Order a Patron tequila margarita." He folded eight single dollars, clipped the roll together with a note spelling out the cocktail,

handed them over to me with a flourish, and took off.

Well, what could I do? I followed his instructions to the letter.

He offered me a sunbeam on a winter's day, soft as it was at twilight. The glass was large and wide. I sipped the potion and squeezed the slice of lime. Can I finish this well of loneliness, I wondered. Then, as if by



Have One on Me. Herald photo by Mike Fink

magic, it seemed to taste exquisite. A bearded gent appeared on the stool at my left, rather like an ancient mariner, an Elijah.

"My name is Bob Wurafic," he told me, and gave me his card that read, "Ph.D., Director, Psychological Potentials."

"I have a strange tale to tell you over your cup," he went on. "Did you know that the mafia has a Jewish root in southern Italy? Northern nobles raided the villages and countryside like the pogroms of the Russian steppes. But a group of Jewish shochets used their knowledge of knives to wreak revenge, or rather to protect the women and infants. After they had slain the leader of the murderous gang, others would send money to help out the widows and children of their victims. The mafia began as a search for justice and independence in a world of privilege and cruelty. Read your history and you can check out these facts. And then, if you analyze my name, you'll find out it means, truth-teller."

The great thing about public houses is that you can make poetic, philosophical, even intimate statements that would make no sense at all in familiar territory, your home, your office, your neighborhood.

That's all, folks, in the words of Mel Blanc. Just a l'chaim beracha to the start of a college career, and a p'ri hagafen to the freedom fighters on the pages of our history. Just a song at twilight for a gloomy month when you need a steaming cup of hot chocolate, a tropical treat with a twist of lemon or lime, or a ballad straight up in your heart.

## Author, Animator

by Mike Fink  
Herald Contributing Reporter

Judi Dench looks great in the gear of an empress. You may have seen her as Victoria in "Mrs. Brown." The same director, John Madden, gets her all gussied up as Elizabeth in "Shakespeare in Love," and it's by far the best thing about his new release.

The costumes, mostly. Sandy Powell primps her in outlandish, outrageous gowns that do a lot for an otherwise quite ordinary flick. Once Bess shows up, you wake up.

The Bard is suffering from a broken quill, in both senses of the term, and only a conflict of class and duty

can help him to pen "Romeo" and to bed his beloved. The predictable plot and its blatant treatment pack none of the wit, charm, and odd appeal of "Mrs. Brown." Maybe the problem lies in the casting. Does Will have to be a matinee idol? Can't his eloquence alone call out to the ladies?

"Gods and Monsters" tells a stranger story of love's labors lost, but with a similar theme. James Whale, creator of the Frankenstein monster movies and also the 1936 "Showboat," has lost his skills and hopes and waits listlessly for renewal. He

finds it in the person of his yardman. But his accomplishment, his revival, is death by drowning in his own luxurious swimming pool.

Ian McKellen's outfits are terrific, sweater-vests with neckties in the California sunshine among the British gardens. I found them more interesting than the beefcake characters who flash back in his memories of the wild parties he used to throw.

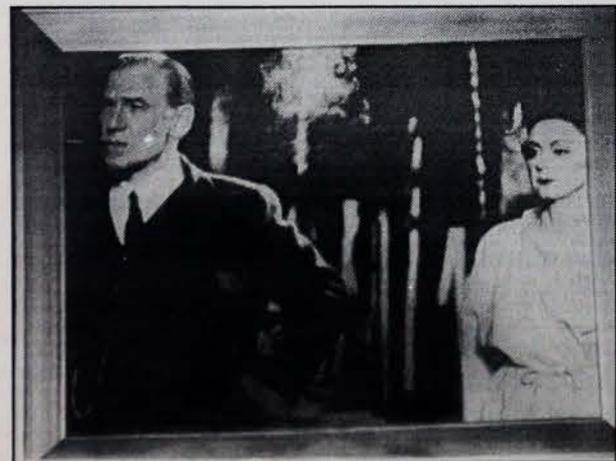
I stared at the face of housekeeper Lynn Redgrave, trying to connect its features to the youthful, playful Lynn of yore and yesteryear. She puts in a fine performance. I liked "Gods and Monsters" for its sensitive and subtle strands, although they do blur in the melodramatic glare. I would wish for deeper insights into the director's film art, studio plight, literary sources. He is proud of "Showboat," but we are never told why, what it meant to him, how we might rediscover half forgotten masterpieces that should rise beyond the day's entertainment into treasures for future generations.

An echo of "Love and Anarchy in Long Island" gives a deja vu familiarity to the haunting fable of a gay elder and straight junior who hit it off beyond belief.

Are we turning to the cinema to replace, rather than to enhance, the library? Ah, well I remember the summers of reading, followed by the release of Hollywood's crib notes, and musing, "the author did it better than the producer."



Director & Star



## Bravo for a Brave One

by Mike Fink  
Herald Contributing Reporter

Some of us are born with a built-in resistance to suburbia. Wayne Jewett used to bring tokens offerings to my office salon at R.I.S.D. in the early '70s. Shells, bones, sticks from his native South County trails. I couldn't believe I had a local yokel in my class with a rare and wondrous love of place. Wayne was a great talker as well as a fabulous walker. He spoke up in the lecture rooms and in the smaller, more private audiences we used to have around my desk, an endless seminar mix of repartee and rhetoric.

Wayne liked the old Wakefield, but not the new drive-in downtown. He haunted the riverbanks and ran the roads and beaches, but only off-season. He made me a walking stick of bamboo with a chestnut knob to hold onto, a Mosaic staff. Actually, he even gave me a fisherman's cloak against the winter winds.

Wayne Jewett was somehow born with an Indian's soul. The Narragansett Tribe was reforming itself with careful attention to bloodlines. I brought Princess Redwing to class to tell its tale. But Wayne found a zen zigzag and enlightened me on tribal truths without any genealogical genetics. I think I was like that as a youngster, when the W.P.A. conservation projects gave you some values you couldn't get from mainstream sources, even at home.

Wayne appointed me an elder as we strolled, or jogged, the strand at Canonchet, in midwinter. Our alliance had something surreal, like a passage out of a Mohican legend.

Like some yank at Oxford, Wayne just left R.I.S.D. without shaping a nice useful major and moved back from town to country, while country was itself turning into town, retreating like an otter. I took to popping in on his flats and chambers the way he had done at my digs years before.

I only paid my solitary call once per vacation summer, just before going back to work. Always, I found him cordial, amiable, a little distant. He might be studying music, composing and performing ballads on a stringed

instrument. He might be sculpting bas reliefs with found objects, the skulls of wild creatures, the things the seasons leave behind to inspire us. We talked about ideas, not gossip about people, but parables about our companion animals. For a while he had a lady in his life, likewise a former student, who had been a botanist and illustrator, and also a model. But Wayne had an elusive and heroic quality, and the sturdy and definite profile and lean figure to express his search, even in silhouette. He got around on his quest with a bicycle, and I might find him working in some repair shop if I brought my own or my children's bikes in to have a chain fitted, a tire patched, or a seat raised or lowered. Rarely, he would even cycle by and spend a few moments catching up en route. Yes, we talked about our Jewish roots and rituals, the tribal totems we shared in common. His brother even fought in the Israeli army.

But then, out of the blue, a postcard arrived at my brick homestead. "I Cover the Waterfront," it read. From January 4 through the 29th at the East Greenwich Photo Gallery on the second floor of 631 Main St., I can look through the "drawings and watercolors of wooden boats, wild shorelines, and other scenes of the Rhode Island coast." The illustration on the notice reads... steaming through the breachway of Galilee." I hummed the tune to the old ballad with that same title, "I Cover the Waterfront."

I haven't seen the show yet, as of this writing. But I have some early watercolors Wayne did as an undergraduate. He gave me a neatly matted, softly rose pastel sketch of the University Club, seen from across the street by way of the fire escape balcony of my studio. And another, an oil, of the rather grim downtown cityscape of twin decades past. I can't recall the words of our rich conversations of that time when protest was moving toward ecological awareness. But the images say it still if I look again at their handwriting symbols on my walls. A remarkable and fine fellow. I'm so glad he's having a show. Gladly would he learn and gladly teach.

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# JEWISH COMMUNITY

## Moscovitz to Head American Associates, Ben-Gurion University

On Jan. 18, Bernard C. Moscovitz will join the American Associates, Ben-Gurion University as its new executive vice president. He comes to AABGU from National United Jewish Appeal where he served as chief professional officer since 1995. Moscovitz turned his talents to the not-for-profit world in 1988 after a highly successful 15-year career in advertising and marketing. His creative organizational, marketing and campaign strategies have benefited the Jewish Federation and Combined Jewish Appeal in his native Montreal and the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County as well as National UJA where he was instrumental in creating the joint operating partnership between UJA and CJF.

Moscovitz said he is excited about assuming the reins at AABGU noting, "The organization has enjoyed rapid growth in its fund-raising endeavors over the past few years and is poised for even more significant growth. I find that incredibly stimulating."

He adds, "What also attracted me to AABGU is the reality that Ben-Gurion University of the Negev represents everything that is exciting about the Israel of today and tomorrow. It is in the forefront in high tech; in the humanities and intercultural relations; in medicine, engineering and desert studies. It is as much about the future of Israel and its place in the world as any institution."

Moscovitz is enthusiastic

about what he calls the "multi-faceted challenge" of his new position at AABGU. "I am thrilled with the opportunity to marry the wonders of this university, and what it can and will accomplish, with the changing philanthropic vision of donors in America—those who already support BGU and those who have yet to discover what it can mean to them."

AABGU President Jules I. Whitman said Moscovitz's strategic vision and exceptional fund-raising, marketing and management skills will ensure that the organization will continue and even surpass its achievements of the past two years when it raised close to half of the \$100 million goal of its five-year 25th Anniversary Campaign. According to Whitman, "Bernie's track record and his passion for this incredible institute of research make him the perfect choice to guide us into the 21st century."

With one national and 11 regional offices, AABGU is the major non-governmental source of funding for Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. Established by an act of Knesset in 1969 with the unique mission to develop the Negev Desert, its land and its people, BGU is Israel's youngest university. Its student population has more than doubled in the last five years, and 14,000 students now pursue undergraduate and graduate degrees at its campuses in Beer-Sheva and Sde Boker.

## R.I. Bar Foundation Seeks Scholarship Applicants

Planning to attend law school? The Rhode Island Bar Foundation is seeking applications for its Thomas F. Black, Jr. Memorial Scholarship.

The bar foundation will award a scholarship of \$7,500 to a Rhode Island resident who will enroll as a first-year student in an American Bar Association-accredited law school for the academic year, beginning September. The scholarship is for the first year of law school only and non-renewable.

The scholarship is awarded based on scholastic achievement, financial need and good character without discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin or disability.

The application deadline is March 12. For application forms, call the Bar Foundation at 421-6541 or write to the office at 115 Cedar St., Providence, RI 02903.

In the past 10 years, the bar foundation has awarded \$54,000 to law students.

The R.I. Bar Foundation is the charitable arm of the Rhode Island Bar Association. The scholarship program received substantial funding from the Horace A. Kimball and S. Ella Kimball Foundation, and supplemental funding from the *Providence Journal-Bulletin* in honor of the late Thomas F. Black, Jr. Black was known for his impressive ability as a lawyer and banker, his deeply rooted legal scholarship, and his notable participation in civic and charitable causes.

## Gesher Teen Program at Congregation Agudas Achim

A four-week program for teens called Gesher will be held at Congregation Agudas Achim in Attleboro on Jan. 10, 24, 31 and Feb. 7. Gesher is the Hebrew word for bridge. The Gesher program, sponsored by the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island, is seen as a bridge to connect Jewish teens from around the area with one another and with the Jewish past and Jewish future.

