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April 13, 2007

Visit to Prague



Photos by Kevin Olson

Czech tour guide David Kraus gives the "thumbs up" to his new found friends from URI. At left, is Amy Olson, Hillel director.

URI Hillel spends spring break in Czech Republic

The words "spring break" often bring to mind images of swimsuit-clad college students frolicking on the beach in Florida. This past spring break at the University of Rhode Island, however, 10 students under the auspices of URI Hillel, donned their winter coats and set off to explore the Jewish history and present-day Jewish community of Prague and the Czech Republic.

"Two years ago, I led a similar trip with students from the University of Minnesota Hillel," said URI Hillel Director, Amy Olson. "When the opportunity arose to apply for some funding from the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island to help make this trip possible for URI students, I leapt at the chance."

In orientation programs before the trip and through the course of the trip, students were educated about the rich Jewish community that once existed in Prague, the remnants of that community that exist today and the new generation of Jews in Prague rediscovering and reclaiming their Jewish identity after the double devastation of the Holocaust and Communist repression.

Working with CET Academic Programs, an education organization that offers both a semester and summer program in Jewish Studies in Prague, the Hillel trip took students to historic sites, but more importantly, introduced them to young Czech Jews. David Kraus, the 21-year-old son of Tomas Kraus, the director of the Czech Jewish Federation, accompanied the group throughout the trip, serving as guide, commentator and friend. His friend Zita led the tour through the Jewish Quarter and to the great synagogue in Plzen (about an hour outside of Prague). His friend Daniel led a tour of Terezin, the infamous ghetto/concentration camp 45

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ANALYSIS

War of words over Pelosi's trip

By Ron Kampeas
WASHINGTON (JTA) — Did Rep. Nancy Pelosi drop the ball in the Middle East? Was she fouled? Was there a ball at all?

Pelosi, the speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, earned White House vituperation unusual for its intensity in even these partisan times after delivering what she said was a peace message last week from Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert to Syrian President Bashar Assad.

"It was a non-statement, nonsensical statement and didn't make any sense at all that she would suggest that

See Pelosi, page 12



Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi holds up tags of Israeli soldiers captured by Hezbollah and Hamas as she speaks during an official dinner at the Knesset in Jerusalem, April 1.

Carter calls for U.S. peace push

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Mideast peace is possible only with forceful U.S. engagement, former President Carter said as he received an award for speaking out on controversial topics.

Carter — whose recent book, "Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid," infuriated much of the Jewish community with its allegedly one-sided presentation of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict — addressed some 400 people in Washington on April 4 as he received the Ridenhour Courage Prize.

"History has shown that progress is possible only if the United States of America assumes its historic role as honest broker between Israel and her enemy," Carter said at the National Press Club, lamenting what he described

as a six-year lapse in substantial peace efforts. "To play that essential role, America must not be seen as in the pocket of either side."

Critics have said that by eschewing Clinton-era micro-management of the peace process, President Bush has allowed the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to fester, feeding into other problems in the region as well.

Bush administration officials, noting the failure of Clinton's peace efforts, have argued that the time is not ripe for a final peace deal and that it is fruitless to push until the Palestinians have made a decision to abandon terrorism in favor of peace.

Carter said the Bush administration and pro-Israel groups such as the American Israel Public Affairs Commit-

tee prevent Americans from having a real debate on Middle East policy.

"The American friends of Israel, who demand such subservience, are in many cases sincere and well-intentioned people; I know them," Carter said. "But on this crucial issue, they are tragically mistaken. Their demands subvert America's ability to bring to Israel what she most desperately needs and wants — peace and security within recognized borders."

Carter received a standing ovation for his 25-minute speech, which did not ignore the controversy surrounding his most recent book.

At a news conference, he claimed that support for his book, including from what he said were prominent Jews, was consistently at 79 or 80 percent.



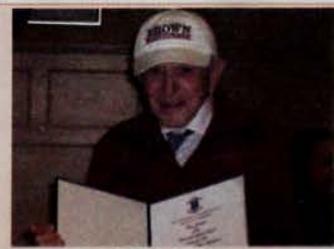
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Happy 100th Birthday Joel! See page 31.

Calendar

SEND US YOUR CALENDAR LISTINGS — include time, date, location and telephone number. Notices must be received 2 weeks prior to publication date. E-mail to: voiceherald@jfri.org; Fax to: 401-331-7961, or mail to: Jewish Voice & Herald, 130 Sessions St., Providence, RI 02906 — Attn: Calendar.

ONGOING THROUGH APRIL 15 Children's Holocaust art exhibit

Artwork and poetry created by children facing the Holocaust. Exhibit sponsored by the Rhode Island Holocaust Museum on display at the Johnson & Wales Multicultural Center at 60 Broad St. in downtown Providence. Free and open to the public. For more information or to arrange a tour, call 453-7860 or rhodeislandhmm@aol.com.

FRI., APRIL 13

Yom HaShoah service at Sinai

5:45 p.m. Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston, will commemorate Yom HaShoah,

Holocaust Memorial Day, with a special Shabbat service. For information, call the temple at 942-8350.

SAT., APRIL 14

Tot Shabbat at Sinai

9:30 a.m. Temple Sinai (address, phone above) will host their monthly Tot Shabbat services.

Evening with Rabbi Klein at Habonim

6:30—9:30 p.m. at the temple, 165 New Meadow Rd., Barrington. Havdalah, Talmud study and dessert reception with the new rabbi. Informal get-acquainted evening. All welcome.

SUN., APRIL 15

Beth-El 'White Elephant Affair'

8 a.m. to noon. Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. Sale of family treasures (household goods, antiques, toys) and baked goods. Free admission.

Yom HaShoah commemoration

3 p.m. in the main sanctuary of Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave. in Providence. Commemoration ceremony of the Holocaust will take place. All are welcome. See news story on page 3.

Shalom interfaith service of remembrance for families

7:30 p.m. Temple Shalom, 223 Valley Rd., Middletown. 32nd annual community interfaith service in main sanctuary. Traditional and contemporary prayers and music, readings dedicated to the victims of the Holocaust. Jamestown Community Theater members will perform "Yours, Anne." Matilda Mutanguha, Rwanda native, will speak. Families encouraged to attend



Marcy Brink-Danan, a scholar in Judaic Studies at Brown, will speak on the Sephardic Jewish community in Turkey at the annual meeting of the R.I. Jewish Historical Association; see April 22 listing.

with children. Dedicated to the children of the Holocaust.

For more information, call 846-9002.

MON., APRIL 16

Yom HaShoah: Holocaust Memorial Day

2 p.m. URI Hillel campus commemoration of Yom HaShoah will take place at the Multicultural Center. The student-led service of poetry, readings and song will feature remarks by Holocaust survivor, Alice Goldstein.

About Israel, cont.

7:30 p.m. Tamarisk, 3 Shalom Dr., Warwick. "An Approach to Peace" (Is there a place for a liberal in Israel?) Phil Rosen, co-chair of Brit Tzedek v'Shalom (RI Chapter) will discuss the peace movement in Israel. Refreshments.

Movie night:

Sophie Scholls

7:30—9 p.m. "Sophie Scholls" film presented by the Jewish Community Center, 401 Elm-grove, Providence, in the Holocaust Center. During WWII, Sophie Scholls was a non-Jewish German university student who, along with others, tried peaceful resistance. Contact Sue Suls at 861-8800, ext. 108 for more information.

TUES., APRIL 17

Temple Torat Yisrael's Lunch & Learn

12—1:30 p.m. Grille on Main, 50 Main St., East Greenwich. Join Rabbi Amy Levin from Temple Torat Yisrael. Topic: What are Miracles? Each participant orders from the menu and we study Jewish sources addressing current issues. Everyone is welcome, bring a friend.

"Kings of Swing" at Tamarisk

3 p.m. Tamarisk community room, 3 Shalom Dr., Warwick. Dr. Steven Kane's "Swing with Bing" Part II. Continuing musicology course. Refreshments served. RSVP to Gina at 401-732-0037.

Dr. Nevel:

Ashkenazi and cancer risk

7:30 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center, 401 Elm-grove, Providence. Informal presentation on hereditary breast & ovarian cancers in the Ashkenazi community with speaker Laura Nevel, MD. Learn about the specific gene mutations, health management strategies of how to reduce overall risks for developing these inborn diseases and improve outcomes. Free lecture.

See Calendar, page 13

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CANDLE LIGHTING
For greater Rhode Island

April 13 7:04
April 20 7:12
April 27 7:19
May 4 7:27



Holocaust remembrance to be held Sun. at Emanu-El
Arthur Fixler to receive 'Never Again' award

PROVIDENCE — The 2007 commemoration ceremony of the Holocaust will take place on Sunday, April 15 at 3 p.m. in the main sanctuary of Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave. in Providence. All are welcome and invited to attend.

There will be a dramatic reading derived from the text of "Sophie Scholl and The White Rose," a historical biography by Annette Dumbach and Jud Newborn, detailing the activity of a significant, non-violent, anti-Nazi resistance movement

in Germany during 1942-43.

The moral commitment and daring of these young Germans is a wonder to contemplate and the dramatic reading will attempt to convey some of their dedication to justice. Their memories will be honored at this ceremony, along with those of the six million martyred victims of the Nazi genocide. The dramatic reading has been adapted from the original text by Professor Barbara Silliman of Providence College.

Providence College.

Procession of survivors

This year's ceremony will also include the traditional prayers and songs dedicated to the victims of Nazism as well as the procession of Holocaust survivors. It will also include the presentation of the annual "Never Again," award which is presented by the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island in recognition of individuals who, by significant positive pursuits in the community, seek to promote the

reduction of anti-Semitism, racism and bigotry. The award, established in 1982, will be presented to Arthur Fixler, a long-time board member and former president of the Rhode Island Holocaust Memorial Museum. At the end of the ceremony, there will be the traditional procession to the Holocaust Museum's memorial garden, at the Jewish Community Center, where a memorial service will then be held.

Neat play



The entire cast of the New England Academy of Torah (NEAT) production of "Heartbeats of Home" takes a bow after a recent performance. Devorah Maldonado starred as the grandmother in the story of a young girl whose family makes aliyah to Israel, but who doesn't want to go and leave her friends in America.

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Opinion

A MAJORITY OF ONE

Mulling over a run for the presidency

Despite what you may have heard to the contrary, your observer has decided not to pursue the Democratic nomination for president of the United States. I made the decision mainly for ecological reasons, thus saving millions of trees from destruction that would otherwise have been sacrificed in reporting on my campaign and inauguration.



Yehuda Lev

Of course, there were other factors involved. My wife flatly refuses to move to the White House, citing the commute from Washington to Kingston where she is a URI professor. My daughter also protests because she lives in Massachusetts and prefers the clean, unsullied air of Boston to the politically charged atmosphere of Washington. And the Rhode Island Medical Association is arguing that at a time when the state finances are near collapse, it would be folly to permit the largest single financial contributor to the state's medical profession to simply walk away.

Being of a penurious nature, I would seek to save the government's money beginning with Condoleezza Rice's trips to the Middle East. If she really wants to visit with Ehud and the Abus' and the Saudi princes, OK, but on her dollar, not ours. But of course I will have to choose an entirely new cabinet, so for Secretary of State I want someone who knows all of the relevant languages, including Hebrew and Arabic. (Save on

translators.) If you know of such a polymath ask him to contact me. And speaking of math, I'll also need a new Secretary of the Treasury, one who knows enough about addition and subtraction to realize that when you add to your budget a war costing billions of dollars you

My wife flatly refuses to move to the White House...

subtract from your ability to feed, house and clothe the poor, provide adequate medical insurance for all and educate our children. With thanks to Leonard Fein who first made the suggestion, he or she should be able to count better than 1...2...3...4...a lot...

Enough negativity. What are the advantages of being president? For one, presidents have servants. Rain or shine someone else will walk the dog every morning. Someone else will take out your garbage, argue with the bank about your overruns, drive your car for you and, once they have drawn up a detailed psychological picture of how your mind works, order next week's films from Netflix.

Then too, presidents have no need for money. Whenever they go shopping at Building 19 or Job Lot, a servant goes with them paying for the selected bar-

gains. If pre-presidents could not resist buying sweats for five dollars or socks at twelve pair for 10 dollars before moving to Washington, how can they resist when money is no object? Of course some stickler for tradition will caution would-be presidents about state dinners, diplomatic functions and meetings with AIPAC, so look for something a bit more upscale, but check to be certain that the jacket is reversible and the pants are washable. For all other occasions presidents can stick to sweats but wear a long coat.

There are drawbacks to a presidential private life but TIVO has eliminated the worst of these. It is, however, essential that a president write into his or her contract that the party of the second part promises to hire a double to take over the role at official receptions, parades, meetings with national spelling bee winners, World Series champions, photo ops, the weekly radio broadcasts and visits to grieving relatives of soldiers who died in Iraq and Afghanistan. (That will be a needed innovation.) But always go in person to luncheons with Israeli cabinet ministers, all of whom will be looking for ways to oust their present leader by impressing their home voters with their access to the White House. These poor souls should be helped to achieve their objective in every way possible.

Looking over the pros and cons of being president, I may yet change my mind if the servant who hands out the money can also drive the official White House Corolla and work out a sustainable Middle East policy. This last may be too much to ask for in a single term. Double or nothing, anyone?

Yehuda Lev can be reached at yehudal@cox.net.

Letter to the Editor

He's in the army now



Former emissary Shlomi Yehiav.

It's been about four months since the last time that I wrote; it was a short period of time before my enlistment day for the Army. And now I am writing this mail after I finished basic training.

Four months ago, I arrived in the desert with 500 fresh new soldiers like me. We all wore the same uniforms, the same hats that covered our haircuts; our commanders treated us in the same way. And no one knew each other.

In this situation I really felt that I was no longer the Shlomi Yehiav every one knows — the Young Emissary from Rhode Island, or the trumpet player from the Afula, or Shlomi who likes to hang out with his friends and travel.

I was just Shlomi Yehiav. I thought to myself: How can I be myself in a place that I can't do what I want? (Sometimes I had to ask permission to itch my nose.) And I have only one free hour during the day.

Sometimes I even thought to myself that maybe in the army I will not find a way to show every one who Shlomi

Yehiav is. But when time passed and we all faced many challenging moments, like missing our family and friends, or training in terrible weather, or guarding in the middle of nowhere for hours, or facing the fact that we will barely eat in the next few days, I realized the friends that can help me in these moments are friends that I have known only for a couple of months, or even less.

These situations thought me so much; I learned to appreciate so many things, like a bed, five minutes of sun, food, music, family. I learned to understand people in their hard moments and not to judge them. I learned that the only way to survive a long hike with 30 pounds on my back is to help someone else that carries 50 pounds on his back. I learned that even in times when I felt that I couldn't take it any more and wanted to go home, the friend that helped me is feeling the same way...but he is still here to help me.

