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News at a Glance

A Spirit Of Hope In The Fight Against AIDS

Breaking The
Deafening Silence
by Luke O'Neill
Community Reporter

In recognition of World AIDS Day on Dec. 1, a somber, yet, consoling service of hope and healing was held at Temple Beth-El, Providence. The service was led by Rabbi Michael Cahana and was filled with a message of hope for people of all faiths touched — directly or indirectly — by the AIDS epidemic. Music and singing were led by Cantor Ida Rae Cahana and singer/songwriter Laura Berkson. The moving and interactive meeting was sponsored by the AIDS Task Force of the Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.

World AIDS Day, in its 12th year of worldwide observance, had a theme this year of "End the Silence: Listen, Learn, Live!" Despite the new hope for treatment, the purpose of this year's theme and campaign is to promote communication and increase awareness of the severity of the AIDS/HIV global epidemic, one of the most devastating epidemics in modern history. Approximately 190 countries observed World AIDS Day 1999 to draw attention to AIDS/HIV.

A calendar of more than 20 events was scheduled from Nov. 29 through Dec. 14 in the Providence area. The Jewish

Federation of Rhode Island, along with 20 other agencies and organizations, participated in World AIDS Day 1999. The American Association for World Health coordinates many of the World AIDS Day activities throughout the country.

The Service of Hope and Healing at Temple Beth-El rooted those in attendance with a positive sense of perseverance. Prayers, meditations and songs gave hope to the gathering of nearly 60 people in the Herman L. Bennett Chapel to reflect on how they have been afflicted by AIDS — directly or indirectly.

Prayers reached out to those who sought healing, "We pray for those who are affected by illness, anguish and pain. Heal them." Songs led by Cantor Cahana and Berkson awed much of the group while consoling much of their pain.

According to the Rhode Island Department of Health, in the all-time history of the state, as of Nov. 1, 1999, 1,950 Rhode Islanders have been diagnosed with AIDS, of whom more than 1,000 have died. The department has received more than 3,700 HIV-positive test results.

Debbie Blitz, an AIDS Task Force member, remembered the spirit of Julie Gutterman at the service. Gutterman passed away earlier this year of cancer and was a fellow AIDS Task Force member.

(Continued on Page 10)



AS PART OF World AIDS Day 1999, Laura Berkson (left) and Cantor Ida Rae Cahana were musical leaders at a service to help those affected by AIDS. The service was held Dec. 1 at Temple Beth-El, Providence. Herald photo by Luke O'Neill

Hillary Clinton Visits Shaare Zedek Jerusalem Medical Center

During her recent two-day trip to Israel, First Lady Hillary Clinton made a special visit to the pediatric dialysis unit of Shaare Zedek Jerusalem Medical Center which offers treatments to both Arab and Jewish children suffering from kidney failure.

During her hospital tour, Clinton was joined by Menno Ratzker, president of the American Committee for Shaare Zedek, who noted, "As she is a major advocate and spokesperson for children's health issues, we are grateful the first lady has made a priority of visiting the children at Shaare Zedek Hospital."

Clinton was especially moved by the peaceful co-existence of Jews and Arabs in the Israeli hospital, where the patients being treated for the disease are predominantly Arab. (A high percentage of marriages between cousins in the Arab community result in recessive genetic disorders leading to kidney diseases.)

The 100-year-old hospital serves all segments of

Jerusalem's multi-cultural communities, irrespective of race or

religion. Shaare Zedek is one of only two hospitals administering pediatric dialysis treatment in Israel.

As a guest of Nava Barak, wife of Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak, the first lady also toured other areas of Jerusalem including the gravesite of the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial. In addition, she attended a conference on youth violence at Tel Aviv University.

Shaare Zedek Jerusalem Medical Center, one of the world's leading critical-care medical centers, opened its doors in 1902 and has been practicing, advocating and setting the standards for "Jewish medicine" ever since. Rooted in the spiritual and ethical precepts of traditional Judaism, Shaare Zedek blends state-of-the-art technology and techniques with compassionate medical care in treating more than 250,000 patients each year.



FIRST LADY HILLARY CLINTON receives a gift from a child in the pediatric dialysis unit at Shaare Zedek Jerusalem Medical Center. Looking on is Professor Yonatan Halevy, director general of the hospital, and Dr. Rachel Adatto-Levy, deputy medical director of Shaare Zedek and advisor on women's health issues for Israel's Ministry of Health.

Photo courtesy of American Committee for Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem

# HAPPENINGS

## Entertainment for Children

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

### December

- 9 **Play & Learn.** 3 to 4:30 p.m. Join Gramma Hope in the cozy and safe environment of Littlewoods where toddlers, ages 2 to 4, play festive games designed to encourage their blossoming skills. Sing songs, solve puzzles and play finger games!
- 10 **Preschool Friday: Art Smart.** 9:40 a.m. to 1:50 p.m. Preschoolers ages 3 to 5 search for squares, circles and triangles and fit them into a basic shape puzzle. Hear a story about playful shapes that arrange themselves into a picture. Create a collage using colorful paper. Call 273-KIDS, ext. 234, for registration information.
- 11 **Flying Machines.** 1 to 3 p.m. How far can your paper plane fly? Children ages 3 and up fold paper to craft planes that soar. Test the aerodynamics of the classic dart or the "spinnability" of the whirligig.
- 12 **Flying Machines.** 1 to 3 p.m. Children ages 3 and up fold creative paper planes that whizz, loop and glide. Why does a dart fly and whirligig spin?
- 13 **Museum Closed**
- 15 **Giant Paper Chain.** 3 to 4:30 p.m. Kids ages 5 and up make a giant colorful paper chain with 2,000 links to celebrate the millennium. Write your wish for the new year on a link and add it to the chain!



## Children's Hour at the Kennedy Library

On Dec. 18 the Children's Hour at the Kennedy Library presents two free performances of the children's classic, "Pinocchio," performed by the National Marionette Theatre. The first hour-long performance begins at 10:30 a.m. at the John F. Kennedy Library and Museum on Columbia Point, Boston. The second performance begins at 1 p.m. Appropriate for family audiences and children ages 5 and older. Children must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, call (617) 929-1250.

## Calendar: December 9 thru December 15

- 9 **The University of Rhode Island's Theater Department** presents "Fiddler on the Roof," on Dec. 9 and 10 at 8 p.m. in the Robert E. Will Theatre, URI Fine Arts Center, Kingston. \$12 adults, \$10 seniors/students and children under 12. Call 874-5843.
- 10 **Legendary blues man B.B. King** takes to the PPAC stage, along with "Lucille." 220 Weybosset St., Providence. Call 421-ARTS for tickets.  
**The Rhode Island College Symphony Orchestra** performs at the Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts Auditorium at 8 p.m. General admission is \$7; \$5 senior citizens and non-RIC students. Free for RIC students with identification. Call 456-9883.  
**Authors Jon Land, David Macaulay** and R.W. Alley will be among the Rhode Island authors, illustrators and artists who will sign their works at Gateway's second annual Light of Hope Book Festival at the Warwick Mall, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Dec. 11 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
**Trinity Repertory** presents David Mamet's "The Cryptogram" Dec. 10 through Jan. 16. Tickets are \$26 to \$38. Student, senior and disabled discounts. Call 351-4242.  
**Nineteenth Annual Foundry Artists Holiday Sale.** Dec. 10 through 19, CIC Complex, Providence. Variety of media including glass, jewelry, ceramics, painting and more. Call 331-2353.
- 11 **Doug Cotler in concert** at Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston. Cotler is an entertainer and Grammy winner for "Manhunt" from the movie "Flashdance." Free. 7:30 p.m. Call 785-1800.  
**Winter concert** at Tollgate High School, Warwick. "Israel in Egypt" — a full performance of the Oratorio. 7:30 p.m. Call 467-8039.  
**RISD Alumni Holiday Art Sale.** Rhode Island Convention Center, One Sabin St., Providence. Admission is \$3; children under 14 are free. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
**The group For Sentimental Reasons** takes to the Stadium Theatre stage, Monument Square, Woonsocket. 8 p.m. Admission is \$15 and \$18. Call 762-4545.  
**K&S Ballroom Dance** at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 1047 Park Ave., Cranston. Complimentary fox-trot lesson from 7 to 8 p.m. with open dancing until midnight. Smoke free. \$10 per person. Call 821-4108.
- 12 **The Writers' Circle** features comedy writer Grace Tryon. She'll read from her new play, "Family Reunion." 1:30 p.m., Sarah Doyle Center, 185 Meeting Street. Call 461-6691.  
**The Hope Center annual Road Race.** Collect as much money as you can for the Hope Center for Cancer Support, 297 Wickenden St., Providence. Long sleeve T-shirt for all who enter. Rain or Shine. 9 a.m., Thompson Junior High School, Newport. \$18 fee. Call 454-0404.  
**The Virginia Lynch Gallery** presents the work of artist David Bowerman and others Dec. 12 through Jan. 30, 2000, 3883 Main Road, Tiverton. Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday 1 to 5 p.m.

## Look Mom, I Got an A!

Did your son or daughter make the grade this semester? Then send us their name, age, school and honors level to be published in the Herald, P.O. Box 6063, Providence, R.I. 02940.

## Solati Trio Concert to Be Held at Moses Brown School

The Solati Trio, musicians-in-residence at Moses Brown School, will offer a public performance on Dec. 11 at 8 p.m. The concert will be held in the Sinclair Room at the Moses Brown School, 250 Lloyd Ave., Providence. Tickets are available at the door for \$12 each, \$10 for senior citizens and \$5 for students.

Formed in 1984, the trio has appeared in numerous, highly-acclaimed concerts. They present a wide range of repertoire including premieres of works written especially for the trio. The members are Ludmilla Lifson, pianist; Sophia Herman, violinist; and Hrant Tatian, violoncellist. Herman and Lifson are twin sisters who were born and received their musical training in Russia.

As musicians-in-residence at Moses Brown, the trio members offer performances, assemblies, and group or individual lessons for students in all grades throughout the year. For more information, contact the Moses Brown School at 831-7350.

## The Second Annual Marianne Benefit

### Local Musicians, Businesses Join to Fight Cancer

On Dec. 14, The Century Lounge will host the second annual Marianne Benefit. The evening will include complimentary food, door prizes, and musical performances by Jonathan Stark, Spogga and The Whip.

Last year's benefit was inspired by Marianne Cavanaugh who had been diagnosed with stomach cancer during a lapse in her health insurance. The show raised nearly \$6,000 which organizers hope to exceed this year.

The reception and food start at 8 p.m. and music will run from 9 p.m. until midnight. Tickets are \$10 and are available at The Century Lounge or can be ordered by calling 573-5332. All proceeds will be donated to the fight against cancer.

For more information, contact Providence Music Events at 573-5332.

## Directory to this week's Herald

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT .....	12-13
CLASSIFIED .....	15
FEATURE .....	10-11
HAPPENINGS .....	2
HEALTHWISE .....	8-9
JEWISH COMMUNITY .....	4-7
OBITUARIES .....	14
OPINION .....	3

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**RHODE ISLAND JEWISH HERALD**

## OPINION

## Coming To The Aid The Original Spin on Chanukah

December 1, 1999  
To the Editor:

The people of Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts have set an all-time record in demonstrating their enormous kindness and goodwill to others this Thanksgiving. Thanks to our outpouring of contributions from countless businesses and individuals, the Rhode Island Community Food Bank received 225,000 pounds of food through the Scouting for Food drive, and provided turkeys to nearly 11,000 families this year through our own Thanksgiving turkey drive.

We are grateful to the Narragansett Council of Boy Scouts for organizing their 12th annual Scouting for Food Drive. Their hard work and dedication helped to bring 225,000 pounds of food to our warehouse in time for the holidays. Clearly the spirit of giving was alive and well throughout the state as Boy Scouts collected bags of foods from area residents.

Raising 11,000 turkeys wasn't an easy task. The Food Bank was faced with the daunting challenge of meeting 14,500

requests for turkeys from our member agencies. Generous sponsorship from Fleet, Stop & Shop, Paul Arpin, and Copley Distributors were integral to the success of the drive.

As the word about our drive spread, we received a very special donation of \$10,000 from Kathy Kazianis, honoring the memory of her father, Harry, owner of Harry's New York System restaurant. Hundreds of individual donors came streaming through our doors bearing frozen turkeys or donations. Although we fell just short of the total turkey request, generosity from Rhode Islanders was greater than ever. In fact, donations from individuals surpassed last year's individual donations by more than 2,500 turkeys.