The program, entitled "Inspiration to Creation" is open to Jewish teens in grades seven through 12. Facilitators Bruce Lenore and Ronni Guttin will encourage students to bring out their creative sides as they learn to express their beliefs and ideals through hands-on projects and discussions. Lenore is a graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design whose works of Judaic art in ceramics and metals are exhibited nationally. He teaches at Rhode Island College, the Community College of

Rhode Island and several Jewish religious schools. Guttin is the director of Camp JORI and the youth advisor at Temple Torat Yisrael in Cranston, R.I.

The Gesher program provides an opportunity for teens to make new friends, talk, play and explore Jewish issues. The program is designed to keep Jewish teens involved through interactive, participatory sessions which offer an informal atmosphere. All Jewish teens are invited to take part in the four-week Gesher program. The sessions will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. and include dinner. Congregation Agudas Achim serves the communities of Attleboro, North Attleboro, Mansfield, Foxboro, Norton, Wrentham, Franklin, Cumberland, Pawtucket and Providence as well as other nearby communities. For more information or to register for the program, contact Rabbi Gail Diamond at (508) 222-2243.

## Wheeler School Hosts Scholarship Competition in January

The Wheeler School in Providence, R.I., will host its annual scholarship examination competition Jan. 23 at 8:15 a.m. at the school. The competition is open to any boy or girl presently enrolled in grades eight or nine in Rhode Island or Southeastern Massachusetts who wishes to enter Wheeler.

The scholarship may cover as much as full tuition, and will continue through graduation if academic achievement is noteworthy. Scholarships are awarded on the basis of examination results, financial need and evidence of outstanding character. Parents of candidates are invited to a reception while the test is being given.

For information, contact the Wheeler admission office at 421-8100.

## Nominate Attorneys for Service Awards

Now is the time to nominate attorneys for the Rhode Island Bar Association 1999 Dorothy Lohmann Community Service Award.

The 10th annual Lohmann Awards will be given in May to attorneys who have donated substantial time and work to non-profit Rhode Island organizations on a voluntary, non-paid basis.

Anyone may nominate an attorney for consideration by the awards committee. Nomination forms are available by calling Lynne Dawson at the R.I. Bar Association at 421-5740. The nomination deadline is Feb. 12.

Lohmann was one of the first recipients of the Community Service Award. A lawyer, she spent her entire legal career working as an advocate for the legal rights of the poor. The award was named for her in 1993 after she succumbed to cancer.

The R.I. Bar Association and its 4,900 member attorneys are continuing sponsors of public service activities in the community.



## Social Seniors of Warwick

There will be no meetings for the months of January and February.

There will be a day trip scheduled for Feb. 18 for lunch to be held at Wrights Farm, Nasonville, R.I. For reservations contact Sally Goldman or Estelle Miller.

The next meeting will be held March 10.

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# JEWISH COMMUNITY

## Jewish Communal Leadership Trainees to Explore Jewish Community in 21st Century

Are Jewish attitudes towards the Holocaust changing? Is diversity within the Jewish community threatening Jewish unity? Are Jewish ethical values in flux?

These are some of the issues that will be explored by a select group of young men and women next Summer in Sweden as part of their training to assume leadership roles within the worldwide Jewish community.

The 10-day program — the 8th Nahum Goldmann Fellowship, a leadership training institute sponsored by the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture — will take place from Aug. 22 to Sept. 2, in Glamsta, Sweden, 90 miles north of Stockholm, site of the previous Fellowship.

Interested parties should write to Dr. Jerry Hochbaum, executive vice president, at the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture, 15 East 26th Street, N.Y., NY 10010, and request an application. This form must be completed and returned to the foundation no later than February 15. It must be accompanied by letters of recommendation from three individuals familiar with the applicant's activities, one of whom must be a Jewish communal leader. The full cost of room and board for those chosen will be provided by the Memorial Foundation. Program participants will be announced in the spring of 1999.

Among the topics to be explored at lectures, seminars, workshops and informal discussion groups will be: Unity and Diversity in Jewish Life; Jewish Law and Thought in the Next Millennium; Jewish Ethical Values and Society; The Jewish Diaspora — Its Historic Past and Future; The Changing Role of the Holocaust in Jewish Consciousness; and Faith after the Holocaust. Varied cultural events each evening will supplement the formal study programs.

The fellowships, named for the late Dr. Nahum Goldmann, founder of the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture, were launched in 1987. Their objective is to develop community leadership — both lay and professional — for the next century, according to Sylvia Hassenfeld, chairperson of the fellowship program. Some 40 applicants from academia, the professions and Jewish communal life who have shown serious interest in Jewish learning and have demonstrated potential for personal growth and community leadership will be selected as 1999 Fellows, she said. More than 300 men and women from Western Europe, the former Soviet Republics, Argentina, Brazil, the United States and Israel are alumni of the previous institutes, which were held in Western Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and South America.

## Temple Emanu-El Leisure Club Holds Meeting

Temple Emanu-El Leisure Club will hold their Sunday meeting on Jan. 10 at 2 p.m. in the Bohnen Vestry. Our guest speaker will be Froma Harrop. Her subject will be "Journalists, Do We Need Them?"

Harrop has been a columnist and editorial writer for *The Providence Journal* since 1991. Her twice-weekly column blends social, political and economic topics in an off-beat and often humorous manner. She currently serves as a director on the board of the National Conference of Editorial Writers.

A native New Yorker and graduate of New York University, Harrop began her journalistic career in 1972 as a financial writer for Reuters Ltd. She later became a business editor at the *New York Times* News Service. She joined *The Providence Journal* staff as a business reporter in 1986. Harrop's feature articles have appeared in a wide variety of publications, including *The New York Times*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Self* and *Institutional Investor*. She is a recipient of a New England Associated Press News Executives Association award for editorial writing.

## PHDS Holds Open Arms — Open House

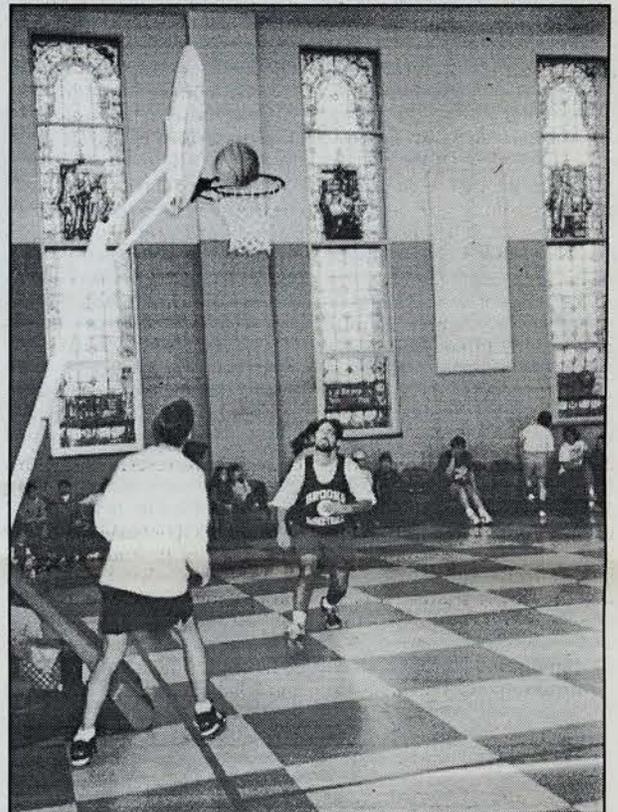
The Providence Hebrew Day School welcomes parents and children to its annual Open House on Jan. 18. At the open house, parents who have children at PHDS are able to visit the classrooms while they are in session. It gives them a chance to see the teachers and the students as they go about their day in both secular and Judaic studies. The day school also welcomes prospective parents and children who wish to see firsthand the school in action. In particular, the school invites new parents to see the preschool room for the 3- and 4-year-old program and the extra-large and well-equipped kindergarten room (1,440 sq. feet). Also of interest is the newly upgraded computer lab with its Internet networking.

Another special attraction will be the school's annual Martin Luther King Day program of songs, poems and special readings presented by the children for those attending open house. Parents are invited to meet with school administrators to discuss class curriculum, policies and financial information. The open house will be from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. at PHDS, located at 450 Elm Grove Ave. in Providence.

## School Spirit is High at Basketball Game

The entire student body of the Alperin Schechter Day School turned out to support their favorite team during the recent faculty/student match-up. The students and faculty spectators lined the floor, raised banners and voices high to cheer on the players in a very fast-paced competition. The faculty team, consisting of 10 members, came out strong to gain an early lead.

Faculty member Rich Walter matched up with eighth-grader, Jonah Gabry, as the lead scorers for their teams with 13 and 6 points respectively. Jared Early and Brenda Redding were the next highest scorers for the faculty, contributing a total of 16 points. Rebecca Levine and Michael Wolpert contributed four points each. Harry Matusow, ASDS parent, volunteered to referee the game and did an outstanding job of maintaining the pace and integrity of the game. The faculty's lead remained throughout the game as they rebounded and penetrated to the hoop effectively. Their years of experience obviously paid off. Despite the 44 to 32 loss, the students played an outstanding game, and look forward to next year's rematch!



RICH WALTER, lead scorer for the ASDS faculty following his shot during the annual student-faculty game. Photo courtesy of ASDS

## ASDS 1999 Basketball Schedule

### Boys

- Jan. 12 — Community Prep, 4:30 p.m.
- Jan. 13 — Rocky Hill, 3:45 p.m.
- Jan. 20 — Gordon, 4:30 p.m.
- Jan. 24 @ Newton (Tournament), 9 a.m.
- Jan. 27 — R.I. School for Deaf, 3:30 p.m.
- Feb. 3 — Wheeler, 3:30 p.m.
- Feb. 4 — PCD, 3 p.m.
- Feb. 10 @ Newton, 3:30 p.m.
- Feb. 11 — St. Andrews, 3:30 p.m.
- Feb. 22 @ Wheeler, 3:15 p.m.

### Girls

- Jan. 12 — Community Prep, 3:30 p.m.
- Jan. 13 — Rocky Hill, 4:45 p.m.
- Jan. 20 — Gordon, 3:30 p.m.
- Jan. 24 @ Newton (Tournament), 9 a.m.
- Jan. 21 — Lincoln, 3:30 p.m.
- Feb. 2 @ PCD, 3 p.m.
- Feb. 9 @ R.I. School for Deaf, 4 p.m.
- Feb. 23 @ Lincoln, 3:30 p.m.

Among this year's team rosters are several eighth-grade students who are participating for their third consecutive year. Coach Jared Earley is pleased to welcome back Jonah Gabry, Noah Jablow, Aaron Matusow and Ben Matusow to the Boys Team, also Limor Nevel and Sandy Schneider to the Girls Team. Mazel Tov to all the players for a successful season.



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# JEWISH COMMUNITY

## Holy Spaces, Unusual Places

"Hate to tell you rabbi, but you measured wrong. You left two feet uncovered."

Uhoh. How could I have been off by so much? I thought I had gotten it right earlier that day, when I tried to estimate the length from the top of the statue's head to its base. My close friend, the minister of the church, assured me it would be OK to cover it up during the time we were holding services in his building.

I had just arrived at the church to find the jolly custodian still in the sanctuary, completing the transformation from Christian to Jewish praying space. "Two feet?" I shrugged. "Where am I going to find matching cloth at this hour?" But as I drew closer to inspect the statue, I noticed that the bottom of the wrapper hung only a few inches from the floor.

The man saw the confused look on my face, and then sprung his joke: "Get it, rabbi? Two feet. Ten toes. You can still see them!"

A spray of carefully placed flowers effectively obscured the sacred tootsies.

