

The JEWISH VOICE & HERALD

SERVING RHODE ISLAND AND SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

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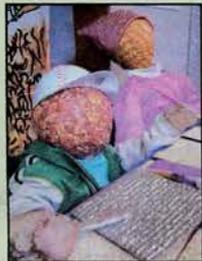
Jewish Federation of Rhode Island

April 2, 2004

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Preschool flourishes at Temple Habonim

(This is the first in a series on Rhode Island Jewish preschools)

By Mary Korr

BARRINGTON — One Providence Jewish preschool has spread its wings into the East Bay. The Jewish Community Center (JCC) of Rhode Island opened a second preschool program in Barrington last September, in partnership with Temple Habonim, and funded with the help of a start-up grant from the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island for \$24,000.

The new program leaves little Noah Werbel, 3, singing "Shabbat Shalom." The tot and his family moved to Barrington from New York City in January.

"I looked at several preschool programs; I liked the Montessori School but then I kept on hearing amazing things about this school," said Noah's mother, Meirav Werbel. "I made an appointment to see Sarah Foster (head teacher) and I was sold. She is so nurturing and the educational component is challenging for him. That he comes home singing 'Shabbat Shalom,' and brings Judaism into our house is a bonus," she said.

Victoria Lambrozo came



Elliott Entin (left) and Noah Werbel play with a Torah and the "Peer K Explorer" mascot at the JCC/ Temple Habonim preschool in Barrington.

Photo by Mary Korr

to Barrington from Belarus. Her older daughter attended the JCC preschool in Providence. "I'm absolutely thrilled Elliott

(Entin) can attend right here in Barrington. And I like it that the class is mixed. It doesn't

have to be just for Jewish children," she said.

See JCC PRESCHOOL, page 20

Pressure grows on Sharon to resign

TEL AVIV (JTA) — On the verge of a visit to Washington that Ariel Sharon hopes will clinch crucial U.S. support for his "disengagement plan," the Israeli prime minister's credibility at home is being shaken.

A long-running corruption scandal reared its head over the weekend with reports, later confirmed by the Justice Ministry, that State Attorney Edna Arbel had drafted an indictment against the prime minister. Now, all that stands between the 76-year-old former general and criminal charges is Attorney General Meni Mazuz, who must authorize such a high-profile prosecution.

The Justice Ministry and Prime Minister's Office declined comment. Sharon's



Ariel Sharon

See SHARON, page 19

R.I. young Jewish leaders rally in D.C.

By Jonathan Rubin

WASHINGTON, D.C. —

It was 2 a.m. and there were 500 Jews partying in the lobby of the Washington Hilton. It had been a long day of educational seminars, social activism dialogues and preparing for lobbying with senators and congressman the next day.

Social action was the theme of last week's United Jewish Communities (UJC) "Washington 14" National Young Leadership conference. The theme was aptly chosen — the recent National Jewish Population Study revealed that the number one identity-building element in today's young Jews was social justice. This means that the act of doing right in a world full of wrongs resonates more strongly with today's young Jews than spirituality,

Israel, education or any other issue.

We were an eclectic bunch from Westerly, Johnston and Providence, composed of home health aides, cantorial students, neuroscience grad students, and various Jewish community professionals, 11 in all.

The conference was a huge undertaking for UJC — speakers included Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, comedian Al Franken, Sen. Bill Frist (R-TN), a smattering of Jewish community giants and, last but not least, "Average Joe" Adam Mesh, from the new reality TV show (at one point, a member of our contingent accidentally spilled some wine on this Jewish celebrity, but he was classy enough not to be too put off by it).

See YOUNG LEADERS, page 21

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CANDLE LIGHTING

For greater Rhode Island

April 2 5:54

April 9 7:02

April 16 7:10



Community Calendar

Thurs., April 8

Jewish Film festival — American Splendor
7 p.m. Avon Theater, 260 Thayer St., Providence. "American Splendor" — Saga of working class everyman Harvey Pekar. Part of the Rhode Island Jewish Film Festival.

Sat., April 10

Jewish Film Festival — Harvey Pekar
9 p.m., Brown University, Salomon 101, College Green. Free.



Sun., April 11

Jewish Film Festival — "Fiddler" sing-a-long
11 a.m., Odeum Theater, 11 Main St., East Greenwich. Sing-a-long with the musical, Come in costume as favorite "Fiddler" character. Prizes.

Wed., April 14

Cranston Senior Guild
1 p.m. Cranston Senior Guild, Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston. Guest entertainer Carolyn Martino, storyteller, actress, writer, and teacher. Raffle and refreshments.

Warwick seniors
2 p.m. April meeting, Shalom Apartments, 1 Shalom Dr., Warwick. Entertainment by Mike Coletta. Coffee and refreshments.

Thurs., April 15

Ritual objects workshop

2 p.m. Clayground Studio, 5600 Post Rd., East Greenwich. The Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island will hold a hands-on pottery workshop. \$5. Registration is recommended, contact Robin Kauffman at -331-0956 x 180 or rkauffman@bjeri.org. See Community.

Jewish Film — 'Thunder in Guyana'

• 7 p.m. The Jewish Community Center, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence: "Thunder in Guyana" — The story of Janet Rosenberg Jagan, a Jewish woman from Detroit who was elected president of Guyana in 1997.

• 8:30 p.m. "Purity" — A look at the purification ritual, women's immersion in a *mikveh*.

NY Tenement Museum trip

Last day to make reservations for the Sun., May 23 Temple Shalom of Middletown trip to the Tenement Museum on the Lower East side of New York City. The bus will leave from the temple parking lot at 6 a.m. and return by 10 p.m. \$40 for adults, \$35 for students and seniors. For more info, call Temple Shalom at 846-9002.

Sat., April 17

Film, hidden child to speak
8:45 p.m. RISD auditorium, 17 Canal St. "Secret Lives: Hidden Children and Their Rescuers during World War II." Guest speaker following the film: Asya Eliash Berger, a hidden child, will speak about her experiences as told to her by her mother.

Tickets: \$8, \$5 students and seniors. Seating is not assigned, seats are limited, advance reservations suggested. For further

information, call 861-8800 or 331-0956, or visit www.jccri.org or www.bjeri.org.

Sun., April 18

TempleAm David open house

10 a.m. — noon. For prospective members to meet with Am David's leaders and members and tour the temple's facilities. For info, call 463-7944 or visit www.templeamdavid.org

BJE/RI virtual Israel at Warwick Mall

Noon — 4 p.m. A supersized map of Israel with R.I.'s partnership region, and educational activities about Israel. See Community.

Sun. to Wed.

April 18 to 21

Hillel Holocaust remembrance events

8 p.m. Brown Hillel, 80 Brown St. Film *Amen* will be shown. Free and open to the public. Other events:

• 7 p.m. Monday, April 19, "A Survivor Speaks": Ernest Michel. 80 Brown St.

• 1 p.m. Tuesday, April 20, vigil on the Campus Green of Brown University.

• 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 21, panel discussion, "Modern Memory: Contemporary Relevance of Holocaust Remembrance" at 80 Brown St.

Free. For more information, call 401-863-2805 or visit www.brownhillel.org. See Community.

Tues., April 20

Touro Synagogue Foundation lecture

7 p.m. The Pell Center, Salve Regina University. Ray Rickman, president, R.I. Black Heritage Society, and Valerie Tucson, storyteller and host of Cultural Tapestry, will present "A Social History of Slavery in Early Rhode Island." Reception to follow, observing dietary laws.

Jewish history author

7:30 p.m. Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. Professor Jonathan Sarna of Brandeis University will discuss his newest book, a history of American Judaism. See Community.

nity.

Immigrant Symposium

7:30-9 p.m. Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence. (To continue on April 27, and May 2, 4). Welcome and introduction, Mayor David N. Cicilline, "The look and feel of Providence neighborhoods" by Ted Sanderson, R.I. Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission.

Wed., April 21

Touro Fraternal "Joke-Off"

6:30 p.m.: Harmony Lodge, Friendship Lodge invited. MC from Chicago. Prizes for the best jokes. Hot dogs and beans supper. \$5 or five bagel bucks. Reservations by April 11.

Fri. to Sun.

April 23 to 25 Temple Emanu-El weekend: the Jews of England

Friday Shabbat service, dinner and lecture. 5:45 p.m.: Early Shabbat services followed by dinner and lecture. Prof. Josh Stein of Roger Williams University to speak on early Jewish history in England. Call Temple Emanu-El. 331-1616.

Sat., April; 24

Services, lunch and talk

9:30 a.m. Temple Emanu-El. Services, followed by luncheon and talk. Prof. Stein to cite influential English Jews in recent history.

Sun., April 25:

Brunch, lecture

10 a.m.: Middle Eastern brunch and lecture. Prof. Stein to speak on the British mandate for Palestine. 7 p.m.: Musical performances. See Community. For more info, call the temple at 331-1616.

Correction

In the obituary of David Golner, in the March 19th edition, the name of his surviving brother-in-law was misspelled. It should have read: He was the brother-in-law of Norman Robinson of Providence.

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East Providence:
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Wakefield:
Shaw's Main St.
Wakefield Pharmacy

Warwick:
Coffee Grinder
Dave's, Rt. 2
Shalom Apartments
Shaw's Market - Rt. 2
Tamarisk
Torat Yisrael Meal Site

Send us your Calendar Listings

Send us your calendar listings, along with time, date & telephone number. Notices must be received 2 weeks prior to publication date.

E-mail to: voiceherald@jfri.org; Fax to: 401-331-7961, or mail to: Jewish Voice & Herald, 130 Sessions St., Providence, RI 02906 — Attn: Calendar

From Schindler's List to Rhode Island...

The Rhode Island Holocaust Museum presents

Joseph Bau: A Schindler Jew and His Art

A traveling exhibit of the multi-faceted works of artist and illustrator, Joseph Bau, a Holocaust survivor whose secret concentration camp wedding was portrayed in "Schindler's List".

Creator of the first animated films in Israel, Bau is known as the Walt Disney of Israel

MAY 2 - 28 - PROVIDENCE CITY HALL

OPENING RECEPTION FOR DONORS - MAY 5 - 6 P.M. - CITY HALL GALLERY

Meet Joseph Bau's daughters at this special reception for donors to the Rhode Island Holocaust Museum



JOSEPH BAU'S PORTRAIT OF OSKAR SCHINDLER

- Oil paintings of ordinary people in their day-to-day lives before the war.
- Humorous works depicting humanity in absurd situations
- Simple black and white paintings of scenes in the concentration camps
- Lithographs and glycees available for purchase

All proceeds support the Museum's annual Student Awareness Day. For more information, contact the Rhode Island Holocaust Memorial Museum at 401-453-7860 or rhodeislandhmm.org



Your donation helps the Museum provide educational programs for our community.

WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU

- \$108 \$72 \$36 \$18 Other

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Make check payable to Rhode Island Holocaust Memorial Museum and mail to: 401 Elmgrove Avenue, Providence, RI 02906

A MAJORITY OF ONE

Assassination contemplation

Find it very difficult to feel sorry about the demise of Sheikh Ahmed Yassin although, as a certified bleeding heart, I could be expected to make allowances for his being a paraplegic, which might account for his decision to devote his life to the destruction of Israel.

(Since matters have a way of moving very quickly in Mid-East assassination circles, by the time you read these words his designated successor, Dr. Abdel Aziz Rantisi may also have departed the scene, not to mention untold numbers of Israelis who may have fallen prey, God forbid, to a desire for revenge on the part of the Palestinians.)



**Yehuda
Lev**

But that's the nature of things in the struggle for the land that lies between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea, every action seems to result in an equal and opposite reaction. So while Sheikh Yassin's death produced few tears on our side of the fence, perhaps someone should have drawn up a balance sheet on the potential positive and negative results of

the assassination before the rockets were fired at his car.

The positives seem apparent enough; (A) cut off the head and the body dies and (B), if enough leaders are disposed of, their followers become discouraged and turn to more acceptable pursuits than suicide bombing.

The negatives are equally obvious and can be summed up as follows: The positives don't work any more.

They used to. Once the Nazi hierarchy was destroyed, Germany became a different country and the same could be said of Japan and Italy, among others.

But that was all so 20th century. Here in the 21st the rules have changed. Israel, together with the rest of the non-Muslim world and much of the Muslim world as well, faces an enemy no longer dependent on the table of organization common to nation-states. This enemy has no president, no parliament, no government, no boundaries to cross, no lands to lay waste, no cities to bomb, no economy to shatter. If Osama bin Laden were to die tomorrow, would Al Qaeda disintegrate? If the entire leadership of Hamas and Hezbollah were to perish under Israeli rockets, would the ranks of suicide bombers be depleted?

The answers to these questions can be found in Baghdad. Saddam Hussein is in captivity, his sons are dead, his lieutenants are hiding or in prison and yet the resistance to the American occupation intensifies week after week.

Israel faces another and equally dangerous change in the nature of modern warfare. When I lectured on the perils facing Israel I used to point out that terrorism is the weapon of the weak. After all, I would suggest, if they ever met a Muslim terrorist trying to sneak across Israel's border they should ask him if he would not rather be flying a plane or driving a tank. The answer is obvious but he has no plane or tank. Terror, I pointed out, does not capture land or destroy armies. It can frighten citizens but it cannot determine the fate of nations.

No more. Not after Madrid and, before that, the bus bombings that enabled Benjamin Netanyahu to win the premiership over Shimon Peres after the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin. Under the new and simplified method of controlling leadership all one has to do is set off a few bombs, kill a few dozen people and frighten the electorate enough to compel changes in the course of government. This is not meant

as a criticism of the people of Spain or Israel but it is a part of the new reality in which they and others, ourselves included, have to live. And it must be accounted for in weighing the pros and cons of the assassination of Sheikh Yassin.

If his death had brought Israel any nearer to peace, we would all have happily attended his funeral. But quite the reverse; it has inflamed millions of Muslims around the world to whom he was a symbol of resistance to Western culture and political policies. In that sense, at least, it made things more difficult for Israel without hindering its enemies, however much it may have given us a sense of satisfaction.

At this point the columnist is supposed to offer a solution to the problem under discussion. Sorry, I don't have one. But given the new realities of warfare, the task Israel has to take on is working with Palestinians who are willing to compromise. And killing Sheikh Yassin didn't do much for that.

Yehuda Lev, a regular columnist, is a retired journalist who has worked in Israel, Europe and the United States. He lives in Providence.

Alison on Aliyah: The genuine truth

Before making aliyah, I had been to Israel on six separate occasions. I spent over a year and a half here altogether on various trips and programs, living with both Americans and Israelis, friends and strangers. I knew on some level that I wasn't getting a true taste of Israeli culture on any of these little vacations, regardless of their length or exposure to what I thought at the time was "real Israeli life."



**Alison
Golub**

But I hadn't realized until recently how little I really knew about the culture and society here. I'm finding, more and more, that living here as a citizen, and truly enveloping myself in the culture, is opening my eyes to myriad little differences.

The most prominent thing I have noticed, and what continues to fascinate me on a daily basis, is that when people do or say things here, they really mean them. And of course, the other side is true as well — pretty much everything that comes into an Israeli's head generally comes out his mouth in the very near future. There is no such thing as "just being polite."

I learned this the hard way. During

the first month after my arrival here, I received a number of invitations to Shabbat dinners. They seemed to be proffered in passing, and because I didn't know the people well, I didn't take them seriously. I figured they were just being nice, and I appreciated the gesture for what it was. When I ran into one of the people a few weeks later, however, he was genuinely

Pretty much everything that comes into an Israeli's head generally comes out his mouth in the very near future. There is no such thing as "just being polite."

upset. "Why didn't you call to come over for dinner?!" he demanded. I answered honestly that I didn't think he was serious. He had no idea what I meant, and simply couldn't understand why I would think that.

In America, almost everything one says and does is out of a sense of politeness or obligation. "Have a nice day!" "Nice to meet you!" "Sure, I'd just love to come over and see your new stainless steel countertops!" No one really knows what is sincere and what isn't, and nearly every passing conversation leaves one wonder-

ing what was really said. In the states, if I would slip up and not follow the "accepted protocols" for social contact (i.e., calling a guy less than three days after a first date; taking someone up on an offer for getting together when it was not intended to be accepted), I always felt a sense of awkwardness, like I should have known that the person didn't really mean it.