The successes of our holiday campaigns do not belong to us. They belong to the generous individuals and businesses that make these campaigns successful. Their altruism has made the holiday season a little brighter for those in need, and we thank them.

Bernard J. Beaudreau  
Executive Director

by Rabbi Avi Shafran  
Am Ehad Resources

'Tis the season to be Jewish, menorahs and latkes abound, and oil (for each, unfortunately) will soon flow like water in countless Jewish homes. Chanukah, thank G-d, is once again upon us.

It has become fashionable to attribute the popularity of the Jewish festival of lights — second among American Jews only to Passover — to the fact that the winter Jewish holiday tends to roughly coincide with a major Western Christian celebration. But to see Chanukah as nothing more than a foil to another faith's observance is to miss the Jewish festival's conceptual essence. Chanukah may well resonate with contemporary Jews

for a deeper reason — because it speaks, perhaps more than any other Jewish calendar-milestone, directly and powerfully to us.

Chanukah as been appropriated by a host of Jewish leaders and pundits for their own, often partisan, purposes. Last Chanukah, for instance, a New York news radio station repeatedly featured a Reform rabbi's remarkable declaration that since Chanukah commemorates a victory over an oppressive regime bent on undermining the Jewish religious tradition, the holiday should be regarded as a celebration of religious pluralism. Several years earlier, a widely published columnist (Orthodox, as it happens) suggested that the festival of lights

is an affirmation of the need for tolerance.

Chanukah, however, isn't celebratory Silly Putty. It has a long, deep and clear tradition in classical Jewish texts, from the Talmud through the Lurianic mystical works to those of the Chassidic masters. And, on its more basic level, it addresses neither pluralism nor tolerance, admirable though these concepts may be in their proper place, but Jewish identity and continuity, the challenges most urgently faced by the contemporary Jewish world.

For the rededication of the Temple from which the holiday takes its name (Chanukah means "dedication") and the military victory over the

(Continued on Page 15)

## Time Is Short, and the Challenge is Demanding

by Ronald S. Lauder  
President, Jewish National Fund

Once again, summit talks on peace in the Middle East are taking place. To anyone who has followed the story of modern Israel in the news media, the pictures and the stories are all too familiar. The photo opportunities are filled with smiles and handshakes, while the headlines speak of home and "charting a path." "Time is short," said Ehud Barak, "and the challenge is demanding."

Barak could easily have been speaking about another grave problem in the Middle East: a lack of water that afflicts the entire region. A drought this past winter so severely drained Israel's water reserves that the government was forced to postpone delivery of 20 million cubic meters of water to King Abdullah's new government as part of the Jordan-Israel peace agreement. More recently, the issues in the media are the

breaching of the "redline" on the fresh water Kinneret and the resignation of Israel's water commissioner.

The drought — the worst in 80 years — portends an unstable and contentious future unless Israel and her neighbors work together to conserve scarce water resources in a fragile ecosystem. With a tented population increase since 1948, Israel and her neighbors need to confront the problems of urbanization and modernization that threaten the Middle East's natural water system. High birth rates and increased immigration only add to this trend. Israel's population of 6 million is expected to grow to 8 million by the year 2020.

Many rivers and streams in Israel are now polluted. The aquifers under Tel Aviv are no longer being replenished with rainwater. The Kinneret, now below the "redline," runs the risk of becoming too salty for

consumption. Israel's water resources yield 1.8 billion cubic meters each year, but population growth has boosted annual consumption to 2 billion cubic meters. The difference is filled by JNF reservoirs and over-pumping other sources. Politicians will tell you that it is not unusual or too dangerous to operate a budget at a deficit, but one cannot take the same approach to water without putting life and potential peace at risk.

The press portrays the problem accurately — it is serious. At current consumption rates, Israel runs an annual deficit of about 2 billion cubic meters. In 10 years, all fresh water supplies will need to be used for household needs, thus leaving the rest to be filled by other means.

Clearly, something needs to be done for today and for the long-term water security of Israel. Recently, Prime Minister Barak traveled to Turkey to dis-

(Continued on Page 15)

## Addressing The December Dilemma

Year-round, we are bombarded with tempting images of "must-have" items and "must-see" movies and television shows that are available to us regardless of our beliefs. But throughout the December "holiday season," our culture is saturated with symbols of religious observances that clearly do not apply to us as Jews. So it is at this time of year, especially, that many Jews question their participation in mainstream American popular culture.

The Orthodox Union and the Rabbinical Council of America have created a new publication that attempts to address this

complex subject by exploring the critical questions: "Are we part of the national culture?" and, perhaps more importantly, "Is the national culture our culture?"

At issue is the biblical injunction to resist assimilating into the prevailing culture of the country in which we live and its repeated urgings for us to be vigilant in the preservation of our own religious identity.

Citing centuries of rabbinic scholarship, the booklet traces the historical applications of this concept, addressing everything from ancient practices to

(Continued on Page 15)

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Candlelighting  
December 10, 1999  
3:57 p.m.



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

## It's For You

In this week's portion, *Vayeshev*, the brothers of Joseph are gathered together in Dothan when they see him approaching. Being jealous of Joseph the dreamer, Joseph of the coat of many colors, the son who seems favored by Jacob, they plot against him. They imagine throwing him in a pit, taking his coat, and telling their father a wild beast has killed their brother.

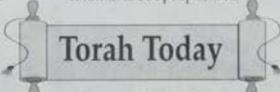
Then, of course, they realize how awful this would be, have a good laugh over the foolishness of their scheme, and welcome Joseph with open arms!

No, that's not how it turns out. Actually, they execute their plan, with unexpected, labyrinthine results. But wouldn't it have been better if they had been more wise, more moral to begin with? After all, those are the sons of Jacob, the men from whom the 12 tribes of Israel will descend. Aren't they imbued with holiness?

Yes, and that's part of the message. Even the most spiri-

tual of our ancestors, Moses, was capable of offending G-d with his actions. Certainly these men, who lived in an earlier time, a raw and violent culture, surrounded by danger and treachery, were even more subject to the imprecations of the world.

Torah is about people, who



on their specific level, have many of the same fundamental challenges we face. Torah speaks to people like us, who are physical, desirous, inclined to anger, slander and other sins. Otherwise, what would it teach us?

People often make fun of popular stories that portray unbearably sweet and kind folk, who are always setting a good example for others. And they're right to dismiss this kind of tale, because it doesn't relate to real life. Look around you: there

aren't "nice" people and "evil" people. There are people who one day can be generous and endearing, and the next day can kick cats and hang up on their mothers. In short, they're all human.

People are sinful, then repentant. They do ill to each other, and later reconcile. In relating to us these principles, this makes Torah the great teacher that it is. Generations would not have immersed themselves in this volume if it was just filled with unattainable epigrams on How to Be Holy. It is fascinating simultaneously to 5-year-olds and 95-year-olds because it has layer upon layer of meaning that can continue to help us throughout our lives, about people we know.

The reason to study Torah regularly? Like no other book ever written, it's about you.

Submitted by Rabbi Yossi Lauer of Chai Center of Chabad of West Bay, Warwick.

# JEWISH COMMUNITY

## Seeking Literary Refuge In The Holocaust

by Luke O'Neill  
Community Reporter

A Nazi occupation survivor, Henryk Grynberg, lectured at the List Arts Center on the Brown University campus on Dec. 2. Grynberg discussed the Holocaust as a new literary experience while incorporating and critiquing various writers of the era. The Warsaw-born writer and actor admitted he never developed confidence in human beings because of the Holocaust. While referring to certain people as "scoundrels," Grynberg was reluctant to confide in anyone. Never learning to reveal his true feelings to someone, he became a writer.

The lecture, in memory of Brown professor emeritus David Hirsch, who died earlier this year, was sponsored by Brown Hillel, the Judaic Studies program, the English department and American Civilization. He was an English instructor at Brown for more than 20 years.

Grynberg, 63, graduated from Warsaw University with a master's in journalism in 1959. Later, he started publishing prose, poetry and essays about the Holocaust and became an actor with the Jewish State Theater in Warsaw. Leaving the concrete world of journalism, Grynberg sought emotional and artistic refuge on the stage to better express himself. He has authored more than 20 books of poetry and prose on the Holocaust and post-Holocaust trauma. In the United States during the late '60s, Grynberg protested against the regime's anti-Jewish campaign and the censorship of his writing by refusing to return to Poland.

The Holocaust began when Grynberg was 6 years old. He

had to "descend to the level of an animal," while hiding out in forests and peasant barns. "Death was truly an inseparable part of life. I saw no borders between the two," he said.

Grynberg, like so many other Jews, was forced into the role of

ferred to the Jewish survivors as "priceless relics."

Lost in the mental turmoil of the Holocaust and losing Jewish identity, Grynberg adopted Christian ethics, which was "food for which I was most hungry," he said. Grynberg, author

while Grynberg himself became a literary "writer of the dead" and found an empty place in Polish literature.

Arguing that post-Holocaust writers were "too particular and concrete," Grynberg contended that "only a concrete world can burn." Grynberg, author of *The Victory*, set out to touch the post-Holocaust emotional trauma that eluded so many writers. Citing and quoting numerous Holocaust writers, Grynberg believed some writers lacked vital, apparent emotions that existed during and after the Holocaust.

The author of *Children of Zion*, Grynberg briefly mentioned the child survivors of the Holocaust resorting to animal instincts and escaping with a "howl of triumph." While telling his stories from a child's viewpoint, he tries to give a straight-forward story without rhetoric to parallel a child's thoughts and experience. "The child's independent view is the most revealing and the best 'literary' account for telling about the Holocaust," Grynberg said.

A survivor of the Warsaw Ghetto, beating the odds of exactly one in a thousand, Grynberg quoted a passage from one of his works describing Holocaust camps. "Jews pushed themselves to the gate. They want to go as quickly as possible to the place of execution...They throw themselves on the ground and let the bullet of salvation reach them, and quiet their aching hearts."

A true artifact of humanistic and historical survival, Grynberg contended that post-Holocaust humanism has a distrust of humankind. "We can be brave, beautiful, charming, cute, even good. We can be admired, adored, enjoyed, even loved. But we cannot be trusted." He said the Holocaust is an important lesson for all humanity and argued that some Holocaust stories try to find a happy ending — but there is none.

As a writer, Grynberg is able to have a world of his own. At the end of his lecture, he quoted a poet, who described a 1943 ghetto. "There will be no other end of the world."



HENRYK GRYNBERG, writer, actor and Brown University guest speaker, overcame the Holocaust by escaping into the literary world.

Herald photo by Luke O'Neill

non-Jew. With religious origins dissipating, many Jews settled into a pagan city where they changed their clothes and names to fit in. "If Jewish origin meant nothing to the Jews," Grynberg said, "the Jews would cease to exist." Grynberg, the recipient of several Polish literary prizes, re-

ferred to the Jewish survivors as "priceless relics." Lost in the mental turmoil of the Holocaust and losing Jewish identity, Grynberg adopted Christian ethics, which was "food for which I was most hungry," he said. Grynberg, author while Grynberg himself became a literary "writer of the dead" and found an empty place in Polish literature. Arguing that post-Holocaust writers were "too particular and concrete," Grynberg contended that "only a concrete world can burn." Grynberg, author of *The Victory*, set out to touch the post-Holocaust emotional trauma that eluded so many writers. Citing and quoting numerous Holocaust writers, Grynberg believed some writers lacked vital, apparent emotions that existed during and after the Holocaust. The author of *Children of Zion*, Grynberg briefly mentioned the child survivors of the Holocaust resorting to animal instincts and escaping with a "howl of triumph." While telling his stories from a child's viewpoint, he tries to give a straight-forward story without rhetoric to parallel a child's thoughts and experience. "The child's independent view is the most revealing and the best 'literary' account for telling about the Holocaust," Grynberg said.

For Grynberg, personal experiences led to a unique literary attitude and artistic expression which, in the end, helped him restore his Jewish identity.

Grynberg, a Virginia resident, turned to the theatrical world to express himself. He did not become a Polish actor, but a Jewish actor as if to bring Jews back to life. His writing served as his emotional outlet, raising his voice against several Polish writers. Many writers, claimed Grynberg, abandoned much of their Jewish tradition

## JFS Kosher Mealsite Hosts Parties, Other Activities

On Dec. 9, participants from the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island will visit the JFS Kosher Mealsite at Temple Torat Yisrael, Cranston, for lunch and will bring along their singing group. (The mealsite serves seniors in Cranston and Warwick; the JCCRI Kosher Mealsite serves seniors from Providence and Pawtucket).