Jews find themselves worshipping in some pretty unusual places, particularly at times when larger numbers assemble. I once led services in a Masonic hall whose name was 50 percent appropriate and 50 percent... well... different. It was called The Lulu Temple.

Speaking of Lulu, Rabbi Lew Littman related that when his congregation held a Passover seder in a local hotel, the chef was asked to prepare cups of salt water for the dipping of parsley. Trying to be helpful,

the chef supplied salt water with the greens already in it. As Rabbi Littman explained, "We became the first generation of Jews since the exodus to observe the ritual of karpas by REMOVING parsley from salt water."

Passover isn't the only time religious services take place in hotels. These multi-purpose, adaptable facilities are often rented for the overflows that sanctuaries cannot accommodate during the Days of Awe. Which led one group of Jews to dub their temporary autumn home, "High Holiday Inn."

But my favorite shared space story comes from the west coast, about 10 years ago, when leaders of the recently established Congregation Kol Tikvah scouted their Los Angeles neighborhood for a place in which to celebrate the New Year. They ultimately chose one section of a double cinema.

As their rabbi, Steven Jacobs, told me when I visited his shul for a delightful Shabbat, the theater manager was most accommodating, even allowing the synagogue to use half of the marquee above the main entrance.

And so, as people arrived on the evening of Rosh Hashanah, one part of the large sign greeted them with the welcoming words, "Congregation Kol Tikvah. Happy New Year!"

And on the other side? The name of the movie currently being shown: "Temple of Doom."

\*\*\*  
Rabbi Bob Alper is a stand-up comic and author of *Life Doesn't Get Any Better Than This*. Visit him at <[www.bobalper.com](http://www.bobalper.com)>.

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## Tara Thaler Weds Les Satlow

Tara Kate Thaler and Les Elliot Satlow were married in the Garden Room, Biltmore Hotel, Providence, R.I., on Oct. 31, 1998. The bride is the daughter of Michael and Jill Thaler of Cranston, R.I. The bridegroom is the son of Felsa Satlow of Arlington, Mass., and the late Frank Satlow. The bride is the granddaughter of Barci Thaler Finkle, and the late Joseph Thaler, Pearl Gerber, and the late Saul Gerber of Portland, Maine. The bridegroom's grandmother, Jean Satlow, lives in New York.

Rabbi Michael Cahana officiated at the 6:30 p.m. ceremony. The reception was held in the Ball Room, Biltmore Hotel, Providence.

The bride was given in marriage by both of her parents.

Amy Sue Perler was honor attendant. The bridesmaids were Jennifer Thaler, sister-in-law of the bride; Kim Levin; Robin Coley; Meredith Cavalieri, cousin of the bride; Audrey Sobel; and Julia Chamovitz.

Best man was Michael Satlow, brother of the bridegroom. Ushers were Kent Thaler, brother of the bride; Matt Alperin, David Wax, Nick Atwood, Brad Nilson, Jeremy Pressman; and Craig London.

The bride graduated from Hofstra University with a B.A. in psychology and from Connecticut College with a M.A. in clinical psychology and is a



Mr. and Mrs. Les Satlow

Ph.D. candidate in counseling psychology at Boston College.

The bridegroom graduated from Washington University with a B.A. in history and political science, and John Hopkins University with a M.A. in international economics and Russian

area studies. He is currently employed as director of information services at Global Investor Publishing in Cambridge, Mass.

They honeymooned in Budapest, Vienna, and Milan and have made their home in Brighton, Mass.

## Providence Circus School Winter Session Begins



The Providence Circus School is accepting students for its winter session which begins Jan. 17. Providence Circus School is a group where young people ages 10 to 18 can come together to learn circus arts: juggling, acrobatics, clowning, unicycling, stilt-walking, and more. There will be pie throwing but no lion taming! The Providence Circus School is sponsored by What Cheer Art Company, the non-profit Rhode Island arts corporation that produces Pan Twilight Circus.

Students can sign up now for Winter Session 1999, Jan. 17 through March 7. Classes will meet Sunday afternoon 1 to 3 p.m., Jan. 17, 24, 31, Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28, March 7.

Class fee is \$105 for the eight-week session. Tuition is eight weeks for the price of seven, anticipating cancellation of one class because of snow. For information, and to register, call Providence Circus School at 861-0892.



### Nathan Bradley Kirshenbaum

Lisa and Evan Kirshenbaum of Cranston, R.I., announce the birth of their son, Nathan Bradley, on Dec. 5, 1998. Nathan weighed 9 lbs. 3 oz.

Maternal grandparents are Denyse and Milton Kapelus of Larchmont, N.Y. Paternal grandparents are Marsha and Allen Kirshenbaum of Cranston, R.I. Great-grandparents are the late Nathan and Sally Rosenfeld and the late Morris and Eda Kirshenbaum.

Nathan Bradley is named after his paternal great-grandfather, Nathan Rosenfeld, and his maternal great aunt, Beryl Kapelus.

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## Names From Fame and Obscurity — The Divine Miss M

by Kimberly Ann Orlandi  
Herald Editor

Few entertainers in Hollywood can boast both a successful movie and singing career, but the often garish and always flamboyant Bette Midler can do just that.

Midler was born a far distance from the bright lights of Hollywood. Her father, Fred, had been in the Navy and stationed in Hawaii during the war. When the war ended he returned home to New Jersey where he found his bride-to-be Ruth (Schindel). The two moved back to Fred's Hawaiian paradise where they raised their three daughters: Susan, named after Susan Hayward; Judy, who was named after Judy Garland; and Bette after Bette Davis. Midler's mother was fascinated with Hollywood during its Golden Age, so much so she named her children after Hollywood's brightest and most beautiful starlets. However, Ruth thought that Bette was pronounced "Bet" and that's the pronunciation Midler grew up with. Midler describes her father as being a "bellow," always yelling and rarely seeing but one side of a situation, namely his own. In an effort to escape Fred's often harsh verbal treatment, Ruth became obsessed with Hollywood and movie stardom. It was this obsession which greatly influenced Midler's eventual decision to embark on a career in entertainment, much to her father's dismay.

Growing up in Hawaii, Midler always felt like the outsider, especially being Jewish. Her friends, few as they were, were Polynesian, Hawaiian, or Oriental, and they couldn't understand who it meant being Jewish. When she reached elementary school, she realized she was different than the other girls in her class. She wasn't pretty and she wasn't Catholic. To escape the ridicule she faced, she took a cue from her mother and began to retreat into her own make-believe world. With Ruth's encouragement, Midler tried her hand at singing. She was so good, that while in elementary school, she won a prize for her rendition of "Silent Night," a fact she didn't share with her father because of his quick temper if he ever found out she had won an award for singing a Christmas carol.

Her flamboyant style was established at an early age. Ruth wanted all of her children to learn how to sew, so Midler, being the creative genius she was, took it upon herself to create her own clothing, some so outlandish in color and style it seemed to make her even more of an outsider than ever before. But that didn't seem to bother Midler. She struck an independent blow very early on and marched to her own drummer from the beginning.

It was the mid-1950s, and Midler was a high school teenager growing up to the sounds of Elvis Presley and rock 'n' roll. It was here, at Radford High School, that Midler really came into her own. She, along with two friends, formed a female

vocal trio, the Pieridine Three, and started performing at school functions. Later, they toured the military bases. They were a hit. Midler graduated valedictorian in 1963 and went on to the University of Hawaii where she studied acting. It was important for her to get out from under her father's domineering shadow. So, she got a part-time job at the pineapple cannery for three summers and saved enough money to move out of her family home and into a place of her own.

In April 1965, a Hollywood film crew shooting James Michener's novel *Hawaii* showed up on the sandy beaches of Hawaii and sent out a casting call to all prospective actors on the island. Bette was hired as an extra and cast as a seasick missionary wife. Although her initial appearance did include some dialogue, that eventually fell to the editing room floor and Midler's appearance was nothing more than a shot of her back leaning over the ship. When the film crew wrapped shooting, they returned to Hollywood with some of the extras, including Midler, to reshoot some of the scenes. She left Hawaii, without telling her father of her long-term plans, and never returned. From the coast, she flew to New York City where a 20-year-old girl with little money in her pocket and with no friends or family in the big city, began her quest for a career in show business.

The first thing she did was to get herself a cheap room at the Broadway Central Hotel, a rundown hotel in Manhattan near the theatre district. The room was \$15 a week which she paid for by working odd jobs, from a typing position at Columbia University to a go-go dancer at a New Jersey bar, all while taking acting lessons and auditioning. Her first role was a non-speaking part in Tom Eyan's "Miss Nefretite Regrets," an off-Broadway play. From there she tried her hand at the resorts of the Catskills where she found great success during the summer of 1966. Her continuation on the audition circuit included the very successful "Fiddler on the Roof," which she auditioned for several times before landing a temporary spot in the chorus. Although the spot was only temporary, Midler won a permanent role as the oldest daughter, which she played the next three years. But her experience in the theatre, as rewarding and privileged as it was, was becoming disenchanting. So, after the final run of "Fiddler," Midler left the theatre to try her hand at the local clubs.

One of the first places she went was The Improv, which was owned by Bud Friedman. During this time, Midler was dealt a devastating personal blow with the death of her sister Judy. Judy had come out to New York to visit Midler when she was struck by a car at a busy Manhattan intersection. She died at the scene, and with her died Midler's ambition and de-

sires to get back to performing. She slipped into a period of depression which lasted much of 1968. In an effort to get her back to work and back to the world of the living, her friend, Marta, who was playing the lead in a production called "Salvation," suggested to the director that Midler take over her role when Marta toured with the Los An-



geles company.

Midler credits gospel greats Bessie Smith and Aretha Franklin as two of her biggest influences with regards to her singing career. She would often spend hours at the New York Public Library listening to and learning from the gospel greats. When "Salvation" closed in April 1970, Midler once again found herself looking for work, but not for long. When a former teacher called her to say that a local bath house was looking for entertainment, Midler jumped at the chance. She looked at it "as an exciting new challenge," a challenge that proved to be a successful career

move. Her backup band included the as-of-yet commercially unknown piano player Barry Manilow.

Her stint at the bath houses was pure genius. She packed the house each night. From this point, her career seemed to skyrocket over night. She appeared with Johnny Carson on "The Tonight Show," portrayed the Acid Queen in The Who's rock opera "Tommy," and was eventually booked into one of New York's hottest night clubs, Downtown at the Upstairs, where she was ultimately discovered by Columbia Records executive Clive Davis, who subsequently turned her down, twice! But it wasn't until Ahmet Ertegun, co-founder of Atlantic Records, saw her and signed her on the spot.

In 1972, she left the bath houses behind and embarked on a tour and record deal with Manilow as her arranger and producer. The two had an agreement that for 20 minutes during Midler's set, she would let Manilow perform his own music in the hopes that he, too, would get a record deal.

His deal came a few years later when Clive Davis, now fired from Columbia and founder of Arista Records, signed Manilow. Her first album, "The Divine Miss M," was released in Nov. 1972, selling more than 500,000 copies and making it her first gold record. Her second album, "Bette Midler," which was also produced by Manilow, was just as much a hit as her first. By 1973, at age 28, Midler had made the cover of *Newsweek*, received the Tony Award for Best Special Performance in a Broadway musical, and a Grammy for Best New Female Artist. Her star was

about to get even brighter. In 1978, with her third album not selling as the executives would have liked, Midler took the role of a lifetime in the hopes of boosting both her career and record sales—that of the Janis Joplin character in the loosely biographical film, "The Rose." She had originally turned down the role five years prior because of the timing of the script with regard to Joplin's death. Her performance won her critical acclaim and an Oscar nomination for Best Actress.

