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Jewish Federation of Rhode Island

July 18, 2003

Economy, reduced campaigns hurt Jewish institutions

By Jonathan Rubin

With a difficult economy affecting its main source, local Jewish agencies, already hurt by cuts from the United Way, are leaving the number six. While the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island is expecting to raise \$4.2 million by the close of the campaign this year, this is down approximately 15 percent to \$500,000 less than last year.

"We have it was going to be a tight campaign," said Jeffrey Britz, executive of the FRI and chair of education in 2002. "The situation in the local annual campaign was in line with many other 'large international' Jewish communities. Minnesota, 17 percent; Colorado, 14 percent; and Phoenix, 12 percent."

"I think that this year it was more difficult fundraising

at the higher levels because of the economy," said Joshua Kessler, director of development at the Federation. "Like, a lot of people gave generously more local Emergency Campaigns," he said, who thought to an additional \$2.4 million in just two months last May and June.

A reduced campaign means much less to go around for "core agencies," including the Hillel at the University of Rhode Island and B'nai B'rith, and others. The same for the B'nai B'rith of Jewish Education, The Jewish Community Center, and Jewish Family Service, each of which will receive between \$5,000 and \$10,000 less than last year.

It was recommended at an executive committee meeting that the Federation should cut the least of the campaign shortfall to itself, and at a month the

FRI has cut its own budget by a total of \$75,000 and reduced its administrative staff by one.

Struggling to keep up

More off of the major agencies is the Bureau of Jewish Education, which receives close to 70 percent of its budget from the FRI's annual campaign. The Bureau will receive \$454,000, approximately \$12,000 less than last year.

During this year too, along with increased income from endowment funds and grants and investments the cost of raising and holding income, the FRI has had to reduce the hours of five of its paid staff employees, change the focus of its Executive House and cut some programs including the bookends program for the young adults in the Jewish center in Southfield in Rhode Island (see page 2).

Also, they are seeing a "drop" in terms of computer donations, and estimate that both these computer and book ends will not be able to last more than three years.

Minna Elman, executive

See CHAIRMAN, page 10

Jewish neighborhoods, facilities climb to top of 'Partnership' agenda

By Jonathan Rubin

The committee is usually a time when the Jewish community discusses financial matters, but this year the event calendar got changed and everyone heads to the beach.

But not this year.

Under the collaboration with the strategic planning initiative known as "The Partnership," more than 100 community volunteers are providing an overview of the community to make big things happen in the local Jewish community.

Although there is a holiday for a week to address this, addressing Jewish

neighborhoods to increasing collaboration between existing organizations to improve the development and distribution of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, "you can't address everything at the same time," said Peter Shuman, chairman of the steering committee. "Other things might be equally as important, but you can't do it all at once."

High up on the list is the state of Jewish facilities in Rhode Island. The Partnership also focuses on the state of Jewish facilities in Rhode Island. The Partnership also focuses on the state of Jewish facilities in Rhode Island.

See PARTNERSHIP, page 10

What's a Partnership, anyway?

The Partnership is the organization that emerged from Phase 1 of the Strategic Planning Process undertaken by the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island from 1998 to 2002. It is composed of more than 100 volunteers, staffed by members of many Jewish agencies. It's goal is to build a stronger Jewish community through the actions of five main "pillars," which are dedicated to increasing partnerships between organizations, strengthening programs Jewish neighborhoods through Greater Rhode Island, improving facilities, maintaining and improving financial development and distribution.



U.S. to fund Palestinian Authority

By Matthew F. Berger

THE U.S. House of Representatives is set to vote on the Palestinian Authority, which is getting the thumbs-up from a House committee of pro-Israel activists and lawmakers. The vote is expected to be a landslide, with a vote of 300-100 in the House of Representatives.

The administration has approved a \$100 million package to the Palestinian Authority, which is set to be a landmark vote for the House of Representatives.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has been given the go-ahead by the House of Representatives to fund the Palestinian Authority, which is set to be a landmark vote for the House of Representatives.

It also is an attempt to shore up the new P.A. prime minister, Mahmoud Abbas.

And to Palestinian in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the administration has been asked to provide the U.S. Agency for International Development and the U.S. State and Peace Agency.

In making the Israeli move, the White House has received support from Israel, a statement the Israeli government and a wide number of pro-Israel lawmakers.

I had some strong support of Israel but opposed direct aid to the Palestinian Authority, saying it was important to ensure that the money would be provided to various organizations.

Recently, the American

Israel Public Affairs Committee has said it would support the legislation if the Palestinian Authority demonstrated serious progress.

How support of the decision reflects on the U.S. Agency for International Development, as the staff is a result of events on the ground and confidence in the Israeli administration's support in the region.