On Dec. 16, there will be a party for everyone with December birthdays, with musical entertainment by Lou Renzi.

Mah-jongg has been added to the regular activities during December, which include tai chi, dance therapy and exercise classes, writing class, bingo and visits from the Bureau of Education Bookmobile.

The activities and programs accompany a hot kosher meal every weekday throughout the month. The December schedule includes:

- Bingo — Dec. 23 and 30
- Tai Chi — Dec. 28
- Exercise Class — Dec. 15, 22, and 29
- Visits from the Bureau of Jewish Education Bookmobile — Dec. 22

- Dance Therapy — Dec. 13 and 21
- Nutrition Menu Meeting — Dec. 14
- Birthday party with cake and entertainment by Lou Renzi — Dec. 16
- Program with Ronnie Guttin from the Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island program — Dec. 20
- Mah-jongg — Dec. 22 from 12:45 to 2:30 p.m.
- Men's/Women's Discussion Groups — every Friday
- Weekly Shabbat Meal — every Friday

**The mealsite will be closed on Dec. 24 and 27**

Programs begin at 11 a.m. unless otherwise stated and a nutritious, hot kosher lunch is served at noon. Every Friday, there is a special Shabbat meal, complete with candles, challah and kiddush.

The JFS Kosher Mealsite in Cranston is located at Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston. Transportation is available every day for residents of Cranston and areas of Warwick. For reservations and information, call mealsite coordinator Ronda French at 781-1771.

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# JEWISH COMMUNITY

## The Herald Congratulates Justice Victoria S. Lederberg

The Hon. Victoria S. Lederberg, associate justice of the R.I. Supreme Court, was chosen as RITLA's Citizen of the Year at the 13th annual award reception which was held at the Aldridge Mansion in Warwick, R.I., on Sept. 24. Justice Lederberg was recognized as an extraordinary jurist in whom the dignity and nobility of the law are personified.

Lederberg has been a member of the Supreme Court since May of 1993. During the period of her service, she has been a great source of strength to the court. Her keen intellect, her great research abilities and her comprehensive intellectual background have enabled her contributions to the quality of the opinions of the court to be truly outstanding.

She received her J.D. from Suffolk University Law School; her Ph.D. in psychology from Brown University; and her master's degree and bachelor's degree, cum laude with honors in biology, from Brown University. She previously had served as a judge to the Providence



The Hon. Victoria S. Lederberg shakes hands with Raymond A. Pacia, president of the Rhode Island Trial Lawyers Association.

Photo courtesy of the RITLA

Municipal Court, an attorney with the law firm of Licht and Seminoff, and a professor of psychology at Rhode Island College. She was chair of the National Advisory Panel of Financing of Elementary and Secondary Education, having been appointed by President Carter. Justice Lederberg served as a

State Senator from 1985 to 1991, and a State Representative from 1975 to 1983, in the Rhode Island General Assembly.

As a legislator, she was active in broad areas of public policy including library affairs, finance legislation, and municipal oversight. She sponsored major legislation on education, library funding reform, accountability in government-public policy issues, energy facilities, and health and safety. She introduced the "Lederberg Act" which provided education for handicapped children, and the Confidentiality of Medical Records Act which established a legal privilege on communications between patients and health care providers.

## Camp JORI Receives Accreditation From ACA

The only Jewish overnight camp in Rhode Island, Camp JORI has just received accreditation from the American Camping Association, the largest, most prestigious organization of its kind. Achieving the approval rating was a several-months-long process that investigated every aspect of the camp.

The accreditation process was rigorous, with the camp meeting several hundred standards and passing on-site inspections," said Ronni Guttin, camp director. Areas examined included human resources practices, the physical plant, transportation, food and sanitation, health and wellness and virtually every program of the camp. There is a very detailed set of requirements for each area. For example, the section on hiring practices covers procedures for conducting and documenting DCYF checks, background checks, fingerprinting, personal interviews, checking of references. Guttin adds, "We feel really good about it, because the standards are very high and we scored nearly 100 percent."

Not only do the standards have to be met, but the camp is required to have written documentation on every element. The American Camping Association conducts a review on each applicant camp every three years. "Having the American Camping Association accreditation makes Camp JORI very competitive in the marketplace.

It is something parents look for when considering where to send their children to camp," said Guttin.

The camp offers a full sports program, including tennis, boating, water polo, swimming, softball, karate, soccer, miniature golf, basketball and sports workshops. The Narragansett-based camp also offers arts and crafts including ceramics, instrumental music and theatre; nature programs; aerobics; special events and field trips.

For ages 7 to 13, there is an overnight camp with two four-week sessions, and for first-time campers only there are four two-week sessions. JORI also offers a day camp with two-week sessions for children 6 to 9 years of age. Camp JORI observes the dietary laws of kashruth.

Would-be campers are advised to register as soon as possible. Larger numbers of campers have already registered for the coming summer, and limited openings are still available. For registration packets and information, call Camp JORI at 521-2655.

### Camp JORI Reunion Planned for Jan. 9

There will be a Camp JORI reunion on Jan. 9 from 2 to 4 p.m. at Roller Magic in Warwick, R.I. Campers are invited to attend and may bring a friend. The price is \$2 per child. Call the camp office at 521-2655 for reservations and information.

## Head of New England ADL Dies

Leonard P. Zakim, 46, the crusading head of the New England office of the Anti-Defamation League died Dec. 2 of cancer.

Since taking over the regional ADL in 1983, Zakim traveled with Cardinal Bernard Law to Cold War Poland to promote better relations between Catholics and Jews. More recently, he joined with Boston sports heroes to advance harmony between races and ethnic groups.

"Lenny was a master bridge builder — an architect for justice and equality," said U.S. Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass. "Lenny recognized that America's diversity makes us a stronger and better nation, and our differences should bring us together, not drive us apart."

As head of the New England ADL, Zakim traveled to the Middle East to promote peace, and he met with leaders from Egypt and Israel. He joined then-Rep. Joseph Kennedy in a 1992 fact-finding trip to Germany to probe neo-Nazi violence, and he received the Order of St. Gregory — a knighthood conferred by the Vatican

— for his work to improve relations between Catholics and Jews.

Zakim also worked to improve relations between blacks and Jews, and he accompanied such black leaders as Martin Luther King III and former U.S. Attorney Wayne Budd on trips to Israel. Zakim was a member of Harvard University's black-Jewish working group.

"Lenny Zakim had a special mission while he was on this earth, and he fulfilled that mission as fully as anyone twice his years could have," said Donna Harris-Lewis, widow of the late Celtics star Reggie Lewis. "The mission he shared with my late husband, Reggie Lewis, was to eradicate intolerance, anti-Semitism and bigotry."

Reggie Lewis was involved in the early days of Team Harmony, an ADL program that has sports stars promote ethnic and racial understanding to youth.

Last month, Zakim celebrated his 46th birthday.

The funeral was held Dec. 3 at Temple Emanuel in Newton, Mass.

## Ira S. and Anna Galkin Hanukkah Concert presents

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# JEWISH COMMUNITY

## A Day of Music, Art and Dancing



TEMPLE SINAI, Cranston, hosted a Chanukah Cultural Festival, *Shalosh Nerot*, which saw the third candle lit on the menorah on Dec. 5. Here, people begin to create Judaica art. The temple's festival was in conjunction with Temple Am David and South County Hebrew School.

Herald photos by Luke O'Neill



PEOPLE CELEBRATED at the Chanukah Cultural Festival as they learned new Israeli dances. The cultural celebration was supported by a grant from the Bureau of Jewish Education and the endowment fund of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.

## Give Some Books, Get Some Books

On Dec. 13 at 7:30 p.m., at 106 Angell St., Providence, Perspectives is doing a Yankee Book Swap. Bring all those wonderful books that you've read and trade them for all those wonderful books you haven't read. Coffee, tea, hot chocolate, cookies and chocolate gelt and cake will be served. For more information, call Magee at 273-9824. Don't forget to bring those children's books for Reach Out and Read Rhode Island.

Perspectives is collecting new and gently used children's books for Reach Out and Read Rhode Island.

You can drop off your donations during December at Brown-RISD Hillel, 80 Brown

St., Providence, or bring them to Perspective events.

Reach Out and Read's volunteers lead to children in hospital clinic waiting rooms to demonstrate for parents, as well as children, the pleasures to be found in books. In addition, at each regular exam between 6 months and 6 years old, physicians give a new or gently used, high quality children's book to their patients, endowing them with a library of up to 10 books by the time the child enters first grade. It is sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.

For more information, contact Michael at 861-9973 or <msimon@providenceplan.org>.

## Relive Your Fondlest Memories

Do you have special memories of growing up in Rhode Island? Do you remember when the boys came home from World War II or taking the trolley from downtown to Wayland Square? Then write us and tell us about it. From now until Dec. 23, the Rhode Island Jewish Herald will print your stories and memories. Send your stories, with pictures if possible, to "Remember When" The Rhode Island Jewish Herald, P.O. Box 6063, Providence, R.I. 02940. And don't forget to send in your submissions for our Millennium Issue. What were the most important Jewish events of the last century and who were the Jewish people who made a difference?

## United Jewish Communities Opts to Postpone Population Study

The United Jewish Communities officials distributed a letter throughout the federation system giving notice that there will be a limited delay in the implementation of the National Jewish Population Survey 2000 in order to ensure full consideration by its recently appointed top leadership. Consistent with

the NJPS 1990 survey, the NJPS 2000 is intended to become the definitive source of data on the Jewish community during the first decade of the 21st century. It will be used for communal planning, financial resource development, Jewish education, scholarly research on the social life of American Jews, and many other purposes.

The goal of UJC is to make this survey as comprehensive as possible, in an attempt to capture the state of the American Jewish community. The results of this survey will drive programming throughout the federations into the next century.

UJC President Steven Solender stated, "The newly formed Pillar Committees charged with creating our agenda, expressed an interest in examining the questionnaire to ensure that survey results provide the data needed to develop their strategies. In order to accommodate UJC's goals and address the feedback we will receive from the newly formed Pillar Committees, we considered it important at this time to postpone the start of the interviewing phase of the survey."

Louise Stoll, the new UJC executive vice president and chief operating officer, assumed responsibility for oversight of the study. She commented, "UJC considers NJPS 2000 to be among its highest priorities. Once the consultation process has been completed, UJC will proceed with the field phase of the study as planned. We have full confidence in the UJC research department and the National Technical Advisory Committee who has provided a dedicated leadership to this project for the past four years."

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# JEWISH COMMUNITY

## Marlene Post to Chair Israel Bonds Prime Minister's Club

Marlene Post, immediate past national president of Hadassah and one of American Jewry's foremost leaders, has been named chairman of the Israel Bonds Prime Minister's Club, it was announced by Bonds' President and CEO Gideon Patt and National Campaign Chairman Irwin Hochberg.

The Prime Minister's Club is an Israel Bonds honor category instituted by the late Prime Minister Golda Meir. Eligibility for enrollment is through a minimum investment of \$25,000 in Israel bonds.

In announcing the appointment, Patt said, "Israel Bonds is extremely pleased that Marlene Post has accepted this major leadership role. We are confident that under her guidance, the Prime Minister's Club will play a significant role in the growth and development of Israel's economy."

He added: "The Prime Minister's Club has been the backbone of the Israel Bonds

campaign for a quarter of a century. I know that Marlene will be instrumental in building on the success that has made the Prime Minister's Club one of Israel's most consistent and reliable sources of economic support."

Post, who earlier this year was appointed to Israel Bonds'



Marlene Post

board of directors, has been a leader with Hadassah for more than a quarter of a century. Elected national president in 1995, she previously served as national treasurer and chaired a number of key Hadassah committees.

She also serves on the boards of many leading Jewish organizations, including the World Zionist Organization Executive, the Jewish National Fund, the United Israel Appeal, the Jewish Agency, Hebrew University, the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York and the New York Board of Rabbis.

In accepting her newest national leadership role, Post said, "I look forward to furthering the vision of Golda Meir by making the Prime Minister's Club one of the great success stories of Israel Bonds."

The 2000 Prime Minister's Club campaign will be formally launched at a national dinner on Jan. 23 in Palm Beach, Fla.

## Erin Gisherman Minor Qualified as Council on Accreditation Peer Reviewer

The Council on Accreditation, a national organization that provides quality standards that its members, non-profit social service agencies, must meet, has accepted JFS Director of Professional Services Erin Gisherman Minor as a peer reviewer. Jewish Family Service Executive Director Paul L. Segal said, "Erin's commitment to excellence in the field of social work and her depth of experience led to her selection."

