The Jewish VOICE OF RHODE ISLAND

Jewish Federation of Rhode Island | Tevet-Shevat 5760 | January 2000

In Business for over 100 years, Union Industries is now headed by the 4th generation of Franks. **See page 3**

First in many things during its long history, Temple Beth-El puts out vibrant vibes. **See page 21**

As of January 1, the Rhode Island Jewish Community Campaign 2000 had reached **$4 million!**

Jewish Federation of Rhode Island

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In its 75th year, the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island is an agency in transition, making changes — some painful, some exciting. **See page 3**

The Jewish Voice of RI

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Who are key players at Shepherdstown?

by Michael Shapiro

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Israeli and Syrian negotiators, meeting in Shepherdstown, WVa., are secluded in a small town that sits just across the Potomac River from the Antietam battlefield of the Civil War.

These officials, who are trying reach a framework for peace, know about battlefields: They fought each other in several bloody wars.

The Israeli delegation is being led by Prime Minister Ehud Barak, who also serves as the country's defense minister. Barak, a former elite army commando and chief of staff, fought against the Syrians on the Golan Heights in 1967, when Israel captured the strategic plateau.

In seeking political support for the highest-level talks ever with Syria, Barak has reminded Israelis of his time battling the Syrians. "I am fully familiar with every valley and every rock in the Golan," he said during a speech to the Knesset before leaving for Washington for the initial round of talks with Syria last month.

Barak also has experience negotiating with the Syrians. As chief of staff, he dealt with Syria during the negotiations from 1994 to '96.

It is not clear yet how the talks will proceed. Israel has suggested discussing security and civil affairs first; Syria wants territorial questions at the beginning.

Barak is accompanied by two other former top generals — Uri Saguy, the former head of military intelligence who was appointed to head the negotiating team, and Danny Yatom, the former head of the Mossad and now Barak's chief of staff.

Other senior members of the Israeli delegation are Foreign Minister David Levy; Attorney General Elyakim Rubinstein, who participated as a Foreign Ministry lawyer during the Camp David negotiations with Egypt and headed peace negotiations with Jordan; and Maj. Gen. Shlomo Yannai, who has been appointed the senior army representative to the talks and will head the team for security arrangements.

While Barak is in Shepherdstown, his adversary is not. Syrian President Hafez Assad, defense minister in 1967 when Israel captured the Golan Heights, has sent Foreign Minister Farouk al-Sharaa in his stead.

Sharaa, who has been foreign minister for the past 15 years and has overseen negotiations with Israel since they began in 1991 at the Madrid peace conference, is seen as Assad's right-hand man.

"It's very evident that Foreign Minister Sharaa is here representing President Assad, and that he has President Assad's confidence," US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said Dec. 16 after Clinton announced that the talks would resume in January. Albright also said Assad is "very much a part of these talks, whether he's currently here or not."

Syrian chief of staff, Hikmat Shihabi, may join the Syrian team in the negotiations. Shihabi met with Barak when Barak was still chief of staff — and with Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, another former chief of staff who is now minister of tourism, during previous Israeli-Syrian talks.

Other top officials who were part of the Syrian negotiating team during the opening round of talks in December include Riyad al-Dadoudi, legal adviser to the foreign minister, and Maj. Gen. Ibrahim al-Omar, who represented the Syrian army.

The top officials are also expected to be accompanied by experts in the key areas that will be the focus of the talks — including security arrangements, borders and water, normalization of ties and Lebanon.

As the two sides sit down for what is being billed as intensive and open-ended talks, their American hosts will be in West Virginia to "facilitate" the talks, Albright said. During the initial round of talks, the two delegations were never without their American hosts in the room.

Albright, Dennis Ross, the US special Middle East coordinator, and the rest of the American peace process team will stay with their Israeli and Syrian counterparts at the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center.

Clinton also is expected to play a key role, as he did during the Wye negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians.

American officials have said they wanted a site that was relatively secluded but also close enough to Washington so the president could participate.

Syrian foreign minister Farouk al-Sharaa (left) with President Clinton and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak in the Oval Office.

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From the Editor

The secular year, 3rd millennium and 21st century begin with momentous doings for Jews and Arabs. This is the year that may bring about a framework for a final settlement with the Palestinians and a deal with the Syrians. It is a thrilling and frightening time. As an Israeli once commented about dealing with Israel's neighbors, "The Middle East is not the Middle West." Because we are not talking about a deal between friends, there is lots of comment, and we present plenty of it for you to consider, including the cartoon of Joshua Edelglass, a Brown University graduate who debuts in The Voice on page 4. As with columnists, Josh's views are strictly his own, but we hope you enjoy his contribution.

Jane S. Sprague

--Corrections--

In a photograph accompanying the feature on Temple Am David, page 25, December Voice, the late Eunice Zeidman was incorrectly identified as "Esther."

On page 34, in "Infertility: a Jewish couple's nightmare," *The Voice* reported that Andrew Blazar, MD, from Women & Infant's Hospital, said that in Israel infertility treatments are covered by insurance, including as many as 10 *in vitro* fertilization cycles per couple.

A clearer report of what Blazar said would have been that in Israel insurance covers as many infertility treatments, including *in vitro*, as necessary until a couple has two children. Because of that, Israeli women, *per capita*, have 10 times as many *in vitro* cycles done as do American women.

On page 23, the article, "Using leisure to keep brain, body fit," identified one of the presenters for the Leisure Club as Dorothy Kirschenbaum. The correct name is Blossom Kirschenbaum, who will present a 6-part series each Thursday at 11:10 am, January 6-February 10, on "Short stories from far and near."

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For the Kids: SPARKS! 36

From papers to plastics, wholesaling to printing, Union Paper rolls on and on and on

Union Paper, Admiral Packaging and Union Industries is no longer the horse and buggy business started by Moses Frank (center) 101 years ago. Today, it is a high tech, state-of-the-art converter with familiar brand name clients

by Jane S. Sprague

What's in a name? Sometimes they're misleading. At Union Paper, there is no paper.

In 101 years, the company started by Moses Frank has gone from wholesaling paper and stationery supplies to being a converter. A what? A converter. That is the industry term for plants that print on huge rolls of plastic, which eventually are converted to plastic bags.

Perhaps that's why the company today is officially Union Industries, with Union Paper and Admiral Packaging its two divisions.

Who needs these plastic bags? On the table before us is one for Stop 'n Shop Broccoli. This is fine printing. The 120-line screen makes the vegetable vivid green, live looking. Next to it is a stack of the millennium issue of Playboy, wrapped in a snazzy bag printed using an even finer screen, 150 lines.

"There's no one else in the business who could have done this Playboy bag," Harley boasts. "From the time art work was approved, we turned around 1.2 million bags in two weeks."

Harley Frank at age 36 is the fourth generation of Franks to run the $24 million business. Most moderate sized converters have been bought out by bigger operators. When they come kocking at Union Industries, Harley is "not interested. This is a wonderful opportunity to run a business," he says.

He's been gearing up for this since he was 7 years old and his dad, Bud Frank, let him help package cups. Since then he has swept floors and worked in every single department of the company. He understands the processes, frustrations, challenges and solutions to the entire operation. From graduation at the University of Vermont in 1984, he came right to work.

Union Paper began the transition to a converter in 1952 when Bud Frank, also fresh out of college, came to work for his dad, Haskell Frank. Bud had an itch to manufacture rather than simply be a paper wholesaler. He narrowed his choices to two: straws or plastic bags, and went with bags. He's never looked back.

His brother, Mel, joined him in the business in 1958 after completing three hitches in the Navy. Together they acquired the old 11-building American Silk Spinning Mill complex on Admiral Street in Providence, close to the main Post Office, and turned the complex into a thoroughly modern, technologically current printing plant that houses huge web presses, laminators and all the auxiliary operations.

"We bought three presses for 3.5 million dollars," Bud says, "and we've demolished some buildings and built five new ones to house our operations."

The corporate offices are in an 1827 section of the complex, featuring high ceilings, brick walls and wooden beams sandblasted clean. In this mixture of old and new, robots help operate presses.

Bud says he and Mel were lucky to run the business from the 50s on. "We had an easier time," he says, than his father and uncle had . "We were

Please turn to page 18

JCC makes tough decisions in changing marketplace

by Jane S. Sprague

Remaking oneself at age 75 is rough. It is traumatic to leave behind the comfort of the familiar, even if it is dragging one down. It can be frightening to pare down and narrow one's focus to just a few things done well. It can be risky to alter infrastructure and discard once-popular functions.

Yet, taking such steps is invigorating, exciting and may lead to a brighter, more purposeful future.

How much greater are those conflicting and confusing emotions among professionals and volunteer leaders who must force organizational changes.

That is the situation at the 75-year-old Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island (JCC) as it discards programs that have been draining the human and financial resources of this agency which is so vital to the infrastructure of a vibrant Jewish community.

Not-for-profit institutions, like businesses, cannot operate long with mounting deficits. They must either pare back or receive new infusions of cash, or both. In the not-for-profit world that cash can come from several sources — fees for services or donations.

The problem with making every service self-supporting is that an organization like the JCC may not meet its mission if it denies basic services to people who cannot afford them. The problem with looking for substantially increased donations is that the donor base may not have the capacity to meet that demand.

What has put the JCC in this quandry?

Why has an agency, which operated on a break-even basis for decades, begun to struggle so these last 13 years?

The answer seems to be a combination of a change in donations and in the marketplace.

Doug Emanuel, who chairs the JCC's budget and finance committee, says, "The problem evolved from the effort to give the community everything it wanted despite flat funding."

Although the JCC has faced deficits several times in recent years, none approached the nearly $150,000 shortfall in the last fiscal year or the over $200,000 projected for the current year. Luckily for the JCC, a $100,000 donation last year left them with only a $50,000 deficit which they felt able to service. But there is no sugar daddy on the horizon for FY 2000.

In addition to receiving money each year from the Jewish community's fund drive (JFRI), the Center also gets a grant from the United Way of Southeastern New England because its programs are open to and used by many members of the general community. In 1986, the United Way grant was $331,000 and the JFRI grant was $193,000.

All of the people interviewed for this article — Emanuel, JCC executive director Vivian Weisman, board president Bruce Leach and board member and past president Jeffrey Brier — trace the JCC's problems to changes at the United Way.

In the early 90s, the United Way decided to make a radical change: donor designation. The switch of having funds designated to specific agencies or purposes reduced the United Way's general pool for base grants. Many agencies suffered significant loss. The agencies then were forced to ask their publics to designate their United Way gifts for their specific use.

That change was a major philosophical dilemma for many Jews. They made donations to the Jewish Federation's annual fund drive specifically to support Jewish institutions. Their gifts to the United Way were to meet their obligations to the general community. Now, they were asked to funnel that gift

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Rabbi Mark Bloom, of Temple Torat Yisrael in Cranston, and his guitar come to the JCC to help teach children Jewish traditions.

Letters

The Jewish Voice welcomes letters on matters of interest to the Jewish community. Please limit to 300 words and submit them by the 20th of the month. Mail to 130 Sessions St., Providence, RI 02906 or e-mail JVoice@aol.com.

The opinions expressed in all signed columns and letters are those of the writers and not necessarily those of The Voice.

A view on the "new historians"

It was with great interest that I read the Opinions page in The Jewish Voice in November concerning the new historians, who are re-examining some aspects of the history of the modern state of Israel, with some critical revelations concerning unjust treatment of Palestinians, and actions taken by Jewish settlers in the War of Independence, and at other junctures in Israel's history. Most interesting is the fact that these re-evaluations have become part of the history that is being taught in Israeli schools.

As reflected in the two columns that you ran on this subject, many valid questions and concerns can be raised about this movement. But the reason that these re-evaluations are of great interest to me as an individual is that they touch upon that aspect of my heritage as a Jew which gives me the greatest pride, and that aspect is the centuries and centuries of constant, repeated, avid, resounding demands for justice. I see this issue of self-examination as a part of that process, as a reminder of what we as Jews have been taught throughout our history, for centuries past.

Human history is complicated by conflicting needs and circumstances, and unfortunately human beings are prone to judgments which categorize other peoples according to a scale of greater or lesser value (even among ourselves, as we know). These judgments can provide justification for actions which contradict what we should know about right and wrong.

Throughout Jewish history, teachers, rabbis, philosophers, thinkers and prophets have reminded us again and again what our responsibilities have to be, one person to another, one people to another. Hillel's response to the challenges to recite the Torah standing on one foot told it all.

This is the context in which I view the New Historians.

Norma J. Goldberg
Providence

Memory lapses for Arafat

Yasser Arafat has forgotten history. He does not remember that his Palestinian nation attacked Israel (together with Egypt, Syria and Jordan) when the States of Israel and Palestine were created (1947 by United Nations decree).

Palestine, Egypt, Syria and Jordan invaded and attacked Israel and were defeated. In their defeat, they all lost land. Israel immediately promised that all lands would be returned if those countries made peace. They all answered "No peace, no negotiations, no recognition" of Israel.

After several wars, Egypt and Jordan did make peace with Israel and received all of their lands back. The same will happen with the Palestinians. However, Arafat has not kept prior peace agreements with Israel (Oslo, Hebron I, Hebron II, Wye) and is now making unreasonable land demands of Israel that would weaken Israel if agreed upon.

Yassir Arafat has to remember history. He has to keep his promises and show that he will be a peaceful neighbor. There is too much hatred and deception in the world today. The world does not need another non-peaceful country.

Yale J. Berry, MD
Brookline, Mass.

Is he up to something?

Barak keeps smiling even as Palestinian talks falter

by J.J. Goldberg

Ehud Barak, Israel's prime minister, has been smiling a lot lately, and it's driving a lot of people crazy.

Barak insists he's going to reach a "framework" agreement with the Palestinians within a month or two, outlining the basic shape of Israeli-Palestinian peace. A full peace treaty will follow within a year or so. Pundits and wise men from Potomac to Petah Tikvah are doing headstands trying to figure out what he has in mind.

By many folks' calculations, it doesn't add up. Talks between the two sides break down more often than a '59 Dodge. Six years after the White House handshake, they seem as far apart as ever. Israel says it will never share Jerusalem, while the Palestinians say they'll never settle for less. The Palestinians insist the settlements have to go, yet Barak keeps building (he recently announced a halt to new starts, not a construction freeze). On top of that, Israel's "peace partner," Yasser Arafat, seems to break more promises than the weatherman. And yet, there's Barak, predicting peace within a year and grinning like the Mona Lisa.

It makes observers around the world scratch their heads and wonder: Why is this man smiling? Is it for show, to maintain appearances while preparing for the worst, as many Israeli analysts suspect? Or does Barak have some secret plan up his sleeve?

It turns out Barak does have a plan, but it's not so secret. He dropped some pretty clear hints this fall, after critics claimed he had set himself too tight a deadline. "We don't need time," he said more than once. "What we need is courage."

What he meant, in effect, is that he and Arafat already know where things will end up, more or less. One day soon they're going to stand before the cameras and announce that they've decided to split the difference. Each side will have its most essential needs met. But each will get much less than it wants. There will be furious opposition on both sides. That's why they're stalling.

Both men have a pretty good idea what the deal will look like. They used to hope time and partial agreements would help their respective publics accept the tough compromises. That hasn't happened. Now, say close aides to both men, they're ready to cut to the chase.

"Barak definitely intends to have an agreement by the deadline," says Israeli immigration absorption minister Yuli Tamir, a longtime Barak confidant."

"It may not be February, but it will be the end of March or early April," says science minister Matan Vilna'i, a close Barak ally who recently stepped down as deputy chief of Israel's military staff.

"Absolutely," agrees the Palestinians' chief delegate to the United Nations, Nasser Al-Kidwa, who happens to be Arafat's nephew. "There will be an agreement, if both sides find the will. The details of the positions on both sides are known to each," says Al-Kidwa. "What's left, really, is taking decisions."

What will the deal look like? It will probably resemble a proposal hammered out in the mid-1990s by Israel's Yossi Beilin and Arafat deputy Abu Mazen. It called for Israeli withdrawal from most of the West Bank, leaving only a few crucial security zones plus the three largest settlement blocs in Israeli hands. The Palestinian areas would become an independent but strictly demilitarized state, barred by treaty from alliances with hostile Arab states.

The plan called for Jerusalem to remain united under Israeli sovereignty. An Arab village just east of Jerusalem, Abu Dis, was to be briefly annexed to the city and then given to the Palestinians as their capital. They would swear off any further claims against Israel.

It's not a done deal. Sources on both sides deny they're willing to give away as much as the Beilin-Abu Mazen plan called for. Israelis say they want security guarantees — control of Jordan River crossings, electronic listening posts on the high ground, the right to pursue terrorists into Palestinian territory — that Palestinians say they reject. Palestinian officials, meanwhile, say they want land from Israel in exchange for any parts of the West Bank that Israel keeps. They also insist they want part of Jerusalem proper for their capital. "This is a city which does not accept exclusive ownership," says Al-Kidwa.

Haggling over those details is what will take another year after the "framework" is announced. What's significant is that each side knows the other's position, yet both still say a deal is imminent. That means both sides are ready to meet the other halfway, though they won't say it out loud.

One of the dangers facing Israel, in fact, is that it might negotiate too well. A secret Israeli intelligence report sent to Barak last summer, and leaked to a London publication, warned him against pressing for every possible advantage. Arafat, being weak, might concede more than he can afford politically. That could cripple Arafat and strengthen his extremist opponents. "To come with demands that will weaken Arafat from within doesn't make sense," says Vilna'i.

The troubling question, of course, is whether all this will add up to peace. What's to prevent the Palestinians from taking their state and using it as a staging ground for further attacks? What if the peace with the Palestinians turns into another "cold peace" like the 20-year chill between Israel and Egypt? What's the point of peace if it's laced with hatred?

Surprisingly, questions like these don't much trouble Israel's military strategists. They never considered the Palestinians a military threat. Terrorism threatens Israeli lives, but it doesn't threaten Israel's existence. Only the armies of Arab states can do that. And progress with the Palestinians brings peace with the neighbors. Already Israel has full or partial diplomatic relations with seven Arab states, fully one-third of the Arab League.

Nor does cold peace trouble Israel's brass. From their viewpoint, the Egyptian peace is a major Israeli asset, cold or no. "Before the peace we had two full armored divisions on the Egyptian border, two-thirds of the Israeli army," says Vilna'i. "Today the border is defended by 30 reservists on camels, looking for smugglers.

"Remember, in 1982 we entered with tanks into Beirut, the capital of a neighboring Arab state, and the Egyptians didn't say a word," Vilna'i says. "The peace stood. The president of Egypt was assassinated by fundamentalists and the peace stood. It's a wonderful peace." He added, "the minute you're at peace, everything looks different."

Reason enough for anyone to smile.

Media flunks on PA anti-semitism

by Andrea Levin
National President of CAMERA

There is a vivid lesson about the media to be drawn from coverage of Suha Arafat's public calumny alleging Israel uses "poisonous gas" against Palestinians and contaminates "80% of (their) water sources." Even in the face of Suha's high-profile libels, journalists still refused to report that her statements were symptomatic of anti-Israel and anti-semitic invective that is, in fact, ubiquitous in the Palestinian Authority.

In the PA, school children are daily indoctrinated via textbooks, television and mosque to believe Jews are treacherous thieves and Nazi-like conquerors with not the slightest rightful claim or ancient tie to the land of Israel, and that Palestinian youth are honor-bound to one day throw the Jews out of Haifa, Jaffa, Ashdod, Jerusalem and all the other cities of "Palestine."

Although a few commentators (including Cal Thomas, Sid Zion, David Bar-Illan, George Will, and the editorial writers of the New York Post and the Boston Herald) promptly reminded readers that Suha Arafat's baseless accusations were typical of Palestinian hate-mongering, the overwhelming content of the coverage was little more than chit-chat about the political fallout for Hillary Clinton, who sat silently nearby during Suha's remarks, then kissed her at the podium.

Time magazine's Lisa Beyer actually endorsed Suha's ravings saying "Mrs. Arafat did have a point." The reporter declared, "It's true that tear gas, frequently used by Israeli soldiers, has been linked to miscarriages among Palestinians." No. It is not true. The Journal of the American Medical Association looked into the question in 1989 during the height of the Intifada, when such allegations first surfaced. That assessment, co-written by a member of Physicians for Human Rights, a group often severely critical of Israel, found no evidence of a link.

But Beyer's readiness to repeat old propaganda without checking facts and to cover up the true import of Suha Arafat's statements was but a slightly exaggerated case of the general media silence about the drumbeat of anti-semitism in the PA and many of the surrounding Arab states. Israeli political analyst Gerald Steinberg recently wrote that this "continued incitement to violence" is "at the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict."

When Suha, utterly unchastened by the repercussions of her poison gas charges in Ramallah, made similarly slanderous statements 10 days later on the Arab satellite channel Orbit, claiming Israel pours toxic waste into the Gaza water system, her remarks received barely a mention. (The Palestinians themselves, not Israel, have all but destroyed the Gaza aquifer, the main water source for Gaza's Arabs, through rampant, unregulated well drilling.) Where reported, as in a Reuters dispatch, Suha's latest outburst was cast as a domestic story about a woman who refused "to play the retiring wife" of Yasir Arafat. Once again, the demonizing of Israel was ignored.

The pervasiveness of this assault in the Arab media can hardly be overstated. Consider just one recent example in a November 18 column in the English language Saudi newspaper Arab News, read by 200,000 Saudis, tourists, foreign nationals and diplomats. Endorsing old libels, Dr. Asem Hamdan wrote:

"The Zionist protocol (Protocols of the Elders of Zion) issued alongside the plan to establish a homeland in Palestine ... contained fascist ideas such as Jewish superiority over all other people and that a Jew has a right to steal from others because he is not stealing but taking back the wealth God created for Jews. It also said that hitting a Jew is tantamount to hitting God and hence the person deserves death, and if Jews had not been created, sun and rain would have disappeared from the earth. It also pointed out that the difference between Jews and other men is the same as between animals and men. God created other men to serve Jews for whom the world was created. In fact, Jews are living up to the above principles, extorting money from Europeans."

The media blackout on this "core" issue of anti-semitism leaves Israel to protest largely alone against the inculcation of hatred by the Palestinian Authority and the Arab world. The silence is all the more striking when contrasted to the indignant reaction by, for example, the New York Times' Tom Friedman over anti-American rage in Egypt about US handling of the Egypt Air Flight 990 crash. "(A)fter 20 years of US aid to Egypt, approaching $40 billion, I would expect the Egyptian leadership to be clearly and unambiguously educating the Egyptian public that America is a friend, not an old, sinister imperialist," opined the columnist.

Provoked by Egypt's anti-Americanism, Friedman did mention that Israel was also blamed for the crash. Yet when Egypt's government-controlled press regularly spews mad accusations about Israel poisoning Egyptian youth and agriculture, behaving like Nazis and conniving with Egypt's enemies, or when the weekly publication October writes that "Satan worship is a part of Judaism" and that Judaism is responsible for "all destructive upheavals," Friedman is silent. He is silent to the hate-mongering and silent to its being purveyed by an Egypt that signed a peace agreement with Israel two decades ago, the basis for Egypt's receiving the $40 billion from America.

A further striking paradox in press coverage of the region is the contrasting readiness of news reporters and editorial writers to recount abuses of the Palestinian people by Yasir Arafat and his lieutenants. Whether the topic is PA torture of prisoners, PA intimidation of Palestinian journalists, academics and human rights advocates or corruption and economic malfeasance by Arafat's inner circle, the media do probe and report the mistreatment of Palestinians.

That is to say, the problem is not one of western journalists unwilling to say a bad word about Arab leaders or to inspect the underside of a thuggish regime such as Arafat's. The issue is something different; it is a specific refusal to expose the massive defamation of Jews and Israel.

The great harm in this media coverup is that were CNN, The New York Times, National Public Radio, the Los Angeles Times and other media across the globe to report the story systematically there would not only be a greater understanding of Israel's concerns but also the possibility of public awareness leading to moral pressure that would rein in the purveyors of hatred and increase the chances of real peace. Is it too much to expect tax-supported National Public Radio to end its news blackout on Arab anti-semitism and cast light on this dark corner of Middle East reality?

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A majority of one

At the millennium, let us celebrate the birth of Israel after nearly 2000 years without a homeland

by Yehuda Lev

Unless Y2K brings civilization to its knees, by the time you read these words we will have lived to see the onset of the new millennium. I will probably observe the occasion as I generally mark the passing of a year, asleep in bed. Not for me the joys of First Night, the excitement of watching the ball descend at Times Square, or even the traditional midnight kiss over a glass of Champagne. And as for Auld Lang Syne, if I need a melancholy requiem for any purpose, I'll settle for Taps.

