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SERVING RHODE ISLAND AND SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

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Jewish Federation of Rhode Island

June 10, 2005

Head of Schechter bids farewell



Photo by Jonathan Rubin

DR. PENNEY STEIN visits with young artists at the school.

By Jonathan Rubin

Editor's note: Dr. Penney Stein, head of the Alperin Schechter Day School (ASDS) in Providence, and one of its founders, will be stepping down this month. She spoke with the JV&H on Jewish education today.

JR: Studies have repeatedly shown how vital Jewish education is to the formation

of Jewish identity. Is this something that parents are taking to heart?

PS: I'm not sure we've gotten the message yet. There are a lot of things that stand in the way of support for Jewish education — misconceptions that people have about what day schools are like, and about affordability, although that's

See SCHECHTER HEAD, page 3



Photo by Jonathan Rubin

EAST PROVIDENCE SITE — The front of the Fram/Honeywell building in East Providence, one of the proposed interim sites for the Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island.

Two interim sites studied for community day school

By Jonathan Rubin

PROVIDENCE — Almost half a million dollars has been allocated for the proposed Jewish Community Day School (JCDS) — now the challenge is to select an interim site.

The search has narrowed to two sites, a grouping of modular classrooms behind the Jewish Community Center (JCC) in Providence, and an office building in East Providence that has been vacant for a few years.

It will be a busy time for The Partnership and the Bureau of Jewish Education, the organizations leading the initiative; the school is set to open in September 2006. The Bureau of Jewish Education's Richard Walter has been staffing the community facilities task force of The Partnership, chaired by Arthur Robbins and David Waserman.

The committee is composed of individuals with long careers in real estate and development, and for years they have been reviewing potential short- and long-term locations for Jewish community growth. Ever since the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island (JFRI) awarded the JCDS \$425,000 in February for start-up costs, the group has used its results in trying to locate an interim site for the school as well.

The school is expected to be in an interim location for up to five years, at which time it is hoped that another long-discussed project — a permanent "community campus" that would house all the major Jewish agencies — will be in existence for the school to move into.

Priorities for the interim site have been to find a location that alleviates some of the current dilemmas faced by the Alperin Schechter Day

School (ASDS) in Providence, including the lack of "green space," and inadequate facilities for athletics, the library, cafeteria, and a modern computer lab.

The JCDS, which hopes to absorb most of the student body of the Schechter school at the end of its next school year (2006), expects to admit nearly 200 Jewish students from pre-kindergarten to 8th grade. Most of the students from ASDS are prime candidates for enrollment at the pluralistic school, which will also be reaching out to the Reform and Modern Orthodox communities.

Sites studied

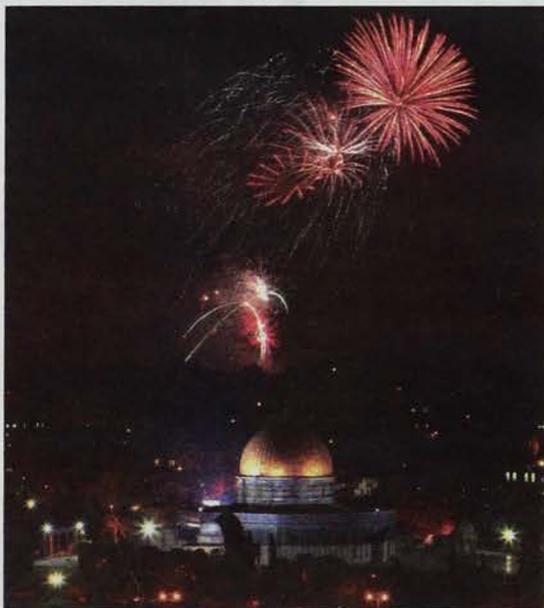
Arthur Robbins, co-chair of the facilities committee, spent months investigating more than a dozen potential sites for the school, including the Katherine Gibbs School, Hillside Assisted Living (the former Jewish Home for the Aged) and the Holy Name School, but found deficiencies in environment, cost, building code or access to parking.

As a result, two current sites became the top contenders — one to be erected on land behind the JCC, and another at the former Fram/Honeywell site, located at 105 Pawtucket Ave. in East Providence. The latter is about five miles from the current Schechter school and accessible over the Henderson Bridge on the East Side, or via 195 East or 95N at the School Street exit.

Pros and cons

Although talks are in their infancy, the advantage of installing pre-fabricated, modular classrooms at the JCC site would be that the school would remain in the coveted area of

See DAY SCHOOL, page 10



JTA Photo

JERUSALEM DAY — Fireworks explode over Jerusalem and the Dome of the Rock on Sunday during Jerusalem Day celebrations, on the 38th anniversary of the reunification of the city following the 1967 Six Day War.

Community Calendar

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The Jewish Voice & Herald encourages synagogues and members of the Jewish community to submit announcements of weddings, bar- and bat-mitzvahs, obituaries and other life cycle events.

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CANDLE LIGHTING
For greater Rhode Island

June 10 8:00
June 12 Shavuot 8:01
June 13 Shavuot 9:06
June 17 8:03
June 24 8:04



SUN., JUNE 12

B'nai Israel study group
7 p.m. 224 Prospect St., Woonsocket. Study for Shavuot with Cantor Cornblatt. Refreshments. For more info, call 762-6433.

SHAVUOT, JUNE 13-14

MON., JUNE 13

Kollel Shavuot program
12:15 a.m. beginning at Congregation Beth Shalom, and proceeding to PHDS. Sunrise around 4:30 a.m. with cheesecake. See www.providencekollel.org for details. No charge.

Chabad reading, dairy dinner

5:45-7:15 p.m. 3871 Post Road, Warwick. Reading of Ten Commandments followed by dairy dinner, blintzes and cheesecake. Everyone should attend, especially children and infants. To RSVP, call Chabad CHAI Center (401)884-7888.

Shavuot at Chabad

1 a.m. to dawn at Chabad House, 360 Hope St., corner of Olney. Torah learn-a-thon study group and discussions. 10:30 a.m. services. 11:30 a.m. Reading of the Ten Commandments followed by holiday luncheon with blintzes and ice cream. Children welcome. For more info, call 273-7238.

TUES., JUNE 14

Chabad Shavuot services

10:30 a.m. service. 11:30 a.m. Yizkor, 8 p.m. Evening service.

WED., JUNE 15

Israel Bonds rep at JCC

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Jewish Community Center (JCC), 401 Elm-grove Ave. An Israel Bonds representative will be available to assist with Israel Bonds requests. For more information, or to set up an appointment, contact Donna Karsh-Carlson at 1-800-752-5651.

Alzheimer's author to speak

5:30 to 7 p.m. Tamarisk, 3 Shalom Dr., Warwick. Author Joanne Koenig-Coste, lecture and book-signing. Wine and cheese reception. Reservations required. 732-0037. www.tamarisk.org.

SUN., JUNE 19

Emanu-El bike ride

9 a.m. Benefit ride for temple. 20 or 40 miles on back roads of Seekonk and Rehoboth.

Rain date: Sunday, June 26. For more information, email info@teprov.org or call the temple at 331-1616.

CONTINUING:

JCC Gallery

Gallery 401 exhibition of sculpture and watercolors by Ruth Emers, now-June 30. Open Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and by appointment. For further information, call 861-8800, ext. 108.

Judaism 101 at Temple Torat Yisrael

Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston. Introduction to Judaism for adults who are looking for honest, intellectually-stimulating answers to basic questions about Judaism, taught by Rabbi Amy Levin. Open to the public; \$18 registration fee. Call 785-1800 to register.

Thurs., June 16

7:30 p.m. "Questions about Practice and Observance"

Thurs., June 30

7:30 p.m. "Questions about Identity and Community"

SEND US YOUR CALENDAR LISTINGS

Send us your calendar listings — include time, date, location and telephone number. Notices must be received 2 weeks prior to publication date.

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SCHECHTER

From page 1

not always a misconception. It is expensive, and I wish that Jewish education was such a priority to families that they were literally demanding help from the community if that's what they need, and that the community was really responsive to issues of affordability.

I would love to see some sort of superfund for Jewish education — for religious schools and day schools, so the schools themselves are not the only ones that bear the burden of providing financial aid. Everyone wants excellence, but affordability and excellence can be at odds with each other.

I'd also like to see Jewish educators not only reasonably paid, but with something to show for it at the end of their careers. Many of our schools aren't giving benefits. We need to make sure that we are caring for our professionals. No one goes into Jewish education to get rich, so we're not talking about big bucks, but we are talking about pensions, health and a salary that enables you to live without taking a second job.

JR: Last year, ASDS celebrated its 25th anniversary, and engaged alumni in a serious way for the first time. What milestones are you most proud of in your tenure?

PS: As I said at the annual meeting last week, my association with Schechter spans the life of this institution, so my recollections go way back—to the very beginning, when the school consisted of a kindergarten class of 10 children, a teacher, and a

volunteer principal.

I consider myself extremely fortunate. For the past 20-some odd years I have been surrounded by some of the happiest people in the world—ASDS students. They come to school with a smile, greet you with hugs in the halls, ask difficult questions, demand fairness and justice, suffer so intensely, but enjoy life equally intensely. If I feel blue, I visit a classroom, or the recess yard.

ASDS graduates continue to top the lists of honor roll students, cum laude society members, Merit scholarship finalists. ASDS graduates continue to be accepted to the finest colleges and universities, graduate and professional programs.

Besides the many recent successes of our sports teams, I was extremely proud when, three years ago, the Association of Independent Schools of New England (AISNE) examined the Judaic and secular curriculum, administration, finances, management, everything. The report said we were in line with our own mission, and with the best practices. We were reaccredited until 2007.

JR: You've come out in public in favor of a pluralistic Community Day School (CDS), and merging the Conservative-aligned Schechter school into it. The ASDS board approved the merger a few months ago. What have been some reactions to this?

PS: First off, I am very excited about the concept of a Community Day School. I believe that the positive energy, effort and commitment around this project will be very good for

Jewish education in this community.

However, one of the things that I've said to Bruce Wolpert (president of the CDS) is that the Schechter parents have been asked, in some ways, to do the impossible. There's a proposition on the table for a community school. We don't know where it's going to be, who is going to head it, or who is going to teach there. We don't know what the curriculum is going to be, we don't know how much it's going to cost, but what we do know is: "It's coming the day after tomorrow... Get excited about it."

If you show people this idea, they'll say, "This sounds great." But when you ask parents to put their child in this school, they are going to want more information, and the fact that the community has chosen to do it on this timetable might make it too difficult for some. I think when we have answers to these basic questions, people will be able to see whether or not this is the great idea that we hope it is.

I think that most of us recognize that bringing good Jewish education to more students is a good thing. I think we are all ready for something that is going to validate many ways of being Jewish.

JR: What are some of the complications in creating a school like this?

PS: Schechter students come from a variety of synagogues (our



Dr. Penney Stein at her desk.

Photo by Jonathan Rubin

last study said 16), but officially we are tied to the Conservative movement.

The perception of any school that is housed in a particular building, is that there is a connection or that the school belongs to that institution. (Many schools that begin in synagogues eventually move out, unless they are in fact part of that synagogue — that's another model.)

Broadening the base and the support — I think most people think that's a good thing.

The other issue is over the core principles for our school. Most of ASDS' principles are shared by the community day school, which, from the point of view of the board, is good news.

If, in fact, the school can honor these same principles, I think there's much that we can agree on.

It's hard to be sure that what we've built over 26 years is going to be valued. It's not that it has to be preserved, and it's not that everything is wonderful, but people have spent so many years building something — of course they want to see it get better.

A merger is a very tricky thing, and successful mergers require not only negotiation and "give and take," but also respect. I think that is something that needs to be very clear — the achievements, the history, the graduates, the donors — need to be respected and honored.

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(corner of Savoy and Elmgrove)

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Opinion

A MAJORITY OF ONE Holocaust comparisons unsettling

If you were able to tear your eyes away from this column in our most recent issue, you found beneath it an article by Rabbi Avi Shafran, Director of Public Affairs for Agudath Israel of America.