Peer reviewers perform site visits to observe and assess, in great detail, the strengths and weaknesses in an organization's quality of service, governance and operation. Peer reviewers are trained by the Council on Accreditation and attend regular seminars to update their knowledge of the council's accreditation procedures, as well as to exchange knowledge with their peers.

According to the Council on Accreditation, peer reviewers fulfill the primary function of

assessing an organization's compliance with the standards. Peers are recommended on the basis of their professional qualifications and trained by the council to use its materials and procedures in the accreditation process. The council maintains an ongoing assessment of each peer reviewer's performance and relies upon each peer's highly developed professionalism for maintaining the highest performance standards.

Each peer is expected to acquire all pertinent information and assess an organization's compliance with the council's standards in a skilled, objective and facilitative manner and to present the findings in a succinct but detailed report which enables both the council and the organization being reviewed to understand the objective basis for ratings of partial and non-compliance.

For more information, contact Jewish Family Service at 331-1244.

## Grammy Winner Doug Cotler Appears at Temple Torat Yisrael

Doug Cotler is this year's guest artist at Temple Torat Yisrael's annual Ira S. and Anna Galkin Hanukkah Concert, Dec. 11 at 8 p.m. at the temple, 330 Park Ave., Cranston.

The concert is free and open to the entire community, a gift to the community that has been sustained by the Galkin family for years.

Cotler is an award-winning composer and an accomplished singer, songwriter, and musician, who fuses traditional Jewish melodies with the power and rhythm of modern popular music. Blessed with a warm and expressive voice, his sensitive and penetrating interpretations of liturgy as well as his insightful and humorous songs have placed him in the forefront of contemporary Jewish music.

Few performers possess Cotler's talents as a composer... and few composers can jam with the very best players. His symphony, "The Golem," was performed by the Seattle Philharmonic Orchestra... and he has toured and played country, pop and rock music with such well-known artists as John Denver, Jerry Jeff Walker and Mason Williams.

He has recorded six original Jewish music albums, with his Grammy awarded for writing

"Manhunt," a powerful song featured in the smash album and movie, "Flashdance." His music appeals to a wide cross-section of Jewish music lovers.

With his father, a cantor, providing training from the age of 9, Cotler's professional career began at

14, singing in Southern California synagogues and Jewish Community Centers. When Doug's father passed away, he assumed his father's position as cantor at a large Reform congregation near San Francisco.

He is currently the cantorial soloist at Congregation Or Ami in Calabasas, Calif.

## Join Touro Members and Families for a Buffet and Movie

Q. What do Touro members do on Dec. 25th?

A. Chinese food and a movie!

This year join your brothers. Harmony and Friendship Lodges present Dec. 25, Touro-style. Dine at the Chinese Buffet, across the street from the Warwick Showcase, and see a new movie. All just \$9 per person. We will meet at the restaurant at 5 p.m. Unlimited soft drinks included. Your movie tickets will be mailed to you. Touro members and their immediate family only. **Absolute cut-off date is Dec. 15.** Mail check to Touro Fraternal Association, P.O. Box 3562, Cranston, R.I. 02910.

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## Ingrid Kisiuk Visits The Rhode Island Holocaust Memorial Museum

The unique story of how one young girl was hidden during the Holocaust in Belgium will be told by author, and survivor, Ingrid Kisiuk on Dec. 14 at 7 p.m.

Professor Kisiuk's story is told in her book *Unveiled Shadows, The Witness of a Child*, a recent compelling and moving memoir. This personal account of the author's life begins when she and her family are forced from Vienna, Austria, in 1938. Kisiuk chronicles hiding in German-occupied Belgium until liberation.

During her lecture, Kisiuk will discuss her experiences as a hidden child during the Holocaust as well as her experiences in researching and compiling information utilized in her new book.

The author was inspired to write about her own life after attending the first gathering of 1,600 Hidden Children in May 1991. Kisiuk also returned to Brussels in 1995 and visited the neighborhood of the Catholic convent, where she was hidden. She is now active with the Hidden Children Foundation.

The program is sponsored by the RIHM and is free and open to the general public. Children 10 and older are also encouraged to attend. Seating is limited. Light refreshments will be served. Donations to the museum are appreciated. For more information about the program, contact the executive director, Tara V. Liscandro, at 453-7860.

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# HEALTHWISE

## Drinking Black Tea May Help Maintain a Healthy Heart

According to an important new study recently published in the *Archives of Internal Medicine*, women in the Netherlands who drank only a few cups of black tea per day had a significantly reduced risk of severe atherosclerosis — a key factor contributing to coronary heart disease. The authors of the Rotterdam Study, titled "Tea flavonoids may protect against atherosclerosis," concluded that the "data provide evidence for a protective effect of tea drinking against severe atherosclerosis, especially in women." Further investigations into the mechanisms that explain the protective effect of tea flavonoids in the cardiovascular system are warranted.

In the study, drinking black tea was associated with a more than 50 percent reduction in severe atherosclerosis risk among women who drank one to two cups daily. Women who drank more than five cups of black tea daily had the lowest risk of severe atherosclerosis. The study also showed a trend toward a similar effect in men.

"The Rotterdam Study results are especially exciting for women, who are frequently looking for simple, positive steps they can take to help improve their diet," said Georgia Kostas, MPH, R.D., nutrition director, The Cooper Clinic, and author of *The Balancing Act: Nutrition and Weight Guide*. "This research is also particularly interesting for women in the

United States, where coronary heart disease is the leading cause of death among women. Adding a few cups of regular or decaffeinated black tea to a balanced, daily diet can be an easy way to help maintain a healthy heart."

Atherosclerosis is a disease of the arteries that occurs when fatty



material (plaque) accumulates under the lining of the artery wall. Over time, this build-up can restrict blood flow, resulting in serious health problems, such as coronary disease, which can cause heart attacks. In fact, one-half of all coronary heart disease deaths result from complications of atherosclerosis.

"The Rotterdam Study offers promising new evidence for the beneficial effects of black tea flavonoids, especially in women," said J.M. Geleijnse, Ph.D., affiliated with the department of epidemiology and biostatistics, Erasmus University Medical School (Netherlands) and a lead

author in this analysis of the Rotterdam Study. "According to our preliminary research, the antioxidant flavonoids in tea may help maintain a healthy heart by inhibiting blood clotting and improving vascular function."

"Even after we adjusted for diet and lifestyle factors that play a role in heart disease, black tea's role in reducing the risk of severe atherosclerosis in women persisted," Geleijnse added.

This analysis of the Rotterdam Study, which was supported by the Netherlands Prevention Fund and Unilever Research, is one of several studies indicating that tea drinking may play a positive role in a healthy diet. Emerging research suggests that the flavonoids in black and green tea may help neutralize free radicals to help maintain healthy cells and tis-

ues. While these studies are promising, more research is needed before any definitive conclusions can be drawn.

"Even as we await additional research results in this area, there are still many reasons why people should include tea as part of a healthy lifestyle," said Douglas Valentine, Ph.D., manager, Lipton Beverage Research. "Unlike some flavonoid-rich beverages, unsweetened, fresh-brewed tea — both black and green, hot or iced — is 100 percent natural, has no fat, calories or sugar, and contains about half the caffeine found in a comparable cup of coffee."

Consumers and health professionals can learn more about tea's potential health benefits by calling the Lipton Tea & Health Information Center at (888) LIPTON-1 (888-547-8668), toll-free, weekdays, 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET, or by visiting <www.LiptonT.com>.

## Fear of Medication Errors Worries Patients Most

Many Americans have a relatively high level of anxiety surrounding hospital or health-system visits, according to a recent study conducted by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists. The study, which examined 10 common patient concerns, found that the potential for medication mix-ups worries patients most (61 percent), followed by fear of negative drug interactions (58 percent), and treatment costs (58 percent).

"With more sophisticated and powerful drugs entering the market today, patients are increasingly worried about the accuracy, safety, and appropriate monitoring of their medication," said Bruce E. Scott, M.S., FASHP, president of ASHP. "In light of these statistics, patients should know that pharmacists are a great information resource and are available to speak directly with patients and their families about the medications they receive."

To ensure a safe hospital stay, ASHP recommends that you:

- Bring a personal list of prescribed and over-the-counter medications and home remedies you're currently taking and show it to the health professional(s) managing your care.
- Discuss any allergies or allergic reactions you have experienced with your physician.
- Know the names of the medications you are receiving during your stay.
- Question anything that you don't understand or that doesn't seem right.
- Ask your health-system pharmacist if you have any questions about the treatments or medications you receive.

"Modern medications have great healing power when used properly," said Scott. "Yet their ability to heal or harm depends largely on the quality of the medical and pharmaceutical care that guides their use."

Pharmacists practice in a number of settings throughout health systems, including hospitals, home care, long-term care, clinics and health maintenance organizations. Studies have shown that including a pharmacist in your care can significantly decrease the chance of medication errors and adverse reactions, which may cause longer hospital stays.

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## Health Issues: Actuaries Look To The Millennium

*What's ahead for U.S. health care in the millennium?*

Members of the Society of Actuaries' Futurism Section revealed their educated beliefs about the future in a recent study, done in conjunction with the society's 50th anniversary in 1999 and the approaching year 2000.

What did the actuaries see for the year 2010 and 2050?

- There's less than a 1 in 3 chance that a national health plan or other mechanism will replace employer-based health insurance.
- The suicide rate will rise.
- Those born in 2050 can expect to live to age 80 or higher, but few think the average will be as high for those born in 2010.

A majority also saw prescription drug costs slowing. They also expected declining death rates from heart disease and cancer. A significant minority, 35 percent, foresaw a cure for AIDS by 2050, only 2 percent expected one by 2010.

Actuaries use statistical modeling to project future possibilities. The Society of Actuaries, with 16,500 members primarily in the United States and Canada, is the world's largest actuarial organization.



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# HEALTHWISE

## RIDH Recommends Vaccine for Freshmen in Dormitories

The Rhode Island Department of Health recommends that college freshmen living in dormitories be vaccinated against meningitis if they have not already been vaccinated. The recommendation is based on results from two recent studies of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that show that college freshmen living in dormitories have a slightly increased risk of contracting meningitis. The increased risk is due to the fact that the first year of college is often the first time these students live in close quarters with large groups of people.

While the studies indicate that freshmen are most at risk, all college students under age 22 and high school seniors planning to attend college should consider receiving the vaccine if they have not already done so. Parents of these students should seek information from their health care providers or college health advisors about meningitis and the vaccine.

However, the Department of Health recommends that anyone who already received a meningitis vaccine not be re-vaccinated at this time. In 1998, Rhode Island vaccinated more than 200,000 Rhode Islanders in response to a cluster of meningitis cases. Patricia A. Nolan, M.D., MPH, director of Rhode Island Department of Health states, "Individuals receiving a second vaccination against meningitis may turn out to be more susceptible to the disease. Unlike most other vaccines, a second dose of meningococcal vaccine appears to reduce immunity."

### MDA Clinic Director Authors New Book on Muscular Dystrophy

Dr. Irwin Siegel, longtime Muscular Dystrophy Association clinic director at Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center in Chicago, has written a new book, *Muscular Dystrophy in Children: A Guide for Families*.

The 130-page volume is available for reference at MDA offices, located in almost every major city in the United States. Published by Demos Medical Publishing in New York and priced at \$19.95, the innovative work can be purchased at bookstores, on the Internet and through Demos at (800) 532-8663.

Written in straightforward but warm language, *Muscular Dystrophy in Children* defines the medical options, offers guidance on parenting issues, discusses the child's needs at different ages and describes the latest research in muscular dystrophy.

For information about MDA research progress and/or referrals to MDA clinics, call (800) 572-1717, or visit MDA's website at <www.mdaua.org>.

The Department of Health continues to make meningitis vaccine available at no cost for all children ages 2 through 18 who have not yet received one. If your child will be going to college next year and has still not received a meningitis vaccination, he or she can benefit from this initiative. The state, however, is not paying for re-vaccination because of the negative impact it may have on immunity.

The primary goal of the state's immunization program is to make sure that all children are age-appropriately immunized. In addition to focusing on meningitis prevention, departmental staff continue to work closely with schools, colleges and universities, parents and health care providers to ensure that students remain up-to-date on the full range of required immunizations. This effort includes a special pilot project for students nearing graduation, using the theme "Vaccinate Before You Graduate."

### Frequently Asked Questions

1. My high school senior was vaccinated against meningitis three years ago. Does he need another shot?

No. Receiving a second meningitis vaccine may actually reduce immunity to the disease in an individual who has already

been vaccinated. The Department of Health recommends against revaccination.