Throughout my years living in Providence, I was asked on more than a few occasions if I would be interested in meeting an eligible bachelor. I would always enthusiastically agree, never expecting for a second that the guy would call. And indeed, he never did. I suppose there is a certain pathetic aspect to that act, and I always felt that the intense fear of showing such desperation always overshadowed the possibility that that one awkward phone call could lead to meeting one's soul mate. Again, the desire for polite detachment overrules all in America.

But here in Israel, they all call! Within hours of giving my number out (which I have now done more times than I would like to admit), I inevitably receive a request for a first date, blind or otherwise. And these invitations are unabashedly genuine. If I don't follow up on an initial meeting or invitation here, I'm in big trouble. If people don't truly believe or want some-

thing, they simply don't say it. In many ways, it is a wonderfully refreshing way to live and communicate. But I've also learned to pay special attention to the absences of commentary. For instance, I didn't get a lot of comments from my Israeli friends after my last haircut. "It looks great!" and not known whether they were telling the truth or not. Here, I know that if no one says anything, they either don't want to tell the painful truth or truly haven't noticed. Either way, it's genuine.

Don't get me wrong, however. It is not easy to live in a society where nothing is sacred and everything is "out there." Everything is direct here, and everything is genuine, because everything is real. This also means that there are more battles, and more causes for disagreement. But we struggle because we feel alive when we do so. When Jews argue, we are affirming our existence, asserting our individuality, both as individuals and as a people. When we question the things that happen around us, we are showing ourselves and the world that we are aware and will no longer sit idly by while our lives go on in front of us. Directness, sincerity, genuineness, realism — this is not just a way of life here in Israel. It is what we live for. And I wouldn't have it any other way.

Alison Stern Golub was born and grew up in Seattle, Wash. and is a graduate of Brown University. She can be emailed at Alison_Golub@hotmail.com. You can also read more about her adventures on her web-journal at www.xanga.com/aligolub.

Submission guidelines

The Jewish Voice & Herald welcomes letters to the editor and other opinion pieces on topics of interest to the Jewish community. All submissions must be signed and include city of residence and telephone number. Letters to the editor should be limited to 250 words, and viewpoint pieces to 700 words. Submissions may be edited for length or content. Send submissions to: Jewish Voice & Herald, 130 Sessions St., Providence, 02906, or e-mail to: voiceherald@jfri.org

VIEWPOINT

Russian, German Jews find themselves in culture clash

By Addie Lewis

HALBERSTADT, Ger. — Sabine Klamroth was 10 years old when her father was hanged for disloyalty to Hitler. Though he was an early and influential member of the Nazi Party in his hometown, by 1942 Herr Klamroth had become disillusioned with the party. He joined a small group plotting to kill Hitler. Their plot was discovered, and Herr Klamroth was executed.

Fifty years later, Frau Klamroth is my guide through the town of Halberstadt. Before the war, the medieval town had picturesque half-timber homes and three impressive stone churches around a public square. The town was badly damaged by bombing during the war. Frau Klamroth and her remaining family fled to West Germany when the Soviets gained control of Halberstadt and the other areas that became East Germany. After the fall of the Berlin Wall, Frau Klamroth found that her hometown had never been rebuilt after WWII. She moved back to Halberstadt to help with the rebuilding and to do research for a book about the Jews of Halberstadt.

Through her work, Frau Klamroth is dealing with her own feelings of guilt and loss about the Holocaust. She is just one of the many people I got to know on a 10-day trip to Germany with my classmates from



FRAU SABINE KLOMROTH standing on the site where the Halberstadt synagogue once was. My classmates and I are on the sidelines. Today, children in the Halberstadt school system are assisting in an archaeological dig there, which is sponsored by the Moses Mendelsohn Center.

the Hornstein Program for Jewish Communal Service at Brandeis University. The trip was sponsored by Bridge of Understanding, a program of the German government to familiarize American Jews with the modern German democracy's response to the Holocaust and to visit the German-Jewish community.

Here's a little known fact: The Jewish

community in Germany is the fastest growing Jewish community in the world. Prior to 1989, there were approximately 20,000 Jews in all of Germany. Some of them had remained in Germany after the war; many of them had returned for economic reasons in later years. As part of the reparations package, Germany opens her doors to any Jew who wishes to live within

her borders. After the end of the Cold War, many Jews from the Former Soviet Union took the German government up on the offer. Today, there are as many as 200,000 Russian Jewish immigrants in Germany—the Jewish population has grown ten-fold in just 15 years.

The community is experiencing growing pains. The government provides the immigrants with access to public education, welfare, and German-language classes. However, the job market in Germany is tight, and the government does not provide immigrants with job retraining programs. As a result, many Russian immigrants are unemployed, even years after their arrival in Germany. The pre-existing Jewish community is trying to help the immigrants by providing classes in German identity and Jewish religion and culture for both children and adults. These efforts have been only partially successful because there are major cultural clashes between the two groups.

My group met with many Russian immigrants in Heidelberg to hear about their experiences. Some of their complaints were universal: difficulties learning a strange language, frustrations at being rejected for jobs in their fields, and the loneliness of being an immigrant. There are also cultural frustrations, particularly between the pre-existing Jewish community and the Russian community.

The leaders of the German Jewish community are traditional, observant Jews. The Russian Jews, on the other hand, grew up in a society that disdained religious practice, so they are resistant to the observances that the German Jews are teaching at their classes and camps. The Russian immigrants and the German Jews are also finding that they have opposite views of the Holocaust. Most of the German Jews are Holocaust survivors or descendants of survivors; their Jewish identity is closely tied to the legacy of the Jews as the victims of the Nazi regime. The Russian Jewish immigrants, on the other hand, identify more closely with the Russians—who were the victors in WWII, not the victims. It will be interesting to see how the newcomers change the community as they adjust to life in Germany.

My seminar in Germany left me with one overall impression: Germany is in a state of flux. A nation with an extremely problematic relationship with Jews is embracing a quickly growing Jewish community. At the same time, individuals and the whole society are trying to remember the Holocaust in meaningful ways even as they struggle to shape a German identity that is independent of the Holocaust. A nation that has never been a land for immigrants is learning how to integrate large immigrant populations. After a long recession, the economy is changing as Germany integrates with the other states in the EU. I hope that their future is bright.

Addie Lewis, originally from Little Rock, Arkansas, is the Brandeis Hornstein intern at the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island. She lives in Somerville, Mass.

Letters to the Editor

Who can afford a Jewish education?

The question is: Will my children be Jewish?

Naturally, by birth they will be, and, yes most of our street here in Florida is Jewish. We participate in our shul, we keep Shabbat and I do my best to raise *mensch*s. Beyond our walls, we are limited to what our precious children are exposed to. As a mother and a parent I want only the best for my children, to protect them and to nurture them — to give them life's greatest gifts — wings and roots.

I would like them to be educated in a Jewish environment, to be enveloped by Judaism and drink in its beauty. Yet, we are the average middle class family trying to make ends meet and a formal Jewish education only seems to be affordable for those with means. The average Jewish Day school's annual tuition is \$9,000 after give & get, security fee, PTA fees etc. According to the Florida Census, median household money income in 1999 was \$38,819 in Florida, and \$41,994 throughout the US.

Effectively, in our tax bracket we would need to earn \$11,700 before taxes just to pay for our *one* child's pre-kindergarten tuition before we have put food on the table, bought clothes or paid our monthly bills. By the end of the year, having two children in Kindergarten and Pre-K, would cost in excess of \$17,000, which is half of the median household income. Who knows about elementary,

middle, high school & college. The reality is we earn more than many and we still can't afford to put our 3-year-old in a full-day program at a Jewish day school.

Here in Florida, scholarships are only available from kindergarten on. My husband and I do have alternatives, but are they really an option? We could send him, with a bagged kosher meal to a more affordable, non-denominational kindergarten and then public schools.

The saddest reality is that our kids are only young once and the question that plagues me the most is: why is a formal Jewish education only available to the wealthy? Shouldn't we be nurturing Jewishness from birth? How long do we wait before we address the issue of affordable formal education in a Jewish environment?

Think of the money we would save on adult outreach, how easy it would be to recruit volunteers, how teens would feel a sense of belonging because every Jewish teen would be gravitating towards Jewish events not as something they have to do but *want* to do.

Heidi Eliasov-Hodes
Aventura, Fla.

Singles need programs in R.I.

I am writing to support Ms. Jablonski, Mr. Eichenbaum and Mr. Schoenberg's

letters. There are no programs in Rhode Island for single Jewish men or women in their 40s and 50s. It is necessary to go to the greater Boston area to meet singles in these age ranges. It would truly be a mitzvah for the Jewish Federation and other agencies to start a singles program for singles in their 40-60s. If other communities can do it, why can't we?

Karen Shlevin Fink
Providence

And now, from Alison's mom...

I have been wanting to write you to tell you what a wonderful job you have done on the *Jewish Voice & Herald*. I was so impressed with the creatively comparative "Then and Now: The big schlep into the Holy Land" segment from the Jan. 23 issue. It was so well done! I copied it and gave it to many friends here who are following Alison's "escapades" and enjoying reading about life in Israel as it unfolds for her.

The March 5 Purim article on Sava (Alison's dog) was a kick and I rolled with laughter. Please pass my compliments on to the woman who wrote it — it sounded so much like Alison's humor that I thought she had written it.

Corie Golub.
Seattle, Wash.

Opinion

VIEWPOINTS

Impromptu protestor: Express to The Hague

By Daniel Stieglitz

A few weeks ago I was checking my Yeshiva University e-mail account and found a message with the subject "MISSION TO HAGUE." This got my attention. I knew about how the security fence that Israel is building to prevent terrorist attacks is receiving worldwide scrutiny and criticism. I knew that the International Court of Justice in The Hague was hearing arguments both for and against the security fence and questioning its legality. I also knew that a protest was being planned at The Hague in favor of the security fence. Most importantly, this e-mail message informed me that a contingent of Yeshiva University students was planning to participate in this protest. I couldn't believe that the organizers of this trip were planning to coordinate this event in a matter of five short days. Though I was initially very skeptical that such a trip could be put together in such a short period of time, I decided that this was a unique opportunity for me to show my support for Israel so I made the decision to fill out the on-line application form.

Over the course of the next day, I placed the idea of protesting at The Hague in the back of my mind. Then, that evening, I received the following voice

message on my phone: "Congratulations, you're in!"

I checked my watch and realized that I only had a few minutes to make it to the mandatory orientation meeting. After hearing what many of the organizers had to say, I understood that this trip was definitely going to become a reality. Realizing that this would be the opportunity of a lifetime, I signed my name on the dotted line, as did 99 other Yeshiva University students.

But once things had calmed down and I had a chance to organize my thoughts, I began to wonder, "Did I believe in the very cause I would be protesting for?" Was it fair to cut off Palestinian access to friends, family, and places of work? It didn't take me long to realize that the security fence is definitely needed to protect Israeli citizens from terrorist activities. If this fence is able to save just one Jew, then it is definitely needed. I decided that this was a cause worth fighting for.

Four days later, approximately 50 men and 50 women boarded buses to Newark International Airport with one carry-on bag each to tide them over for a two-day trip to the Netherlands. As soon as we landed in Amsterdam, we were taken by

bus to The Hague.

Despite the fact that we had been going non-stop for nearly 24 hours, there was a high level of anticipation in the air. We arrived at the protest wearing our new group scarves, and Zaka (Israel's volunteer first-aid service which is also in charge of making sure terrorist victims are given a proper burial) T-shirts, which had been given to us before we departed.

There were already hundreds of people gathered when we arrived at The Hague. Some held pictures of terrorist victims with their names, ages, and dates of their untimely deaths.

Perhaps the most profound image of all was the sight of the burned-out shell of an Eged bus that had been blown up in Jerusalem several weeks earlier. I had seen photographs of this bus, which was brought by Zaka to The Hague as evidence of the horrific results of a terrorist attack. It had a profound impact on my view of our mission.

The thousands of participants at the rally then split into two groups. Approximately half of the protestors marched in silence while the others stayed near the International Court of Justice. The Yeshiva University students then led the

group with singing and dancing. While some were confused by this display of joy at such a serious moment, others understood the message — Jews uniting through song and dance.

When the rally was over, we all boarded the buses and checked into our hotel rooms in Amsterdam. We then walked to a nearby synagogue for Mincha (afternoon services). We had a chance to visit Anne Frank's house, and saw the Spanish Portuguese Synagogue as well.

Was it worth the time and bother to take such a journey? I feel that it definitely was. The fact that 100 YU students left New York for a short two days just to make our voices heard on an international level allowed our message to get out even further than if we had done nothing at all. It was an experience that none of us will ever forget and hopefully one that will have a positive impact on the State of Israel in the years to come.

Daniel Stieglitz, currently a student at Yeshiva University, has been studying English in New York City. He lives in Providence.

Don't dance around 'abominations'

By Rabbi Moshe Antelman

The *Jewish Voice & Herald's* headline of February 20, 2004 "Jewish Rituals Unite Same Gender Couples" is an oxymoron because same gender unions are not only considered abominations by God and our Torah for Jews; but also for Gentiles.

Indeed if we are to be "a light to the nations," and not a blight, our sexual morality must be exemplary.

We can trace many relevant laws on this subject to the story of Noah. Gentiles are referred to as B'nai Noach, (Noah's descendants), and only seven "Noahide laws" are held to non-Jews. The sexual category prohibits three types of incest, adultery, bestiality and male homosexual intercourse, all of which are Noahic capital crimes.

The Noahic Covenant (or "brit") includes the prohibition against murder: "He who sheds blood of man in man shall his blood be shed for man was made in God's image" (Gen 9:6). Rabbi Akiva asks if this is the case, who has the right to kill the murderer? He replies that in the process of committing murder one loses his Divine image. So too for Noahic capital crimes. Therefore two males engaged in homosexual relations have forfeited their Divine image.

It is interesting to note that the Torah is emphasizing the diversity of mankind in the descendants of Noah, but we can lose that diversity if we betray His Image.

Those Gentiles of Sodom who demanded homosexual intercourse (Gen. 19:5) with Lot's guests were utterly destroyed. We were warned by God not to do these things nor emulate Gentile immoral practices. This narrative is recited on Yom Kippur and lists the prohibited sexual capital crimes. It ends with the gen-

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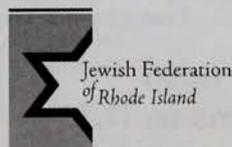
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FROM THE FEDERATION PRESIDENT

The building blocks of Passover

This week, as we do each year, we will gather with our family at the Seder table. The Seder is the most observed ritual for Jews throughout the Jewish



Mark R. Feinstein

calendar. Of course, the biggest draw for Michael, Sam and Hannah is eating a delicious meal and being with their cousins. The highlight for Cindy and me is to see

how much they've grown from year to year.

Each year, we can discuss with them in greater depth some of Passover's themes:

How lucky we are to be able to freely express our religious beliefs. What is our obligation to those who can't?

What is our obligation to those who are not free from the bondage of hunger or homelessness?

What does it mean to say, "Next year in Jerusalem?"

I think about the components of their Jewish education that has caused them to think about these questions and identify with Jewish values. How fortunate we are to have these resources within our community. How proud I am that, through our annual community campaign, we support the agencies that provide them.

All three children attended the JCC pre-school where they learned from an early age that Shabbat punctuates our week and holidays form our Jewish year. Each also went to the Alperin Schechter Day School where Judaism is celebrated and Jewish values are lived each day.

In preparation for Bar Mitzvah, Michael attended family education sessions sponsored by Temple Emanu-El. Sam is attending these now and Hannah will have her turn in seven years! Michael is attending the Harry Elkin Midrasha and Sam has chosen a Jewish overnight camp this summer - Camp JORI - where

he will express himself within a Jewish setting.

Each formal and informal Jewish educational experience is a building block for a healthy Jewish communal future. In our diversity, each family chooses different building blocks for their children. We are fortunate to have the variety of services that

allows us to choose and that is supported through our annual community campaign. And, over time, we are bringing additional services to the different neighborhoods around our state.

So, when we sit down to the Seder meal and our children ask why this night is different, let it be the night that causes us to pause

to celebrate the growth of our children - growth that ensures the future of our Jewish community. How lucky we are!!!