In his article ("Veggie apology is tough to swallow") Rabbi



Yehuda
Lev

Shafran displayed his usual excellent writing style and ability to clarify complex issues in the process of skewering People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, or PETA.

PETA well deserved criticism for its recent "Holocaust on your plate" advertising campaign. Among the ads Rabbi Shafran noted were these: "Naked, emaciated men were juxtaposed with a gaggle of chickens; pigs behind bars with starving children behind barbed

wire; mounds of human corpses with mounds of cow carcasses. In one panel, above the legend "Baby Butchers," mothers and children in striped prison garb were shown staring through the barbed wire of a concentration camp; alongside them a similar shot of caged piglets."

A few weeks ago in this space, your observer was equally disgusted by a letter from a ZOA official, comparing the evacuation of Jewish settlements in Gaza to the transport of Jews to the Nazi death camps. The national leadership of the ZOA quickly disavowed the letter.

But the plague continues. A recent issue of the *Forward* included a half page advertisement which featured the iconic photograph of a terrified little boy, his hands raised, being herded, together with his family, along a Warsaw street toward their deaths. Nazi soldiers surrounded them. Over the photo were these words: "Warsaw 1943 or Gaza 2005?" Below the text was an orange-colored Star

of David with the suggestion that all Jews opposed to the disengagement from Gaza should make one out of cloth and sew it on their clothing as a protest.

Neither in the ad nor the website it asked viewers to visit, were there any names of individuals or of recognized Jewish organizations; no one, in short, who would accept responsibility for its content.

While few among us will disagree with Rabbi Shafran's condemnation of PETA, it seems fair to ask, why PETA? In light of the inexcusable desecrations of the memory of the Holocaust being practiced by the more extreme elements of the settler movement, the insensitive, even naive stupidity of PETA seems a conveniently easy target on which to open fire and possibly to avoid having to direct it elsewhere.

At the heart of the settler resistance movement, here and in Israel, are some of the ultra-Orthodox communities. At the massive demonstration

in Jerusalem several months ago, the most popular placard being waved by thousands of people displayed a picture of the late Lubavitcher Rebbe. Of the demonstration in New York against the disengagement plan when Ariel Sharon spoke there at the demonstration in New York against the disengagement plan, the *Forward* reported: "Outside the auditorium... the plan was rallied against by a mostly Orthodox crowd, in particular Chabad-Lubavitch Hassidim. The protest... picked up steam after the arrival of about ten busloads of Lubavitch Hassidim from Brooklyn... The makeup of the crowd seemed to echo a string of Israeli news reports in recent months describing the growing role of Chabad-Lubavitch, particularly its so-called messianic wing, in organizing and funding anti-disengagement activities."

Inasmuch as Chabad-Lubavitch plays a leading role in the resistance movement, it seems appropriate to ask its leadership if they agree with the use

of Holocaust symbolism in their cause. And inasmuch as Rabbi Shafran speaks for Agudath Israel in America, which represents almost all of the major ultra-Orthodox sects except Chabad-Lubavitch and Satmar, it seems equally appropriate to ask if he has denounced the same alleged parallels between the Holocaust and the disengagement being made by some of the ultra-Orthodox settlers.

The use of the Holocaust to raise money or to promote political agendas in Israel is a disgraceful tactic, demeaning to the victims and even more so to those who employ it. One can make a case for its use to financially support Holocaust memorials or aging survivors in need. But no Jew has reason to compare Israel to a concentration camp or its legitimately elected government to that of Nazi Germany.

I hope that Rabbi Shafran will address this issue in a second article. We will be pleased to publish it.

ALISON ON ALIYAH

No longer 'disengaged'

A few days ago I made my first real political commitment in 28 years:

I purchased the infamous (at least in Israel) "orange bracelet."

I'm told there are at least a zillion other colors, standing for at least a zillion other causes, in America these days. Over here there is only one — the one that stands for support of Gush Katif and the other settle-



Alison
Golub

ments that are on the brink of expulsion and dismantlement. The writing on the bracelet is short and sweet: "A Jew does not expel another Jew."

I have never considered myself a political person, or even one who is more than mildly interested in politics. I used to take pains not to watch or read the news, convinced it would be more depressing than worthwhile, and I was rather painfully ignorant of the daily goings-on in my (American) surroundings. I was also never one for "causes," or for showing

my support for anything in a public manner.

But Israel, and becoming an Israeli citizen, has fundamentally changed me in other ways. Keeping on top of the daily news is simply too critical to not do here, and I am frequently filled with a sense that I am—that Israel is—at the center of something too big to ignore. The current struggle over Sharon's disengagement plan is literally history in the making, and we live it here every day.

There is no doubt among Israelis that the next three months will irreparably change the face of Israel and the course of her existence.

So why did I decide to spend my hard-earned five shekels on an orange bracelet? Going to class every day in an extremely left-wing environment does not put me at ease when I am making such a public, against-the-majority statement on my left wrist. Yes, going public with one's political views is never easy, but I simply couldn't ignore this one. The battle has been so fierce—with one side saying it's inevitable, concessions will have

to be made sooner or later; the other saying that giving up land will only add fuel to the fire and redouble energies to "wipe us out" completely. I suppose they're both right, that both compromise on our part and renewed efforts to extinguish us are equally inevitable. No one seems to know what will really happen, and no one has any real idea of what this famed disengagement is supposed to accomplish. Sharon has been decidedly vague about his expectations, and there don't seem to be any illusions that this will provide an end to our troubles.

And yet the slight majority of our politicians have decided to go ahead with it, to expel these people from the only real homes they have known and a community and life that they have literally built from scratch. A choice has been made to move the border that much closer inward, which means that mortar shells like the thousands that have fallen on Neve Dekalim in recent years will now reach communities and city centers within Israel proper. Should this plan officially go through, the mes-

sage will be loud and clear: if you fight long and hard, and terrorize us enough, sure, we'll give you some land.

It's a scary thought, and my little orange bracelet doesn't serve to calm my fears. I was at Qumran a few weeks ago, visiting the site of the Dead Sea scrolls. A friend of mine mentioned in passing that back in their day, the group of Jews who created those scrolls was considered by everyone around them to be zealots, crazy, stupid, and perhaps even dangerous in their determination. Today we credit them as some of the most important figures in Jewish history.

So what if these "crazies" out on the beaches of Gush Katif are really our pioneers?

What if their religious conviction is what will ultimately save us as a people and as a society? Perhaps all of us over here in Israel are really just zealots, just "holding down the fort" for the rest of worldwide Jewry. Perhaps we are protecting the Jewish homeland for all the rest of you, and perhaps Gaza needs to be protected for us. I don't know who's right and who's crazy, and perhaps I'm a little bit of both. I guess we'll just have to wait and see.

Alison Stern Golub was born and grew up in Seattle, Washington and is a graduate of Brown University. You can email her at Alison_Golub@hotmail.com, and read more about her adventures on her website at www.alisonsterngolub.com.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Submissions must be signed and include city of residence and telephone number. Letters should be limited to 250 words, and Viewpoint pieces to 700 words. Submissions may be edited for length. Send submissions to: Jewish Voice & Herald, 130 Sessions St., Providence, RI 02906, or E-mail to: voiceherald@jfri.org.

A bit of Torah... 'Stealing a look' at laws of theft

By Rabbi Elyse Wechterman
(Parashat Nasso Num 4:21-7:89)

In Chapter 5 of this week's reading, we are given the laws of restitution for theft: "When a man or woman commits any wrong toward a fellow human being, thus breaking faith with God, and that person realizes his or her guilt, he or she shall confess the wrongdoing. He or she should make restitution in the principal amount and add one-fifth to it, giving it to the one who has been wronged (5:6-7)."

Thus, the notion of compensatory damages has become a corner stone of Jewish and later legal systems. Yet a careful reading of the text can give us insight into a deeper understanding of theft and sin and restitution and repair.

The text says that the thief should make restitution of the stolen property (plus damages) to the victim or victim's family. That makes sense. But it goes on to say that if no family member is available, the thief should "make restitution" (of the property and damages) to the priesthood. Giving it to the priests — the community chest of the day, so to speak — might also make sense.

But why use the words "make restitution" again here? The priest never owned the property — it isn't being returned to him but given to him.

Many commentators point out that the word "restitution" (*heyshevo*) is from the same root and has the same meaning as "return." They derive the *mitzvah*,

or commandment, to do *teshuvah* — to repent and return (daily, monthly, yearly) from this verse in Numbers.

But this is talking about theft, one might say. Isn't one obligated to repent from all sins and misdeeds? The *Sefat Emet* (Rabbi Yehuda Leib Alter of Ger, died 1905) taught that "Every transgression is a sort of theft."

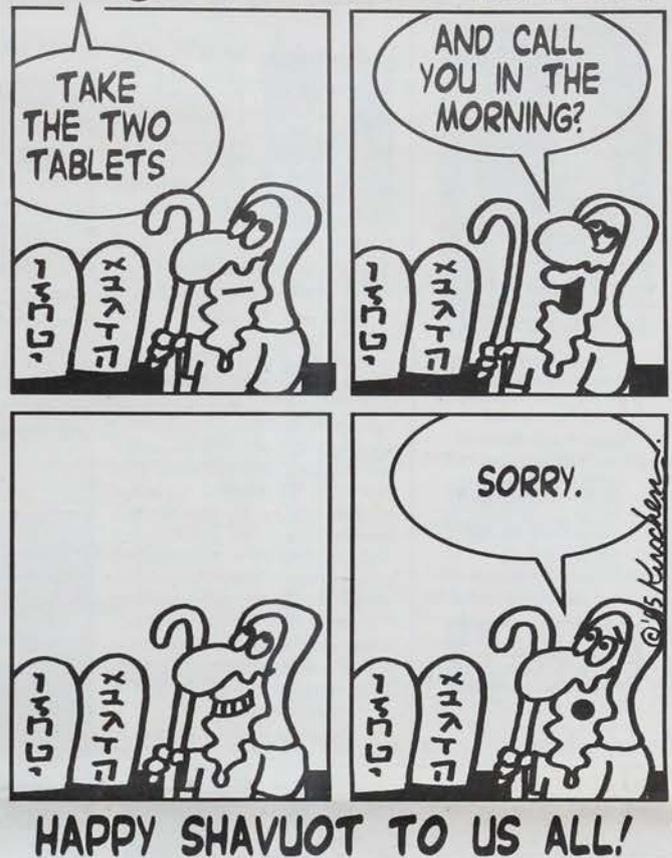
Theft is the taking of something from its rightful place or owner. Think of all the other sins you can imagine. Most, if not all sin, is based on someone's desire to have something that doesn't belong to them: love, power, control, secrecy, money, self-aggrandizement, honor. Most of these things are not ours to take, but belong to the Source of All: God. Sin is, therefore, "the separating of persons or things from their source in God" (Art Green).

Separating from God — turning away from God and not aligning oneself with the innate Holiness of all life is sin in its barest form. So restitution is literally a return — a return to God and a return to peace/wholeness (*shlemut* in Hebrew). And, as the law of compensatory damages illustrated, sometimes, the effort to return to *shlemut* takes much more work than the effort to fall away.

Shabbat shalom!

Rabbi Elyse Wechterman is rabbi at Congregation Agudas Achim in Attleboro, Mass. She can be reached at rabbie@agudasma.org.

Dry Bones UNFORTUNATE JOKE AT SINAI



VIEWPOINT

Taking my place at the Torah

Editor's note: On May 21, seven women and one man marked the completion of a year of intensive Jewish study with a "B'not Mitzvah" Shabbat. The service was followed by a gala dinner for the group and their families and friends. On Shabbat morning, Bleama Forman, Suzanne Glucksman, Ellen Shaw, Ann Stairman, Bonnie Sweberg, Joan Tebrow, and Rhonda Weiss shared in leading the Torah and *Musaf* services for the first time, while Mark Sweberg conducted the Friday night service. This piece that follows is adapted from Suzanne's speech.