There is a clear understanding in the community that Palestinian prosperity is essential to Israeli security," said Robert Dineen, AIPAC's spokesman. "The only concern is that the money is not used to benefit Israel."

Supporters are aware of the danger to Israel and the

QUESTIONS: BARON, at Providence, carries a newly completed Torah scroll towards its final destination at the New England Jewish National College, at a celebration on June 12. See page 10.

Photo by Jonathan Rubin

See PARTNERSHIP, page 10

Elderly bound 'bookmobile' grinds to a halt

By Jonathan Rubin

Half a century after having prominently carried the torch of the mobile reading room known as the Bureau of Jewish Education's *Bookmobile*, which brought books and audio and video tapes to some 500 Jewish homes a year in more than a dozen scattered living facilities around Rhode Island.

"This is very odd," said Ruth Page, the 801 employee who reported last year to the Jewish Education of Rhode Island upon years ago after the Jewish Home for the Aged closed. Dozens of boxes of books were like a wall in the Home's basement, but not in Page's — large print materials, books on Jewish history, travel books, books in Russian and Polish, religious texts and drying, aging and more.

The "bookmobile" consisted of a vast collection of literature that was brought to numerous residences by mail or by delivery to local Jewish centers.

"It was a bridge-building program," said Page, who remembered that before books were sent and now are welcome to read one book inside could be signed out and the next visit, the program was ready to carry the books to the Jewish community and the Home.

She said that the program "bookmobile" was brought



RUTH PAGE, of the Bureau of Jewish Education, reads books from a bookmobile delivered to scattered living facilities by the bookmobile.

the books got a chance to interact with visitors and get to know them and their reading habits.

"If a person had bigger plans, we might go out and get more books than we can give away."

The JBE collected the books

over the years from donations from programs, members of the community and some from the Jewish Home as its closing. As its peak the bookmobile visited 80 sites per week, but as funding sagged they reduced to 11 once after each, and then once per month. When times became

rough they put a freeze on purchasing new books, and as they faded out by community donors from as much as one donation.

Two years ago the Jewish Senior Agency began funding the program. Page said, but they too ceased in the wake of the major collapse. After 50 years of national Jewish Family they are struggling.

There are a few options to allow the bookmobile to continue up. One possibility is that they will be placed at the Home where it is located. Another possibility is that some group might voluntarily bring books to residents in small doses, or simply distribute them at some other facility. The Jewish Home for the Aged had agreed to hold onto the books until a decision is reached, Page said.

Jan Harrison, of Cranston, said that her mother looked forward to the bookmobile's visit. A resident at East Bay Manor for two years before her death in 2000, her mother "couldn't leave my wall, but she was a big reader." Harrison said the bookmobile was so well-received because old readers can place through a library or an online bookmobile in no time at all.

Alperin-Schechter wins leadership grant

The Alperin-Schechter Day School in Providence has received one of six national grants from the Community for Excellence in Jewish Education, a collaboration of major global design partners committed to strengthening Jewish day school education in North America.

This pilot program, launched in collaboration with the Institute for Jewish Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, will pro-

vide grants of up to \$60,000 to schools to enhance by leadership, including leader training, strategic planning and recruitment of new board members. The school must match 25 percent of the grant from PJDC.

Other schools on the list of grants are in Atlanta, Ga.; Miami Beach, Fla.; New London, Conn.; New York, N.Y.; and Long Beach, Calif.

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Hebrew Day holds eighth grade graduation

The Providence Hebrew Day School held its eighth grade graduation ceremony on June 18. Hebrew Day graduates, from left to right: Nadine Ben-David, Nancy Ben-David, Rachel Ben-David, David Cohen, David Ben-David, Ephraim Ben-David, Daniel Ben-David, David Ben-David, and David Ben-David.



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Community

Bolusky honored by Hadassah

Russell D. Bolusky was presented a National Hadassah Leadership Award for the annual convocation of the Rhode Island Chapter of Hadassah. This annual honors Hadassah members whose leadership and commitment have "made a difference" to Hadassah's mission and to the community at large.

Russell has been a member of Hadassah for 37 years. Following in the footsteps of his mother, an active member of the Fall River Chapter, the retired Hadassah member serves in an advisory role as a volunteer of the Fall River Chapter when she can fit.

The Bolusky family moved to Pawtucket in 1962. Russ immediately became active in the Pawtucket Chapter and within a few years was elected president. Not long after she moved to Weymouth of the New England Region. When the local Hadassah chapter consolidated, she was once again elected president of the Rhode Island Chapter. In 2000-2001, as Rhode Island Chapter vice president, she presided over the annual meeting and "opened" the meeting with an "opened" member. She was so impressed that she recruited more new members to her own Hadassah chapter with United Hatzers.