"The Rose" was the beginning of Midler's long relationship with Hollywood. Other successful movies would follow in the coming years including "Down and Out in Beverly Hills" (1986) with Richard Dreyfus, "Ruthless People" (1986) with Danny DeVito, "Outrageous Fortune" (1987) with Shelley Long, and probably her most unforgettable role in "Beaches" (1988) with Barbara Hershey. In an interview with Oprah Winfrey while promoting the movie "Beaches," Midler told Winfrey, "I have to say that of all the pictures I've made, I like 'The Rose' the best. But I like this one 'Beaches' too. I like the real characters."

Midler finally settled down in Dec. 1984 with performance actor Martin von Haselberg. The two gave birth to a daughter, Sophie, in Nov. 1986. For Midler, after years of trying to find out where exactly she fit in, she realized that the greatest role of all is that of mother and wife. In 1993, after 10 years away from the concert halls, Midler completed her most successful tour, "Experience the Divine," selling out a record-breaking 30-night stand at New York's Radio City Music Hall, proving that the Divine Miss M is still divine.

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# FEATURE

## From Jazz to Ska, Musicians Assert Jewishness in New CDs

by Debra Nussbaum Cohen  
NEW YORK (JTA) — Artfully sculpted sideburns emanating from a head of closely cropped hair and several small hoops running up each earlobe mark King Django as a ska hipster.

Ska, a precursor of reggae that weaves together elements of American rhythm and blues with the laid-back sound of Jamaica's easy native groove, has been embraced by anti-Nazi skinheads as the music of their movement.

Yet while Django, as he's known to everyone but his parents — who named him Jeffrey Baker — may be big on the downtown alternative music scene, he's no Jamaican rasta.

He's a nice Jewish boy from Brooklyn who now makes the Lower East Side his home.

Now, after years working toward success in a non-Jewish musical idiom, Django is coming out of the Jewish closet.

He recently put out a CD titled "Roots and Culture," which brings together reggae rhythms and Yiddish lyrics, songs about the sanctity of Shabbat and a folksy version of "Shalom Aleichem" with a ska sound.

On the CD's back cover, Django reiterates Maimonides' 13 articles of faith without identifying them, giving simple testament to his Jewish faith.

It puts Django in the company of other musicians — including the hip-hop duo M.O.T. and the hard-core metal band

Sons of Abraham — who are putting their status as Jews front and center.

Suddenly it's hip — or at least acceptable — to be Jewish.

That's in strong contrast to the earlier part of the century when Jewish musical talents like Irving Berlin (born Israel Baline) changed their names and devoted their skills to penning songs such as "White Christmas."

In recent years, too, Jewish musicians such as Neil Diamond and Barbra Streisand have put out Christmas albums.

The Jewishness of band members of the Beastie Boys (who now identify as Buddhists), Rush (Geddy Lee, born Gary Lee Weinrib), and KISS (band members Gene Simmons, born Chaim Witz; and Paul Stanley, born Stanley Eisen) is well-known but invisible in their work.

The most explicit reflection of a mainstream group's Jewish identity may be a few lines of the High Holidays prayer "Avinu Malkeinu" in the middle of a song by Phish, added in by band member — and Conservative day school alumnus — Mike Gordon.

Many musicians, of course, have long focused their entire professional effort on Jewish music — and found themselves limited to that niche.

What's new is that those who have not been so visibly Jewish are staking a proud claim to their religious and ethnic iden-

ties and making them explicit in their work.

Avant-garde jazz musicians John Zorn, Anthony Coleman and Marc Ribot, among others, have for the last few years been playing free-flowing and often dissonant music that, they say, is inherently Jewish because it's coming from a Jewish place inside them.

The trend may well have started with the Klezmatics, the popular neo-klezmer group which roots world-beat music and progressive themes in traditional Jewish sounds.

They have been more successful than just about any other overtly Jewish group, selling more than 25,000 copies of their recordings when other acts sell a fraction of that, said music industry sources.

According to Klezmatics fiddler Alicia Svigals, until now "a lot of Jewish artists were into being Jewish, but in a very compartmentalized way, outside of what they did professionally."

The Klezmatics helped create the atmosphere that is making the new Jewish renaissance in music possible, she said. The band approached klezmer as not wanting to recreate the music of their grandparents, she said. Instead, "We incorporated sounds which were part of our musical psyche, but in an organic way. Then people realized you could do it," she said.

A Los Angeles duo — who have dubbed themselves Dr.

Dreidel and Ice Berg — call themselves M.O.T. (Members of the Tribe) and are taking it a big step further.

The hilarious pair, more a 1990s' version of Carl Reiner and Mel Brooks than the black rappers from whom they've liberally adapted their noms de musiques, recently put out a tongue-in-cheek CD titled "19.99."

In a staccato beat and rhyming lyrics they poke fun at stereotypes of Jews being matzah-ball eating, money-hungry kvetchers rolling around Hollywood in Lincoln Town Cars.

Rather than being part of the hip-hop nation, which is part of black musical culture, "We're part of the Hebe-hop nation," said Berg, known to his mother as Andrew Todd Rosenthal. "We believe in power to the chosen people."

His musical partner, who goes by Dreidel but whose name is Hillel Tigay, offered a somewhat more serious analysis of what they're about.

"What we're trying to say is that it's okay to come out and laugh at these stereotypes," Dreidel said.

"We say we're not embarrassed to be Jews, who have contributed so much to comedy and literacy. We will not shut up, we're proud of who we are. We're a cultural phenomenon, not people with long beards. We're proud of our stature in Hollywood," said Dreidel, who

spent three of his formative years in Israel, while his father, a Conservative rabbi who works as a professor at the University of Pennsylvania, worked there.

"Jews have achieved enormous success in the media and people only point out the negatives in that. It's latent anti-Semitism."

Django, for one, has gotten a gratifying response to his new visible Jewishness.

"There are a lot of Jewish guys in reggae and ska music," he said over an omelet at an East Village diner. "I've mostly gotten cheers from them. A lot of them have asked to be on the next [Jewish] record."

Ska fans, mostly young men who attend the more than 180 club dates Django and his two ska bands play each year all over the world, have also given a warm response to his new Jewish music.

"It feels good to give people who are assimilated a sense of their Jewish roots," said Django, who credits his grandmother singing him Yiddish lullabies, and his experiences singing in a Conservative synagogue and at Jewish camps, with inculcating his love of Jewish music.

"A lot of anti-Nazi skinheads are Jewish" but feel really alienated from their parents, he said. "I had this blue-eyed, blond kid in Atlanta come up to me and say 'My mom doesn't understand this whole ska thing. Now I can show this to her.'"

## Official With Czech Museum Says It May Have Looted Paintings

by Richard Allen Greene  
PRAGUE (JTA) — The Czech National Gallery may be holding artworks looted from Jews during World War II, a museum official admitted.

Among the works is a painting attributed to Rembrandt, "Old Man in a Fur Cap," which may have belonged to French Jewish art collector Adolph Schloss. More than 300 works owned by Schloss were looted by the Nazi in 1943 — and nearly 200 of them have never been recovered.

The Czech National Gallery may have acquired looted artworks during the war, when a

Nazi-installed director ran the museum.

The French government has demanded the return of the painting, a Czech Foreign Ministry official said.

But the head of the National Gallery's archive said the painting may not be from the Schloss collection because its dimensions are not identical to those listed for the Schloss-owned work.

The director of the National Gallery's Old Masters collection said there are other known variations on the painting, including one currently in Germany.

The National Gallery discovered the work during a search for art that may originally have belonged to Jews. The Czech Ministry of Culture has ordered all Czech museums and galleries that receive government funding to complete such inventories by next July.

It is unclear whether the works found in the course of that search will be returned to their heirs.

A representative of the Czech Jewish community said that if no living claimants could be found, he would be willing to have the works remain in museum collections as long as they were displayed along with a statement that they had belonged to Jews killed in the Holocaust.

## Begin Quits Likud, Declares Candidacy for Prime Minister

by Naomi Segal  
JERUSALEM (JTA) — A former member of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Cabinet has announced plans to quit the Likud Party and spearhead a right-wing challenge to the premier.

Ze'ev "Benny" Begin, who resigned as science minister in 1997 when Netanyahu agreed to turn over most of Hebron to Palestinian self-rule, could weaken the premier in the May 17 elections by splitting the right-wing vote.

Announcing his candidacy at a news conference Dec. 28, Begin said the national camp needed a candidate who would protect its interests.

A geologist by training, Begin, 55, has represented the Likud in the Knesset since entering politics a decade ago.

The son of Likud founder Menachem Begin used the news conference to attack Netanyahu and his continuation of the Oslo peace process.

Begin said his candidacy is the "only alternative today to a way that would most certainly lead to the establishment of a PLO-and-Hamas state, which will bring neither peace nor security."

Begin, whose father forged Israel's 1979 peace treaty with Egypt, a move that included Israel's return of the Sinai, warned that going down "Wye River" would only lead to ceding more land to "those hood-

lums," a reference to the Palestinian Authority and Hamas.

Right-wing reaction to Begin's announced candidacy was mixed.

Some leaders of the settler movement welcomed Begin's move. Others, including National Religious Party leader Yitzhak Levy, said it could split the right wing and play into the interests of the left.

With at least five people so far expected to try to unseat Netanyahu in the upcoming elections, it appears unlikely that any candidate will gain 50 percent in the first round of voting.

Begin as the second former member of Netanyahu's Cabinet to announce his candidacy.

After the Knesset approved, in the first of three votes, a bill to bring elections forward from the year 2000, former Finance Minister Dan Meridor announced he would run for premier as a centrist candidate.

The decision to dissolve Parliament and advance the date for elections came after far-right coalition members, angered by the government's land-for-security deal with the Palestinians, joined forces with opposition legislators who were frustrated with the freeze in the peace process.

Other contenders in the race for prime minister are opposition leader Ehud Barak; former army chief of staff Amnon Lipkin-Shakab, who has yet to

formally declare but is expected to run on a centrist platform; and Uzi Landau, the hawkish chairman for the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, who announced recently he would challenge Netanyahu for the Likud leadership.

Netanyahu sought to rally the Likud rank and file around him, giving a fiery speech before the Likud Central Committee that was meant to appeal to hawkish sensitivities.

He said the "real task is not the election," but what will come after, when Israel will have to negotiate with the Palestinians, the Syrians and the Lebanese.

"It will not be easy," Netanyahu said, adding that Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat is "talking about a Palestinian state along the lines of 1967, perhaps even a Palestinian state along the borders of 1947, with partition lines and the right of return to areas within the Green Line."

To counter the talk about those who were defecting from the Likud to run against him, Netanyahu singled out those assembled on the stage beside him, including Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai.

But Mordechai, who is rumored to be considering a defection, would not confirm that his presence at the Likud Central Committee meeting was a sign of his intention to remain within the party.

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## FEATURE

## Move Toward Palestinian Statehood Progressing in Stages, Israelis Warn

by Julia Goldman

NEW YORK (JTA) — The Palestinian Authority is working to get the weight of the world behind the idea of a Palestinian state, and the effort is causing mounting concern among Israeli officials.

The push over the last year has occurred in what Israel's ambassador to the United Nations sees as a "strategy of stages," moving "from the phase of talking about the principles of Palestinian statehood, to a stage where they're talking about a date for Palestinian statehood, May 4."

Indeed, the Palestinian Authority has an elected government and diplomatic presence recognized throughout the world, a new airport that was visited by President Clinton and enhanced status at the United Nations, with the right to participate in General Assembly debates.

"Our people are still acquiring, piece by piece, these things we need ultimately to satisfy our dream and the people's dream of an independent state on the land of Palestine, with Jerusalem as its capital," Ahmed Qurei, chairman of the Palestine National Council and one of the architects of the Oslo peace accords, wrote in a Dec. 21 newspaper article.

In that same article, the Pal-

estinian official may have also begun to outline the geography of that state, according to the Israeli ambassador, Dore Gold.

