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# Rhode Island Jewish HERALD

The Jewish  
Community  
in Cuba

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## Lubavitch Movement is in Turmoil

by Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK (JTA) — Rabbi Shmuel Butman, the outspoken Lubavitch Chasid who has been leading the effort to convince people that the late Menachem Mendel Schneerson is the Messiah, is said to have been fired from his job running the Lubavitch Youth Organization.

Contradictory messages are streaming in from leaders and spokesmen for various programs within the Lubavitch movement. Each spokesman claims to have inherited an authoritative interpretation of the late rebbe's vision for his organization, and each says that the rebbe charged him with carrying out his wishes.

The disagreement, of which Butman's case is a symptom, is getting more bitter as it becomes more public and reveals deep disagreements in the Lubavitch movement over whether Schneerson should be promoted as the Messiah.

Schneerson died on June 12, 1994, two years after he suffered a stroke that seemed to incapacitate him, though his followers

continued to go to him for advice on a wide range of subjects.

Many still seek their rebbe's heavenly intercession and go to the cemetery in New York where he is buried, to pray and to leave notes on his grave, asking for his help.

Butman himself claims he has not been fired. His version of the story is backed by one board member of the Lubavitch Youth Organization, an outreach group sponsored by one of two umbrella Lubavitch organizations.

But another board member says that Butman was fired, and this opinion has been confirmed by Rabbi Yehuda Krinsky, who, as director of Machne Israel, one of the umbrella groups, is technically Butman's boss.

The board of Lubavitch Youth sent Butman a letter on Feb. 5 saying that they were firing him because, despite repeated warnings, he failed to submit reports of income and expenses for the last two years.

The letter, written in Hebrew, also gave as a reason for his dismissal the fact that he was using fax and phone lines of the

Lubavitch Youth Organization to promote his message that the rebbe is the Messiah.

This message is one that some within Lubavitch are deeply opposed to.

Butman says the whole episode was just a misunderstanding, and was ironed out in a meeting with board members. "I am not fired," he said, from his home in Crown Heights.

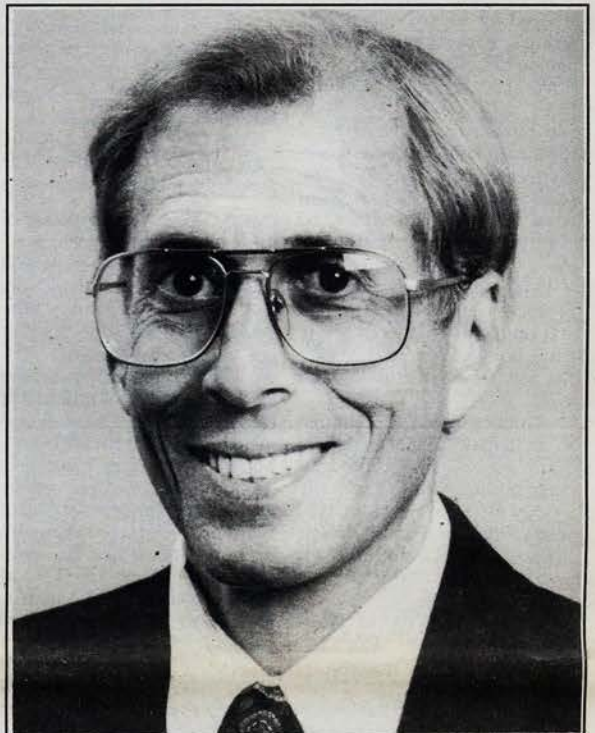
"We had a certain dispute, to straighten out some things of organizational matters. It's not a question of financial records. There's no dismissal whatsoever," he continued. "We drank 'chaim.' We worked it out 100 percent."

He said he promised to keep the work of the youth organization completely separate from the business of the International Campaign to Bring Moshiach.

However, "...I was not precluded from working on both," Butman said.

He described the work of the Lubavitch Youth Organization as "the outreach arm of the Lubavitch movement, which

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**Dr. Rabbi Shalom Paul Coming**

Temple Torat Yisrael will sponsor a three-day program on "Sparks Beneath the Surface," under the leadership of Dr. Paul, in March. See Jewish Community pages for details.

Photo courtesy of Temple Torat Yisrael

## Here's One More Chance to be Heard

There will be a meeting about the Jewish Home for the Aged on Feb. 29 at 5 p.m. in the auditorium of the Cannon Bldg., 3 Capitol Hill, Providence. (The building is part of the Rhode Island Department of Health.)

This meeting is open to all those who wish to comment on the application of Hillside Health

Center Associates (represented in negotiations heretofore by Anthony Giordano) to renovate the facility, specifically 236 beds.

It is not clear, from the legal notice we read in the Feb. 20 *Providence Journal*, how far-ranging these comments may be, but it seems clear to us that if you care about the future of the

home, this is your chance to learn more, and say more.

The building is handicapped accessible. Hearing impaired persons should call 277-2788 by Feb. 27 to receive interpreter assistance.

For more information on the meeting or application, call 277-2788.

## Religious, Arab Voters Wooed in Israel

by Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM (JTA) — In the three months leading up to Israel's national elections, the Hebrew political lexicon will adopt some important new words.

More and more politicians — and not necessarily those who put on tefillin every morning — will make use of terms such as "be'ezrat haSh-m" (with G-d's help) and "bli neder" (without making a formal vow) and sprinkle their speeches with biblical references as they make appeals for votes.

Among them will be Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu, who will be seeking to attract Israel's religious voters as they go head-to-head in the country's first direct vote for the premiership.

The two candidates are investing a lot of effort — and money — in trying to woo the religious vote, which has the potential to elect some 16 to 18 Knesset members.