But I think that one of the most important things that I

learned is connected to my first thoughts and fears. Can I be myself in this uncomfortable world of orders?! The clothes...the hair...the trumpet...and all my other hobbies are things that the army can take, but the army gives us the chance to face situations that we are not used to, and the feeling of being myself in these situations is a feeling that I will never forget.

Well...! Now, I have a week's vacation. It's hard during the army to keep in touch, but from now I will have more time. I am expecting you to tell me how everything is!! And what is new in your life. A week ago when I talked to Dana (And yes...she is still my other half), we thought how fast time passes...and how things had changed in our lives...and how Providence will never face such cool emissaries like us... :) We want to wish you a great, happy and kosher Passover! Enjoy the spring! And come visit us!

Shlomi Yehiav was the Bureau of Jewish Education Israel Emissary in 2006.

FROM THE OLD OLIVETTI Lessons from our fathers, grandfathers

The seders of 5767 are now only a memory. Still, it's appropriate to ask, did their stories of freedom change us, clear our eyes, awaken our consciences? Are we more free now than before the seders? By one definition, the answer is clearly "no," for no man is free while even a single man is a slave. And, worse, what if we are enablers of the slavers? If we are, can we ever be free or are we merely latter-day Egyptians, benefiting from the new pharaohs? Here's a simple quiz.



Josh Stein

Did you emphasize that the story of our ancestors was the story of the exploitation of oppressed labor? And then did you go out and buy a product made in a sweatshop rather than in a Union shop?

Did you read of Pharaoh and not remember that people are being smuggled into this country to work in sub-human conditions; indeed, are being smuggled into the country in sub-human ways, crammed into airless trucks from Mexico, driven through deserts, abandoned if their drivers fear capture, or if from Asia, forced to live in ships in conditions comparable to those of the Middle Passage of the 19th century which smuggled Africans to our shores?

Most Jews no longer work with their hands in crafts. If we work with our hands it's as surgeons or dentists or musicians. We work with our minds as lawyers, teachers, store owners, stock brokers. We have achieved the American dream. We have become market driven bottom liners shopping for price, ignoring the human cost that goes into the production of our inexpensive goods. And why not? Being bourgeois is comfortable, it's convenient, it's what people around the world want; as proof of which there are all those desiring to come here.

But there was a time when it was us who came to this country as the tired, the poor, the huddled masses yearning to be free. And then we began the American labor movement. Those who did were Yiddish speaking secular Jews; maybe they never entered a synagogue, but they were the product of the seder, of the retelling as though they had been slaves in Egypt. They were not going to wait to be liberated by a God

they did not believe in; when they searched for the Messiah, they looked into the mirror and saw their own grime-lined faces. They remembered that they had a mission as Jews, to redeem not only themselves but mankind in general, so they formed their unions and they marched for workers' rights and then when African Americans demanded equality of the white community, it was Jews who were the first to ride freedom buses and march in Selma. We've given all that up now, but at the seder, if we did it right, we remembered when we were slaves in Egypt; if we did it right we wept at the success we've achieved at the cost of abandoning our roots as workers for the liberation of the downtrodden.

Rabbi David Teutsch of the Reconstructionist Seminary has it about right. "If we only pour ten drops of wine from our cups and do nothing more, we do not understand the significance of our act. Our joy cannot be complete when there is harshness, cruelty, or suffering in the world. We cannot wait for others to tackle the injustices of our time. What will we do this year?" Oh, Rabbi Teutsch is also a Ph.D. from the Wharton School of Business. He writes as a Jew, but with that business background he might also be channeling the ideas of the principal theorist of capitalistic economics, Adam Smith.

Smith asked the question we too often ignore — What is it that gives something value? And his answer was straight forward and simple — it is labor. Without labor taking a raw material and transforming it into something usable, it is just a tree, not a desk; some ore, not a knife; some gold, not an earring. Smith, who brooked no interference in the economy, not from government, not from price fixing allowed only this: the formation of workmen's associations so that laborers could collectively negotiate their wages. Smith wasn't a Jew, he was, I imagine, a Presbyterian, but like Teutsch, he knew the lesson of the seder. Messiah? Look in the mirror and see your own reflection. You are the messiah if only you would recognize the strength within yourself, within our tradition that began as slaves in Egypt.

Josh Stein can be reached at jstein@rwu.edu.

Websites with union-made goods:

www.sweatshopwatch.org — Links to companies that employ union workers in the following industries: Baby clothing; coats and out wear; hats; Jeans/denim; Men's wear; Shoes; T Shirts; Women's wear and more.

www.shopunionmade.org — Lists specific companies that are union endorsed including Powell's books; Ethix Promo; Golden Books and accessories; USA Coffee Company; Radio Flyer Wagons; Union House Apparel; Leathermark Accessories; Red Wing Shoes; and much more.

Fidelity must divest from Sudan

By Rabbi Or N. Rose

BOSTON (JTA) — In October 2006, at a meeting of the Massachusetts Coalition to Save Darfur, an active member of the volunteer organization shared some disturbing news with the group.

Eric Cohen, a retired businessman, said he had learned recently that the Boston-based mutual fund giant Fidelity Investments had nearly a billion dollars invested in two of the most unscrupulous companies operating in Sudan, PetroChina and Sinopec.

The Sudan Divestment Task Force, a national research and advocacy group, has identified these oil companies — which are principally owned by the Chinese government — as among the two dozen or so "worst-offending" businesses in the war-torn region.

To appear on this shameful list, companies must have a financial relationship with the genocidal government of Sudan, provide minimal benefit to or actually harm the country's citizens, and express no significant governance policy regarding the crisis in Darfur. These companies also must have proven unresponsive to attempts at shareholder engagement.

After further investigation, several members of the Massachusetts Coalition attempted to speak with Fidelity representatives about the matter. Through letters and phone calls to executives, trustees, board members and fund managers, we alerted Fidelity to the atrocities being committed by the Sudanese government in Darfur, including the murder of an estimated 400,000 people and the displacement of 2.5 million more since February 2003.

We also shared with Fidelity the fact that 70 percent to 80 percent of Sudan's oil revenues go to military spending, including the training and arming of the Janjaweed, Khartoum's barbaric proxy militia.

In these communications we urged Fidelity to divest its sizable holdings from PetroChina and Sinopec, arguing that while the Sudanese leadership has been largely unresponsive to diplomatic pressure, it has been responsive to financial pressure.

A successful divestment campaign against Talisman Energy of Canada several years ago helped compel President Bashir and his administration to halt its genocidal activities in southern Sudan, which have been largely unreported in the media, and to sign a comprehensive peace agreement with dissident leaders in 2005.

Unfortunately, Fidelity thus far has expressed no interest in discussing the issue with us or taking any positive action. Its only response has been to indicate that it remains steadfast in its mission to make as much money as possible for its clients, regardless of ethical concerns.

In a letter to Cohen dated Oct. 5, 2006, the investment firm wrote: "Fidelity portfolio managers make their investment decisions based on business and financial considerations, and take into account other issues only if they materially impact these considerations or conflict with applicable legal standards."

Reinforcing this position, a Fidelity representative made the following statement in a Jan. 29 interview in CNN Money: "We believe the resolution of complex social and political issues must be left to the appropriate authorities of the world that have the responsibility, and capability, to address important matters of this type. And we would sincerely hope that they would do so wisely on behalf of all of the citizens of the globe."

Reading these words would be infuriating at any time, but especially so during Passover, and with Yom HaShoah just days away. Passover is, after all, the celebration of the liberation of our ancestors from Egyptian bondage.

What would Fidelity have done in ancient Egypt? Would it have invested in shackles and whips? And what about the Holocaust? Would it have poured money into companies producing Zyklon-B? Does Fidelity really have no moral standards? Does it not understand that its strategy of "amoral" investment is contributing to the deaths of innocent people in Darfur?

We urge Fidelity to join other responsible institutions — including more than 30 colleges and universities, and six states — in divesting from PetroChina, Sinopec and other unprincipled companies associated with the ruthless Sudanese regime. We also urge concerned citizens to join the FidelityOutofSudan.com campaign, and to remove their savings — personal and institutional — from financial companies refusing to take a stand against the genocide in Darfur.

Rabbi Or N. Rose is associate dean at the rabbinical school at Hebrew College in Newton, Mass. He is the co-editor of the forthcoming anthology "Righteous Indignation: A Jewish Call for Justice."

ALISON ON ALIYAH

Pesach rebellion and resolution

It's *Pesach* again, and I've been dreading this holiday ever since my boyfriend, Mikhael, and I moved in together. Because he is more religious than I, and



Alison Golub

because we keep a kosher kitchen, and because *Pesach* is considered one of those "biggie" holidays even by the most non-

observant of Jews, I knew quite some time ago that this year I was going to have to experience this holiday in a way that I never had before.

Of course, my childhood experiences of Passover certainly involved the staples: bright pink horseradish that I always fed to the dog when nobody was looking; rock-hard matzah balls floating (or rather, submerged) in salty chicken broth; the spe-

cial *haroset* my mom made for me without nuts; and that scary-looking shank bone that no one knew what to do with. My family always approached the seder rather jovially, with the over-arching goal always being to get through the entire service as fast as humanly possible. I think our record was 35 minutes. And while we dutifully crunched our matzah during the meal itself, the next morning we

returned to our faithful sandwiches, cakes, and cookies.

For four years during college, I was graciously invited to a professor's house for the seder, where I was stunned to learn that what I experienced there and what I had experienced back home could be called by the same title. At the Goldscheiders' house, I learned that matzah balls can actually be fluffy, and I tasted *kugel* for the first time in my life. And I nearly fainted when they told me, upon my arrival at 7:30 p.m., that I would certainly be home by 2 a.m., at the latest. I was brought inside the world of the seder, as Professor Goldscheider kindly took none of his guests' Judaic knowledge level for granted, patiently explaining all the "ins and outs" of Passover and Jewish history. Alongside of this, there were myriad customs that we were required to observe at his house, such as rinsing our hands in a specific way and of course, adhering to all kashrut rules.

And then I came to Israel, and was shocked anew to find that the *Pesach* of the non-Orthodox world here much more closely resembles my family's traditions than those of my professor. I have had to blaze my own path, trying to figure out into which mold I most want to fit. And then Mikhael came along, with his relatively rigid restrictions, informing me that it was time I experienced the seder in "the Moroccan way." To be perfectly clear, I am a self-proclaimed bread-a-holic, and I don't think a day in my life has gone by on which I have not eaten toast, a sandwich, or some kind of leavened pastry, cookie, or cereal. The thought of going two weeks on nothing but matzah struck deep panic into my heart. And I really broke into a sweat when I contemplated the top-to-bottom nook-and-cranny cleaning that every good Jewish Israeli wife does in this country. From what I have seen, this isn't just a good, thorough cleaning—it is a full-sanitization, it-would-be-easier-to-just-move-to-a-new-apartment type of cleaning.

So when Mikhael announced that he would need to fly to France for *Pesach*, and when I realized that I had too much schoolwork to be able to accompany him, I can't say I wasn't a bit relieved. My first order of business upon my return from dropping him off at the airport was a large-scale run to the

supermarket. In Jerusalem, the stores usually put big butcher-paper sheaths over all the non-kosher-for-*Pesach* aisles at least 10 days beforehand, but luckily, Beersheva is decidedly less stringent and I was still able to stock up on all the pita, French bread, and cookies my cart could hold. I always get a little frantic around *Pesach*, realizing that if I don't buy these goodies before the holiday, I will be out of luck for two weeks.

But I must admit that it was a strange feeling, watching all my neighbors scrubbing their kitchens and emptying buckets of dirty water off the side of their porch, as I breezed past them with my grocery bags full of sinful leavened delights. I felt distinctly separate from the entire country as I crossed the threshold to my house, realizing I was bringing in the very ingredients that all of Jewish Israel was desperately trying to expunge from their own homes. And when I went to make myself the triple-decker roast beef sandwich I had been dreaming about on the way home from the supermarket, I found that I was now repulsed by the idea. Shocked, I realized that I have developed a Jewish conscience of sorts.

I have come to understand that holidays in Israel aren't as much about what you do, but about what everyone else is doing. Regardless of your desire to eat out or see a movie on a Friday night in Jerusalem, your social calendar is utterly dictated by the fact that simply nothing is open. And whether you go to synagogue or not on Yom Kippur, the entire country shuts down, the streets are silent, and there is literally nothing to do but contemplate. And *Pesach* is just one of those ultra-important national and collective holidays that just must be honored in some way, shape, or form. Because I couldn't get the image of what was going on around me out of my mind, it made my mind pull itself into line with the rest of them. In the end, I've been happily crunching away on my matzah all week, and finally feeling like I've found my *Pesach* place.

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.



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World

Language institute helping Ladino revival

The Cervantes Institute forms Judeo-Spanish archive in Madrid

MADRID (JTA) — Even at 94 and with eyes that barely see, Angela Pipano vividly recalls her memories of life as a child in Salonika, Greece.

She remembers a city with more Jews than Greeks or Turks, the port being closed on the Jewish Sabbath and Ladino as the language heard most on the street.

The Jews who were expelled from Spain in 1492 and their descendants spoke Ladino, or Judeo-Spanish. It was a language of the Diaspora, much like Yiddish.

"There was just one [Jewish] woman in all Salonika who could speak another language," Pipano says. "All the rest of them, our mothers, spoke only Ladino."

The Nazi occupation sent Pipano fleeing from her home. A high-ranking Nazi official in the occupation forces was an old schoolmate of her German-educated husband, and the official warned them of what was to come. They fled into the mountains, then to British Mandate Palestine and finally to Spain — Sefarad, as it is known in Ladino.

Here, in the land of her ancestors, non-Jews in Spain are undergoing a resurgence of interest in their Sephardic heritage. And with Ladino derived from medieval Castilian Spanish, the interest has spread to the government agency that promotes Spanish.

At Cervantes Institute headquarters in Madrid, academic director Jorge Urrutia shows a reporter a shelf filled with Ladino poetry.

"When I was in Istanbul some years ago, an older gentleman came up to me," Urrutia recalls. "He handed me book of poems and he spoke to me in Ladino. It was a very personal experience of how Judeo-Spanish is a language that has survived 500 years, spanning cultures, geography and the vicissitudes of history."

Cervantes Institute

The Cervantes Institute has been sponsoring Ladino readings and seminars at its branches in Tel Aviv, Istanbul, Bucharest and Sofia. Now Urrutia says the institute will create a Ladino Department with a Judeo-Spanish archive at its headquarters in Madrid. And Ladino will be the focus of a new Cervantes Institute in Salonika, which will be located

next to the city's Sephardic Museum.

Today there are an estimated 200,000 Ladino speakers, mostly in Israel, according to Israel's National Ladino Authority. But most are elderly, so the tongue is in danger of extinction.