His insight is based on a comment that Qurei, a Palestinian moderate, made in the London-based, Arab-language newspaper *Al-Hayyat al-Jadida*, in which he referred to the 1947 U.N. Partition Plan as the basis for the legitimacy and the borders of a Palestinian state.

English excerpts of the article were disseminated by the Middle East Media and Research Institute, an organization that monitors the Arab-language press and is run by Yigal Carmon, a former Israeli intelligence officer.

In the Dec. 21 article, Qurei, who is also known as Abu Ala, spoke of "a Palestinian state, with all the rights and duties that other states possess." He wrote that the state should have internationally recognized borders, "which are the borders set in the partition resolution."

U.N. Resolution 181, adopted Nov. 29, 1947, divided mandatory Palestine into an Arab state, a Jewish state and an international zone that included Jerusalem and Bethlehem.

The 1947 borders would have allotted nearly 60 percent of the territory to the Jewish state — more than half of which was the Negev Desert — and 40 percent

to the Arab state, including the entire contemporary West Bank and Gaza Strip, and the northern towns of Acre and Nahariya.

Israel accepted the plan and then declared independence in May 1948. The Arab League forcefully rejected it, precipitating the 1948 Arab-Israeli War. The cease-fire lines after the war pretty much served as Israel's borders until the Six-Day War of 1967, when the Jewish state gained control of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Golan Heights and Sinai Desert.

Past Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations — including the 1991 Madrid Conference and the 1993 Oslo accords — have been based on U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 and 338, which called on Israel to return territories occupied during the Six-Day War.

Gold stressed in a recent telephone interview that "Israel itself has stated emphatically that it won't be pushed back to the '67 borders, and certainly not the '47 borders."

The 1988 Palestinian Declaration of Independence does rely on U.N. Resolution 181 as a

source of international legitimacy for a Palestinian state. But Gold believes Qurei's comments are the first published direct reference to the 1947 borders as a basis for the Palestinian state.

The Palestinian leadership has repeatedly articulated its intention to declare statehood on or after May 4, 1999 — the end of the five-year interim period of the Oslo accords.

Israel insists that any plans for Palestinian autonomy must be decided in mutual negotiations.

The Palestinian observer to the United Nations, Nasser al-Kidwa, said, through a spokesperson, that Qurei's comments do not represent a change in Palestinian policy with regard to borders.

The spokesperson said references to Resolution 181 serve only to reaffirm the Palestinian right to statehood.

"The international community recognized the creation of the Palestinian state next to the Israeli state at the time of partition based on the partition resolution," Qurei wrote.

"That means the legitimacy of the Israeli state stands alongside and as a condition of the creation of a Palestinian state," he continued, citing several U.N. resolutions that, he said, are based on the resolution.

Palestinian leaders, including Arafat, Qurei and al-Kidwa, have stated their desire to reach an agreement with the Israelis by the end of the interim agreement, but are firm in their ambitions to statehood.

Israel has consistently said that it would view any declaration of Palestinian statehood as a "unilateral action" outside the peace negotiations, and that it would react with "all necessary steps, including the application of Israel rule, law and administration" to the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"Israel has talked about secure, defensible borders," Gold said. "We're willing to compromise," but the borders must be negotiated, "not thrown out ahead of time."

"This doesn't look like compromise," Gold said. "It looks like moving the goal posts."

## U.S. Jewish Group Criticizes Choice of Election Day in Israel

by Julia Goldman

NEW YORK (JTA) — At least one American Jewish organization is not pleased with the date set for Israeli elections.

"A delay of five months seems sadly unresponsive to the urgent needs of this moment," Phil Baum, executive director of the American Jewish Congress, said recently after the Israel's two major parties agreed that May 17 would be Election Day.

"It is especially troubling that we are told that the peace process must come to a halt during this period — bringing with it a host of negative consequences, including the effect on world opinion in the United States, Arab countries and elsewhere," Baum said in a statement.

American Jewish leaders are usually tight-lipped when it comes to publicly questioning Israeli political maneuvers, and in a telephone interview Baum said the statement was not intended as "severe criticism of anybody," but rather "musing of what we think is an unconsidered decision."

He said the decision to set a lengthy campaign period, which might last through June should runoff elections be necessary, was "not cognizant" of some of the "ramifications of that longer period."

"The danger is that the world, however unjustifiably, may perceive Israel as maneuvering to put the peace process on hold during a period which encompasses and passes the May 4 date," the statement explained,

referring to the date set in the Oslo accords as the end of the interim period for final-status negotiations, and the date the Palestinians have said they intend to declare statehood.

Baum told JTA, however, that if the momentum of the peace process is in fact not lost, "it will alleviate some of our concern."

Recognizing the AJ Congress' statement as "an expression of concern," Malcolm Hoenlein, the executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said, "I think we're all concerned about the effects of the interim period on Israel's domestic and international concerns."

Hoenlein said he was confident that the Israeli political scene would "sort itself out" in time and that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu would stand by his commitment to go ahead with the Wye River peace agreement.

Ambassador Shmuel Sisso, Israel's consul general in New York, said the peace process would not be frozen so long as the Palestinians comply with Israeli demands, including the confiscation of illegal weapons, the downsizing of the Palestinian Authority's police force and the renunciation of plans to declare statehood outside of negotiations with Israel.

Responding directly to the AJ Congress' statement, Sisso said only that "May 17 was a date determined by the Israeli democratic process by the parties themselves."

## News at a Glance

- Famed Nazi-hunter Simon Wiesenthal celebrated his 90th birthday last week. But the man who helped bring 1,100 Nazi runaways to trial said he has no plans to retire. "I never thought I would get so old, especially not in the concentration camps," said Wiesenthal, a survivor of 12 camps before being liberated by U.S. forces in 1945.

- A shofar was sounded during the Tournament of Roses Parade on New Year's Day in California. The blasts heralded the arrival of the Jerusalem: City of Peace float, which displayed the sacred sites of Judaism, Christianity and Islam in Israel's capital.

- A Jerusalem court ordered Israel's Interior Ministry to recognize as Jewish 23 people who underwent conversions by the Reform and Conservative movements. In its ruling, which boosted pluralism efforts in Israel, the court opposed the stance of Interior Minister Eli Suissa of the fervently Orthodox Shas Party, who has refused to recognize the conversions.

- Former Foreign Minister David Levy is thinking of joining forces with opposition leader Ehud Barak in Israel's upcoming elections. Levy, who was closely allied with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in the 1996 national elections, could help attract Sephardi voters to

the Labor Party if he allies himself with Barak.

- Israeli President Ezer Weisman urged opposition leader Ehud Barak and former army chief of staff Amnon Lipkin-Shahak to join forces to unseat Netanyahu in the May elections. Weizman has complained that separate runs for the premiership by Barak and Shahak would only hurt the left-wing's chances of ousting Netanyahu, the Israeli daily *Ha'aretz* reported.

- U.S. and Israeli legislators are forming a committee to monitor international efforts to return property taken from Holocaust victims. Knesset member Avraham Herschson of the Likud Party said he and Rep. Ben Gilman (R-N.Y.) will head the committee, created to follow up on a conference on Holocaust-era assets held recently in Washington. The assets, including gold, real estate and artworks, are worth several billion dollars, Herschson said.

- President Boris Yeltsin said a plan to combat political and religious extremism in Russia

should be ready by March 1. Yeltsin recently ordered such a program after Russia suffered a slew of anti-Semitic incidents during the past few months.

- Police in Berlin are considering installing video cameras at five Jewish cemeteries following an attack on a German Jewish leader's grave early in December. The move is among several security measures authorities are weighing following the bombing of Heinz Galinski's tombstone.

- Israeli peace activists asked the country's Supreme Court to dismantle mobile homes set up recently on the West Bank in an attempt to limit the transfer of land to the Palestinians. The move came after the activists said the Likud government has ignored calls to tear down the homes, which have been erected by settlers at 10 sites since the Wye agreement was signed in late October.

- Israel's Knesset passed a law barring human cloning. The law carries a two-year prison sentence for anyone who violates the ban.

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## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

### 'Winter Solace: Restful Moments' Will be Shown at Bert Gallery

The Bert Gallery will be providing a respite from the cold winter nights with an exhibit featuring 40 oil paintings of warm, candlelit libraries, plunging shadows, and serene landscapes. The exhibit, entitled "Winter Solace: Restful Moments," will be on display from Jan. 11 through March 5 in the main gallery.

Some of the featured artists

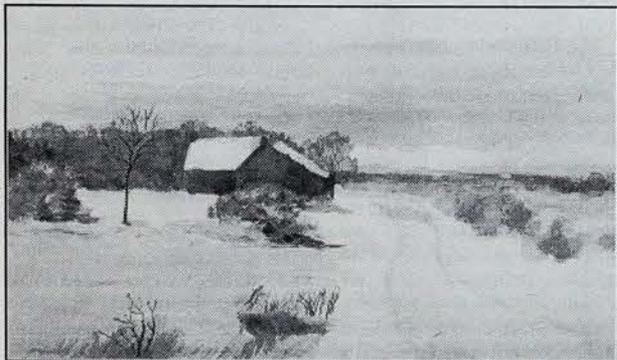
will be Henry Newell Cady, Edna Martin, and Stephen Macomber, all of whom lived in Rhode Island and painted during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Although different stylistically, these painters shared a knowledge and love of New England, and this personal connection is reflected in their paintings of local winter scenes.

Macomber, who graduated

from the Rhode Island School of Design, was a lifelong resident of Westerly, and most of his works portray the landscapes of the nearby countryside. He is particularly adept at capturing the chill of early morning snow in Westerly. In contrast, other paintings in the exhibit depict the warmth of a burning candle, or a well-worn book waiting to be read in a cozy library.

Martin, another RISD graduate, lived on a farm in nearby Seekonk and drew from the wealth of animal life and rural beauty in that area for her subject matter. In her work, Martin portrays the hardiness and exhilaration that emerges from the daily ritual of working on a farm in winter. Through these works, the viewer will get a glimpse of the winter landscape in New England with all of its challenges, as well as its tranquil beauty.

The Bert Gallery is located on 540 South Water St. and is open Monday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call 751-2628.



PAINTING ON DISPLAY at The Bert Gallery, 540 South Water St., Providence.

Photo courtesy of The Bert Gallery

### Six Flix

by Mike Fink

Herald Contributing Reporter

I look through the backlist of movies that came out in '98 at local cinemas on my calendar and make up a group of half a dozen worth recall.

Martin Scorsese's "Kundun" retraced the tale of the Dalai Lama. Critics and crowds alike shortchanged this gorgeous and also deep screen story of its due. I put it at the top of the year's output.

Among the more conventionally Hollywood productions, I found "The Object of My Affection" both lightly playful and also genuinely poignant and poetic. It's the soap opera of a girl who swaps the father of her baby for a gay roommate—who then leaves her to share her fate with a lonely elder professor, whose lover goes off with that gay roommate. This screenplay had an elusive but good-natured quality rare in the giddy fare of these seasons.

I had a couple of happy hours watching Whit Stillman's "Last Days of Disco" with my elder daughter, who proclaimed it "brilliant." The final evenings of Manhattan's Studio 54 revealed the desperation and desolation of that generation of clamorous climbers. But the performances are delicate, natural, without star vanity or close-up cloying sentiment. Human, yes, corny, no. Understated yet telling; imagine it!

Minnie Driver starred in an unusual picture about a secretly Jewish, Sephardic "Governess" who invents methods of portraiture and finds love's labors lost as she gets fired from her post and ousted from her boss's bed and board into the bad bargain. But the feminism is made more complex by rich realities and a superb supporting cast.