Besides, my generation of Jews has already lived through an event similar to but much more remarkable than the millennium. Half a century ago we enjoyed the *billennium*, a word I have just created to mark the rebirth of the Jewish State after a couple of millennia of wandering around in other people's backyards.

One difference in the two calendar changes is obvious; the Christian world has had 2,000 years to prepare for its celebrations while we Jews had little hint of an actual date for the rebirth of Israel until a couple of years before it occurred. True, we hoped for it and worked for it and many prayed for it, although the latter tended to expect its arrival in a somewhat different form. But not until 1946 did the British indicate they were prepared to leave Palestine and only in 1948 did they actually depart.

When they did, it was with the expectation, though not necessarily the hope, that the surrounding Arab states would finish off the Jews in short order. The British were not the only ones to misjudge the situation; General George C. Marshall, then the US secretary of state, advised President Truman not to grant recognition to Israel because the United States would be held responsible for Jewish refugees looking for rescue in the wake of the expected Arab victory.

There were also some within Palestine's Jewish leadership who questioned the wisdom of declaring a Jewish state, given the odds against its survival. In the end it was David Ben Gurion, a name almost unknown to the latest generation of Jews, who forced the issue and became the young nation's first prime minister.

Nor was that the end of the story. Declaring a state is one thing, defending it is another. Not until the late summer or autumn of 1948 could anyone say with certainty that the beleaguered nation was going to survive.

The impact on Jews of Israel's creation and survival was both immediate and widespread following as it did so quickly upon the Holocaust, knowledge of which came to most people only with the liberation of the death camps in 1945. Many survivors tried at first to return to their homes in Eastern Europe, only to be met with pogroms from their former neighbors who never expected or wanted to see them again.

For these Jews the urge to escape from Europe into a Jewish environment was overwhelming. I was working with displaced persons in Europe at the time and the eagerness with which Jews in the DP camps sought to depart for Palestine overwhelmed the meager facilities we had to assist them on their way. This situation eased somewhat as other countries of refuge opened their gates, but the idea of finding safety in a Jewish state dominated most planning for the future among survivors in the immediate post-war years.

For American Jews, support for the creation of Israel and then for its survival was, for many, a way of expiating a sense of guilt for their helplessness in the face of the onslaught upon their European relatives. For the committed Zionists among American Jews, not so large a percentage as one might expect, it was the realization of their dreams. But even Jews for whom Zionism was relatively unimportant, took great pride in the accomplishment of the tiny Jewish David in overcoming the giant Arab Goliath.

(Almost forgotten today was the existence of two small but vocal anti-Zionist elements in American Jewry, the "Classic" Reform segment within the Reform movement who feared charges of "dual loyalty," and the ultra-Orthodox movements for which David Ben Gurion and Theodor Herzl in no way substituted for the Messiah under whose leadership they expected the Third Jewish Commonwealth to emerge.)

The immediate effect of the rebirth of the Jewish State was felt first among the 650,000 Jews of the *Yishuv*, the Jewish community in Palestine, which lost 6,000 of its number in the struggle for survival. It turned quickly, on the very date of Israel's birth, to the rescue of Jewish communities in danger elsewhere and within 10 years increased its numbers to two million. For almost all of these Jews and their descendants, the existence of Israel meant the difference between life and death.

American Jews have regarded Israel as a source of pride because of its accomplishments, however vicarious many of them have been. It has given many among us a sense of self-esteem that was often missing in diaspora communities. Its struggle to survive has provided a focus around which the Jewish community can unite, whatever our ideological or cultural differences, and it has given many non-Orthodox Jews a means of making Judaism attractive to their children. These are not small gifts, and they much outweigh the contributions that we offer on Israel's behalf.

I am not marking the millennium by writing a Zionist tract. But it seems to me that with all of the hoopla surrounding the arrival of Year 2000, we might well pay attention to our own cause for rejoicing. The change in the western calendar, after all, did not require effort or sacrifice from a single soul. The rebirth of the Jewish homeland after two millennia, on the other hand, was the result of great effort and persistence, much suffering and, throughout, considerable personal sacrifice.

And, I should add, without disturbing the functioning of a single computer.

Pressures in society bring challenges to Law of Return

by Avi Machlis

JERUSALEM (JTA) — As the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia escalated in the early 1990s, Yuri Bocharov, a petroleum engineer from the Azeri capital of Baku, wanted to save his family.

Although Bocharov is not Jewish, his wife, Rima, is, so the couple and their son filed papers with the Jewish Agency for Israel and moved to the Jewish state. The family now lives near Haifa. Yuri Bocharov works in the construction industry, and although the "nationality" clause on his identity card has been left blank, he considers himself a full-fledged citizen.

Unwittingly Bocharov and an estimated 200,000 immigrants find themselves at the center of a debate raging in Israel over its policy on non-Jewish immigration.

"This is a state of the Jews, it is part of Jewish history," Bocharov says in Hebrew. "But we are building a democratic state, too. Why don't they ask you in the US or England who you are?"

That question summarizes the debate that has swept Israel as it grapples with its identity as a Jewish state, as well as its responsibility toward a growing number of non-Jewish relatives of Jews who want to live in the country.

The debate surfaced at a recent Cabinet meeting as Prime Minister Ehud Barak firmly rejected any move to change Israel's Law of Return, which grants children, spouses and grandchildren of Jews the right to automatic citizenship.

According to government officials, about 25% of the more than 800,000 immigrants from the former Soviet Union over the past decade are not Jewish. More than 50% of those arriving this year are gentiles.

Although statistics are sketchy, officials say the vast majority of non-Jews have come to Israel legally, in line with the Law of Return. Only a very small number are believed to have exploited the law and forged documents to gain entry to Israel.

The problem with the immigration of non-Jews, according to Natan Sharansky, the minister of the interior and perhaps Israel's most famous Russian immigrant, is that the addition of a sizable non-Jewish population may strain an already fragile society.

"The reason why there are so many passions and extremes when we deal with these questions is because we are in the process of forming the character of Jewish Israeli society," Sharansky, the head of the Yisrael Ba'Aliyah immigrants-rights party, said in a telephone interview with JTA.

"The State of Israel is more or less in the final stages of this process, but what kind of society we are and what it means to be Jewish is still a big question. On the one hand, we want to build a state which has a unique connection with the Jewish people, and its laws have to express this," he said. "On the other hand, we are accepting people who are part of the family of the Jews but who are not part of the people."

In Israel, where Orthodox rabbis control marriage, divorce and burials, the acceptance of non-Jewish immigrants has often been far from familial, and a host of practical problems in these areas need to be resolved. In recent weeks, some haredi, or fervently Orthodox, politicians and rabbis have raised the issue even higher on the public agenda with a series of inflammatory remarks.

One haredi politician, speaking during a Knesset committee meeting, branded all non-Jewish immigrants a "fifth column."

Rabbi David Benizri held a vocal protest outside a non-kosher Russian butcher in the town of Bet Shemesh and lashed out at immigrants for "defiling" the country with the "illnesses of Russia."

According to the Ha'aretz newspaper, Benizri's brother, Health Minister Shlomo Benizri of Shas distanced himself from the remarks during a Cabinet meeting, but then went on to accuse the immigrants of bringing "depravity and prostitution" to Israel.

Rabbi Avraham Ravitz, a haredi Knesset member from United Torah Judaism, has criticized his colleagues for these outbursts. He shares some common ground with Sharansky in his analysis of the roots of the problem.

"We have an identity crisis among ourselves," says Ravitz. "We are talking about a spiritual crisis, and if you take these problems, and bring in in a cynical way thousands of people who are shattering the concept of a Jewish state, it creates a problem for Israeli society."

Ravitz said he has nothing against non-Jewish immigrants who came to Israel legally. But he is opposed to the Jewish Agency actively encouraging gentiles with loose connections to the Jewish people to immigrate.

Ravitz has also drafted a proposal to change the Law of Return, specifically the part allowing those with a Jewish grandparent to immigrate.

Barak made it clear that he opposes any change in the law.

But Sharansky said that although the law should not be fundamentally altered, its details should not be considered "sacred." However, changing the Law of Return along the lines suggested by Ravitz would only solve a small part of the problem.

Even the haredim do not advocate a more sweeping change to the law, such as preventing non-Jewish spouses or children of Jews from coming to Israel.

It is not the first time the Law of Return has been challenged. The original law of 1950 laid out the principle of automatic Israeli citizenship "to any Jew who expresses his will to live in the State of Israel."

The principle was put to the test in 1958 when Oswald Rufeisen, a Polish Jew who converted to Christianity and became a monk known as Brother Daniel, claimed the right to Israeli citizenship. According to halakhah, or Jewish law, he was technically a Jew since his mother was Jewish. But the Supreme Court ruled that the term Jew did not apply to someone who had voluntarily converted away from Judaism.

In 1970, Binyamin Shalit, an Israeli Jew who married a non-Jewish Scottish woman, insisted on registering his children as Jews since they were part of the Jewish people. The Supreme Court backed Shalit, but Golda Meir, then prime minister, bowed to pressure from the Orthodox parties and changed another law to prohibit similar moves.

At the same time, to satisfy secular parties, the Law of Return was expanded to grant automatic citizenship to anyone with a Jewish parent, spouse or grandparent.

"The real issue here for most people in the center or the balanced center is what it means to be a Jew," says Bernard Susser, a political scientist at Bar-Ilan University and co-author of a recent book entitled "Choosing Survival: Strategies for a Jewish Future."

"For most secular Israelis, Jewishness is not a halakhically identity, but rather it's a matter of historical consciousness — throwing your lot in with the Jewish people and seeing yourself as part of Jewish history. In that regard, a great many immigrants, although halakhically not Jewish, are certainly Jewish."

However, says Susser, even many secular Israelis feel uncomfortable accepting gentile immigrants who do not want to join the Jewish people and are simply seeking refuge.

The Law of Return was written at a time when it was inconceivable that Israel would have a thriving economy that would become a magnet for immigration from poorer countries.

Chaim Chesler, treasurer of the Jewish Agency, says the solution is more Jewish education and conversion before the immigrants leave home. Changing the Law of Return, he says, is not the answer. "We cannot punish the Jews or relatives or relatives of relatives after 73 years of a Communist regime during which holding a Hebrew-language book was enough

Please go to page 7

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PA legislator pays for criticizing Arafat

by Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Mouawiya al-Masri was returning to his home in the West Bank town of Nablus when three gunmen attacked him.

Luckily, Masri was only lightly wounded in the foot in the December 1 incident — but he learned the hard way that one should think twice before publicly attacking the Palestinian leadership.

A Palestinian legislator, Masri was one of 20 leading Palestinian intellectuals and political figures who had signed a leaflet that sharply criticized the Palestinian Authority.

The leaflet's harsh language — particularly its blunt accusation that Yasser Arafat had "opened the door to corruption" within the self-rule government — infuriated the Palestinian Authority president. Within 24 hours, nearly half of the signatories were detained at police stations or put under house arrest.

Among those arrested were several popular personalities, including Bassam Shaka, the former Nablus mayor who was the victim of a suspected Israeli attack that left him permanently disabled, and Ramallah-based author Ahmad Qattamesh, who is believed to have spent more time in Israeli administrative detention than any other Palestinian.

Arafat reacted strongly because he is currently more concerned with solidifying his rule than with burnishing his image as a democratic leader. With Israel and the Palestinian Authority negotiating a final peace agreement after years of delay, the attack on him came at a particularly delicate time.

The dissent that erupted against Arafat's regime highlights a significant problem facing Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak. He is trying to conclude a final-status accord with Arafat and to revive negotiations with Syrian President Hafez Assad. Both leaders, however, are nearing the end of their political careers. If either career were to end — of natural or other causes — it could create a big question mark over the future of the respective negotiations.

The leaflet, "Cry of the Homeland," criticized the Palestinian Authority for having failed to deliver on a number of key promises, and charged that the Palestinian leadership was guilty of following "a systematic methodology of corruption, humiliation and abuse against the people." The "Oslo agreement was like a barter trade to enrich a number of corrupt people in the Palestinian Authority," they wrote.

The leaflet reflected a growing readiness among political figures to challenge Arafat's leadership. But, perhaps more importantly, it reflected a widespread feeling of despair.

"Under Arafat's personal rule, there is no possibility of bringing about democratic reform," said Palestinian political analyst Khaled Amyreh. "The Palestinians should therefore forget about democracy under Arafat and start preparing for the post-Arafat era," he added.

Within hours of the leaflet's Nov. 27 publication, the Palestinian street witnessed a series of pro- and anti-Arafat rallies. One demonstration initially planned to demand the release of prisoners from Israeli jails spontaneously turned into an anti-Arafat protest.

The Palestinian legislative council convened to discuss the leaflet, and after a particularly stormy four-hour session decided not to lift the parliamentary immunity of those legislators who signed the anti-Arafat manifesto. But at the same time, the legislators agreed to condemn the leaflet.

Those attempting to defend the honor of the 70-year-old Palestinian leader soon had new troubles. Unidentified dissidents who over the weekend hacked into the computer system of PLO headquarters in Tunis subsequently charged that Arafat has concealed billions of dollars in secret foreign bank accounts and investments.

The London Telegraph reported that the hackers discovered that the PLO maintains about $8 billion in numbered bank accounts in Zurich, Geneva and New York.

There is nothing new to the charges of corruption within the Palestinian Authority. Two years ago, the authority's comptroller published a detailed account on corruption and inefficiency within the self-rule government.

Along with charging Palestinian officials with mismanaging millions of dollars, the comptroller pointed to the extravagant lifestyles of some Palestinian leaders that contrasted dramatically with the dire needs of the population at large.

Arafat promised at the time that he would take the necessary measures to put an end to corruption — but no progress was made.

Meanwhile, Hamas and other opposition parties are seeing an opportunity in the events surrounding the leaflet's publication. "This incident should not pass without real accountability, to protect the country from discord," Hamas founder Sheik Ahmed Yassin said, adding that Arafat should do more to fight corruption and to respect "pluralism and freedom of speech."

Law of Return. . .

from pg. 6

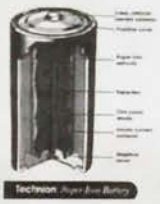
to be sent to Siberia," Chesler says. "I believe that although many immigrants may not be Jewish according to halakhah, either they or their children will eventually become a part of the Jewish people."

For immigrants like Yuri Bocharov, that is easier said than done. In 1993 Bocharov explored what it would take to become Jewish. He discovered that in order to convert in Israel, he would have to observe the Sabbath, kosher laws and other religious practices according to Orthodox tradition.

"When I understood the whole story, I said, sorry — this is not for me. I am a complete secularist," Bocharov says. And if there were an alternative way to convert, through the Reform or Conservative movements? "Then," says Bocharov, "maybe I would go in that direction."

Technion battery lights up award

The Technion-Israel Institute of Technology has received a 1999 "Technology of the Year Award" from Industry Week magazine. This marks the first time the magazine has chosen an overseas university and only the second time it has selected an academic institution for the award.



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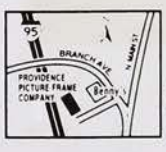

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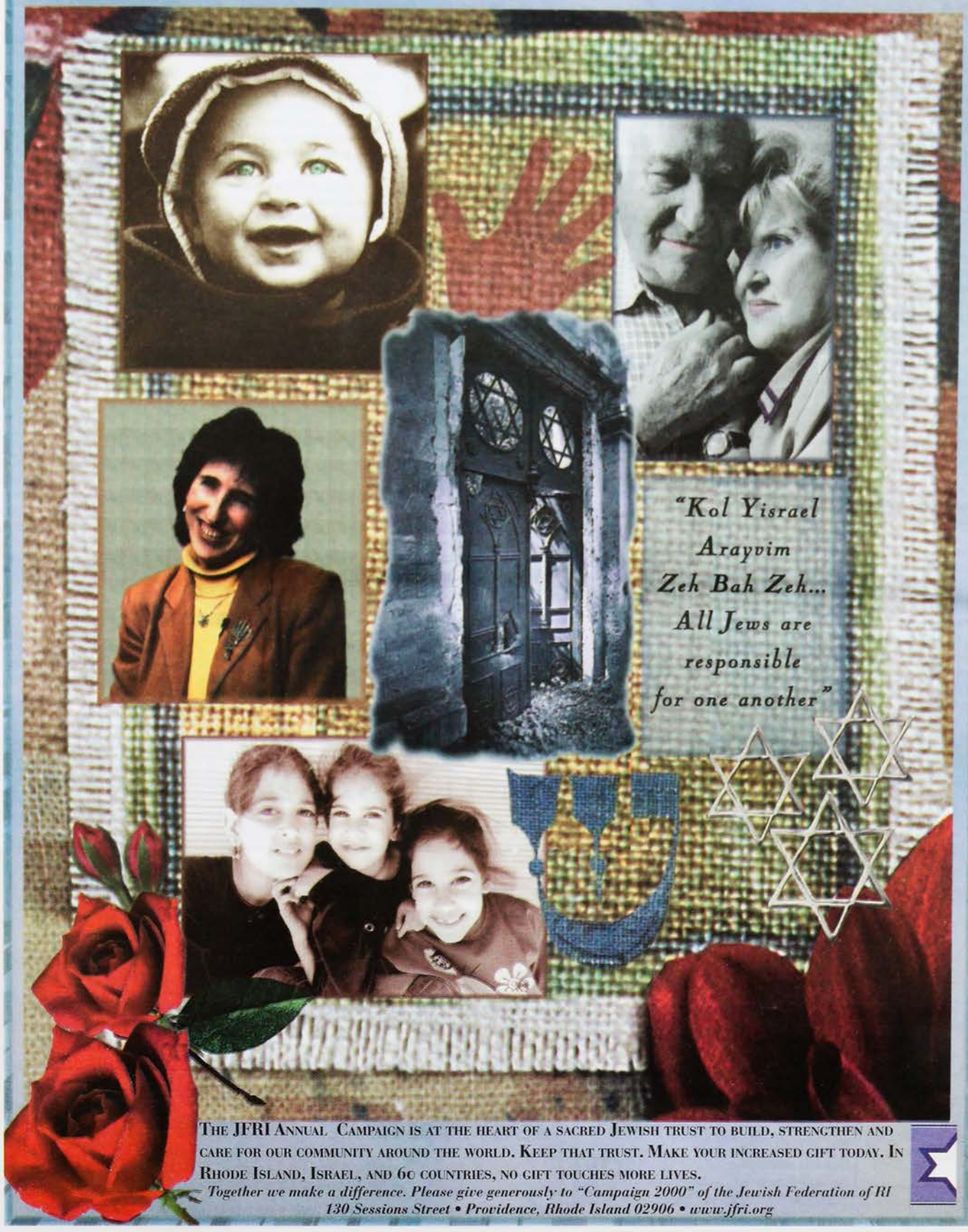

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Jewish groups compete for political influence in Russia

by Lev Gorodetsky

MOSCOW, Nov. 29 (JTA) — A new umbrella group has leapt into Russia's Jewish communal fray — and into the struggle for political influence with the Kremlin. In November, the Russian branch of the worldwide Chabad-Lubavitch launched an organization of its own, the Federation of Jewish Communities of Russia.

The new federation, founded by some 200 delegates from several dozen Jewish communities across Russia who gathered at a Moscow hotel, set as its goal the representation of Jews from "all walks of life in Russia in all matters."

The establishment of the group demonstrates the increased strength of the Lubavitch movement — and the group's chief emissary in Russia, Rabbi Berel Lazar — in Russian life.

There is evidence that the new group is close to the government of President Boris Yeltsin, perhaps important to the Dec. 19 parliamentary elections.

In late November, Russia's prime minister discussed his support for Jewish causes in a meeting with the group. Vladimir Putin promised to assist the Jewish community in combating anti-semitism, building schools and reclaiming former synagogue buildings for Jewish communities.

He also told the group's leaders that he acted personally to help rebuild Jewish life in St. Petersburg in the early 1990s, when he was head of the KGB branch there.

The 35-year-old Lazar, born in Italy, was appointed the head of the federation's rabbinical council. Lazar settled in Moscow in 1990, where he lives with his wife and eight children. Fluent in Russian, he seems to know all the ins and outs of political life in Moscow — Jewish and non-Jewish.

Lazar, who was sent to Russia by the late Lubavitch rebbe, Menachem Schneerson, said, "We believe that the synagogues, not the cultural centers or other Jewish organizations, are the real active centers of Jewish life" in Russia. "We believe it's more important first to unite the Jewish communities as religious communities" and then expand cultural centers and cultural activities.

But the group is likely to cause some friction within the Jewish community, particularly among the non-Orthodox and non-religious groups.

Lazar said Reform and other non-Orthodox congregations can join the federation, but only if they register without calling themselves "Reform communities."

Leaders of Reform Jewish groups, or Progressive Jewish leaders as they prefer to be known in Russia, were not invited to the founding of the new federation, according to Rabbi Chaim Ben-Yaakov, a Progressive Jewish leader.

"Structures pretending to represent all Jews shouldn't be formed overnight. I hope the group will not create an internal war in the Jewish community," Ben-Yaakov said.

Despite the religious orientation of the group's organizers, a secular public figure — musician and composer Michael Gluz — was elected the first president of the group. Gluz has been widely known in the Jewish world since the spring of 1988, when the Solomon Mikhoels Center of Jewish Culture, which he heads, became the first Jewish public organization officially recognized and registered in the Soviet Union under Mikhail Gorbachev.

In addition to escalating the turf battles among Jewish groups and their leaders, the group could also play a role in the complex world of Russian politics. It could also undermine the influence of Vladimir Goussinsky, a media mogul who heads a rival umbrella group, the Russian Jewish Congress.

Many observers believe that Goussinsky's position as the chief representative of Russian Jewry has been compromised by the formation of the new group, which brings the total number of Russian Jewish umbrella groups to four.

In addition to the Russian Jewish Congress, there is the Va'ad and the Congress of Jewish Religious Organizations of Russia, headed by Russia's chief rabbi, Adolf Shayevich.

Both Lazar and Gluz said they have good working relations with Goussinsky, who owns NTV, one of Russia's three nationwide TV channels, and has a share in the Israeli newspaper Ma'ariv.

The Russian Jewish Congress, which is part of the World Jewish Congress, and the NTV channel have been the target of a series of recent attacks by the main Russian national TV channel, ORT, which called them traitors who are "helping Russia's enemies in the West."

ORT is controlled by another controversial Jewish business and media tycoon, the well-connected Boris Berezovsky, who has close ties to Yeltsin through his daughter, Tatyana Dyachenko.

Even before Putin's meeting with the leaders of the new Federation of Jewish Communities, several government ministers and officials had attended the initial gathering of the group, some of them reading letters of support from Yeltsin and Putin.

At the same time, Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov, who is known to be friendly with Goussinsky and usually attends all high-profile Jewish gatherings, was conspicuous by his absence.

Speaking at the founding conference of the new federation, Goussinsky warned Russian Jewish organizations against "getting involved in political games."

In an interview with JTA, Lazar denied any contacts with Berezovsky and spoke of his affection for Goussinsky.

But Dmitry Ostalsky, Goussinsky's spokesman, accused the Kremlin of getting involved in Jewish affairs in an attempt to influence Goussinsky.

Groups fight over Nazi-looted Torah scrolls

by Lev Gorodetsky

MOSCOW (JTA) — The Russian government returned to Jewish hands 10 Torah scrolls looted by the Nazis or confiscated by the State during the Soviet era when thousands of Jewish congregations ceased to exist.

The December 14 transfer from the Russian State Archive — far fewer than expected — came in the wake of acrimonious exchange between Jewish organizations in Russia relation to the Torah transfers.

The ceremony was the highlight of the conference of the Congress of Jewish Religious Communities and Organizations of Russian, and unbrella group of some 95 Orthodox and Reform congregations known as KEROOR.

The group apparently had reached an earlier agreement with the Russian government to receive 61 Torahs. About 200 are at the archive, though most are badly damaged, and many more exist "elsewhere," accordinga to a state archivist who asked not to be identified.

But the archive changed its plan after the Federation of Jewish Communities of Russia, an umbrella group of some 80 communities across Russia, met here in late November to reconstitute itself as a legal entity. That conference was attended by high-level government officials and a few days later, Russiam Prime Minister Vladimir Putin made an unprecedented show of support for the group when he met its leaders and promised full help and support in all of its activities, including the restitution of Jewish communal property. The group itself and the government attention paid to it set off a feud with other Jewish organizations (see above story), escalating the turf battles in what is already a fractious community.

Leaders of the Federation sent a letter to Russia's first deputy prime minister asking that the Torahs be transferred to the Federation, which they said represented "the interests of the Jewish Diaspora in Russia." The letter did not mention the existence of KEROOR.