L'Dor V'Dor, from generation to generation. We must be committed to nothing less.

Happy and Kosher Passover to you and yours.

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Nation

ADL audit finds no rise in anti-Semitism

By Joe Berkofsky

NEW YORK (JTA) — Eva Mozes Kur survived Auschwitz and medical experiments by Dr. Josef Mengele only to see the modest Holocaust museum she founded in Indiana be destroyed by arsonists last fall.

Yet the people of Terre Haute rallied behind Kur, holding memorials and raising \$230,000 to help her rebuild.

Had the Germans similarly challenged Nazism, she says,

“Hitler would not have been able to do what he did.”

The still-unsolved arson in Terre Haute may have been the most violent instance of anti-Semitism in the country last year, according to a new Anti-Defamation League audit. But some say the outpouring of support for Kur reveals a much more common, and unprecedented, American embrace of the Jews.

“Whatever anti-Semitism

is out there, large-scale, serious political anti-Semitism simply does not exist anymore in American society,” said Jerome Chanes, a professor of American Jewish sociology at Barnard and Stern colleges and an author of several books on anti-Semitism.

Overt anti-Semitism may have become rare in America, but Jews still differ about how deeply anti-Jewish animus runs in the national psyche and whether a new global strain of anti-Sem-

itism will crop up in America’s heartland.

“We Jews can never afford complacency and can never afford to declare officially that anti-Semitism is no longer a threat — not today, not tomorrow,” said David Harris, executive director of the American Jewish Committee.

Just what the new audit reveals remains a matter of debate.

The ADL’s national director,

Abraham Foxman, cautions that the report is simply one “snapshot” among many that together form a broader picture. They include the ADL’s most recent biennial survey, in 2002, which showed that 17 percent of Americans, or 35 million adults, hold “unquestionably anti-Semitic” views, reversing a decade-long decline.

“There is enough to be worried about,” Foxman said.

According to the new ADL audit, there were 1,557 anti-Semitic incidents in 2003, down two from the year before and well below the high of 2,066 incidents reached in 1994. The ADL began tracking such incidents in 1983.

Based on law-enforcement records and reports to the ADL, the annual audit categorizes anti-Semitic attacks as harassment — threats or physical assaults — or vandalism, including attacks on Jewish communal institutions, such as cemeteries and synagogues.

In 2003, 40 percent of the anti-Semitic incidents were categorized as vandalism, up 18 percent from the previous year, while harassment fell by 9 percent.

Continuing a trend, those states with the largest Jewish populations saw the most incidents, starting with New York.

The Indiana arson, which an FBI spokeswoman said remains under investigation, led the list of violent attacks, which included a Molotov cocktail hurled at a synagogue in Allentown, Penn.

Though even one attack is too many, there is a “chasm” between American Jews’ perception of insecurity and the reality, says Jonathan Sarna, a Brandeis University social scientist and historian.

On one side of the divide are American Jewish fears of anti-Semitism. A 2003 American Jewish Committee survey found that 37 percent of Jews consider anti-Semitism a “very serious” problem; 60 percent find it “somewhat” problematic; and 39 percent believe anti-Semitism will rise again.

Foxman says the ADL and other critics of “The Passion” received a barrage of hate mail, much of it signed.

On the opposite side of the perceptual divide are those Jewish social scientists and community professionals who insist that attention and resources should shift from combating anti-Semitism to concerns such as intermarriage and the need to promote Jewish education and identity-building.



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Where Life is Celebrated

A 'cold' peace: Team heads to end of the earth to build ties

By Rachel Pomerance

NEW YORK (JTA) — Just before news networks flashed footage of furious Palestinians vowing to avenge Israel's killing of the leader of Hamas, there was a more heartwarming story on the Middle East.

A few Israelis and Palestinians were honored this month by Search for Common Ground, a non-profit organization dedicated to conflict resolution, for diplomacy through sport.

Their sport was an extreme one: On New Year's Day, the group embarked on a 35-day expedition to Antarctica that culminated in the scaling and naming of an unexplored mountain.

Back from the pole, the expeditionary group, known as "Breaking the Ice," realized they would return to the all-too-familiar tragedy of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The endless strife makes members of the group want to "stand up and scream very loud that we would very much like to see a different world," said Heskell Nathaniel, who launched the project.

An Israeli living in Germany, Nathaniel said he felt well positioned and motivated to organize the project from a "neutral country."

Being away from Israel

during the intifada, he said, he "felt paralyzed not being able to do anything" and saw the Antarctica trip as a way to make a contribution.

Nathaniel teamed up with an Israeli climber friend, Doron Erel, to assemble the mission. Through their connections, including Israeli journalists working in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, they found four Israelis and four Palestinians willing to sail from the southern tip of Chile through the ominous Drake Passage to Antarctica.

They also organized an eight-person support crew, consisting primarily of Israelis and Europeans. They included a physician, mountain guides, cameramen to produce a documentary and an aide to keep them in contact with a coordinating office in Germany via satellite phone.

The hikers included an Ethiopian Israeli who had lost most of her family trekking across Sudan en route to Israel, a Palestinian from Jerusalem who had been jailed for attacking Israeli troops with Molotov cocktails and a lawyer who served in an elite commando unit in the Israeli army.

Despite their differences, members of the team knew how to "treat each other as human beings," said Olfat Haider, an Israeli Arab from Haifa, during an interview with JTA in New York.



THE BREAKING THE ICE TEAM reaches its goal, the summit of an unnamed Antarctic mountain in January 2004.

Indeed, the expedition had plenty of rough spots.

Crossing the Drake Passage, which Nathaniel calls the "largest ships' graveyard in the world," meant enduring waves nearly 50 feet high and winds up to 80 miles per hour.

Almost everyone was seasick during those days, and two of the participants suffered bruises as the boat seasawed.

There also were political battles — like when Nasser Quass, the Palestinian who had been in an Israeli jail, said Jews have no claim to the Temple Mount.

"We were completely insulted," Nathaniel said. Avihu Shoshani, the Israeli lawyer who often butted heads with Quass, was furious. Haider began to cry.

The parties separated, avoiding each other until the next evening, when they had to continue navigating, Nathaniel said.

Another incident was naming the mountain, which they ultimately called the "Mountain of Israeli-Palestinian Friendship."

A few of the Palestinians wanted to call it Jerusalem, but the Israelis wanted to eschew political statements.

Other names like Mount Hope and Mount Peace already had been used, the group learned.

But Erel had faith in his partners.

"I didn't think for one moment they were going to cut the rope," he said.

Nathaniel viewed some of the political tensions as a reflection of the pressures placed on the Palestinians. The program had the endorsement of Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat.

Don't dance around 'abominations'

From page 6

eral statement: "all these abominations have been done by the inhabitants (v. 27)" and the land "vomited them out."

How can anyone have the *chutzpa* to invoke a Jewish Ritual to unite same gender couples and profane God's name?

The Talmud (Chulin 92) poses the following question: If the Gentiles are so caught up with homosexual relations, why does not God destroy them? The answer is they do not have the *chutzpah* to sanctify the relationships. Maimonides maintains that we Jews, who have no missionaries, are required to "coerce" the Gentiles to observe the Noahic Laws (ibid. 8:10).

Throughout the ages, righteous Gentiles went on record condemning homosexuality. Homosexuality was a capital crime in the original 13 colonies. Exemplary of such pronouncements was the first law prohibiting it in the US which is found in The Liberties of the Massachusetts Colonies of New England (1641): 'If any man lyeth with a man, both of them have committed abominations. They both shall surely be put to death.' The Liberties can be found in the

Harvard Classics.

While male homosexual relations are a capital crime in Jewish law; where do the lesbians fit in? The Torah prohibits women dressing in a male fashion for lesbian intercourse as a non-capital crime (Deut. 22:5). Other Jewish texts condemning lesbianism are: J. Talmud Gittin 6:40, Yvamot 76a, Maimonides Hil. Issurei Biah 21:8.

Finally, we can learn an object lesson from a Jewish law regarding hostages. When Jews were taken captive, the Jewish community was required to redeem them. "The women before the men; except when it was known that the hostage takers would sodomize the men and rape women; then if there was only sufficient money to free one person a male or female; the male was redeemed. (Horiyot 13; Hil. Matanot Aniyim 8).

Remember, God created Adam and Eve; not Adam and Steve!

Rabbi Moshe Antelman, of Rehovot, Israel, is Rabbi Emeritus of Cong. Mishkan Tefilah, Providence.

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Israel

Most U.S. Jewish groups back Israel's killing Hamas leader

By Rachel Pomerance

NEW YORK (JTA) — In contrast to the international debate about the efficacy of Israel's killing of Hamas leader Sheik Ahmed Yassin, the Jewish organizational world almost uniformly backed the assassination.

Except for a few peace groups that made their views known through news releases, most Jewish groups backed Israel's killing of Hamas' founder and spiritual leader.

"The Israeli government is responsible for defending the country's citizens, and whether it's putting up a security fence or targeting archterrorists, most American Jews believe that those are decisions that are best made in Jerusalem," said Martin Raffel, associate executive director of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs.

Many leaders of Jewish organizations agreed, saying they defer to Israel on security matters and praising the killing of a ringleader of terrorism.

"There is more consensus today because of the nature of the issues we're dealing with" — matters of Israeli security, not the details of peace plans, said Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

Hoenlein's group issued a news release detailing Yassin's commitment to the destruction of Israel and Hamas' record of suicide bombings against Israelis.

Several Jewish officials

blasted other nation's leaders for imposing a double standard on Israel, noting that while they would applaud the killing of Osama Bin Laden, they curse the slaying of Yassin.

But even amid the general consensus over the assassination, debate over larger questions of Israeli strategy and policy are brewing in the Jewish community.

Broader questions, like the route of Israel's West Bank security barrier and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's plan to unilaterally withdraw from the Gaza Strip are the issues that will spur debate in Israel — and, consequently, among American Jewry, said Rabbi Eric Yoffie, president of the Union for Reform Judaism.

Despite some concerns over the timing of the assassination or the price Israeli citizens might pay for it, Jewish leaders will be "cautious at this time when there's a chorus of hypocrisy not to be overly critical of Israel," Yoffie said.

At the same time, he said, the assassination will make the debate over the larger issues "more vigorous."

With throngs of protesters marching in Gaza, some might intensify the call for Israel's withdrawal, while others might say the move gives in to the terrorists, Yoffie said. Despite the overall consensus, there were a few Jewish groups who criticized the Israeli action, including Americans for Peace Now.

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World Briefs

Hamas chief: bombers like Jesus

The head of Hamas compared suicide bombers to Jesus. In an unreleased documentary by Isadore Rosmarin, Abdel Aziz Rantissi offers a new rationale for the use of children as suicide bombers, the New York Post reported. The successor to Sheik Ahmed Yassin, killed by Israel last week, said "martyrdom bombers" among Palestinian youths "are ready to sacrifice for the sake of our people," just as "Jesus, peace be with him, sacrificed for human beings."

Palestinians favor Sharon plan

Most Palestinians welcome Ariel Sharon's plan for a unilateral Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza Strip but don't believe he will carry it out. According to a new opinion poll by the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research, 75 percent of Palestinians want the Israeli prime minister to go ahead with his pledge to evacuate most Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip and a few in the West Bank, but only 33 percent think Sharon actually will do it. Two-thirds of Palestinians see the plan as a victory for violence against Israel. According to the survey, 58 percent of Palestinians want any Israeli move to be coordinated with their leaders.

Senators oppose Hague fence hearing

A total of 77 senators signed a letter to U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan opposing the International Court of Justice's hearing on Israel's security barrier. "We believe the ICJ should not address the legality of the security fence because an ICJ opinion on this issue would politi-



Security up in Jerusalem

An Israeli border policeman and female soldier keep guard on Jaffa Road in downtown Jerusalem last week. Last week's killing by Israel of Hamas founder Sheik Ahmed Yassin in a helicopter missile strike in Gaza City has prompted threats of unprecedented revenge by Palestinian terrorists. Amid increased security, army troops have been reinforcing police units in the city.

Brian Henderl/JTA

cize the court and could seriously damage its reputation and credibility," said the letter, sent Monday. The lawmakers said the U.N. resolution calling for the hearing on Israel's West Bank fence "was a purely political maneuver intended to embarrass Israel rather than a serious request for judicial oversight of a security problem."

New bill recognizes Jewish refugees

A new bill in Congress asks the United Nations to recognize Jewish refugees from Arab lands. "When the Middle East peace process is discussed, Palestinian refugees are often addressed," said

Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-N.Y.), the bill's sponsor. "However, Jewish refugees outnumbered Palestinian refugees, and their forced exile from Arab lands must not be omitted from public discussion on the peace process." The resolution seeks to have references to Jewish refugees included in U.N. discussions of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and asks the White House to consider Jewish refugee issues when dealing with the conflict. Sen. Rick Santorum (R-Pa.) is expected to introduce a similar bill in the Senate on Thursday.

S. African protesters dress up as suicide bombers

Seven children dressed as suicide bombers were carried in an anti-Israel protest in South Africa. The kids were among 300 Muslims protesting outside the Israeli Embassy in Pretoria on Sunday against the killing of Hamas leader Sheik Ahmed Yassin, according to South African news reports. One speaker who addressed the crowd said, "We know about apartheid and many of us here fought against it, so why is the government that we fought and died for protecting a terrorist institution?" Protesters spat at, jumped on and burned two Israeli flags. The South African Jewish Board of Deputies called on the government to condemn the events.

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Holocaust museum gets new director

By Marilyn Graff

PROVIDENCE — Frieda Soble has been named executive director of The Rhode Island Holocaust Memorial Museum. Soble was the executive director of the Dallas Holocaust Memorial Center for 12 years. She succeeds Selma Stanzler, who has served as interim director since October 2002.



Frieda Soble

A teacher at the Solomon Schechter Academy of Dallas and an administrator at the South Area Solomon Schechter Day School in Stoughton, Mass., Soble earned a master's degree in history and Judaic studies from the University of Missouri at Kansas City and completed graduate courses at Yad Vashem in Israel.

"Her experience as an educator, administrator, and scholar bodes well for the museum at this time of the museum's successful growth, development and ever expanding services to the entire Rhode Island community," said Arthur Fixler, president of the museum.

Soble has an abiding interest in Jewish history, especially the Holocaust, its most cataclysmic event. She feels strongly that this and future generations must learn about the Holocaust in order to prevent such horrors from happening again.

During her studies at Yad Vashem, she traveled to Poland, and saw the death camps, where she silently observed and paid tribute to the suffering that took place there. She also toured Warsaw and Krakow, noting the former synagogues and Jewish centers that have been converted to other uses, since the Jewish communities that once thrived there are no more.

To Soble, teaching about the Holocaust is an emotional commitment. Her plans for the Rhode Island museum include bringing more of the public into the building, including increased busing of school children, continuing the program of speaking to various groups, and training new docents to conduct tours in the museum and to reach out to the community.

"It is important," she says, "for Jewish people to understand their history, and even more important for non-Jews to know what really happened." She discounts the importance of those who seek to deny the Holocaust as prejudiced individuals not in the mainstream. It is the larger public that she intends to reach.

Soble noted that one result of educating the greater world about the Holocaust has been to make nations more aware of such continuing tragedies as ethnic cleansing in the Balkans and in Africa, and to put forth efforts to stop them.

Marilyn Graff is copyeditor at the Jewish Voice & Herald.



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“Celebrations” to hold Israel program at Warwick Mall

WARWICK — “Celebrations: Discovering Jewish Life in the Marketplace,” a program of the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island, is planning a virtual visit to Israel on Sun., April 18, from noon to 4 p.m. at the Warwick Mall.

A 15- by 30-foot map of Israel, featuring the Rhode Island partnership region of Afula and Gilboa, will be on display. The program, “A Visit to the Land of Milk and Honey” will include a “tour” of Israel, music, dancing,

arts and crafts, a photo exhibit and refreshments.

The co-sponsor of the event will be The Jewish Federation of Rhode Island’s Community Relations Council under the leadership of Rebekah Raz.

The committee is looking for people to act as community volunteers during the day of the program. For information or to volunteer, call Robin Kauffman at 331-0956 or fax 274- 7982, or bjeri@bjeri.org.