By Suzanne Glucksman

WARWICK — When we embarked on this journey almost a year ago, most of us could not read Hebrew at all; more often than not, we had to ask our husbands what page we were on, although some of us knew enough to find our place in the *siddur* if the page wasn't announced. Most of us knew each other from attending services and other Temple Am David activities, but what we never shared with one another

then was how uncomfortable and how uninspired we were because we couldn't read Hebrew and didn't understand the meaning of the prayers. A few of us kept asking our clergy about starting a *B'not Mitzvah* class, until finally one was formed.

We had different reasons for journeying to this destination. Anne is doing this in her mother's memory. Her mother was ahead of her time and sent Anne to Hebrew School when she was only eight years old. She was the only girl in the class and because the boys used to tease her, she dropped out.

Rhonda never had a formal Jewish education, and this was something she always wanted to do. She wasn't totally committed when she began this program but, as she progressed, she got more out of it than she expected and has become more spiritual. For Ellen, Shabbat services have become more meaningful.

Admittedly, we all recognized we had a desire to learn and that this was going to be a challenging, yet rewarding and educational experience. Although

we constantly questioned the commitment we agreed to, we are proud of the accomplishment we have achieved in such a short and intense course of study.

Sunday mornings found us in the temple library for about two-and-a-half hours meeting first with Ed Fink to learn Hebrew for an hour and then with Alice Goldstein for about an hour-and-a-half to learn Shabbat morning liturgy; to discuss and understand how the prayers we were reading could be so spiritual and meaningful; to joyfully welcome the Sabbath and feel God's presence as the ark is opened and to sadly bid farewell when the ark is closed.

Cantor Rick made each of us a CD of the Shabbat morning service so we could familiarize ourselves with tunes and prayers and chant along with him while studying in our *siddur*. We listened to him on our way to work, during our lunch hour, on the way home; one of us even took a long trip — a winter cruise to the Caribbean, and schlepped her *siddur*, tape and CD in her carry-on so she could study while other



LIFELONG LEARNERS — Temple Am David's "B'not Mitzvah" learners, all from left — (top row) Ann Stairman, Rhonda Weiss, Bonnie Sweberg; (second row) Suzanne Glucksman, Bleama Forman, and (front row) Joan Tebrow, Ellen Shaw.

vacationers basked in the sun. And, with the volume turned to low on our portable CDs, some of us went to sleep at night listening to his sweet, melodious voice.

So, we stand before you, seven exceptional women who can now read Hebrew and chant

the Shabbat morning liturgy; women who discovered the joys of learning together, teaching one another and supporting one another; women speaking with faith and strength out of our discoveries.

Suzanne Glucksman lives in Warwick

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I am thrilled to share the most recent action steps of The Partnership. As I have stated in the past, The Partnership's charge is to lead bold change in our community, and this is exactly what our Executive Committee has done.



DeeDee Witman

First, the Partnership is officially recommending to the president of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island (JFRI), Herb Stern, that JFRI enter into an option agreement with the owners of the site (presented at the JFRI annual meeting) in East Providence. This agreement will allow us control of the property for 90 days. We will then be able to do due diligence (this includes, but is not limited to, an assessment of the site's appropriateness for the Jewish Community Day School of Rhode Island and other agencies) so that we can make a final, sound, informed decision about how to proceed with this property by Labor Day.

The decision about whether or

not to purchase this site will be in the hands of the Federation.

Second, the Partnership also recommends to the JFRI president that, by Labor Day, a side-by-side analysis of all sites under active consideration is completed. This analysis should be done so that a decisive recommendation about both interim and permanent sites can be made.

Stern said that he endorses these recommendations to be brought to the JFRI. He feels that this 90-day timeline gives us the opportunity to be decisive and move forward to do the work we must do. He has heard

from a number of leaders that, subject to positive outcomes, controlling the East Providence property would be a sound investment for JFRI's Endowment portfolio.

The Partnership has heard from various stakeholders that this time period will give us the opportunity to investigate everything thoroughly. We continue to keep in mind our responsibility to build our community in a way that will foster a vibrant, rich Jewish life in Greater Rhode Island. I'll share more critical developments in my next column.

The Partnership, a group convened two years ago by the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, is

charged with leading critical changes in our greater Rhode Island Jewish community. Its goal is to transform our community to be more vital by recommending responsive fund development and distribution systems, models of institutional excellence, cutting-edge facilities and culturally dynamic services and programs for all Jewish families throughout our region.

For more information, visit our website at www.jfri.org or to volunteer your ideas, time or support, contact DeeDee Witman at DeeDee.Witman@cox.net or Sheila Alexander at 401-421-4111, ext. 159.

Women's Alliance leadership



WOMEN'S ALLIANCE—At the May 19 annual meeting of the Women's Alliance (WA) of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, Mitzi Berkelhammer, left, the incoming WA President, stands with outgoing WA director Rachel Siegal, center, and Sharon Gaines, outgoing WA president. Rachel bade farewell to the Rhode Island Jewish community — she has taken a position at the Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore as the head of their Women's Division, and has been succeeded by Meredith Einsohn.

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Federation allocates 4.1 million

By Sara Masri

PROVIDENCE — This year, the Planning and Allocations Committee of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island (JFRI) had \$4,125,000 to allocate to Jewish organizations in Rhode Island, Israel, the former Soviet Union (FSU) and in over 60 other countries.

The money was allocated as follows:

- \$1,502,756 allocated to local core agencies in Rhode Island. There were small

increases given to the Jewish Community Center and Jewish Family Service in acknowledgment of the cuts they incurred from United Way. All other agencies, except for Brown Hillel, remained at 100 percent of what they received in 2004/05.

- \$1,472,648 to the Federation overseas partners, the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC). This includes funding which goes directly to the Partnership 2000

region of Afula / Gilboa in northern Israel.

- \$107,115 to other local groups, including small increases to the BBYO regional office, the two Chabads, and the Perspectives young adult program at the JCC. Some of this year's projects include:

- Providing food packages, medication and clothing to over 250,000 elderly Jews in the FSU.

- Offering welfare services to families in Argentina.

- Helping new immigrants from Ethiopia, the FSU and other countries acclimate to life in Israel.

- Giving children, teens and young adults in Rhode Island a chance to experience formal and informal Jewish education opportunities, including day schools, religious schools, community high school, summer camp, Hillel and JCC programming.

- Supporting older adults and keeping them connected to the Jewish community, whether they are living in their own homes or in a nursing home or assisted living facility

Sara Masri is the former planning and allocations director at JFRI.



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Federation

FROM THE EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT
Communal confirmations

Growing up in a Reform congregation in the 60's, my most memorable experience was my Confirmation. I had not taken advantage of being one of the first girls to have a Bat Mitzvah, so Confirmation became my rite of religious passage.

I will never forget Cantor Walter Lewis, a towering man with a shock of black hair and a glorious tenor voice, who devoted endless hours helping ten awkward sixteen-year-olds sound and look polished on the *bimah* during Shavuot, the festival that commemorates receiving the Ten Commandments at Sinai.



Janet H. Engelhart

We were assigned an individual commandment to discuss in front of an overflowing congregation. Of course, my parents *kvelled* as my assigned commandment was, "Honor Your Father and Your Mother." It was a mixed blessing for me, as I had the opportunity to reverse years of adolescent rebellion, but to do it in front of my peers and a sanctuary full of strangers?

Imagine my surprise after finishing this difficult task, as Rabbi Bernhard Cohn invoked the priestly blessing, that I found my eyes tearing.

The next time I experienced such religious emotion was during my first trip to Israel 25 years later. Our group of 100 Pittsburgh Jews on our "Homecoming" Community Mission stood on the Hass Promenade overlooking Jerusalem. Probably half of the group were returnees. My initial glimpse of the Holy City literally took my breath away. I envisioned generations of my own family and of our ancestors and those tears appeared again.

Now we approach the festival of Shavuot. The transformational initiatives that we read about in this issue of the *Jewish Voice & Herald* and that are being actualized in our community brought back these powerful memories at this particular time of the year.

I hope that during the upcoming holiday of study and personal reflection, you will also take a few moments to savor the Jewish experiences that you have found personally meaningful. These are similar to the experiences we hope to provide for our children and grandchildren and for those who are marginally connected to organized Jewish life but who are seeking meaning in their lives, as we work together to build a caring and vibrant community.



Photo by Jonathan Rubin

Big maps, no naps

MOMS AND THEIR BABIES and toddlers play beside a large map of the State of Israel in a "Babies, Kids and Kibbitzing" session in the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, led by Robin Kauffman (at right).

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Community

Me'ab enrichment class enrolling

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PROVIDENCE — The second year of *Me'ab*, a two-year adult Jewish learning program sponsored by Hebrew College, will focus on the medieval era and current events. Classes begin in the fall. *Me'ab*, which means one hundred in Hebrew, refers to the 100 classroom hours which students spend studying Jewish texts.

Classes meet at Temple Emanu-El once a week for approximately 20 weeks per year. Each session is 90 minutes long. All classes are in English, and texts are studied in English translation.

The program is designed for personal enrichment — there are no tests, papers or grades.

Me'ab participants come from diverse backgrounds. Many have no formal Jewish education, while others have formally studied Judaic subjects. Some participants are recent Jews by choice; some are non-Jews.

The program's instructors are Judaic scholars; this year's study on the bible was taught by David Jacobson, associate professor of Judaic Studies at Brown University.

He balanced an overview of the Hebrew Bible with focused discussion of core texts. Students analyzed the primary biblical texts and secondary

scholarly materials through different lenses: literary, historical-comparative and rabbinic commentary.

The Rabbinic Period—the millennium from the Second Temple to the completion of the Babylonian Talmud (500 BCE to 500 CE) — was taught by Michael Satlow, associate professor at Brown University in the Program in Judaic Studies.

During this period, new Jewish leaders, sages and rabbis emerged and developed extensive commentary about biblical Israel. During this seminal period, rabbinic scholars created a legal system, which led to a Jewish belief system that has informed and ordered Jewish community, culture and behavior for the past millennia.

Students receive a certificate at the completion of *Me'ab* and are honored at Hebrew College's annual commencement in June.

The second year of this transdenominational program will begin on Sept. 15, and enrollment has been opened to new participants, according to Rabbi Alvan Kaunfer of Temple Emanu-El, *Me'ab* coordinator.

In the medieval sequence, *Me'ab* students will engage in readings and discussions focusing on three dynamics of the Middle Ages: 1) Jewish rela-

tions with non-Jews—political and cultural relations with Islamic and Christian civilizations; 2) the modes of community that Jews constructed in the Diaspora; and 3) the various genres of Jewish culture.

Beginning with the 17th-century Age of Enlightenment, modernity posed a significant challenge to traditional Jewish culture, community and identity—creating new social and economic opportunities but also threatening traditional Jewish values and society. Yet modern Jews remained preoccupied with sacred texts, suggesting that however great the impact of rupture and discontinuity, their passion for reading and rereading classical Jewish texts became the creative wellspring for modern Jewish thought.

Students will delve into some of these modern primary texts representing differing ideological viewpoints—works of Jewish philosophers such as Buber and Rosenzweig, and Zionist thinkers such as Ahad Ha'am and Berdichevski— which mirror the issues faced by contemporary Jews of that era.

Tuition is \$900 per year. The number of required books varies, depending on the instructor. Contact Rabbi Kaunfer at Temple Emanu-El (401) 331-1616 for more information.

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Community

Cemetery group to install

WARWICK — Attorney Joel K. Gerstenblatt, a Warwick Municipal Court judge and past president of Temple Sinai, will be installed as president of The Chased Schel Amess Association, operators of Lincoln Park Cemetery, at the group's annual meeting, Sunday, June 12.

Gerstenblatt heads a slate that includes Sanford Reich of Providence, first vice president; Edward Fink, Warwick, second vice president; Ross Feinberg, Cranston, treasurer, and Susan Vederman, West Warwick, financial secretary. All will serve one-year terms.

Nominated for three-year terms on the 18-member board of directors are Phillip Geller and Howard Blustein of Cranston; Norman Elman, Howard Kosofsky and Mona Scheraga of Warwick, and Charles Ziegler of North Kingstown. Nominated to fill unexpired terms of board members will be Cantor Ivan Perlman, Warwick, one year, and Michael Weiner, Providence, two years. The board is comprised of 18 elected at-large members and one representative appointed by each organization owning land at the cemetery.