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On the Golan, mixed emotions

by Avi Machlis

KATZRIN, Israel (JTA) — Emotions ranging from hope to uncertainty to anger fill the 16,000 Golan Heights residents as their fate is again the topic of Israeli-Syrian peace talks.

Residents here know that the price for peace with Syria is likely to be the return of all or most of the Golan, the strategic plateau Israel captured from Syria in the 1967 Six-Day War.

"We are praying for peace — a peace with the Golan," says Sammy Bar-Lev, head of the regional council of Katzrin, the Golan's largest town, with 6,500 residents. "It must be a peace we can live with, not a Yamit-style peace," he adds, recalling the return of that Sinai settlement to Egypt in 1982, in which the entire town was razed.

Later that year, Israel passed a bill that applied Israeli law and jurisdiction to the Golan. The international community never recognized the move, and the de facto annexation has provided the Golan's Jewish residents with little reassurance about their future.

Bar-Lev, a 30-year resident of the Golan, talks of years of uncertainty as successive governments debated the territory's fate. He is sure that the Israeli public will reject any agreement with Hafez Assad, Syria's president, that involves the return of the Golan.

In part, the moderation reflects the differences between Golan settlers and their counterparts in the West Bank. While most West Bank settlers are driven by a religious-nationalist ideology, many Golan settlers are left-leaning. They moved to the Golan either to bolster Israel's security or to improve their quality of life in 32 small towns peppered throughout the eerie but breathtaking landscape of brown, scorched earth and volcanic rock formations.

"This is like a small city, but we still have the mountain air," says Leah Ravid, 37. In this year's elections, Ravid voted for Barak, as did more than 57% of Golan electorate. She also voted for the Third Way Party, which campaigned on a single issue — keeping the Golan — and failed to win enough votes to return to the Knesset.

In 1978, Ravid became one of the founding members of Katzrin, and her first marriage was also the first Jewish marriage in the Golan Heights. She later lived in the United States between 1982 and 1994, returning to Katzrin with her second husband, Avishai, to open a small gift shop at the local shopping center.

"I am worried because I do not want to live in Tel Aviv and I do not want to move back to New York," Leah Ravid says. If the government decides to evacuate the Golan, Ravid may petition or protest, but in the end, will leave peacefully.

Her husband, Avishai, is even more willing to leave for peace with Syria. He also challenges the traditional Israeli security doctrine that deems the Golan — overlooking the kibbutzim along the Sea of Galilee to the west and the Syrian lowlands to the east — to be essential for Israel's security.

"Israel is no longer a country of heroes and Syria does not need to send soldiers to make war — they can send missiles — so a mile here or there does not matter," he says. "The secret for security is peace." He is also convinced that many Golan residents quietly agree with this position. "Under the table, all everyone is waiting for is compensation," he says.

Leah Ravid, owner of a small gift shop in Katzrin, which she helped to found, voted for Barak, who said he would relinquish the Golan, and also for the Third Way Party, which campaigned to keep the Golan. She, her husband Avishai, and their sons do not want to live in Tel Aviv or New York, she says.

Will this award-winning winery on the outskirts of Katzrin have to be abandoned? Marketing manager Adam Montefiore says the high altitude and unique soil of the Golan are key to the product's quality and cannot be duplicated elsewhere in Israel.

Compensation will not help the Golan Heights Winery, the most well-known industry on the Golan. Established in 1983 on the outskirts of Katzrin, the winery now produces 3.6 million bottles a year, and generated revenues of $15 million in 1998, including $3 million in exports. Its labels have won dozens of medals at international wine competitions. The secret to success, says Adam Montefiore, the company's international marketing manager, is Golan grapes.

"The high altitudes and the soil makes this a unique vineyard area," says Montefiore. "To leave the Golan would be a disaster for the Israeli wine industry." Although the winery steers clear of political campaigning, it does have a message for the policymakers.

"It is up to the politicians to be creative enough to come up with a solution that will allow us to continue," he says. "You do not need a flag to grow grapes."

Back in Katzrin, Avi Zeira, immediate past chairman of the Golan Residents Committee, says, "We have to work on Israeli public opinion to show that returning the Golan would be a total disaster." It would, he says, endanger Israel's security to relinquish its strategic foothold overlooking the Syrian frontier while at the same time, Syria remains a sponsor of terrorist groups and does not really seek normalization with Israel.

Zeira knows it will not be as easy to rally Israelis as it was during the peak of Israeli-Syrian talks in 1995, just before the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, when banners proclaiming "the people are with the Golan" flew from balconies across the country.

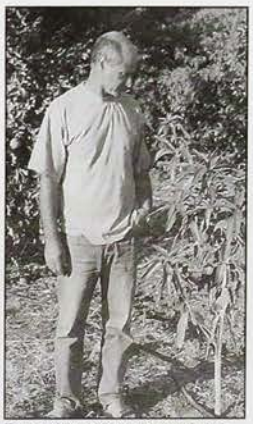
"Since the assassination, it is much more difficult to get people out into the streets," he says. "Any protest activity is considered illegitimate."

To counter the Residents' group, farmer Yigal Kipnis, from his leafy home in Ma'aleh Gamla, a moshav on the western slopes of the Golan overlooking the Sea of Galilee, coordinates a small peace movement of Golan settlers.

"Peace with Syria is a vital interest of Israel," Kipnis says. "I would be very happy if we could make peace without leaving the Golan, but we will accept with understanding an agreement that includes returning the Heights."

Israel, he says, conquered the Golan for two reasons: to provide a security buffer to the northern settlements from Syrian aggression and to ensure Israel's water interests. The Golan's streams are the source of about 30% of Israel's water. If Israel can achieve these same two goals with a peace treaty, argues Kipnis, then why should the settlements remain?

"This is a Garden of Eden that we have never had, but a treaty with Syria will not be decided by our personal interests," he says.



Farmer Yigal Kipnis has optimistically planted new fruit trees.

"The only reason the settlements are here is because Israel believed that peace with Syria was an impossibility. All of Israel's leaders realize this is no longer true."

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Lebanon rejects land for peace

Refugees, Jerusalem remain as timebombs

by Ramzi Mansour and
Khalil Fleihan
Beirut Daily Star correspondents

Prime Minister Salim Hoss insisted on Dec. 16 that Lebanon had dropped "land-for-peace" as a basis for peace talks with Israel, and would demand Israel's unconditional withdrawal from the south.

"Lebanon is not concerned with UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338," which call for Israel's withdrawal from Arab territories seized in 1967, the premier told Melhem Karam, the president of the Journalists' Union, and other members of the union's council. "Resolution 242 is based on the principle of trading land for peace. We do not agree to this principle because we adhere to Resolution 425 that calls on Israel to withdraw completely from Lebanese territories, back to the internationally recognized borders."

Since the 1991 Madrid Conference, which brought together Lebanese, Israeli, Syrian, Jordanian and Palestinian delegates, land-for-peace has been the basis for peace talks and has been officially accepted by Lebanon. Earlier in December, the government endorsed seven conditions for peace with Israel, which included the enforcement of UN Resolutions 242, 338 and 425.

Hoss said Lebanese negotiators, who are awaiting the results of current Syrian-Israeli talks, "will ask for compensation for the damage it suffered from Israel's aggression during the last 21 years. We will also insist on the return of Palestinian refugees to their homes."

Hoss argued that "without a solution to the issues of refugees and Jerusalem, there will be no peace. There may be a settlement, but the two issues will remain as timebombs."

He also said that the Shebaa farms, a disputed territory in the south which Israel annexed in 1967, "will be claimed by Lebanon during the talks, together with Lebanese water resources being tapped by Israel."

The seven conditions for peace issued by Parliament include similar demands, in addition to a request that the "seven villages," given to Palestine under a 1923 Anglo-French agreement, also be returned to Lebanon. Hoss, however, did not commit himself to this demand, saying only "it would be another matter."

Parliament also called for the release of Lebanese detainees in Israeli jails and insisted that the fate of pro-Israeli militiamen would be decided by the Lebanese.

Western diplomatic sources in Beirut told The Daily Star that the US and France "understand Lebanon's fears over the possibility of settling the refugees permanently in host countries." However, the two countries "will try to convince Lebanon to allow refugees who arrived in 1948 to choose between staying and returning," according to one source, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"The refugees who arrived later, like those from the West Bank and Gaza after 1967, will be moved to other Arab countries or to countries open for immigrants, like Canada and Australia," one source said.

"Lebanon was warned by Western diplomats that once its talks with Israel resume, the Jewish state would ask for compensation for the property that Lebanese Jews left behind when they departed," he said. Most of Lebanon's Jews left after pro-Palestinian Lebanese threatened to attack Beirut's main Jewish district, Wadi Abu Jmeel, after the 1967 war.

Writer undaunted in desire to rid area of Zionists

The following are the closing paragraphs of an article by Ali 'Aqleh 'Ursan, chairman of the Syrian Arab Writers Association, which was published as an editorial of Al-Usbu' Al-Adabi, *the journal of the writers' association. The association operates under the auspices of the Syrian regime, according to The Middle East Media and Research Institute in Washington, DC. Excerpts also appeared in the London-based Arabic daily* Al-Hayat.

"I will be very happy when we regain the Golan by whatever means. Then, at the height of my happiness, I will start crying and adamantly working for the removal of the Zionist occupier from Palestine, for the liberation of the land, and for the liberation from the weakness that delays our revival, our freedom, and our liberation.

"The Arab-national aspect of the Palestinian problem is stronger within me than all the marginal (interests) of (one Arab) country. The problem of Palestine will remain an existential conflict with the Zionist occupiers, until victory, the removal (of the Zionists), and the liberation, even if it takes a hundred years."

Peace demands for foreign aid

by Michael Shapiro

WASHINGTON (JTA) — After securing nearly $2 billion in aid to implement the Wye agreement, pro-Israel activists are anticipating an even bigger challenge on Capitol Hill: securing funds to underwrite a potential peace deal between Israel and Syria.

US officials have acknowledged the importance of working closely with Congress on issues dealing with funds to support the Middle East peace process.

Lobbying for what could total in the billions of dollars will not be easy, activists said, in light of the debate this fall over foreign aid levels. Representative Sonny Callahan (R-Ala), chairman of the House appropriations foreign operations subcommittee, said in an interview with the Jerusalem Post, that the Middle East "gets too large a share of the foreign assistance pie," a view that could complicate efforts to have Congress approve more money for the Middle East. Aid to the region totaled nearly half the $15 billion foreign aid bill.

Another key issue will be Syria's status on the US list of state-sponsors of terrorism, which precludes it from receiving US aid. If it is dropped from that list, the US would have to decide whether to provide Syria with military aid as it did Egypt and Jordan when they signed peace deals with Israel.

Israel has made it clear that it would need aid to buttress the army if it withdraws from the Golan, and Syria wants help to bolster its equipment since its former patron, the Soviet Union, collapsed.

Water, including getting some for Turkey or using desalination, and the expense of withdrawal from the Golan, including relocation of the civilian population, and other expenses to Israel are part of the

Please turn to page 12

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What have we been up to these last 1000 years?

Compiled by JTA Staff Writer Peter Ephross

NEW YORK (JTA) - The following is a list of some of the important Jewish dates of the last 1,000 years, with an emphasis prior to the 20th century:

1009 - The oldest existing text of the full Hebrew Bible is written.

1070 - Rashi, a French Jewish thinker, completes his commentaries on most of the Bible.

1096 - Participants in the First Crusade massacre Jews in several Central European cities, beginning centuries of pogroms linked to the Crusades.

1099 - Jerusalem falls to the Crusaders.

1124 - Records of a Jewish gate in Kiev attest to the presence of a Jewish community there.

1139 - Judah Halevi completes his influential philosophy of Judaism known as "The Kuzari." He is a friend of commentator Abraham Ibn Ezra, who also left Spain for the life of a wandering Jewish scholar.

1144 - Jews in Norwich, England are accused of murdering a Christian child in what is believed to be the first ritual murder charge. The blood libel, as well as others in England that follow in the 12th century, incites anti-Jewish violence.

1195 - Moses Maimonides completes "The Guide to the Perplexed," considered the most important work of medieval Jewish thought.

1232 - The Jewish community of Marrakesh, Morocco, is re-established, leading to massacres of Jews caused by Islamic political revolt and grass-roots hatred.

1239 - Pope Gregory IX orders the kings of France, England, Spain and Portugal to confiscate Hebrew books. Following this edict, the Talmud is condemned and burned in France and Rome.

1286 - Moses de Leon of Spain completes a commentary of the Torah. The Zohar remains a central text of Jewish mysticism.

1290 - King Edward I banishes all Jews from England. It is the first of numerous expulsions of European Jews during the Middle Ages.

1333 - Casimir the Great takes power in Poland and brings with a him a sympathetic attitude toward the Jews, who benefit as a result.

1488 - The first complete edition of the Hebrew Bible is printed in Soncino, Italy.

1492 - The Jews of Spain are expelled as part of the Spanish Inquisition. The majority flee to Portugal, and eventually to North Africa and Turkey.

1516 - Jews in Venice are relegated to a ghetto, the most extreme segregation to which Jews had been submitted. Over time, Jews in many lands are similarly segregated.

ca. 1525-1609- The life of Rabbi Judah Loew of Prague, creator of the legendary Golem, the mythical creature that protects Prague Jews from their enemies.

1526 - The Prague Haggadah, which contains the oldest known printed Yiddish poem, is published.

1543 - German religious reformer Martin Luther writes "About the Jews and Their Lies," considered the first modern anti-semitic tract.

1559 - Pope Paul IV allows the first printing of the Zohar, a Jewish mystical text.

1565 - The Shulchan Aruch, Joseph Caro's authoritative code of Jewish law, is first printed in Venice.

1569 - The Kabbalist Isaac Luria settles in Safed. Luria's ideas give rise to a new form of Jewish mysticism.

1622-1629 - Persian Jews are forced to convert to Islam.

1648 - Ukranian peasants led by Bogdan Chemilniecki revolt against their Polish landlords and Jewish agents. Some 100,000 Jews die in the uprising.

1654 - Jacob Barsimon, regarded as the first Jew to settle in what will become the United States, arrives in New Amsterdam.

1666 - The false messiah Shabbetai Zevi converts to Islam after being faced with the possibility of death if he remains a Jew.

1719 - Glueckel of Hameln, a Jewish businesswoman, completes her memoirs. These remain an important source of Jewish history and culture of the time.

1740 - The Ba'al Shem Tov, the founder of Chasidism, takes up residence at Medzibezh, Podolia, now part of Ukraine.

1777 - The Jews of New York are granted equality under the law.

1791 - France emancipates its Jews, beginning the period known as the Enlightenment, in which Jews are granted equal rights.

1794 - The Russian Pale of Settlement, in which Jews are allowed to live only in certain areas of the Russian Empire, is first established.

1795 - The Third Partition of Poland culminates a process bringing hundreds of thousands of Jews under Russian rule.

1840 - The first Hebrew printing press in India is established.

1840s - The use of the word "Jew" as a verb comes into popular parlance in North America. "To Jew" means to strike a bargain or employ questionable business practices, according to this prejudicial usage.

1880-1925 - Masses of Jews emigrate from Eastern Europe to the United States. More than 2.5 million make their way to the New World.

1881 - The word "pogrom" enters the English language, as Russian mobs begin a series of violent attacks against Jews and their property.

1894 - Sholem Aleichem begins writing the first episode of the life of Tevye the Dairyman.

1898- The First Zionist Congress, held in Basel, Switzerland, heralds the growth of modern Zionism.

1939-1945 - The Nazis kill 6 million Jews across Europe in the worst genocide the world has ever known.

1948 - The State of Israel is established.

1967 - Israel wins the Six-Day War. All of Jerusalem is now in Jewish hands for the first time since 70 C.E.

1993 - Israel and the Palestinian Authority sign the Oslo peace accord.

1995 - Israel's Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin, is assissinated.

Source: "The Timetables of Jewish History"

Peace costs. . .from pg. 11

equation, too.

Although there are no official estimates of what the deal could cost the US, some warn that it could be as much as $20 billion.

Another issue that generated heated debate the last time Israel and Syria were engaged in negotiations was whether US troops should be stationed on the Golan Heights to monitor a peace deal between the two longtime foes. At the time, top US officials said they were prepared to send monitors if both Israel and Syria request them.

Opponents of the peace process appear to be focusing their efforts on what the deal might cost the US. Morton Klein, the president of the Zionist Organization of America, which has been critical of the new round of talks, said people have been raising the questions: "Why should the United States pay for Israel to give land to a terrorist country?" and if Israel expects a true peace with Syria, why do they need "$15 billion to monitor" the deal?

Public schools, literacy top CRC social justice agenda

by Yehuda Lev

Newcomers to the Rhode Island Jewish community often comment upon several major differences between living here and in the megalopolises of the nation. The Jewish communities of New York, Chicago, Los Angeles and Boston open doors to a culturally wider Jewish world (when was the last time a professional production in Hebrew or Yiddish was staged in Rhode Island?) and offer more of the necessities of observant Jewish life (man cannot live on Empire chicken alone).

Still, with the disadvantages come benefits, not the least of which is that we tend to avoid divisive issues that can rend apart larger communities. We don't have two Holocaust memorials competing for funds and attention (Los Angeles); we don't house lobbyists for and against the peace process (Washington), and we do not contain the national headquarters of dozens of Jewish organizations all competing for space in The New York Times (New York).

As for our relations with the general community, all seems pleasant enough. The churches disown any and all forms of anti-semitism, the militia live elsewhere, we are accepted players in the political scene and we have established effective lines of communication with other religious and social groups in the state.

Yet, despite the apparent tranquility, there is a social justice agenda, and a great deal of it revolves around public schools.

Maxine Richman has been involved with the Community Relations Council for a decade, for three of those years as its chair, and she serves on the national board of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA) which links all of the CRCs around the country. She agrees that Jewish life in Rhode Island is more serene than in many other places but points out that the community not only deals with problems, it is particularly adept at preventing them.

Thus, before a dispute can develop over public school programming on a Jewish holiday, the community sensitizes school administrators to its specific needs. If a conflict does develop, the community will, where possible, keep a low profile by asking one of its partners in a inter-communal dialogue to intervene. Blacks, Latinos and others can, in turn, rely on Jewish communal support when their needs are not being met by government or business interests. Much of the peace and quiet in our relations with government, therefore, are due to a concerted program to clear the brush away before a fire can begin.

Linn Freedman, the current CRC chair, offers an example of how the system works. Several years ago, a high school scheduled an event on Kol Nidre. The CRC met quietly with the Rhode Island State Council of Churches, which in turn asked the high school administration to change its scheduling. It did.

Sharon Gaines, who heads the CRC's Domestic Affairs Task Force, said that its members view sensitizing public school officials to Jewish needs as their top priority for the next school year. Additional projects include preparing a survey on how Jewish communal organizations are dealing with problems of hunger, the need for affordable housing and, possibly, the question of whether the legislature should mandate an official living wage for all workers in Rhode Island, as has been done in several states.

Because literacy is so crucial to anyone hoping to succeed economically and socially, it receives strong emphasis from the CRC which actively recruits local volunteers for the RI Coalition for Literacy. The volunteers provide one-on-one tutoring on a weekly basis for public school pupils.

Providence's superintendent for education, Diana Lam, PhD, suggested that CRC and the Latino community work with her to organize another literacy program. Individuals would buy well-known children's books and recordthem on tape. The schools would provide tape recorders and children could then borrow the book, the tape and the recorder. This would be especially valuable for households in which the parents do not read English.

Sam Zurier, who heads the CRC's Government Affairs Task Force, says that the Jewish community is divided between those who insist that support for public education means opposing such programs as government vouchers, which might drain money from the public school system, and those who want first priority to go to strengthening Jewish day schools, which would benefit from vouchers. Zurier points out that half of the children of white families in Providence attend private schools, including his own. (At press time, we learned that Zurier had been appointed to the Providence School Board by Mayor Cianci.) His reasoning makes sense to anyone who has to deal with the schooling of their children: children only get one shot at grades K-12 and it had better be the best available.

But Zurier has other concerns when it comes to Jewish relations with the general community. He sees the Latino community as fast growing in numbers and importance and as one with which we must build a close relationship. And Zurier warns that the relative security in which we now live may not last, so we must be permanently on our guard against such problems as skinheads. Among the assignments of his task force, therefore, is keeping a watchful eye on legislation that may weaken our defenses against racism and bigotry.

The CRC also deals with Jewish issues outside the state. Here, we talk to Norman Tilles, who helped found the CRC, is a past president of the Federation and of HIAS (the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society) and was a member of the national board of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. HIAS is involved with immigration issues and the "Joint" provides for the needs of poor and stricken Jews abroad with money that comes largely from funds raised by Jewish federations, including our own.

Tilles says that he is very concerned about the living conditions and prospects for the Jews of the former Soviet Union (FSU), many of whom are living in conditions of extreme poverty. As in past years, it is possible that the CRC will be called upon again to advocate for Jews who face societal oppression in the FSU, or other more remote places in the world.

In February: Part 2.

Grand jury uses hate crimes law to indict Furrow

LOS ANGELES (JTA) — A federal grand jury has indicted on hate crimes and weapons charges the white supremacist charged with shooting five people at a Los Angeles Jewish community center August 10.

The 16-count indictment against Buford O'Neal Furrow Jr. returned on Decembeer 2 superseded an earlier indictment, which dealt solely with Furrow's alleged murder of Filipino-American mail carrier Joseph Ileto following the attack on the Jewish center.

The new charges are based on the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which makes it a crime to interfere with a person's right to public accommodations.

Following his surrender, Furrow reportedly told FBI agents that his attack on the Jewish center represented a "wake-up call to America to kill Jews."

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Leadership crucial to Women's Alliance

by Sharon Gaines

The Leadership Development Committee is an essential part of the Women's Alliance (WA) as it provides programming that will target and educate future leaders.

The educational process works on two levels. First, board development programs focus on the different aspects of the Jewish Federation of RI. In October, the emphasis was on endowment and campaign, and board members heard from recipients of endowment grants and from those involved in programming conducted by the beneficiary agencies.

In November, Linn Freeman, who chairs the Community Relations Council (CRC), and Maxine Richman, its past chair, discussed the CRC Israel seminar for leaders of the general community and the overall goals of the CRC.

Future programs: Israel and the Diaspora, and the JFRI allocations process.

The second aspect of WA leadership development teaches and enhances leadership skills among members of the executive committee. Programs have featured Rabbi Alan Flam guiding members through the techniques needed to write and deliver a D'var Torah.

Harris N. Rosen, a past president of JFRI, led us through conflict resolution and mediation.

Future programs: communication and public speaking skills, strategies for effective leadership.

The women working with me on the leadership development committee, which I chair, include Lynn Pohl, Melba Meister, Barbara Feldstein, Maybeth Lichaa, Gail Adler and Cheryl Blazar.

Rosh Chodesh series packs Bohnen Vestry

Judaic Studies scholar and teacher Marcia Kaunfer, center, used her wit and wisdom to keep 135 women completely engrossed in the dilemmas of Rebecca during the second of the Rosh Chodesh programs. The series, designed for Jewish women, continues at noon February 8 at Temple Emanu-El when Cantor Ida Rae Cahana will present Sarah's quandaries. The series will conclude on April 4 when Carol Ingall, PhD, faculty member at the Jewish Theological Seminary, discusses Miriam. Flanking Kaunfer are (l to r) Wileen Rosner Snow, associate chair, and Judy Robbins, chair of the program.

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Gail Diamond is the Rabbi and Educational Director of Congregation Agudas Achim in Attleboro, MA.