Ritual objects pottery painting workshop planned

EAST GREENWICH — The Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island will hold a hands-on pottery workshop at Clayground Studio, East Greenwich, on Thursday, April 15 at 2 p.m. Participants will be able to choose from a large selection of pre-made pottery blasts (forms) and design and paint their own ritual objects. The fee is \$5.

Registration is recommended. Contact Robin Kauffman at 331-0956, Ext. 180 or

rkauffman@bjeri.org.

Clayground is located at 5600 Post Rd., Benny’s Marketplace, East Greenwich. Call 884-4888.

This event is part of “Celebrations: Discovering Jewish Life in the Marketplace” sponsored by the Bureau of Jewish Education and is funded through the Endowment Fund of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island along with a grant from the Touro Fraternal Association.

Agudas Achim holding community seder

ATTLEBORO — Congregation Agudas Achim is holding a community Passover Seder on Tuesday evening, April 6, beginning at 6 p.m. It will include dinner and the traditional Seder rituals conducted by Rabbi Elyse Wechterman and members of the congregation.

The cost is \$20 per adult and \$10 per child, with a maxi-

mum family cost of \$60. Children under 3 are free.

Congregation Agudas Achim is a Reconstructionist synagogue serving communities in South-eastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island. For more information or to make reservations for the Seder, contact the synagogue at 508-222-2243.

Pawtucket Foundation honors Weiss, Mondor, Pawsox owner

PAWTUCKET — The Pawtucket Foundation honored Herbert P. Weiss and Ben Mondor and the Pawtucket Red Sox at its first annual awards celebration April 1. The foundation developed this event as a way to recognize individuals who have benefitted from the economic and social development of the city.

Weiss, the city of Pawtucket’s economic and cultural affairs

officer, received the Foundation’s Person of the Year award in recognition of his achievements in augmenting the city’s artistic activities, and for his service as an advocate for the arts. Ben Mondor, owner of the Pawtucket Red Sox, received the Foundation’s Heritage Award recognizing the outstanding long-term commitment to Pawtucket and its residents.

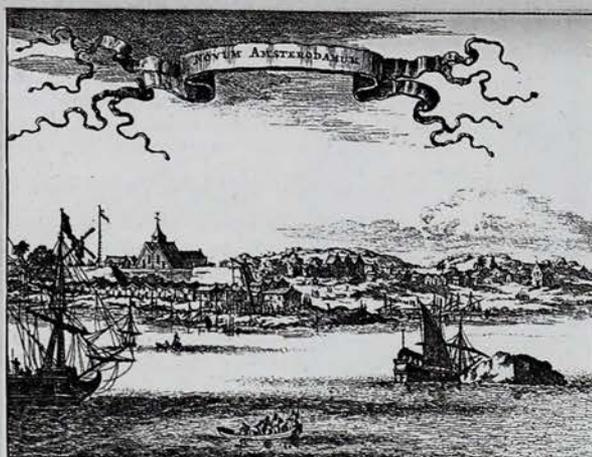
Brandeis scholar to discuss book at Beth-El

PROVIDENCE — On Tuesday, April 20 at 7:30 p.m., Professor Jonathan Sarna of Brandeis University will speak at Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence.

He will discuss his newest book, *American Judaism: A History*, recently published by Yale University Press. The program is co-sponsored by the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association (RIJHA) and the Adult Enrichment Program of Temple Beth-El.

Sarna is the general editor of the Brandeis series on American Jewish history, life and culture, and has guided the publication of the RIJHA anthology, “The Jews of Rhode Island,” which will be published in October.

Copies of *American Juda-*



GRAPHIC OF NEW AMSTERDAM from Jonathan Sarna’s book

ism: A History, are available at 331-3060, to purchase a copy. The program is free and open to the public. Call Anne Sherman in the RIJHA office, at

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Community

Symposium set on immigrants, neighborhoods in Providence

PROVIDENCE — A spring symposium to explore the common experience of successive generations of immigrant groups in the neighborhoods of Providence will be held from 7:30-9 p.m. on April 20, 27, and May 2, 4.

Neighborhoods like Smith Hill have been transformed by the unique traditions and values of successive generations — a one-time Jewish bathhouse emerges a century later as a church.

Scheduled are:

April 20, 7:30 p.m., Temple Emanu-El: Welcome and introduction, Mayor David N. Cicilino and the look and feel of Providence neighborhoods by Ted Sanderson, R.I. Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission.

April 27, 7:30 p.m., Temple Emanu-El: The Tapestry of Society: Immigrants to Providence. Keith Morton, Providence College.

May 2, 2 p.m., Congdon Street Baptist Church: African-Americans, Jews, Irish, and WASPs on College Hill, a workshop with historian Ray Rickman.

May 4, 7:30 p.m., Temple Emanu-El: The Immigrant Neighborhoods of Providence, panel discussion with Albert Klyberg, Heritage Harbor Museum (moderator); Pich Choeun, Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services; Marta V. Martinez, Hispanic Heritage Committee/RI; Lamin Sarr, African Alliance of Rhode Island, and Melvin Zurier, Jewish Historical Association of Rhode Island.

The programs are free and open to the public.

Temple Emanu-El is located at 99 Taft St. The Congdon Street Baptist Church is at 17 Congdon Street.

For more information, call 331-1616.



King for a day!

Nancy Cordeiro, a teacher at the Temple Sinai Nursery School, asks Caleb Radoccia about his favorite book during "Fantastic Friday" at the school.

Photo by Jonathan Rubin

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Hillel to host Holocaust remembrance events

PROVIDENCE — The Brown Hillel Foundation has scheduled events for the first annual Conference on the Holocaust. On Sunday, April 18, the conference will show the film *Amen*, addressing the positive and negative actions of the Roman Catholic Church during the Holocaust.

The following day, a Holocaust survivor, Ernest Michel, will speak about his experience of the harsh realities of six concentration camps.

On Tuesday, April 20, there will be a campus vigil in remembrance of those who perished at the hands of the Nazis.

Finally, the conference will end on Wednesday, April 21, with a panel of speakers, including historian Daniel Jonah Goldhagen, journalist Marie Brenner, and Rabbi Michael Paley, to be moderated by Brown University Professor Maud Mandel. As the

culmination of the series, the panel discussion will be *Modern Memory: Contemporary Relevance of Holocaust Remembrance*. All events are free and open to the public.

- Schedule of Events:
- On Sunday, April 18, the film *Amen* at 8 p.m. at 80 Brown St.
 - On Monday, April 19, "A Survivor Speaks": Ernest Michel at 7 p.m. at 80 Brown St.
 - On Tuesday, April 20, Remembrance vigil and service, a reading of the names of those who perished, beginning at 1 p.m. and going to sunset with a service just after sunset, on the Campus Green of Brown University.
 - On Wednesday, April 21, panel discussion, "Modern Memory: Contemporary Relevance of Holocaust Remembrance" at 8 p.m. at 80 Brown St.

For more information, call 401-863-2805 or visit www.brownhillel.org

Feinstein Foundation offers to match \$150,000

The Alan Shawn Feinstein Foundation has offered to add up to \$150,000 to donations raised by Rhode Island schools during this March and April, to fill any of their needs.

If the total raised by all schools during this period exceeds \$150,000, the Foundation's \$150,000 will be divided proportionately among them.

The Foundation suggested

that the schools could raise money through PTAs and student groups by holding car washes, bake sales, appealing to local businesses, and other fund-raising activities.

The schools must report all monies raised from this challenge in a letter sent to the Foundation during the first week in May and will receive a proportionate share of Feinstein's \$150,000, by early June.

Cranston native to head R.I. film office

PROVIDENCE — The Rhode Island State Council on the Arts has appointed Steven Feinberg to the position of deputy director/manager of the Rhode Island Film & Television Office. Feinberg, a native of Cranston, will be responsible for attracting feature films and television programs to the Ocean State.

In announcing the appointment, Randall Rosenbaum, executive director of the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts, said, "We are delighted to have someone of Steven's experience and connections to the film industry leading this important economic development effort." He went on to say that, "As an Arts Council, we are also pleased to have someone who has the experience and ability to support the work of Rhode Island filmmakers."

Feinberg has over 20 years of experience in the television, film and music industries. A graduate of Cranston High School West, he went on to study cinematography at UCLA as well as film and television production at the University of Southern California Cinema School. Since 1986,

he has been involved in a variety of film and television projects, as writer, producer, script analyst and second unit director,

Feinberg's strongest asset, according to his many supporters in the Los Angeles film community, is his passion for the Ocean State. One industry vice president describes him as Rhode Island's "ambassador to Los Angeles."

The Rhode Island Film & Television Office, a department of the State Arts Council, has attracted high-profile directors such as Steven Spielberg (Amistad), James Cameron (True Lies) and The Farrelly Brothers (Something About Mary) in addition to famous actors like Jim Carrey (Dumb & Dumber) and Brad Pitt (Meet Joe Black) to work in the Ocean State.

The Rhode Island State Council on the Arts is a state agency supported by appropriations from the Rhode Island General Assembly and grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.



Priest leaves bequest to Holocaust Museum

PROVIDENCE — The Rhode Island Holocaust Museum received a bequest from the late Rev. Thomas Trepanier, Diocesan director of Catholic-Jewish Relations, who died December 25, 2002. He chose to remember the museum in his will for \$5,300. From childhood, Father Trepanier was fascinated with the history of World War II, and as an adult he developed a life long commitment to the study of the Holocaust and the historical and theological relationship between Judaism and Roman Catholicism. For many years he was actively engaged in researching the history of the Vatican as it related to the Holocaust in the years leading up to and including World War II.

Over the last decade of his life, he continued his research

activities in Rome, at the Wiener Library in London, at the Archives at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, and in many other archival collections.

He lectured on the topic of the Vatican and the Holocaust at Providence College and the University of Rhode Island. Father Trepanier was a columnist for the *Providence Visitor* for many years, writing more than 250 columns on biblical interpretation and exegesis, including numerous articles on the Holocaust, the Vatican, and Pope Pius XII.

A classical pianist, he gave recitals throughout the world and at many locations in Rhode Island. Father Trepanier assumed his Diocesan post from Father Edward Flannery, for whom he had served as assistant from 1978-1998. Rabbi



Father Thomas Trepanier

Wayne Franklin of Temple Emanu-El found Father Trepanier to be someone who loved peace and pursued peace. His gift has been placed in the Museum's Endowment Fund so that his work on behalf of peace and understanding can be continued for generations.

Photo exhibit on gay families to open in Attleboro

ATTLEBORO — An exhibition of *Love Makes a Family: Portraits of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender People and their Families*, a touring photo-text display created by the Family Diversity Projects of Amherst, Mass., is scheduled to be featured at the Attleboro Public Library, April 15-29, sponsored by a number of local religious organizations, including Temple Agudas Achim in Attleboro.

Photographs by Gigi Kaeser depict a variety of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people and their families of all races in familiar family settings. The photos are accompanied by text edited by Peggy Gillespie from in-depth interviews she conducted with each family member —

including children like Liza—who speak candidly about their lives, their relationships, and the ways in which they cope with the realities of prejudice, bias, and intolerance on a day-to-day basis.

The Attleboro Public Library exhibit is sponsored, in part, by Congregation Agudas Achim, Murray Unitarian Universalist Church and The Christian Education Committee of Second Congregational Church.

Family Diversity Projects of Amherst, MA, a non-profit educational organization, created *Love Makes a Family* as a way of helping to combat homophobia.

For more information, contact Abigail Stockman, Murray Church, 508-222-0585, or visit www.familydiv.org.

Kornfield at book signing dinner

PROVIDENCE — Books on the Square is holding a book signing dinner with Michael Kornfield, author of *Table for Two in Paris*, Wednesday, April 7 at 8 p.m., at Kestral Bistro, 123 Empire St. Call (401) 490-2042

for reservations and additional information.

Kornfield's new cookbook, packaged with a music CD of classic romantic French songs, includes recipes from appetizers to desserts.

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Mark R. Feinstein to receive Israel Bonds Freedom Award

PROVIDENCE — Mark R. Feinstein, who has played a prominent leadership role in both the Jewish and secular communities, will be honored with the Israel Bonds Freedom Award at a tribute reception scheduled for Tuesday, June 8 at 6 p.m. at Temple Emanu-El in Providence. The tribute is being held under the auspices of the Rhode Island Israel Bonds campaign.

Rhode Island Israel Bonds Chairperson Susan Leach DeBlasio said, "We very much look forward to honoring Mark Feinstein at our Rhode Island Israel Bonds community event. Mark has been an extremely proactive member of the Providence community, and we are delighted to have this opportunity to highlight his achievements."

Feinstein began visiting Israel, first as a teenager and again later with his wife on a young leadership mission, where he learned first-hand how important Israel is to the Jewish people. He was part of a JDC mission to Hungary and Romania where he saw Jews who were truly in need, all of which influenced his becoming such a vital member of the Jewish community.

He currently serves on the boards of the Miriam

Foundation, Bank of Rhode Island, Temple Emanu-El and the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island. He is president of the Federation, a position he has held since 2002, and served as JFRI Campaign Chair from 1999-2001. In the past, he has sat on the boards of Alperin Schechter Day School, the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island and the Bureau of Jewish Education. He was also the first president of the Rhode Island Holocaust Memorial Museum. The president of Northeast Management, Inc., Mark owns and operates twenty-eight Blockbuster video franchises and is active in a wide range of communal endeavors.

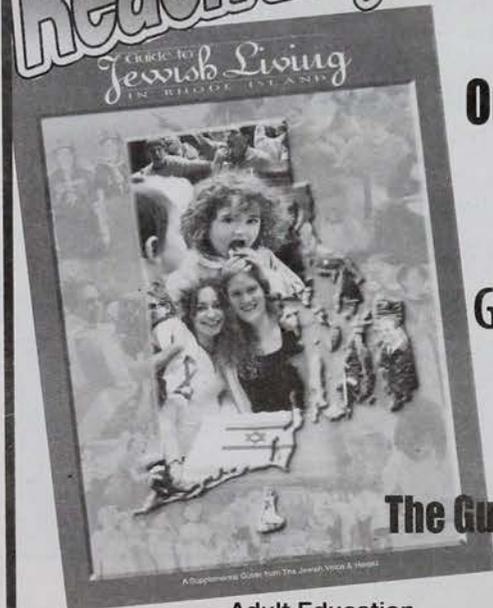
The speaker at the June 8th event will be Professor Raymond Tanter, an adjunct scholar at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy and an adjunct professor and visiting researcher at Georgetown University. A noted expert on international terrorism, Tanter is a CBS News Network Radio analyst and a commentator for MSNBC, BBC and PBS News Hour.

For further information, call Jack Missry at the Israel Bonds office at (800) 752-5651.



Mark R. Feinstein

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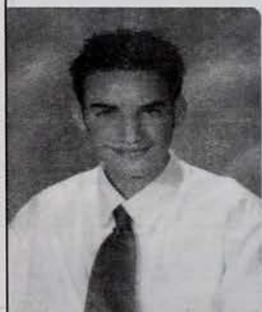
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Community

Ethiopian Jewry's story told through one brave woman

By Sandra Gandsman

Editor's note: Sandra Gandsman and a friend recently had the opportunity to visit Israel and meet an Ethiopian woman named Mali. This is her story:

Mali Mantasnot arrived in Israel with her mother, father and eight siblings during the first wave of immigration from Ethiopia to Israel in the 1980s. The family had given up everything they owned to go to Israel. Mali was only three, but she remembers walking to the Sudan on foot while a younger sister was carried on her mother's back. The trip took two months. They then stayed in a refugee camp for two years until they were airlifted to safety in Israel on secret flights in a program called "Operation Moses."

But their hardships were not over when they arrived in Israel. Ethiopian Jews have had many

difficulties in adjusting to their new life. Today they number about 100,000. Most are very poor. Many are unemployed or employed in low paying jobs, subsisting on small pensions allocated by the government. The large, extended families are very close, and siblings often remain at home to help support elderly parents. After completing military service, most do not have the funds to go on to college.