The meeting is open to the community.

For more information, contact Arthur Poulten at 737-5333 or 944-1333.



MIRIAM MAKEOVER — On May 25, The Miriam Hospital held a ceremonial groundbreaking for the construction of the Patient Services Center, the beginning of a \$116 million renovation at the hospital. From left are Sandra Coletta, chief operating officer; Jeffrey Brier, chairman of the board of trustees, and Kathleen Hittner, M.D., president and chief executive officer.

Miriam makeover begins

PROVIDENCE — The Miriam Hospital held a groundbreaking event for its new Patient Services Center on May 25. It is the start of a \$116-million, three-phase project to renovate the hospital.

The Sol Koffler building and old intensive care unit, to the right of the hospital's main entrance on Summit Avenue, will be demolished to make way for the new center.

It will house a surgical suite with 10 operating rooms, a diagnostic imaging suite, a cafeteria, conference rooms and 36 private patient rooms.

Phases two and three of the project include plans to renovate the Emergency Department and add more private rooms.

The patient center is expected to open in the fall of 2007, with the total project to be completed by 2012.

BJE offers summer Hebrew classes

PROVIDENCE — The Bureau of Jewish Education (BJE) will offer Hebrew lessons this summer from July 12-15 and July 19-22. Simcha Pe'er and Rachel Ziv, residents of the BJE's Partnership 2000 sister region of Afula /Gilboa, will conduct classes at four levels of Hebrew ability.

Beginner's conversational Hebrew and advanced conversational Hebrew will be held from 9:45 a.m. to noon. Classes in two levels of intermediate conversational Hebrew will be held from 2 to 4:15 p.m.

Tuition is \$50 (\$18 for teachers in Bureau-affiliated schools). Classes will be held in the offices of the BJE at 130 Sessions St., Providence.

Pe'er, who lives in Gilboa, is an English teacher. Ziv, a resident of Afula, is a retired teacher. Pe'er and Ziv also plan to teach Israeli dance two nights a week.

For more information, call 331-0956 or email bjeri@bjeri.org.

So. County Collaborative plans yard sale

NARRAGANSETT — The South County Jewish Collaborative is having a yard sale at the collaborative site in September. The group is looking for donations of gently used household items. For more information, call Joanne Malise at 364-6020. Volunteers are also needed.

Stephen F. Schiff, M.D., F.A.C.S.

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Community

Community day school

From page 1

Providence's East Side, as well as forge potential partnerships with the JCC in sports and fitness programs and an ample amount of green space. The downside, according to Robbins' committee, would be immediate parking issues and spatial considerations.

The East Providence site, which once housed cubicles, and executive office space for Fram/Honeywell properties, measures 60,000 useable square feet situated on 14 acres, with ample green space, inviting landscaping and sufficient parking. It has been a site that has been considered for

The challenges around the East Providence site are its location - the East Providence site is not nestled inside a Jewish community like the East Side, which frustrates the commuting plans of some parents. Also, one of the rolling green hills adjacent to the school is occupied by a cemetery.

Other concerns revolve around safety issues; the East Providence site is located near railroad tracks, and cargo trains come through slowly twice daily. Walter said that the school would have the area fenced off if the East Providence site is chosen.

the JCDS board and an ASDS parent.

Amy Kravitz Subotnik, another ASDS parent, and her husband attended a few of the informal informational sessions held by the JCDS, and she was concerned that things seemed to be moving forward "without any approval of the families...It's very concerning, and it doesn't set a good precedent. I want the education that is best for my children. If the Jewish education is not competent, I'm going to go with [secular] education."

Bharier also has concerns,

"We are doing our due diligence and fully researching this site. We would not put our kids at risk."

— Alan Harlam

Jewish community expansion for more than five years.

There is enough room at the East Providence site to house other agencies; for example, Jewish Family Service and Jewish Seniors Agency — both will have to relocate from the United Way building on Waterman Street within two years. Talks with the two agencies are planned.

Another advantage would be that after investing in renovations in the property, it would hopefully appreciate in value if sold in five years.

A thorough environmental study will be completed before moving forward.

"Serious questions and concerns have been raised," said Alan Harlam, an officer of the JCDS and an ASDS parent, who has been holding information sessions about the school for the community. "We are doing our due diligence and fully researching this site. We would not put our kids at risk. If there are problems that can't be taken care of, then we obviously won't pursue the site."

Seeking a school

Presenting the site idea to parents attached both to the current Schechter school and its East Side location has been a challenging task. For the last three months, the JCDS has been holding a series of meetings for the Schechter community at the school and in students' homes.

"There was such an outcry from parents who are concerned about the [East Providence] building that the committee decided to slow down, listen to parents, and make sure the steps we're taking in selecting an interim site are transparent," said Vicky Bharier, secretary of

but still supports the site as the future school for her daughter.

"My initial reaction was, 'How could I leave the East Side?'" she said. She feels she's not alone — a recent study showed that 66 percent of ASDS families come from the Providence/Pawtucket area, and many walk or bike to school.

However, a personal experience helped Bharier see things differently: she found that when she sent her older son to Providence Country Day for high school, having him leave the East Side to attend school in East Providence "wasn't as bad as I thought."

She notes the spatial benefits — both interior and exterior — that could allow expanded programming for students in arts, music, physical fitness and other areas.

"It's impossible to please everyone on every detail of any site," Bharier said. "We, as a community, can overcome the obstacles and fix most of the problems only if we have the commitment to the goal and vision of having the JCDS, and if we trust the people involved in guiding the process."

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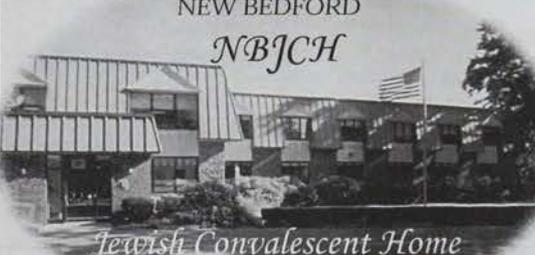
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Summer 2005

Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

It won't be long before we will begin renovating our fitness area, and installing fire suppression systems on our ground floor. Over the summer, construction will begin on the long awaited updating of all of our exercise spaces and locker rooms. Gary Graham, of Graham-Meus Associates, has been working with the JCC on renovation plans for the last six years. Gary is an expert at designing state of the art recreation spaces throughout New England. The design for the project maximizes our space without having to build out any exterior walls. We will be increasing space for all machines, aerobics and fitness classes, and building a new "mind/body" studio that can be used specifically for classes like Pilates, yoga, and spinning. New and updated equipment will be tested and brought in to complete a state-of-the-art facility for all of us to be proud of.

This project is really Phase 1 of what needs to be done to our building. In light of a potential community campus, the Center's leadership decided that building membership here is the number one priority right now. And as we build our membership, we can better strategically plan for the next phases of growth.

Both JCC and Federation volunteers conferred to study a detailed business plan for the JCC, and renovations that have been completed at a number of other JCCs around the country. Modeling the success in other Centers, it was apparent which direction to turn in our community. That is why members of our community have made generous capital gifts, led by our executive committee and past presidents.

The changes will be dramatic. From a new back entrance, to the fitness lounge, a family changing room, and dedicated space for fitness testing. We plan to move the exercise equipment in to the social hall during the construction, and continue classes. The pool will be available throughout the project.

Please bear with us, over the summer, as we begin changing the JCC of Rhode Island into a building that will again, be the center of our community. I look forward to seeing you all at the Grand Opening next fall.

Rick Nelson

New Face for JCC Fitness

In the early 1990's, the JCCRI did a modest renovation of the fitness area. The space that now serves as the free weight room housed the laundry facilities, as well as extra locker space. By converting the room into a free weight area, the JCC felt like there was a new "lease on life". Now that lease is up for renewal, and in the coming months, approximately 14,000 square feet of the Center will be going under the largest renovation it has had since it has been in this building.

The reformation will consist of the majority of the ground floor, and includes the entire fitness area, locker room, most of the area currently designated to Kidspace, and portions of the Early Childhood Department. There will be a new, larger space for group exercise classes, as well as an updated cardio center and refurbished locker rooms with changing tables and added space for children. The sign in desk will be shifted to a centralized location with increased visibility, and there will also be a lounge area/waiting room. Major work is being planned for the Early Childhood Department as well. New alarms, smoke detectors, and a sprinkler system that will extend throughout the whole ground floor, will make it an infallibly secure place for the young children who attend the programs. There are also plans to create more entrances and exits in this department, as well as additional office space in the building.

Dan Zussman, a member of the Center for nine years who is serving as the Chairperson for the Construction Committee of the project, is excited to see it move forward.

(Cont. on Pg 3)



The Lower East Side Comes to Providence's East Side

Destiny, and Divine Providence, played a part in this event from the beginning. Mark Adler of Adler's Hardware on Wickenden St., was interested in bringing Klezmer music to the JCC. But creating a unique and enticing program that would appeal to all ages and be cost effective is always a challenge for a non-profit agency. Ideas began to circulate, and by the time the JCC received the call for proposals for the Neighborhood Performing Arts Initiative, a distinct plan had already begun to take shape.

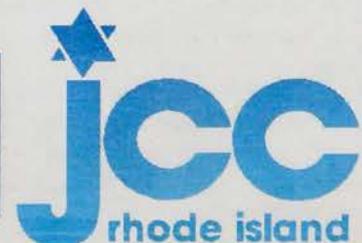
The City of Providence's Department of Art, Culture, and Tourism wanted to develop a citywide partnership within local communities that would also involve the Department of Public Parks and the Department of Recreation. They were looking for non-profit organizations to spearhead projects that would work in conjunction with the city's departments to bring high quality programming directly to the public spaces of Providence. It was important for the initiatives to respond to a neighborhood's unique needs and resources, while fostering a sense of community pride and unity. The JCC received the grant, and the Lower East Side Comes to Providence's East Side was born.

The one-day event intends to recreate the sights, sounds, and feel of New York City's Lower East Side during the early turn of the 20th century. The Lower East Side was a hub of Jewish activity during this time period, and was a haven for Eastern European Judaism. It will take place on Sunday, August 28th, from 11am-2pm in Lippitt Park, on the corner of Blackstone Blvd. and Hope St. On hand will be traditional food, dancing, children's activities involving RI's only Jewish Cub Scout pack, as well as entertainment by The Klezphonics, Fishel Bressler, and Jewish storyteller Mark Binder. The day will be free and open to the public.

This project is being designed for the community, by the community and the current committee is eager to involve more of the public in its development. Volunteers are being sought for day of assistance, as well as pre-event planning. If you are interested in being a part of this enlightening and cultural event, and/or would like more info, please call Sue Suls @ x 108, or ssuls@jccri.org.

Our mission

To strengthen Jewish identity, family life, community and the connection between the local Jewish community and Israel is the mission of the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island. The JCC provides for social, cultural, educational, recreational and health-related needs of the Jewish community. With commitment to Jewish tradition, the JCC provides a common meeting place for all Jewish individuals and groups, and welcomes the general community to join and participate in its activities.



Have it Your Way at Camp JCC

Last summer, close to 200 children enjoyed the activities and programs offered at Camp JCC. The camp experience had a great impact on the community, and positive feedback was heard from many satisfied customers. Due to this influx of complimentary responses, Camp JCC has been stepped up a notch, offering new specialty camps and extended hours for the most popular camps.



The programs are designed to give children a unique experience within city limits. Campers embark on many outdoor adventures all over the state, yet can also relax in the air conditioned building after a hard day at play. The pool is always available for campers, and most camps swim daily as part of their curriculum. Camp JCC is an intensive, creative, educational program where children can express themselves using all of their innate and learned abilities. Children of all ages can find something that appeals to them, and can design the program as they wish. So no matter how you and your child would like to spend the summer, we think you'll find that the JCCRI has everything you're looking for! Here is a sample of some of our upcoming specialty camps. For a full listing of camps or to register, please call the Camp Hotline @ x116.