For more information call Elissa Mirkin, 421-4111, ext. 172

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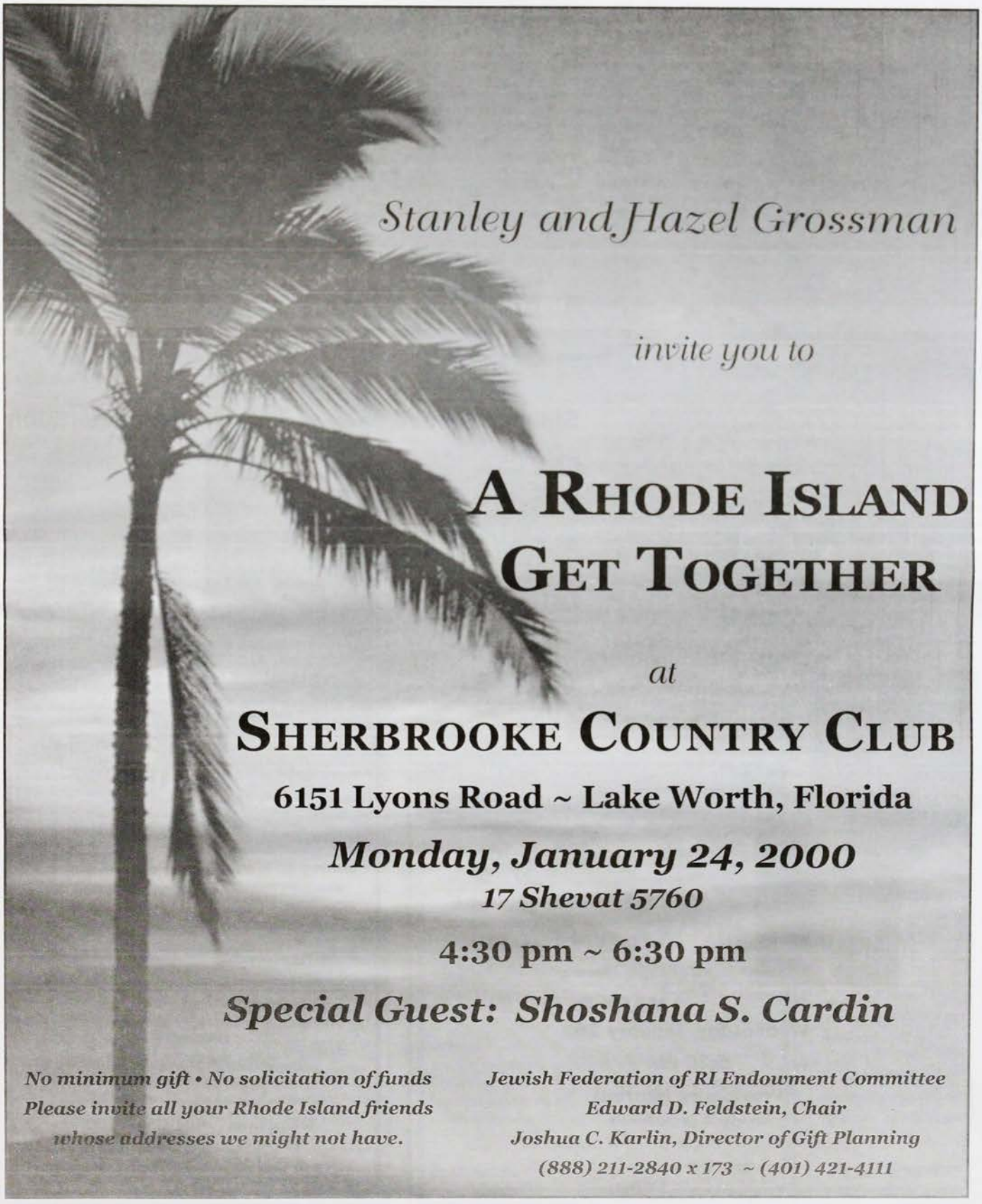
The Doctors Katherine Haspel and Suzanne Bornstein discuss the texts that Kaunfer distributed as part of her December 6 presentation.

Leah Daniels and Sharon Yarlas listen to a table mate's comments on the choices Rebecca made.

Rita Archer listens intently to Kaunfer's explanation of Rebecca's background and motivation for helping her second-born twin son, Jacob, fulfill the prophecies revealed to her.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Activities to warm up young adults

by Lisa Davis

Upcoming Events

It may be cold, and even snowy, these next few months, but the Federation has lots of activities planned for young adults to get them out of the house and excited about a new year and a new millennium!

The activities will start on January 13 with a new program: Nosh at Noon. This is an opportunity for young Jewish men to hear an interesting speaker, network and socialize. URI professor Agnes Doody will talk about business etiquette.

On January 26, the Breakfast Club will feature Providence Journal columnist Mark Patinkin. He's very entertaining, so be sure to be there.

The Young Women's Programming Committee for the Women's Alliance will host a children's crafts project in February that will bring moms, dads and children together for a simple project.

As we welcome March with its (hopefully) warmer weather, young adults are invited to attend Washington 12, an inspiring conference for young leadership. Organized by the United Jewish Communities, this conference meets March 19-21 in Washington, DC. Sign up now!

LEADERS Update

For those who aren't familiar with LEADERS, it's a group of young Jewish men and women who meet monthly to participate in team building exercises and projects that create an atmosphere in which people want to be leaders. The program educates the participants so they know about opportunities for leadership in the community and why it is so important to build and sustain leaders.

According to Karen Spater, one of the current LEADERS participants, "It has been really wonderful to meet other Jewish people in the area who are interested in maintaining the community. It's so important for young people, 25-45 years old, to carry this tradition forward, and it's a good way to get to know other people with similar interests."

Karen believes that the team-building exercises have had the most impact on the group's discussions. "Everybody has remembered the exercises. They have been talked about at later meetings and have helped facilitate other discussions. For example, the animals exercise seems to have resonated with other LEADERS. In this exercise, four pictures of different animals, such as a butterfly, beaver, lion and dove, were put up on the wall and people had to decide which animal best described what type of leader they were. People refer to their animals each meeting and even remember what other people chose to identify with.

If you would like more information on these or any other young adult program offered by the Federation, contact Elissa Mirkin, Director of Young Leadership, at 401-421-4111, ext. 172, or e-mail her at emirkin@jfri.org.

RI Foundation names JFRI exec to first class of 20 fellows

Steven A. Rakitt, executive vice president of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, is one of 20 leaders of non-profit organizations to be offered a grant from the Rhode Island Foundation to help underwrite a one-year, individualized professional development program.

Foundation president Ronald V. Gallo said the RIF made the $12,500 grants because "As in every endeavor, excellent leadership is the most important criteria determining non-profit success. Yet too few opportunities are available for professional development and renewal. We hope giving proven leaders an opportunity to explore, plan and rebuild will measurably advance the creativity and power of non-profits in Rhode Island."

As a foundation fellow, Rakitt says he "will be working with 'institutions of excellence' — both non-profit and for-profit — to better analyze and respond to community and customer needs." He also seeks to "enhance my understanding of Jewish text and its application to modern-day issues."

Specifically, Rakitt will be studying at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem, spend a week with the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) in Israel, and participate in a week-long seminar with the Harvard Business School's Strategic Perspectives in Nonprofit Management.

JFRI's executive vice president Steven A. Rakitt

Stillman named exec of New Orleans federation

Eric and Jayne Stillman, who joined the Rhode Island Jewish community nearly four and a half years ago, are leaving for New Orleans, where Eric will be the executive director of the Jewish Federation. He joined JFRI as campaign director and was promoted to Associate Executive Director two years ago. Each year of his tenure, the annual campaign has realized an increase in money pledged.

Jayne Stillman has been the director of the oversubscribed Melton Institute, an adult leadership development program of the Bureau of Jewish Education, where she also handles the agency's public relations. Previously, Jayne held positions at Temple Emanu-El and the former Jewish Home Corp., now Jewish Seniors Agency.

Eric Stillman

Jayne Stillman

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featuring

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GA instills collegians with sense of identity, excitement

by Rachel Hochheiser
Student, Brown/RISD Hillel

If visiting Washington, DC is the best way to teach American citizens about the values of civic responsibility and universal liberty which define the United States, then sending Jewish college students to the General Assembly of the United Jewish Communities has to be the best way to imbue them with a sense of pride in their Jewish identities and an excitement about working to strengthen their local communities.

At least that was our experience when, thanks to the generosity of Hillel and the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, we spent four whirlwind days last month at the GA99 in Atlanta.

There were four of us in the Brown delegation, each already an involved and committed leader of our campus community. Among us was the leader of the Jewish *a capella* group, the coordinator of Friends of Israel, and the present and past president of the Jewish Student Union. Each of us went to Atlanta expecting, at the very least, a lesson in Jewish geography and an opportunity to gaze in admiration at the "celebrities" in attendance. What we got was all that and much more.

It is impossible to anticipate the intensity that comes, not only from the gathering of 4000 plus Jews in the middle of the South, but from the energy of each of these Jews as they "do Jewish," as they work as professionals and lay leaders to create community and continuity because they believe passionately in the product they are selling.

As part of the Hillel program for college students, we were among the youngest delegates attending the GA. Though the speakers and sessions were not geared for our participation, they all were focused in some way on making sure that there would be a vibrant and diverse Jewish community for us to inherit as we make the transition from student leaders to leaders on a communal scale.

I even spoke on a panel, representing the student voice in the debate about "Jewish Entitlement: Should Membership in the Jewish community have its Privileges?" My co-panelists— Michael Steinhardt, sponsor of Birthright Israel; Steven Cohen, Melton Center at Hebrew University, Avraham Infeld, the Israeli Mlitz program; Steven Hoffman, Executive Director of the Cleveland, Ohio Federation, and moderator Barry Chazan, a consultant to the Bronfman Philanthropies from Hebrew University — engaged in a fascinating discussion of the impact of the gift of an Israel trip on college students.

These Brown/RISD Hillel members look as if the General Assembly of United Jewish Communities was a great place to be. From l to r, Noah Arnow, class of 01; Rachel Hochheiser, '00; Rachel Siegal, '00; and Hannah Solomon, '00.

Attending the GA was also a lesson in "learning from the masters." Watching the national leaders of the American Jewish world as they spoke about the pillars of community building, and listening as some of the greatest thinkers in the Jewish world taught about the connections between past and future in the contemporary creation of community, inspired us each to come back to our own positions of leadership with renewed vigor and strengthened ability.

The GA was also a special kind of fun: the fun that comes not only from the practice of creating community with peers who were also committed young Jewish leaders, but also the fun of anticipation, as we each were inspired to dream about the roles we would one day play in this "moving capital of the Jewish world."

Before we left the GA, we decided, in the tradition of Brown students, that we would one day open a consulting firm. With two of us pursuing a career in Jewish communal work, and the others firmly committed in their roles as future (and current) lay leaders, we promised each other, half-joking, half-serious, that we would come back to the GA in 20 years as the "Jewish Consultants" who had coordinated the whole affair. (They teach us to aim high!) And needless to say, none of us will miss the opportunity to learn, to network, to build community and to strengthen our own identities as Jews, in attending every GA every year in the meantime!

Rachel Hochheiser with (l to r) Michael Steinhardt and Richard Joel. Steinhardt has funded fellowships for college graduates to work in campus Hillels, and Joel is the executive director of the national Hillel Foundation.

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Union Industries rolls on. . . from pg. 3

Harley Frank, the 4th generation of Franks to be president of Union Industries, takes pride in his product, including the millennium wrapper for Playboy

able to grow the business a lot."

In the early 1900s, Union Paper's operations and warehouse were on Canal Street near the Providence waterfront. "The 30s were really tough, but Dad hung in, then the 1938 hurricane flooded us out and wiped us out. We went bankrupt. But Dad was able to come back and recreate the business," Bud explains.

What's the biggest converter job they've done? 85 million bags for a new product for Oil of Olay. Most companies order several hundred thousand bags at a time, several times a year: Schick, Bic, Junior Mints, among hundreds of other products.

Polaroid's product is an industry secret. We see big rolls, tightly wrapped, making it impossible to know what it is. And if anyone were to let slip to a competitor what's under the wrapping, Polaroid would be out the door.

What does Bud see as Union Industries' biggest advantage over the competition? "We hit delivery dates. That's key," he says. It is key because much of the packaging is for direct mail promotions that have critical mail dates. Miss a date that forces a client to miss a mailing and that client will not be back.

To make sure deadlines are not missed, Union Industries' 175 employees work in shifts around the clock six days a week.

As with many manufacturing businesses in New England, the Franks must deal with challenges their competitors do not face. The terms of the Clean Air Act for this part of the United States meant the company had to invest $1.5 million in catalytic converters. It recaptures 98% of the solvents involved in its processes.

Harley Frank explains that not only does his Canadian competition not have a Clean Air Act to comply with, but the North American Free Trade Agreement gives them another unfair advantage, since the Canadian government will subsidize a company's losses and the US will not. Energy costs are also considerably higher here than in the South. Combined with state government incentives, those competitors have nearly a 10% cost advantage over Union. His biggest cost-of-business headache today, however, is meeting the escalating cost of health care insurance.

"My goals," says Harley, "are to be a leader from a technological, quality, service standpoint, and to be profitable."

He sees the company's future more with regional, niche businesses than with national mega-companies—although he certainly services some of those, including printing the chocolate chip bags for WalMart's house brand.

"We can't offer economies of scale," Harley says. "We need to give extra value added through service and timeliness."

Quality control is part of that value. Because Union prints a client's bags off and on throughout the year, the bag's look must be consistent from one printing to the next: the color must be exactly right each time, no deviations, no missed registrations. To insure consistency both the ink room and the registration process is precisely computerized, no fuzzy edges from one printing plate not fitting precisely on top of another.

Inks are stored in waist-high barrels in what Bud calls the Milking Room. It does look a bit like a dairy barn, with its rows of overhead pipes which can carry the ink to a mixing station that is tied in to a computer. Entered in the computer is the precise ink combination for each job. "Teats" dispense the right quantity of each color for the job ahead.

In the registration process, gone are the cross bars in the corner of the plates. Not precise enough. To register the printing plates — one for each color — a technician uses two television monitors to bring together pin-head sized dots that will keep the edges of the art work neatly aligned.

The quality and preciseness of their work helps the sales force of 10 to 12 people as they constantly seek new business. "One of our frustrations in this day of mergers and acquisitions," Harley says, "is to have a nice, profitable relationship with a company and then have them bought out by a bigger firm that has its own suppliers."

Despite that kind of turnover, Bud says that 90% of the business comes from 10% of the customers.

Plastic printed for Dole has come off the presses in gigantic rolls. In another room it is cut and re-rolled into more manageable sizes. It will be shipped straight to the fields where lettuce and other greens grow. There the salad mix will be cleaned, torn, packaged and sealed on the spot, and delivered back to Rhode Island to your grocery, in a Union Industries bag.

Computer-driven, robot-assisted, multi-million dollar presses and laminators help make Union's product top of the line

Local AIPAC meeting hears Rosen discuss Barak's peace plans

The day after President Bill Clinton announced that Syria and Israel would begin official talks, 40 Rhode Islanders gathered at the home of Milton and Selma Stanzler to meet Steven Rosen, PhD, the Director of Foreign Policy Issues for the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC).

After an introduction by co-host Robert A. Riesman, an AIPAC board member, Rosen said that Barak hopes to close the last active front in the Arab-Israeli conflict and achieve peace with all four of Israel's immediate neighbors.

Barak, Rosen said, believes that a peace agreement, even with a Golan withdrawal, can maintain or even increase Israel's security.

To succeed, Rosen added, Syrian forces must be thinned, Israel's monitory capability enhanced and the defense forces strengthened, Israel's water supply must be guaranteed and Syria must shut down Hizbollah and other terrorist groups proactively.

Rosen emphasized that AIPAC's role in the peace process is to continue to support the policies of Israel's democratically elected government.

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CAMP JORI news

Special Edition

January 2000

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schustr9-2@idt.net

JORI ends the century on a high note...

Prepares for the millenium.

The above picture with the pristine waterfront and the solitude of protected acreage has been the dream of Camp JORI's board of directors for the past few years, a dream that few thought would ever be realized. But it has. Within the last few months, with the purchase of 72 acres on Worden's Pond, the largest lake in Rhode Island, Camp JORI has the possibilists excited.

It all started on a plane to Michigan, when camp Board President Michael Schuster read in a Providence Journal article that Card's Camp on Worden Pond was in receivership and would go on the auction block. Board members immediately contacted the lawyer handling the situation, and with very little time to act, started the process of due diligence.

The Champlin Foundations were the next to be contacted. Long generous supporters of the Camp, they had awarded a grant for the purchase of property that was still hoped for but at stand still. Officials of Champlin suggested a meeting with The Nature Conservancy, who wanted the adjacent 175 acres, and a collaboration was formed. Together the two non-profits acquired the land, 250 acres in total. $100,000 toward the purchase came from a Jewish Federation of Rhode Island Endowment Grant for the JORI 2000 capital campaign.

At a Sunday morning emergency board meeting attended by nearly every board member and past president, the board reviewed some of the crucial issues. One of the most difficult was an emotional one. Most of the JORI board is composed of former campers and staff, each with fond memories of the current location on Clarke Road, the Camp's only home for more than sixty years. Mike Schuster then asked each of the past presidents, Bert Brown, Milton Brier and Jeffrey Brier, how they felt. Each said that it was time to move. The JORI board voted unanimously to go forward.

In a very short time, Camp JORI owned 600 feet of waterfront, dock facilities and a boathouse, shower houses and bathrooms, a farmhouse and a swimming pool. There are also five cabins on the lake.

Mike Schuster immediately called upon members of the board to start the planning process. "We knew the land was a once in a lifetime opportunity. We hope to work with The Nature Conservancy for future programming, and they know that we will respect the integrity of the environment. We know that the land will open up enormous possibilities for Camp JORI. We hope that this marvelous piece of property will become a community resource as well."

The camp was recently awarded an $100,000 Endowment Grant from the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island for planning for the new property.

Board members have visited camps in New England to explore what should be included in the planning process, both for programming and site planning.

With the new land, Camp JORI can offer a location to compete with the finest in New England. What will the future look like? You are invited to participate by filling out the form on page four.

Where kids and summer fun become one!

a special advertising supplement to the Federation Voice

Expanded programming in 2000

The upcoming century promises to be an exciting one for programming at Camp JORI. In addition to enhancements related to the new property owned by the camp, there are plans for expanded and creative offerings.

The beautiful lakefront area on the recently acquired property makes possible an expansion of the small craft boating options. Director Ronni Guttin says, "We are using the new site for our boating program with canoes, kayaks and sailing, too."

Campers participating in Camp JORI's environmental program will spend a good portion of their day there enjoying the freshly manicured nature trails that were established on the property.

This year, campers are being given the opportunity to specialize in two areas of interest in addition to the regular camp activities. Improved choices include stained glass, jewelry making, archery with a certified instructor, added time with the tennis pro, aquatics, environmental studies and performing arts. The specialization activities replace the typical "interest periods" and provide more time for in-depth exploration of campers' interests.

The Leadership in Training (LIT) program has also been enriched. The group will be divided into first year and second year LIT campers. Second year LITs will spend extra time with groups of younger campers learning more about what it is really like to be a counselor.

Jewish programming will be enhanced by the addition of Shabbat morning services led by campers. "The style in which it is done is in keeping with Camp JORI's philosophy of making it comfortable for everyone, regardless of religious orientation," says Ms. Guttin. She adds, "There will be basic prayers, original writing and music by campers and staff as we explore customs and values in a little more depth."

Board president Mike Schuster at a recent board meeting. Long-range planning, site planning,visioning for the future of Camp JORI, fund raising , the impact of the move and community possibilities are all on the agenda.

Camp JORI is unique in that a majority of the board has attended Camp JORI as campers or counselors, and their children are often current campers and/or counselors. The JORI family feeling extends to a new generation, and the commitment to the Camp runs very deep.

A history of service to children

Today Camp JORI creates an environment for children from all backgrounds and interests, but that was not always the case. The sad plight of orphans early in this century moved a group of community leaders to respond by founding The Jewish Orphanage of Rhode Island in 1909, later to be called The Jewish Children's Home and Foundation of Rhode Island. The Home was enlarged and expanded its mission to take care of the needy, indigent and neglected children in addition to orphans.

Through 1942, the Home cared for hundreds of children aged three to seventeen years of age, with a staff of trained social workers. Many of these children later became community leaders, doctors, lawyers, successful business men and women, and teachers, raising families of their own. A history of the organization says, "It can be said truthfully that no child of ours ever became a problem or reflected any discredit upon the Orphanage at any time."

During the 1929 to1939 administration of Board President Walter I. Sundlun, Camp JORI was established at Narragansett Pier. Benjamin Brier chaired the Camp JORI Committee which directed the establishment of the camp.

Called Joyland of Rhode Island, the camp was designed to provide a healthy summer experience for orphans and children whose families could otherwise not afford this luxury. In 1942, the orphanage closed as its functions were taken on by government-provided social services. Yet the camp continued. At the close of World War II, Camp JORI provided the first blue skies and green grass for children who were refugees from war torn Europe, many of them arriving straight from concentration camps. In recent decades, Camp JORI afforded children from families who emigrated from the former Soviet Union a chance to immerse themselves in an American childhood experience.

Today, the camp still focuses on providing its warm, family-like atmosphere to children, now from a variety of family situations and financial backgrounds. An annual community appeal for funds for camperships assures that financial need will not keep a child from enjoying the Camp JORI experience.

The recent purchase of a new property with a waterfront and extensive acreage, under the guidance of board President Michael Schuster, promises to see Camp JORI well into the future.

Camp staff attends conferences, training workshops

The Camp JORI staff has been attending conferences and training activities where they meet other camping professionals and bring back new program ideas. "We are looking toward a creative approach to evening activities and special events," says Director Guttin.

The staff orientation process at Camp JORI has been improved over the last few years, too. The board has committed funds for maintenance and routine care to prepare the camp for opening prior to staff orientation, so that the staff can concentrate fully on preparing to work with campers. Ms. Guttin asserts, "This shows the staff we value them and puts the focus on the campers." In the past, as with many other camps, counselors spent much time during orientation mowing fields, painting buildings and similar tasks.

Orientation helps staff fine tune skills in managing and caring for children to create the nurturing, family-like environment that is part and parcel of Camp JORI. This is a much more demanding, rigorous orientation that is also fun. It includes role playing, videos and presentations by experts in the field. The counselors take on the role of campers and go through the daily schedule, including setting the table, singing, leading evening activities. "It is important for our counselors. They have a role in helping a kid adjust, have fun, bring home memories that last a lifetime," says Ms. Guttin.

Camp JORI receives national accreditation

ACCREDITED CAMP
ACA
American Camping Association

In November of 1999, Camp JORI received national accreditation from the American Camping Association, the largest, most prestigious of its kind. The approval rating, in which Camp JORI received an almost perfect score, 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, says Camp Director Ronni Guttin. "We feel really good about the results, 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 approved 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," says Ms. Guttin.

Director Ronni Guttin's philosophy, "Let every camper shine."

"Camp JORI is that place where I was afforded as a child the opportunity to try new things with little fear of failing. I felt encouraged to try those things. Everyone got his or her chance to shine," says Director Ronni Guttin. "It remains important to me to provide this experience to the campers so they can feel comfortable stretching their wings."

Ronni Guttin first fell in love with Camp JORI as an eight-year-old camper and enthusiastically attended camp every summer until she was too old, at that time age 13. As soon as she was sixteen she was back at Camp JORI as a counselor and, after she married at 21, as an arts and crafts specialist.

While serving on the camp's board of directors for several years, she realized that she wanted to work at the Camp again as an adult. In 1995 she was named assistant director and then director in 1996.

"For many, Camp JORI is the most enriching environment, facilitating social and emotional growth," says Ms. Guttin. She frequently hears comments from parents about the positive attitudes and maturation that the camping experience fosters.

The Camp JORI tradition has become important to her own children, too. Currently, one child is a counselor, one is a second year LIT and two are campers.

"Camp builds life skills far more important than how far you hit the ball or how many volleys you return. It teaches leadership, self-esteem, getting along in a group. You learn how to retain your individuality while being a cohesive part of a team. Camp means learning to be adaptable in a variety of settings, learning life skills and, of course, having lots of fun."

an open letter to the community

With the purchase of the land on Worden's Pond, we have both an opportunity and a challenge. In a just a few years, we have gone from a camp with the threat of closing to a viable community organization. This year we have had the highest enrollment in our history, with a record 285 equivalent campers, double our enrollment in 1993. We also have stayed true to our mission, never to turn away a child from a summer at JORI because of lack of funds. Through the generous donations to our community appeal, our established campership funds and an annual grant from The Champlin Foundations, we were able to award 79 campers $53,100 in campership, again the highest ever. And we have received national accreditation from the American Camping Association.

JORI has never been healthier, never demonstrated more vitality, nor been more central to the lives of the children in our community.

For me, for our camp director Ronni Guttin and for many of our board members, Camp JORI has been part of our lives since our youth. Many have been campers, counselors, are sending their children there, are involved in volunteer activities sitting on committees and setting policy. The Camp is our family, and that family feeling is evident in all of our decisions.

We see the possibility to our new site as a community resource. We ask you to join us in this exciting community venture. This is our vision:

- a state-of-the-art overnight camp which will accommodate 250-300 children and 75-100 staff
- a balanced camp program to include boating, field sports, tennis, arts, theater and environmental sciences
- a facility and staff capable of providing camping experience for special needs children
- increased funds for scholarship assistance
- winterizing a portion of the buildings for a year-round center for educational, religious, cultural and youth organizations
- programming for the elderly and family camping opportunities.