Mali was one of the first Ethiopian Jewish women to become an officer in the Israeli army, thanks to the efforts of Col. (Res.) Sharon Davidovich, the present Israeli emissary to the New England region of the Jewish National Fund. As Col. Davidovich explained, "There has been a difficult adjustment for Ethiopians coming to Israel: language, culture, poverty and a lack of education were only a few of the obstacles. Then there was the



MALI and Pawtucket resident Sandra Gandsman hold traditional Ethiopian baskets made by Mali's mother.
Photo submitted by Sandra Gandsman

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color barrier, along with a feeling among the Israelis that the Ethiopians, with their limited skills, could only be clerks."

Mali and her friends realized that "something just wasn't right" when they entered the Israeli army. All of the Ethiopian women had been assigned to clerk positions. In protest, they went to Col. Davidovich, who had recently been assigned to Nahal, after serving as commander of the paratroopers. Nahal, a unit of the Israeli army, has a high proportion of new immigrant inductees. The Colonel listened to Mali and her friends as they pleaded for a chance to compete equally with the other soldiers. He met individually with each one, and saw great potential in these young women, Mali in particular. He realized that the Israeli army had to confront the misconceptions about the Ethiopians and to give them a chance to excel.

The Israeli Army serves as more than just a military force — it is the one place where every young Israeli (minus the ultra-orthodox) comes together and learns to be citizens of their new country. In addition to basic military training, values and Jewish education are stressed. Intensive language courses are offered, enabling diverse immigrant populations to learn Hebrew. In the Israeli Army, Mali was given her first opportunity to advance. Col. Davidovich, recognizing Mali's talents, encouraged her to become an officer, and eventually, a commander.

Following her successful army service, Mali came to



Mali's parents, Simon and Tova.

Newton, Mass., for one year to help a couple who had adopted a child from Ethiopia. This was her opportunity to learn English and to save money for her dream of some day attending college in Israel and becoming a nurse.

At an Israeli event in Boston, she was surprised to encounter Col. Davidovich, who had just arrived for his new post with the Jewish National Fund. Delighted to see him, she told him how much she wanted to go to college. But tuition and living expenses in Israel were impossible for her to manage alone, and with her parents unable to work, she was close to giving up.

But as luck would have it, Col. Davidovich introduced her to Dr. George Violin, a prominent ophthalmologist with offices in Norwood and Attleboro, who just happened to be at the event. Dr. Violin, impressed with Mali and her drive and determination to study, decided to help her. "I wanted to be certain she would have the funds to achieve her

goals," said Dr. Violin. Mali now receives a monthly stipend from Dr. Violin to cover her expenses at the preparatory school she is attending to prepare her for college entrance examinations. As long as she continues her education, Dr. Violin will provide her with the support she needs.

After meeting Mali, we enjoyed a wonderful Ethiopian dinner at her home in Natanya, a city where a large number of Ethiopians live. Her family welcomed us with such warmth and generosity, and we were very touched.

There are a number of organizations working to help the Ethiopians adjust to life in Israel. One of these is run by Dov Bet-El who lives in Kiryat Gat where about 5,000 Ethiopians reside. He can be reached in Israel at 972-8-681-1846 or via email at dovbet@013.net.il For information on other programs to help Israel, contact Col. Sharon Davidovich at 617-423-0999.

Sandra Gandsman lives in Pawtucket.

Sculptor Katz to speak on Holocaust search

PROVIDENCE — Gallery 401 of the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island will present the works of Robert Katz May 9-29.

Katz is a professor of art at The University of Maine at August a. He has exhibited out-

door and installation sculptures throughout the United States. In addition to Dwelling of Remembrance: A Holocaust Memorial, an outdoor sculpture on permanent display in Scarsdale, New York, Katz has worked on Peace Wall, a project by Seeds of Peace,

and Fragments of Dispersion, an installation at the Charter Oak Cultural Center in Hartford, Conn. The show of sculptures and installations, Small Altars, will focus on Holocaust related issues.

Katz will present an artist

talk on Friday, May 7, at 2 p.m. At that time he will present a video and slide presentation that documents his search for family who lived in Poland prior to the Holocaust. The video records his journey through the Polish countryside, from his grandfather's shtetl to a death camp. His search began in 1995 and cumulated in photographs and video of death camps, Krakow's old Jewish ghetto, and a small village where his grandparents lived. This talk and reception is co-sponsored by the Rhode Island Holocaust Memorial Museum.

The gallery is open Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and by appointment. For information, call 861-8800.

Singles group plans 35+ Japanese dinner

CRANSTON — Perspectives, a social group for young Jewish adults, is trying something new for older members. On Wednesday, April 21, at 7 p.m., the group is holding a 35+ dinner at a Japanese restaurant in Cranston.

Please RSVP to Tavin, Perspectives director, by Monday, April 19th at 2 p.m. To receive more information about the program, or to learn more about Perspectives, call 401-861-8800x205, or e-mail tavlin@jccri.org.

Sharon faces pressure to quit

From page 1

attorney accused Arbel aides of leaking the draft indictment in a politically motivated "media manipulation."

It could take Mazuz, who reportedly considers the case against Sharon "marginal," months to decide on a course of action.

While pledging to cooperate with the police investigation, Sharon consistently has denied wrongdoing in allegations that property developer David Appel hired Sharon's son Gilad in the hope of obtaining government favors.

Appel is suspected of paying Gilad Sharon hundreds of thousands of dollars while his father was foreign minister in the government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. He allegedly hoped that Ariel Sharon would use his influence to help Appel buy and develop a Greek island as a tourist resort.

Investigators allege Sharon may have illicitly used his influence to help Appel, citing an event held in honor of Greece's deputy foreign minister. Sharon also is accused of promoting

Appel's real estate interests near Lod in central Israel.

Some members of Sharon's own Cabinet, perhaps worn down by the regular press reports about the affair, were quick to demand that Sharon step down if indicted. "Under such circumstances, the prime minister should resign," said Infrastructure Minister Yosef Paritzky, whose Shinui Party has five of the government's 23 portfolios.

"I would expect him, even today, to pledge that he would go home and fight to prove his innocence from there," Paritzky told Israel Radio on Sunday. Other Knesset members echoed Paritzky's calls.

A Sharon confidant dismissed the statements as an attempt to undermine the prime minister's standing before he flies to Washington for a key meeting with President Bush on April 14. "This is opposition to the disengagement plan masquerading as a desire for moral probity in government," the confidant said. Indeed, within the Cabinet, right-wing parties who oppose Sharon's plans for unilateral Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip

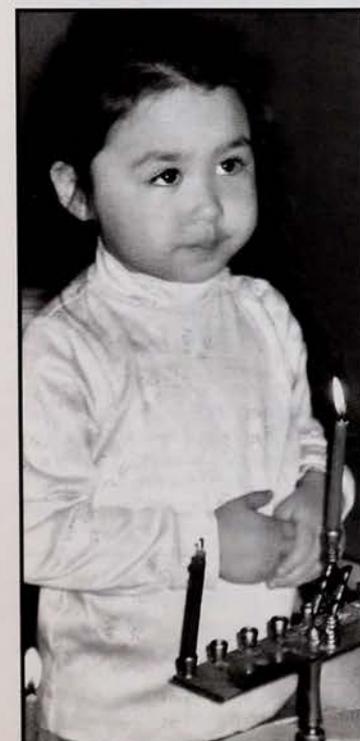
and much of the West Bank said it would not be right for the prime minister to embark on such a controversial course while under legal threat.

On Monday, however, Sharon told the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that "if the right-wing factions leave the government following approval of the disengagement plan, I will not seek new elections and will create an alternative government that very same day."

Yossi Sarid, a legislator from the left-wing Meretz Party, called Monday for Sharon to resign, saying he could not manage the country while fighting to clear his name.

Sarid said Sharon replied that "I am functioning as I should," the Israeli daily *Ha'aretz* reported. Israeli law does not explicitly require the prime minister to resign if indicted on criminal charges.

But opinion polls indicate that a case indicating moral turpitude on the part of Sharon would provoke widespread demands for him to step down.



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ON A ROLL — At left, children in the JCC Providence preschool roll out dough for matzah last week under the supervision of Rabbi Yehoshua Laufer. Above, storytime in Barrington as teacher Nora Kobrin reads with preschoolers Myles Alexandre (left), Isabel Portugali and Angelina Goncalves. Photos by Mary Korr.

JCC preschool at Temple Habonim

From page 1

The JCC Barrington preschool meets five mornings a week in the newly renovated classrooms at Temple Habonim. It is a mixed-age program, from 9 a.m. to noon, with three- and four-year-olds.

Demographics

The expansion is in line with state and national Jewish demographic studies, which show an underserved Jewish preschool population nationwide.

The Jewish Early Childhood Education Project, a non-profit advocacy and educational organization dedicated to putting early childhood education on

the national Jewish communal agenda, estimates that approximately 100,000 Jewish children between birth and six years of age (out of an estimated 700,000) are in a Jewish early childhood program in the United States.

In Rhode Island, the results of a 2002 demographic survey funded by the Jewish Federation, showed approximately 1,656 children ages 0-5 live in Jewish households, 70 percent of them (1,159) children are being raised Jewish. However, only 15 percent of RI Jewish children are enrolled in a Jewish preschool or childcare program, the second lowest of about 20 comparison Jewish

communities.

The quality of a program is paramount — the Jewish preschools compete with private preschools — but location is equally important when parents shop for preschools, said Richard A. Nelson, executive director of the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island. “Parents are not going to drive a long way for their child to attend preschool.”

He said the pairing of a long-established program such as the JCC into satellite sites in the outlying areas fills a need the demographic studies cite. It is a partnership among Habonim, the JFRI, and the JCC. He hopes

the JCC can eventually open at a West Bay site as well.

Tuition in the early childhood JCC programs range from \$2,176 for the two-day program to \$4,327 for the weekly program.

Each year, tuition for preschools creeps up nationwide, as they strive to meet the professional expectations of their administrators, teachers and parents and the educational standards of accrediting bodies such as The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), which the JCC is in the process of applying for accreditation.

In Rhode Island, the preschools are licensed by the Department of Education for kindergarten, while the early childhood programs are certified by the R.I. Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF).

Preschools are not what they were a decade ago, says Sue Connor, director of the JCC preschools. Early childhood programs are now developmental and sequential, with active learning centers, offering a wide range of activities in a creative environment. They offer what Connor calls an “emergent” curriculum relevant to a child’s age and interests. The classrooms have mixed age groups in a play-based environment.

People used to think of early childhood programs as caregivers and babysitters rather than educators, Connor said. “Brain research has shown how important the earliest years are.”

As a result, parents are educated in what makes a good preschool. They want a modern facility, with certified teachers trained in early childhood. To keep a professional staff and upgrade or open new facilities and expand programs costs money.

“You can’t pay a certified teacher minimum wage like preschools once did,” Connor said.

Judaic curriculum

The seven children enrolled at JCC-Barrington are a mixed group — from Jewish, interfaith and one non-Jewish background.

“We teach Jewish customs, values and ethics in a non-judgmental way,” said Foster.

But, “I tell parents, ‘if you’re coming to the JCC program, you’re coming to a Jewish program,’” said Sue Connor, director of both the JCC early childhood programs. She said about 75 percent of the children at the JCC program in Providence are Jewish.

Last week, the preschoolers at the Providence site were rolling in dough, thanks to a Chabad traveling matzah factory.

Jewish values are introduced each month. A mitzvot tree hangs in a 3-4s classroom. Parents write in what mitvah their children did at home or in the community.

So last week, in the Providence program, “Gabe handed a Kleenex to a friend whose nose was dripping.”

Another child picked up a friend’s sandwich that had dropped on the ground and wiped off the grass but advised the friend not to eat it.

Foster is excited about a new national JCC curriculum, “Peer K. Explorer,” the children have been introduced to this spring, after she and another teacher were trained at a national meeting. “Through books, music, and role modeling, Peer K, our mascot, helps us find the answers to being good people,” Foster said.

(Upcoming: A visit to Providence Hebrew Day School, a visit to The Alperin Schechter preschool program, which will expand to Warwick next year, and Temple Sinai.)

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R.I. young leaders rally in Washington D.C.

From page 1



UJC AVERAGE JOE: TV personality "Average Joe" Adam Mesh (left) answers the call to action by pledging to volunteer his time to the Jewish community at the United Jewish Communities (UJC) Washington 14 Conference. Also pictured is David L. Fisher, UJC National Young Leadership Cabinet Co-Chair. Photo by Gideon Boaz.



LOBBYISTS FOR A DAY — Members of the Rhode Island Jewish community traveled to Washington for a conference for young Jewish leaders. From left: Rachel Siegal, Providence; Leslie Hamilton, Providence; Sasha Cervantes, Providence; Deryck Maioli, Johnston; Shana Newman, Westerly; Marina Zaydes, Providence; Brett Lipeles, Providence; and Tavlin Hogan, Providence. Photo by Jonathan Rubin

From page 1

It definitely seemed to pay off in terms of attendance—the conference drew 2,000 Jews between the ages of 25 to 45 representing Jewish communities in more than 20 states. UJC is trying to foster a new generation of leaders in a Jewish world where the median age continues to climb, and in a world where "organized religion" often has the same appeal as a coat organizer.

The event was also an unabashed "dating market," and the numerous community parties (some which even had corporate sponsors like Bacardi) were events for singles to meet.

The conference had two phases — first to stir the emotions and intellects of the attendees through educational seminars, and second, to focus the passions inside an intense day of lobbying our elected officials on Capital Hill.

In one of the many breakout sessions, Islamic scholar Dr. Khaleel Mohammed gave a blistering critique of modern Islam that hit us very hard, due largely to the fact that he is a practicing Muslim. Mohammed said that modern Islam has yet to come to terms with the fact that it is no longer a world power, and that it still clings to prophecies that declare that any land ever occupied by Muslims belongs to Muslims until the end of time — including, of course, Israel.

The lobbying side of things was a completely new experience for most of our group. Every Jewish community had the same three issues to lobby on — first, Federal increases in Medicaid through 2005 (Nationwide,

Jewish eldercare institutions receive as much as 70 percent of their operating budgets from Medicaid); second, federal assistance to increase security in high-risk non-profits, both in the Jewish community and outside it, and, third, the increasing danger of Iran's nuclear proliferation.

We had three volunteers from Rhode Island take these issues to the offices of Sen. Jack Reed, Sen. Lincoln Chafee, Cong. James Langevin and Cong. Patrick Kennedy. After a rousing speech by Sen. Clinton, scores of us ascended the buses and stepped out into politico central. None of our presenters had ever lobbied before, but they researched their issues and practiced their speeches, bolstered by the fact that, unlike paid lobbyists, they had a vested interest in the issues at hand.

Kennedy and Langevin were unavailable, but we spoke to their staffers, who were very helpful. Reed gave us a good deal of his time, and said he unanimously supported all of our resolutions. He even spent some time and schmoozed with us at the end, and we left impressed and energized.

We arrived late to Chafee's office, and found members of the 4H club waiting for him. To my delight, he took us first, and we had a quick audience. Chafee's staffers weren't as complicit as Reeds, and we received some unsatisfying "we'll look into it" responses.

Still, we were light on our feet as we left the white marble halls of the Russell Senate Building, knowing we, as representatives of our Jewish community in

Rhode Island, did a pretty good job as political activists.

The hope of the conference was to stir the souls of the attendees into public and Jewish community service, so we hope that

every year new leaders will emerge from this trip. The next conference is in 2006.

The trip was subsidized by the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.

For more information on Young Leadership at the JFRI, contact Rebekah Raz at 421-4111 ext. 172 or email rraz@jfri.org.



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Food

Deli turns back its prices to mark 50 years of chopped liver, pastrami

By E.B. Solomont

NEW YORK (JTA) — Over the years, the scenery outside the 2nd Avenue Deli has changed: Neighbors have left and the surrounding buildings have grown taller.

The deli itself has expanded, and its prices have gone steadily up over the years.

But time seemed to have been turned back recently when the New York City institution, celebrating 50 years of business, served lunch at its 1950s prices

as a hungry crowd lined up down the block and around the corner.

It was a throwback to another era: Sandwiches cost 50 cents, potato knishes went for a dime and a bowl of matzah ball soup cost all of 40 cents.

At one table, the bill for four strangers who met in line added up to \$4. That included Stu Richel's "splurge" for a soda, which cost 5 cents.