Pipano has difficulty remembering her native tongue. As she sits in her apartment and

vice. Matilda Barnatan and her daughter, Viviana Rajel, broadcast a show in Ladino featuring music, poetry and interviews in the language.

"We want to show that this is not a dead language," says Barnatan, who learned Ladino from her grandmother, a native of the Greek island of Rhodes. "In killing the people who spoke it in the second world war, [the

expressions in Haqutia, the variant of Judeo-Spanish spoken by Sephardim in Morocco.

But even Bendahan believes there are limits on what a novelist should do to resuscitate a language.

"I'm not going to start writing novels in Judeo-Spanish," she says. "You can't insist on preserving it at all cost. It should be something natural and spontaneous."

Bendahan says young Jews

in Madrid are using Haqutia as slang, a bit like Yiddish in some conversations in New York, Amsterdam and other places.

Like the other day, she says her daughter brought home a male friend and Bendahan used a Haqutian word. She thought he wouldn't understand when she said he was "khial," which means "good looking."

"But," Bendahan says, "it turns out he did know what it means."

The Jews who were expelled from Spain in 1492 and their descendants spoke Ladino, or Judeo-Spanish.

tells the story of her life, she repeatedly lapses into Spanish. The two languages are quite similar.

For example, the Spanish word for shirt is "camisa," while in Ladino it's "camiza." "Tarde," which means "afternoon" in Spanish, is "tadre" in Ladino. And "I remember" is not "me acuerdo" but "me acodro."

"Me acodro cosas" — "I remember things," Pipano says.

Things like the great Salonika fire of 1917. And the Holocaust, which devastated Salonika's Jewish community along with many other Ladino-speaking communities in the Balkans.

Another effort to preserve Ladino is at Spanish National Radio's overseas ser-

Nazis] killed a big part of a culture. That's why we have the obligation to carry it on."

In Yiddish, a modern revival has included theater and journalism, and it received a boost from Nobel laureate Isaac Bashevis Singer, who wrote in the mother tongue.

The Ladino revival has been more modest. Ladino was the mother tongue of the late Elias Canetti, a Bulgarian-born Sephardic novelist who won a Nobel in 1981. But he wrote in German.

Madrid-based author Esther Bendahan produces "Shalom," a program about Judaism and Sephardic culture on Spanish television. In her novels, Sephardic Jews in her native Morocco often use

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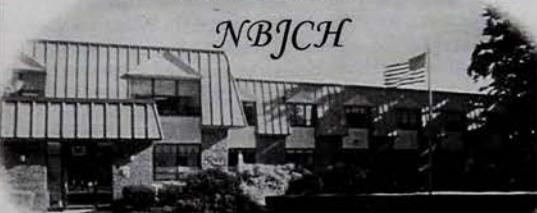
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U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon lays a wreath at the Hall of Remembrance at the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem, Monday, March 26 during his first official visit to Israel.

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Brazilian rabbi jailed for shoplifting

RIO DE JANEIRO (JTA) – Jewish leaders are awaiting a medical and psychiatric evaluation of Brazil's best-known rabbi after Henry Sobel was charged with shoplifting designer neckties in Florida.

Sobel checked into Sao Paulo's Albert Einstein Israelite Hospital on March 30, a day

after he asked to be temporarily relieved of his duties as head of the Sao Paulo Israeli Congregation, the largest Jewish synagogue in Latin America.

A hospital statement said the rabbi had taken large quantities of insomnia-treatment drugs that "cause potential states of mental confusion and

amnesia."

Sobel returned to Brazil after being released March 24 by the Palm Beach Sheriff's Office, where he was arrested and charged with retail theft in multiple locations. He was released from jail after posting bond.

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News briefs

Olmert, Abbas to meet Sun.

The Israeli prime minister's office announced the summit Wednesday, without elaborating on what would be on the agenda. The Palestinian Authority president had no immediate comment. Sunday's summit will be the first since Olmert and Abbas, meeting under the aegis of Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice last month, agreed to hold talks on a basis of once every two weeks to discuss Israeli-Palestinian rapprochement efforts. (JTA)

Israel nixes mass amnesty

Israel rebuffed the Palestinian Authority's demand for a mass prisoner amnesty.

Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's office said Tuesday that, following consultations with Israeli security chiefs, he had decided to respond to a Hamas demand for the release of 1,400 Palestinian prisoners with "disappointment and misgivings" and ask Egyptian mediators to continue working on terms that would be more feasible for Jerusalem.

Hamas wants the amnesty as ransom for an Israeli soldier, Corporal Gilad Shalit, who has been held hostage in Gaza since last June. Israel balked mainly at the inclusion on the release roster of senior Palestinian terrorists including Fatah legislator and militia chief Marwan Barghouti. (JTA)

Iran expands nuclear capacity

Iran announced that it has begun large-scale nuclear fuel production. President Mah-

moud Ahmadinejad's announcement at the Natanz nuclear plant Monday was a fresh snub to the U.N. Security Council's demand that Iran halt uranium enrichment, a process that can be used to make atomic bombs. Ahmadinejad said his country has begun enriching uranium on an "industrial scale". Iran is believed to have around 1,000 enrichment centrifuges at Natanz, and is expected to build 3,000 more in the coming years. With that many centrifuges operating, Iran could have an atomic bomb within months, experts say. In Washington, State Department spokesman Sean McCormack called the announcement "another signal that Iran is defying the international community." (JTA)

Conservative decision on gays

NEW YORK: The recent decision by the Conservative Movement in the United States to admit gay and lesbian students to the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York has brought mixed reactions in Israel. In Jerusalem, the Conservative (Masorti) movement's Schechter Rabbinical Seminary has refused to comply with the decision while in Tel Aviv the leader of the largest Masorti congregation in Israel supports the ordination of gay and lesbian rabbis and also gay marriage. In Canada, according to a study conducted by the Hebrew University, 80 percent of rabbis and cantors are opposed. (JTA)

UJC restructuring

NEW YORK: The United Jewish Communities (UJC),

the umbrella organization of North American federations, will undergo a major restructuring, according to its top officials. According to an internal e-mail memo, the UJC will reorganize into two major groups, one a global operations group based in Israel and the second, based in the United States, dealing with federations. The plan, if approved, may end the dispute between the federations and the overseas groups concerning the allocation of funds and lines of authority. (JTA)

Passover bomber thwarted

JERUSALEM: Israel's secret service agency, Shin Bet, says it broke up a Hamas cell in Qalqilyah that had planned to detonate a car bomb, possibly in Tel Aviv during Passover, on the first Seder night. The driver, a suicide bomber, crossed into Israel with 200 pounds of explosives but apparently changed his mind and returned to Qalqilyah. Israel has arrested 19 members of the cell. The latest incident has further boosted the evidence that Hamas has resumed its terrorist activities following a hiatus that began with the cease-fire in the Gaza Strip last November. (JTA)

Hamas intransigent

DAMASCUS: Additional evidence of Hamas' more aggressive policy comes from Syria where Khaled Mashaal, its leader in exile, has told, via telephone, a gathering of Hamas supporters in Ramallah that the terrorist group would neither abandon "armed resistance" nor agree to

"give up an inch of Palestinian land." Hamas has always defined Palestinian land as including all of Israel. (JTA)

Student strike

JERUSALEM: A major university student strike in Israel is threatened before this coming weekend. A quarter million students, back by the lecturer associations and with the support of senior and junior faculty, are protesting a cut of \$225 million in government support over the past several years and demanding that the funds be restored. One student leader said that the strike is "the last line of defense for the students of Israel and the future of higher education and research, which are deteriorating as the best minds of our country flee." (HAARETZ/JTA)

Kollek a spy?

BEIRUT: The Beirut Daily Star claims that the late Teddy Kollek, long time mayor of Jerusalem and one of the founding fathers of Israel, spied for the British in the years before the creation of Israel, informing on right-wing Jewish radicals. Citing British archives recently opened to the public, the paper said his work led to the arrests of dozens of people from the ultra-nationalist Irgun and Lehi movements. Historians have said that Kollek was in charge of pre-state Jewish communal relations with the British but until now no details of his work have been revealed. (BEIRUT DAILY STAR)

Report on Olmert

JERUSALEM: The Winograd Committee, which is investigating decisions made by Israel's political leaders during the second Lebanon War last summer, will be releasing its report by the end of this month and indications are that it will come down hard on Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, Defense Minister Amir Peretz and former Chief of Staff Dan Halutz. The committee has said it will include conclusions regarding their personal responsibility for the decisions made about launching the campaign and the way those decisions were acted upon. If either Olmert or Peretz are found culpable, they would be expected to resign.

And finally...

Divine drink of Coca-Cola

ROME: We promise, this is absolutely our only Easter story for the year. An Italian film, "Seven Kilometers from Jerusalem" is in big trouble with the Coca-Cola Corporation. The film is about an Italian advertising executive who loses his job and his marriage and flies to Jerusalem to put his life back together again. In Jerusalem on Easter morning he meets Jesus and offers him a can of Coca-Cola. Jesus takes a drink, holding the can up high. The executive thinks to himself, "What a promotion!" The Coca-Cola people disagreed and is suing the filmmakers to have the scene removed. (REUTERS/JTA)

(The news briefs are compiled by Yehuda Lev.)

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Nation

Lou Limmer, 82, made Jewish baseball history

By Martin Abramowitz

BOSTON (JTA) – Lou Limmer, part of a little-known bit of Jewish baseball trivia, passed away April 1 at age 82 in Boca Raton, Fla.

The Philadelphia A's first-baseman appeared in a total of 209 games in 1951 and 1954, batting .202 with 19 homers, 62 RBIs and three stolen bases.

Notwithstanding those modest numbers, fans with a particular interest in Jews in baseball and the history of baseball in Philadelphia remember Limmer fondly for four reasons: his membership in a small group of Jewish players whose careers spanned the years between the Hank Greenberg and Sandy Koufax eras;

debut with the Brooklyn Dodgers in the summer of 1955. During the intervening seven seasons, a dozen Jewish players played or were called up to the major leagues. In their ranks were three prominent players, three journeymen and a half-dozen players who came up from the minors only briefly.

Although the word is often overused, these players formed a kind of community. In varying and interlocking combinations they knew each other, socialized, played winter ball together and, on at least one occasion, did a Passover seder together.

The players

The prominent players were New York Giants and Boston



Photo by Jewish Major Leaguers
Jewish baseball player, Lou Limmer.

12 children from an Orthodox household.

It was Limmer who told the story of three Jewish players and one Italian-American umpire. It happened May 2, 1951, and remains the only known time that a Jewish batter faced a Jewish pitcher with a Jewish catcher behind the plate.

In Limmer's words: "I got along with most of the umpires. There was this one, Joe Paparella, he was a nice guy. We had a game in Detroit and Saul Rogovin was pitching and Joe Ginsberg was catching. I came up to pinch hit. So Paparella comes from behind home plate

and he dusts it off and he says, 'Boy, now I've got the three Heebis. I wonder who's going to win the battle?' and Rogovin throws the first pitch and I hit it into the stands, and Paparella says, 'I guess you're the winner, Lou.'

It so happens I wasn't the winner because Joe Ginsberg stayed with Detroit, and Saul Rogovin went to the White Sox that year and he led the league in ERA and poor Lou Limmer, he got shipped to the minors."

Limmer's minor-league career, both before and after his major-league stint, reads like a railroad signboard: Omaha, Lincoln, Louisville, St. Paul, Buffalo, Toronto, Columbus, Birmingham. Virtually wherever he played, Limmer recalled, Jews reached out to him — the dairy owner in Lincoln, the car dealers in Omaha and Toronto. He also recalled anti-Jewish, anti-Black road signs in the South, and hanging out with Jackie Robinson in Florida in spring training towns where neither of them were welcome.

A frequent participant in gatherings of the Philadelphia A's Historical Society, Limmer was proud to relate that, at the end of the 1954 season, just before the A's moved to Kansas City, he had the last homer and the last base-hit in franchise history.

Limmer also was the first Jewish ball-player to serve as president of his synagogue, at Castle Hill Jewish Community Center in his native and beloved Bronx. He served a five-year term.

Lou Limmer was a great-story teller, a reminder of a unique between-the-superstars era of Jew in Baseball...and a *mensch*.

Martin Abramowitz produces Jewish baseball cards and lectures on Jew in baseball as president of Jewish Major Leaguers, Inc., on the web at www.jewishmajorleaguers.org. This appreciation is based in large measure on a Jewish Major Leaguers oral history interview of Lou Limmer conducted in November 2005 by journalist Marc Katz.

It happened May 2, 1951, and remains the only known time that a Jewish batter faced a Jewish pitcher with a Jewish catcher behind the plate.

his central role in a "historic baseball encounter"; his place in Philadelphia Athletics history; and his unique contribution to "the Jewish angle" among all Jewish players.

Braves slugger-outfielder Sid Gordon; 1951 American League ERA-leader Saul Rogovin, and 1953 AL MVP Al Rosen, who almost won the Triple Crown.

The journeymen were catcher Myron (later "Joe") Ginsberg, outfielder Cal Abrams, and Bronx-born Louie Limmer, who was one of

Hank Greenberg retired after spending the 1947 season with Pittsburgh, and Sandy Koufax made his "bonus baby"



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Pelosi

From page 1

those talks could go forward as long as the Syrians conducted themselves as a prime state sponsor of terror," Vice President Dick Cheney told radio host Rush Limbaugh. "I think it is, in fact, bad behavior on her part. I wish she hadn't done it."

The conservative Limbaugh chose not to challenge Cheney, but Pelosi (D-Calif.), had not suggested "that talks could go forward as long as the Syrians conducted themselves as a prime state sponsor of terror."

Immediately after their meeting, Pelosi told reporters that she had conveyed to Assad that ending his support for terrorist groups such as Hamas and Hezbollah and no longer allowing insurgents to reach Iraq were necessary components in any resumption of relations.

In fact, according to those present, the bulk of the meeting with Assad was taken up with the plight of Israeli soldiers missing in clashes with Hezbollah or from forays into Syria dating back to the 1960s.

Pelosi presented Assad with duplicate dog tags of three soldiers missing from last summer: two nabbed by Hezbollah in the July 12 cross-border raid that launched the second Lebanon war, and one captured by Hamas-affiliated gunmen in a June 25 cross-border raid.

Palestinian spokesmen said Saturday that a deal was close on the release of Cpl. Gilad Shalit, the soldier captured by Hamas. It was unclear whether Pelosi's entreaties had anything to do with the deal.

Behind the heated rhetoric, however, there appeared to be a genuine breakdown in communication between Pelosi and Olmert. The question was who caused it.

Some Pelosi statements on Assad prompted an almost immediate "clarification" from Olmert's office.