2. I read the story in the newspaper about the Rhode Island child who recently had meningitis. The story said he had been vaccinated against the disease. Why did he get meningitis?

The meningitis vaccine is a good one, but it won't protect everyone in every situation. Evidence indicates that roughly 85 percent of individuals who receive the vaccine develop immunity against the disease.

3. I recently moved to Rhode Island and my 16-year-old child has not been vaccinated against meningitis. Where can I go for the free vaccine?

All children ages 2 through 18 can receive free meningitis vaccine from their health care provider. While the vaccine itself is free, you may be charged a fee to cover the cost of administering the shot.

4. My son's college recommended that he receive a meningitis vaccination. Why is that so?

Students living in dormitories are more susceptible to a broad range of infectious diseases, including meningitis due to close living quarters. The Rhode Island Department of Health suggests that you discuss your options with your school health advisor or your son's health care provider.

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## Medical Society Sets Up Referral Line

The Rhode Island Medical Society has established a special referral line for any patient who may need assistance in locating a new physician during the current turmoil in Rhode Island's health care system.

The special referral phone line number is 528-3287 and is available 24 hours a day.

"The medical society has the largest data base of physicians in the state and we have always operated a referral service. What we are doing now is responding to the growing need in the patient community and expanding on our abilities to help patients find the doctors they need in the most expeditious way," said Candace L. Dyer, M.D., president of the medical society.

Patients calling the special referral line will be greeted by a message asking for their name, address, phone number and type of physician, or medical service they may need and in what geographic area they would like to locate a physician. The medical society will respond that day with a writ-

ten referral that will include at least three names of physicians for the patients to contact.

Patients will then contact the physician offices to get more information, such as whether the physician is accepting new patients, what insurance coverage the physician accepts and other information the patient may wish to know.

There is no limit to the amount of times a patient may use the service and there is no charge for the service.

"Obviously, we are not able to solve the deep system-wide problems caused by the actions of the health insurers, but we are finding ways to use our resources to help patients and doctors navigate the difficulties that will face them over the next several months. This special referral line will stay in operation for as long as it takes to facilitate the needs of our patients. We will be announcing other ways in which the medical society can be of assistance to patients, doctors and Harvard employees in the next few days," said Dyer.



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## FEATURE

## Homeless Ask For Rhode Island Help

by Luke O'Neill  
Community Reporter

Blue and green tarps act as a roof with a front yard view of downtown Providence, an imposing white State House looms as its back yard neighbor, across the street is the new Providence Place Mall.

As of Dec. 3, the State House lawn encampment, a temporary shelter, was 12 days old and housed up to 20 persons per night. The organizers of the encampment, People to End Homelessness in Rhode Island, established the shelter in response to the overflowing homeless shelters throughout the state.

Last Friday, the homeless agency called a press conference at the State House encampment to announce Governor Lincoln Almond's response to the organization's two requests. People to End Homelessness asked the state to open temporary shelter space to relieve the

recent overflow of 10 to 30 persons a night at local shelters; and that Governor Almond and the General Assembly pass legislation that will start a \$5 million per year State Housing Fund to provide supportive and low-income housing for low- and no-income persons. According to Eric Hirsch, government relations chair of the Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless, Governor Almond's representatives said they would "look into [the situation]," said Hirsch.

"The homeless shelters in the state are turning people away and that's the first time in the history of the state, since the last 15 years that's been true," Hirsch said.

"The purchasing power of poor people has actually gone down over the last 20 years," said Hirsch, who cited the lack of low-income housing for the reason of overflowing shelters. Hirsch, a sociology professor at Providence College, also said



A SIGN WITH neon green spray paint reads "Affordable Housing Now" near the State House lawn shelter. The State House dome peaks over the sign.

Rhode Island is one of few states without a housing department in its state government.

"I think they're probably just going to ignore us," said Hirsch referring to State House officials and the encampment, which is now 18 days old as of Dec. 9. Some homeless persons interviewed feel the governor is treating the situation of overflowing emergency shelters with "benign neglect."

The encampment includes six individual camping tents

covered with large tarps and a wooden frame. A 6-foot by 7-foot "social room," surrounded by heavy blankets, sits within the center of the encampment with a lone chair, a clock, two milk crates and a grass floor.

"Mad Dog," a homeless person living in the State House encampment, suggested the state turn abandoned houses over to the homeless. He said homeless people feel more safe at the encampment as opposed to sleeping in an alley. He and other encampment inhabitants

plan to use the shelter "indefinitely."

Hirsch and the homeless feel a sense of urgency with colder weather approaching and have unrevealed plans of escalation. Last year, approximately 4,000 people used shelters in Rhode Island with more than 60 percent being single men. Nearly one-quarter of homeless people are children under age 13. Recently, Travelers Aid has accommodated nearly 30 people in a community room that does not have any sleeping arrangements.



THE STATE HOUSE lawn encampment, 18 days old, houses nearly 20 homeless people a night and will remain "indefinitely."

Herold photos by Luke O'Neill

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Rabbi Cahana embraced the simplicity and power of prayer that comes from the heart. He led the group in prayer for AIDS victims who need help as well as those who help others.

Marc Paige, an AIDS Task Force member, read a passage from *The Color of Light: Daily Meditations For All of Us Living With AIDS*. Paige read, "AIDS has taken its toll and many of us are numb. We've got a lot of grieving to do... We need to cry alone, and we need to cry together. Even as we celebrate our living, we need to mourn our losses."

Across the country, 711,344 people have been reported with AIDS as of June 30, 1999; more than half these people have already died, an AIDS Project R.I. report said. An estimated 40,000 new cases of HIV infection are reported each year.

Rabbi Cahana recognized medical advancements to combat AIDS/HIV, but encouraged others to seek a healing of the soul. "Deep within each of us, is a place that is surprising in its strength," said the rabbi, who encouraged others not to take life for granted.

"May we also find those places within us that lead us to healing. May we find the strength of our G-d," he said.

Berkson, gently strumming a guitar, sang, "And I know that my name could be there, and I

feel the pain and the fear," which is part of the chorus from the song "Names," written by Cathy Fink.

"We grieve for the lovers and the families," sang Berkson, "And I pray that they'll meet again some day, but until that time, I will carry the flame. As the numbers grow, we'll not forget their names."

Many at the service were touched by Berkson's singing. "Each quilted piece holds a memory, each memory helps us to go on," she sang.

HIV, first identified more than 15 years ago, infected nearly 6 million people in 1998 worldwide — about 11 victims every minute. As of a year ago, an estimated 33.4 million people in the world were reported to be living with HIV/AIDS.

Meredith E. Drench, Ph.D., director of the Adaptive Health Associates, who attended the service, said the renowned red ribbons for AIDS awareness is a great start, but the community cannot stop there. Drench, author of *Red Ribbons Are Not Enough*, said, "People are more aware now than they ever were before, but a complacency is setting in. [AIDS] is no longer a front-page issue."

Drench, an East Greenwich resident, approved of recent medical advances to fight HIV/AIDS, but warned the epidemic is not disappearing. "As good

as the news is," Drench said of AIDS medicine, "there are still people getting sick and there are still people dying. People who changed their behavior are now slipping back into unsafe practices."

Drench and recent reports stated that AIDS is infecting a new and different population, most significantly, women, teenagers and people of color. "The virus certainly knows no socioeconomic borders," said Drench.

AIDS is the second leading cause of death among adults ages 25 to 44. The proportion of all AIDS cases reported among adult and adolescent women has nearly tripled from 1985 to 1997 — a jump from 7 percent to 22 percent. Nationwide in 1998, one of every four new HIV infections occurred in a person under 22 years of age. Across the globe last year, 43 percent of HIV-positive people were women. Unsafe sexual and drug practices spread HIV/AIDS among a multitude of people (statistics from *American Association for World Health* report).

The service's most revealing moment came when people said aloud the names of family and friends who have succumbed to HIV. Approximately 50 names were mentioned in just over a minute. The service ended with singing, smiles and signs of spiritual hope.



## FEATURE

I Shop,  
So, I Amby Mike Fink  
Herald Contributing Reporter

I shop, therefore I am. My Montreal cousin Carol twisted Descartes into this whimsical pretzel. A lot of us feel that way at this time of year.

First, you have to park. I was twice hit with those nasty red tickets on the windshield. This time, a lovely Meter Molly steps into the cafe where I wind and rev up for my errands. She gives fair warning to move. "This 'Molly' so delights me with her good-natured gesture that I ask if I can take her picture and congratulate her courtesy in print. 'Maybe I'd better check first at headquarters,'" she says with a smile. So I write his holiday word of cheer more as a symbol than label.

Then, once on foot, I seek out some things I can use. A sack of potatoes for David Cieilnie's annual affair to help feed the homeless. Then, perhaps, a new outfit for the parties of the

Sagittarian season. There's a fine leather jacket that fits just right.

I take an XS, an extra small, hard to find in today's bloated, overweight society. I like fat-filled milk and cream, butter and doughnuts, but I still can't get threads tight enough for my small frame. And here's an item from China to carry me through till the sun shines strong again on my window sill. But wait! It's crafted of leather. What will my children's vegan classmates think of me? Were those poor creatures killed in kindly kosher fashion? No, I'd better not go there. I pass by.

Here's a woven basket from yet another far-off realm that could hold my sweater vests, shirts, or extra gear neatly and save some drawer space. And there's a new but antiquated

record player—I call them phonographs or Victrolas—to replace the one that broke down. My Decca disks still mean much to me, a recorded history of my own culture of taste and experience. I can't tell yet if the reproduction runs and works, or just poses prettily as a sentimental souvenir to take up table space. Nobody who works here seems sure one way or the other.

And so it goes. Yes, I do bring home a couple of purchases, at the very least a box of stationery. Mostly, I bring home stories. Most guys are like me on this



one. Especially us elders. My son wants to dress me in the latest length and width of jeans, but once I've broken in a pair, he mocks my Levis as already "yesterday."

My Montreal cousin Carol likes nothing better than to do a mall when she comes to our town. Her husband Bob prefers to do the galleries and gather works of local art and design. Once the lights go down again, all over our nearby world, I'll cruise again by the carrion of bargains and markdowns and slink to my den with what goods are left for me to pick over.

## The Finger Writes

by Mike Fink

Herald Contributing Reporter

It was only a finger that brought us to the emergency room round the corner from our parlor. The fickle finger of fate from football. Our youngster plays too hard. But even without the eager scripts of television, an E.R. serves as a center or high drama. Waiting hour after hour to see a resident, you take part in a show without any audience. Until, one by one, each actor is tapped and taken offstage, his performance passed.

A big dark guy sits in a wheelchair at the center of one chamber, his foot heavily bandaged. I ask for him for his tale. His attendant, his mother that is, tells me his past history. Born with cerebral palsy, he made up his mind to fight for a normal boyhood in the 'hood. But with his awkward movements, he proved accident prone. "He came home wounded and torn, time and again, but never gave up his struggle." Even as we speak, he climbs out of his confining contraption and heads lumberingly for the pay phones. I admire his verve and joie de vivre.

"Hello, how are you. Would you like to borrow the book section?" It's my school colleague who greets me. She settles beside our space by the food machine. Her husband, who suffers from multiple sclerosis, fell from his wheelchair and is seeing his physician for cuts and bruises. His wife waits with the Times as is her wont and custom, anxiously, patiently.

Across the hallway I watch in expectant mother cuddling up beside her husband, who looks hardly less pregnant than she does. These characters, so different from each other, among the suffering but quiet Sunday night crowd, assuming the group look of a troupe in a

camera set-up, a video studio. My fine-lad reads wrestler magazines and a geometry textbook, munches overpriced snacks, yawns palely, and fidgets just a bit. I get relief from his



Facade of The Miriam Hospital

Herald photos by Mike Fink

mom and sister and wend my way. Late into the evening, he comes home with a stiff splint and goes to bed to sleep off the mild ordeal.

The waiting rooms of doctors' multiple offices and booths for diagnosis and operation, like the corridors of the hospital entrance in our neighborhood, give you a spectacle and a view. Survivors who have seen the horrors of our Jewish history greet me warmly in one anteroom I attend, to get my eyes checked out thoroughly. I compare my slight, squeamish discomfort to the depths of their witnessing experiences and the kind courtesy they show to a fellow Jew and community citizen. It takes all kinds.

Healing takes time. Treatments require courage and knowledge. Maybe waiting in line is a skill, an art to develop, a style. The Russians get used to it, noted Wiesel. Africans

have a talent for it, wrote Karen Blixen. But the medical system that has grown from the technology of miracle cure health care has assumed a frighteningly impersonal, Kafka-esque,

aspect all the same.