"The Thief" offered a view of Russian cinema that hit me hard with its dignity, its courage, its

grim veracity, its honest contradictions. It's a boy's tale of betrayals and abandonments and bleak prospects in the Stalinist period. Once again, it is respect for nature, I mean human nature, and a taste for beauty and poetry that win me over. Backers in Hollywood like to bet on a sure thing, a proven formula that celebrates simple untruths, easy responses. You get angry with the bad guys. You cheer for the gals and lads who overcome hardships or beat up foes: nothing for the mind to dwell upon.

The sixth and last of the movies I remember since last January was "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil." I was charmed by its sense of place. And, I saw it, alone, in a marvellous space: the intimate viewing chamber of the Hoyt Complex in East Providence. Like a lot of other fans, I fell in love with Savannah, GA., and looked forward to a visit there. Directors used to be told to stay away from regionalism, but that's bad counsel. If you can't get a fancy plot, at least find a new locale.

I can't comment on "Meet Joe Black" because the print, or the projectors, broke down the night I gave it my best attention, mostly because the cast and crew hung out in local cafes and bars, and Debra Messing is a native and a co-religionist.

The celluloid burnt off, just before the finale, and the boss in charge gave me a couple of passes. Death was in love, and "Daddy" was due to die after his 65th birthday blast. But time stopped with dilemmas unresolved. Maybe it was better that way.

So my choices for first rate films of '98 will also come to a halt. I can't shout "Hurray for Hollywood!" but I can write rave reviews for the artists who take a risk, uplift audiences to a higher plane of intellect and imagination, and give us something to talk about over your nightcap.

### Perishable Theatre Arts School Announces Winter Classes

Perishable Theatre is currently offering winter classes in the performing arts. Through its varying categories and multi-talented instructors the curriculum covers the entire thespian's lexicon. And, as we have discovered from seasons past, it makes a very special holiday gift for the aspiring actor on your gift-giving list.

Classes include Introduction to Acting taught by Trinity Rep Company member, Fred Sullivan. This course runs eight weeks Jan. 25 to March 22 on Mondays from 7 to 10 p.m. Scene Study, with Trinity's Eric Tucker as instructor, develops the essential technical skills necessary to approaching a role. This course also runs eight weeks, Jan. 25 to March 22, Mondays from 7 to 10 p.m. Advanced Scene Study is taught by yet another Trinity vet, Ed Shea, and runs seven weeks, Jan. 23 to March 6 on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Carolyn Pickman C.S.A., president of Boston's Collinge/Pickman Casting, will now be conducting a second class this year due to the extreme popularity and effectiveness of her

previous workshops. There will now be an Acting for the Camera — Level 1 and an Acting for the Camera — Level 2 in the curriculum. They both run Tuesdays from Feb. 9 to March 16 with Level 2 meeting from 4:30 to 7 p.m. and Level 1 meeting from 7:15 to 9:45 p.m. Most recently Pickman was the location casting director for such films as "Good Will Hunting" and "Amistad."

Two new courses include Teen Acting Intensive: Improvisation and 10-Minute Play Study taught by Mary Lee Vitale, co-founder of Boston's Woman in Theatre. This class runs Jan. 25 through March 15 on Mondays from 4 to 6 p.m. The second new addition is for the aspiring playwright. Dramatic Writing Workshop will be conducted by Rick Massimo, the founder and co-director of Perishable's BLINK: An Evening of Ten-Minute Plays by Local Playwrights. This runs for six weeks, Jan. 27 through March 3 on Wednesdays from 7 to 10 p.m. Enrollment is limited to just eight students. To register for classes, call Amy Budd at Perishable Theatre at 331-2695.

### JTE Presents 'The Sabbath Peddler'

The Jewish Theatre Ensemble presents "The Sabbath Peddler," a one-act family musical performed by an all young people's cast.

There will be five performances: Jan. 23 and 30 at 7 p.m., Jan. 24 and 31 at 2 p.m., and Jan. 24 at 5 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence.

All tickets are \$6 per person. Discounts available for group sales. For ticket reservations, call 861-8800.

### The Wizard of Oz at Wang Theatre

The Wizard of Oz, starring Mickey Rooney as the wizard and introducing Jessica Grove as Dorothy, will be appearing live on stage at The Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston, Mass., from Jan. 28 through Feb. 7.

For tickets and information, call Telecharge (800) 447-7400.

### Team In Training Makes New Year's Resolutions Easy to Keep

If this is the year you have resolved to improve your health and fitness level, travel to exciting places, make new friends and make a contribution to a good cause, then the Leukemia Society's Team In Training program can help you reach these goals.

Team In Training is the world's largest comprehensive endurance training program benefiting the Leukemia Society of America. Walkers, runners and cyclists of all levels can now join our training program for the Suzuki Rock 'n' Roll Marathon in San Diego, California, the Mayor's Midnight Sun Marathon in Anchorage, Alaska, and America's Most Beautiful Bike Ride in Lake Tahoe, Nev.

Led by professional coaches, participants receive a 4- to 5-month training program for all levels of runners, walkers and cyclists. Also included are group training events, clinics, social events, travel expenses and ac-

commodations. In exchange, participants raise funds in honor of patients with leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma. Last year more than 20,000 Team In Training members raised millions of dollars to support medical research and patient services for the Leukemia Society of America.

During the latter part of January, the Leukemia Society will be hosting no obligation informational meetings for Team In Training. At these meetings will be the coaches, past participants and honored team members. "We are confident you will feel enriched and rewarded from participating in Team In Training," said running coach Jim Doyle. "The sense of accomplishment of crossing the finish line will be something you never forget," states walking coach Michael Hoffer.

Call the Rhode Island Chapter at 943-8888 or (800) 528-4730 for information on specific informational meeting dates.

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



## Metropolitan Life Foundation Sponsors Perishable Theatre's Show For Young Audiences

For 15 years Perishable Theatre's Shows For Young Audiences has been touring New England performing original live theatre for more than 50,000 children in schools, libraries and other venues every year. The Met Life Foundation has generously agreed to underwrite the study guide for SFYA's newest musical, "Invasion of the Homogenoids." The theme of the play is tolerance, diversity and race relations. The study guide helps the teacher conduct pre- and post-show activities in the classroom.

The foundation was established in 1976 by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company and was founded for the purpose of addressing important societal and economic needs and to help advance the quality of life in communities. Having contributed over \$176 million to non-profit organizations and programs, the partnership between Perishable Theatre and the Metropolitan Life Foundation certainly continues the foundation's proud tradition of corporate citizenry.



JOE MADDEN of Met Life with the Show For Young Audiences cast. Photo courtesy of Perishable Theatre Arts Center

## Cartoons of Noah Bee on View at Museum

Beginning in 1959, anyone who picked up a local Jewish newspaper nearly anywhere in the United States or Canada encountered the work of the syndicated political cartoonist Noah Bee. Week in and week out, for more than 30 years, Bee commented in pen-and-ink on events of Jewish interest around the world, and especially in the Land of Israel.

Fifty of Bee's original drawings will be installed in a temporary exhibition, "With Eyes Toward Zion: The Political Cartoons of Noah Bee," opening Jan. 10 at the National Museum of American Jewish History, 55 North 5th St., Independence Mall East, Philadelphia, Pa. 19106-2197. The exhibition will be on view through September.

Born in Warsaw, Poland, in 1916, Noah Birzowski emigrated as a youth to Palestine. Swept up in the fervor of the formation of a Jewish State, the young man created a new Zionist name for himself. Using the initial letters from the Hebrew phrase, *ben-Israel*, or "son of Israel," Birzowski became Bee.

Bee soon began contributing to various publications in Palestine, publishing his first cartoons at the age of 17. While developing as a cartoonist, he enlisted in the Haganah, the underground Jewish militia in Palestine. In

1943 Bee moved with his wife, Marian, to the United States.

In America, Bee's cartoons about Israel first appeared in the *American Zionist*, official publication of the Zionist Organization of America, the largest of the American Zionist organizations. In 1959 he began to draw weekly cartoons for the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, a wire service that distributed his work to Jewish newspapers throughout the United States and Canada. Bee's syndicated cartoons — more than 1,500 works drawn over a period of 33 years — continued to appear in the Jewish press until his death in 1992.

In addition to his cartooning, early in 1948, Bee created a design that was used on the first money circulated in the newly formed Israeli State. He also created many designs for the Jewish National Fund, including the well-known "Blue Box" in 1950, which brought his artwork into Jewish homes all over the world.

Week in and week out for more than three decades, followers of Bee's work turned to his cartoons for a quick take on the latest developments in the Middle East. This exhibit explores 50 years of Bee's political cartoons, which remain as unambiguously opinionated today as when they were first lifted from Bee's drawing table.

## JTNE Presents 'The Great American Backporch'

"The Great American Backporch Vaudeville Revue," presented by the Jewish Theatre of New England, comes to the Leventhal-Sidman Jewish Community Center for three performances, Jan. 16 at 8 p.m. and Jan. 17 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

This delightful re-creation of a vaudeville show transports you to the time when the melting pot of Irish tenors, Jewish songsters and Italian comics blended their talents into this uniquely American art form.

The eight-member cast from Worcester Foothills Theatre performs this joyous salute to that grass roots turn-of-the-century entertainment form. Conceived, written and directed by Marc P. Smith, "The Great American Backporch Vaudeville Revue" features old-time numbers along with several original songs by Stephan Murray, who is the musical arranger and director, with choreography by Denise Day.

The revue combines authentic heart-wrenching ballads, pun-filled patter, novelty numbers and comedy sketches from the turn of the last century with delightfully inventive new songs and a current day narrative.

Ticket prices are \$20, \$18 seniors and students. For ticket information, call the JCC box office at (617) 965-5226.

The Jewish Theatre of New England is located at the Leventhal-Sidman Jewish Community Center, 333 Nahanton St. in Newton.

## Farewell Samarkand: The Exodus of Jews From Central Asia

A presentation of photographs by Rabbi Joshua Eli Plaut will be shown Jan. 14 to April 4 at the Starr Gallery, Leventhal-Sidman Jewish Community Center, Newton, Mass. An artist's reception will be held Jan. 14 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. During the reception Rabbi Plaut will present a lecture to further explore the subject of his photo-documentary.

Rabbi Joshua Eli Plaut is an accomplished photographer having exhibited several photo-documentaries including projects on the Jews of rural Greece, the Jews of the American south, and on traditional Jewish life in modern Turkey. He is locally known as the Hillel rabbi at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and as rabbi of the Martha's Vineyard Hebrew Center.

The Starr Gallery's upcoming exhibition of Plaut's work turns toward Bukharan-Jewish

communities, which take their name from the ancient Silk Road city of Bukhara, situated in Central Asia. This exhibition includes 45 color photographs of a community at a crossroads in its history. The documentary focuses on a Jewish community in the city of Samarkand; this isolated community, like others in the region, is caught amidst a constricting reality which encroaches from the outside. This documentary enters this environment examining its unique people, rituals, customs, and culture. Plaut captures the community's response to both internal and external change and follows the preparation for aliyah to Israel.

Gallery hours are Mon. to Thursday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Fri. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tues. and Wed. from 6 to 9 p.m. The gallery is located at 333 Nahanton St., Newton, MA 02159. Call (617) 558-6485.

## Casting Call For 'Sylvia' at City Nights

Audition dates for "Sylvia," an A.R. Gurney comedy, will be Jan. 11 and 12 at 7 p.m. The theater is located at 27 Exchange St., Pawtucket.

Needed are one woman, 40 to 50 years old; one man, 40 to 50 years old; one agile attractive woman, 20 to 30 years old; one person, male or female, capable of playing both genders, any age.

Performance dates for "Sylvia" are March 20, 26, 27, 28 and April 2, 3, 8, 9, 10 and 11.

City Nights provides a stipend payment to all cast, crew and production staffing. Inquiries are always welcome for all areas of participation. Apprentice positions are often available.