Pelosi had said, "We were very pleased with the reassurances we received from the president that he was ready to resume the peace process. He was ready to engage in negotiations for peace with Israel." Also, the "meeting with the president enabled us to communicate a message from Prime Minister Olmert that Israel was ready to engage in peace talks as well."

But in his meeting with

Pelosi, Olmert's statement said, the prime minister "emphasized that although Israel is interested in peace with Syria, that country continues to be part of the axis of evil and a force that encourages terror in the entire Middle East. In order to conduct serious and genuine peace negotiations, Syria must cease its support of terror, cease its sponsoring of the Hamas and Islamic Jihad organizations, refrain from providing weapons to Hizbollah and bringing about the destabilizing of Lebanon, cease its support of terror in Iraq, and relinquish the strategic ties it is building with the extremist regime in Iran."

The clarification baffled the delegation, which included Rep. Tom Lantos (D-Calif.), the Jewish chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee; Rep. Henry Waxman (D-Calif.), its Government Reform Committee chairman and also Jewish; Rep. Nick Rahall (D-W.Va.), an Arab American who is chairman of the House Resources Committee; Rep. Keith Ellison (D-Minn.), a freshman who is the first Muslim-American member of Congress; Rep. David Hobson (R-Ohio), a senior Republican; and Rep. Louise Slaughter (D-N.Y.), chairwoman of the House Rules Committee.

Delegation members suggested that after the meeting with Olmert, they were left wondering why Olmert was eager to convey such a routine message that Israel would talk peace if Syria ended its backing for terrorism.

The answer, Lantos said, suggested itself the morning after, when Israeli papers said Olmert was concerned that Assad was gearing up for a summer war based on the misconception that Israel was ready to attack in concert with a U.S. strike on Iran. Olmert had no such intentions.

The leaks to the papers suggested that Olmert's message was less one of new content than of timing. By conveying a peaceful message, Olmert wanted to make sure Assad understood that Israel was not in an aggressive posture.

If that was the case, why did Olmert need to make a clarification, as Israelis were not speaking on the record. Lantos suggested there was pressure from the White House.

Democrats were appalled.

Members of the delegation understood the fine line Olmert must walk between the two Israeli foreign policy imperatives that are clashing now for the first time: Never stray from a pro-Israel president's foreign policy, and never turn away an Arab offer to talk peace.

Still, Olmert's abruptness and tone left the delegation feeling he was "clumsy," one participant said.

In his interview with Limbaugh, Cheney gloated over Olmert's role.

"Prime Minister Olmert immediately made it clear that she was not authorized to make any such offer to Bashar Assad," he said. "Fortunately, I think the various parties involved recognize she doesn't speak for the United States in those circumstances, she doesn't represent the administration. The president is the one who conducts foreign policy, not the speaker of the House."

In fact, White House frustration might have to do with a foreign policy spinning out of its control.

After the White House berated Pelosi for even daring to visit Assad, it was revealed that congressional Republican delegations were in Damascus at about the same time just as eager to relay the same message as the Pelosi team: Talking is better than not talking.

"Dialogue is not a sign of weakness," Rep. Joe Pitts (R-Pa.) told his hometown newspaper, the Lancaster Intelligencer Journal, after he returned home. "It's a sign of strength."

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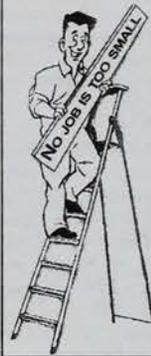
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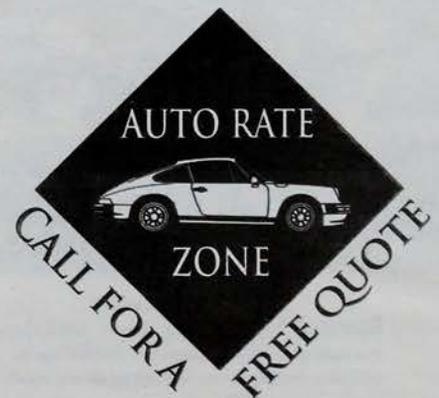


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Calendar

From page 2

For more information, call Sue Suls at 861-8800, ext. 108.

WED., APRIL 18

Author Jenna Blum to speak

10 a.m. Laurelmead, 355 Blackstone Blvd., Providence. Blum awarded the Harold U. Ribalow Prize by Hadassah Magazine for excellence in Jewish-themed literature for her recent book "Those Who Save Us." Lecture sponsored by the Holocaust Center. Free, all are welcome. For further information, reservations, contact May-Ronny Zeidman, Holocaust Center, 453-7860.

Lecture: E.L. Doctorow
Acclaimed author E. L. Doctorow presents the Andrea Rosenthal Memorial Lecture, titled "Literature and Religion," at 5 p.m. in Brown University's Salomon Center for Teaching, Room 101. Open to public.

Elie Wiesel slated

7 p.m. (Private dinner, reception at 5:30 p.m.) at the RI Convention Center, 1 Sabin St., Providence. Nobel Peace

laureate and author Elie Wiesel will speak on "The role of youth in world peace," as a guest of the Institute for International Sport, located at URI. \$20 adults, \$10 students. Tickets can be bought at www.internationalisport.com or by calling Art Tix at 621-6123. For information on the private reception, contact the Institute at iis102@etal.uri.edu.

FRI., APRIL 20

JCC lunch & learn

Noon. At the JCC, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence "Meet Thomas Edison & other inventors," with Todd McLeish, Professor, URI Dept. of Communications. Lunch: adults \$5, seniors \$3. Reservations required. Call Elly at 861-8800.

Sinai celebrates Israel's independence

7:30 p.m. Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston, will join in the celebration of Israel's Independence Day on April 23. *Shireinu*, the Temple's volunteer choir, will perform, and attendees will learn the story of the growth in Temple Sinai's sister

congregation in Mevasseret Zion.

SAT., APRIL 21

JCC bingo night

5 to 10 p.m. at the JCC, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence. Bingo and other events for parents and children. Early dairy dinner, dessert & coffee served. Costs from \$10 to \$25.

"An Inconvenient Truth" at Agudas Achim

7:30 p.m. Showing at Congregation Agudas Achim, 901 North Main St., Attleboro. Free and open to the public. Bring a snack to share. For more information, call 508-222-2243.

SUN., APRIL 22

Healing center program on Kabbalah

2 to 3:30 p.m. Introduction to Kabbalah. Holocaust Center, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence, downstairs in the JCC. Taught by Rabbi Aaron Lapin, the director of Project Shores, a popular teacher in the community. May be ongoing class if there is sufficient student interest. Fee: \$20. Prospective attendees are asked to reserve a seat in the class by email to ricenter@jamestownr.com, or phone (401)267-0029.

Jewish Historical Association annual meeting

2 p.m. Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence.

53rd annual meeting. Marcy Brink-Danan of Brown University will deliver 37th annual Adelman lecture on the Jewish community of Turkey. All are welcome to this free meeting and social hour.

Hebrew Day "Prize is Right"

6 p.m. Providence Marriott, 1 Orms St. Annual raffle event with food and magic show. All are welcome. Purchase early bird tickets online at phds-event or call the school at 331-5327.

MON., APRIL 23

Yom Ha-Atzmaut celebration at the JCC

5 to 8 p.m. Israel Independence Day, dancing, childrens' activities. For more information, call Sue at 861-8800, ext. 108.

Warwick mayor on Israel

7:30 p.m. Tamarisk, 3 Shalom Dr., Warwick. "Here and Now," Warwick Mayor Scott Avedisian discusses his recent experiences in Israel. Refreshments.

TUES., APRIL 24

NCJW David Project speaker

6 to 7:30 p.m. JCC, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence. "Pizza, Politics and Empowerment," understanding the Arab-Israeli conflict. With the BJE and the JCC. Especially helpful for high school stu-

dents. RSVP to Shira Garber Strosberg at 331-0956, ext. 181 or sgarber@bjeri.org by April 17.

Israeli negotiator to speak at Beth-El

7 p.m. Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. Daniel Levy, former peace negotiator, think tank expert, journalist will speak on "How to be Pro-Israel." He will also comment on Israeli-Palestinian history and the current Middle-East situation. For more information, call Phil Rosen at 247-4734 or email Phil_Rosen@Brown.edu.

THURS., APRIL 26

Torat Yisrael fashion show

6 p.m. Cocktails, 7 p.m. Dinner at Quidnessett Country Club. An evening of fashion & food for women and men. \$30 per person (includes hors d'oeuvres and dinner). Call the Torat Yisrael office at 785-1800 for reservations. Deadline is April 19th.

FRI., APRIL 27

JFS: Gutterman lecture

8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Johnson and Wales Inn, Seekonk. Jewish Family Service of Rhode Island will hold the eighth annual Julie Claire Gutterman Lecture Dr. Kenneth Hardy, a professor of marriage and family therapy at Syracuse University, will present "Working with Oppressed Clients: Understanding the Habits of Survival." For more information, or to register for the lecture, contact JFS at 401-331-1244.

Sinai Sisterhood installation

7:30 p.m. Temple Sinai Sisterhood will lead Shabbat services and the installation of new officers will take place.

SAT., APRIL 28

Beth-El gala evening

6:30 p.m. Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence, will hold "All Things Rhode Island: An evening of dinner, music and silent auction," its annual fundraiser for music and arts programming. Dinner provided by Guy Abelson & Russell Morin. Music by Mark Rasmussen & Mikelyn Roderick. Call the temple at 331-6070 for information and tickets.

SUN., APRIL 29

Sinai Brotherhood brunch

9 to 11 a.m. Temple Sinai, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston. Brotherhood will host a brunch, featuring speaker Stephen Silberfarb, executive director of the Jewish Federation of RI. The topic will be "An Overview of Federation's Mission and How to Better Meet the Needs of the West Bay."

See Calendar, page 14



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Calendar

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Jewish Scouts plan brunch

11 a.m. at Temple Am David, 40 Gardiner St., Warwick. The Jewish Committee on Scouting will honor a number of Boy Scouts and leaders who have provided exemplary service to Jewish Scouting. The committee, which is one of the program committees of the Narragansett Council, Boy Scouts of America, will host a brunch, open to the public.

See *Simchas*, page 31.

Reader's Theatre

at Temple Emanu-El

7:30 p.m. Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence. The Readers' Theatre of Temple Emanu-El to perform a staged reading of "The Sunshine Boys," by Neil Simon. Directed and adapted by Florence Markoff. Featuring Seymour Fine, Marilyn Kagan, and Arthur Fixler.

UPCOMING

THURS., MAY 3

Annual adoption evening

6:30-8:30 p.m. United Way Building, 229 Waterman St., Providence. Adoption Options,

a division of Jewish Family Service of RI, is hosting its annual panel discussion, "The Many Faces of Adoption: Families Tell Their Stories." Anyone who is interested in attending or volunteering at this event contact Peg Boyle at 331-5437 or peg@jfsri.org. See Community.

MAY 4, 5, 6

Weekend to honor Rabbi Rosenberg

At Habonim
FRI., MAY 4

Special family service

6:15 p.m. at the temple, 165 New Meadow Rd., Barrington
SAT., MAY 5

Dinner dance planned at Habonim

To honor Rabbi James Rosenberg's 33 years with the congregation. For more information call the temple at 245-6536.

SUN., MAY 6

Religious school assembly to honor Rabbi Rosenberg

For students only. For more information call Temple

Habonim at 245-6536.

MAY 4, 5 and 6:

Temple Emanu-El: Living Yiddish

Living Yiddish: An Educational-Musical Festival. A weekend celebrating Yiddish music, food and traditions, featuring Hank Sapoznik speaking on Yiddish topics and playing klezmer with his trio, The Youngers of Zion. For schedule and registration information, call the Temple Emanu-El office at 331-1616.

And on Sunday, May 13, at 3 p.m.: *A Yiddishe Miracle*. Temple Emanu-El's Benton A. Odessa Memorial Concert features this original story of three friends who leave their Ukraine shtetl to seek musical fame in the early 20th century. Cantor Brian Mayer, Cantor Joseph Ness and mezzo-soprano Lynn Torgove sing the leads, Professor Raphael Shargel narrates, and the orchestra and choirs of Temple Emanu-El take part.

SUN., MAY 6

Mitzvah morning in Attleboro

8:30 a.m. registration. Third annual mitzvah morning at Congregation Agudas Achim

901 No. Main St., in Attleboro. Take part in a project to repair the world, or at least Attleboro. For more information www.agudasma.org or (508) 222-2243

Mah jongg tournament at Am David

1 p.m. registration and coffee: followed by play and refreshments. Bring 2007 score cards. \$18 per person, send

checks to Temple Am David, 40 Gardiner St., Warwick RI 02888, payable to the temple. For more information, call the temple at 463-7994.

MON., MAY 7

JCC golf tournament in Foxwoods

11:30 a.m. - 9 p.m. 22nd Annual golf tournament at the Foxwoods Lake of Isles Country Club private South Course. 11:30 a.m. shotgun start. To register, sponsor the tournament, or get more information, see the golf tournament information page at www.jccri.org

FRI., MAY 11

Sinai honors members

7:30 p.m. - Temple Sinai will honor congregants who have been members of our synagogue for 25 years or longer with a special Shabbat service and Oneg reception.

MON., MAY 14

Sinai Sisterhood book review

8 p.m. Temple Sinai Sisterhood will host their book review. Discussion will be on Lisa See's "Snow Flower and the Secret Fan."

SAT., MAY 19

Sinai Brotherhood concert

7:30 p.m. Temple Sinai Brotherhood will present their spring concert, featuring the Rhode Island Wind Ensemble. Desserts from Ursula's will be served. Cost is \$15 per person. For information, call the temple at 942-8350.



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Books

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Rohr literary prize symbolizes new stature of Jewish culture

By Sue Fishkoff

SAN FRANCISCO (JTA) — It's been a very good year for Tamar Yellin.

Last fall, the British writer and teacher won Hadassah magazine's Ribalow Prize for her 2005 novel "The Genizah at the House of Shepher," as well as the Reform Judaism Prize for



Author Tamar Yellin, winner of the Sami Rohr Prize for Jewish Literature.

Jewish Literature for "Kafka in Bronteland," her 2006 short story collection.

Recently, "Genizah" bagged yet another honor when it won the first Sami Rohr Prize for Jewish Literature, an award for outstanding work by an emerging writer that carries a whopping \$100,000 purse.

"I'm thrilled and feeling slightly dizzy," said Yellin, reached at her home on the Yorkshire moors in the north of England.

That's understandable. The Rohr Prize is the largest in the

Jewish literary world, and one of the largest literary awards of any kind.

Part of the burgeoning world of literary prizes in general, which are increasing at a rate far outpacing the publication of new works of fiction, the Rohr Prize is emblematic both of the heightened stature of Jewish literature and of the Jewish community's growing willingness to support Jewish art and culture as a vital part of Jewish identity building.