You brood in a dream state of dread, as time beyond time ticks along dumbly and the chattering tube stares down. Sooner or later, somebody taps and guides you to the pallet, where something is done and you can go home once again.

We've each been through the routine often, by ourselves, with our loved ones, parents, children, siblings, after accidents, recurring illnesses, traumas. We know the scene and the score. We're all soldiers of every rank calling out for the medic on the automated battlefield of ordinary life.

Won't somebody shape a new mode to make rescue a kinder, swifter gesture with a gentle hand, wise eye, reassuring word, and a message of hope on Hope Street?

My best boy's moving finger writes, and having writ, moves on.

## They Mustered on Memorial

The sun also rises at the crest of my hill and sets at its base, with the castellated Army of Mounted Commands outlined and silhouetted by its flaming glory.

This red brick feudal castle sprawls and spreads out for

the same volume where horses munched and drafters showed up for service at this outpost upon the vast world. My eldest brother signed and took off for Korea at the same spot in this Jewish American corner of the universe.



The Army of Mounted Commands

blocks from Camp to Main, Stenton to Memorial. A neat backyard garden of small shrubs still shines bright like a Chanukah menorah on its final evening at this late, unusually mild time of year. The World War One cannon has been taken away. But the flag still waves from the front lawn facing the fine trees of historic North Burial Ground.

Imet a soldier in camouflage khaki fatigues, at the Miriam E.R., who told me during our vigil patrol that my Army is heading for trouble. Nobody seems to know quite what to do with it these days. Its lid below its turrets forlorn and semi-forsaken among the blank parking lots.

Time was, this Army actually held a stable of horses for the cavalry. Blacksmiths practiced their ancient craft, and hayfields swayed in the surrounding meadowland where horses grazed—creating a marvelous pastoral scene for us first hillside homesteaders. The circus shared those stalls with its own visiting herds of grass-eating herbivores from zebras to elephants and fancy steeds in feathers.

In my boyhood this Army was the place G.I. enlisted men gathered to muster en route to the great overseas battle-grounds. My uncles and cousins lived just a couple of houses above me. They walked past my threshold and off to war. Bands of vets marched in the lists before my sidewalk bearing flags and pennants, a grand but intimate spectacle. Patriotism imprinted itself deep as tefillin and mezuzah frontlets. I vote in

There are more intricate Army structures in town. The Cranston Street palace rivals a royal residence. That charming little fort on elite Benefit Street serves as a giant toy for sketching art students from here and everywhere. But my own Army reassures me that my mini-model mock Tudor bungalow rests safe from harm and intrusion. From here in the blizzard of '78 the late and loved Major General Holland organized the National Guard and Army Reserve unit rescue efforts. Without this poignant landmark I would feel dislocated, lost, like a resident of Sarajevo.

Chalk this comment among my complaints against idle change, my bid for continuity, I like to live with stones in place, spirits undisturbed since Creation, Genesis, Bereshit. Our ancestral Jerusalem was dismantled, disoriented, time and again. Until all that remained was a single, Western, Wall.

Wherever our generations may settle, all we need is a row of rocks and we are home. Yet every time a building of merit, dignity, majesty, is taken down, it reminds us of our great disaster. It recalls the agony of our exile.

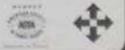
Please, powers in high military places and government seats: spare that Disney-like deco design, the delight of youngsters and elders alike. Fill those haunted vaulting spaces with some useful activity. My house and soul will spin off into unprotected outer space without my Belvedere, my personal, private and public, proud pavilion.

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## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

# Vermeer's Masterpiece 'The Art of Painting' Comes to The Capital

by Marshall H. Cohen  
Washington Photojournalist

What is there about Johannes Vermeer that would attract more than 400,000 people to Washington's National Gallery of Art in 1995 to view only 21 of his paintings? I asked this question to Arthur K. Wheelock Jr., curator of Northern Baroque Paintings at the gallery, and one of the country's foremost experts on Dutch art. Wheelock's reply, that Vermeer is an artist whose work simply makes you feel good about yourself, is right on target. One can thoroughly analyze the technical genius of Vermeer, as Wheelock did in a briefing on Vermeer's favorite work, "The Art of Painting," now on view at the National Gallery, but the bottom line is that the spiritual impact of Vermeer's special light and his pastoral colors and the momentary mood of his composition do make one feel good. The works are claiming, meditative, and have universal appeal. Just stand before "The Art of Painting," done in the late 1660s, and just feel the special light through the window and follow its subtle path throughout the painting!

This great masterpiece has undergone a restoration since 1995 — it was too fragile to

make the trip for the previous show, and may be viewed at the gallery until Feb. 5, 2000. It hangs along with 4 other Vermeer works which are part of the permanent collection of the National Gallery of Art — a formidable collection, considering that there are only 35 paintings attributed to Vermeer. The exhibition also includes other great works by Dutch 17th-century painters, including two works by Vermeer's colleague Pieter de Hooch, as well as an exhibition case containing the art texts actually used by Vermeer and other artists at that time.

The work is a mix of allegory and history. We see Clio, the Muse of History, at the center of attention in Vermeer's allegory. She wears a laurel leaf crown (denoting honor and glory), and holds a trumpet (a symbol for fame), in one hand and a volume of history in another. Her hand is transfixed in time and space. Behind her hangs an outdated map of the northern provinces, which became the Dutch Republic. The southern provinces were controlled by the Habsburgs, whose symbol, a double-headed eagle, decorates an ornamental chandelier in front of the map. An elegantly dressed artist, wearing a costume no artist would likely

wear when painting, has just recorded Clio's laurel leaf on this canvas. The work makes a powerful statement that elevates the educational level of "the artist," knowledgeable about history, mythology, and abstract ideals. The map itself brings a certain amount of fame to the northern cities, including Vermeer's home, Delft. (Vermeer's landscape "View of Delft (1660-61)" is one of the most prized and beautiful landscapes in art history, and was included in the 1995 exhibition at the National Gallery.)

The work is a theatrical allegory. A large curtain in the foreground unfolds, exposing the players to the viewer. Clio is in soft focus, enveloped by the soft window light — the erudite artist is in sharp focus. The entire scene is a carefully calculated almost photographic composition. It is possible that Vermeer used the Camera Obscura (literally, dark room) to organize his composition and perspective. This was a camera-like device (or even a room large enough to hold an artist), with a small hole and lens through which a scene or object could be projected onto drawing paper. Vermeer was a master of perspective, and scholars have also concluded that Vermeer used strings and chalk to carefully chart his perspectives — and finally his instincts would modify the results to create his artistic achievements.

E.H. Gombrich, in his *The Story of Art* describes Vermeer's



JOHANNES VERMEER, Dutch, 1632-1675. "The Art of Painting," c. 1666-1667, oil on canvas, 120x 100 cm (47 1/4 x 39 3/8) Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna.

Photo courtesy of the National Gallery of Art

paintings as "still lifes with human beings." Perhaps that is why they are so unforgettable. "The Art of Painting" tells a rather complex story — the myth of Clio, the role of the artist, and the historic importance of the northern provinces of the Netherlands during a difficult

period of that region's history. Yet, standing before this large canvas, and simply observing its wonderful texture, rich colors, and its special north European hypnotic light pouring into the room, one senses the presence of a great artist — and this a truly special feeling.

## The Ten Commandments as a Musical?

A youth theater program sponsored by the Temple Emanu-El Family Committee is currently rehearsing "The Top Ten," a one-act musical comedy originally commissioned by the Atlanta Jewish Community Center in 1985. Since then, it has been produced by many other Jewish organizations throughout the United States. The cast consists of 20 actors who are all Temple Emanu-El members between the ages of 8 and 12.

"The Top Ten" is a light-hearted review of Jewish history and the Ten Commandments. The play is designed to be entertaining for audience members of all ages. The cast has been in rehearsal since late

September. The play is directed by Don Kieffer, director of last year's children's production of "The Sabbath Peddler" for the Jewish Community Center's Jewish Theatre Ensemble.

Performances of "The Top Ten" are scheduled for Dec. 11, at 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 12 at 2 p.m. in the Goldberg Center at Temple Emanu-El in Providence. It is recommended that tickets be purchased in advance, but they will also be available at the door. Ticket prices are \$5 if purchased in advance or \$6 at the door. To purchase tickets, call Joyce in the temple office at 331-1616. This program is supported by the Schuster Family Fund.

## Do You Want To Be a Clown?

Providence Circus School will host a day of master classes in clowning taught by guest artist, Michael Williams, on Dec. 29. Williams, of New Orleans, Louisiana, might be called the Pied Piper of Clowning.

Williams graduated from the Dell'Arte School of Physical Theatre, and also studied at the North Carolina School for the Arts and the Celebration Barn Theatre in Maine. He has taught at Circus Smirkus in New Hampshire and performed with the touring company Catawampus in California. His solo performance, *Imagination*, debuted in 1995. As an original performer and cofounder of Pratt, he directed and performed in "Off the Wall and in the Air" at the

New Orleans theatre festival DramaKama V. He currently works with the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts as Movement instructor and Clown Workshop artist.



Williams will teach clowning skills through theatrical exercises and improvisation games. He calls upon students to invest both physical and mental energy. Classes are intense; stu-

dents must be ready to jump in and work. Their effort will be well-rewarded with exciting experiences and insights.

Two classes are offered: Clowning Workshop for young people ages 11 to 14. Dec. 29, 1 to 2:30 p.m. (tuition: \$25, or \$20 each if you bring a friend), and Clowning Workshop for older teens and adults, ages 15 and older, Dec. 29, 3:30 to 6 p.m. (tuition: \$30, or \$25 each if you bring a friend). Early registration price is \$5 off for checks postmarked by

Dec. 21. Classes will be held at Providence Circus School's classrooms at One Allens Ave., Providence.

These classes are open to all who are interested in clowning. Theater and aerobic experience is helpful, but not required. Beginners are welcome.

For further information, call Judith Plotz, Providence Circus School, 861-0892.

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## ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT



## Are You a Young Environmentalist?

Yes, it's that time of year again; time to corral your youthful energy and creative spirit and channel it towards taking action to help make a cleaner bay. And if you are a student in a Rhode Island middle school (grades six through eight), then taking such action could win you a kayak, too, by entering the 2000 Citizens Bank/Save The Bay Young Environmentalist Award for Action.

Applicants are required to submit an extremely original project or plan, designed to take action either by increasing people's awareness about the importance of saving the bay from pollution, or by directly helping to reduce the pollution itself. These projects must relate to Narragansett Bay and its watershed areas.

Students can enter drawings, photography, exhibits, or other helpful visual aids. Science Fair projects meeting the entry criteria are eligible, provided the project was completed no more than 12 months prior to the submission deadline.

The grand prize will be a full-sized kayak and all the accompanying safety equipment, plus a personalized plaque presented at Save The Bay's annual meeting and brunch on March 5, 2000. The second and third place winners receive great bay-related prizes as well.

Deadline for entries is Feb. 4, 2000. For an application, call Save The Bay at 272-3540, or check out our website at [www.savebay.org/kidsweb/yea/](http://www.savebay.org/kidsweb/yea/).

## Convergence 2000 Calls for Artists

The Providence Parks Department, Office of Cultural Affairs seeks proposals for Convergence 2000, International Arts Festival, Sept. 8 through 24, 2000. The deadline for proposals is Jan. 15, 2000. Work is installed throughout the downtown area in parks, waterways, public plazas, on building facades, and in alleys.

Work may be existing or created for the festival. Artists who create large-scale public sculpture, film/video installation, performance art, and interactive works are encouraged to apply. Work must be weather resistant and able to withstand public interaction. Work is installed prior to the festival and may remain

on display for three months to one year. All proposals must be accompanied by samples of recent work, not to exceed 20 slides (do not send photos or original work), reviews, résumé, amount requested (not to exceed \$2,000). Proposals to fabricate new work must include an accurate budget. Materials will not be returned without a SASE with the proper postage. Send proposals to Providence Parks Dept., Office of Cultural Affairs, 400 Westminster St., 4th floor, Providence, RI 02903, phone 621-1992, E-mail <[info@caparts.org](mailto:info@caparts.org)>, URL <<http://caparts.org>>. Applications can be downloaded from the website.

## The Official Celebration of Rhode Island's Millennium

The official celebration of Rhode Island's millennium will be a festival of many firsts. First Night Providence announced that, for the first time in its 15-year history, the arts festival will offer three days of activities: "Illumination Night" on Dec. 30, "First Night 2000" on Dec. 31, and "First Day" on Jan. 1.