Big pointers

— ANNEKE COFF, right, gives some shopping tips to Jessica Blum, of Providence, at the Jewish Leadership Institute held at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island.

Photo by Jonathan Katz

The Rhode Island chapter currently has 1,500 members.

In the second session, Executive Director, Rhonda Lurie, Hadassah President, remarked,

"We're love of Hadassah and her commitment to Hadassah's mission gives us all a sense of pride. It's a truly inspiring of the Hadassah Leadership Board."

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Torah dedication celebration



U.S. Master Rabbi Samuel Sherman, left, and Rabbi Isaac Glick, right, stand beside Henry H. Sherman, who donated a Torah scroll to the Free England Rabbinical College in memory of his late wife, who died Jan. 16 at the age of 81. It was the second Torah that Sherman, 84 years old and a baron of the nobility, has donated to this college. The first one was given in 1980 in memory of family members who perished at the hands of the Nazis. The ceremony began at the Republican Library in Washington where the last verses of the scroll were finished by a wife (widow), and the Torah was carried through the streets of Providence towards the Rabbinical College.



SAMUEL SHERMAN, left, and the Hon. Sherman in front of the Free England Rabbinical College in Providence. Photo by Henry Glick.



JOSEPH SHERMAN, SAMUEL SHERMAN, of Providence, completes the last few verses of the Torah scroll. Photo by Henry Glick.



Students at the Free England Rabbinical College and members of the community helped carry the Torah down King's Avenue in Providence. Photo by Henry Glick.

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Corrections

There are 250 members in the Chatham Jewish Guild, not 500 as reported in the June 1 column of the Jewish Voice & Herald. Also, the name of Dorothy Berk, executive secretary, was inadvertently omitted from the list of officers of the Chatham Jewish Guild.

In the June 11 edition of The Jewish Voice & Herald, Temple Israel was inadvertently left off the list of participating synagogues for the Jewish Community's "Jewish Rhode Island" takes a Day Out of Hunger event.



Hillary handshake on the Hill

Michelle Fee, director of Community Relations of the Jewish Federation of RI, with Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton at United Jewish Communities' Washington, DC Leadership Summit. During the Summit, UJC and Jewish Federation leaders and activists met with top White House, congressional and diplomatic officials to discuss public policy issues of key concern to the Jewish community.

Photo by Robert A. Geller

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Obituaries

Isis Bolinsky

FULL, DEFER, MAEL — Ms. Bolinsky, wife of the late Isaac Jewish Home, died July 6. She was the wife of the late Samuel Bolinsky.

Born in Philadelphia, Pa., a daughter of the late Samuel and Elizabeth (Sharon) Bolinsky, she had lived in Fall River 30 years. She was a member of the Jewish Day Veterans Auxiliary and a life member of B'nai B'rith.

She leaves two daughters, Miriam Weiner of Garden City, N.Y., and Gloria Popper of Wheaton, Ill.; a sister, Barbara Cohen of West Plains, N.Y.; six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. She was the mother of the late Miriam Bolinsky and a sister of the late Sam, Samuel and Aaron Scherman and Teller Bolinsky.

Burial was in Hebrew Cemetery, Fall River. Contributions may be made to the Fall River Jewish Home, 124 Railroad St., Fall River, MA 02720.

Irene Brown

PURVIS, BECCA, FL. — Irene Klara Brown, 84, of Pompano Beach, died June 27 at the home of Helen (Rae) of Westmore Beach. She was the wife of the late Henry Brown.

Born in Fall River, a daughter of the late Charles and Sarah (Bernard) Klein, she lived in Pompano Beach for 20 years.

She was a life member of the Fall River Jewish Home in the 1940s, a member of B'nai B'rith, and a former member of the American Red Magen David of Israel.

She was the sister of the late Jacob, Isaac, Harry, Max and Louis Klein, Anna Goldstein, Lucette Klein and Ruth Klein.

Burial was in Hebrew Cemetery, Fall River.

Phyllis Joy Corio

SO, WINDSOR, CAN. — Phyllis Joy Corio, 87, of St. Windsor, formerly of Warwick, a retired nursing nurse and supervisor died June 12.

Born in Providence, a daughter of Aaron (Hersch) Shuman of North Weymouth and the late Miriam Shuman, she had lived in Warwick for 20 years before moving to St. Windsor.

Burial was in Hebrew Cemetery, Providence, R.I.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Providence.

Philip Corbin

PROVIDENCE — Philip Corbin, 86 of Fall St., died June 10. He was the husband of the late Bertha (Kornblith) Corbin.