"This does announce how much value certain people ascribe to Jewish literature," said Ruth Wisse, professor of Yiddish and comparative literature at Harvard University and one of the Rohr Prize judges. "In that sense it's important because it's not just a valuable prize, it's a statement about values."

The prize was established last April by Rohr's children to honor the philanthropist's 80th birthday. It will be given in alternating years to new works of fiction and non-fiction on themes of Jewish interest, and is meant to recognize the "unique role" of writers in transmitting Jewish values.

"So many Jews are preoccupied with Jewish identity — what does it mean, does it matter, is it cultural, theological, national?" said Rebecca Goldstein, author of last year's prize-winning "Betraying Spinoza" and a Rohr Prize judge. "There's a sense that our liter-

ary world, our writers, should provide the answers. As people look less to rabbis and organized religion, they are looking to writers for this."

The prize also has practical implications.

"I see it as a subsidy for future writing," Rohr explained by e-mail. "Very often great talent is lost because of the press of the day-to-day need to earn a basic living. The prize should alleviate this pressure, giving the winning writer the necessary 'oxygen' and peace of mind to progress in his or her writing."

In fact, Yellin said the prize money will "definitely" help her "feel more secure" as she works on a forthcoming novel. The business of handing out Jewish book awards is tricky, says Stanford University Jewish studies professor Steven Zipperstein, former chair of the Koret Jewish Book Awards.

Jewish communal leaders are "preoccupied with Jewish continuity," he said, whereas great artists rarely are. That doesn't mean that "subversive or disquieting" books do not help sustain Jewish culture.

"One of the crucial features of a book award is its willingness to look at the quality of the work and not presume that only

work that views Jewish life in a particular way merits commendation," he said. "That's a very tough line to walk."

The five finalists for the Rohr Prize all deal openly with conflict. They all focus on troubled family relationships, two deal with the Holocaust and two are set in Israel.

What makes a book Jewish?

So what makes a book Jewish? The author, the theme, both?

Sometimes it's easy to determine — for instance, when a book is about the Holocaust. In fact, Goldstein said, the Holocaust turned up more frequently than any other theme among the two dozen semifinals.

"It used to be almost untouchable, and now it's interesting how many young writers turn to it," she said. "It almost supplies the answer to what constitutes Jewish identity."

On the other hand, the judges winnowed out several books from Israel that Goldstein said were "very strong contenders," but which she and her colleagues considered "not specifically Jewish, except that they were set in Israel."

Yellin questioned that

stance.

"I would say a novel that portrays life in Israel is of Jewish interest," she said.

Pointing to another finalist, Yael Heday's "Accidents," a love story set in modern-day Jerusalem, she said the novel "doesn't wear its Jewish identity on its sleeve but it's still very Jewish."

"The Genizah at the House of Shepher," on the other hand, is unarguably a Jewish-themed work. It tells of an English Jewish woman's search for a Hebrew text buried in her family's home in Jerusalem, and is interwoven with the story of her great-grandfather's 19th-century emigration from England to Jerusalem and her father's return to England a century later.

Wisse called the book "beautifully textured, as if it were made of Jewish threads woven through the English language." She said its theme of dislocation and wandering is the central story of Jewish history.

In some ways it also parallels Yellin's life as the daughter of an English mother and Jerusalem-born father. Yellin grew up in England but visited her father's family in Israel every year, and was conscious of her in-between status.

"I had a very strong sense that England was my home and Israel was my home," she said.

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WINNER NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN

Prague

From page 1

minutes from Prague.

"It was astonishing to find how much we had in common and how comfortable we felt with the Czech Jewish students," said sophomore Jessica Wolchok. "Spending time with them was by far my favorite part of the trip."

A highlight for sophomore Spencer Ginsburg was meeting

and speaking with Holocaust survivor, Jan Weiner. Weiner's incredible odyssey is chronicled in the documentary film "Fighter," which was screened for the students. Following the film, Wiener, now 85, joined the group for a question and answer session. "I had seen the movie a couple of years ago at a Jewish film festival in Connecticut, but it made it so much more moving to actually meet Jan Weiner in person."

Junior Chase Altneu felt a special connection to Prague

sharing a name with the oldest operating synagogue in Europe, the Altneu Shul in Prague's old Jewish Quarter. "Arriving in the city was a breathtaking experience. I'll never forget the beautiful scene of the Charles Bridge with the exquisite castle gleaming in the background. And then to be so warmly welcomed during the week in the Jewish community for meals and on Shabbat—the trip was one amazing experience after another."



URI Hillel students pictured with Holocaust survivor, Jan Wiener.

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Arts & Culture

Israeli films find U.S. homes

WALNUT CREEK, Calif. (JTA) — There are more than 100 Jewish film festivals in North America, ranging from the oldest and largest in San Francisco to one-day events at smaller synagogues.

While these festivals showcase Jewish-themed films from many countries, the Israeli films strike a particular chord. For American Jews, it's an immediate, palpable connection to the Jewish state.

"Film festivals offer a very immediate and direct way to connect with Israeli film and with Jewish directors who are exploring themes of Jewish identity and Israeli identity," says Mitch Levine, president of the International Film Festival Consulting Group.

For Israelis living in America, the films provide a whiff of home. And for non-Jews, they show a country filled with ordinary people facing ordinary challenges, quite different from what they see on the nightly news. "Film talks to people on a variety of levels, and you can connect to people on all those levels," says Diklah Cohen, the Hillel adviser to a 3-year-old student-run Israeli



A scene from the Israeli film, "Three Mothers."

film festival at the University of Wisconsin in Madison.

Cohen says the audience is filled with students who don't attend Hillel functions. "They're unaffiliated Jews, as well as non-Jews," she says, adding that the festival is "a great way to bring Israeli culture to campus."

For the Israeli film industry, the North American film festival circuit provides needed exposure and the chance for lucrative distribution deals. "We live in a very small country

and we make films in a language spoken by few people," says Israeli filmmaker Dan Wolman. "So yes, the Jewish film festivals are important."

That is particularly true for full-length features, which if they are shown at all in the United States outside festivals are relegated to limited runs in a few art houses.

In addition to the Jewish film festivals, there are dozens of Israeli film festivals. The largest

is the Israel Film Festival [www.israelfilmfestival.com] presented in Los Angeles, Miami and New York, which in its 22 years has brought 600 Israeli films to North American audiences.

Michael Treves of JMT Films in Tel Aviv says it is a crucial venue for the films he represents. "It's important to be at the festival, to come to California to look for theatrical release," Treves says. "And coming to New York is more important for television."

The Israeli film industry received a boost in the late 1990s with increased government funding. Those who put on Israeli and Jewish film festivals note the increased number of films coming out of Israel every year and the higher quality.

The films also present a more nuanced picture of life in the Jewish state, one that isn't always pretty. That does not sit well with Jewish audiences in North America, particularly the older generation.

Wolman has been making films for two decades, often on controversial subjects. In "Foreign Sister," an illegal worker from Ethiopia goes to an Arab hospital rather than a Jewish one because

he is afraid doctors will turn him away.

That angered many American Jews, Wolman says. "People said, 'Israeli doctors are not that way,'" he recalls. "There is an older, conservative audience that loves Israel and wants to preserve a good image of the country."

His film "Ben's Biography," which touches on child abuse, won prizes at international film festivals but was not shown at Jewish film festivals. "There is a tendency to show films that are upbeat, milk and honey," Wolman says.

Meir Fenigstein, director of the Israel Film Festival, agrees. He says the most popular Israeli films with American Jewish audiences "are films that educate them and give them a positive view of Israel. They don't want to be disappointed." But Cohen says it is important to show Israel's diversity, particularly to young Jews as well as non-Jews on campus. "Some don't show a great side of Israel, but they show a normal place with normal people," she says. "We're a country like any other."

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Food

**If it's asparagus, it must be spring
(or the other way around)**

By Marylyn Graff
mgraft@jfri.org

Now's the time to rush to the market and take advantage of the seasonal prices on

this delectable veggie. You can do all kinds of wonderful things with it, from soup to quiche. Asparagus comes out of the ground the size it



Photo Kosher by Design, Susie Fishbein

Roasted asparagus

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will stay: thin stalks do not thicken as they grow. I like them medium-thin so not too much is lost when I snap the bottoms off. If you like

thick stalks just trim the bottoms and peel about half-way down the stalk. By the way, don't bother to trim off the pseudo leaves on the stalks, unless you are extra fussy.

Our mothers cooked asparagus by steaming or (Heaven forbid) boiling until it became limp. The preferred

method today is roasting with olive oil, or steaming with a little water until just tender-crisp. (I do this in the microwave for about 3 minutes, depending on thickness of the stalks.)

**Roasted asparagus
(a la Susie Fishbein)**

Clean about 2 lbs. aspar-

See facing page

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Food

From facing page

agus, snap off tough ends by holding one or two stalks at a time at both ends and bending until they snap, or peel as above. Spread out in an oven-proof baking dish or pan, drizzle with extra-virgin olive oil and sprinkle with kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper if desired. It wouldn't hurt to put in several cloves of peeled garlic, if you like.

Roast in a 375 oven for 15 minutes or so, depending on thickness of stems. They should be bright green, barely tinged with brown, and still crisp.

Asparagus quiche

Remember quiche? It's still a great dish for a luncheon or light supper. And yes, real men do eat it.

A nine-inch pie shell, baked at 375 about 5 minutes. Prick all over with a fork and line with a piece of foil and pie weights or beans kept for this purpose so it won't puff up.

About 1 1/2 lbs. medium thick asparagus prepared as above but uncooked, and cut into 1/2 to 1 inch pieces. Save 5 or 6 whole stalks to decorate top.

1 medium onion, peeled and chopped

1 cup shredded cheddar or parmesan cheese

3 large eggs

2 cups whole milk, light cream or half & half.

Salt and pepper to taste

Sauté onion in butter or margarine for about 5 minutes until just softened. Spread into partially baked pie shell. Spread in asparagus pieces. Sprinkle cheese evenly over.

Beat eggs and mix in milk or cream. Season to taste and pour carefully into pie shell.

Arrange whole asparagus stalks in star shape on top. Bake at 350 for 50 to 60 minutes until just set in the center. Remove from oven and let stand for about 10 minutes.

Chilled asparagus soup with smoked salmon and lemon-chive oil

A delicious change from vichyssoise or gazpacho on a warm summer day. This recipe came from "The Casual Vineyard Table" by Carolyn Wentz and Kimball Jones. By the way, if you should ever find yourself in Livermore, California, be sure to have lunch on the patio at the Wentz vineyards, and tour the winery.

1 Tblsp. olive oil

1 1/2 cups sliced leeks, white part only

2 bunches asparagus (about 30 spears), trimmed, peeled and coarsely chopped.

1 russet potato, peeled and cut into 3/4 inch dice

3 cups chicken or vegetable stock

Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper to taste

2 tps. freshly squeezed lemon juice

1 Tblsp. grated lemon zest

1 Tblsp. finely sliced chives

1 Tblsp. extra virgin olive oil

4 asparagus spears, thinly slice diagonally, for garnish

1/4 lb. cold-smoked salmon cut into thin strips, for garnish

Heat a non-reactive (not aluminum) saucepan over medium-high heat and add the 1 Tblsp. olive oil. When hot add the leek and half the chopped asparagus. Reduce heat to medium low and cook, stirring occasionally until vegetables begin to release liquid, about 10 minutes. Add potato, and stock and cook about 10 minutes until potato is very tender. Add rest of chopped asparagus. In batches, puree in a blender until very smooth. Cover and refrigerate or cool over an ice bath. In a small bowl combine the lemon zest, chives and extra-virgin olive oil.

To serve, divide the soup among 4 bowls. Garnish with the sliced asparagus and the smoked salmon. Drizzle the lemon chive oil over each and serve immediately.

Asparagus salad

! 1/2 lbs. asparagus, prepared and roasted as above.

1 roasted red pepper, cut into strips

3 or 4 scallions, trimmed and sliced fine

About 1/4 lb. mushrooms, raw or sliced and briefly sautéed in olive oil

1/4 cup pine nuts

1/3 cup freshly squeezed lemon juice

2/3 cup extra virgin olive oil

1 tsp. Dijon mustard

1 clove garlic, finely chopped

1 tsp. dried thyme or 1 Tblsp. fresh thyme leaves, finely chopped

Arrange asparagus on a platter with red pepper strips, scallions and mushrooms on top. Make a vinaigrette of lemon juice, olive oil mustard, garlic and thyme, blending well. Sprinkle dressing over top and garnish with pine nuts.

Asparagus kugel

8 oz. wide noodles

1 1/2 lbs. asparagus, cleaned, trimmed and cut into half inch or so pieces

2 Tblsp. butter or margarine

1 medium onion, chopped

1 cup cottage cheese

1 small container whipped cream cheese or 3 oz pkg. regular or light cream cheese

1 cup sour cream

3 eggs

Melt butter or margarine in a frying pan. Add onion and sauté until soft, adding asparagus for a couple of minutes. Beat eggs lightly in a bowl and add cottage cheese, cream cheese and sour cream, mixing well.

Meanwhile cook noodles in a pot of boiling, salted water and drain. Mix with rest of ingredients.

Butter an 8 or 9 inch pan. Put in mixture, bake at 350 for 45 minutes to an hour or

until lightly browned.

The perfect dessert for spring is that other seasonal joy, strawberries.

Please do not cook strawberries. You can buy and bake biscuits in a tube, or an angel cake and slice it up. Wash berries and remove green

caps. Slice, cut up or leave berries whole. Sugar lightly if needed. Arrange individual portions or make a centerpiece of berries, cake and whipped cream or ice cream.

Marylyn Graff can be reached at mgraff@jfri.org.

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Community

24 students to graduate from Midrasha

CRANSTON — Twenty-four students will receive degrees from the Harry Elkin Midrasha Community High School of the Bureau of Jewish Education on Sunday, May 20 at 7 p.m. at Temple Torat Yisrael.

Eitan Hersh, a Rhode Island native and a Midrasha graduate, who is a Ph.D.



Eitan Hersh to give address.

candidate in political science and who serves as assistant director of federal-state relations for Gov. Deval Patrick of Massachusetts, will deliver the commencement address.

Hersh graduated summa cum laude from Tufts University with a degree in philosophy and addressed his class as the commencement speaker. In addition to the

graduates, The Midrasha will also bestow an honorary degree upon Rabbi Lawrence Silverman in honor of his 20th year as a faculty member at Midrasha.