First Night Providence three-day millennium festivities, with some 200 acts spread all over downtown, is an easy-to-navigate, alcohol-free, weatherproof masquerade of amusements for family and friends on New Year's Eve. Admission to the festivities is gained on all three days by wearing the colorful and collectible First Night button designed by international designer and Rhode Island resident, Tyler Smith.

The festivities begin with "Illumination Night" on Dec. 30 from 6 to 10 p.m. The evening performances will include the Ocean State Chamber Orchestra's, "AMusic Triptych"; Chris Turner's "Carillon Concerto for the New Millennium" at the historic Grace Church; Mark Levitt's New England Chordw/Hour; "Live Millennium Radio Show"; Imago Mask Theatre, masters of dance, mime and acrobatics at Providence Performing Arts Center; Squon Opera, a roller coaster of avant-garde, musical mayhem, and a "Garden of Moving Light," an illuminated sculpture in Kennedy Plaza representing past, present and future.

The New Year's Eve celebration on Dec. 31 begins at 1 p.m. at PPAC with Imago Mask Theatre, an internationally acclaimed performance of comedy, mime and illusion. At 2 p.m. the Afternoon Children's Festival transforms the R.I. Convention Center with Side Shows of the Century, a carnival-like midway

of non-stop action featuring stупendous bike and in-line stunts, ariat acts, bagpipe bands and the ever-popular Imagination Market of lively interactive workshops of mask making, noise making and light-hearted arts.

UMOJA African Arts Company headlines at Veterans Auditorium for four spectacular performances of stillwalkers, fire-eaters and the thunder of native drums. And the world renowned Peking Acrobats make their premiere New England performance at PPAC with afternoon and evening performances of unbelievable feats of skill and daring—do, bowl balancing, plate spinning, and other worldly awesomeness.

The First Night 2000 evening celebration is an eclectic mix of artistic creation, performance and good ol' fashioned fun! Look for these highlights: Dance Destination 2000 in Kennedy Plaza; the New Arcade Dance Tent; "East Meets West" with Giacomo Gates Quartet and Sandip Burman; Rhode Island Philharmonic with Maria Spacagna; Puerto Rican Mini-Festival; Sticky Skillet Swing Orchestra; Dan Butterworth Marionettes at Trinity Rep; "Laugh me in the New Millennium" with Stephen Stearn, and continue laughing with Paul Zaloom's (star of "Beakman's World") wacky "Velvetville"; Improv Jokes, and Comedy Factory.

Countdown to the millennium! The Midnight Sound & Light Spectacle will be unlike anything ever seen or heard before in our state! Beams of illu-

mination will pattern the sky; buildings, as though brushed with magic, will shimmer with make-believe colors; synchronized sounds will issue from unexpected places washing over the crowd and enveloping them in an audible cocoon of the senses. The Midnight Sound & Light Spectacle can be best viewed from Kennedy Plaza and the State House Lawn area.

First Day 2000 begins with a statewide ringing of bells beginning at 11:59 a.m. Rhode Islanders herald the new millennium as

Gov. Almond leads a moment of silence then sounds the historic State House Liberty Bell inviting all to join in with their own bells, big or small, for a truly joyous sound. The afternoon performances will run until 3 p.m. and include "Sonatas for an Afternoon" with pianist Judith Lynn Stillman and cellist, Michael Reynolds; the wit and humor of Les Barker; the renowned Rhode Island Civic Chorus; Inca Son; and interactive multi-media art installations.

**Tickets are \$9 before Dec. 25 and \$12 thereafter.** Children age 5 and under are admitted free. The big savings are the Value 4-Packs for \$28. A \$20 savings and available only before Dec. 25 and only at these locations: AAA locations; BankBoston branches, the Rhode Island Mall Customer Service Booth, Books on the Square, Parker's Meat Market in Seekonk and through the First Night online store at [www.firstnightprovidence.org](http://www.firstnightprovidence.org). The First Night office 521-1166. Supplies are limited, advanced purchase is suggested.

## News From Temple Emanu-El

The Leisure Club of Temple Emanu-El, at 99 Taft Ave., Providence, invites you to try its special cultural and educational programs as a guest for two sessions of your choice. You will find informative and thought-provoking speakers and classes. Also line dancing and trips.

Alan Shawn Feinstein will lecture on Jan. 9 and the spring trip will take you to see "Talley's Folly," Steve Martorella, noted musician, will lead some classes in our winter semester, and members of the attorney general's office will conduct others.

Monday and Thursday sessions are from 10 a.m. to noon, and Sunday afternoons at 2 p.m. For more details on programs or answers to questions, call Abbott at 751-4499 or Tess at 331-3818.

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

## Can You Act?

City Nights Dinner Theatre announces open auditions for Ray Cooney's comedy, "Funny Money."

Audition dates are Dec. 13 and 14 at City Nights Dinner Theatre, 27 Exchange St., Pawtucket, R.I. The time is 7 p.m. For information, call 723-6060. Needed are six men and two women ages 20 through 50. Readings from the script are required.

Performance dates for "Funny Money" are Feb. 26, March 3 through 5, and March 9 through 12, 2000.

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.

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## R.I. Community Planning Group Will Hold Meeting

On Dec. 14, the Rhode Island Community Planning Group for HIV Prevention will hold its fourth annual meeting at the Roger Williams Park Casino, Providence, R.I., from 6 to 9 p.m. During this time, several AIDS Leadership Awards will be presented to individuals or organizations that have had a substantial impact in the fight against AIDS in Rhode Island. The public is invited to attend to share in this celebration and learn about the next year's comprehensive plan submitted by the RICPG to address the needs of the community in its continuing fight in the prevention of HIV/AIDS in the state of Rhode Island. A lighter supper will be served.

For more information, call Initiatives for Human Development at 722-9400.

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# OBITUARIES

## JANICE M. BLOCK

VERO BEACH, Fla. — Janice M. Block, 74, of Vero Beach, Fla., a former furniture store owner, died Nov. 29 at Indian River Memorial Hospital, Vero Beach. She was the wife of Benjamin Block.

Born in Pawtucket, a daughter of the late Louis and Rose (Levenson) Mellion, she moved to Vero Beach 30 years ago.

She owned and operated Bargaintown Furniture and Antiques for 40 years, retiring in 1990.

She was a member of the Bougainvillea Circle, the Garden Club of Indian River County and the Regard Walking Club of Vero Beach.

Besides her husband, she leaves a son, Stephen A. Block of Los Angeles; a daughter, Ronee S. King of Flagler Beach, Fla.; a brother, Dr. Douglas Mellion of Providence; and two grandchildren. She was also the sister of the late Benjamin Mellion and Jack Mellion.

Burial was in Beth El Memorial Gardens, Fort Pierce, Fla.

## ALICE E. HELFANBEIN

PLANTATION, Fla. — Alice E. Helfanbein, 88, of 8500 West Sunrise Boulevard, formerly of Fall River, died Dec. 1 at University Hospital, Tamarac, Fla. She was the wife of the late Dr. Jacob Helfanbein.

Born in Newport, a daughter of the late Max and Rebecca (Billard) Rosenthal, she had lived in Fall River for 50 years, moving to Plantation five years ago.

She was an honorary life member and past president of

the Fall River Hadassah. A member of Temple Beth-El in Fall River and its Sisterhood, the Hebrew Ladies Helping Hand Society, she was a supporter of United Jewish Appeal and Israel Bonds.

She leaves a son, Barry Helfanbein of Boca Raton, Fla. She was the sister of the late Shirley Rekant and Sidney L. Everett, Irving and Louis Rosenthal.

The funeral service was held Dec. 5 at Temple Beth-El, High Street, Fall River. Burial was in Hebrew Cemetery, Fall River. Arrangements were made by Shalom Memorial Chapel, 1100 New London Ave., Cranston.

## BURTON ROBERT 'BOB' LEVENSON

CRANSTON — Burton Robert "Bob" Levenson, 79, of 6 Fernbrook Court, president of the former Rhode Island Safety Systems, Inc., retiring 15 years ago, died Dec. 4 at Cedar Crest Nursing Center. He was the husband of Gloria (Zlochinn) Levenson.

Born in Boston, a son of the late Abraham and Dorothy (Nesson) Levenson, he lived in Cranston for 30 years, previously living in Providence.

He had been a salesman for Pay Master Checkwriters Inc. for 20 years before he started his own business.

He was a warrant officer in the Army during World War II, serving in England. He was a graduate of Browne Nichols Preparatory School, Cambridge, Mass., and attended Boston University.

He was a past potentate of

Palestine Shrine Temple and a member of Masons Overseas Lodge, AF&AM, and Temple Am David.

Besides his wife, he leaves two sons, Richard Levenson of Warwick and Everett Levenson of Stoughton, Mass.; three grandchildren, and two nieces.

A graveside service was held Dec. 6 in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. Arrangements were made by Shalom Memorial Chapel, 1100 New London Ave., Cranston, R.I.

## RUTH (MARTIN) RUBINSKY

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Ruth (Martin) Rubinsky, 88, of St. Petersburg, Fla., died Nov. 30 in St. Petersburg. She was the wife of the late Louis Rubinsky.

Born in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, a daughter of the late Morris and Gertrude (Ratchesky) Martin, she lived in Holliston, Mass., from 1937 until 1960, and in Framingham, Mass., from 1960 until she moved to Florida in 1980.

She was a member of Congregation B'nai Israel of St. Petersburg, and a former member of Temple Israel of Natick, Mass. She was a member of Hadassah, Orit and the National Council of Jewish Women.

She leaves a son, Carl Rubinsky of St. Petersburg; a daughter, Reva Lee Rifkin of Providence; two sisters, Edith Gelmon of Calgary and Bernice Mochkatel of Los Angeles; and two grandchildren.

A graveside service was held Dec. 2 in Framingham-Natick Hebrew Cemetery, Natick.

(Continued from Page 15)



## Ask The Director

by Michael D. Smith ED./R.E.  
Shalom Memorial Chapel

*This week's questions are focused on children. Here are two questions most frequently asked by parents and one question, related through an adult, which is most often asked by children.*

**Should a child be allowed to attend a funeral?** M.H., Providence

The key consideration is the child's relationship with the deceased. If it is a parent or a very close relative who has passed away and the child can comprehend what has happened, he/she certainly should be allowed to attend the funeral service, as long as the child will not be disruptive. Since children usually ask many questions, the funeral director or clergy person should be able to answer them honestly and openly. The funeral service will help the child understand what has happened and will help with the closure process. The child should feel that he/she is a mourner and should be given the opportunity to release his/her grief just as an adult would. In appropriate situations, I have asked young children to write a letter to the deceased loved one, draw a picture, take a favorite photograph or even find a favorite item that was a bond between the child and the deceased person and have the child place it in the casket. Older children have been asked to be bearers so that they feel that they are part of the service.

**If my child attends a funeral service at your chapel, is it necessary for him to go to the cemetery?** P.R., Wickford

Quite often a child will find the chapel service more emotionally draining than the interment service. If a child attends the chapel service and is told to go home after the service has ended, instead of going with the family to the cemetery, he/she is likely to ask, "Where are you going?" and "Why can't I come, too?" The child should be able to comprehend everything that will happen at the cemetery if it is properly explained beforehand. Have the funeral director explain the interment service to the child, if necessary. The child who is sent home might imagine something more difficult to comprehend than what he/she actually would have seen at the cemetery. I usually try to encourage the parents to let the child participate in the interment service. One recommendation is to have the child participate in filling in the grave with earth if the child is able to hold the shovel or have an adult assist the child in doing it (but only if the child wants to help). This is another way to help the child in the healing process.

**Why did my grandma die?** S.B., Boston, Mass.

Do not answer that question by saying, "Grandma was very old," or "Grandma was very, very sick." Instead, give a simple answer about the physical cause of death. If appropriate, you may wish to show a copy of the death certificate to the child. Always try to give short direct answers to children. It will be easier for the child to understand.

Questions are welcomed and are encouraged. Send your questions to: "Ask The Director," c/o Shalom Memorial Chapel, 1100 New London Ave., Cranston, RI 02920, phone 463-7771, or write The Rhode Island Jewish Herald, P.O. Box 6063, Providence, RI 02940.

Michael D. Smith is a licensed funeral director and owner of Shalom Memorial Chapel.

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# CLASSIFIED

## ESTHER (SIMKOWSKY) SHECHTMAN

CRANSTON — Esther (Simkowsky) Shechtman, of 38 Glengrove Ave., died Dec. 1 at home. She was the wife of the late Harry Shechtman.

Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Louis and Rebecca (Abrams) Simkowsky, she had lived in Los Angeles before moving to Cranston 45 years ago. She was a member of Temple Torat Yisrael. She had been a member of the former Pioneer Women.

She leaves two sons, Kent Shechtman of North Kingstown and Stuart Shechtman of Cranston; a daughter, Barbara Sherman of Port Charlotte, Fla.; a twin brother, Max Simmons of Cranston; three sisters, Lee Morrison of Cranston, Shirley Bazarsky of East Providence and Faye Weinberg of North Hollywood, Calif.; three grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. She was the sister of the late Robert Fields and Hy Simmons.

The funeral service was held Dec. 3 at Shalom Memorial Chapel, 1100 New London Ave., Cranston. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. Arrangements were made by Shalom Memorial Chapel.

## MITCHELL "MITCH" SHERWIN

PROVIDENCE — Mitchell "Mitch" Sherwin, 88, of 101 Highland Ave., a retired company executive, died Nov. 29 at the Philip Hulitar Hospice Center. He was the husband of the late Pearl (Singer) Sherwin.

Born in Providence, a son of the late John and Jennie Sherwin, he lived in Providence and Cranston. He was proprietor of the former Singer Tea Co. and the former Singer Furniture & Home Supply Co. in East Providence, until he retired in 1983.

He was a graduate of Bryant College and a member of its Alumni Association.

He was an active member of Temple Emanu-El and its Men's Club, a member of the Redwood Masonic Lodge, serving

as its social chairman for many years, and a member of Touro Fraternal Association.

He was an active volunteer at the Miriam Hospital, for Meals on Wheels and at the former Jewish Home for the Aged.

A violinist since early childhood, he performed with the Warwick Symphony Orchestra and the Providence Civic Orchestra.

He leaves two sons, Robert Sherwin of Pawtucket and Harlan Sherwin of Canton, Mass., and three grandchildren. He was brother of the late Harold Sherwin.

The funeral service was held Dec. 1 at Temple Emanu-El, Providence. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. Arrangements were made by Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence.

## BARBARA SLOANE

BOYNTON BEACH, Fla. — Barbara Sloane, 69, of 2515 North East 1st Court, a bookkeeper for 25 years, died Dec. 2 at Bethesda Memorial Hospital, Boynton Beach. She was the wife of Leon Sloane.

Born in Providence, a daughter of the late John and Mildred (Nozick) Newman, she had lived in Narragansett for 10 years before moving to Boynton Beach two years ago.

She was a bookkeeper for Newman & Brier, later becoming Newman & Sloane, and later was an independent bookkeeper. She was a life member of the former Pawtucket Hadassah, now Hadassah of Rhode Island, and past president of Loyal Family Circle of Rhode Island.

Besides her husband, she leaves a son, Richard Sloane of Tucson, Ariz.; a daughter, Susan Sugarman of Cranston; and four grandchildren. She was the sister of the late Ernest Newman.

The funeral service was held Dec. 6 at Shalom Memorial Chapel, 1100 New London Ave., Cranston. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. Arrangements were made by Shalom Memorial Chapel.

## Original Spin

(Continued from Page 3)

Seleucids that preceded it were unmistakable expressions of resistance to assimilation.

The real enemy at the time of the Maccabees was not the Seleucid empire as an occupation force, but rather what Seleucid society represented: a cultural colonialism that sought to erode the beliefs and observances of the Jewish religious tradition, and to replace them with the glorification of the physical and the embrace of the physical and the embrace of much that Judaism considers immoral. The Seleucids sought to acculturate the Jewish people, to force them to adopt a "superior," "sophisticated," wholly secular philosophy. And thus the Jewish victory, when it came, was a triumph over assimilation. The Maccabees succeeded, in other words, in preserving Jewish tradition, in drawing lines.

And so the miracle of the lights, our tradition teaches, was hardly arbitrary. Poignant meaning lay in the Temple candelabra's supernatural eight-day burning of a one-day supply of oil. For light, in Jewish tradition, means Torah, the teachings and laws that comprise the Jewish religious heritage.

Even the custom of playing dreidel, sources explain, is a reminder of the secret of Jewish continuity. The Seleucids had forbidden a number of expressions of Jewish devotion, like the practice of circumcision and the Jewish insistence on personal modesty. They also outlawed the study of Torah, which they rightfully regarded as the engine of Jewish identity and continuity. The spinning toy was a subterfuge adopted by Jews when they were studying Torah in pairs or groups; if they sensed enemy inspectors nearby, they would suddenly take out their dreidels and spin them, masking their study session with an innocuous game of chance.

It is mere chance, too, that Chanukah seems so intriguing to contemporary Jews, so very many of whom are threatened with assimilation, not coercive, to be sure, but no less threatening to Jewish survival? Or might that coincidence be laden with meaning?

Meaning, and a message Jews can resist the temptation to melt into the surrounding culture. They have the ability to put away the dreidels, take out the books and make serious, deeply Jewish, decisions about their lives.

May all we Jews have a happy, and meaningful, Chanukah.

Rabbi Avi Shafren serves as director of public affairs for Agudath Israel of America and as American director of Am Ehad. The above appeared in the Forward.

## Clarification

In the Dec. 2 issue of the Rhode Island Jewish Herald (p. 12 "Through the Lens of a Camera"), David Schwartz was mistakenly referred to as a landscape architect. He is not. He is the owner of Schwartz Tree & Landscape, Cranston. The Herald regrets the error.

## Time is Short

(Continued from Page 3)

Discuss the possibilities of importing water. At the same time, studies have been done regarding the feasibility of building a pipeline across the Mediterranean to deliver fresh water or, as an alternative, using tankers to transport the water to Israel. Combined with desalination, these measure represent the wide scope of solutions being sought. JNF's current projects help sustain Israel until long-term solutions are found.

Jewish National Fund is committed to finding long-term viable solutions to the water crisis in Israel. JNF recently announced a \$50 million plan to rehabilitate Israel's polluted rivers to restore this vital resource. JNF has built more than 100 dams and reservoirs that combine to add 100 million cubic meters to Israel's water economy, or about 6 percent of Israel's total water supply. Working to fill the water needs of Israeli agriculture, JNF has been working with farmers and researchers to utilize salty waters to produce crops for export. Israel and JNF are looking into a program that would reclaim and recycle 200 million cubic meters of waste water annually. In addition, JNF works with various organizations like the International Arid Lands Consortium and the United States Forest Service that promote research and international cooperation to benefit Israel's water resources.

At Jewish National Fund, we are deeply concerned for the future of Israel's water supply. We are engaging as many people as possible, through as many media as possible, in order to convey the seriousness of the drought in the Middle East and to hasten the solutions that will benefit Israel and the entire Middle East. Those solutions include further research for utilizing saline and brackish waters, desalination, regional demand and watershed management and water resource protection.

The headlines from the Oslo summit will speak of the needs for peace and understanding. However, JNF also looks forward to the day when the headlines announce a solution to Israel's water crisis.

## ENTERTAINMENT

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## Addressing

(Continued from Page 3)

secular holiday observances to regulations regarding the most trendy hair and clothing styles.

Rabbi Yaacov Haber, OU director of education and an author of the sources book, explains that for Jews historically, remaining apart from the culture in which they had settled was quite simple — especially in those countries that did not welcome its Jewish citizens, confining them to ghettos where there were no opportunities to integrate into society-at-large. But, as Rabbi Haber writes in his introduction to the pamphlet, "Jews in America have achieved great success, enjoying complete freedom to integrate into society and economy... Today, the thinking Jew in America — and indeed in most of the world — now needs to devote serious thought to this injunction.

According to Rabbi Steven M. Dworkin, executive vice president of the RCA, the source book touches upon a struggle familiar to virtually all Jews reared on baseball and apple pie: Do we have to choose Jewish values over American values? "The fundamental question underlying the entire discussion is, 'How different does a Jew have to be?'" Rabbi Dworkin notes.

The guide is intended to serve as a springboard for lively discussions in synagogues nationwide as it compels congregants to consider their views on whether everything secular is off limits to them as Jews: Are designer garments designed for Jews, for Christians or for all individuals? What about the latest best-selling books — for whom were they written? Don't Jews celebrate Thanksgiving, the Fourth of July and Mother's Day? Weren't these holidays created with all Americans in mind? The issue is, as Rabbi Haber notes, "At the heart of many of our daily decisions, whether we are conscious of it or not."

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## Chanukah Candles to Illuminate the Rhode Island State House

*Pays Tribute to the late Sen. John Chafee*

*"Every good deed we do is like another candle lighting up the world."*

A special State House candlelighting ceremony took place on Dec. 6 at 6 p.m. adjacent to the original charter from King Charles II granting Rhode Island religious freedom.

The event was held to reaffirm Rhode Island's historical message of our commitment to a World of Good and faith in Divine Providence.

This year's ceremony has taken on a special significance to honor the memory of Sen. John Chafee and the more than 20 years of public service to the citizens of Rhode Island and the United States. Seeking a World of Good, Sen. John Chafee pursued a policy of unity and non-partisanship.

"By coming together and lighting the menorah, which has eight branches coming out of one base, we want to emphasize the fundamental unity and goodness which is inherent in the world and in every human being," said Rabbi Yehoshua Laufer, director of Chabad-Lubavitch of Rhode Island.

Participating in the event were Sen. Lincoln Chafee, Gov. Lincoln Almond and members of the community.

A special presentation of song and hope was also sung.

The ceremony, brought to the citizenry of Rhode Island by Chabad of Rhode Island, was initiated at the request of Lubavitcher Rebbe Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson. The

Rebbe taught that the lesson of the Chanukah candles applies to all mankind: by increasing in light and acts of goodness, one can illuminate one's life, warm the soul, heal the spirit and make the world a far, far better place.



*Herald photo by Luke O'Neill*

## Pets And Children: A Lifelong Friendship

Is your voice beginning to sound like a broken record? Are you always nagging your kids to do their homework? Are you having trouble motivating your child to stop watching TV or playing video games and to play outside instead? Then consider making a pet part of your family.

Many people are aware of the health benefits that come from having a pet, including lowering high blood pressure, preventing heart disease and combating depression. However, what parents may not realize is that adding Spot, Polly or Mr. Whiskers to the family can be advantageous to the other bundles of joy "scampering" around your house — your kids!

While little children are too young to worry about preventing stress or lowering health care costs, there are numerous benefits they can experience from having a family pet.

Pets, whether a dog, cat, bird, hamster, reptile or fish, help children gain a sense of independence that can set them on the path to becoming mature, responsible adults.

### Pets Teach Kids to be Responsible

Children can learn the importance of responsibility at an early age by acting as a caretaker for a pet. Fish are a terrific first pet because children can play a large role in caring for them. However, other pets that

require more attention, like a cat or dog, can present an ideal opportunity for parent and child to bond while caring for the pet together. Showing children what it means to be responsible for another creature's survival can result in teaching important life lessons such as discipline, patience, kindness and attentiveness.

### Pets Can Help Kids Develop Discipline



Walking the dog, feeding the guinea pig and talking to the parrot can serve as fun study breaks for kids, and a replacement for television programs and video games. These pet-related activities help children remain focused on the task at hand, and are less likely to become distractions that will prevent homework and chores from being completed.

### Pets Prepare Kids For Life Situations

Bringing a pet home and into the family can be an effective way to help prepare children for real life scenarios. For example, pets can ease the transition of suddenly having to share mom and dad's attention with a new brother or sister by demonstrating how much fun new playmates can be, as well as what is involved in caring for another. Pets can also help kids learn to deal with medical issues and illnesses as they are exposed to routine veterinarian check-ups with their pet, and the treatments for various ailments.

## Volunteers Needed For Reading and Writing With Children

Volunteers are needed to meet weekly with 4- to 9-year-old children to practice reading and writing and do hands-on learning activities. Creating Readers is a free 10-week after school enrichment program with a goal of fostering a love of reading and writing through the Providence Library's Family Place.

Sessions take place at the Mount Pleasant Branch Library, Washington Park Branch Library, South Providence Branch Library and the Knight Memorial Branch Library and last between 30 and 45 minutes, depending on the child's age.

To volunteer or for more information, call Kate or Karlene at 455-8035.

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# 2000

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Who were the Jewish faces who made the greatest contribution to both American and Jewish society?

From now until December 20th, the Rhode Island Jewish Herald will be accepting your choices for the most important Jewish events and faces of the last 100 years. Your choices will be included in our special millennium issue on December 30th.

Submissions to  
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