Specialty Sports Something new this summer is Tennis Camp for grades 3 and up. The week long camp from August 1st-5th will allow participants professional instruction, individual court time, and culminates in a tournament.

For baseball fans grades 2-8, the Sam Horn Baseball camp, from July 18th-22nd, is not to be missed! Rhode Island based Red Sox player Sam Horn, who is best known for setting a Major League record by hitting 10 home runs in his first 82 trips to the plate, will help young players to enhance their skills at all positions. The highlight of the week will be a special behind the scenes tour of Fenway Park.

For the 3rd year in a row, the JCC staff anticipates a sold out camp when the Harlem Globetrotters come to town from June 27th-July 1st. This always popular week not only teaches campers the fundamentals of basketball, but also educates them on the benefits of a healthy lifestyle. Through the enthusiasm, talent, and positive encouragement of the Globetrotters, campers realize the value of teamwork and the importance of education and self esteem.

Dance Camp Due to popular demand, Dance Camp has been

extended to 3 weeks instead of 2! Dance and Gymnastics are open to all children grades K-3 and combines ballet, tap, and hip-hop with gymnastics to challenge all levels. Campers also create their own costumes and sets for a performance at the end of the week. This year Dance/Gymnastics Camp is available from June 27th-July 1st, July 11th-15th, and then again from August 22nd-26th. Let the performer in your child shine!

Science and Media Camp For the little wizard in your family, Mad Science Camp will be available from July 18th-22nd and then a second time from August 1st-5th. Kids will learn about astronomy, aerodynamics, and more! Also check out the multimedia program where kids will design their own websites & produce their own videos.

Counselors Make the Camp

Another thing that makes Camp JCC so fabulous is our caring and dedicated staff, many of whom work in the Center all year round. Take Dennis Doorley for example. Dennis has been working at the JCC for the past 3 years. He is well liked by kids and parents, and works in Kidspace and PTC. He often can be found in the gym, where he coaches and plays basketball.



Dennis and Marcie with JCC kids.

Marcie Marot is a new addition to the JCC staff, having started in the fall of 2004. While Marcie's specialty is pottery, you can find her anywhere there is something creative going on. Marcie helped create Kidspace's contribution to the Passover exhibit, as well as various other art projects the kids have done throughout the year. We are glad that Marcie has joined our team, & we look forward to seeing more of her warm smile around the Center!

Did you know?

**Our Olympic size swimming pool is open all summer!
With classes for all ages, including adults!
Contact Patty @ x 153 for more info!**

Nature Abounds at Early Childhood Camp



During a child's early life, we guide them to learn to live in the world and love it. But in today's busy world of city life, even childhood has changed. Our parks and greenery are fewer, and we have to make conscious decisions to bring nature into our everyday lives. Summer is a great time to create those experiences outdoors. The JCC Early Childhood Camp strives to connect children to nature, and show them the abundance that is all around us. In the grass, the trees, in the air we breathe. This year's camp program expounds on the subject of nature and our connection to it.

Three distinct camps ensure that your child is getting the most comprehensive camp experience for his/her level. For toddlers ages 2 and 3, there is Camp K'ton, daily from 9-11:30am. Camp Yeladim is for those kids ages 3-5 who are not entering kindergarten, and runs M-F from 9am-12pm. There is a limited three-day option for 3 year olds, but you must

reserve early. For those children entering kindergarten in the fall, you'll find that Kindergarten Camp which runs a full day from 9am-3:30pm, bridges the traditional preschool program into an older experience for those ready to explore new adventures.

There are also three themes that govern the weeks of camp. From June 27th-July 15th, children learn the joy of discovery through travel with Bon Voyage. With Morning Glories to Butterflies from July 18th-August 15th, children learn about plant life, gardening, and outdoor creatures. From August 8th-26th, Wonders of the World opens children to the beauty and lessons of the natural world. All camps offer some form of swim time, as well as creative indoor and outdoor play.

For info on a stimulating and natural camp experience for your 2-5 year old, contact Shirley @ x130 or smosulak@jccri.org.



Teens Anticipate Success at Macabbi 2005

The Annual Macabbi Games are getting close once again, much to the excitement of teens in the area. The Jewish Olympic style event, which will take place this year from August 14th-19th, has been



Eva Schwartz and Talia Ringer at Macabbi 2005

a life changing event for Jewish adolescents, ages thirteen through sixteen, since 1982. The Games give teens the opportunity to participate in one of fourteen sporting events, while promoting community involvement, teamwork, and Jewish pride. Maccabi is the largest Jewish teen event in the world, with over 6,000 participants each summer. This year, a few diligent Rhode Island athletes will caravan with members of the JCC of Greater Boston to Richmond, VA for an exhilarating week of sporting competition.

Talia Ringer, who swims during the year at the JCC, is keyed up to try her luck at Macabbi 2005. Last year she won three medals; a gold, a silver, and a bronze. Talia is confident that she has improved over the past year, and looks forward to more wins this time around. She says, while everything was amazing, "Going to dinner at someone else's house was the best. This way, I got to meet so many new people I hadn't met at the Games. It was a large group, and we watched the Olympic swimming together."

Eva Schwartz is another returning athlete. While Eva competed in swim last year, this year she is going out for basketball. One of the biggest challenges she has faced has not been tackling a new sport, but in trying to get others to attend the Games. "I wanted a girls' basketball team," said Eva, "but there was no one else who signed up until recently two other girls joined. We will not have a full team, but at least I will be playing with some people I know." Eva looks forward to attending the Games with other teens from the area and hopes that more people will sign up for next year.

For more on the Maccabi Games, contact Darlene @ x155 or ddesroches@jccri.org.

New Face (Cont. from Pg 1)

"We brought this idea up over five years ago," says Dan, "but we were not able to get sufficient funding together until now. I'm really looking forward to being a part of something that will provide fresh facilities to our membership".

"We believe that this is an important project that can impact the entire Jewish Community," says Rick Nelson, JCCRI's Executive Director. "By providing updated facilities that will attract more members, we will be able to show more people not only our fitness center, but all the other fantastic things the JCC has to offer".

At present, over fifty JCCs in North America have done key renovations in the past three to four years with positive results. In most cases, the Centers were sinking under increasing deficits and deteriorating buildings. The communities realized that in order to provide a vibrant JCC to its members, they needed to rejuvenate their facilities. All Centers experienced a dramatic increase in membership within the first year.

By providing a larger, up-to-date fitness area, the JCCRI hopes to serve the community with something they cannot get anywhere else. While most fitness centers are impersonal, sterile environments, the JCC prides itself on being a place where "everybody knows your name". With this renovation, the JCC can provide the comfort of a personal JCC experience, with the benefits of a modern, state of the art fitness center.

As of right now, contractors are being solidified, and work is slated to commence by the beginning of the summer. Greg Spiess, of Graham/Meus, an architectural company specializing in renovating fitness centers and JCCs, is optimistic that the project will go smoothly. "Despite things cropping up that we aren't expecting, we're on target with the time frame of how we see this evolving." Barring unforeseen complications, the process should take about two to three months.

Most classes and programs will continue as planned, but there will need to be a certain amount of flexibility on the part of the membership. The JCCRI asks for your patience during this endeavor and plans to keep you informed at every stage of the process. By renovating our facilities, we are hoping to let the community know that we care about its future and our place in it.

Perspectives Plans Cool Fun for Hot Days

Perspectives is gearing up for a summer full of adventure, outdoor activities, & fun in the sun. Last year, the group went up to New Hampshire, where they engaged in a white water rafting trip that attendees still recall fondly. This year, Perspectives plans to appeal to a wider audience by organizing a trip that



will provide participants with more options. During the weekend of July 16th, Perspectives will journey to Clarke Outdoors in western Connecticut for a weekend full of outdoor adventure. Participants can choose from many activities, including rafting, canoeing, kayaking, hiking the Appalachians, or just camping. Prices vary depending on the activity, but to camp and hike, it is only \$15. Overnight trips provide fantastic opportunities for meeting people in a different setting, and create memories that can lead to lasting friendships.

Other summer activities include a beach party, BBQs, a pool party, Shabbat dinners, sporting games and activities, as well as a handful of low key evenings at some of the area's finest nightspots. On Sunday, August 7th, Perspectives will take a tour of Jewish Newport with members of Jewish Interaction, a Boston based group for Jews in their 20's & 30's. Look out in the fall for the popular New Year's Celebration, which typically includes a wine & cheese reception. Plans are in the works for this year's event to be a cocktail party with a swing band.

Perspectives is a great way for Jewish young adults to have fun with their peers in a friendly, relaxed environment. Most activities are geared towards secular Jews who are looking for an unobtrusive way to reconnect with Judaism. Events planned around Jewish holidays and themes are also continually programmed for those looking for something a bit more spiritual.

The Perspectives Planning Committee is always open to new ideas and members, so if there is something you'd like to see happen or you'd like to attend one of our events, please contact Tavlin, @ x 205 or Tavlin@jccri.org.

Visit Perspectives online at www.providenceperspectives.org.

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Golden Summers

Our active older adults will certainly be busy this summer! From luncheons to outdoor picnics and local trips, there are many intriguing plans in the works.



Celebrate Father's Day on June 17th with a special Luncheon.

Featuring a kosher meal, as well as entertainment by the hilarious

Norm Conrad's Mini Minstrels. This one-man show captures the spirit of yesteryear evoking familiar stars of the stage and screen such as Al Jolson, Eddie Cantor and Jimmy Durante.

The cost is \$5, and all fathers will receive a special gift.

Reservations required by Wednesday, June 15th.

On Tuesday July 12th, take in the informative sights at the National Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, MA. Transportation

will leave promptly @ 9am from the JCCRI. And speaking of Yiddish, there will be a one day Yiddish Camp later in the summer, for anyone who wants to learn or brush up on their language skills.

For all you music lovers, don't miss this trip on Sunday, August 21st to Tanglewood in Lenox, MA. The concert is Rossini, Mozart, and Beethoven featuring the Orchestra of St. Lukes, and will be conducted by Peter Oundjian, with Peter Serkin on piano. The fee is \$78 with payment received by June 30th, or \$88 thereafter and includes the show, transportation, and the driver's tip. Seats will be assigned upon receipt of payment. This trip will fill up fast, so make sure to reserve early!

For more info on these or other events for folks 55+, please contact Sue Robbio @ x 107 or srobbio@jccri.org.

Donate your Used Computer to the JCC

Your trash could be our treasure! If you've recently gotten a new machine, please consider putting your old one to good use! We are looking for computers that support Windows 98 or higher and are Pentium 3 or higher. Tax deductible letter available upon request. Please contact Susan Greenhalgh at x105 or sgreenhalgh@jccri.org

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Cheese blintzes for Shavuot

By **Marylyn Graff**

A blintz is a Jewish crepe with a cottage cheese filling. You will need a heavy six- or seven-inch frying pan with sloping sides; non-stick is helpful but not essential.

Drain well 1 pt. cottage, or use a dry "pot cheese" or farmer cheese, mix in 2 lightly beaten egg yolks, 1 whole egg or 1/4 cup egg substitute, 2 tbsps. sugar and a sprinkling of cinnamon or 1/2 tsp. vanilla. (For a richer filling you can mix in a 3 oz. pkg. of cream

cheese.) Set aside in refrigerator.

Lightly beat 2 eggs and mix in 1 cup water or low fat or fat-free milk, 1 cup flour and 1 tsp. salt until very smooth. (You can do this in a blender, but let any bubbles dissipate.)

Heat pan until a drop of water dances and evaporates. Brush lightly with butter or margarine until it melts. (If your pan is not non-stick you may need a little more butter.)

Spoon in just enough batter to cover bottom of pan and tilt to coat about 1/8 inch thick. As soon as it is well-set and barely begins to curl around edges, remove from pan by flipping pan over a cutting board and giving it a sharp rap on the board. The crepe should drop out onto the board. Keep making one at a time, greasing pan each time, until all batter is used. (Makes about 15 to 18 depending

on size of pan.) Stack with wax paper or parchment between.