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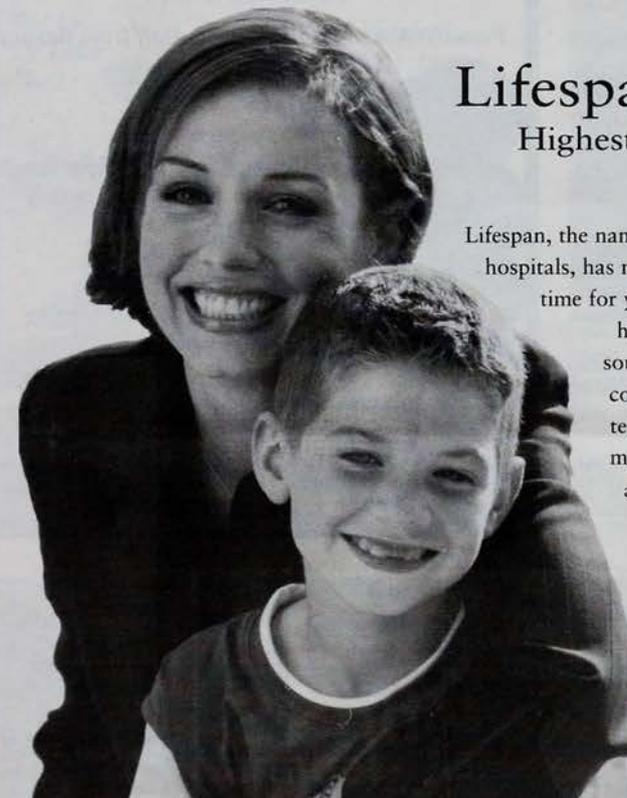
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MEDICAL ARTS



Photo from "Images of America: South Providence"

The Providence Yellow Fever Hospital was built in 1798 during a particularly severe yellow fever epidemic. It was originally located at the present site of Rhode Island Hospital. The building eventually became the Marine Hospital, and was a facility used to quarantine and care for seamen. It was moved to Whately Street in 1863 to make room for the new hospital and was torn down in 1963.

(Part 2) Yellow fever: An imported pestilence



Stanley Aronson M.D.

Of the many pestilences that have burdened the nations of the Western Hemisphere, one stands out as uniquely American,

despite the paradox that it originated in the rain forests of western Africa where it was quietly endemic and represented only a negligible public health threat. But then it was brought to the West by the 16th-century slave ships.

By the 17th century it exhibited a substantially higher mortality rate, ravaging the mainland of both western continents, particularly the densely populated port cities such as Charleston and New Orleans. The scourge continued unabated until the early 20th century when, finally, effective sanitarian measures and vaccines were introduced.

The cause as well as the mechanism by which yellow fever was transferred from one person to the next remained a mystery until 1881 when Carlos J. Finlay, a practicing physician in Havana, proposed the outlandish notion that the disease was transmitted by the bite of a female mosquito that had been infected by having previously bitten a human in the active stages of yellow fever.

The role of insects as propagating agents - as vectors - in the spread of infectious disease had been uniformly deemed preposterous; after all, how could a barely visible, frail bug cause a 200-pound adult to become mortally ill? But in 1878, a

Scottish physician named Patrick Manson, working in the Far East, demonstrated that a particular species of mosquito spread a tropical disease of humans called filariasis. In 1893, the American scientist, Theobald Smith, showed that the tick was responsible for the spread of a bacterial disease of cattle and later, the mechanism by which Rocky Mountain spotted fever was propagated.

The proposals put forth by Finlay found little initial support in the medical community; and his unfunded attempts to experimentally reproduce the disease failed. A decade later, an American commission, headed by Major Walter Reed, undertook more structured experiments to elucidate how yellow fever was spread. Following Finlay's suggestion, they were able to demonstrate, in 1898, that infected mosquitoes of the species *Aedes aegypti* could indeed infect human "volunteers."

Epidemiologists noted that the peak frequencies of the insect-borne infections [such as malaria or yellow fever] coincided with the time of year when the responsible insects were most active.

Further studies of the biological characteristics of the *Aedes* strains of mosquito revealed that they propagated readily in puddles of stagnant water, in discarded receptacles and even in shallow, rain-filled ruts in plowed fields. Knowing how and where these mosquitoes thrived, and what their biological limitations were, then allowed Army engineers to plan an extensive campaign in Cuba to rid the island of sites of mosquito proliferation. Thus, without any specific therapy against yellow fever,

the Army sanitarians were able to reduce the frequency of yellow fever to manageable levels. Furthermore, using the same anti-mosquito measures, the construction of the Panama Canal could then proceed without the peril of yellow fever epidemics that had caused the French to abandon their earlier attempts at canal construction in Panama.

The tragic history of yellow fever might be considered complete when Dr. Max Theiler developed an effective and safe vaccine, in 1933. This, in association with effective pesticide campaigns and the widespread use of window screening has virtually eliminated the disease from the Western hemisphere. The year, 1905, saw the last case of yellow fever in the United States. The typical American physician has never encountered a case of yellow fever. But it would be negligent if it was not also recalled that yellow fever would not have been established in the Western hemisphere, causing millions of deaths, were it not for the evil practice of enslaving native Africans and bringing them to this half of the globe. The slave ships carried active victims of the disease as well as the transmitting mosquitoes.

It should be remembered, too, that yellow fever [and some of the other plagues transported by the process of colonization and slavery] served to kill most

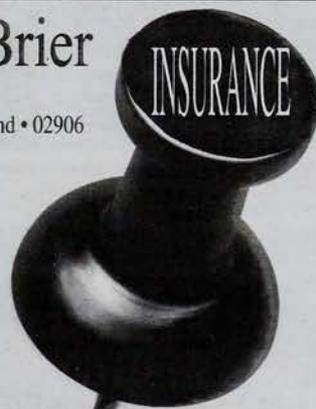
of the native population of the Americas who were immunologically unprepared for this alien virus. In the sober words of the historian, Noble D. Cook, "The century and a half after 1492 witnessed, in terms of the number of people who died, the greatest human catas-

trophe in history, far exceeding even the disaster of the Black Death of medieval Europe."

Stanley M. Aronson, MD, is a regular contributor. This is the second and concluding column on yellow fever. E-mail: smamd@cox.net.

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Community



Photos by Susan L. Adler

Sara Masri, Emma Levanos and Joshua Brandes.

JCDS 2nd graders donate funds to JFS

PROVIDENCE — The second grade of the Jewish Community Day School of R.I., under the direction of Judaic studies teacher Susan L. Adler, collected money for *Moes Chitim* (Money for Wheat), the annual Passover appeal of Jewish Family Service. In addition to a community seder, funds for seders are given anonymously to others whose financial situation makes them unable to afford Passover food.

All money collected was matched dollar for dollar by a grant received from the Feinstein Foundation. As a class, they collected \$200 and on March 27, the class presented a check in the amount of \$400, plus a five-dollar bill, to Sara Masri, development and public relations coordinator from Jewish Family Service. She spoke to the class, answered questions, and told students their donation will help about eight people buy kosher for Passover food. This year, 300 people were helped by the Jewish Family Service.

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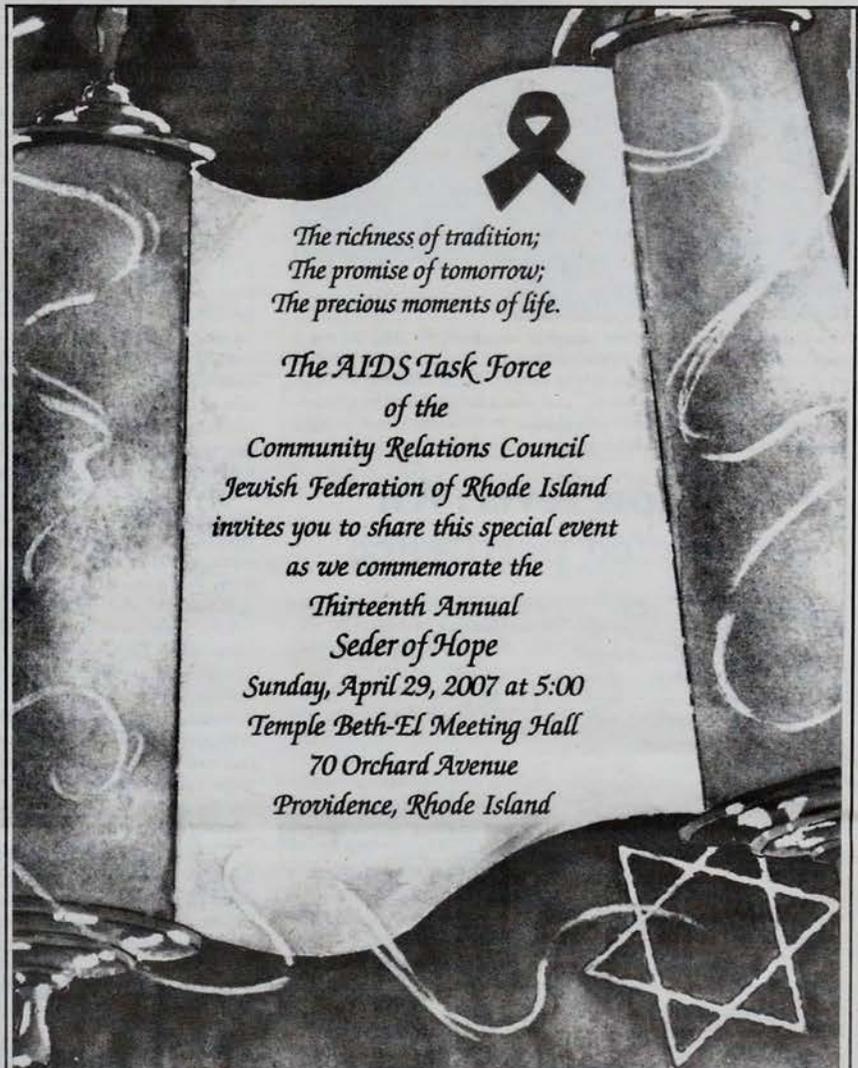
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Community

JERI holds 22 Passover seders



Rachel Rollins, administrative assistant of Jewish Eldercare, with new computer.



FOR CHOCOLATE LOVERS — Students at URI Hillel held a chocolate seder the week before Passover. At left, Sara Linden and Rebecca Eith hold a novel seder plate.

PROVIDENCE — Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island (JERI), a program of Jewish Seniors Agency, provided 22 model seders to nursing home and assisted living residents across Rhode Island. All the traditional foods of Passover were served.

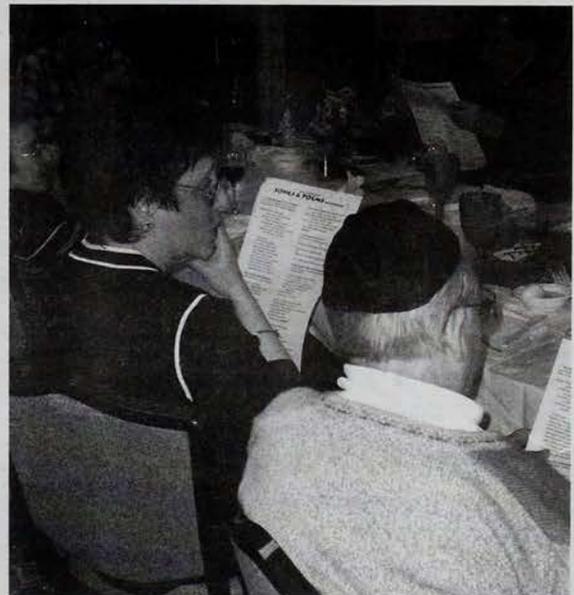
It is the goal of the JERI program to bring Jewish traditions and spirituality to the Jewish elders in the state who may find themselves isolated from their heritage in nursing homes and other facilities.

If you have a loved one in a nursing home, assisted living residence or who is home bound, that would benefit from a visit by a Jewish Eldercare staff person, call Susan Adler, director of the JERI program, at 621-5374.

Donation

Michele Keir, activity programmer for Jewish Eldercare of Rhode Island (JERI), a program of Jewish Seniors Agency (JSA) was honored with a generous donation made to JERI by a Jewish woman she has been visiting in nursing homes for many years.

It has allowed JERI to fulfill many former "wish list" needs. Kier has enhanced her creative programming with the projectors, laptop and screen



Warwick resident, Michele Keir, activity programmer of Jewish Eldercare of RI, led a very festive and educational seder on April 2, at the Brentwood Nursing Home on Post Road, Warwick.

the agency acquired with some of the funds. PowerPoint presentations and overhead projections have replaced the old way of having to pass pictures from one resident to the next.

Educational, entertaining programs such as Jewish humor, Jewish female athletes and famous Jewish artists were also made possible with the

funds from this gift.

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Emanu-El religious school learns about *Pesach*

PROVIDENCE — On March 25, the Temple Emanu-El Religious School participated in a schoolwide Pesach program. There were five stations that provided the children with an opportunity to learn about the different aspects of *Pesach*.

Rabbi Yossi Laufer taught the children how to make matzah from scratch. The children rolled the dough with special tools and waited for the matzah to bake so that they could sample it.

The students also created and painted a unique ceramic seder plate to use at their families' Passover celebration. They designed an Afikoman bag and were taught a simple recipe for *haroset* to share with their families. Finally, the students were engaged in a game of *Pesach* trivia. Israeli dancing and singing culminated a day of learning.



Sophie Kieffer, student aide, assists 5th-grader Eliz Graff with her seder plate.

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TAMARISK SEDER — The fourth annual women's seder for the residents of The Phyllis Siperstein Tamarisk Assisted Living was held on March 26. Leading the seder was Susan Adler, at right, director of Jewish Eldercare; Elisa Heath, campaign director from the Jewish Federation of R.I. and Shanna Yarmovsky, Women's Alliance director.



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BUSINESS PROFILE

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By Frank Belsky

What is the nature of your business?

We're a beautifully designed, spacious and vibrant community, offering independent living, assisted living and secured environment for individuals with memory challenges. Our independent living apartments represent a new option in retirement living with 12 spacious floor plans from which to choose, each with a "fully applianced" kitchen and private washer and dryer.

Our community provides a safe and secure environment for active, older adults who wish to maintain their independence. Lifestyle amenities include 24-hour concierge service, housekeeping and maintenance services and restaurant-style dining. We also offer a robust schedule of daily cultural and educational and programs.

Where do you turn for advice in your field?

Our parent company is Brightview Senior Living, a division of The Shelter Group located in Baltimore. The company has been in residential real estate development and management for about 30 years and senior living for 10 years. The Brightview portfolio includes 14 properties with four currently in New England. We look to the Rhode Island Assisted Living Association and the Rhode Island State Department of Health for guidance.

Where do you see your business going in 5 to 10 years?

We are anticipating the needs of the "baby boomer" generation and are preparing to flow with them.

What are the newest trends in the business?

What you see here today . . . Our residents enjoy choice and independence along with peace of mind.

Briefly describe the most important factor for growing your business.

Listening to people's needs and desires and earnestly fulfilling them.



Maureen A. McNamara

What do you like most about your job?