Our hope is to move into the new camp in May of 2002. We plan to raise $4 million in Phase Two of our capital campaign. Your response to JORI 2000, Phase One, was most rewarding. We have met our $1 million goal with your generous support.

As we enter Phase Two, there will be naming opportunities. A naming gift for the camp, in honor or memory of a loved one, is available at $2 million.

Once again, we want your thoughts. Just call and we will arrange a visit to the new site, or our current one. The possibilities are endless for the usage and the Rhode Island Jewish community. Join us in this exciting endeavor.

Michael Schuster

Michael Schuster, President

Michael Schuster, President of the board of Camp JORI

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Michael Schuster

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Jeffrey Pine

*deceased

Camp JORI has always striven to be responsive to the needs and desires of the community. Your opinion matters to us.

Please take a few minutes to fill out and send this survey to let us know what you think about our new property. You may include your name if you wish, or submit the questionnaire anonymously. Either way, we would like to hear from you.

In addition to an overnight camp, what kind of use would you like to see for Camp JORI's new property?

____ children's camp activities

____ community events

____ special functions

____ programs for the elderly

____ educational programs for:

- ____ all ages
- ____ children
- ____ adults
- ____ elderly

____ recreational activities for:

- ____ all ages
- ____ children
- ____ adults
- ____ elderly

____ retreat programs for community organizations

____ training programs for professionals

____ entertainment activities

____ performing arts events for the community

____ other (please list/describe)

Optional:

NAME _____

PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

_____

Please fill out and return to: Camp JORI, 229 Waterman Street, Providence, RI 02906. Your opinion means a lot to us.

a questionnaire for you...

Record enrollment again

Registration for Camp JORI's 2000 season has nearly filled already, with only a few spaces still available. With current enrollment topping 275, the camp exceeds all previous years.

Camp JORI has enjoyed steadily increasing enrollment under the direction of a revitalized board and the appointment of Camp Director Ronni Guttin in 1996, and improvements in the facility and programming. Prior to that time, the historic peak enrollment was in 1986, at 225.

With the achievement of our American Camping Association accreditation and the purchase of the new property, the popularity of the camp is expected to continue soaring.

FULL TIME EQUIVALENT ENROLLMENT

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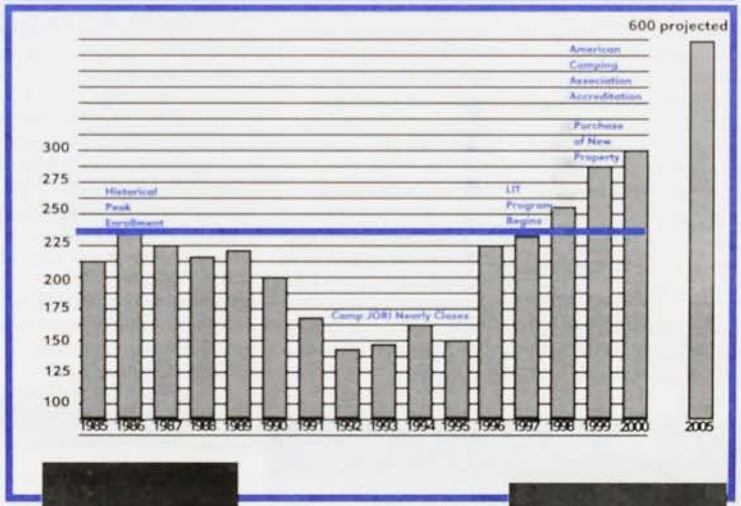


The mission of Camp JORI

Camp JORI's mission is to provide a quality overnight Jewish camping experience,while holding true to our core values that "no child will be denied an opportunity to attend due to inability to pay" and that the camp be affordable for full paying families. At JORI all children are treated the same regardless of financial circumstance.

CAMPJORI

For registration information, call 401/521-2655.

To honor Martin Luther King

Harley special guest at annual sing

Singer/storyteller Bill Harley will be the special guest at the annual interfaith sing to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Co-sponsored by the Congdon Street Baptist Church and the Temple Emanu-El Social Action Committee, the sing will be Saturday, January 29 at 7:00 pm in Emanu-El's Alperin Meeting House, 99 Taft Avenue, Providence.

Also singing will be Congdon Baptist Church Senior Choir and Gospel Chorus, Temple Emanu-El Choral Club and Youth Choir, Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School Junior Glee Club, First Tabernacle Beth-El Choir, Conway Toliver of Ebenezer Baptist Church and Brown University student ensembles, Kol B'Yachad and Shades of Brown.

The program is free and open to the community. Organizers Judy Kaye and the Rev. Theodore Wilson say that as part of the program, audience members will hear about easy-to-join social action projects.

Moses, A Gospel Opera at Beth-El

"Moses" — A Gospel Opera will fill the sanctuary of Temple Beth-El at 7:45 pm, Friday, January 21 in a celebration that coincides with two significant events in the Jewish and national calendars: Martin Luther King Day and Shabbat Shirah, the Sabbath of Song, which recounts the miracle of the crossing the Reed Sea.

This retelling of the Exodus story, created by Walter Robinson of Boston, using African-American music is open to the community.

The gospel opera "Moses" was commissioned by Meet the Composer, Inc., and recently supported by a grant from the Steven Spielberg Righteous Persons Foundation. Its performance at Beth-El is supported by the Dorothy and Jay Isenberg Music Fund.

For more information, call Temple Beth-El at 401-331-6070. The synagogue is at 70 Orchard Avenue, Providence.

Meet the authors at Emanu-El

The 2nd program in Temple Emanu-El's Kulanu and Adult Institute Meet the Authors series features Blossom Kirschenbaum speaking on "God in Recent Jewish American Fiction." This educator and published writer will begin her presentation at 9:30 am on Sunday, January 23, 99 Taft St., Providence.

Jewish youths get hands-on philanthropy experience

Several Jewish youths are among 14 high school students in Rhode Island to make up a team that is to give away $40,000 to deserving community service projects as a philanthropic exercise.

The program, in its second year, is sponsored by the Rhode Island Foundation and the Feinstein Family Foundation. The teens will meet every other week for six months to plan and execute a campaign to invite youth-oriented nonprofit organizations to apply for grants, review proposals, conduct site visits and distribute funds.

Among the teens are:

Adam Deitch of Lincoln, a student at Lincoln High School, and the son of Clifford and Sandra Deitch, developed a community action and service team at his school and participated in a community service-based seminar at the Washington Institute for Leadership and Values.

Jessica Fain, Providence, a pupil at Moses Brown School, is the daughter of Barry and Dr. Elaine Fain. Her community service has been through Habitat for Humanity, her school, and with youth as a Bar/Bat Mitzvah tutor. She is a girls' softball coach and a summer camp volunteer.

James Ross, Newport, a pupil at Rogers High School and son of Steve and Bea Ross, has completed more than 300 hours of volunteer work through Salvation Army, Newport Hospital and Boy Scouts.

Becci Weiss, Providence, The Wheeler School, daughter of Stanley and Beth Weiss, has been active through Volunteers in Providence Schools, the Community Service Board at Wheeler, and the Global Works Company which builds houses in Puerto Rico.

The youths say they are interested in supporting a wide range of projects, from setting up conflict resolution programs to providing food for the hungry and establishing a youth-based volunteer corps.

Resnick a partner

Michael S. Resnick, CPA, a member of the Providence-based accounting firm of Suls Westgate & Parente LLP (SWP), is a partner in the newly merged mega firm of SWP and Carlin, Charron & Rosen LLP of Massachusetts. The merged firm will be the second largest regional accounting firm in New England. The new organization will operate under the CCR identity.

Lady solons at NCJW meeting

Three Rhode Island women legislators will share the podium on Wednesday, January 12 when the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) meets in the State House's first floor rotunda room.

Linda Kushner, vice president of advocacy for NCJW and a former legislator, will introduce the speakers and their topics: Senator Rhoda Perry, "Civil rights: Driving while black;" Representative Edith Ajello, reproductive choice, and Representative Barbara Burlingame, domestic violence.

The meeting, which is open to the community, will be preceded by coffee and dessert from 12:30-1:00 pm.

After the presentations, each legislator will escort a small group on a tour of the State House.

Elaine Kroll and Muriel Licht co-chair the program. For information or to arrange a ride, call Judith Lichtman at 401-274-2311.

ASTOR TO SPEAK AT HADASSAH

Joan Astor, a past president of the Southern New England Region of Hadassah, will speak at the general meeting of RI Hadassah on Sunday, January 9 at 10:30 am at Channel 36's studios in Cranston.

Astor will discuss Hadassah's vision for the 21st century and lead members through a planning process for the next several years.

For directions to the studio, call the Hadassah office at 401-463-3636.

JANUARY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

January 7	
Temple Sinai Talmud Study	9:45 AM
January 8	
Temple Sinai Torah Study	9:30 AM
Temple Beth-El Sisterhood Rosh Hodesh Havdalah/Shabbat	5:45 PM
January 9	
JFRI Maimonides Society Brunch	9:30 AM
RI Hadassah General Chapter meeting with speaker from National	10:30 AM
Leisure Club	2:00 PM
Cong. Ohawe Sholam "Stop & Go Wedding"	5:00 PM
BJE College Informational Night	6:30 PM
January 10	
Temple Sinai Talmud Study	9:45 AM
Leisure Club	10:00 AM
JFRI Endowment Restricted Oversight Com.	2:00 PM
JFRI CRC Intergroup Relations Task Force	5:15 PM
BJE Judaica Course	7:00 PM
BJE Executive Committee Meeting	7:00 PM
JFRI Web Focus Group Meeting	7:00 PM
JCC Board Meeting	7:45 PM
January 11	
Temple Sinai Talmud Study	9:45 AM
BJE Leadership Development	7:30 PM
January 12	
Temple Sinai Talmud Study	9:45 AM
Temple Emanu-El's Leisure Club Board Meeting	10:00 AM
NCJW Regular Open Meeting	12:30 PM
JFRI CRC RIJCL Volunteer Coordinator Meeting	7:00 PM
Touro Fraternal Assn. Board Meeting	7:30 PM
January 13	
Temple Sinai Talmud Study	9:45 AM
Leisure Club	10:00 AM
JFRI Young Men's Lunch	12 noon
JFRI Integrated Resource Development Marketing Committee	5:00 PM
BJE Melton Class	7:00 PM
January 14	
Temple Sinai Talmud Study	9:45 AM
January 15	
Temple Sinai Torah Study	9:30 AM
January 16	
BJE Zelniker Conference	8:30 AM
JCC Fitness Center Open House	10:00 AM
Temple Beth-El's New Member Brunch	11:00 AM
Temple Beth-El's Service of Comfort	5:45 PM
January 17 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day	
Temple Sinai Talmud Study	9:45 AM
January 18	
JFRI Professional Advisory Council	7:45 AM
Temple Sinai Talmud Study	9:45 AM
ASDS Phonathon	6:30 PM
Temple Emanu-El's Adult Institute Registration	6:30 PM
JFRI Women's Alliance Marketing Committee	7:00 PM
BJE Israel Trips Forum	7:00 PM
JFRI LEADERS Session	7:00 PM
Temple Emanu-El's Adult Institute	7:30 PM
BJE Budget & Finance Committee	7:30 PM
JCC Board of Directors	7:45 PM
January 19	
Temple Sinai Talmud Study	9:45 AM
JFRI CRC Board	5:30 PM
RI Hadassah Executive Committee Board Meeting	7:00 PM
ASDS Board Meeting	7:00 PM
January 20	
Temple Beth El's Budget & Finance Committee	7:45 AM
Voice Copy Review Meeting	8:00 AM
JFRI Women's Alliance Campaign Cabinet Meeting	9:15 AM
Temple Sinai Talmud Study	9:45 AM
Leisure Club Class	10:00 AM
Eden Garden Club	1:00 PM
ASDS Phonathon	6:30 PM
BJE Melton Class	7:00 PM
JFRI CRC Arab/Jewish Dance Group	7:30 PM
January 21	
Temple Sinai Talmud Study	9:45 AM
JCC Tu B'Shevat Seder	6:00 PM
January 22	
Temple Sinai Torah Study	9:30 AM
January 23	
ASDS Phonathon	8:30 AM
Temple Emanu-El's Kulanu Brunch	11:00 AM
January 24	
Temple Sinai Talmud Study	9:45 AM
JFRI Florida Endowment Event	4:30 PM
BJE Judaica Course	7:00 PM
BJE HEM Committee	7:15 PM
JFRI Professional Women's Program	7:30 PM
Temple Emanu-El's Board Meeting	7:30 PM
January 25	
ASDS Phonathon	6:30 PM
Temple Beth-El's Sisterhood Pot Luck Dinner	6:30 PM
BJE Youth Advisory Council	7:00 PM
Temple Emanu-El's Adult Institute Registration	7:00 PM
Temple Emanu-El's Adult Institute Classes	7:30 PM
Temple Beth-El's Board of Trustees Meeting	7:30 PM
January 26	
Temple Sinai Talmud Study	9:45 AM
JFRI Breakfast Club After Hours with Guest Speaker, Mark Patinkin	5:30 PM
Touro Fraternal Assn. Lodge Meeting	6:30 PM
ASDS Phonathon	6:30 PM
BJE Board Meeting	7:30 PM
January 27	
JFRI Finance Committee	8:00 AM
Temple Sinai Talmud Study	9:45 AM
Leisure Club	10:00 AM
JFRI Women's Alliance Board Meeting	12:30 PM
BJE Melton Class	7:00 PM
January 28	
Temple Sinai Talmud Study	9:45 AM
Leisure Club	10:00 AM
January 29	
Temple Sinai Torah Study	9:30 AM
January 31	
BJE Principal's Retreat	8:30 AM
Temple Sinai Talmud Study	9:45 AM
Leisure Club	10:00 AM
BJE Future Faces	7:00 PM
Synagogue Presidents' Meeting	7:00 PM
BJE Judaica Course	7:00 PM
February 1	
Temple Sinai Talmud Study	9:45 AM
JFRI CRC Executive Committee Meeting	7:00 PM
Temple Emanu-El Adult Institute	7:30 PM
February 2	
Temple Sinai Talmud Study	9:45 AM
RI Hadassah Study Group	10:00 AM
JFRI Executive Committee	4:30 PM
RI Hadassah Regional Board Meeting	5:30 PM
JFRI Allocations Orientation	7:00 PM
BJE Workshop Series	7:00 PM
February 3	
Temple Sinai Talmud Study	9:45 AM
Leisure Club	10:00 AM
BJE MORIM	7:00 PM
BJE Melton Class	7:00 PM
February 4	
Temple Sinai Talmud Study	9:45 AM
February 5	
Temple Beth-El's B'nei Mitzvah Class	9:00 AM
Temple Sinai Talmud Study	9:45 AM

January Candle Lighting Times					
	Jan. 7	***4:10***	***Jan. 21***	***4:26***
	Jan. 14	***4:18***	***Jan. 28***	***4:35***

It was time to party all across Rhode Island

At Providence Hebrew Day School, these little ones learned all about a hanukkiah first hand — by becomeing one.

At the Rhode Island Mall, Alan Shawn Feinstein (center) and Congressman Robert Weygand (right) help Rabbi Yossi Laufer of the CHAI center in Warwick light up the night.

At the JCC Hanukkah party, children from Alperin Schechter Day School and Providence Hebrew Day School helped to entertain over 300 Jewish parents, children and their friends and neighbors after a dinner of latkes, hot dogs and all the trimmings.

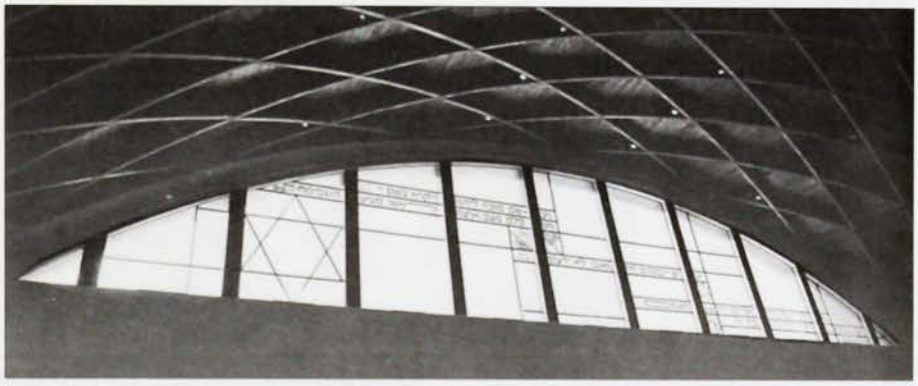
Providence Hebrew Day School students took their happy faces and singing voices to seniors in nursing homes for a holiday party.

New in Rhode Island this year was Hanukkah Joy, in program started in Massachusetts and modeled after Toys for Tots. Helping the Hanukkah Joy representatives — (at far left) Lydie Dershewitz, (2nd and 3rd at right) Margaret Davidi and Susan Shamber, were (at left rear) Bonnie Ryvicker of the JERI program, and Barbara Dwares from the BJE, and in front, Ruth Page, BJE. Tina Fain, JERI, is at far right.

The JERI program helped to put a little light in the dance steps, too. Here Tina Fain dances with a resident of Rosewood.

First in many areas, Beth-El stirs with vitality

by Jane S. Sprague



Rabbi Braude chose the biblical verses etched in windows at the top of the 32-foot high ceiling that arches over Beth-El's sanctuary.

It's Sunday morning. Parents have The New York Times beside them in the front seat of their cars. Their children are climbing out of the back seats, headed for a morning of religious education. Mom or Dad will be back in a couple of hours to pick them up, having enjoyed a leisurely read while munching on a bagel and sipping coffee.

That's the scene outside many synagogues week after week.

Not at Temple Beth-El.

Outside Rhode Island's largest Reform synagogue, on Providence's East Side, many parents park their cars and enter the building with their kids. Children head for classrooms, parents to the foyer — to read The New York Times, Boston Globe or Providence Journal, to munch on a bagel and to sip coffee, enjoying a leisurely morning that may be enhanced by a lot of informal schmoozing with other parents. As kids change classes, they wave to their folks, or stop by to show off some work they've done that morning.

This Sunday Bagel Café is a project of Temple Beth-El's Brotherhood.

While not all parents of the 300 children enrolled in the religious school come to the Café every week, Les Gutterman, now the dean of pulpit rabbis in Rhode Island, says the Café is an excellent way to bring younger families together.

With a membership stabilized at about 1150 families, nearly one-third of whom are interfaith families, the synagogue has the membership mass to provide a wide range of programming. It has a history of being first in a number of categories.

"Beth-El was one of the first to create havurot, if not the first, in Rhode Island," Rabbi Gutterman says, as he talks about niche programming. "In 1974 Brandeis University was aware of the havurot movement in California. They asked us to set one up and provided an intern for it. We had 15 to 20 people in that group, and still have that many. Those families have gone through each other's life cycle events. All members of all our havurot seem to feel stronger about Beth-El because they feel cared about. The havurot help us create intimacy in a large congregation," he explained.

First, too, among the local religious schools in number of pupils, 312, Beth-El has a relatively stable teaching staff of 30, headed by Anita Steiman, herself a graduate of the temple's religious school. All the children are enrolled in the Sunday school and 250 of those attend the Thursday Hebrew School. There is a post-bar/bat mitzvah confirmation program and high school juniors and seniors meet with Rabbi Gutterman regularly. Nearly every Saturday, a child makes the transition to Jewish adulthood.

Programming for youths also includes the Gift of Israel savings program (see page 35) to help families pay for a tour in Israel when their children are teens. "National Federated Temple Youth sends more kids to Israel than any other program," Gutterman said. "That's ironic because the Reform movement initially was anti-Zionist. Hebrew Union College now has a campus in Jerusalem," he notes, adding that his daughter, Rebecca, is taking rabbinical studies there this year.

With one-third of member families intermarried couples, Beth-El needs to be particularly sensitive to their needs, from the religious school classroom to adult programming.

Non-Jewish spouses have access to just about all synagogue privileges, except they may not stand for offices or chair committees. The rabbis determine the appropriateness of their ritual participation.

"We are open to support people who want to convert," Rabbi Gutterman said. The Introduction to Judaism course annually draws between 15 and 20 people, about half of whom make the trip to the Mikveh. The congregation also supports an active outreach committee to converts and interfaith families, offering programs, including classes such as "What is a Jew?"

"We do insist," Rabbi Gutterman said, "that children of interfaith families who are enrolled in our religious school attend only our religious school." The policy at Beth-El also allows the rabbis to officiate at the burial of a non-Jewish spouse so long as the ceremony follows Jewish traditions.

Although at one time, in standard Reform tradition, kippot were virtually banished from Reform synagogues, that was changed at Beth-El by the temple's long time, highly respected, much loved scholarly and activist rabbi, William G. Braude. It was during the Civil Rights movement in the 1960s, when Rabbi Braude marched in Selma wearing a kippah, that things began to change. Today the rabbis and many members wear kippot during services and at the evening minyan, and perhaps a quarter of the men wear prayer shawls. "But it is choice, not coercion," Rabbi Gutterman emphasizes.

Rabbi Braude's influence on the synagogue is reflected in its distinguished library bearing his name. Its 26,000+ volumes make it one of the top synagogue libraries in the country. Brown University students still use it for research even though Brown now has an extensive Judaica collection.

Such a large membership as Beth-El's needs two full-time rabbis and a cantor, an executive director, librarian and school administrator, plus a sizable administrative and support staff. During the last 18 months, the staff and members were tested mightily, and succeeded, as they kept synagogue affairs running and in order during trying times in the lives of their rabbis.

Rabbi Gutterman, who had taken a sabbatical in early 1998, found it essential to extend his absence to stay beside his wife, Julie, during her unsuccessful struggle with leukemia. And, in what was almost a symbolic demonstration of the life cycle, as Julie Gutterman coped with a high-risk bone marrow transplant, the synagogue's beloved young couple of Rabbi and Cantor, Michael and Ida Rae Cahana, brought forth triplet girls.

Joy and worry, then grief, mixed as congregants sought to bring comfort to the Guttermans and to celebrate with the Cahanas (and provide some much-needed child-care relief).

Throughout all that trauma, the infrastructure to support the synagogue programs had to be maintained. Those tasks fall mostly to Ruby Shalansky, the executive director. She reports that the recent capital campaign has raised $4.5 million to "fix the building: roof, heating and air conditioning, sanctuary sound system, lighting, carpeting, curtains. That has relieved our operating budget of those expenses," she said.

Dues, of course, are the principal source of synagogue income. "They are $1200 a year with provisions for those who can't afford that. No one is turned away," Shalansky says, adding, "Some pay nothing, others voluntarily pay much more."

Part of the motivation to raise the funds to "fix the building" is to have it in fine shape for the congregations' rapidly approaching 150th anniversary.

Although a group of Jews in Providence had begun praying together as early as 1844, they waited until 1855 to be the first in the city to seek a charter from the legislature as Sons of Israel. Of the 18 founding families, some were descended from the Jews who had settled a century earlier in Newport.

In May, 1874, Sons of Israel merged with a new congregation, Sons of David, and three years later started the first religious school. By 1890 the members were dedicating the Friendship Street Synagogue. As residences go, they were not there long, having outgrown the 485-seat facility by 1908 and selling the property for $14,750. Part of the motivation for moving was the deterioration of the neighborhood. When Rabbi Henry Englander was accosted by a prostitute outside the synagogue he told his members either they moved, or he would leave. Leave he did, but he returned in 1911 when the new Broad Street synagogue, in the Elmwood section of Providence, was dedicated as Temple Beth-El. It was built for $75,000 and is today used by Congregation Shaare Zedek.

It was in this facility that Beth-El began its tradition of hosting distinguished guests. Chaim Weizmann, championing a Jewish state, visited during or just after World War I.

Please turn to page 23

Cantor Ida Rae Cahana and Rabbi Michael Cahana will be leaving Beth-El for New Rochelle, NY, where Rabbi Cahana will be the pulpit rabbi at Temple Israel. Cantor Cahana will focus her attention on the couple's son and triplet daughters.

Kirk Douglas becomes bar mitzvah again

On his 83rd birthday, actor Kirk Douglas repeated his bar mitzvah, rationalizing that since he had lived 13 years after his allotted three score and 10, he should become a man again.

Douglas suffered a stroke several years ago which left him with speech problems, but he has overcome them well enough to read in Hebrew and to have a leading role in a new movie. In recent years, Douglas also has written books on Jewish themes.