But it wasn't just the prices that had patrons lining up in the East Village: Since it opened

in March 1954, the 2nd Avenue Deli has attracted both tourists and locals for whom the traditional Jewish menu has become a favorite.

"Nothing has changed," beaming owner Jack Lebewohl said, presiding over teeming crowds jostling to get inside and waiters hurriedly delivering steaming soups and sandwiches.



Steve Gluck, 51, a deli patron for about 20 years, said the food only has gotten better with time.

"I don't eat here often because it's too fatty, it's loaded with cholesterol," he said. But he showed up Monday, he said, because he likes the "flavor" of the place.

Inside, the tiled floors and photos of celebrity patrons give the restaurant a *heimishe* feel.

But it was the food that caused some to wax poetic.

"The pastrami was divine; the matzah balls were heavenly,"

said Rachel, an actress who lives nearby.

"We're not a nouveau restaurant," said Steve Cohen, who has been the deli's general manager for 22 years. "We're a place where you come in and people are glad to see you."

Started by Abe Lebewohl in 1954, the restaurant has been owned and operated by Jack since his brother died eight years ago.

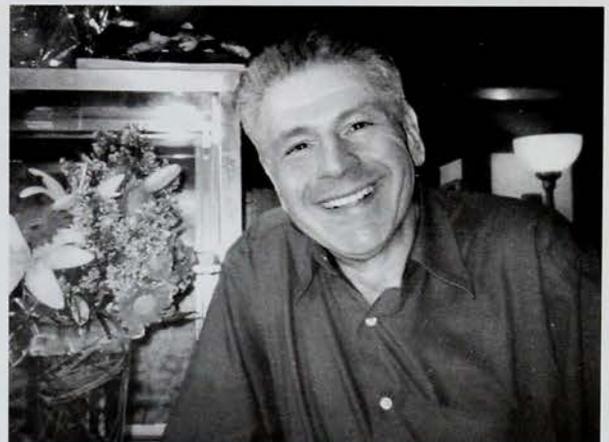
For the patrons celebrating a neighborhood favorite on Monday, the restaurant epitomizes an American and a New York dream.

"Abe came as an immigrant," Cohen said. "It's a celebration of what you can do when you come to New York and to America."

Outside, a banner thanked New Yorkers for 50 years of patronage.

The restaurant's success can be attributed partly to a menu that has barely changed over the decades, décor that is a tribute to the past and staff — most of whom have risen in the ranks from counter boys to wait staff to managers — who have been loyal to the deli for decades.

"We try to create an atmo-



THE OWNER of the 2nd Avenue Deli, Jack Lebewohl, celebrates the restaurant's 50th anniversary on March 15. Photo: E. B. Solomont/JTA

sphere where people don't feel like they're in a restaurant, but at home," Lebewohl said. On an average day, 500 to 1,000 people might eat at the deli.



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This year thousands of U.S. service men and women will be unable to join their families and loved ones around the Seder table. Reaching out to these isolated Jews at home and overseas, JCC Association through the JWB Chaplains Council is shipping over 2,500 solo Seder kits this spring.

The solo Seder kit consists of a box of matzah, two cans of kosher-for-Pesach chicken matzah ball soup, two cans of tuna fish, a bottle of kosher grape juice, a Hagaddah, and a Passover pamphlet.

The kits are designed to enable servicemen and women deployed on ships and in remote areas of the world to have "a taste of Pesach" when their duties make it impossible for them to attend family or community services. The current call up in the Middle East has made it that much more critical to meet the needs of personnel in Kuwait, Bahrain,

and Saudi Arabia, as well as the many ships deployed in the area. "I am worried about Pesach because there is so much uncertainty about what will be next week, let alone next month," said a chaplain stationed near the Iraqi border. "In the meantime, I feel like I am taking care of our people. I know this is where I need to be."

Shipments went out to Kosovo as well as Germany, Bosnia, Italy, and England in the European Theater of Operations; and to Okinawa, Japan, and South Korea in the Pacific. Chaplain Irving A. Elson, USN, has been deployed to Kuwait from Marine Air Station Miramar, Calif.; Chaplain Kenneth J. Leinwand, senior Jewish chaplain in Europe, will be traveling to Kosovo and Bosnia from his home post in Heidelberg, Germany. Many dedicated Jewish military lay leaders are also making efforts to provide Jewish personnel with Passover supplies.

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Passover

Passover deconstructed, and contemplated, at JCC

By Jonathan Rubin

Few things are as central to Passover as the dining room table

— it brings family and friends together around it, it's the stage for the retelling of the Exodus,

and, of course, it holds the food. The Jewish Community Center joined forces with eight other institutions, Jewish and secular, to use the table as the educational centerpiece for its "Passover Contemplated" exhibition,

which ran in both the lobby and Gallery 401.

The participating organizations put their creative wits together in using a Seder table to tell a little bit about Passover

See PASSOVER, next page

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PROVIDENCE MAYOR DAVID CICILLINE, above, and New England Israeli Consul General Meir Shlomo helped cut a ceremonial ribbon.
Photo by JCC

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Passover contemplated at JCC

From page 25

— and themselves. Fine dinnerware contrasted with papier-mâché people, Passover antiques from world-wide Jewish communities (on loan from the collection at Temple Emanu-El), and artistic displays by students and seniors captured numerous themes, including the majesty of a Seder table, the worldwide Jewish experience, social justice and Jewish education.

The idea came from JCC kidspace director Claudia Fiks, who had run a similar program while working in a JCC in Brazil, where she hails from.

"This is one of the missions for the JCC... to provide the entire community with knowledge of Jewish culture," she said.

"It was something different and unique... it got people's attention."

The Providence Hebrew Day School, Na'amat, The Bureau of Jewish Education, the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, the JCC, Highland Court Assisted Living, the AIDS seder and Daniel's Kosher catering and the Jewish Seniors Agency were the featured exhibits. The event also featured framed art by local artists, including photographs by David Lewis and serigraphs by Alan Metnick.

The JCC hopes to make the exhibit an annual event.



DANIEL'S KOSHER CATERING used a Tangine (serving dish) to help illustrate a Moroccan Seder. Photos by Jonathan Rubin



ASDS TABLE — The Alperin Schechter Day School setting. Photos by Jonathan Rubin

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How to be a "seder master"

By Jane Ulman

(JTA) — "A service? What do you mean there's a service?"

"How long?"

"I'm hungry."

From guests who arrived an hour late to guests who rushed us through the Haggadah, from guests who wisecracked and whined to guests who drowned their decorative toy frogs in their water glasses, last year's seder had me wishing the Israelites had never escaped from slavery.

"Let all who are hungry come and eat," we recite each year as part of the *Ha Lachmah Anya* prayer. But does this obligatory invitation extend to unruly relatives and my children?

"I'm not working this hard to give a bad dinner party," I told my husband, Larry, afterward.

"Why don't you lead next year's seder?" Larry suggested, a little too eager to relinquish his role. "Tell them there's a new seder master in town."

For good reason, Passover is the most celebrated Jewish holiday, with, according to the 2000-2001 National Jewish Population Survey, 77 percent of all Jews attending or holding a seder.

A complete seder, my children and relatives will be relieved to hear, doesn't mean word for word readings of every prayer in English, Hebrew and Aramaic.

But a complete seder, in my view, does include the 15 steps enumerated in the order of the Seder, from the recitation of Kiddish to the prayer that God accepts our service. The goal is to conduct a seder that will shock, awe and engage all the participants.

"The shock will be when no one comes back next year," Jeremy, 14, says, fearing an evening of monotony rather than magic.

"No, no," I assure him, "this year's seder will be serious and fun."

"Sounds like an oxymoron to me," Danny, 12, says.

"Look, I'll do an opening meditation, which I hope will be meaningful, and then we'll break into 'There's no seder like our seder.'" I begin singing it, off-key, to the tune of "There's No Business Like Show Business."

Danny rolls his eyes.

Nonetheless, I have developed a four-step plan for seder success:

- From a 17-page bare-bones Haggadah to a 100-page version, with a 300-page leader's manual, the possibilities are limitless. For a test run for our family, I have compiled a personalized, mid-range version, cutting and pasting passages that I find meaningful, appropriate and entertaining.

- I have selected a new Haggadah, "My People Were Nomads," written by our friend Peter Levitan. The Haggadah, on CD-ROM, is comprehensive, adaptable and color-coded to mark core readings, optional readings and rituals, quotations and discussion questions and various customs from Jewish communities around the world. It also includes children's puzzles and games, songs and music and recipes.

- I have talked to members of my immediate and extended family, explaining my desire for a respectful seder. I have asked them to arrive on time, participate, regroup after the meal without complaining and keep their frogs out of their water glasses.

- I have allocated assignments ahead of time and distributed them to the participants. Additionally, my mother-in-law, the sole tune-carrier, will be the song master. I have learned to play "Dayenu" and "Eliyahu Hanavi" on the piano. Jeremy will accompany me with his bass guitar. My stepfather will relate his family's personal Exodus from Eastern Europe. Gabe will read a poem of his choice about freedom. And I have orchestrated a surprise visit from Elijah.

Jane Ulman is a freelance writer in Encino, Calif. She is the mother of four sons.

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Passover

Looking at College Through a Jewish Lens

On Sunday, May 2nd, the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island will be offering a program for teens and their parents entitled, *Looking at College Through a Jewish Lens*.

The focus of the program will be to provide an insight into the college search process as well as provide families with impor-

tant questions that relate specifically to Jewish life on campus. The program will feature Rabbi Elyse Winnick, Assistant Director of Koach, the Conservative movement's college outreach program, and a panel made up of Hillel professionals, college students, and current high school seniors.

Looking at College Through a Jewish Lens will be held at 7PM at Temple Beth-El in Providence.

For more information, contact Rich Walter, Director of Teen Education, at the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island at 331-0956 or rwalter@bjeri.org.



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- Passover begins: 6:55 p.m.
- Passover ends: Tuesday evening
April 13 at 8:20 p.m.

Providence time only

- Monday, April 5:6:57 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 6after 8:05 p.m.
- Friday, April 97:02 p.m.
- Sunday, April 117:04 p.m.
- Monday, April 12after 8:10 p.m.

**For a complete guide,
contact Chabad at 401-273-7238**

Passover

Black South Africans and Jews learn about freedom in seder film

By Moira Schneider

CAPE TOWN (JTA) — "Lights, camera — action!" is not the usual opening to the Pass-

over seder, but viewers tuning into South African television on April 11 could well be forgiven for making that mistake.

They'll see a seder with a uniquely African twist.

Jeanette Jegger, 28, wrote and directed the 24-minute documentary, "An African Pesach," with an eye toward the fact that this year's Jewish festival of freedom coincides with the 10th anniversary of South Africa's transition to democracy.

In light of that coincidence, Jegger sought to take Passover "out of the realm of the traditional Jewish family," and tell "the story in a way that was more relevant to a wider audience."

Jegger did so by filming a seder run by *Tikkun*, the Jewish community's umbrella outreach initiative, with Jewish and black South African high school students.

"It provides the perfect opportunity to reflect on Jewish freedom and the reality of where we, as the South African Jewish community, are now," Jegger said.

Nozipho Gqomo, 16, a student from the black township school of Langa High, said the experience resonated with her own path to freedom.

"I thought that we were the only ones who suffered," she said, referring to apartheid-era South Africa.

"But now I acknowledge that the Jews experienced tremendous suffering, too."

Jegger, a graduate of the Herzlia Jewish day school, made the students the stars of her documentary film.

Nosiba Nyovane, 17, another student from Langa High, has been part of *Tikkun's* personal development programs at her school for three years.

"I think the African Passover celebration is a great idea because it brings us together as a family," she told JTA.

Nosiba said that in bringing together students from rural and urban areas and helping them relate to each other, *Tikkun* has helped her learn and become a role model for the younger children she mentors in the group's Student-for-Student program.

Jenni Davidson, a Herzlia high school student who is one of the stars in the film along with Nosiba, said filming the model seder was a brilliant idea.

"Like Nosiba said, we've both come from very different cultural backgrounds and it's very interesting to see another perspective of Pesach," Jenni said.

For schoolmate Amanda Stein, the Passover film was a learning experience.

"I've seen today how the girls from Langa High have reacted to the different customs that we have and this has made me stop and appreciate things that I take for granted," Amanda said.

Kerbel says the documentary is an important educational tool. "The trouble is that we sometimes get stuck in ritual — we follow the letter of the law but we don't stop to think about it," he said. The film helps people think about Passover customs and meaning, he said.

"In Judaism, the process of *kavanah* — thinking, meditating, understanding — is so important, and what is amazing is that one's seder after an exercise like this is so much more meaningful."

He added that the cross-cultural element of the African seder was "just great."

"One can become very jaded with one's own perspective — you just do it because that's the way you've always done it," Kerbel said. "When somebody comes with a completely fresh outlook, enjoys it and asks questions which one has forgotten to ask, it completely freshens it up and makes it more interesting."

"The whole concept of Pesach is freedom, but, despite 10 years of democracy, are we truly free today?" a rabbi asked. "Despite our political freedom, we still have language barriers and we're not free because of AIDS and poverty."

How else was this seder different from all other seders? It probably was the only one that ended to the rhythm of African drumbeats.

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Passover

Four questions and the Final Four *Judaism and the distractions of sports*

By Eric Fingerhut

WASHINGTON (JTA) — As I filled out my NCAA tournament bracket last week, and made the annual pick of my beloved Duke Blue Devils as the winner, I noticed the date for this year's championship game. If the Dukies make the finals, I won't be watching the game at a sports bar or hanging out with my fellow Duke alums.

No, I'll be with my family singing *Dayenu* and dining on gefilte fish and matzah ball soup. This year, the best Monday of the year for college basketball fans is also the first night of Passover.

The intersection this year between Passover and "March Madness" is not unprecedented. Indeed, it has happened pretty regularly in the past 15 years. Back in 1991, when I was a student in Durham, N.C., one of the most memorable games in tournament history — Duke's semifinal upset of undefeated, defending champion University of Nevada, Las Vegas — occurred on the second night of Passover.

I did not attend a seder that night — no one ever went to a seder on the second night in college. It was difficult enough putting together one holiday meal.

But I munched on Passover brownies while watching the game and avoided beer while celebrating the win (and Duke's championship game victory two days later).

Three years later, when Grant Hill and Duke faced Glenn Robinson and Purdue, the 6 p.m. tipoff coincided with the start of the seder.

It may not be *halachically* permissible, but I watched the tape when the seder was finished.

And back in 1993, when Duke's archrival North Carolina played Michigan in the championship game on the first night of Passover, I saw only a few minutes of the game.

Once in a while, the National Hockey League playoffs also fall during Passover. That's not the case this year, but it would not have been a problem for the lowly Washington Capitals anyway.

In fact, last year's playoff game at MCI Center on the first night of Pesach — during which Jewish Capital Jeff Halpern and the rest of the team apparently played as though they really would rather have been at a seder — contributed to Capitals owner Ted Leonsis' purge of high-salaried players from the team this winter.

After the Caps lost their first-round playoff series in a triple overtime game on Easter Sunday, Leonsis blasted Wizards and MCI Center owner Abe Pollin for an arena schedule that forced the Caps to schedule games on two major religious holidays. Neither game came close to selling out, and Leonsis said he would re-evaluate how much money should be spent on the team.

So should these events be scheduled on major Jewish holidays? If the NCAA and NHL

want the highest possible attendance and television ratings, then one would think they would pay attention to the Jewish calendar.

A couple of years ago, I recall some New York politicians urging Major League Baseball to change the date of a playoff game because it fell on Rosh Hashanah or Yom Kippur.

How silly, I thought. Not only does never playing the World Series on Yom Kippur deprive Jewish fathers of sharing with their young sons the most convincing argument ever on the importance of Yom Kippur — that Sandy Koufax refused to pitch a game because it fell on the Day of Atonement — it also skews our priorities.