Those auditioning for the first time are encouraged to bring, if possible, a résumé and a recent photo to be kept on an active file (or a form and photo can be taken at the theater). Auditions for new shows are approximately every six weeks.

City Nights is located at the center of downtown Pawtucket, next to the Pawtucket Times Newspaper building, with several parking lots on Exchange Street and before the newspaper building.

For further information, call the box office at 723-6060 and leave name and number. All calls will be returned.

## Art For The Heart!

Oop! sponsors the infamous boxer (shorts) decorating contest on Jan. 15 to Feb. 13 to benefit the American Heart Association. Come in and make a \$5 donation and receive your pair of white boxers. Decorate them any fabulous way you choose and the winner receives a cash prize of \$500 big ones.

It's Oop! Hug Week Jan. 18 to 24. Come on in and get your free hug from a one-of-a-kind Oop!ster! We are holding a contest to see which employee can hug the most people in one week. Last year one of our employees got to hug George Harrison!

For more information, call Jennifer at 421-9205.

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# OBITUARIES

**SADYE W. ROSENBERG**  
PROVIDENCE — Sadye W. Rosenberg, 102, of Orchard View Manor, Tripps Lane, formerly of Troy, N.Y., died Dec. 29 at Rhode Island Hospital. She was the wife of the late Joseph Rosenberg.

Born in New York City and raised in North Adams, Mass., she had lived most of her life in Troy before moving to East Providence seven years ago.

She was a founding member of Temple Beth-El in Troy and a member of its Sisterhood. She was a member of Hadassah and the Daughters of Sarah Nursing Home Auxiliary.

She leaves a son, Edward Rosenberg of Boca Raton, Fla., two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

The funeral service was held Dec. 31 at Beth-El Cemetery, Belle Avenue, Troy.

**IRA LIPPMAN SCHREIBER**  
PROVIDENCE — Attorney and longtime Democratic activist Ira Lippman Schreiber, 71, of 65 Orchard Dr., Cranston, died Dec. 30 at Rhode Island Hospital, Providence. He was the husband of Joyce (Cohen) Schreiber.

The senior partner of Schreiber & Schreiber law offices, he was a familiar face on the Cranston political scene — long active in the local Democratic Party.

A resident of Cranston for 41 years, Schreiber won his own Democratic primary for mayor in 1984 and ran against Mayor Michael A. Traficante in a special election.

Cranston Democratic City Committee Chairman Michael Sepe praised him as a dedicated citizen and a gentleman.

A devotee of the law and politics, he had an irrepressible spirit and could always be counted on to lighten up fundraisers and other events, Sepe said. "He was someone who was always a lot of fun."

He first ventured into politics while still a student at Brown University, when he ran for a Providence state representative seat. In 1966, he ran as a Democratic state representative from Cranston.

Born in Providence, he was the son of the late Jack G. and Ethel (Lippman) Schreiber.

After graduating from Hope High School in 1945, he received his bachelor's degree from Brown in 1950, where he was class vice president. He was alumni class president from 1970 to 1975, and president of the Brown Club of Rhode Island in 1972 and 1973.

An Army veteran of World War II, he attained the rank of first lieutenant while serving in the Army Reserves from 1955 through 1958.

He graduated from Boston University Law School in 1965 and was a member of the American, Rhode Island and Massachusetts Bar Associations. He also served as chairman of the medical-legal committee, a branch of the state bar association and the Rhode Island Medical Society.

In 1967, he was appointed

legal counsel to the Rhode Island Department of Social Welfare, and served for two years. In 1972, Gov. Frank Licht appointed him to the Advisory Commission on Correctional Services.

In January 1995, he was a candidate nominated by the Judicial Nominating Commission for chief justice of the Rhode Island Supreme Court.

He began practicing law in Providence in 1966 and moved his office to Cranston in 1986. In January 1978, he opened Rhode Island's first legal clinic, The R.I. Legal Clinic, which eventually expanded to five offices. He served as president of the American Legal Clinic Association from 1980 through 1982.

He was a member of Temple Sinai, Cranston. Over the years, he served on the board of trustees for Temple Sinai, Ledge-mont Country Club, the Turks Head Club, Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Society and the Roosevelt Lodge. He was a 32nd-degree Mason of the Scottish Rite, Valley of Providence.

Besides his wife, he leaves two sons, Bruce J. Schreiber of Royal Palm Beach, Fla., and Kenneth A. Schreiber of Cranston; two daughters, Jill A. Schreiber, of Hamden, Conn., and Judith L. Rowland, of New York, N.Y.; and four grandchildren, Jennifer, Max, Abby, and Haley.

The funeral service was held Jan. 4 at Temple Sinai, Cranston. Interment was at Swan Point Cemetery, Blackstone

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

## SELMA SOKOLL

FALL RIVER — Selma Sokoll, 68, of 11 Highcrest Road, died Dec. 26 at home. She was the wife of Francis Sokoll.

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., a daughter of the late Harry and Anna Berger, she lived in Fall River since 1951.

She attended City College of New York. She was a member of Temple Beth-El and its Sisterhood. She was a member of the Fall River Jewish Home for the Aged, the Hebrew Ladies Helping Hand Society, and the Fall River Hadassah.

Besides her husband, she leaves two daughters, Allison Sokoll-Ward of Columbia, Md., and Rochelle Sokoll-Sobel of Westport, Mass.; a sister, Shirley Fields of Greensboro, N.C.; a brother, Sol Berger of Freehold, N.J.; and seven grandchildren.

The funeral service was held Dec. 29 at Temple Beth-El, 385 High St., Fall River. Burial was in Temple Beth-El Cemetery. Arrangements were by Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence.

## NATALIE TULCHIN

FALL RIVER, Mass. — Natalie Tulchin, of Courtney Street, died Jan. 1 at St. Anne's Hospital. She was the wife of the late Abraham Tulchin.

Born in Providence, she was a daughter of the late Hyman and Fannie (Schmidt) Flint.

She attended Brown University, Bryant College and Bristol Community College.

She was a member of Hadassah, a member of the Fall River Jewish Home for the Aged, a member of Congregation Adas Israel and its Sisterhood. She

was a member of the JWV Auxiliary 168 United Jewish Appeal. She was also an avid bridge player.

She leaves one son, Harris Tulchin of Santa Monica, Calif., and six grandchildren. She was the companion of Nathan Starr of Fall River. She was the mother of the late David Tulchin and the sister of the late Sadie Teacher and Eli Flint.

Funeral services were held Jan. 4 at Congregation Adas Israel, 1647 Robeson St., Fall River. Burial was in Hebrew Cemetery.

## BEATRICE ZEMAN

PROVIDENCE — Beatrice Zeman, 78, of 22 Roosevelt St., Warwick, an administrative assistant for the Navy for more than 25 years, died Dec. 29 at Rhode Island Hospital. She was the wife of the late Malcolm Zeman.

Born in Providence, a daughter of the late David and Eva (Karklin) Sock, she had lived in Providence and Somerset before moving to Warwick more than 25 years ago.

A graduate of Pembroke College, Providence, she was also a secretary for Pontiac Mills, Warwick, for several years. She was a member of Temple Beth-El in Fall River and a former member of Temple Beth-Amin in Warwick.

She leaves a daughter, Eve Lewyckj of Warwick; a son, Jonas Zeman of Belmar, N.J.; two sisters, Rose Sock of Warwick and Irene Cohen of Cranston; three brothers, Nathaniel Sock of Warwick, Sheldon Sock of Cranston and James Sock of North Smithfield; and seven grandchildren.

The funeral was held Dec. 31 in Temple Beth-El, 385 High St., Fall River. Burial was in Temple Beth-El Cemetery, Fall River. Service was coordinated by Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence.

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## Some Can, and Some Cannot

The problem of prayer is inextricably bound up with our view of man. If man is really a self-sufficient creature, if he is in no need of support from a Reality beyond himself, and if he is so self-sufficient that he does not even look upon himself as a "creature," then, indeed, man — ancient or modern — cannot pray. If, on the other hand, man relies on spiritual strength and support coming from outside of himself, if, that is to say, he knows himself to be a creature, though he may also know himself to be needed by G-d as a junior partner in the ongoing work of creation, then modern man can pray...

"Modern man," as pre-modern man before him, must, from time to time, check the contents of his prayers against the nature of his "G-d concept." The reach of prayer may, and should, outdistance the grasp of our philosophical and theological definitions. G-d, to be G-d, must be greater than our concepts of Him. But true prayer cannot very well voice strivings and aspirations which run counter to the very nature of G-d as we conceive of Him. This seems to be the profound truth behind the Rabbinic requirement that the creedal element of the Jewish worship service (i.e., the Shema and its Blessings) precede the prayer of petition.

We have been trying to provide some perspective and background for the question, "Can Modern Man Pray?" We have seen that some of the problems which trouble us are problems which have equally troubled our predecessors. We have also noted that one's ability to pray depends, in the final analysis, upon his ability to see himself as a creature of G-d. There are those who have this ability, and there are those who do not. But this "creature feeling" is something far too personal to be amenable to debate. That is why we have to end our answer as we have begun it. Can modern man pray? Some can, and some cannot.

Jakob J. Petuchowski, 1967 CCAR Proceedings

The Schwartz family gratefully acknowledges  
the overwhelming response in memory of our beloved  
husband, father, and grandfather, Charles Schwartz.  
The love that was shown lifted our hearts.

Sincerely,  
Anne, Vicki, David, Arye

# CLASSIFIED

## Berkson

(Continued from Page 1)

Still, Berkson missed the sense of community that was so important to her.

"I found that I was not made to live out of a suitcase," she said. "At the core, I am a musical educator and a person for whom friendships and community is extremely important."

Berkson does not feel that living in Rhode Island hinders her work.

"I wasn't necessarily looking for a performing career," she said. "The community and educational aspects are essential for me."

Berkson sees the local Jewish community as both welcoming and stimulating.

"This year, I hope to put out my first Jewish recording," she said. "I've made connections with wonderful musicians here through the Coalition for Alternatives in Jewish Education, and we share our music not just as performers, but as teachers. This is a real time of growth for me."

## Scholarships Are Available

National Council of Jewish Women, Rhode Island section, will be awarding scholarships to Rhode Island students attending college in the fall of 1999.

NCJW is the oldest Jewish women's organization in the country with more than 100,000 members dedicated to community service and social action to improve life for others. Our scholarship program is part of this commitment.

Grants will be awarded based on evidence of involvement in community service, academic worthiness, and financial need.

Students desiring applications should write to: Seena Dittelman, 93 Crestwood Road, Cranston, R.I. 02920 or call 942-5735.

Deadline for requesting applications is March 25.

## Hello From Sunny California

I am in the fifth-grade at Hart-Ransom School in Modesto, California. I have adopted your state as a class project. I will be doing a report and making displays about your state. In May, my class will be having a "States' Fair." I will display and show everything I have learned about your state.

It would be helpful to me if you could send postcards of your state, maps, brochures, information about wildlife, industry, neat places to visit, statistics, sports teams and any other information and items your readers feel would be helpful.

I hope your readers can help me with my project. I'm looking forward to hearing from people in your state.

Thank you from California.

Levi LaBass  
Mrs. Shaw's Class  
Hart-Ransom School  
3930 Shoemaker Ave.  
Modesto, CA 95358

## Germany Begins Payments to Survivors in Eastern Europe

by Deidre Berger

FRANKFURT (JTA) — Fulfilling a landmark agreement reached one year ago, Germany has begun making monthly pension payments to Holocaust survivors living in Eastern Europe.

About 800 survivors, mainly in the Czech Republic and Baltic countries, have already begun receiving the payments of some \$150 per month, according to Karl Brozik, director of the Frankfurt office of the Conference on Material Claims Against Germany.

The Claims Conference, which reached an agreement with the German government about the payments last January, after months of negotiations, is administering the pension fund.