That it really isn't work-although my team and I are here long hours to ensure smooth transitions, our residents are wonderful and we have the privilege to meet their extended families, as well. This is a very personal business and we enjoy every aspect of that fact.

What connection do you have with the Jewish community?

Brightview addresses the spiritual needs of all of our residents.

Who has been your inspiration?

My family. My great-grandmother lived to be 99.

(Frank Belsky is a freelance writer and Pawtucket resident and the owner of IBS Business Printing.)

Managing your diabetes – a four-part series

PROVIDENCE — Phyllis Freedman, registered dietician and certified diabetes outpatient educator, will facilitate a four-part series on living with diabetes and strategies for managing it and enhancing your quality of life. The series

dates are April 18, and May 2, 16 and 30, all at the Rochambeau Library (708 Hope Street) from 10 a.m. – noon. There is no charge for the series.

Topics will include
 • Developing a meal plan

- Reading labels and determining portion sizes
- How to make good choices when dining out or traveling
- The importance of exercise
- Self-testing and medications
- Complications

Class size is limited, call Freedman at Jewish Family Service (331-1244) to register for a spot.

The many faces of adoption: Families tell their stories

PROVIDENCE — Adoption Options, a division of Jewish Family Service of RI, is hosting its annual panel discussion on Thursday, May 3, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the United

Way Building, 229 Waterman St., Providence.

This will be followed by dessert and an opportunity to speak informally with the presenters.

Speakers will include families who have adopted children from the United States and foreign countries. The forum is geared towards families who

are considering adoption and are interested in hearing about available options. It is also an opportunity to meet other families who are considering adoption, as well as families who have successfully adopted children.

Anyone who is interested in attending or volunteering at this event contact Peg Boyle at 331-5437 or peg@jfsri.org. For any other questions regarding adoption, contact any of the professionals at Adoption Options.

Hospitality classes begin

PROVIDENCE - Shelley G. Green, founder and president of White Glove Service, Inc., announced the establishment of the White Glove Hospitality Institute to train the next generation of hospitality specialists, including wait staff, bartenders and kitchen staff. The Institute will offer three certificate programs in 2007 for new entry hospitality industry workers and two programs for current and returning hospitality professionals. The Institute will train and certify professional wait staff, bartenders, and kitchen staff. The first wait staff classes will begin the week of April 17.

For more information, call Shelah Rice at 401-331-5800.



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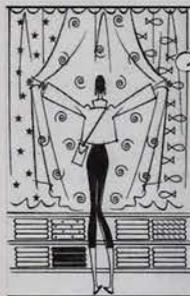
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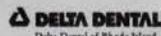
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Obituaries

Arthur Eisenstein, 89

CRANSTON — Arthur Eisenstein, 89, died April 8. He was the husband of Mildred (Kaiser) Eisenstein. They were married for 66 years. Born in Philadelphia, a son of the late Louis and Reba (Freed) Eisenstein, he had lived in Cranston for the past 20 years.

He received his bachelor's degree in business administration with honors from Bryant College. He was a World War II Army Air Corps veteran serving in Guam.

Mr. Eisenstein was the adult Jewish education director at Temple Beth-El and was the assistant director at the

Providence Jewish Community Center for many years. He was a member of Temple Beth-El.

He was the father of Judith Shope of Wellesley, and Kenneth Eisenstein of Ashland, Mass.; the brother of Charles Eisenstein and Rosalie Lieberman, both of Metuchen, N.J.; Albert Eisenstein of Phoenix, Ariz.; and the late Jack Eisenstein. He was the grandfather of Nikki, Michael and Nina.

Burial was in Sons of Israel & David Cemetery (Beth-El Cemetery), Reservoir Ave., Providence. Contributions may be made to Library Fund, c/o Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence, RI 02906.

Harriet Goodman Forman, 92

SUN CITY, Cal. — Harriet Goodman Forman died March 27. She was born June 7, 1914 in Somerville, Mass., the daughter of Samuel and Sadie (Weissman) Goodman. She was the wife of the late Jerome Forman.

She was a junior high school and high school economics teacher for 25 years. She previously lived in Rhode Island and San Diego, Cal.

Mrs. Forman leaves a son, Larry Forman and his wife, Diane Bradley; and two grandchildren, Jenay and Joel Forman.

Entombment was in the Cypress View Mausoleum in San Diego.

Contributions may be made to a favorite charity.

Daniel C. Gross, 58

EL PASO, Texas — Daniel C. Gross, 58, died March 9 at home after a short illness. He was the husband of Mireya (Alanis) Gross. Born in Hartford, he was a son of Mollie (Levine) Gross of Warwick, RI and the late George L. Gross.

He was president of the former Lion Mills, Inc., a third-generation family business that he ran with his father, and was also a small business owner in El Paso. A 1970 graduate of the University of Connecticut, Mr. Gross was a member of the Army Reserve and an officer of Proboscis Club.

Besides his wife and mother, he leaves a son, Adam Gross and his wife Kara; two daughters, Emily Bessey and her husband Ethan, and Karen Gross, all of Texas; a granddaughter, Skylar Gross of Texas; a sister Sharon (Gross)

Hoffman and two nephews, Aaron and Benjamin Hoffman, all of East Greenwich.

Burial was at B'nai Zion Cemetery, El Paso.

Contributions may be made to Hasbro Children's Hospital, "Read to Me" Program, P.O. Box H, Providence, RI 02901.

Robert "Kadsivitz" Kay, 75

EAST PROVIDENCE — Robert "Kadsivitz" Kay, 75, died March 26. Born in Providence, a son of the late Charles and Sarah (Aronavitz) Kadsivitz, he lived in Manhattan for 47 years before returning to Rhode Island.

Mr. Kay was an all-state wrestler at Hope High School and an honor student. He received a bachelor of arts degree from Boston University.

He served in the U. S. Air Force during the Korean War, stationed in Libya, North Africa.

He was the president and founder of the former Edmunds and Kay real estate brokerage firm in Manhattan, retiring in 1992.

He leaves two brothers, Harry Kay and his wife Nancy of Milford, Conn., and Nathan Kay and his wife, Robin of Palm Springs, Cal.; four sisters, Molly Granoff and her husband Marvin of Warwick, Sylvia Greenfeld of Cranston, Betty Kay of Boca Raton, Fla., and Rose Sagan and her husband Lester of Barrington; 13 nieces and nephews and 16 great-nieces and nephews. He was the brother of the late Samuel Kay.

Contributions may be made to a favorite charity.

Mildred Kaye, 84

PALM BEACH, Fla. — Mildred P. Kaye, 84, of Palm Beach, died April 3. She was the wife of the late Harvey Kaye. Born in Providence, she was a daughter of the late Samuel and Mollie (Weinberg) Palow.

With her husband, Mrs. Kaye created and ran a chain of men's clothing stores including the Gentry Shop, Prep Shop, Squire Shop and Paramount. She also managed the Palow Realty Company.

She was a member of Temple Beth-El and its sisterhood, and B'nai Brith.

A graduate of Bryant College, she was an avid duplicate bridge player and reached the status of bronze life master.

She leaves two sons, Steven and his wife Patricia LaJoie of East Greenwich, and William and his wife Lisa of Palm Beach; two grandchildren, Maximillian and Alexandra; and a sister Anne Mush-

nick of Narragansett. She was also a sister of the late Jeanne Goldstein. Contributions in her memory may be made to a favorite charity.

Alicja Wanda (Drabienko) Kestin, 88

PROVIDENCE — Alicja Wanda (Drabienko) Kestin, 88, died March 21. She was the wife of the late Dr. Joseph Kestin. Born in Poland, she was the daughter of the late Marcell Drabienko and Estera Elizabeth (Laskowski) Drabienko.

Mrs. Kestin was a Holocaust survivor.

During World War II she worked for the Polish embassy in London as a translator and after the war for UNESCO in Paris as a translator and executive assistant.

She was a member of the Chopin Club of Rhode Island and also a member of Women of Brown Community at Brown University.

She leaves a daughter, Dr. Anita Kestin and her husband Jerry Elmer of Providence and two grandchildren, Joshua and Rebecca Kestin. She was the sister of the late Stefan and Edward Drabienko.

Contributions may be made to Rhode Island College Foundation, Drabienko Endowed Fund for String Instruments, 600 Mt. Pleasant Ave., Providence, RI or to Common Cause of Rhode Island at commoncauseri.org, 1133 19th St. NW, 9th Floor, Washington, DC 20366.

Dr. Baruh Motola, 81

WARWICK — Dr. Baruh "Bob" Motola, 81, died March 28. He leaves his wife of 53 years, Margaret-Rose "Magi" Motola.

Born in Istanbul, Turkey, he was a son of the late Haim and Marie (Silberman) Motola.

Dr. Motola was a graduate of the University of Istanbul Medical School and the University of Paris, France. He specialized in cardiology and internal medicine. He served the community for the past 48 years as a physician in Warwick and as medical director of the Eleanor Slater Hospital.

He was on the staff of The Miriam Hospital and was affiliated with the Brown University Medical School.

He never retired and his last years were devoted to the care of his patients. He also worked at the ACI as a volunteer physician.

He also leaves a son, Allen Motola and his wife Lisa of Poquott, N.Y.; a daughter, Lauren Motola-Davis and her husband Kenneth Davis of Providence; three grandchildren, Nichola Motola, Margrit

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Obituaries

Motola and Skye Davis.

Contributions may be made to a favorite charity.

Samuel M. Price, 87

CRANSTON — Samuel M. Price, 87, of 143 Hoffman Ave., died April 5.

He was the husband of Selma (Ellis) Price for 40 years, and the late Sylvia (Ginensky) Price. Born in New Haven, Conn., a son of the late Max and Minnie (Lomberg) Price, he had lived in Providence for 53 years, before moving to Cranston 23 years ago.

Mr. Price was a purchasing agent for an architectural aluminum company for 18 years, retiring in 1983. Mr. Price was a World War II Army veteran serving in the Pacific Theater from 1940 to 1946, starting as a private and ending as a captain. He was a member of Temple Sinai, Redwood Lodge #35 AF & AM, Jewish War Veterans Post #23 and Touro Fraternal Association.

He was a former member of Temple Emanu-El, Cranston

Senior Guild and Potowomut Golf Club.

He was the father of Mark Price of San Diego, Cal.; Ronald Price of Farmington, N.M.; Louis Jacobs of Westerly, Marshall Jacobs of Phoenix, Ariz.; Paul Jacobs of Springfield, Mass.; Ellen Mindy Ward of Cranston and Barbara Jacobs of Waltham, Mass. He was the brother of Milton Price of East Hanover, N.J., and the late Sherman Price. He was the grandfather of Jason, Justin, Benjamin, Alison, Beth, Svetlana, Sarah and Ryan.

Burial was in Shara Tfilo Cemetery, West Roxbury, Mass. Contributions may be made to Temple Sinai or Hadassah.

Mildred (Mendelovitz) Raisner, 96

NORTH PROVIDENCE — Mildred (Mendelovitz) Raisner, 96, died April 2. She was the wife of the late Abraham W. Raisner. Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Hyman and Bertha (Bernstein) Mendelovitz, she had been a resident of Warwick since 1974,

moving to North Providence in 2004.

Mrs. Raisner was a member of the former Temple Beth Israel and its sisterhood, a life member of Hadassah and was a member of the Women's Associations of both the former Jewish Home for the Aged and Miriam Hospital. She volunteered at Kent Nursing Home and for Meals on Wheels.

She leaves three sons, Fred N. Raisner and his wife Susan of Cranston; Harvey L. Raisner and his wife Elaine of Boynton Beach, Fla.; Myron J. Raisner and Joanne Shimelman of West Hartford, Conn.; and a daughter, Barbara Raisner; nine grandchildren, Bruce, Adam, Beth, Lisa, Deborah, David, Jason, Dara and Shira; and 13 great-grandchildren. She was the sister of the late Samuel, Esmond, Ira, Milton and Arnold Lovett, Jeanette Levy and Richard Mendelovitz.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

Contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association,

245 Waterman St., Providence, RI 02906.

Ann Reitman, 98

CRANSTON — Ann Reitman, 98, died April 1. She was the wife of the late Benjamin Reitman. Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Joseph and Rebecca Logowitz, she had lived in Cranston for 59 years.

Mrs. Reitman was a member of Hadassah, B'nai B'rith and Temple Torat Yisrael.

She was an avid knitter and knitted clothing for babies at the former Lying-In Hospital.

She leaves a son, Stanley and his wife Arlene of Jamestown; three grandchildren, Richard T. Reitman and his wife Christine, Mark S. Reitman and his wife Laura Shulman, and Robin L. Reitman; and two great-grandchildren Aja and Tallyn Scioli. She was the sister of the late Kenneth and Harvey Logowitz.

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

William Sweet, 87

EAST PROVIDENCE — William "Bill" Sweet, 87, died March 27. He was born in Providence, the son of the late Daniel and Sarah (Wishnevski) Sweet.

He served in the military in World War II in North Africa and Europe.

Mr. Sweet was a well known collector of antiques and an expert in marble.

He leaves a son, Eric B. Sweet of Rhode Island; a

daughter, Kara Sweet of Cape Cod; two grandchildren, Zachary and Erika and his former wife, Susan Sweet.

Contributions may be made to the SPCA or the Humane Society of the U.S.

Manuel Young, 82

DELRAY BEACH, Fla. — Manuel "Manny" Young, 82, formerly of Providence, died March 25. He was the husband of Avis (Swartz) Young. They were married for 58 years.

Born in Boston, a son of the late Louis and Anne (Gable) Yackalow, he had lived in Providence for many years before moving to Delray Beach three years ago. He was a general agent for several insurance companies, including Jefferson Pilot Financial Agency, for over 40 years, retiring 17 years ago.

A graduate of Purdue University, Mr. Young was a member of Touro Fraternal Association, Redwood Lodge #35 AF & AM, Crestwood Country Club, the USO and a former member of Temple Emanu-El.

Besides his wife, he leaves two daughters, Sherri Noon and her husband David of Needham, Mass., and Rhonda Weisberg and her husband Lee of Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.; and six grandchildren, Melissa, Jillian, Matthew, Jody, Corey and Billie. He was the brother of the late Isidore Young and Eva Simon. Contributions may be made to the Hydrocephalus Foundation, Inc., 910 Rear Broadway, Rte. #1, Saugus, MA 01906.

D'var

Parashat Shemini

Leviticus 9:1 — 11:47

A different kind of kashrut

By Beth Kalisch

"And the swine—although it has true hoofs, with the hoofs cleft through, it does not chew the cud: it is unclean for you." (Leviticus 11:17) Pig: the *treife* animal par excellence. Of all the rules of kashrut the prohibition against eating pork has perhaps the deepest resonance for Jews. Historically, the refusal to eat pork has been understood as a symbol of Jewish identity.