State Representative
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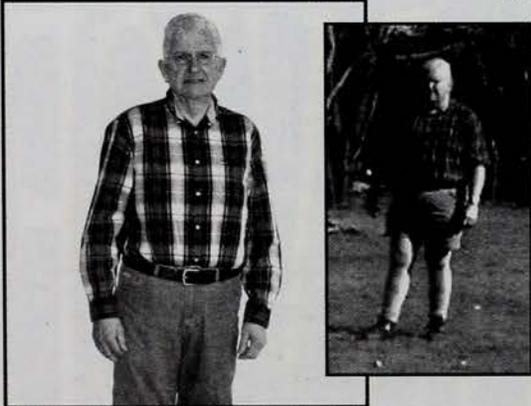
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Consumers buy drugs from Israel

ATLANTA — The increasingly prevalent — and questionable — practice of obtaining federally approved drugs from online business brokers is spilling over into the Jewish community.

Over the last several months, companies that procure discounted prescription medications from Israel and other foreign countries have placed advertisements in Jewish newspapers and sent promotional material to Jewish membership organizations, proposing to offer the public a way to support Israel's economy while also saving money.

In turn, consumers who rely on a heavy volume of medication to treat chronic conditions including high blood pressure, depression and diabetes are flocking to the Web sites to purchase their drugs and support small businesses.

"It's depressing enough having to be on something for five years. I feel better knowing it's from Israel," said Janice Epstein, 51, a breast cancer survivor who lives in Columbus, Ohio. She purchases Tamoxifen, used to treat advanced breast cancer, from

Pharmacy International (pharmintl.com), a Nevada-based company that procures drugs from wholesale distributors and drug store chains in Israel, Spain, Sri Lanka, England and Canada. The former New Yorker learned of the Israeli option through an advertisement in the *New York Jewish Week*.

"I asked my doctor about it and he said sure," she said.

Drugs sold overseas are often cheaper than those sold in the United States because governments in other countries either regulate the price of drugs or negotiate those prices with pharmaceutical companies.

For the most part, the companies — Pharmacy International, MagenDavidmeds.com, Isrameds.com, and a plethora of others — operate in a similar manner. Customers mail or fax their prescription and medical information to the provider, who in turn sends the prescription to a participating licensed pharmacist abroad.

In Israel, by law a doctor must first approve the prescription based on the customer's under-

lying medical condition before a pharmacist fills the prescription. A 90-month supply, the maximum that can be imported into the United States by an individual for personal use only, is then shipped to the customer. The average shipping price is \$15.

Returns are accepted without question, but since it is illegal to resell drugs, unused, sealed medications are donated to clinics and physicians serving indigent populations.

While Pharmacy International orders drugs from chains, and in many instances has made deposits up front so that the pharmacies will fill their orders, MagenDavidmeds.com is working directly with Israel's independent drug stores.

"In this way, we're supporting small businesses, keeping them alive, generating tax revenue for Israel," said Jacobson, a Toronto-based entrepreneur who holds dual Israeli and Canadian citizenship.

So far, 20 pharmacists have agreed to fill prescriptions for MagenDavidMeds.com. Jacobson is hopeful hundreds more will sign on.

Additionally, Jacobson plans to employ couriers to bring packages to the post office, and in this manner, create jobs. "I want to help the Israeli economy," he said. "I'm not hiding that we're for profit, but we're spreading the wealth. It's really exciting."

Despite these altruistic intentions, the practice has also been met with skepticism.

Tom Glaser, the Southeast region president of the American-Israel Chamber of Commerce, says he received information on Isrameds.com six months ago, but felt it was "not something we could get behind, because of questions the chamber had about quality and legitimacy."

Likewise, he is not yet throwing his support behind

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Continued on next page

Consumers

From facing page

MagenDavidMeds.com, from which he received a letter last week. As part of its marketing effort, for every order that comes from members of an organization that signs up as an "affinity partner," the company will give back five percent to that organization.

"I'd have to look into it," Glaser said. "I wouldn't do it without scrutiny. You'd have to prove to me that this is really benefiting the Israeli economy and it's not just a pass through."

Glaser suggests consumers visit www.buyisraelgoods.com for a list of U.S. retailers that sell Israeli products, including an extensive Southeast section.

Pharmacists, who are losing business to alternative pharmacies (last year an estimated 2 million prescriptions were filled outside the United States), are mostly strongly opposed to offshore prescriptions.

"My reaction is it's illegal," said Mitchel Rothholz, a Washington, D.C. pharmacist who is the vice president for professional practice at the American Pharmacists Association, representing more than 50,000 pharmacy industry professionals in the United States.

The law that allows an individual to import a 90-day supply of medication is intended for products that are not available in the United States, he says.

The Bush administration, however, is not currently enforcing the law.

"You'd have to stop it at the borders," Rothholz said. "They're not doing it." In the last two years, the online pharmacy trade out of Canada amounted to \$2 billion

annually, according to Jacobson.

In addition, purchasing drugs from an unknown entity "is risky," Rothholz said. "You aren't actually seeing the pharmacies these drugs are coming out of. There is no inspection." Furthermore, he added, customers lose an "essential" relationship with their local

pharmacist when they purchase medication via telephone or the Internet.

"With medications becoming more powerful, patients need someone they can talk to. Chronic and acute medications need to be kept in a central database to avoid

risky drug interactions."

There are other ways to support Israeli entities, he says.

"Teva is one of the largest generic manufacturers in the world. When you go to your pharmacy, ask if there is a generic drug made by Teva that is available for you."



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The Rhode Island Jewish Film Festival is made possible by a generous grant from an anonymous donor.

The appearance of Harvey Pekar is presented through the Brown Hillel Foundation and the Ivy Film Festival at Brown University.

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Arts

Israeli actress brings face of domestic violence to Trinity

By Jonathan Rubin

PROVIDENCE — The lights were low at Trinity Repertory Theatre, and Naomi Ackerman's face is barely visible in the dim crimson. "The first time he hit me, it was our wedding night," she says. The theatre is whisper quiet as the tale of a relationship gone horribly wrong unfolds. The story is universal in many ways—a "Jekyll and Hyde" spouse who holds power through finances, violence and through sheer emotional dominance.

The gripping story gets a standing ovation when it's over.

Ackerman is an American-born Israeli actress, and never had to suffer through the physical and emotional abuse that her character endured. The crafting of her story involved dozens of interviews with victims of domestic violence over the last three years, and she's been in high school classrooms and prisons from India to New Zealand to the United States performing more than 700 performances in all.

"As soon as we heard about



NAOMI ACKERMAN, her husband Rafael and her daughter Zohar, at her one-woman show at the Trinity Repertory Theatre, sponsored by the National Council of Jewish Women. Photo by Jonathan Rubin

her, we knew we wanted Naomi," said Elly Elbaum, president of the National Council of Jewish Women, who brought Ackerman to Rhode Island as part of their multi-year crusade against domestic violence.

Besides the "Flowers Aren't Enough" performance at Trinity, they have also put notices about domestic violence in women's bathrooms inside Jewish institutions in Providence, brought Rabbi Mark Dratch of Stamford, Conn. to speak to the R.I. board of rabbis and to local shelter workers, and brought national heavy-weight Rabbi Abraham J. Twerski, M.D. before an audience of hundreds at Temple Beth-El.

They also held a program at Temple Habonim in Barrington for the bar / bat mitzvah classes. When asked if 12- and 13-year-olds were too young for domestic violence education, Elbaum said, "We don't think it's too young," Elbaum. "We are supposed to go younger."

Ackerman was brought to town March 15 in a highly-publicized visit co-sponsored by the City of Providence, the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island and its Women's Alliance, the Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Trinity Rep. Mothers, daughters and grandmothers were in attendance, in addition to many women from

local women's shelters, whose tickets had been subsidized by NCJW members.

Her sold-out performance, which was humorous at times, and excruciatingly painful at others, took the audience play by play through a gripping tale of a young, upper-class Israeli woman's marriage to an aspiring law student. They are adored by their friends, who say they are "the per-

"People keep sweeping this under the rug, until there just isn't any more room under the rug."

fect couple." Sure, her husband has some temper flare-ups, but he always apologizes afterwards. As her torment increases, and the man she thought she knew becomes like a stranger to her, she is filled with shame and remorse at her situation, and keeps it inside, away from friends and family, who, with the help of her husband, move farther and farther from her life.

She begins to wear concealing clothing such as "big hats and long sleeves."

Her husband tells her she is too "stupid" for school, and that he is so successful anyway that they don't need two incomes. She becomes an island unto herself, diminished and demoralized by her husband, lacking a support group to pull herself up.

Seeking some sort of self-validation, she plans to start her own

flower store, and, after many battles with him, succeeds. She starts to turn a tidy profit, and when she actually exceeds his income one month, he flies into a rage and beats her unconscious. She wakes up alone, and realizes that she can't bear to think of bringing up a family with this man. She walks into the bathroom, takes out a razor blade and rolls up her sleeves.

She wakes up in the hospital, surrounded by her parents, and her husband is nowhere to be found. Slowly, she begins to rebuild.

"We think that these women are weak," said Ackerman after the performance. "I have met, in my journey, the most amazing and strong women. They were strong when they stayed; they were strong when they left."

Ackerman said that she was afraid that the story would need changes based on the countries that she visited. "I thought I was wringing only something that happens to Jews," she said, but found the story was universally accepted and needed no changes.

However, "almost any country I go to, there's an excuse for the spouse—India has the dowry, Australia, has drinking, America has a violent environment.

"People keep sweeping this under the rug, until there just isn't any more room under the rug."

One woman in the audience was writing a story about Ackerman for a college paper, and was recently recovering from an abusive relationship. "I related to everything... it was really powerful."

Another woman, a Muslim who asked not to be identified, lives outside Providence and is recovering from terrible incidents with "in-laws who have basically kidnapped my kids."

"[Ackerman] gave us a glimpse of a moment that I lived for 20 years... it hit the essence of my soul and I cried," she said.

"This is something that has to be talked about," said Debbie Chorney. "All too often, people in the Jewish community will not go to their rabbis."

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Journalist mixes reporting, memoir in book on Israelis coping with terror

By Peter Ephross

NEW YORK (JTA) — David Horowitz couldn't believe his ears.

Tuning into CNN right after Israel's assassination of Hamas leader Sheik Ahmed Yassin, the editor of the *Jerusalem Report* magazine heard the attack being described as the killing of a beloved leader of an Islamic group.

Even a veteran journalist and media watcher such as Horowitz found absurd such a one-sided description of Yassin, whose group is considered responsible for the deaths of hundreds of Israelis since the Palestinian intifada began three and a half years ago.

Horowitz himself had no ethical qualms about the move.

"He was an evil man," he told JTA in an interview in New York on Tuesday during a break from a two-week tour to promote his new book, *Still Life With Bombers*. "I have no moral ambivalence about it."

But Horowitz is anguishing about whether the assassination was the right move from a strategic standpoint — or whether it will foment even more hatred and spur additional terrorist attacks.

During the interview, he also wondered about some of the recent moves of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon — for example, why Sharon didn't release Palestinian prisoners arrested for intifada-related crimes when such a move might have bolstered Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, but then released hundreds of prisoners in an exchange with Hezbollah for the bodies of three Israeli soldiers and a kidnapped Israeli businessman.

He also wondered, as do

many others, whether a unilateral Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip will be seen as a reward for terrorism and questions the West Bank security barrier will really protect Israeli soldiers.

The fence "does offer a heightened degree of protection against bombers," but adds that unless the fence hews close to Israel's pre-1967 borders, it leaves many Israeli settlers and Palestinians on the "wrong" side, he writes.

His unclassifiable stances — some seen as more dovish, others more hawkish — have sparked debate on Horowitz's book tour. Some asked why Israel doesn't finish the job of cracking down on the terrorists, while one man wondered if there's a point at which supporting Israel might become too costly for Americans.

Horowitz, 41, says he wrote *Still Life With Bombers* — his second major book, after *A Little Too Close to God* — to set the record of the past three years straight.

He said he aims to reach and educate both the protesters who say "End the Occupation of Palestine" and the people who march outside synagogues protesting when Palestinian moderate Sari Nusseibeh speaks.

Part political reportage, part memoir of daily life in Israel, the book is a grim accounting of the effects of the almost-daily violence on Israeli life.

The British-born Horowitz,

who now lives in Jerusalem with his American-born wife, Lisa, and their three children, represents a broad swathe of Israelis who have seen the optimism of the Oslo years literally blown to bits by the onslaught of Palestinian terrorist attacks.

While not supportive of every move the Israeli government has made, Horowitz places the blame for the current violence squarely on the Palestinians.

He's sharply critical of P.A. President Yasser Arafat's decision to walk away from negotiations after the Camp David summit in summer 2000.

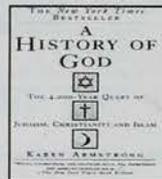
The Palestinian public is suffering from what he calls "manipulated desperation." It's a desperation created by their leaders, to keep them miserable and incite them to violence to detract attention from the leadership's own shortcomings.

"I don't believe that the widespread anti-Israel sentiment "is a necessary condition. And I know it wasn't true a few years ago," he said in the interview.

Horowitz details the changes that he and his wife have made in their personal lives — not allowing their children to attend certain school field trips, choosing where to shop or catch a movie based on which venues have the best security.

Horowitz grew up in an Orthodox family in London. He attended a Zionist school, and visited Israel several times as a kid.

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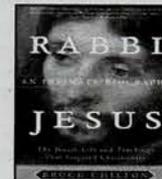


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AS WE GROW OLDER

Changes in Jewish rituals

I seem to have become preoccupied with the fact that nothing is the same anymore. And like everyone else of my generation, I feel that the changes are not improvements.



Tema Gouse

(Anyone who reads these epistles on a regular basis is now mumbling "There she goes again").

I selfishly believe that narrow-minded nostalgia is a senior entitlement.

But, seriously, let's look at change and evaluate it. Let's examine the evolution of rituals over the years for the average Jewish family.

We must begin at the beginning, circumcision for boys and name giving for girls, both mandatory in Jewish law. Today's parents feel they are optional. The granting of a Hebrew name to the Jewish baby girl usually honored a revered deceased relative. If some day, one of my grandchildren decide to name their daughter Tema (my Hebrew and my English name) her English name will probably be Tiffany or Tatanya. When the Rabbi (God-willing) wants to put her Hebrew name on the ketubah, she will have to ask her parents what it is.

In "olden times" the bris was celebrated with a glass of wine or schnapps following the ritual. Today's new parents call the caterer and half of the attendees are not Jewish. Everyone loves the party but most are absent from the religious ceremony.

Bar Mitzvah is the occasion that commemorates a Jewish boy's assuming the adult responsibilities of his faith. Bat Mitzvah is

the celebration for Jewish girl's of the same passage in life. (It never existed 50 years ago but is a welcome addition). Today, both of these occasions mandate parties that cost more than my old house cost. Honest!! And though the synagogue performance is still demanding of the honoree, it is the big shindig that follows that seems to have garnered the focus of the planning. So much food! So much noise! (And unlike years ago, no one sends him a pen or a watch as a present).

High school graduation was once regarded as a major landmark for child and parent alike. Nowadays it is not unusual for the graduate to opt to skip the ceremony, more interested in just partying or leaving early for a graduation present trip abroad.

College used to be a privilege one aspired to. If funds permitted, no one took a year (or two or three) to "find one's self" or to decide whether to major in Stone Age Artifacts or Alternative Cosmetic Dentistry. There was a weird concept that college should prepare you for independence (AKA, start earning money).

Today's parents panic if their child cannot gain admission to an elitist school, convinced that he or she will forever be dependent. Many a Jewish parent has painfully learned that college education doesn't always mean their kid has grown up.

Today's wedding gowns cost more than my whole spiffy wedding cost. And since nostalgia is passe, no one EVER wears mom's or sister's wedding gown. Brevity, rage control, and fear of losing the love of dear ones limit my expounding on the wisdom (or lack of it) that go into wedding costs that compete with

the national debt. (And, incidentally, they are also VERY noisy). Thank goodness, they still break the glass during the ceremony.

High Holiday services and Passover seders are still observed. But they are different. The man who thinks it more essential to be in his office than his synagogue on the second day of Rosh Hashonah is understood. I never took a poll but I am sure there are fewer hungry in the synagogue than there used to be. And for many (if not most) today's observance of Passover food rituals would make my zayde turn over in his grave.

Only landmark dates seem to mandate family reunions and they usually take place in restaurants. It isn't very important but does reflect the decay of family ties, a unique highlight of the once strong Jewish family way of life.