Chabad offers two tracks of women's studies

Rhode Island's two Chabad organizations are offering a special evening of Talmud study for women on Tuesday, January 11. One program will feature Rabbi Berel Bell leading an introductory seminar on Talmud followed by individualized havruta study with women from the Chaya Mushka Teacher's Seminary in Montreal. A second session on Talmud will explore Sexual Harassment: How to Nip It in the Bud, and Kashrus: A Diet for the Soul. For details on meeting place and time contact either Michla Laufer at Chabad House in Providence, 401-273-7238, or Shoshanah Laufer at the CHAI Center in Warwick, 401-732-1881.

SERVICE OF COMFORT AT BETH-EL JAN. 16

A healing service for the soul of music, prayer and reflective readings, designed for people suffering with chronic illnesses, their caregivers and other seeking spiritual solace, will begin at 5:00 pm in the Bennett Chapel at Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence, on Sunday, January 16.

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Women's group gets own Torah from Iraq

by Jeannine Mercer

NEW YORK (JTA) — A group of female Jewish scholars here recently danced with a 200-year-old born in Iraq and once held prisoner by Saddam Hussein.

"Here ye! Here ye! Here comes the Sefer Torah!" the women of the Drisha Institute exclaimed at the arrival of the Torah, which had made a difficult journey from Iraq to the United States by way of Jordan and Israel.

"Without a doubt, I am sure that the people who started with this Torah could not imagine that its home would be a women's study group," said Nina Bruder, executive director of Drisha, a Jewish women's study program.

Drisha's Torah, whose combination of flat mulberry juice ink and raised lettering indicates that it is 200 years old, was abandoned in a Baghdad synagogue with many other Torah scrolls during the exodus of Iraqi Jews to Israel in 1948.

There the Torahs remained, collecting desert dust until Hussein, the Iraqi dictator, stockpiled and hid them not long before the start of the Persian Gulf War. But in 1991, the Torah was rescued, along with 34 others. After stealing the Torahs from Hussein's stockpile, an Iraqi Muslim stuffed them into the tires of Jordan-bound trucks and from there the sacred texts were transferred into Israeli hands.

Iraqi authorities caught the man and severely beat him.

"It's a remarkable story," said Blu Greenberg, whose son helped repair one of the smuggled Torahs a year ago. It was during this time that Greenberg was chosen as Drisha's guest of honor at its 20th dinner anniversary. Greenberg, an Orthodox feminist author and activist, is a "great admirer" of Drisha.

Lisa Scholtz, granddaughter of a rabbi, carries a Torah.

Feeling shy about being in the spotlight, she half-jokingly told Drisha, "If you get me off the hook" as a dinner speaker, "I'll try to get a Sefer Torah for you."

Greenberg wasn't relieved of her speaking engagement, but after several discussions with her son and family, they decided to give the Torah to Drisha.

They dedicated the scroll to Greenberg's father, Rabbi Sam Genauer, who is remembered for his hourlong Torah study each day. His granddaughter, Lisa Scholtz, currently studies at Drisha in part because of his influence.

"It's a full-size Torah. Everyone was worried that it would be too heavy to lift," said Bruder, who explained that the women were instructed in how to handle the unusually large Torah prior to its arrival.

Drisha is the first women's study group in America to have its own Torah. Only two such groups in Israel have their own Torahs.

Beth-El stirs with vitality. . . from pg. 21

Since then, supported by an endowed fund, guest speakers and performers have included Van Cliburn, Henry Kissinger, Bella Davidovich, Edward R. Murrow, Carl Sandburg, Fred Friendly, Mario Cuomo, Leah Rabin and others.

In 1932 Rabbi Braude began his 42-year tenure and soon led the congregation toward the construction of a new facility on Providence's East Side, where most members had relocated. They purchased the Orchard Street property in 1944 for $46,000, and with a combination of a grant from the estate of Alphonse J. Lederer, a grandson and great nephew of two founders, plus proceeds from the sale of the Broad Street synagogue and fundraising, the current facility was designed, constructed and dedicated by April 18, 1954.

One of the questions the members faced was whether the design should be early American colonial or something more daring. Daring won out.

According to an article about the architectural development of Beth-El written by George Goodman for the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Notes, November 1994, without modernism in the architecture by Percival Goodman, "Temple Beth-El would have been somehow relegated to a safe, predictable existence, more comfortable with a nostalgic past then an unfolding future."

It is a remarkably modern building for its time and neighborhood, yet it blends well. The design was published in Architectural Record and Progressive Architecture and in 1955 Life Magazine featured it with five photos in its series on "The Great Religions of the World."

With exterior walls of Ohio brick and Indiana limestone, Temple Beth-El has sanctuary seating for nearly 1,000 under its 32-foot arched roof and its clerestory windows that have biblical verses, selected by Rabbi Braude, sandblasted into the glass. The walls of the eight classrooms which flank the sanctuary can be pushed back to add 600 seats, while another 600 can be accommodated in the meeting hall, just across the foyer from the sanctuary.

On either side of the ark, stand two "spidery bronze forms" created by Ibram Lassaw, one representing the Pillar of Fire, the other the Pillar of Cloud that protected the Jews as they fled Egypt. These sculptures were exhibited by the Museum of Modern Art at the Venice Biennale in 1954.

Various pieces of significant art work grace Temple Beth-El. This last summer the congregation added to its collection of mosiacs by local artist Walter Feldman. His nine-part rendering in tile of important aspects of Jewish life is mounted in the foyer stairwell where natural light strikes its multitude of colorful tiles.

As Temple Beth-El moves with the times, attempting to include comfortably those members whose Reform identification harks back to the non-halakhic 30s, alongside those who are seeking greater spirituality, davening more, wearing kippot, keeping kosher and observing Shabbat, another comment by George Goodman about the building seems to describe the congregation:

"Percival Goodman's Beth-El would be a difficult building to reinterpret, because it represents a clear, honest and humble search for truth in its time."

Walter Sundlun (left), who spearheaded the capital campaign to build the current Orchard Avenue shul helps Rabbi Braude put memorabilia in the cornerstone.

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Day schools integrate secular, Jewish studies

by Miriam Esther Weiner

2nd and 4th Grade Judaic Studies, 7th Grade Secular Studies Teacher,
Providence Hebrew Day School

A dual curriculum, as is typical in a Jewish day school, presents both challenges and rewards. Perhaps most rewarding are the opportunities to integrate the two curricula. On occasion these integrated lessons are planned out; teachers meet, devise lessons and then implement them. More frequently, they are spur of the moment. A teacher glimpses a chance to reach across the curricula and does so.

Perhaps it is due to the spontaneity of these moments that they are often overlooked. Valuable lessons are learned, points are made and concepts are understood; yet no tally is kept to count these occurrences. Students who are products of such an education are not surprised when such lessons are taught. After all, they are an intrinsic part of their education.

Let us attempt to capture some of these moments and learn from them.

Second graders are busy learning about the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah during Humash class. Many obvious morals are taught and philosophical lessons are learned as the students read and discuss the text. What may not be so obvious is the opportunity for a science lesson, yet the teacher makes the connection. Arrangements are made and the students are thrilled to visit the science laboratory where the chemistry teachers teaches them about sulfur. They observe it, see it interact with fire, and smell it. At the end of the visit the students understand sulfur and its abilities; they also now better understand the Biblical verse they've just learned, "And God rained sulfur and fire on Sodom and on Gomorrah" (Genesis 19:24). The teacher has used this verse to teach valuable lessons in several subject areas.

On occasion it is the students' knowledge of a subject that allows for this integration. Students in a 7th grade English class are reviewing methods of brainstorming and organizing as part of the writing process. The teacher needs a subject area with which the students are both familiar and comfortable. Again, integration is the the answer; students brainstorm the topic of Hanukkah and develop webs and outlines about the holiday. The teacher is assured that students understand the methods being taught without having to worry that the chosen topic is confusing them. Students are given an opportunity to review their knowledge of the upcoming holiday in an atypical format.

There are moments during the course of the school year when these lessons, almost unknowingly, take place in almost every grade. Upon reflection it is hard to create a comprehensive list, the opportunities are so numerous. In the Judaic Studies classroom: The concept of weights and measures is discussed before Rosh HaShanah, the characteristics of yeast before Pesah, and the seven multiplication table as we calculate the seven weeks between Pesah and Shavuot. In the Secular Studies classroom: Essays are written about the upcoming holiday, research is executed about one's ancestors and heritage, and math examples often contain items from Jewish life.

These occasions, while enjoyable and rewarding for the moment, are even more valuable because of their long-term benefits. Students schooled in such an environment develop an understanding of the precept *Torah Im Derekh Eretz* by experiencing it. *Torah Im Derekh Eretz*— Torah with (literally — the way of the world) secular studies — is an underlying motto of the modern day school movement. Students are taught to use all knowledge that they acquire and all skills in which they are trained to better themselves as Jews and as people. Students are taught to use their Judaic knowledge to enhance their secular knowledge and vice versa. This lesson is taught by practice and example rather than lecture and exam.

In a typical classroom students often badger their teacher as to the purpose behind learning a particular lesson. Students in a day-school environment understand that every lesson they learn, every skill they acquire, and every concept they comprehend will allow them to enhance their existence as people and as Jews.

This article is one in a series that offers information about the day school experience, brought to you as a collaboration of The Alperin Schechter Day School and The Providence Hebrew Day School.

On tap at Providence Hebrew Day

Parents' open house January 12

The annual Providence Hebrew Day School open house for the community will be Wednesday, January 12, 9:30 am-2:30 pm. Parents of children entering pre-school or kindergarten can visit classrooms and see teachers "in action."

All lower school classes, grades 1 through 8, are open to PHDS parents and prospective parents.

School administrators, Rabbi Mordechai Nissel and Maureen Sheehan, will be available to discuss school policies, curriculum and educational philosophy. Informational packets about the school will be available. For more information, call 401-331-5327.

Grant funds playground update

A grant from the Endowment Fund of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island will enable PHDS to fund the total renovation of its playground area for pre-school, kindergarten and 1st grade pupils, and to purchase school furniture including student chairs, tables and desks.

The playground renovation, by Kompan Northeast Inc. will include a separate sand-play area along side the other play apparatus. A new wood-carpet safety surface and chain-link fence also will be installed.

Hear ye, hear ye! Auction to break winter doldrums

Goods and services will be on the auction block at Providence Hebrew Day School on Saturday evening, January 22, against a background of live music and refreshments.

The purchase of an auction ticket could translate into two round-trip tickets on Southwest Airlines to any one of its destinations, or a full-sized exercise treadmill, or a complete computer system. Then there's camping equipment, a New Hampshire vacation package, $250 Syms shopping spree and excursions to Newport and Block Island. Over 25 auction packages.

Admission is free and the event is open to the public. For an auction brochure and a $5.00 complimentary ticket, call PHDS at 401-331-5327.

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News from Alperin Schechter

ASDS opens 2000 admissions

The Admissions Office of the Alperin Schechter Day School (ASDS) is in full swing. Plans for a full kindergarten class for the 2000-2001 school year are underway and applications are being accepted. For availablility of space at other grade levels, contact Elizabeth Goldberg, Admissions Coordinator.

ASDS is a fully accredited school for Jewish students in kindergarten through grade eight. The student body comes from a wide variety of backgrounds and observance level throughout Rhode Island and southeastern New England.

According to head of school Penney Stein, PhD, the school is committed to a challenging and nurturing program which encourages the development of each child's full potential. "Children are encouraged to develop creativity and thinking skills in an environment that stresses Jewish ethical values. Enrichment of the core disciplines of language arts, social studies, mathematics, science and foreign language is provided in music, art, computer science, physical education and community service. In addition, students enjoy the study of modern Hebrew, traditional Jewish texts, Torah and mitzvot," Stein said.

Students may enter the Schechter school at a variety of levels. Programs are available to acclimate students who have not previously attended a day school. For application forms or information about the Schechter program, call Admissions Coordinator Elizabeth Goldberg, 401-751-2470.

Author Dorros reads, donates illustration

Arthur Dorros, author and illustrator of more than a dozen children's books, presented a workshop for grades one and three at the Alperin Schechter Day School. Some of Dorros's books are about wind, water and astronomy. Others have multicultural themes and are in Spanish or bilingual text. His award-winning books include *Abuela*, in which a young girl learns about her family from her grandmother, *Tonight is Carnival*, and *Alligator Shoes*.

Zoe Link with one of Dorros's books in front of the illustration he donated to ASDS

Dorros shared behind-the-scene stories of his adventures, worked with students to write and illustrate their own storybooks, and made a gift to the school of several original drawings.

American Girls learn about Teatime

Throughout the first half of the year, several young ladies gathered regularly for a special after-school club at ASDS under the leadership of librarian Karolyn Barrett-White. Using the American Girls Book *Felicity Learns a Lesson*, students were introduced to the world of colonial America.

According to White, "We learned that an important role for a young girl in 1774 was that of a 'gentlewoman.' To be an accomplished young lady, one needed to learn dancing, handwriting, fancy stitchery and the proper way to serve tea. In our group, we practiced our calligraphy and handwriting by writing proper invitations, made lace coifs to wear, and planned our tea as a culminating event.

"We tried to use good social manners at our tea and discussed the issues of the day: whether to side with the Loyalists or the Patriots, and thus, whether to drink tea or refuse it."

White added, "We really did get a feel for the colonial experience through the eyes of a young girl. I am looking forward to our next adventure, which will move ahead in time to America in the 1940's."

27 make fall honor roll

ASDS named 27 pupils from 6th, 7th and 8th grades to the first trimester honor roll.

Sixth Grade: Abraham Aron, Charles Felder, Susan Landau, Nathaniel Levine, Ilivia Lichaa, Julie Link and Nathan Weissburg.

Seventh Grade: Aaron Abrams, Shira Adler, Miriam Klein, Chloe Licht, Maia Masuda, Hannah Mellion, James Rotenberg and Jessica Spellun.

Eighth Grade: Rebecca Chaika, Shayna Hersh, Kendra Kobrin, Spencer Kurn, David Levinson, Richard Maidman, Alina Neganova, Benjamin Savitzky, Denille Wachtenheim, Marlene Wacks, Leah Weissburg, Michael Wolpert.

ASF grant for service

Alperin Schechter Day School (ASDS) is one of 51 Rhode Island public, private or parochial schools to receive New Millennium Grants from the Alan Shawn Feinstein Foundation as part of the "I Can Make a Difference" community service program.

The grants, which range from $500 for individual classroom projects to $1,000 for school-wide projects, are designed to help children improve their communities or the lives of other people.

Middle School teacher Steven Jablow said that the grant to ASDS is $1,000 for the Middle School (grades 6-8) pupils to use to carry on their hunger service projects and volunteer work, for which they try to involve the entire student body.

This year, the children have raised money for Amos House and some of them have visited the soup kitchen to see how it operates and to meet the workers there. Before this last Thanksgiving, they organized a school-wide drive for food baskets that resulted in 38 family Thanksgiving dinners, which were distributed through Jewish Family Service. In addition, once a month, Schechter children join with volunteers from Temple Emanu-El to sort and organize supplies at the Rhode Island Food Bank.

Founder Beatrice Bazarsky increases support for Middletown religious school

Beatrice Berman Bazarsky has extended her family's support of the Samuel Zilman Bazarsky Religious School by creating an endowment fund to ensure its future. Bazarsky made the announcement at the recent celebration of the school's 10th anniversary.

The Samuel Zilman Bazarsky School, named for Beatrice Bazarsky's late husband, is located at Temple Shalom, 233 Valley Road, Middletown. Its principal, Rabbi Marc Jagolinzer, describes the goal of the school as being "to foster in students the ability to make informed and responsible decisions about their Jewishness."

The Sunday morning program includes the TOY program (Teaching Our Young) for 4 and 5 year olds and a pre-school program for ages 6 and 7. Their classes teach a graded level of Jewish history, customs, ritual practices, ceremonies and Bible, all emphasized with hands on projects, stories, videos and other creative lessons.

Youths aged 8 to 12 also meet on Sunday mornings and again from 3:30 to 5:30 pm on Mondays and Wednesdays. They are provided a full curriculum of Jewish learning, Jagolinzer said.

Over 100 parents, pupils, teachers and Bazarsky family members attending the Service of Thanksgiving for the school. The children presented Bazarsky with a scrapbook of essays about the school that they compiled for the occasion.

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Zelniker Conference to introduce constructivist education to teachers

The annual Joseph and Leba Zelniker Conference on Sunday, January 16 is built on the concept of empowering students.

The conference, designed by the Bureau of Jewish Education of RI (BJE), will be an introduction to constructivist education, which is becoming the accepted approach to teaching. Constructivist education is based on research about how people learn, which concludes that individuals 'construct' knowledge rather than receive it from others.

In constructivist classrooms, teachers move away from being the traditional 'giver of information' to being a co-learner and facilitator who builds on student curiosity, exploration and inquiry. These teachers empower their students to follow paths of interest, to challenge ideas and to reach unique conclusions. Conference participants will analyze case studies of Jewish teaching situations and structure a lesson plan.

This approach to education is based on the work of some well-known figures: John Dewey, Jean Piaget and Howard Gardner. It is also based on the writings and research of lesser-known people: Lev Vygotsky, Marian Diamond and Reuven Feuerstein. Feuerstein worked with traumatized children who survived the Holocaust. His results transformed thinking about human intelligence and refuted the concept of an unchanging IQ.

Nachama Skolnik Moskowitz will facilitate the conference. She is the Director of Curricular Resources at the Jewish Education Center of Cleveland. She has been a day school principal, congregational school director and camp educator. Moskowitz has published teacher resources and student materials. She is known for her quick and thorough preparation of crisis curricula which appear on the Internet within days of events such as the Kosovo intervention, and the shootings at Columbine, Chicago and Los Angeles.

The Zelniker Conference will begin in the Social Hall of the Jewish Community Center, 401 Elmgrove Avenue, Providence, at 8:30 am and conclude by 12:15 pm. A light breakfast will be served. For more information, contact Larry Katz, at 401-331-0956 or HYPERLINK mail to bjeri@aol.com.

Klein award to be given to one of seven nominees

As part of the Zelniker Conference, one of seven teachers will receive the Jenny Klein Teacher Award which recognizes excellence among the educators of local religious schools.

Rabbi Alvan Kaunfer, who chairs the Professional Development Committee of the Bureau of Jewish Education of RI (BJE), announced the nominees: SuAnne Goodman, Temple Sinai; Barbara Greenberg, Temple Emanu-El; Bruce Lenore, Harry Elkin Midrasha; Charli Lurie, Temple Beth-El; Emily Mathis, Temple Habonim; Rabbi Natan Schafer, Temple Torat Israel, and Nachama Weisenberg, Congregation Agudas Achim.

The Alperin-Hirsch Family Foundation, through the BJE, has endowed the Jenny Klein Teacher Award. By naming the award after Klein, the Alperin-Hirsch family pays tribute to one of the community's premier veteran educators. Teachers in Bureau-affiliated schools who have excelled in teaching and demonstrated a commitment to Jewish education in Rhode Island and surrounding areas are eligible for this award, a $500 grant for professional development.

Looking to future, JOLT to honor teen leaders

Future Faces, sponsored by Jewish Outreach Leadership Training (JOLT), once again will recognize Jewish teen leaders who have made outstanding contributions in their communities. The recognition ceremony will be January 31 at Brown/RISD Hillel, 7:00 pm.

Sponsored by the Bureau of Jewish Education of RI (BJE), Future Faces award winners participate in activities such as community service, leadership, social action, Jewish studies and religious activities. To be eligible for the award, the teens must demonstrate an understanding and internalization of the primary Jewish teachings associated with community and the unity of the Jewish people. Winners will be notified by the middle of January.

The public is invited to attend and to help recognize the achievements of these young men and women.

Future Faces is funded by a continuity grant from the Endowment Fund of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.

BJE Board retreat focuses on studies of exceptional schools

Reflecting the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island's (BJE) commitment to leadership development, the recent retreat of the Bureau's board members focused on developing and guiding a process for board development at the Bureau and at the affiliated schools and agencies, and to providing direct involvement in intense discussions regarding Jewish education, the purposes of the agency and where it is headed, and the role of the board.

This 2nd annual retreat was organized by the BJE Board's Leadership Development Committee of the Board.

Participants studied the characteristics of exceptional schools with Rabbi Joshua Elkin, PhD, and Judy Elkin. Joshua Elkin currently is the Director of Partners for Excellence in Jewish Education. Judy Elkin is on the staff of the BJE of Greater Boston. The discussion focused on three key leverage points: vision, board and professionals. Guiding principles for schools are considered to be: Jewish texts and learning, spiritual development, presence of Jewish values and practices, commitment to excellence, active engagement in learning, highly professional and collegial environment for faculty, collaboration among all constituencies, high standard of Board performance, reflectivity and linkages.

Travel to Israel this year!

Come to the BJE's Israel Trips Forum on Tuesday, January 18 at 7:00 pm at the JCC, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence.
Former Israel travelers will talk about their trips.
Learn about financial aid available.
Call Ruth Page, Israel Desk Director, 401-331-0956.

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60 local collegians in Israel

Sixty college students from Rhode Island colleges and universities will be in Israel until January 16 on a 10-day trip that is sponsored by Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life, in concert with Birthright Israel. They are among 3,000 students from the US in Israel during winter break.

The touring program that the local college students will use is organized by HaMagshamim, the collegiate arm of Hadassah's Young Judea. Roberta Elliot of the national Hadassah office says that while all the tours are basically the same a unique aspect of HaMagshamim's program will include two active-duty Israeli soldiers on each bus. They will accompany the tours not for security purposes but for peer interaction, Elliot said.

Hillel's Israel 2000 program helps Jewish college students who have never been on a group tour to Israel to make the trip free of charge. Students from Brown University, Rhode Island School of Design and the University of Rhode Island are participating.

The college tour program is part of the national effort to enhance Jewish identity among youths. During the trip, the collegians are visiting important historic sites and experiencing contemporary Israel. They perform community service and examine political and social issues.

Birthright Israel was created by Charles Bronfman and Michael Steinhardt.

Bronfman Youth Fellowships fund summer study, travel in Israel for 12th graders

Jewish teens who will be entering 12th grade in the fall may apply for one of 26 Bronfman Youth Fellowships in Israel that will finance five weeks in Israel this summer.

Fellows will be chosen on the basis of character, intellectual interests, special talents and leadership qualities. Merit, not financial need, is the standard for selection.

Bronfman Fellows participate in seminars and dialogues with a diverse rabbinic faculty and they explore Jewish text against the background of Israel's land, culture and customs. In addition, they meet with prominent political, cultural and literary figures to examine contemporary issues.

These fellowships are funded by Edgar M. Bronfman and Charles R. Bronfman through the Samuel Bronfman Foundation, Inc.

Completed applications must be postmarked no later than January 31. To request an application, call 518-475-7212; fax 518-475-7207; e-mail to yfi@bronfman. org; web page at www.bronfman.org.

Teens readying for March of Living

Ruth Page, Israel Desk Director for the Bureau of Jewish Education of RI (BJE), reports that a bumper crop of applications from students, staff and survivors, representing a pluralistic group of individuals, are signing up to be part of the March of the Living in the year 2000.

The BJE is the coordinator for the March of the Living, New England Region.

Page said this very pluralistic regional group wants to be part of the international gathering that attracts over 7,000 people.

Marchers will spend a week in Poland over Yom Ha-Shoah and a week in Israel over Yom Ha'Atzma'ut, April 30-May 15.

For details, contact Page at 401-331-0956, or e-mail her at duffypage@aol.com.

Brown-RISD Hillel tops in fundraising — again

For the third consecutive year, Brown-RISD Hillel is the leading campus in the national Hillelethon project. The effort is coordinated by the Washington, DC office of Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life, and is designed to coordinate fundraising efforts.

The Brown-RISD Hillel style has become more than raising dollars. The collegians have a winning formula. Students connect with parents and alumni and take responsibility for the fund-raising that benefits the programs and services of Hillel. In addition to raising the most dollars, Brown-RISD Hillel is the only campus where student volunteers call and plan the effort.

Working with Sheila Alexander, Director of Development, and Cynthia Weinger, Program Director, 10 student leaders designed the marketing materials, the schedule for the evening and the recruitment efforts. The campus community was segmented to be sure that each group — members of Kol B'Yachad, the acapella group, theatre students, participants in the Israel Birthright trip, leaders of the Jewish Student Union, students involved in public service, Friends of Israel, and many others —helped to raise the funds that underwrite their programs.

Each of the student leaders took responsibility for one night of calling, recruiting peers as callers. More than 75 volunteers spent 12 nights calling parents of current Jewish students and alumni. They shared a kosher dinner and all-night snacks as their thank you for participating. West Coast donors were reached in a special "Late Night at Hillel" session from nine o'clock until midnight.