To fill: Lay a crepe flat, put a spoonful of filling in the center, fold top and bottom toward center and then sides overlapping to enclose filling; turn over so seam is on the bottom.

You can line them up in a buttered pan, brush with melted butter, and bake at 350 degrees until tops are light brown, about 20 minutes, or fry on both sides in butter or margarine until light brown.

Serve with sweetened sliced strawberries or other sweetened berries and/or sour cream.

Time of milk and honey

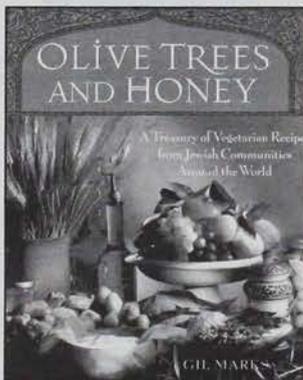
By **Linda Morel**

NEW YORK (JTA) — Among all the major holidays on the Jewish calendar, why is *Shavuot* the most likely to be overlooked?

"The simple answer is that *Shavuot* is short," Rabbi Gil Marks says. He's a chef, and the author of several Jewish cookbooks; his latest is *Olive Trees and Honey: A Treasury of Vegetarian Recipes from Jewish Communities Around the World*.

Though every Jewish holiday is important, *Shavuot* is crucial because it commemorates the time when God gave the Torah to the Jewish people. Marks learned this lesson as a child, when his family owned a farm. He explains that at Passover farm animals — cows, sheep and goats — often give birth. By *Shavuot* their babies are newly weaned and the mothers have a surplus of milk. That's why dairy products are plentiful and inexpensive at this season, and that's one reason why *Shavuot* is linked to dairy products.

Both Sephardi and Ashkenazi Jews adore rice puddings at *Shavuot*. Marks says he's never tasted one he doesn't like,



OLIVE TREES AND HONEY: A Treasury of Vegetarian Recipes from Jewish Communities Around the World, by Rabbi Gil Marks.

but his all-time favorite recipe comes from his Lithuanian grandmother. Full of creamy custard, her baked rice pudding is a cross between the best noodle kugel and the richest rice pudding. With enough sugar, it becomes a decadent dessert.

Ashkenazi baked rice pudding

- (A creamy dessert)
- 4 cups water
- 2 teaspoons table salt
- 2 cups medium or long-grain rice

- 1 stick unsalted butter
- 8 large eggs
- 1 cup sugar
- 3 cups milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 teaspoons grated lemon zest

About 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 9-by-13-inch baking dish.

In a large saucepan, combine the water and 1 1/2 teaspoons of the salt. Bring to a boil and add the rice. Cover, reduce the heat to low, and simmer until the water is absorbed, about 18 minutes. Fluff with a fork. Add the butter to the hot rice and let melt. Meanwhile, in a large bowl beat the eggs, sugar and milk together until creamy, about 5 minutes. Add the remaining 1/2 teaspoon salt, the vanilla, and the zest. Stir in the rice.

Pour into the prepared pan and sprinkle lightly with cinnamon. Bake until golden brown, 50 to 60 minutes. Serve warm or at room temperature.

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World
News Briefs

Murder rate spirals

Israel has higher murder rates than all but three European countries, a newspaper study found. Tabulating 2004 crime figures, *Ha'aretz* said Monday that Israel trailed only Scotland, Luxembourg and Holland in its rate of murder and attempted murder per capita. On Sunday, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon formed a government task force to deal with the spiraling crime rate.

Israelis flee Bolivia

Israel evacuated its citizens from Bolivia. Two dozen Israeli trekkers were airlifted out of the strife-riven Latin American country Tuesday to Peru, en route to Tel Aviv. The Foreign Ministry said it was also exploring ways of removing another 150 Israelis marooned at a hotel in La Paz.

Arafat museum

The Palestinian Authority is building a museum devoted to Yasser Arafat. Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, Arafat's successor, said Sunday that the authority is col-

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RALLY IN N.Y. — Musicians entertain the crowd in New York's Central Park during a rally against Israel's Gaza pullout plan, held after the Salute to Israel parade, which drew 100,000 onlookers on Sunday, June 5.

lecting Arafat's personal possessions for a museum.

Prevent boycotts

Israeli universities must act proactively to prevent future educational boycotts, speakers at a forum on the matter warned. The warnings came last week at a University of Haifa conference.

Along with Bar-Ilan University, Haifa recently was the subject of a brief boycott by a British teachers association. "We are paying the price of long neglect," said Leon Charney, vice chairman of the University of Haifa's Board of Governors. "We have left the campuses to the Israel haters."



NEW IDF CHIEF — Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, second from left, and Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz, right, put the Lieutenant-General rank on Dan Halutz's shoulders promoting him as the 18th chief of staff of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), as outgoing army chief Moshe Ya'alon looks on, at a transition ceremony at Sharon's office June 1 in Jerusalem.



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Medical Arts**Naming a Jewish child**

*A good name, says Proverbs,
is rather to be chosen than great riches.*

Conferring a first name on a Jewish child is not to be undertaken carelessly or frivolously. It often involves extended, sometimes divisive, family discussion



Stanley Aronson M.D.

selected.

Since the name chosen represents the first gift that the parents bestow on their newborn, it merits serious study. The ultimate choice will represent a compromise among many discordant and reconciling pressures. On the one hand, there are religious traditions, and, on the other, assimilationist pressures favoring currently fashionable names such as Tiffany or Cody, which would bewilder the most tolerant of rabbis.

During the course of earlier studies attempting to define institutional usage in bygone times, an opportunity arose to compile a substantial list of first names of Jews dying in Rhode Island during the early decades of the 20th century, a population largely born overseas. Through the auspices of the two Rhode Island funeral establishments which had historically fulfilled the mortuary needs of the local Jewish community, 22,646 given

beginning months before the anticipated birth date. And, before the days of gender-identifying sonography, both a male and a female name needed to be

names (11,717 females and 10,929 males,) were provided from these certificates. The dates of birth covered about a century of records from 1849 to 1959.

These names were first sorted by gender, date and place of birth. In each category the names were counted and placed in order of frequency. The study then attempted to determine whether this ranking exhibited any trends in relation to the times and places of birth, and, when meaningful shifts were documented, whether there were explanations for such changes. (A more extensive compilation of these retrospective studies may be found in *Rhode Island Jewish Historical Notes: Vol. 12, No. 2, Nov., 1996.*)

The most frequently chosen names for girls were: Sarah, Ann, Rose, Ida, Bessie, Fannie and Rebecca (for those born in Russia-Poland); Ann, Rose, Rebecca, Sarah, Esther and Fannie (Austria-Hungary); Sarah, Ann, Rose, Bertha, Hannah and Fannie (Western Europe), and Rose, Ann, Lillian, Jennie, Sarah and Ida (U.S.).

For boys: Samuel, Abraham, Jacob, Morris, Louis and Joseph (Russia-Poland); Samuel, Morris, Jacob, Abraham, Louis and Max (Austria-Hungary); Jacob, Isaac, Louis, Samuel, Joseph and Max (Western Europe) and Samuel,

Harry, Louis, Joseph, Abraham and David (U.S.).

As American Jews have become increasingly assimilated, name preferences for their offspring have broadened and now incorporate names that had previously been shunned by Jewish families. Among male Jews born in Russia-Poland, particularly before 1900, there had been few with the names of the tsars, (Peter, Paul, Ivan, Nicholas). The major apostolic names (Matthew, Mark, Luke John, Peter, Paul) were similarly avoided.

Jews, in general, did not name their children after historic tyrants. There were not many Jewish Alexanders or Napoleons.

Some names, such as Max, Irving, Hyman, Bernard, Louis and Morris were commonly chosen in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. (Up to 24.4 percent, depending on place of birth.) Indeed, they were selected so often that they have now assumed a distinctly Semitic aura. Yet not one of these names is of Hebraic or Yiddish origin;

most of them are derived from Latin, Old High German or Anglo-Saxon.

The name Morris, or its variants Moritz or Maurice, appeared 615 times amongst the 11,717 male Jewish names. Morris was the dominant choice of those born in Russia-Poland, Moritz was confined almost exclusively to Jews born in Austria-Hungary, while Maurice was more common among those born in Western Europe or the United States.

When the names in this cohort of 22,646 are examined against the decade and place of birth, three realities emerge. Firstly, there is a progressive widening of choices from the mid-19th to the mid-20th century, and moving west from the Pale of Russia to the Western nations. Secondly, the use of distinctly Yiddish names, such as Menachim, Simcha, Motke, Feivel, Peshe, Rivka, or Basha have virtually disappeared; along with the Hebrew names of animals, Hersh, Lieb, Leo, Dov, Barnet, or adjectival names such

as Fruma, Shayna, and Blima. Thirdly, the use of non-Jewish names has greatly expanded.

Given the immense societal pressures to conform, it seemed unlikely that an analysis of the relatively large collection of Jewish first names would yield much beyond the relative frequencies of the various scriptural names: patriarchs, judges, prophets, kings, or archangels.

Surprisingly, some modest trends do emerge which reflect the unique experiences and involuntary migrations of the Diaspora communities.

There is an increasingly diversified and imaginative choice of first names by Jewish parents in the current era. American Jews are now using many names of Celtic and Gaelic origin (Kevin, Scott, Sean (or Shawn), Kelly, Megan, Erin.) Nonetheless — no matter what compelling choices are derived from the secular zeitgeist — never has the frequency of time-honored Jewish names, e.g., Sarah, Abraham, David; in any of the analyzed Jewish groups diminished below 25 percent.

A good name, says Proverbs, is rather to be chosen than great riches.

Dr. Stanley Aronson is dean emeritus of Brown University Medical School.

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Community

Late Pragers honored

By Marylyn Graff

PROVIDENCE — The Meals on Wheels program honored Anna and Maurice Prager, late Providence residents, with a memorial plaque at their annual appreciation night May 23. The Pragers were dedicated and long-time volunteers for the group.

Their daughter, Shirley Prager Branner, donated a \$10,000 gift in memory of her parents. Ruth Prager of Providence, a sister-in-law, attended the event.

In telephone interviews, both women recalled the Pragers.

Maurice Prager was born in Poland and came to this country in 1920, settling in Providence in 1926. A 1929 graduate of Suffolk Law School, he entered business in manufacturing and retailing. He was active in both Jewish and civic organizations.

Anna Prager was born in

the Ukraine in 1904 and came to America in 1921. She settled in North Providence, and after her marriage, worked with her husband until their retirement.

Anna volunteered as a Meals on Wheels delivery person in North Providence, and eventually her husband joined her. Both Pragers took a special interest in the people on their route. Branner said when an elderly Polish man was homesick for his native potato patty, Anna made sure to get him some. He was so overcome that he cried. Many of their clients were thrilled to be able to speak their native language with the Pragers, according to Ruth Prager.

Maurice died in 1992 and Anna died in 2003.

Anne Sherman of the R.I. Jewish Historical Association contributed to this story.

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BJE installs officers, gives awards

PROVIDENCE — The Bureau of Jewish Education held its 54th annual meeting on May 10 at the Providence Hebrew Day School. Approximately 250 adults and students filled the day school's auditorium for the installation of the 2005-2006 officers and board.

The meeting also honored recipients of BJE/RI educator

awards, grants, and fellowships to outstanding educators; and to those students who have demonstrated academic excellence.

Gloria Feibish, past president, chaired the program.

The following individuals were installed as officers: president, Linn Freedman; vice presidents, Steven Goliger, James Pious, Miriam Esther Weiner;

treasurer, Harry Feld; associate treasurer, Cheryl Teverow; secretary, Arlene Rogol and associate secretary, Sergey Goldgaber.

Participating in the evening were Miriam Esther Weiner, chair of the Education Committee; Barbara Mer and Jamie Pious, co-chairs of the Israel Travel and Study Committee; and Rabbi Jacqueline Romm

Satlow. They presented the educator awards to those who have successfully completed the Morim program and wish *nesiyah tovah* to those students who will be traveling to Israel this coming year.