Finally I would like to discuss two issues that dramatically reflect changed values in the Jewish home that are not religious or part of ritual. Pride in saving (hence being independent) seems to have disappeared about the time that Neil Armstrong landed on the moon.. Today's fast pace of living says our children must own whatever is available and having "fun" seems to take precedence over laundry and vacuuming. Our children are not as committed as we were to tzedakah. There is nothing more embedded in Jewish tradition than tzedakah. Can they really teach their children the right priorities if they cannot resist their children's demands?

Wouldn't you hate to have me as your mother? Or worse yet, as your mother-in-law?

Tema Gouse is a regular columnist for the Jewish Voice & Herald.

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Obituaries

Ruth Beloff

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — Ruth (Kahn) Beloff, 93, died March 6 in Chapel Hill. She was the wife of Maxwell M. Kahn and Samuel Beloff.

She was born in New York City and lived in Denver, Colorado for over 30 years.

She is also survived by a son Charles B. Kahn, M.D. of Providence; two daughters, Vicki Kahn Ross, and Susan Kahn Gersten, four grandchildren and a great-grandson.

Contributions may be made to the Miriam Hospital, 164 Summit Avenue, Providence, R.I. 02906.

Samuel I. Eisenstadt

CRANSTON — Samuel L. Eisenstadt, 89, of Shelburne, Vt., formerly of Cranston, a retired teacher, died March 21. He was the husband of the late Mildred (Greenberg) Eisenstadt.

Born in Bristol, R.I., a son of the late Morris and Sadie (Zelnicker) Eisenstadt, he had lived in Cranston for 48 years before moving to Providence then to Shelburne less than a year ago.

He was an Army veteran of WW II, serving in a construction battalion in both Europe and the Pacific. He was a member of the Jewish War Veterans, Post #23.

He was a math and science

teacher in the Providence School System for over 25 years, teaching mostly at Classical and Hope High Schools, retiring 23 years ago.

Mr. Eisenstadt was a member of Touro Fraternal Association and volunteered with Meals on Wheels. He was a former member of Temple Beth-El, Temple Emanu-El and Temple Torat Yisrael.

He leaves two daughters, Elaine Eisenstadt of Maui, Hawaii, and Susan Eisenstadt of Burlington, Vt.; three grandchildren and one great-grandson. He was the brother of the late Sydney and Lester Eisenstadt.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

Contributions may be made to Jewish Family Service, 229 Waterman St., Providence, RI 02906.

Samuel Irving

PALM BEACH, Fla. — Samuel Irving, 88, of Palm Beach, formerly of Providence, a retired business owner, died March 24. He was the husband of Lucille A. (Weiner) Irving and the late Helen (Perlow) Irving.

Born in Providence, a son of the late Philip and Rebecca (Lerner) Irving, he lived in Providence until 1984, when he moved to Palm Beach.

He was an Army Air Force veteran of

World War II, serving as a master sergeant.

Mr. Irving had been co-owner of the United Paper Stock Co. for 50 years, retiring at age 69. He was a former president of the Eastern Paper Mills Suppliers.

He was a member of Temple Emanu-El in Providence and Palm Beach, and the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island, and a supporter of the Jewish Federation, Miriam Hospital, and the former Jewish Home for the Aged in Providence. He also belonged to the Redwood Lodge of Masons for more than 50 years.

He was treasurer of Sutton Place Condominium Association for 10 years.

Besides his wife, he leaves four sons, Philip Irving of Columbia, Md., Edmund Irving of Tucson, Ariz., Richard M. Lieberman of Orlando, Fla., and Robert A. Lieberman of Providence; four daughters, Davida E. Irving of Hummelstown, Penn., Judith H. Phillips of Wakefield, Shelly I. Wolcott of Milford, N.H., and Polly A. Hagy of Warwick; a brother, Frederick Irving of Belmont, Mass.; 16 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

He was the brother of the late Rose Levin and Louis, Daniel and Morris Irving.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

Contributions may be made to Hospice of Palm Beach County, Palm Beach, Fla. or to Temple Emanu-El, Providence.

Joelle Loebenberg

PROVIDENCE — Joelle C. Loebenberg, 84, of Laurelmead, 255 Blackstone Blvd., a homemaker, died March 29 at the Miriam Hospital. She was

the wife of the late Richard Loebenberg.

Born in Teaneck, NJ, a daughter of the late David and Fannie (Rosenberg) Corn, she had lived in Providence for 60 years. She was a former member of Temple Beth-El and its sisterhood, the former Golden Agers of the Jewish Community Center, Ledgemont Country Club in Seekonk and President Country Club in West Palm Beach, Fla. She volunteered to read books onto tapes for the blind.

She leaves a son, Theodore Loebenberg of Providence; a daughter, Carol Davidow of Brookline, MA; four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held at Sharon Memorial Park, Sharon, Mass.

Contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society.

David Raphael

WORCESTER, Mass. — David Raphael died March 21. Born in Providence, a son of the late Harris and Esther (Hyman) Raphael, he lived in Providence before moving to Worcester 10 years ago.

He was an Army Air Force veteran of World War II.

Mr. Raphael leaves many nephews, nieces, great-nephews and great-nieces. He was the brother of the late Rose Kershman and Lillian Epstein, and Samuel, Jack, Matthew, Benjamin, Abraham, Nathan and Sydney Raphael.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

Sumner Riback

HAVERHILL, Mass. — Sumner Riback, 79, of Haverhill, formerly of Providence, a retired car salesman and former prisoner of war, died March 23. Born and raised in Providence, a son

of the late Philip and Rose (Hyman) Riback, he lived in Providence before moving to Lawrence, Mass., in 1985 and to Haverhill in 2000.

He was a graduate of Holy Cross High School.

An Army Air Force veteran of World War II, he was held as a prisoner of war in Yugoslavia for five months. He was honored with a Distinguished Flying Cross, a Purple Heart and an Air Medal with Clusters.

He leaves a brother, Arnold Riback of New York City. He was a brother of the late Charlotte Leach.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

Sophie Saslavsky

NAPLES, Fla. — Sophie Saslavsky, 94, of Naples, formerly of Warwick, and Belmont and Cambridge, Mass., died Feb. 1. She was the wife of the late Morris Saslavsky.

Born in Russia, she came to the United States in 1920 and lived in Mass., before retiring to Florida with her husband.

Mrs. Saslavsky retired from the Harvard Coop, the bookstore of Harvard University.

She was a member of Hadasah.

Besides her son Arnold, she leaves two grandsons and two great-grandsons. She was the mother of the late Sidney Saslavsky.

Burial was at the Beth Israel of Cambridge Cemetery in Everett, Mass.

Contributions may be made to Hospice of Naples, 1095 Whipoorwill Lane, Naples, FL 34105.

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Our Staff

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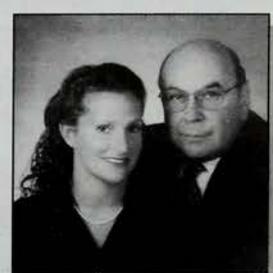
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My Voice Women in the Passover Haggadah

(The following is an excerpt from "Creating Lively Passover Seders, A Sourcebook of Engaging Tales, Texts & Activities", by David Arnow, Ph.D., Jewish Lights Publishing, March 2004. 416 pps. \$24.99. It is used with the permission of Jewish Lights Publishing. It first appeared in the spring edition of "Outlook," the magazine of the Women's League for Conservative Judaism.)

By David Arnow, Ph.D.

The Passover Haggadah mentions only one woman, Hadassah (aka Esther) and only in a song for the second seder. This is all the more striking given the critical roles at least five women play in the Exodus story. The midwives Shiphrah and Puah defy Pharaoh's orders to kill the Israelite boys they deliver, while Yocheved, Moses' mother, Miriam, his sister, and Pharaoh's daughter all flout the king's edicts. It is only during the last generation that contemporary additions to the seder service have highlighted women's contributions to the story...

The Haggadah's vision of redemption does not exclude human actors—only women. Yet there's no good theological reason why the Haggadah's actors should be men alone.

The absence of women is better explained by the cultural milieu of its compilers. There are a number of explanations for the declining public role of women into rabbinic times. One holds that in their early, more revolutionary days, the Pharisees, precursors of the rabbis, were more open to public roles for women, but when they became the "rabbinic establishment" they adopted the more misogynous views sometimes reflected in the *Mishnah*...

Fortunately, the Haggadah also contains the best justification for adding new voices to the seder when it says: "Whoever elaborates on the story of the Exodus deserves praise." The beloved rituals involving Elijah were added sometime in the Middle Ages... Just as the medieval seder embraced that custom in response to a need, the process can continue today so that Passover, the most popular Jewish ritual, can perpetuate a vision of Jewish history that acknowledges the contributions of women.

The Legend of Serakh bat Asher:

The amazing story of

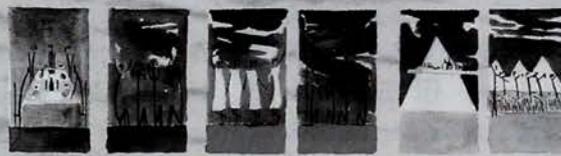
Serakh bat Asher, the adopted daughter of Asher, the eighth son of Jacob, would make another wonderful addition to the seder. According to the *midrash*, without Serakh, the Exodus might never have occurred!

A word of background. There are three biblical genealogies listing Serakh. Genesis 46:17 mentions her among those who went down into Egypt. Numbers 26:46 counts her among those who departed. I Chronicles 7:30 lists her as one of Jacob's descendants. She is the only granddaughter of Jacob ever mentioned. That she is listed among those who went into Egypt as well as among those who left, a period of several hundred years, suggests unusual longevity. Other than her tantalizing presence in these genealogies, Serakh appears nowhere else in the Bible. *Midrash* fills in the void, and then some. The story below synthesizes material found in *midrashim* from the third to fourteenth centuries. During your seder, you might want to read the story aloud and discuss the questions that follow.

Joseph's brothers were jealous because their father Jacob favored him. They hated Joseph and decided to throw him into a pit in the desert to die. They told their father Joseph had been killed by a wild beast. Jacob never stopped mourning for his lost son. But Joseph survived. Traders pulled Joseph from the pit and sold him. He became a slave in Egypt.

Many years later, when his brothers went down to Egypt to buy food during a famine, they

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Websites, information:

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- Jewish Lights Publishing (www.jewishlights.com)

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found that Joseph had risen to become Pharaoh's top advisor. When Jacob's sons returned from Egypt to tell their father that Joseph was alive and had risen to great power, they were afraid that the depressed and fragile old man would die from shock. Rather than tell him directly, they found Serakh, the adopted daughter of Asher, Jacob's eighth son. She was wise and skilled at playing the harp and she played a song for Jacob over and over again with these words: "Joseph is in Egypt. There have been born on his knees, Menashe and Ephraim." (In Hebrew the phrases rhyme: *Yosef b'Mitzrayim. Yuldo lo al bir kayim, Menashe v'Ephrayim.*)

Gradually the words began to penetrate and Jacob's heart

filled with joy. "My daughter," he said to Serakh. "May death never have power over you, for you revived my spirit." As a result of Jacob's wish, Serakh lived a long life. Instead of dying, she became one of the few people taken up to heaven while still alive. Because she never really died, Serakh returned to help her people at critical moments over the ages.

Serakh went down to Egypt with Jacob's family. Eventually, a new Pharaoh arose who did not know Joseph. He enslaved the Israelites. Hundreds of years later, Moses came to liberate them, but the Israelites did not believe that God had chosen him to lead them out of Egypt. At the burning bush, God told Moses what to tell the Israelites in order to convince them. "Tell them that I, God, have surely remembered you, *pakod pakad'ti*." The people heard these words and saw the special signs God had given Moses. But they still refused to believe him. Only Serakh could convince the Israelites that Moses was indeed God's chosen leader.

Long before, God had told Jacob that when the redeemer of Israel came to Egypt he would utter special words. Jacob handed this secret down to Joseph who later told his brothers. Asher handed the secret down to his daughter, Serakh. When Moses called on the people to leave Egypt, Serakh was the only person alive who had heard the secret words. She recognized them. "*Pakod pakad'ti*, I have surely remembered..." Serakh told the Israelites that Moses had truly been sent by God.

Finally, when the Israelites were about to leave Egypt, Moses

realized that they could not depart until they honored a request that Joseph had made generations earlier. Just before he died, Joseph made the children of Israel promise to take his bones with them when they left Egypt for the land God had sworn to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He wanted to be buried in Israel.

Only Serakh remembered where Joseph had been laid to rest. She told Moses, "The Egyptians made a metal coffin for Joseph that they put in the river Nile so that its waters would be blessed." Moses stood on the bank of the Nile and cried, "Joseph, Joseph! The time of God's promise to redeem you has arrived. If you appear, we will take you with us. If you don't, we are free of our promise to you." Joseph's coffin immediately floated to the surface.

Many years later, during the reign of King David, Serakh's people needed her again. An evil man tried to start a rebellion against the king and one of David's generals rushed off to destroy the entire city where the man lived. He had already begun to batter down the walls when he heard a woman shouting, "Listen! Listen," she cried. "There's another way." It was Serakh who persuaded him to wait and then convinced the townspeople to turn over the evil fellow. The city was saved. Serakh taught everyone an important lesson. "Wisdom is more valuable than weapons of war." (Ecclesiastes 9:18).

Questions for discussion

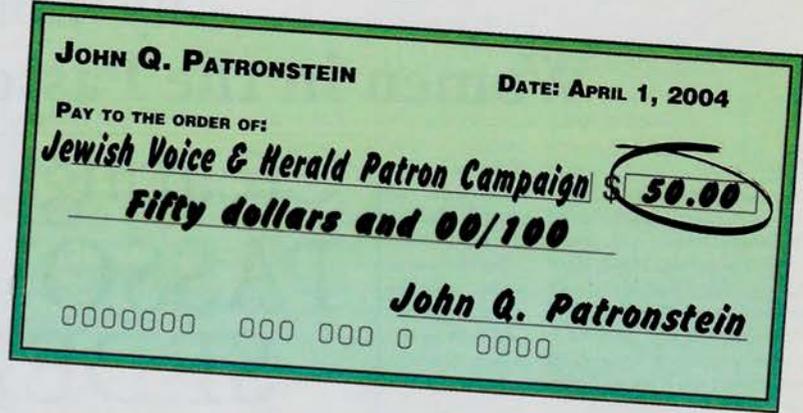
* How would you compare the roles of the women of the Exodus to the beginning of the story (Shiphrah and Puah, Miriam, Yocheved, Moses' mother, and Pharaoh's daughter) with those played by Serakh?

* Why was it so important to take Joseph's bones out of Egypt? What does the story about Joseph and Serakh have to tell us about memory?

* Serakh taught her people that "Wisdom is more valuable than the weapons of war." What can we learn from that today?

The author, Dr. David Arnow, is a former clinical psychologist and a graduate of Brandeis and Boston Universities, and has published many articles on issues of Jewish interest. He has served on national commissions on Jewish identity and education.

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Inside...

Holy or hokey?
 Seasonal displays on City Hall lawn get mixed reactions
 By Jonathan Rubin
 CRANSTON — The menorah went up, followed by a giant inflatable Santa, a manger scene and a parade of pink flamingos.

ON THE BORDER — Local archaeologist reconstructs GIS map of Jewish diaspora border, where Berubata still influences by name. See story on page 12.

FRUIT COMPOTE — The Shalom Jewish Club serves up Russian recipes for dried fruit. See Zella's column on page 14.

HISTORIC TOUR — Emma-El Hebrew school students take a tour of Jewish Providence. See story on page 5.

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Kosher butchers: Our beef safer from mad cow disease
 By Joe Berkobsky
 NEW YORK (JTA) — New signs atop the pasteurization of the Hungarian Kosher Grocery in Skokie, Ill., one of the nation's largest kosher food supermarkets.

CHABAD WISHES YOU A HAPPY CHANUKAH

OFF TO PHILLY — Dana Tarr, of Lakeside, Mass., takes a second look after leading winter clothes on a bus bound for a homeless shelter in Philadelphia recently. He was one of 33 local teens who went on an annual community service field trip coordinated by the Harry Elkin Modisha Hebrew Community High School and sponsored by the Bureau of Jewish Education of Rhode Island. See more photos on page 13.