Hillelethon creates conversations between students and donors. In addition to the essential dollars raised, students thank donors for the opportunities their support gives them to create a vibrant Jewish community on campus. One project, initiated by a Hillelthon student leader, has provided Shabbat dinner sponsorships to invite the entire community for a free Shabbat dinner. In its first year, five donors participated. This year, one Shabbat a month will be a Community Shabbat.

During each evening, students shared stories with alumni who reminisced about their own Hillel experiences. Some remembered bagel brunches as the major Hillel activity of their college years. These alumni were amazed at the array of programs available to students today. After hearing about Brown-RISD Hillel today, parents often requested that the caller invite their son or daughter to an activity so that they, too, would become involved with the Jewish community on campus. The evening culminated with a raffle prize from a Thayer Street merchant awarded to a student caller.

A major innovation this year was the use of cell phones, donated by Cellular One. The modern technology allowed students to call from every room in the Brown-RISD Hillel building. Callers sat around tables, on the stairs or roamed from room to room as they chatted with alumni to update them on Jewish life at Brown University and Rhode Island School of Design.

APPLY NOW FOR NCJW GRANTS

National Council of Jewish Women, Rhode Island section will award scholarships to students who will attend college in the fall of 2000. Grants will be awarded on involvement in community service, academic worthiness and financial need. For an application, write to Joan Isserlis, 280 Slater Avenue, Providence, RI 02906, or call 401-751-1271.

These Brown-RISD Hillel students beam with smiles of success as members of the top fundraising group among all Hillel's in the USA. This is the third year running that Brown-RISD Hillel has won that distinction.

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JCC makes tough decisions. . . from pg. 3

back for the designated use of the Jewish community (Jewish Family Service was in the same bind). Some did, but not nearly as many as necesssary to keep the JCC's United Way funds at $331,000.

Reversal of funds

The JCC's United Way annual base grant dropped to $106,000, and donor designation added less than $40,000. That was a loss of $185,000. Gradually, the JFRI allocation was adjusted upward so that today it infuses the Center's budget with $337,000. Essentially a reversal of funds.

Even though the Federation's infusion has grown nearly 75%, the JCC today operates on 1986 dollars. In this time, cost of operations has grown. Simultaneously with this income shortfall the agency has faced marketplace challenges to some of its most prestigious programs.

For years, the Center's day care and pre-school facility offered THE pre-eminent program in the state. Scholarships were funded with ease and there was a waiting list for entry, Jews and gentiles alike. The summer day camp program was much the same. The pay scale was low, but the employment opportunities were scarce.

To meet demand, the Center instituted extended day programs to accommodate working parents' schedules, and added after-school programs for children in public and private schools. A certified kindergarten started just a few years ago.

As more and more women entered the workplace, day care, pre-school and summer camp programs sprang up everywhere. Some of them very good. At the JCC, the demand for scholarships grew (30% of enrollment in FY '99, 23% currently) as Jewish families from the former Soviet Union joined the community, and as the number of single-parent families needing help also grew. Teachers now had more options for employment. The JCC either had to become competitive in payroll or lose quality staff. Pressure mounted, too, in the cost of fringe benefits.

The one bright spot was the creation of a fitness center filled with state-of-the-art equipment and qualified staff. The plan, Weisman said, was for membership to grow across all adult age brackets in a fitness center with mixed-generation use, and it has: 20-somethings march on the tread mills right beside 70-somethings. Membership has grown in the target age brackets and the program is self-supporting.

Still, something had to give. What?

Leach, now in his second stint as JCC president, says that in the past when the Center analyzed its operations, the board looked at its various departments overall. "This time we did a program-by-program audit," he explained. "Our analysis was not solely based on money," Leach said. "We looked at dollars and purpose. Things change with that kind of audit."

The results of the audit pointed very clearly to what must be cut. The savings will reduce the current year projected deficit by up to $70,000 and the hope is that FY 2001 will be back to breaking even. It's a wrenching process. Not only does it mean telling members that a service is ending, it has meant telling some employees, some of them long term, loyal people, that their jobs are gone or their hours sharply reduced.

Unless Weisman can find some grant money, the summer day camp program for children past 4th grade is out. Although the camp program pays its way for younger children, the enrollment is not sizeable enough in the upper grades to break even.

Day-care for children 3-18 months will close on March 1. "This has always been problematic," Weisman says. "It's very expensive" to operate because of the high caregiver to baby ratio, the need for a nurse on staff and the unpredictability of enrollment. Despite the JCC supplementing the program heavily, it also has carried a hefty price tag for parents: $10,000 a year.

Cultural programming also is affected. Gone this year was the fall Book Fair. While popular, it didn't pay for itself, and there was no staff person who could manage it.

The position of special events and volunteer coordinator has been cut, and the marketing/public relations functions will be given to freelancers.

The plan had included eliminating Gallery 401, the facility where Jewish artists can display and sell their work. But a volunteer, Patricia Schroeder, has assumed that responsiblity and the gallery continues. Weisman says that sales for some of the artists have been up lately, giving her encouragement.

Staffing reductions have visited the Health and Physical Education department, too, but not many programs have had to be cut. "We may not be able to keep a 3-person aquatics class going," Weisman says, but she does not foresee drastic changes.

There are some changes in management afoot for the Senior Adult programming, she says, but there will not be program eliminations. The changes are to be announced later.

Cut and expand

Weisman says it may seem odd to be cutting programs and payroll to manage an operating deficit while simultaneously looking at expansion, but that is part of the rejuvenation plan. "We need to know what changes in our building need to be made in order to accommodate what we do well," she says.

To that end, a committee co-chaired by Brier and Charles Adler interviewed architects and, using a grant from the JFRI Endowment, hired the firm of Graham Méus to analyze the building and recommend changes.

Brier notes that when the JCC was built in 1970, it was only designed for two pre-school classrooms, and there was no vision of a fitness center, a Holocaust museum, JFRI or Bureau of Jewish Education offices, a senior mealsite or other high-demand uses within the complex.

"Graham Méus are specialists in design for both pre-school and health and physical education," Brier said. "We are looking to them for expert help in determining what we need to keep the JCC functioning physically in today's marketplace."

Brier anticipates that the results will lead to a capital campaign for the Center.

Weisman sees that the painful cuts being made now will get the JCC out of crisis management and open the door for implementing the marketing and fundraising components of the Center's strategic plan that was developed in 1997.

When a 75-year-old celebrates the diamond birthday anniversary, after going through the emotional trauma of weeding out and paring down, then seizing new opportunities, we offer the same upbeat greeting that the Jewish Community Center is aiming for: May you live to 120!

COMMUNITY ALSO FUNDS JCC CAPITAL NEEDS

The annual allocation from the Jewish Federation fund drive for JCC operations is not the only infusion of money from JFRI. During the 90s, the Center has received capital improvement grants from the Federation's Endowment Fund exceeding $950,000. The money has been used to upgrade the pre-school and kindergarten classrooms and the playgrounds, to finance fitness center equipment and make room renovations, to replace leaking roof and windows and make other emergency repairs, to install a new pool and to spruce up the Senior Adult Lounge. Weisman says a consultant from the Jewish Community Center Association, who visited recently, was amazed at the relatively good condition of the physical plant, because agencies running deficits too often let the building go.

Isenberg Awarded "CLTC"

Paul Isenberg of West Warwick, RI is one of the first agents in the country to receive a "Certified in Long Term Care" (CLTC) designation from the Corporation for Long Term Care Certification.

The field of long term care is complex. It intersects with other professions such as financial planning, tax law, home care, government funding and elder law. An agent's ability to serve the community depends on understanding the resources such as housing and services clients will need as they age and how they will be paid for.

The "CLTC" program provides a comprehensive education on those subjects. The program is a joint undertaking with the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, the countries largest legal association dealing with legal and ethical issues facing older Americans and their families.

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JCC invites parents to visit early childhood program

Parents interested in an early childhood program that combines cultural, social and educational programming with a Jewish early education can stop by the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island (JCC) to tour its early childhood program.

Vivian Weisman, executive director of the JCC, promises parents that "your child will be nurtured and cherished by a staff of dedicated, highly qualified early childhood educators from a broad spectrum of backgrounds. In our program, children learn social development and early education skills. The Jewish curriculum focuses on everyday Judaism and centers around the holidays and Shabbat. The Preschool takes advantage of all our facilities, including the swimming pool where our children receive weekly swimming lessons."

The Preschool day runs from 9:00 am to noon, with early arrival offered from 8:00 and a structured extended day from noon to 6:00 pm (5:00 pm on Fridays). The Toddler program offers a variety of scheduling options between the hours of 8:00 am and 6:00 pm to fit the needs of toddlers and their parents. Classes are for children 18 months old through kindergarten.

These children enjoy an afternoon of fun in the JCC's Extended Day program. Tyler Degnen, Johnny Cunha, Joshua Rosenbaum, Ellis Einhorn, Andrea Guedes, and Alex Stone.

The JCC is at 401 Elmgrove Avenue, Providence. For more information, contact Sue Connor at 401-861-8800, extension 130.

Assemble, all ye players, upon or behind the stage

There is a clarion call out for thespians — actual or only in their dreams — to join the Jewish Theatre Ensemble of the Jewish Community Center (JCC).

Imaginative, outgoing, creative are just some of the adjectives being used to characterize members of the community who "want to be involved in community theater the way community theater should be," people who "thrive on the thrill of bringing a production from the printed page to life."

Those who want some time on or behind "the boards" can discover details about the Jewish Theatre Ensemble (JTE) and its short but distinguished history (five productions in two and a half years) by visiting an Open House on Thursday, January 20 at 7:30 pm at the JCC, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence.

Not everyone in the Ensemble needs to be front and center on the stage. There also are spots back stage for those interested in technical, production, business and promotion. For more information, call the JCC or Toby Marwil at 401-421-2124.

AUDITIONS

Auditions for *Sum Yum Soup*, an original biblical paroday of the King David story and the the Jewish Theatre Ensemble's next production, will be Sunday, January 9 from 2:00 to-4:00 pm, and Monday, January 10 from d7:30-9:00 pm, in the Social Hall of the Jewish Community Center.

Thespians should come prepared to sing and dance.

The show, written by JCC member Jules Gelade, creator of the critically acclaimed musical *40 Years of Bad Road*, is scheduled to be presented during the first two weekends of May.

JCC recruits for Maccabi Games

The national Maccabi Games, set for August 13-18 in Richmond, Va., will feature competition in many sporting events, participation in a "mitzvah day" of community service in the host community, meeting teens from around the world with similar interests.

And the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island (JCC) is now forming its Rhode Island Team 2000. The Center team will participate in basketball, soccer, softball, baseball, swimming, tennis, track and field.

RI Team 2000 will travel to Richmond, VA and will stay with local Jewish host families. Once there they will be among more than 5000 teens ages 13-16 competing in the Games.

The games open with a Parade of Delegations marching into the arena to the cheers of family and friends. The music and dance of the opening ceremonies sets the tome for the competition.

For more information contact Cory Diamond at 401-861-8800.

VACATION CAMP

The Providence Circus School joined the JCC for a morning of tumbling, juggling and stilt-walking during December Vacation Camp. The JCC has vacation camp whenever school is cancelled — even on snow days. So sign up!

Brown Bag Club to hear Demarest

Liz Demarest, who recently returned from three years in Lithuania, where she served as a Peace Corps Volunteer, will make a slide presentation to the JCC's Brown Bag Lunch Club on January 25 beginning at 12:30 pm.

For a good part of her time in Lithuania, Demarest worked at the Jewish Museum in the capital, Vilnius ("Vilna"). Her principal responsibility was to edit and help write a guide to the Jewish sites in the city. As an extension of her search for evidence of the prewar Jewish community, she branched out and looked for any synagogues that are still standing in the rest of the country.

Her quest took her to about 50 towns and she has accumulated an impressive number of slides and prints of synagogues.

Fitness Center offers winter special

Now that the weather is getting colder and the snow may be coming, the JCC thinks it's time for people to take advantage of the new Winter Fitness Special, which includes unlimited access to: the brand new Cybex fitness circuit, 75' swimming pool (with adults only as well as family swim times), racquetball, weight room, most fitness and aerobics classes, a full court basketball gym.

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Join now and receive all this through the end of March for just $75 (individual memberships only). At the end of the fitness special, trial memberships can convert into a full membership — and the JCC will waive the application fee, a $50 savings.

For JCC membership and program information **call 401-861-8800.**

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Hadassah, Tibetans cooperate on medical research

JERUSALEM — Dr. Elaine Solowey presented a pink pataya fruit to Tenzin Gyasto, the 14th Dalai Lama, on his recent visit to Hadassah Medical Organization in Jerusalem, when he also received a Lifetime Achievement Award from Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America.

The Hadassah Medical Organization, home to the world's largest research facility on Tibetan medicine, has long had a special relationship with the Dalai Lama.

"We've made use of our medicines for 2,000 years, we know they work," the Dalai Lama said during the presentation, as he spoke before an audience of physicians, students and diplomats. "But our recipes are not understood in the West because they're not in the language of modern science. We're delighted that Hadassah's research is making them comprehensible to the wider world."

Solowey, a botanist and land reclamation expert, supervises the growing of rare Tibetan herbs, on Kibbutz Ketura in Israel's arid Southern tip, near Eilat. The organic herbs, including the seeds of striped, nine-foot tall neem trees, are used as ingredients in two commercial formulas produced in Switzerland — one to relieve irritable bowel syndrome and the other to improve blood circulation. Clinical trials were performed in the Natural Medicine Research Unit — the world's largest research facility on Tibetan medicine — at Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center in Ein Kerem.

As part of an earlier experiment to determine what could be grown in the arid conditions of Kibbutz Ketura, Solowey also grew the rare pataya fruit which Ketura now sells commercially. "The Dalai Lama introduced us to many new plants we could grow in the desert, and we thought we'd return the favor," said Solowey, a kibbutz founder and mother of six sons who met her husband Mike while the two waited for a night-blooming cactus to flower.

Solowey suggested that the Dalai Lama honor Kibbutz Ketura by eating the desert pataya for dessert.

Dr. Elaine Solowey, a research scientist at Kibbutz Ketura, presents the Dalai Lama with a rare desert dessert, the Tibetan pataya fruit, grown and marketed at the Hadassah-affiliated Kibbutz near Eilat.

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Is a great idea being lost for lack of promotion?

by Carl Alpert

Haifa — Ten years ago we visited the small mountain-top *moshpeh*, Tal-El, in the lower Western Galilee. The miraculous growth of that dot on the map, from 12 families in caravans into a village with a population of over 4,000 is a story in itself which must be told another time. On our present visit we called upon one of the early settlers, Dr. Yaacov Epshtein, an emigre from Russia, a scientist and an inventor.

Ten years ago he had told us of his ideas, his inventions, his patents, his projects to revolutionize the use of materials in industry, in transportation, in housing, in every aspect of contemporary civilization. Iron corrodes, steel is heavy and expensive, concrete wears away, glass cracks, wood and vegetable fibers have a relatively short life. What is the substitute?

Epshtein has invented a composite material which has all the advantages of any of the above, costs less to produce, is light in weight, does not age and can withstand great pressure.

It is ideal for pipes which carry oil, gas, water because, as experiments have proven, it does not crack, does not leak and can be inexpensively made from a composite of readily available materials. It would be ideal for large tank containers.

Epshtein sees it as the material of the future for the construction of the hulls of ships, the bodies of planes, the walls and roofs of buildings, the bodies of trucks and railway cars — indeed, there is no limit to its uses. On his desk are samples of the new material, in various shapes, light in weight and apparently impervious to any destructive influences.

What is this new material made of? Obviously Epshtein is not revealing his secret, but he lets slip that a major ingredient is ground stone, a material of which Israel certainly has a plentiful supply, with added adhesive resins. Meticulous scientist, holder of patents in the US, Britain, France, Japan and Israel, he has subjected his composite material to the most gruelling tests, with positive results.

That was the situation 10 years ago, but little has changed in the meantime. His company, ISCOM (Israel Composite Institute) operates a set of laboratories where the product is being constantly studied and improved upon, but there has been no commercial breakthrough. Epshtein may be a great inventor, but he is a poor promoter.

He shows us a skein of fibers, and then a sheet of textile made from the material, all fire resistant. In his lab he has produced scale prototypes of tanks with a capacity of 2,000 cubic meters of any liquid or gas. A piece of pipe, firm, sturdy, light in weight, will not rust and can withstand enormous pressures; it should be the ideal solution for preventing ecological catastrophes.

There is talk of late of constructing a pipe line to bring fresh water from Turkey to Israel. Epshtein sees his material as the ideal conveyer, since it can be imbedded deep in the ocean to prevent sabotage. Epshtein claims that once laid, his pipe line would bring water to Israel at a cost of only 8-10¢ per cubic meter, compared to 70¢ if brought by tanker.

If everything is so wonderful, why is this new composite material not in general use? Epshtein shrugs. Users and entrepreneurs are aware of all the advantages, he says, but they are still too conservative to abandon traditional materials, despite their drawbacks. He is prepared to license his idea for mass production, but he has been unable to reach any large investors. Despite his bubbling enthusiasm, he seems to be a poor salesman. Indeed, to date his best customer has been the Israeli military, for a classified project. They apparently know a good thing when they see it.

Despite disappointments and frustrations, Epshtein has not given up. It took him three years to wheedle the Russian authorities into letting him out of the country, and he is still filled with optimism and patience.

He may be a good inventor, but obviously he needs a good promoter. Dr. Yaacov Epshtein may be reached at Tal-El, Doar Na, Maale Hagalil 25167, Israel.

Medical Commentaries

S.S. Goldwater: America's pioneer hospital administrator

by Stanley M. Aronson, MD and Betty E. Aronson, MD

Mount Sinai Hospital (initially called Jew's Hospital) was founded on February 16, 1851 when the Hebrew Benevolent Society voted to assign $1,034.16 to begin its construction on West 28th Street in Manhattan. An unsolicited gift of $20,000 from Judah Touro* allowed the planners to design a princely institution of 45 beds. It was unique in that it boasted gas illumination and sources of running water on all four of its spacious floors. It was the city's third private hospital (preceded by New York Hospital and St. Vincent's Hospital), and from its initial years it was resolutely non-sectarian. Many of its leading physicians, including Valentine Mott and Willard Parker, were not Jews.

During the Civil War, and particularly following the tragic draft riots of 1863, the US Army comandeered the hospital for the care of its wartime casualties. A new Mt. Sinai Hospital, of 69 beds, was then constructed on East 67th Street. By 19th Century standards, it was an elegant, spacious and well-ventilated establishment and one of the first hospitals to accept women for internships.

One of the interns was a young New Yorker named Sigismund Shulz Goldwater, the son of a middle-class German-Jewish family. Sigismund (called by family and friends, SS) attended Columbia University, but then took a leave of absence to enroll in Leipzig University for further studies in philosophy. It was during his *Wanderjahr* in the Carpathians that SS decided upon a career in medicine and specifically public health medicine. Following his return to New York, he enrolled in New York University's College of Medicine and was awarded his MD degree in 1900.

A leap into administration

Shortly after beginning his graduate training at Mt. Sinai, SS approached the chairman of its Board, George Blumenthal, with an unusual request: to foreswear clinical medicine and train instead for an administrative position eventually to manage the hospital. Something about Goldwater's assertiveness and vision appealed to Blumenthal. He sent the young physician to Europe for a year of study in the continent's great hospitals. In 1902 at age 29, Goldwater returned to assume the daily management of Mt. Sinai Hospital.

This was a critical juncture in the history of the institution. Because it was rapidly outgrowing its facilities on 67th Street, funds were sought for a new hospital to be constructed further north, adjacent to Central Park at 100th Street and Fifth Avenue. Goldwater's radical vision created a boldly designed medical center which included his revolutionary idea that a private pavilion be established with funding eventually from the Guggenheim family. Until then, hospitals had operated essentially for the poor and dispossessed. The established classes had their babies delivered at home and rarely used hospitals except for major surgery. Minor surgery, by custom, was undertaken in the private physician's office.

The new Mt. Sinai also included a separate pediatric pavilion with balconies and solaria on each floor and roof gardens for ambulatory children. Goldwater had classrooms built adjacent to the wards since many of the children were hospitalized for extended intervals. In 1906 Mt. Sinai became the fourth hospital in the country to create a separate social service department. The Lewisohn family contributed funds so that a separate laboratory and research pavilion might be built where, amongst other significant discoveries, the feasibility of blood transfusions was first determined.

Goldwater's medical background ensured that the latest diagnostic and therapeutic instruments were available, including one of the first X-ray departments in the country. For that he faced a problem: no available space. Rather than wait until a new wing could be constructed, Goldwater had the X-ray unit installed in the rear of the hospital's synagogue. Yet he was not insensitive to the spiritual needs of his coreligionists. The kitchens were kosher and the hospital maintained a staff of Yiddish-English translators.

Neighborhood clinics and early MASH units

During the next decade, Goldwater established an exemplary outpatient service, with 200,000 visits per year, the largest in the city. He also created satellite clinics in poorer neighborhoods within the catchment region of the hospital. As the fame and reputation of the hospital grew, the US Army asked the Mt. Sinai to recruit and manage an army hospital (which, during World War I, served with distinction in Bordeaux, France, and in World War II, in Africa, Italy and France.)

Goldwater's genius for innovative uses of clinics and his skills as a hospital administrator culminated in his appointment in 1914 as New York's Commissioner of Health. As commissioner, he established the city's program in compulsory vaccination for all children and a Bureau of Industrial Hygiene.

During the next two decades, Goldwater's aptitudes in planning hospitals flourished. He designed both the buildings and the rables of administrative organization for over 250 hospitals in the United States and abroad, including the American Hospital in Paris, St. Paul's Hospital in Manila, Leningrad's University Hospital and Tokyo's St. Luke's Hospital.

While working as consultant to innumerable cities, Goldwater maintained his attachment to Mt. Sinai Hospital. In the 1930s, for example, he was instrumental in having the hospital recruit (and retrain when necessary) 182 physicians, all refugees from Nazi Germany.

LaGuardia turns to Goldwater

Mayor LaGuardia of New York, confronted with an aging and corrupt municipal hospital system, appointed Goldwater to reorganize and rebuild it. These hospitals, including such venerable institutions as Kings County and Bellevue Hospitals, were rebuilt, restaffed, and many converted to teaching institutions affiliated with medical schools. And when the city completed a new municipal hospital for chronic disease on Welfare Island, it was only natural that it be called Goldwater Hospital.

Goldwater's final position was as president of a newly established health insurance organization called Blue Cross. He died in 1950.

Goldwater provided inspired guidance to a generation of hospital architects and administrators. He helped to convert the drab city hospitals, cruel warehouses for the poor, into humane institutions, places for rehabilitation, education and hope.

***Editor's Note:** Judah Touro was a son of the first spiritual leader of the synagogue in Newport, which in later years bore the family name because the street running in front of the shul was named for Judah and his brother, each of whom made bequests to the City of Newport, one to keep the street paved and another to help pay a rabbi. Judah Touro left the northeast in the early 1800s and established trading businesses in New Orleans, where he also funded a nonsectarian hospital that bears his name.

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Poplow's images at Gallery 401

by Yehuda Lev

The saga of the business executive who chucks it all to pursue his artistic interests was a staple of storytellers even before Paul Gauguin fled from France to the enchanted islands of the Pacific to paint dusky maidens on Tahiti's beaches.

So when Lev Poplow decided to follow the same route, metaphorically speaking, he wasn't exactly setting a precedent, although it might be claimed that he is one of the few businessmen turned artists to find his Pacific paradise along the banks of the Providence River.

To backtrack for a moment: Poplow, despite his name, is not an immigrant from the former Soviet Union. He was born and raised in Philadelphia. He studied at Syracuse University, left before graduating in order to support himself, and moved to Providence, found work here in the corporate world for 12 years and then. . .

But let him describe what happened, according to the biography he has prepared for exhibitions.

"Feeling disconnected, unfulfilled and dehumanized, I left that world in March, 1996 to discover and pursue my passions. This path has been scary and enlightening, painful and joyous. Now I am committed to living life to the fullest. As I became more in tune with my heart I discovered strong inner desires to creatively express myself and work with children.

"Today I am an artist, teacher and painter. All of these things allow me to work with my heart, hands and head. My primary medium is black and white photography. I also experiment with sculpture, ceramics, painting with water colors and, occasionally, I blow glass."

Patricia Schroeder, who chairs the Jewish Community Center's art committee, invited Poplow to exhibit some of his black and white photographs in Gallery 401. These were shot during a six-week visit to Israel last summer and, when we reached him via telephone, he was busy selecting 30 to 40 for the show.