This year's program featured a video, "Chai Five" that saluted 25 individuals for their

outstanding teamwork on behalf of the BJE/RI. The video was produced by Richard Walter, director of teen education, in memory of late board member Karen Jacober.

Rabbi Peretz Scheinerman, dean of the Providence Hebrew Day School, delivered a d'var Torah and Cantor Rennie Brown gave the benediction.

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Simchas

Engagement

PROVIDENCE — Leah and Kenneth Hersh announce the engagement of their son, Eitan Daniel Hersh, to Julia Elizabeth Hoffman. Julia is the daughter of Eva and Mel Hoffman of Newton, Mass.

Eitan is a graduate of the Alperin Schechter Day School, Classical High School, and Tufts University. He is a fellow at the Democratic Leadership Council in Washington, D.C. Julia is a graduate of Maimonides School and Tufts University. She serves on the staff of Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI).

Eitan is the grandson of Marilyn and Abraham Ehrenhaus of Fall River, Mass., and Claire Hersh and David Hersh of West Orange, N.J.

A spring 2006 wedding is planned.



Julia Elizabeth Hoffman
Eitan Daniel Hersh

Mazal Tov

Hadassah leadership award

EAST GREENWICH — Judy Silverman of East Greenwich has been named a recipient of the 19th annual Hadassah National Leadership Award. This award pays tribute to members whose leadership accomplishments within Hadassah and civic, educational and cultural organizations reflect Hadassah's dedication to the principles of the volunteer ethic.

In presenting the award at R.I. Hadassah's donor event on May 17, President Meredith Drench noted Silverman's 10 years of dedicated service as an officer, working on tasks from small to large — from proof-reading letters to installing software and component parts.



Brothers win Big Brothers award

DAVID HOCHMAN, left, and his brother Alan, right, stand with Val Sinesi, director of the Rhode Island Big Brothers Association, after receiving the 2005 Volunteer of the year awards.

After receiving the awards, the Hochman brothers presented Big Brothers with a check to create the Hochman Family Fund.

Bachelor's Degree

Rachael Anne Lieberman, daughter of John and Monique Devne and Michael and Ilene Lieberman and granddaughter of Elaine and Abbott Lieberman of Providence, has graduated from the University of California, Berkeley. She received a bachelor of arts in molecular and cell biology with honors.

She has been commissioned into the U. S. Air Force as a second lieutenant. After spending six weeks helping destitute children in Brazil, she will be attending New York Medical

Doctor of Medicine

Jay Miller Brenner son of Marjory and Gerald Brenner of Woonsocket, a 1997 graduate of Woonsocket High School, received the degree of Doctor of Medicine from George Washington University School of Medicine. As a student in the university's combined BA/MD program, he previously received his bachelor of arts degree cum laude.

He is entering a residency program in emergency medicine at the State University of New York (SUNY) Upstate in Syracuse.

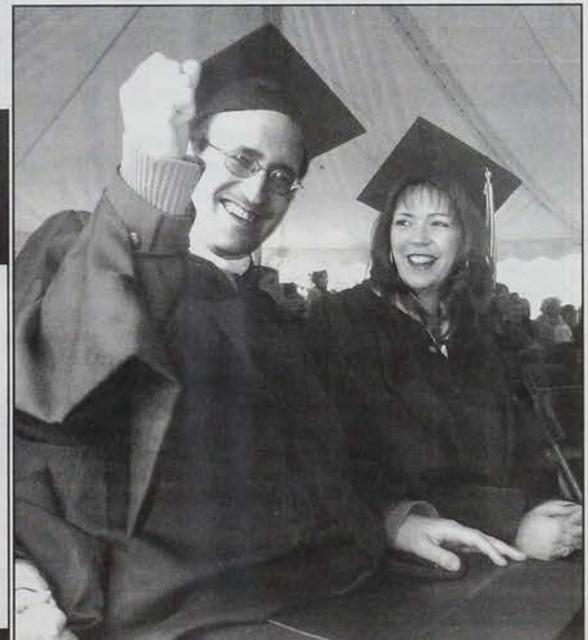
Dr. Brenner is married to the former Larissa Davis of Landing, N.Y.

Law Graduate

Michael Philips, son of Paul and Jo-Ann Philips of North Providence, graduated from Villanova University Law School. He won the ABA/BNA Lawyer's Manual award for excellence in the study of intellectual property law.

Philips is also the grandson of Ruth Philips of Warwick and Loretta Bergeron of Pawtucket.

Master's Degree



Cary Eichenbaum, of Providence, received his master of arts in adult education from the College of Continuing Education at the University of Rhode Island, Feinstein campus, on May 22. He was on the dean's list and is a member of Phi Sigma Lambda.



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Herta Hoffman, 90, community activist

By Mary Korr

PROVIDENCE — Third row left at Temple Emanu-El will not be the same without her. It was here that Herta Hoffman, who died Sunday at the age of 90, sat for so many Saturday morning services with longtime friend Greta Steiner.

"We were always together, for 50 years," Steiner said at the funeral held Monday at the temple.

An active congregant as well as a stalwart of the Jewish community, Herta was the widow of Bruno Hoffman.

At the service, Rabbi Wayne Franklin told her family and friends, "We will miss this little giant. She taught us all to honor God's creations."

There was nothing small about Hoffman, other than her size. Her mettle was forged in the flames of Nazism — she fled Austria with her husband, Bruno, and arrived in Providence in 1939, through the sponsorship of a distant relative.

"The two were married shortly after 'Kristallnacht' (The Night of Broken Glass)," Rabbi Franklin said.

Hoffman spent the rest of her life picking up the shattered pieces of people's lives and helping them to forge new ones. Shortly after their arrival, Herta, Bruno and a few close friends decided to help fellow refugees by establishing the R.I. Self-Help Program for Émigrés.

Her suffering cut to the core. While she and her three siblings escaped the Nazi onslaught, her parents did not. She was the daughter of Alfred and Hilda (Englmann) Pisk, who perished in Auschwitz.

Hoffman credited her parents, ardent Zionists, for instilling in their children the importance of goodness and concern for others, and a love of Israel, said her niece, Miriam Pisk Miller, who was like



HERTA HOFFMAN with her niece, Miriam Miller, and her grand-nephew Jordan.

a daughter to her. Herta and Bruno did not have their own children.

Hoffman's determination was crystallized by her pain, and that of all the Jewish people who perished in the war.

Paul Segal, former director of Jewish Family Service, was a friend who worked with Hoffman, a volunteer for many years at the agency, in the daunting task of resettling refugees. He had recently attended her 90th birthday party in April at Tamarisk Assisted Living in Warwick, her most recent residence.

"Jewish merchants, when they saw Herta and her committee walking in, knew

she expected to get what she wanted at wholesale price, or for free if she could. She spoke her mind," he said.

Her basement was filled with household goods, ready for the next family in need.

He noted her sense of Yiddishkeit, her kindness, her energy and commitment.

She was chair of the National Council for Jewish Women Service to the Foreign Born committee; and engaged in resettlement work with HIAS (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society).

She also served as president of Hadasah Business and Professionals, and was

a member of the Women's Association of the Miriam Hospital. She also ran a kosher Meals on Wheels program and was involved in the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.

Her niece said she was an astute businesswoman, who owned the Arcade Infant's and Children's Shop in downtown Providence until the floods of hurricane Carol in 1954 forced her to close the store.

Although she received many accolades and honors, she eschewed them, Rabbi Franklin said. "Doing *mitzvot* was her reward."

Community tributes included the Outstanding Volunteer Award of the Jewish Community Center in 1983; the International Institute of Rhode Island's Outstanding Citizen in 1989, and the National Council of Jewish Women's Jewish Volunteer Recognition Community Service Award in 1997. She was the first Rhode Island Section recipient of NCJW's highest national honor, the Hannah G. Solomon Award in 1987.

In addition to her niece, she is survived by her older brother, Theodore Pisk, and his wife, Edith; many nieces, nephews, and their families in Connecticut, Maryland and Israel, as well as Maria Borges, who tended her over several years of illness.

Her sister Judith Sharir, brother Shmuel Ben-Porat, both of Israel, and their spouses, predeceased her.

Interment was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

Contributions may be made to the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island's Bruno and Herta Hoffman Endowment Fund, Temple Emanu-El, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society or a charity of the donor's choice.

Gilbert Fishbein, 83

PROVIDENCE — Gilbert Fishbein, 83, died May 15. He was the husband of the late Anne Werber Fishbein for 16 years.

He was a son of the late Helen and Morris Fishbein and lived in Providence until moving to Milford, Mass., in the 1950s. In 1978, he moved back to Providence.

He owned and operated Fishbein Hearing Aids, formerly Fishbein Electronics, for 55 years.

Mr. Fishbein leaves a daughter and son-in-law, Maxine and Rabbi Robert Pilavin, and three grandchildren: Channah, Moshe, and Sara Pilavin, all of Manalapan, N.J. He was the brother of the late Ruth Garber, Dr. Joseph J. Fishbein, and Harriet Gladstone.

Robert M. Kaplan

PROVIDENCE — Robert M. Kaplan, founder of Patapak, a packaging manufacturer, died May 31. He was the husband of Susan (Adler) Kaplan. They were married for 42 years. Born in Sayre, Penn., he was the son of the late Ben Kaplan, radio editor of the *Providence Journal*, and Lee (Blostein) Kaplan.



He served in World War II as an Army medic on warships in Europe and as a musical conductor of the Armed Services Orchestra.

Following his education at Providence College, Kaplan worked as a musician in New York City. He was the choral director of the hit shows "Finian's Rainbow" and "High Button Shoes" on Broadway as well as of the famous radio show and television weekly "Your Hit Parade."

Always maintaining his interest in the musical theater, he was the guest director of many musical shows at Brown University and directed several productions at the Barker Players, the Orleans Arena and other theaters.

He was one of the founders of Trinity Square Repertory Company.

Besides his wife, he leaves a son, Jonathan Kaplan and his wife, Martha, of Peacham, Vt.; two daughters, Deborah Kaplan Cohen and her husband, Norman, of Brookline, Mass., and Patricia Kaplan Bowen of Providence; and six grandchildren, Danielle and Amy Cohen, Emma and Olivia Kaplan, Samantha Bowen and Daniel Kaplan.

He was the father of the late Bruce Kaplan and father-in-law of the late William Bowen.

Contributions may be made to Brown University Medical School Parkinson's Research, PO Box 1893, Providence, RI 02912 or the Temple Beth-El Library Fund, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence, RI 02906.

Mildred Hazman, 96

ROCKVILLE, Md. — Mildred Hazman, 96, formerly of Providence, died June 5. She was the wife of the late David Hazman.

Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Morris and Bessie (Bruenstein) Kramer, she was a lifelong resident of Providence, recently moving to Rockville.

Mrs. Hazman was a member of Hadassah.

She leaves two daughters, Barbara Wortman of Lynn, Mass., and Judith Feigenson of Wheaton, Md.; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She was the sister of the late Samuel, Louis and Sydney Kramer, Faye Chernick and Edna Fleischer.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

Contributions may be made to the Hebrew Home of Greater Washington, 6121 Montrose Road, Rockville, MD 20852.

Judith Leba Koffler, 63

PROVIDENCE — Judith Leba (Abramson) Koffler, 63, of Providence, died May 25. Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Abraham and Freida (Israeloff) Abramson, she grew up in New Jersey and returned to Providence in 1964.

A graduate of the University of Rhode Island, she taught high school English in New Jersey prior to becoming an editor for McGraw-Hill in New York and later a stockbroker in Providence. For six years she was a volunteer at the Rochambeau branch of the Providence Public Library and she was involved in fundraising for the Rhode Island School of Design and the former Jewish Home for the Aged.

She is survived by her daughter, Lisa Koffler, of Providence and a sister, Jean Yates, of Mahwah, N.J., a niece and several nephews.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. Contributions may be made to the Providence Public Library, Rochambeau branch, 708 Hope St., Providence, RI 02906 or Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence, RI 02906.