Burial was in Lincoln Park

Cemetery, Warwick.

Estelle Brown

BRIDGE, NY — Estelle (Miriam) Brown, 84, died on June 4, after being battle with cancer. She was the wife of the late Nathan M. Brown, who died in 1981.

She was born in Providence, a daughter of the late David and Sarah (Kornblith) Brown.

She graduated from High School in 1910, and moved to Norwich, N.Y. until her husband died in 1961, when she was active in the state level of Temple Ohav Shalom.

She is survived by three sons, Boris of Warwick, N.Y., Michael of New Rochelle, N.Y., and Sam of Westford, N.Y.; two sons, Frances (Kornblith) Brown, 84, and two grandchildren.

Contributions may be sent to the American Cancer Society.

Evelyn Feinman

PORTSMOUTH — Evelyn Feinman, 84, of Bristol Ferry Road, a retired bookkeeper, died June 20. She was the wife of David H. Feinman. They were married for 44 years.

Born in Fall River, a daughter of the late William and Miriam (Kornblith) Klein, she had lived in Portsmouth for 44 years. She was a bookkeeper for the Providence Super Market on Fall River for 10 years until her retirement in 1964. She was a graduate of B'nai B'rith High School in Fall River.

She was a member of Congregation Ahav Shalom Synagogue and a former member of Temple B'nai El, both in Fall River. She was a life member of Hadassah and a former member of the Fall River Jewish Day Veterans.

Burial was in Hebrew Cemetery, Fall River. Contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Providence.

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William Feinman of North Easton, Mass., and 2 grandchildren. He was the brother of the late Louis Feinman (Kornblith) Brown. He was the grandfather of the late Isaac Feinman.

Burial was in Hebrew Cemetery, Bristol Ferry Road, Portsmouth, N.H. Contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society.

Dorothy Forman

PROVIDENCE — Dorothy (Helen) Forman, 87, of Lincoln Street, died June 12, after being battle with lung cancer. She was the wife of the late "Red" Forman.

Born in Providence, Mass., a daughter of the late Irving and Molly (Kornblith) Kay, she grew up and married in Providence where she married, raising three children for 40 years.

She was a graduate of Fall River College, was a former member of Temple B'nai El and the Synagogue.

Burial was in Hebrew Cemetery, Bristol Ferry Road, Portsmouth, N.H. Contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Providence. Contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society.

Caroline Gurevitch

NEW BRITAIN, CT — Caroline B. Gurevitch, 84, of the Senior Center, died June 12. She was the wife of the late Abraham Gurevitch.

Born in Poland, a daughter of the late Charles and Rebecca (Pelt) Gurevitch, she had lived in Providence most of her life.

Ms. Gurevitch was a Rhode Island Jewish Center clerk for 30 years, working weekdays. Previously she was a clerk at the Providence Hebrew Day School. She was a graduate of Central High School.

She was a member of Temple B'nai El, the former Chai, B'nai, Hadassah and the former Jewish Home. She was a former secretary of the Providence Hebrew Day School.

She leaves two sons, Henry Gurevitch of Providence and Joel Gurevitch of Los Angeles, Calif., and Phoenix, Ariz.; a brother, Philip Gurevitch of New York City and four grandchildren.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Providence. Contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society.

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and June 10. She was the wife of the late Abraham Gurevitch.

Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Sam and Carrie (Kornblith) Weil, she had lived in Lincoln Park for 100 years.

She graduated from a grade school in Fall River High School and had attended the Rhode Island School of Design.

Burial was in Hebrew Cemetery, Providence. Contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society.

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Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Sam and Carrie (Kornblith) Weil, she had lived in Lincoln Park for 100 years.

She graduated from a grade school in Fall River High School and had attended the Rhode Island School of Design.

Burial was in Hebrew Cemetery, Providence. Contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Providence.

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In his famous 1790 letter "To the Hebrew Congregation in Newport,"
President George Washington affirmed
that the fledgling nation would
"give to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance."

Join us as we revisit this pivotal moment in history.

The Society of Friends of Touro Synagogue

*Cordially invites you
To attend the 56th Annual
George Washington Letter Reading*

Sunday, August 17, 2003

1:00 p.m.

*Touro Synagogue
85 Touro Street
Newport, Rhode Island*

Reservations required. Please call 401-867-4794 ext. 14 before August 5, 2003.

Become a partner in history — join The Society of Friends of Touro Synagogue.

Members support the conservation of Touro Synagogue, the oldest synagogue in America,
designed by noted colonial architect Peter Harrison and completed in 1793.

1000 Lifetime

100 Family

1000 Sustaining

125 Individual

5000 Sustaining

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Please complete this portion and mail with your membership gift to:

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