With some 6,000 to 7,000 survivors already having made requests for pensions, Brozik said he expects a total of about 30,000 applications.

Due to eligibility restrictions, which already depend largely on the length of persecution a survivor suffered under the Nazis, he estimates that about 18,000 Eastern European survivors will eventually receive the pensions, which will switch to a quarterly payment basis starting in February.

Germany has paid more than \$54 billion in compensation to Holocaust survivors since World War II, but no payments were made to those living in Soviet-bloc countries during the Cold War.

After the collapse of the Soviet bloc, Germany maintained that it could not afford to pay individual pensions to survivors in Eastern Europe. Instead, the German government set up general funds in those countries to be used mainly for social services that would benefit the survivors.

Germany had refused to negotiate until last year, when it was embarrassed by press reports that former SS officers, including alleged war criminals, were receiving monthly pensions.

In the wake of pressure from the American Jewish Committee and other Jewish organizations, Bonn officials agreed to begin negotiations on pension payments.

While the \$150 monthly payments are only half the size survivors living in Western countries receive, Brozik believed the money will nonetheless be helpful for many of the mostly aged and often sick survivors.

There are still unsolved payment problems, Brozik said, adding that the banking system is not yet developed enough in some parts of Eastern Europe to make it possible to rely solely on bank transfers.

He also noted what he described as a disturbing development — some governments are trying to tax the pensions.

Meanwhile, private donors in Germany who have been supporting survivors living in the Baltic countries said they will continue their donations despite the new German government pensions.

## 1998

(Continued from Page 1)

tion marking the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II.

The Vatican's long-awaited statement on the actions of the Roman Catholic Church during the Holocaust was received with a mixed response. *We Remember: A Reflection on the Shoah*, apologized to Jews for the Church's failure to take decisive action to prevent Nazi Germany's extermination of 6 million Jews but absolved the church as such for complicity in the Holocaust. The Vatican statement acknowledged that historical anti-Semitism among Christians had contributed to an atmosphere that allowed persecution of the Jews to go unchallenged, but did not discuss the role the church played in fostering that discrimination.

The canonization of a martyr-saint of Edith Stein, a Jewish convert to Catholicism who died in Auschwitz, and the beatification of Pope Pius XII, the final step before canonization, were other areas of contention between Jews and the Roman Catholic Church.

*The Anti-Defamation League, founded in 1913, is the world's leading organization fighting anti-Semitism through programs and services that counteract hatred, prejudice and bigotry.*

## Mikveh is Back

(Continued from Page 3)

concept of mikveh in layman's terms, including their historical and cultural significance, as well as their fundamental role in the spiritual aspects of Jewish living. Rabbi Ravad's mission is to bring the message of mikveh to millions of Jews around the world who are ignorant of its true significance, in language and terms that they can identify with.

Rabbi Ravad notes that, "the mikveh has been unfairly relegated to myth and superstition among many of today's Jews because it is bound up with the most private aspects of Jewish family life. But making it the subject of formal study through the institution of the Museum of the Mikveh, we are able to present it in its proper historical, cultural and religious context."

Mikveh Outreach International is proud of its track record. Through its museum exhibits, publications and lectures, it has inspired thousands of Jews from all backgrounds around the world to adopt the regular observance of the commandments related to the mikveh. As a result, they have also become more committed to other aspects of Jewish living and Jewish continuity, including the support of other Jewish causes and institutions.

Rabbi Ravad continues to bring his message to Jewish communities large and small across the continent. For information, contact the Mikveh Outreach International office at 1360 44th St., Brooklyn, NY 11219, or call (718) 851-4748.

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R.I. Jewish Herald classified ads cost \$3 for 15 words or less. Additional words cost 12 cents each. Payment must be received by Monday at 4 p.m. prior to the Thursday when the ad is scheduled to appear. This newspaper will not, knowingly, accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the R.I. Fair Housing Act and Section 804 (c) of title VIII of the 1968 Civil Rights Act. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwelling/housing accommodations advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

## Do You Remember Your Wedding Day?

We are in the process of creating our annual bridal issue to be published Feb. 11 and would love to hear from our readers with regards to their wedding memories. Were you married at a place that is no longer standing? Which Jewish traditions did you incorporate into your ceremony?



We will print photos along with your anecdotes or advice for the next generation of married couples. Send photos and memories to: Remembering My Wedding, Rhode Island Jewish Herald, P.O. Box 6063, Providence, R.I. 02940. Please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope so material may be returned. The deadline for submissions is Jan. 25 at 4 p.m.

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# Is Your Automobile Ready For Winter?

## AAA Offers Easy-to-Follow Wintering Motoring Advice

Winter driving is tough on motorists and vehicles. To help drivers make it through the toughest winter conditions, AAA Southern New England offers the following tips:

**Charge!** — Cold weather is tough on batteries. At zero degrees, a car's battery loses about 60 percent of its strength. At a comparatively mild 32 degrees, a battery is 35 percent weaker.

Keeping battery terminals clean helps, but a load test performed by a qualified technician will help determine whether a car's battery is strong enough for winter starts.

**Get a Grip** — Before winter arrives, make sure your car is equipped with tires that are able to handle New England's winter weather. For most motorists, all-season tires are adequate. In more northern or mountainous regions, switching to snow tires may be needed.

**See And Be Seen** — Danger must be seen to be avoided. Driving with a snow-covered windshield, windows, side-view mirrors or lights invites a crash. Clear windows, mirrors and lights with an ice scraper, brush or spray de-ice. Make certain windshield wipers and defrosters are in good working order and that washer reservoirs are filled with no-freeze windshield washer fluid.

**Slippery When Wet** — In temperatures at or just above 32 degrees, a thin layer of water

can cover the ice, causing extremely slippery conditions. The distance needed to stop on ice at 32 degrees is twice as long as at zero degrees.

**Keep Your Engine Cool** — Make sure certain cooling system antifreeze is mixed with an equal portion of water for maximum protection.

**Key Solution** — Frozen door locks can be overcome by carefully heating the end of a key with a match or lighter. A squirt of de-ice spray is another quick method.

**Air It out** — Don't let frigid temperatures tempt you into starting your car in a closed garage or idling your engine for long periods with the windows closed. Carbon monoxide, present in exhaust fumes, is almost impossible to detect and can be fatal when breathed in a confined area.

**Finish Up** — Road salt, slush and grime are especially hard on a car's finish. To help prevent rust and paint damage, keep cars washed and waxed. A full- or self-service car wash makes the job easier when temperatures are low.

**Strong Battery Boosts Winter Car Starts**

One of the best ways to protect against winter car trouble is to be certain your battery is fully charged and in proper working condition, according to AAA Southern New England.

### Strong Battery Boosts Winter Car Starts

"When the temperature

drops to near zero, the number of calls AAA receives from stranded motorists soars," said AAA approved auto repair manager, Alfred Ruggiero. "The most common cause of these cold-weather breakdowns is a weak or dead battery."

AAA recommends motorists have a load test to closely monitor the condition of the vehicle's battery, especially batteries more than 2 years old. "Although batteries can carry warranties of four years or more, a warranty is no guarantee an older battery will continue to work in severe weather," Ruggiero said.

The most common sign of a weak battery is an unusual sound coming from the starter motor when the ignition key is turned, indicating difficulty in starting the engine.

If the vehicle is difficult to start, check that the battery connections are tight and no corrosion is present on the battery terminal. To remove corrosion, use an old toothbrush to clean the cable connectors and terminals with a solution of baking soda and water. Next, inspect the tension of all drive belts. They should flex no more than one-half inch. If the battery's fluid level can be checked, make certain the fluid covers the battery plates. If no problems are found and the vehicle is still difficult to start, drive to a service station or auto parts store to have the battery and charging system tested and, if necessary, replaced.

In addition to

weak or dead batteries, starting problems can be caused by malfunctioning alternators or starter motors. A qualified repair facility can make an accurate diagnosis and repair.

If the vehicle will not start, use caution and follow instructions in the owner's manual when attempting a jump start. If unsure about the proper procedure, call AAA or another qualified professional for assistance.

To help avoid winter breakdowns, AAA recommends motorists have their cars and trucks thoroughly inspected before cold weather arrives. In addition to the battery, fluids, belts, hoses, filters, and tires should all be checked.

Because of the difficult driving conditions often encountered in the winter, motorists should also be sure their lighting systems, brakes and windshield wipers are functioning properly.

### AAA Offers Winter Advice For Parents of Young Drivers

Winter driving can be challenging to any motorist, but slippery roads can be especially difficult for novice drivers dealing with ice and snow for the first time, according to AAA Southern New England.

"Parents need to work with their teens to help them gain the experience they need for safe winter driving in the safest possible environment," said John Paul, AAA manager of traffic safety and public affairs.

AAA offers the following tips to help parents teach their teens to drive in winter conditions:

— Under close supervision, let your teen practice slow speed maneuvers on a wide open snow- or ice-covered parking lot. Have him or her practice hard braking and steering in skidding conditions.

— A novice driver's first on-the-road experience with winter-weather driving should not occur during a major snow storm. Wait until conditions are less severe.

— Consider limiting your teen's driving on slippery conditions to daylight hours until they have gained experience.

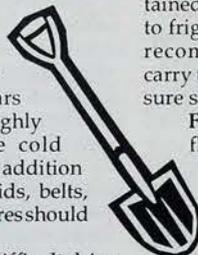
— Remind your teen that driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol is dangerous under any conditions, and that

the risk is even greater on slippery roads.

— Make sure the vehicle your teen is driving is equipped with essential emergency equipment, including a flashlight, blankets, jumper cables, sand or non-clumping cat litter and a small shovel or ice scraper.

### AAA Recommends Emergency Equipment Kit

Because even the best maintained vehicles can fall victim to frigid winter weather, AAA recommends every vehicle carry the following items to ensure safe winter travel:



**Flashlight** — A working flashlight should be stored where the driver can access it without leaving the vehicle. That will enable the motorist to see obstacles and be

seen by other drivers when exiting the vehicle in an emergency. Also carry spare batteries.

**Jumper Cables** — Jumper cables can be an essential tool for starting vehicles with weak or dead batteries, but they should only be used by individuals familiar with the proper safety precautions. Vehicle owner's manuals should be consulted for instructions.

**Abrasive Material** — Sand or non-clumping cat litter can be spread under the wheels to improve traction when a vehicle becomes stuck in snow or ice. Special traction mats and even floor mats also can be used for this purpose.

**Shovel** — A small shovel can be used to carefully dig snow away from the wheels.

**Warning Devices** — Flares or reflective triangles alert other motorists that you are broken down or stuck and helps give them enough time to slow down in order to pass safely.



**Blankets** — Cold weather can quickly turn an inconvenient break-

down into a life-threatening situation. Blankets can provide valuable protection against the cold and can help keep you comfortable until help arrives. Floor mats and newspapers can also be used to provide insulation in emergencies.

**Snow Brush/Ice Scraper** — It's important that windows and lights are clear of ice and snow in order to maintain adequate visibility. The entire vehicle should be brushed clear so blowing snow does not become a hazard for other motorists.



The RHODE ISLAND JEWISH HERALD  
1999  
*Bridal Issue*  
FEBRUARY 11, 1999

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We are closing up production on our 1999 Bridal Issue, to be published on February 11.

If you would like to submit editorial copy for inclusion, or run an ad, we must have all copy and photos by 3:00 p.m. Monday, January 25, 1999.

You may not know that our 1997 and 1994 Bridal Issues were awarded *First Place, Advertising Supplement* in the New England Press Association's annual "Better Newspaper" contest, and that our 1995 Bridal Issue received *Second Place* honors in the same contest. These contests have included entries from 200 small newspapers from New England and the Canadian Maritimes. With your participation, perhaps we can make this year's another contender.

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