"I try to break stereotypes with my photographs," he told us. "For example, I have a picture of two Ethiopian girls. There is a stereotype of Ethiopian Jews which labels them all as being black. But in this picture one is black while the other is very light in color. Yet they are both Jews from Ethiopia. I like to give people what they don't expect, to challenge their preconceived notions."

Poplow has also made his mark in the Rhode Island Jewish community. He teaches 5th and 6th graders at Temple Beth-El and was a recipient of its Max Millman Award for Excellence in Teaching. He also teaches at Temple Sinai, the Alperin Schechter Day School, and in the Gesher program of the Bureau of Jewish Education. He is a leader of the film series in the Adult Institute at Temple Emanu-El.

Lev Poplow's show, "Perspective: Images of Israel" includes photographs of Israelis as well as of structures, and stresses what he calls, "the diversity of imagery." They will be on exhibit in the JCC's art gallery, 401 Elmgrove Avenue, Providence, until January 31.

6 evenings of film at Emanu-El

Last year The Temple Emanu-El Institute of Adult Studies' Jewish film series included some "classics." This year, the series will continue to present cinematic gems that portray issues of identity and assimilation. Some of these will be more recent films while others will be from earlier decades.

All the films will be viewed in their entirety followed by a discussion led by local "expert" film critics: Michael Fink, Lev Poplow and Toby Rossner. The film and discussion will extend from 7:30 -10:00 pm on the following Tuesday nights:

- January 25: Michael Fink - "Street Scene" (1931) — Based on Elmer Rice's prize-winning play "A Street Scene," this film explores Jewish immigrant life early in this century.
- February 1: Toby Rossner — Two short films based on stories by Bernard Malamud.

"The First Seven Years," a modern adaptation of the biblical story of Laban, Jacob, Leah and Rachel.

"The Silver Crown" an exploration of a son's true feelings for his dying father when he is offered a silver crown, whose purchase will bring his father back to good health.

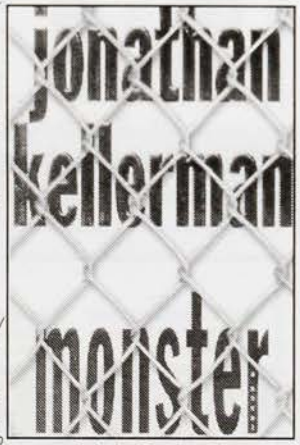
- February 8: Lev Poplow — "Over the Ocean" a dramatic comedy which explores the meaning of "home" for a Jew. An Israeli family struggles with the question of where they belong — in the land they feel connected to (Israel) or in a land of opportunity (Canada).
- February 15: Toby Rossner — "Running on Empty" stars Judd Hirsch and Christine Lahti, parents who are still on the run from the FBI 17 years after blowing up a building and blinding a janitor.
- February 22: Lev Poplow — "Rose White." Set in New York in the late 1940s, this provocative drama explores Rose White's Jewish identity crisis. Rose's contented existence as a successful, assimilated businesswoman is shattered when her sister, a Holocaust survivor, come to live with her.
- February 29: Michael Fink — "The Accident." This is an actual Providence memoire documentary of a Lovett Family tragedy, which examines the family's legacy. It is sure to evoke and provoke serious discussion.

The film series is open to the community. There is a $12 registration fee as part of the Adult Institute. Registration is on Tuesday, January 25th at 6:30-7:30 pm.

Something's frighteningly new at the Brown Bookstore

MONSTER
by Jonathan Kellerman

Dr. Alex Delaware is back! And in Jonathan Kellerman's riveting new novel, *Monster*, he faces one of the most grisly and baffling mysteries of his career: How can a nonfunctional psychotic locked up in a supposedly secure institution for homicidal madmen predict brutal murders in the outside world? "Kellerman doesn't just write psychological thrillers, he owns the genre." *Detroit Free Press*



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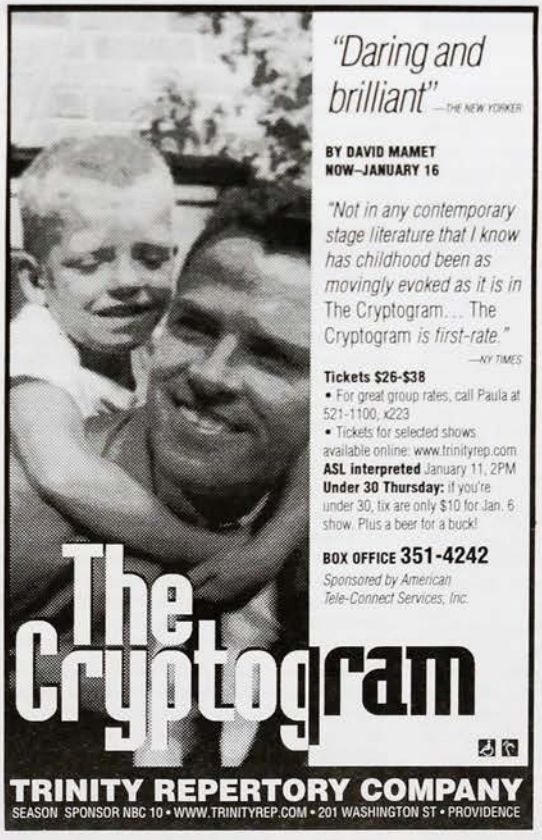

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Cranston snow days will apply to mealsite, home deliveries

Seniors who attend the Jewish Family Service (JFS) Kosher Mealsite in Cranston or receive Kosher Meals on Wheels in the Cranston/Warwick area should stay tuned to radio and television stations that list school closings as the programs will be closed whenever the Cranston schools declare a snow day.

Recipients of the JFS Kosher Meals on Wheels will receive shelf-stable meals to keep on hand in case severe weather makes deliveries impossible. These are individually packaged, nutritionally-balanced kosher meals that do not require refrigeration or cooking.

Who are recipients of Kosher Meals on Wheels? They are people older than age 60, who maintain a kosher home and are homebound. Occasionally, someone who regularly attends the JFS Kosher Mealsite in Cranston may have a temporary health problem and would be added to the program. When service is requested, a case manager from JFS visits the home to do an assessment, identify other needs and provide any necessary referrals. Then, deliveries may begin. The case manager revisits periodically to make sure needs are being met.

On holidays, meals include traditional foods that are appropriate; a message about the history of the holiday is tucked in. "Our staff and volunteers are their safety net, sometimes their only contact with the outside world," says Erin Gisherman Minior, JFS Director of Professional Services.

The JFS Kosher Mealsite in Cranston has added Mah Jong to its regular activities, which include Tai Chi, Dance Therapy and classes in exercise or writing. Bingo and visits from the Bureau of Jewish Education Bookmobile. The activities and programs accompany a noontime hot kosher meal every weekday. Programs begin at 11:00 am unless otherwise stated. Every Friday, there is a special Shabbat meal, complete with candles, challah and kiddush.

The JFS Kosher Mealsite in Cranston is at Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Avenue. Transportation is available every day for residents of Cranston and areas of Warwick. For reservations and information, call Mealsite Coordinator Ronda French at 401-781-1771.

Feeling sandwiched? There's help

How do you balance a job, caring for children and other responsibilities with the needs of an aging parent? What can you do about the sheer physical exhaustion, the overwhelming emotions as you become the caregiver for someone who used to be the most powerful person in your universe? How do you handle the guilt when you cannot do everything that you think you should do? These issues and more will be explored during "Caring for Your Elderly Parents," a Family Life Education workshop at Jewish Family Service (JFS).

The four sessions will meet on consecutive Tuesdays, from 5:30- 7:00 pm beginning February 1 at the JFS office, 229 Waterman Street in Providence.

Participants will gain information, and may share feelings and learn coping strategies with others in similar situations. JFS Clinical Social Worker Daniel Kane, who has extensive experience working with the elderly and their families, will lead the sessions.

The first evening will introduce a basic understanding of "The Aging Process" and will cover medical and cognitive issues. Information will provided on resources that are available. The second session, "Issues of the Aged Population," will explore the feelings of loss, depression and anxiety that often accompany the aging process. "Acknowledging Your Own Needs," will address caregivers' feelings of hyper-responsibility and stress. The final session, "Caring for Yourself While Caring for Others," will discus dealing with guilt, strained family relations and anger.

Pre-registration is required by January 12; the workshop fee is $20. Call 401-331-1244 to register or for more information.

Adoption Options to meet Feb. 2

The next information meeting of Adoption Options, the adoption program of Jewish Family Service, will be Wednesday, February 2. The meetings take place on the first Wednesday of every month from 6:00 to 7:30 pm at the offices of Jewish Family Service, second floor of the United Way building at 229 Waterman Street in Providence. The meetings are free and open to anyone interested in pursuing an adoption. For details call 401-331-5437 or toll-free at 1-800-337-6513. The website is www.adoptionoptions.org.

That's Life!

Obsessions, compulsions treatable afflictions

by Pataricia Harwood
JFS Clinical Social Worker

Martha is not sure that she locked the door. Her husband and kids are waiting, not very patiently, in the car as she checks yet again for the 10th time. Sarah keeps falling asleep at work because she keeps waking up in the night to check that the stove is turned off. Bruce keeps wiping every surface in his office with an alcohol wipe. Martha, Sarah and Bruce may suffer from Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder.

Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD) is an anxiety disorder characterized by recurrent obsessions or compulsions which cause marked distress, consume more than one hour per day, or interfere significantly with an individual's functioning, normal routine or relationships. Obsessions are recurrent and persistent thoughts or images which seem inappropriate or senseless, such as the fear of contamination from doorknobs or public places, or the concern that one's home is not locked. In response to these obsessions, individuals with OCD develop repetitive compulsive behaviors.

Common compulsions include repeated hand washing, often to the point of skin breakdown, and checking and rechecking that doors are locked or that the stove is turned off. Although these behaviors may not be physically harmful or destructive, the amount of time spent on them can be so great that normal daily functioning, such as work and sleep, can be affected negatively.

Various theories have proposed that genetic, behavioral, developmental and biochemical factors are correlated with OCD, although a specific cause has not been identified conclusively. OCD usually begins in adolescence or early adulthood, however it may begin in childhood. Symptoms in children are usually recognized by parents, rather than the children themselves. It has been estimated that 2.5% of Americans meet criteria for OCD during their lifetimes. This disorder is equally common in men and women.

Several types of treatment, including behavioral therapy, support groups and medication, often in combination with each other, produce positive effects of symptom reduction in individuals with OCD. Family members often become frustrated by the repetitive and senseless behaviors and by the constant need for reassurance. Family therapy can help loved ones to provide encouragement and praise for appropriate behaviors and to avoid giving excessive reassurance about the obsessions or fears. Support groups benefit people with OCD and their families through sharing common concerns and frustrations and facilitating emotional support among the members.

It is important to seek the help of a mental health professional or physician if you or a loved one have symptoms of OCD or other mental health conditions. An accurate diagnosis is needed to determine an appropriate treatment method.

For more information on Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder or other mental health issues, please contact Jewish Family Service at 401-331-1244.

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*A beneficiary agency of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island Annual Campaign and Endowment Fund.

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As we grow older

Eat we must, one meal at a time

by Tema Gouse

Any older woman who has been cooking for 30, 40 or 50 years is probably tired of it. Kitchen improvements (microwave ovens, food processors, garlic presses, etc.) are supposed to ease the burden and enhance the variety. No way! These new gadgets merely increase the variety and the expectations of your family at the dinner table. Daily menu planning, grocery shopping, and food preparation, from which the family chef never retires, can become a bore. And the researchers at GE, Amana and Westinghouse have not invented a back reliever for the matriarch at work in the kitchen.

But even senior citizens must eat. And short of eating 21 meals a week in a restaurant or entering assisted living facilities, meals must be provided at home. Some of the resistance to the chore that comes with aging arises out of restrictions of menu that are dictated by health problems of the elderly. Frozen or prepared foods that are now available in our markets are not always options for older people because of salt, sugar or fat content. In home preparation many taste-enhancing products are also banned for a large percentage of the senior generation.

Let's look at solutions, one meal at a time.

Breakfast. Don't skip it. The body needs replenishment from its 14-16 hour fast. Most older people tolerate orange juice. But not everyone. Geezers with significant gastric or urinary tract disorders cannot tolerate the acid, so should skip it. Vitamin C is available in many other foods and in cheap little pills from the drugstore. If you like cereal for breakfast, you (and your meal provider) are home free. Pig out on your favorite brand. Some cereals are downright therapeutic. (Seniors will know what I mean).

But if, like me, you stopped eating cereal at age 2, you have a quandary. Not a problem, but a quandary.

Fried eggs are a no-no for most old-timers. If you like EggBeaters, you have no problem. And if you don't, doctor it with onions or peppers or mushrooms. (Again — reflux sufferers, exercise caution). Heated rolls and bagels with low-fat cream cheese or sugar-free jam are almost as good as buttered bread. Well, almost. If coffee lovers do not experience withdrawal symptoms, herbal tea or decaf coffee can round out your meal

Lunch. Don't skip it or you'll end up clamoring for snacks and other unsatisfying calories in the middle of the afternoon. Healthy blood sugar levels are hard to maintain from breakfast to dinner without solid food. Those snacks are loaded with calories.

The current poster girl for lunch is SALAD. It guarantees to fill you. If it also satisfies you it means that the cook added goodies to give it flavor and texture — which will simultaneously do away with all the good health qualities. Caesar salad is delicious but loaded with calories, fat, and salt. Tasty dressings, croutons, peppers, cheese, hard-cooked eggs are on many forbidden food lists. Iceberg lettuce with cukes, tomatoes, and radishes and a Balsamic vinegar coating has no fat or salt and is low calorie, but it is also almost tasteless and might send you to a 350 calorie bagel for taste satisfaction.

So? Instead? Soup, preferably homemade, can be fat free, low salt. Season it with fresh herbs, load it with fresh vegetables, and some chicken and end the meal feeling comforted. And what about a sandwich? Use thin sliced good quality bread, preferably whole grain. Skip the mayo and coat with mustard or your favorite fat free dressing. Fill with lean meat or fish or low fat cheese (if you can find one that tastes like cheese). Sliced tomato or lettuce adds moisture and flavor. OK, so it is not the Club Sandwiches or hamburgers of yore, but then we are not the same either.

Dinner. Biggest challenge — but with the best choices. Summer dinners are a snap. And even taste good. Grill your meat or fish. Occasional indulgence in grilled steak is even allowable as the fat melts down in the grilling process. Glut yourself on wonderful fresh fruits and vegetables whose fresh flavor eliminates the need of added sugar or salt.

Winter is more of a challenge. Broil or bake your fish and if not overdone, it will stay moist. Use only fresh fish. There is an endless list of wonderful recipes for skinned breast of chicken. Do not serve too often. Most of my health-observant peers are complaining that they are beginning to cackle. Get creative with pasta. Adapt recipes to satisfy your appetite and your physician.

I am incapable of objectivity in recommending desserts, so I will not do so. Right now I am going to make some brownies. For the grandchildren, of course.

Bon appetit! Well — it's not so bon — but we have to eat.

Kosher-friendly facilities open in Rhode Island

Two assisted living facilities, which make a special effort to accommodate Jewish residents with a kosher-friendly kitchen, have opened in Rhode Island. They also celebrate Jewish holidays.

Spokeswoman Nadine Krasnow said that Aqidneck Place on Quaker Lane in Portsmouth and Harbor Hill Place on Division Street in East Greenwich both make it easy for Jews to eat in a kosher style although the kitchens will not be kashered or supervised.

The facilities are among seven owned and managed by Newton Senior Living LLC. They combine independent and assisted living in their facilities, as well as operating special units to accommodate early Alzheimer residents.

At Harbor Hill Place, a renovated facility due to open this month, units range from studios to two bedrooms, some with fireplaces and or balconies.

Although the apartments have kitchenettes, the rental fees include three meals a day, housekeeping and change of bed linens, access to transportation, activities, beauty salons and care givers on the premises 24 hours a day.

"As our residents need assistance, they are charged only for the services they require," Krasnow said.

Bookmobile at Seniors' mealsites

Barbara Dwares of the Bureau of Jewish Education's Bookmobile helps Mira Dinabruskaya choose a new book on one of her regular visits to the seniors' kosher lunch programs at the Jewish Community Center or the Jewish Family Service mealsites. Activities include exercise, lectures, discussions, line dancing and singing, holiday celebrations and every week a Shabbat luncheon.

The the JCC mealsite is at 401 Elmgrove Ave., 401-861-8800. The JFS mealsite is at Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston; 401-785-0182.

Gift of Israel

A Gift for Generations

Bureau of
Jewish Education
of Rhode Island

Formal research and personal testimony demonstrate convincingly that a summer visit to Israel profoundly influences how young people relate to Israel and their Jewish Identity. In recognition of the potential positive impact of the Israel experience can have, our community is working to sharply increase the number of young Jews who visit Israel on study/travel programs.

The **Gift of Israel** *Program is a partnership among families, synagogues, the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island and the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island. The JFRI's generosity has enabled this program to begin, and to continue. For information on* **Gift of Israel**, *call Ruth Page, Israel Desk Director at the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island, 331-0956.*

Gift of Israel *registration for the current academic year continues until March 1st, 2000 - so enroll now!*

MAZAL TOV' to these students and their families for participating in our community's **Gift of Israel** *Program.*

Gift of Israel Participants

Active members as of 6/30/99
Erie Abbott
Aaron Abrams
Jeffrey Adler
Jonathan Adler
Rachel Adler
Stephanie Adler
Emily Ammerman
Rachel Ammerman
Noah Bassel
Craig Bazarsky
Jason Bazarsky
Zachary Bazarsky
Jacob Benesch
Adam Beraha
Benjamin Beraha
Hannah Bergman
Rachel Bergman
Edward Bernstein
Jeffrey Bernstein
Abigail Berren
Emily Boksenbaum
Martha Stokes Boksenbaum
David Braverman
Eve Broffman
Samuel Bromberg
Joel Buff
Adam Cable
Anna Cable
Seth Clark
Daniel Combs
Rochelle Cotton
Madison Cunha
Maximillian Cunha
Spencer Davis
Avraham Diamond
Elisheva Diamond
Miriam Diamond
Jacob Dwares
Max Dwares
Maxwell Edmonds
Emily Estes
Michael Feinstein
Jacob Felder
Sophie Felder
Zachary Fichman-Klein
Gabriel Fine
Ezra Flam
Gabriel Flam
Ryan Forman
David Foster
Berkman Frank
Adam Freedman
Ben Freedman
Joshua Freedman
Nathan Freedman
Samantha Freedman
Allison Friedman
Lauren Friedman
Deborah Furman
Rachel Furman
Ruth Furman
Jonah Gabry
Raya Gabry
Alexander Gaines
Benjamin Gaines
Melissa Ginsberg
Sarah Ginsberg
Alex Glashow
Ethan Gnepp
Emily Gold
Rebecca H. Gold
Jesse Goldberg
Rebekah Goldberg
Zachary Goldberg
David Goldgaber
Max Goldin
J. Jason Goldman
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Benjamin Halper
Sam Halper
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Eitan Hersh
Shayna Hersh
Michael Hindle
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Sloane Krauss
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Laura Landau
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Melyssa Leibowitz
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Zachary Lichaa
Chloe Licht
David Lieberman
Rachel Lieberman
Olivia Linder
Sydney Linder
Rachel Litwin
Jeremy Louise
Jessica Louise
Jeffrey Lurie
Danya Martin
Samara Martin
Noah Marwil
Nicole Mason
Rebecca Mer
Arielle Miles
Jessica Miles
Samuel Miles
David Miller
Michaela Miller
Shoshana Miller
Abigail Mintz
Michael Mintz
Orli Mintz
Gabriel Mitchell
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Lindsay Schneider
Micah Schwartz
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Michelle Smoller
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Abigail Stouber
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Jill Teverow
Ari Vieira
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Arielle Wachtenheim
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Marlene Wacks
Adam Wallick
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Joshua Wang
Rachael Wang
Jessica Weaver
Aaron Weininger
Leah Weissburg
Nathan Weissburg
Jennifer Wells
Lauren Wells
Dena White
Hannah White
Aaron Wolff
Jeremy Wolff
Reuven Yavner
Yisroel Yavner

Students who have used Gift of Israel *Funds*

Joshua Beraha
Benjamin Clark
Michael Furman
Judah Jacobson
Ezra Lipp
Yisroel Meir Raskin
Alexander Schoenfeld
Leah Johnson Serinsky
Stephanie Steingold
Sara Steiman
Joshua Swift
Leah Wallick

Participating Synagogues

Congregation Agudas Achim
Congregation Beth Sholom
Congregation B'nai Israel
Congregation Mishkon Tfiloh
Congregation Ohawe Shalom
Temple Am David
Temple Beth El
Temple Emanu-El
Temple Habonim
Temple Sinai
Temple Torat Yisrael
Touro Synagogue

Gift of Israel

Sparks! KidPage

"And they said to Moses, 'Was it for want of graves in Egypt that you brought us to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, taking us out of Egypt...didn't we tell you, Let us be, and we will serve the Egyptians...'" (Exodus 14:11, 12)

Thinkin' Like a Muggle?

Talk 'bout thinking like Muggles...here is a perfect example. Muggles turn their backs on the enchanted world that exists all around them, just like the Children of Israel repeatedly refused to believe in the glory of God's saving power. Imagine, even after witnessing the miracles of the ten plagues, the people quickly fell back into their old way of thinking once the Egyptians trapped them at the sea.

Can you find other examples in the Torah where the Children of Israel acted like Muggles?

Striking Similarities

As far-fetched as it may seem, Harry Potter has a lot in common with Moses! Can you find the correct examples out of this whacky list?

1. Both Harry Potter and Moses are orphans.
2. Harry Potter has a scar in the shape of a lightning bolt on his forehead (from Voldemort) and Moses has one on his hand (from carrying the 10 commandments).
3. Harry Potter and Moses grew up not knowing about their true backgrounds.
4. Harry's name spelled backwards (yrrah) means "awe" in Hebrew, which is what Moses felt for God.
5. Moses' name spelled backwards (sesom) is the magic word that Harry uses to open the Chamber of Secrets.
6. Initially, Harry Potter and Moses both doubt their abilities.
7. Harry and Moses both have invisibility cloaks. Harry uses his to sneak around Hogwarts and Moses uses his to prove to Pharaoh that God sent him.

Star Power

Harry Potter boards the train to Hogwarts School for Wizardry from platform 9¾? It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that this station stop should be located somewhere between platforms 9 and 10...right? WRONG! If you've read the books you know that only a solid barrier is visible between those two platforms. Harry learns that if he's going to escape his tormentors, the wicked Dursleys, he'll have to summon up all his courage and simply walk through the wall. If he thinks like a Muggle, he'll get nowhere because everyone knows that humans can't walk through walls! It's not easy for Harry Potter, but he chooses to have faith in his true heritage, and he passes through the barrier. Lucky for us, because otherwise, we wouldn't find out about Bertie Bott's Every Flavor Beans (a type of candy that comes in every flavor imaginable — including ear wax!?) or the Mirror of Erised (which shows whoever is looking into it their heart's fondest desire). Thanks Harry for teaching us not to think like Muggles!

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Why do wizards never gossip in fields?
'Cause corn has ears, potatoes have eyes, and beanstalk.

Why didn't the young wizard want to work in the fabric factory?
'Cause she was too young to dye.

How does a wizard jump off a fifty foot latter in complete safety?
He jumps off the bottom rung.

Mirror Mirror on the Wall

Of all the magic in the first Harry Potter book, one of the neatest things is the Mirror of Erised. This magical mirror shows whoever is looking into it their heart's greatest desire. Harry, an orphan, saw his family. What do you think you would see? Wonderful things are possible when we set our sights high and yearn for something meaningful. Luckily, Jewish history is filled with people who have done just that.

Hannah Senesh is an inspiring example. She was a young Jewish woman whose heart burned with a passion to help her people. During World War II, at the age of twenty-three, she volunteered for a dangerous mission to parachute into Nazi occupied Yugoslavia in order to help organize Jewish resistance. Tragically, she was caught and arrested, but her spirit of holy determination was forever recorded in her famous poem that begins with these words: "*Blessed is the match that is consumed in kindling a flame.*" What do you think Hannah Senesh would see if she stood in front of the Mirror of Erised?

Did You Know That

Professor Sprout, who teaches Herbology at Hogwarts, introduces Harry Potter's class to the **Mandrake** plant. In the book, the Mandrake is a powerful restorative that is used to restore anyone who has been transfigured or cursed. In Hebrew the plant is called "*dooda'im.*" Mandrakes grow abundantly all throughout Israel, and they produce a yellow fruit that has an **intoxicating** odor. In the book, Song of Songs, Mandrakes are used to describe the beauty of springtime in Israel.