When we open Parashat Shemini, the first section of the Torah in which the laws of kashrut are discussed, we might expect a lengthy exposition on the particular evils of the pig.

Instead, when we look at the prohibition against eating pork in the context of the other prohibited foods enumerated in Parashat Shemini, it suddenly seems surprising that the pig has achieved such unique notoriety. The list of forbidden foods begins with more obscure delicacies like camel and rock badger; the pig, the last of the mammals to be mentioned, seems almost like an afterthought.

Even more surprisingly, the pig does not violate the standards of kashrut as flagrantly as other animals do. The Torah teaches that in order to be kosher, animals must chew their cud and have cleft hoofs. The pig does not

chew its cud, but it does have cleft hoofs—so we might expect that it would be less offensive than animals that meet neither criterion.

In view of this apparent contradiction, how might we understand the widespread Jewish aversion to pork? Biblical scholars have suggested an array of historical possibilities.

Just as the pig is made *treife* because it does not chew its cud, so too, will our *tzedakah* be tainted if our giving brings shame upon those who would eat from our table.

When we share our bounty with others, it is our responsibility to ensure that our behavior does not embarrass them. The rabbis emphasize the importance not only of what we give, but also how we give. They even go so far as to say that it would be better not to give at all than to give in a manner that embarrasses the recipient. Giving *tzedakah* is always a *mitzvah*, but *tzedakah* that degrades the recipient can never be fully kosher.

American Jewish World Service provides unique opportunities for breaking bread with others across the boundaries of community. As a recent volunteer on an AJWS delegation, I was welcomed warmly into the home of a Salvadoran family who cooked kosher meals for their

Jewish guests. My host mother, Isabel, never allowed me to go hungry. When I invite Isabel to my table, how do I make sure that my generosity is equally kosher?

As Westerners engaged with the developing world, we may have the best of intentions, and we are eager to share our bounty. But if we objectify the poor, if we allow the differences in culture and class to obscure for us the full depth of their humanity, we run the risk of patronizing or degrading the people to whom we give.

When we risk falling into this trap, our long-disparaged pig has an important lesson to teach us. It would be easy to think that a cleft hoof was kosher enough. It would be easy to think that just giving was sufficient. To place such special emphasis on the pig as forbidden is to insist that the human dignity of all people must always be our first concern. The pig is the paradigm of *treife* because it symbolizes a denial of the most important value of all—the shared humanity of the others with whom we break bread.

Beth Kalisch is a third year rabbinical student at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York. This commentary is provided by special arrangement with American Jewish World Service. www.ajws.org.

Classifieds

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My Voice

My personal experience with terrorism: Argentina: 1973—1977

By Herb Leshinsky

Terrorism is an ugly, frightening word, bringing to mind horrific scenes of mangled bodies, demolished buildings, assassinations and kidnappings. Even today, 30 years after my own experiences with terrorist episodes, I still shiver and break out in a cold sweat when recalling those events.

The time was 1973—1977 and the place was Argentina. President Juan Peron died in 1974 and his second wife, Isabel, succeeded him as president. The Peronist Party and labor unions had become infiltrated with Communist extremists bent on destroying the political fiber of Argentina and bringing a totalitarian Communist leadership to the country. These extremists operated under the umbrella of the Monteneros (rough riders) and the Peoples' Revolutionary Army, the dreaded E.L.P., with their frightening red-star symbol.

Elements from right-wing organizations attempted to respond to the left-wingers. Brutal assassinations and kidnappings were everyday occurrences. A record ransom of \$60 million, U.S., was paid to the E.R.P. in June, 1975 for the release of two executives. Large companies were focal points of the terrorist attackers who

accused them of sucking the life-blood of the economy for the sake of profits.

The economic impact of those terrorist actions was devastating to the country. Inflation in 1975 reached 350 percent. The official exchange rate of the Argentine peso started the year at 9.93 to the U.S. dollar. By the year's end the rate was 89.7 with a black market rate of 291. Internal prices for basic necessities had sky-rocketed. This economic impact was part of the strategic plan of the leftist terrorists to create a new society on the chaos of the fallen democratic system.

At that time I was managing director of the Chrysler Corporation Argentina division with a workforce of 4,980 people and annual sales of \$400 million. We had already lost three of our key managers, brutally assassinated by the E.R.P., machine-gunned to the point where their

carried machine guns.

By now the U.S. embassy had become a virtual fortress, with a contingent of Marines and gun emplacements at strategic locations. Our ambassador, Robert Hill, was indeed a brave man and invited the American community to his residence for semi-monthly briefings.

I must admit that the close calls I personally experienced had a frightening effect on me. One morning my office at the Chrysler building was machine-gunned at a time when the guerrillas thought I'd be there. They had fifty-caliber machine guns, which were used to rake my office. I also recall receiving a beautifully wrapped gift left at my apartment door one Christmas eve. Inside was an ugly black coffin, with the message that I should rest in peace and other words I cannot repeat.

There were many terror-

We had already lost three of our key managers, brutally assassinated...

bodies were totally unrecognizable. This was the terrorist way of wreaking havoc on the corporate community, to force us to submit to their demands.

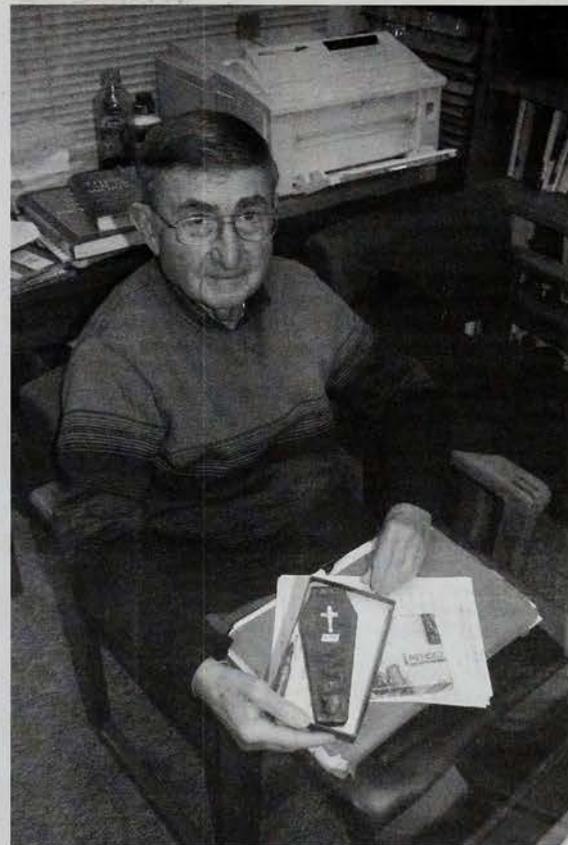
Almost all foreign executives had left Argentina for fear of being kidnapped or murdered. I chose to stay, despite the Chrysler Corp. urging me to leave. That was my decision, not because I was particularly brave, but because I felt a deep loyalty to our Argentine company and its employees who refused to submit to these terrorist forces.

Oh, there were several serious attempts on my life and it was not an easy way of living. I traveled to and from work in an armored car with a professional driver and two armed bodyguards, plus a trailer car and four other heavily armed bodyguards. We staggered the times of our arrivals and departures and always took different routes to our destinations. Hand-guns were a part of the daily attire and the body guards

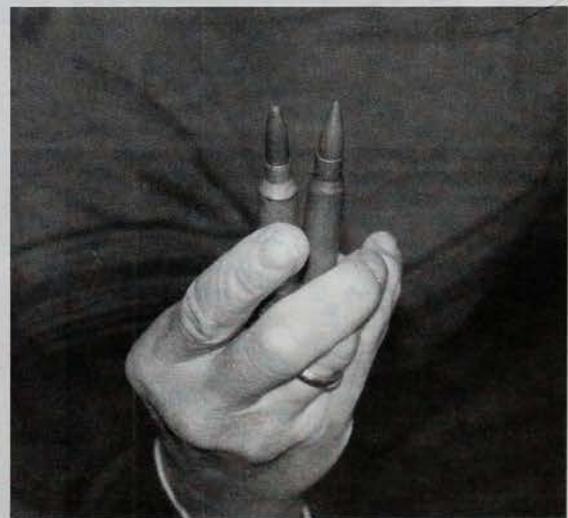
ist incidents against our company, including threatening phone calls to our offices and to my home every day, with death warnings and demands for ransom. Several of our managers, unable to bear the constant terrorist pressure and, fearing for their lives and their families, went into hiding in the countryside.

Finally, in 1976 the long-awaited and prayed-for military coup occurred. But that also brought with it almost two more years of brutality as the military and the police sought out the leftist guerrillas to bring them to justice. Unfortunately the military government was accused of human-rights violations by the U.S. press and our state department reacted by curtailing aid to Argentina.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Argentina, of which I was a member, sent a strongly worded letter to the then secretary of state, Cyrus Vance, denouncing the retaliatory U.S. economic actions. In that letter, we described the hellish circumstances and



Herb Leshinsky was managing director of the Chrysler Corp. in Argentina.



He shows some of his "souvenirs" from his experiences there.

the dire conditions of political and economic chaos leading to the military coup and its subsequent actions. Ambassador Robert Hill supported our position. But, as a nation, we still have not learned to be objective and even-handed in foreign policy.

The days of terrorism in Argentina have ended and

the country is now enjoying a reasonably prosperous period. Despite those terrifying times, I still feel a very deep affection for the country and its people. I plan to return again and again to "mi querida Buenos Aires."

Herb Leshinsky is a resident of East Providence.



(Source: The World Factbook/CIA Publications)

Birthday



Joseph Margolis holds a special greeting from the governor's office.

Happy 100th!

WARWICK — Joseph Margolis, a resident at Tamarisk Assisted Living in Warwick, celebrated his 100th birthday with family, friends and fellow residents, at a gala celebration held in his honor on Sunday, March 4.

He was born on Bishop Street in Providence on Feb. 28, 1907, the son of Austrian immigrants. He married his childhood sweetheart, Anna Davidson, and owned and operated a hardware supply business. During World War II, he worked at night building ships for the war effort.

The Jewish Voice & Herald asked him for advice on how to live to be 100. He answered:

"Take each day as it comes; do what you feel is right and try your best to get along."

And when asked who influenced him the most in his life, he said, "My wife of 76 years!"

She passed away in his arms at their home on May 31, 2005.

He has three grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.



Elissa Rose Bookbinder



GOOD CITATIONS — Providence Mayor David Cicilline presents Alice Goldstein with a citation recognizing her for promoting tolerance as a speaker from the Holocaust Education and Resource Center of Rhode Island. The center, formerly known as the Rhode Island Holocaust Museum, announced its name and mission change to the public at a meeting March 28 at the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.

Simchas

Jewish Scouting to honor members

Scout honored for getting injured youth down mountain

WARWICK — The Jewish Committee on Scouting will honor a number of Boy Scouts and leaders who have provided exemplary service to Jewish Scouting. The committee, which is one of the program committees of the Narragansett Council, Boy Scouts of America, will host a brunch, open to the public, at Temple Am David, on Sunday morning, April 29 at 11 a.m.

The first honoree will be **Howard Bromberg of Providence**, who will receive the 2007 "Distinguished Good Scout" award. Howard, an executive with Benny's Stores and a long-time member of the Jewish Committee on Scouting, has been exemplary in his support of Scouting programs for youngsters. He earned his Eagle Scout award as a youth and is the second generation of Brombergs to do so. His long-term support of Scouting and continued involvement in the Scouting program are worthy of recognition.

The other honorees come from Connecticut. These three

Correction /Birth

Kelli and Evan Bookbinder of Lees Summit, Missouri, announce the birth of their daughter, Elissa Rose, on Jan 18. Elissa weighed six pounds, 11 ounces and was also welcomed by her big brother "Jake."

Paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Bookbinder of Warwick, and Mr. and Mrs. Kerry Kessler of Parkland, Fla.

Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Randy Galbraith of Brookville, Penn., and Gerry Fitzsimmons, also of Brookville. Great-grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Richard Bookbinder of Boca Raton, Fla.

men, David Elkodsi, Dr. Bob Kravics and Marc Zuckerman, will receive the Shofar award. These three dedicated Scouters have provided significant annual support over many years to our Jewish Chaplaincy program at the Yawgoog Scout Reservation during the summer camp season.

Shofar award

Rabbi Sol Goodman of East Providence will also receive a Shofar award. Rabbi Goodman has been serving as Jewish chaplain at Yawgoog for the past five years and has moved to the position of Senior chaplain at the camp. The rabbi has dedicated himself to providing religious education and awareness for all scouts and leaders. In particular his "standing room only" Sunday morning talk sessions has been instrumental at expanding the understanding of non-Jewish members about the Jewish faith tradition.

Samuel Rubin, a Scout from Chepachet, recently received a Medal of Merit from the National Court of Honor in recognition of applying his life-saving skills during a trip he, and his fellow Scouts, took in the mountains. After one of the Scouts in his troop broke his ankle, Samuel and his friend, Jay Coutu, applied what they learned in Scouting and managed to bring the injured Scout down off Mt. Monandnock. In recognition of his quick thinking and resourcefulness that prevented a life threatening situation from becoming a tragic one, Samuel was awarded with the Medal of Merit.

Narragansett Council



Howard Bromberg

The Narragansett Council, Boy Scouts of America, serves over 23,000 youth in various programs, including Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, and the school-based character education program known as Learning for Life. The Yawgoog Scout Reservation is the primary summer camp facility operated by the Council. Over 8,000 Scouts and leaders attend Camp Yawgoog each summer, making it the largest summer camp operation in Southeastern New England. For further information about the Council and Scouting, visit www.narragansettbsa.org.

The entire Scouting community is invited to the event. For further information and to make reservations for tickets and sponsorships, contact Tom Slavick, event coordinator, at 401-351-8700, ext. 21.

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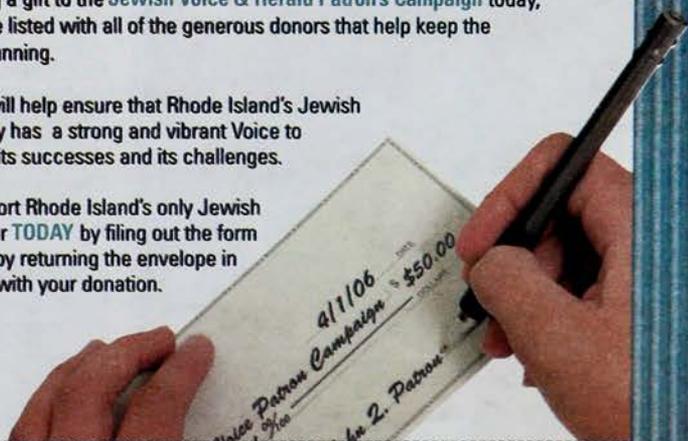
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