OBITUARIES

From page 21

Anna Margolis, 95

PROVIDENCE — Anna Margolis, 95, died May 31. She was the wife of Joseph Margolis. They were married for 77 years. Born in Fall River, a daughter of the late Mark and Ida (Lipsky) Davidson, she was a lifelong resident of Providence.

She worked as a sales person at the former City Hall Hardware in downtown Providence. She was a member of Congregation Shaare Zedek and was very active in its Sisterhood.

Besides her husband she leaves a daughter-in-law, Susan Smith; three grandchildren, Dr. Gary Margolis, Dr. Debra Margolis and Dr. Amy Margolis Delorie; five great-grandchildren, Dylan and Kira Margolis, Chloe and Jillian Dorf, and Rachel Delorie. She was the mother of the late Michael Margolis and the sister of the late Florence Victor.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. Contributions may be made to the charity of your choice.

Max Millen, 85

MIDDLETOWN, Conn. — Max Millen, 85, formerly of Boca Raton, Fla., and Providence, died June 3. He was the husband of Shirley (Swartz) Millen.

Born in Dorchester, Mass., he was a son of the late Jacob and Rose Millen.

An Army veteran of World War II and recipient of the Bronze Star, he served in the 42nd (Rainbow) Division, which participated in the liberation of the Dachau concentration camp.

He was a life member of the Jewish War Veterans. He was an executive officer of What Cheer Foods Co., in Providence.

Besides his wife, he leaves a son, Mathew Millen; a daughter, Reesa Belin, and her husband, Daniel; grandchildren Jeremy, Steven and wife Kristin, and Julie and fiancé Ben Richards, and a sister, Ruth Belgard.

Burial was in Sharon, Mass., Memorial Park. Contributions may be made to the Weiss Hospice Unit, Middlesex Hospital, c/o Office of Philanthropy, 28 Crescent Street, Middletown, CT 06457.

Bruce G. Pollock, 58

WEST WARWICK — Bruce G. Pollock, 58, an attorney, died May 25. He was the husband of Sheri (Tepper) Pollock. They were married for 35 years. Born in Providence, a son of Stella (Reitman) Pollock and the late Reuben Pollock, he had lived in Cumberland before moving to West Warwick 19 years ago.

He was a graduate of Cranston High School East, class of '64, received his bachelor's degree from the University of Rhode Island, class of '68 and his J.D. degree from Suffolk Law School, class of '74.

Pollock was an assistant public defender for the state of R.I. for six years and had been in private practice for the past 25 years. He was a past president of the R.I. Bar Association and currently was the vice president of the R.I. Bar Foundation. He published "The Rhode Island Supreme Court and Law of Crimes" and authored several works in the R.I. Bar Journal and the Suffolk University Law Review.

Pollock was the youngest Boy Scout in R.I. to attain Eagle Scout status at age 13.

He was an Army veteran and served stateside from 1969 to 1971. He was an avid golfer and enjoyed teaching Sunday school at Temple Beth-El. He was a life member of the Disabled American Veterans and a member of Temple Beth-El.

He leaves two daughters, Dawn Pollock Jones of New York City and Meah Rae Pollock of Warwick; and a sister, Debra Miller of Warwick.

Contributions in his memory may be made to the American Cancer Society or your favorite charity.

Arthur Rosensweet, 86

NORTH PROVIDENCE — Arthur Rosensweet, 86, of Douglas Terrace, a retired oil burner repairman, died May 22. Born in Providence, a son of the late Israel and Anne (Rosenberg) Rosensweet, he was a lifelong Providence resident before moving to North Providence 15 years ago.

He was an oil burner repairman for several companies in R.I., retiring 20 years ago.

He was the brother of Rose Dubin of Hamden, Conn., and the late Morris Rosensweet and Rebecca Woled.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. Contributions in his memory may be made to the Multiple Sclerosis Society, R.I. Chapter, 205 Hallene Road, Warwick, RI 02886.

Sadie Shanfield, 87

LAUDERDALE LAKES, Fla. — Sadie Shanfield, 87, formerly of Cranston, a retired state clerk, died May 22. She was the wife of the late Melvin E. Shanfield. Born in Providence, a

daughter of the late Morris and Gertrude (Broomfield) Kaufman, she had lived in Lauderdale Lakes for 22 years.

She was a clerk in the Welfare Department for the state of R.I. for over nine years, retiring 27 years ago. She was a former member of B'nai B'rith, Touro Fraternal Association and the former Cranston Jewish Community Center.

She was the mother of Alan D. Shanfield of Lauderdale Lakes, Robert H. Shanfield of Boynton Beach, Fla., and the late Ronna Ruth Sabatino. She was the sister of John Kaufman of Coventry and Florida, Leo Kaufman of Providence and Florida, Melvin "Marty" Kaufman of Cranston, Selma Dubey of Manalapan, N.J., Frances Rodynsky of Boca Raton, Fla., and the late Florence Cannon and Evelyn Goldberg. She was the grandmother of Lee, Jeffrey and Toni Lynn and great-grandmother of Joey.

Contributions in her memory may be made to your favorite charity.

Charlotte H. Swartz, 89

FREDERICK, Md. — Charlotte H. Swartz, 89, formerly of Rhode Island, died May 30. She was the wife of the late Hyman Swartz.

Born in Providence, she was the daughter of the late Samuel and Leah (Godfrey) Brown.

Mrs. Swartz worked as a bookkeeper for the What Cheer Food Co. until retirement.

She leaves a son, Barry Swartz, and his wife, Jeanne, of Frederick; five grandchildren, Ryan Swartz and his wife, Nicole; Stephanie Swartz, Ryan, Andrew and Melissa Benharris; and two great-grandchildren, Jaron Swartz and Keirsten Myers. She was the mother of the late Judith

Benharris.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

Joseph A. Weisman, 85

PROVIDENCE — Joseph A. Weisman, 85, a retired jewelry manufacturer, died May 30. He was the husband of the late Beatrice (Klibanoff) Weisman. Born in Providence, the son of the late Julius and Esther (Davis) Weisman, he was a lifelong resident of the city.

Weisman was a graduate of Hope High School, Brown University, class of 1940, where he graduated Phi Beta Kappa and the Harvard School of Business. He was the former president and chairman of the board of Plainville Stock Company, Plainville, Mass., until his retirement in 2002.

He served during World War II as Lt. Commander in the U.S. Navy aboard the USS Mann.

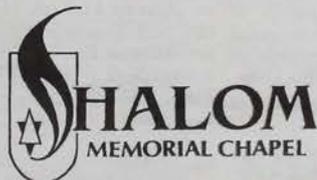
He was a member of Temple Emanu-El and its Men's Club, a member of the Providence Jewellers Club and a founding member of the Brown Curriculum Learning in Retirement (BCLIR).

He leaves four sons: David E. Weisman of Washington, D.C., William A. Weisman of Arlington, Mass., Robert P. Weisman of Providence and Lawrence G. Weisman of Providence.

He was the father-in-law of Vicki Weisman, Sandy Weisman and Cort Pachteau and leaves nine grandchildren. He was also the father of the late Steven F. Weisman and the brother of the late Harriet Davis and Shirley Baer. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery.

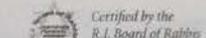
Contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 245 Waterman St., Suite 306, Providence, RI 02906.

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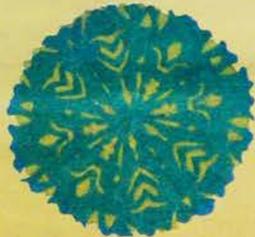
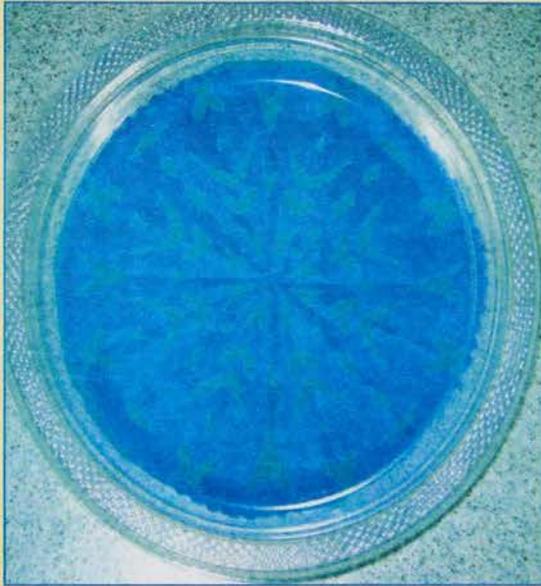


Charlotte Sheer

The art of creating Jewish paper cuts dates back to the Middle Ages, but was especially popular in the Jewish villages of Eastern Europe and North Africa during the late 18th and 19th centuries. Surviving examples of this fascinating folk art form indicate that Jewish paper cuts were used on marriage contracts, as well as to keep the evil eye away from one's home, to recall family deaths, for holiday decorating, and to mark the direction to face during prayer.

Intricate Jewish paper cuts, crafted by using paper, pencil, and a pen knife, often included nature-inspired borders, traditional Jewish symbols, and carefully-formed Hebrew lettering. It is believed that young boys studying in the heder (Jewish school) used scissors to cut simple rosettes for decorating the autumn sukkah and springtime Shavuot windows.

Decorating with paper cut window designs has been revived as a Shavuot tradition. During this Feast of Weeks, we recall the giving of the Ten Commandments to Moses on Mount Sinai and celebrate the spring wheat harvest.



Shavuot paper cut decoration

Level: Intermediate to advanced

Supplies:

- 2 clear plastic plates (available at party goods stores)
- colored tissue paper
- sharp scissors
- textured edge scissors (optional)
- ribbon hanger
- tacky glue



Directions:

1. Use sharp or textured edge scissors to cut a tissue paper circle to fit in the center of a plate.
2. Fold the tissue circle in half, and then in half again once or twice more.
3. Cut out little pieces, in different shapes, along the fold lines. (Hint: Be careful not to cut all the way through to the opposite folded edge.)
4. Open the cut paper circle and place it in the middle of a plate.
5. Place the second plate into the decorated plate, catching the paper cut design in between them.
6. Glue or staple the plate edges together and attach a ribbon hanger.
7. Hang your paper cut decoration in a window or on the wall.

Thinking further: Look at the positive and negative spaces in your paper cut design. How and why are both the positive and negative parts important to understanding the whole design? In a real life situation or relationship, it is important to recognize the positive as well as the negative to understand it as a whole.

Charli Sheer of Foxboro writes a regular arts/crafts column for the Voice & Herald.

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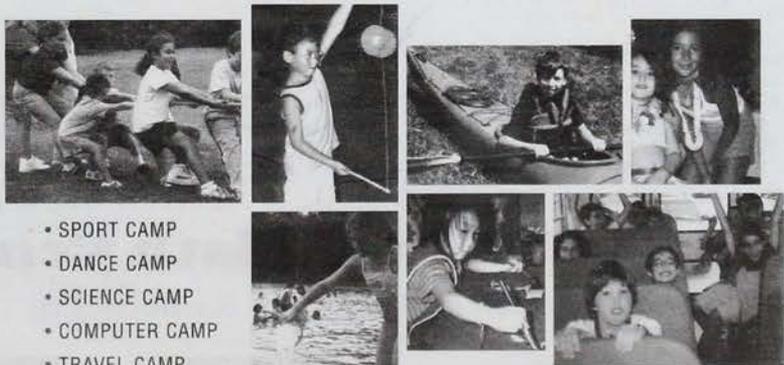
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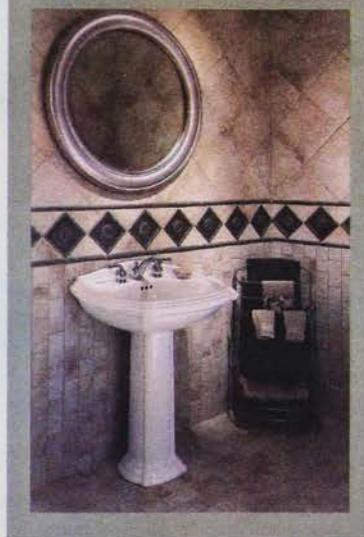
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