They are also launching a similar effort to attract the Israeli Arab vote, which can fill 12 Knesset seats.

After meeting with Peres,

Netanyahu told reporters that May 28 seemed to be a date Labor and Likud could agree on for holding early elections. The Knesset was expected to pass legislation dissolving itself and setting the elections date soon.

These elections will be different from all previous Israeli elections in that there will be two separate ballots — one for the premiership, the other for the Knesset.

It is commonly accepted that with the direct election of the prime minister, the elected candidate will find it much easier to form a coalition than in the past, when success often depended on the support of individual Knesset members.

As a result, the campaign will focus more than ever before on the personalities of the two candidates for the premiership.

Whether they are appealing for the religious vote or seeking the support of Israeli Arabs, Peres and Netanyahu will have to adjust their vocabulary for the constituencies whose support they seek.

In this vein, Netanyahu has reportedly refrained during the past year from entering any non-

(Continued on Page 19)



## AJSS "Campers" and Governor King of Maine Celebrate

The American Jewish Society for Service selects three projects every summer as sites for Jewish teens to make a difference in someone's life. Last summer, this group completed a project in the town of Fort Fairfield, Maine, which had been devastated by floods. See Jewish Community pages for details on applying for 1996 projects.

Photo courtesy of AJSS

# INSIDE THE OCEAN STATE

## Rhode Island to Hold Workout for Hope

*Raising Funds for HIV/AIDS and Cancer Research*

Rhode Island will be hosting Workout for Hope—America's largest and most dynamic health and fitness event—from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on April 21 at the Newport Marriott Hotel.

Registration begins at 10 a.m. Leading the Rhode Island group's workout will be chairperson Lisa Waagenbach.

Workout for Hope, a united force supporting HIV/AIDS and related cancer research at the City of Hope national medical Center and Beckman Research Institute, began eight years ago in San Francisco. The event has grown to include more than 70 cities nationwide.

Participants collect donations in the weeks prior to the event and then work out from one to three hours on event day with the top fitness teams in their area.

A minimum of \$50 is required to participate, and MasterCard and Visa will be accepted for contributions made at the event.

City of Hope began in 1913 when volunteer raised two tents in the Southern California desert as a haven for those stricken with tuberculosis.

Today, the City of Hope Medical Center and the Beckman Research Institute are internationally recognized institutions which touch the lives of millions of people everywhere. In fact, many of the procedures used in the medical centers throughout the world were pioneered or perfected there.

The event has something for everyone with a host of fitness activities including aerobics, circuit training, weights, walking, running, in-line skating, step

and slide. Many cities also are incorporating additional workouts such as aqua-aerobics, court sports, yoga, t'ai chi and a special "Workout for Kids" program.

There are no endurance tests or records to beat, as everyone exercises at his or her own pace.

"Workout for Hope offers exercise enthusiasts a way to stay fit, have fun and help others," said Cecilia Cooper, director of City of Hope's Workout for Hope campaign.

The City of Hope National Medical Center and Beckman Research Institute, located in

Durante, 25 miles Northeast of downtown Los Angeles, is renowned for its treatment and research to combat leukemia and other forms of cancer, diabetes, HIV/AIDS and another life-threatening illnesses. The work conducted at City of Hope touches the lives of millions of individuals of all ages everywhere, including Rhode Island.

Many of the leading treatments used in local medical centers today were pioneered at City of Hope. By collaborating on projects with medical leaders in the Rhode Island area City of Hope physicians and scientists are able to find treatments and cures for major illnesses.

Sponsor forms can be picked up at all Bob's Stores locations.

To find out more about the City of Hope efforts or for event information and registration forms, call (800) 454-0780.

**SUBSCRIBE!**  
Call 724-0200 for details

## Women & Infants' Center Plans March Events

A good massage can relieve the tension and stress of everyday life. Couples and pairs are invited to attend a Massage Therapy Workshop on Feb. 26 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Women's & Infants Hospital. The fee is \$15 per person/\$25 per couple or pairs. To register, call the center, 767-2344.

The center is also offering a Yoga Class for Beginners on Friday evenings, starting on March 8 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. The cost is \$60 for a six-week series.

The regular Intermediate Yoga class will begin a new session on March 4 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. For more information, call the center.

There will be two Image Update Workshops on March 4 from 7 to 9 p.m. and on March 7 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Under the

leadership of BeautyControl Image consultant Olga Hawwa, participants will learn skin and color analysis, and make-up application. The cost is \$15. Pre-registration is necessary as space is very limited. Call the center at 767-2344 to sign up.

A free lecture on March 5 from 7 to 9 p.m., will address the issue of "Stress Headaches: What Can I do Without Medication?"

Roseanne Lavergne and Jane Allard, certified massage therapists, present a discussion emphasizing healthy circulation, diet and sleep patterns. Participants will learn special breathing techniques, imagery and meditation to help overcome tension headaches. The fee is \$10 per person. Call the center

at 767-2344 to register.

"Living with PMS: Don't Let it Control Your Life" is the topic of a free lecture on March 13 from 7 to 9 p.m. Dr. Michelle Gange will address the emotional upheaval and medical facts associated with pre-menstrual syndrome. Pre-register by calling 767-2344. There is no fee for the lecture.

"For Kids Only-CPR" an American Heart Association accident prevention and safety program, will be held at the center on two consecutive Friday evenings, March 22 and 29 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Participants will receive a certificate upon completion of course requirements. The fee is \$30. Contact the center at 767-2344 to register.

## Because You Gave

The Rhode Island Food Bank is running low on essential foods. The bank needs our help.

Alperin Schechter Day School is trying to help. During the week of Feb. 26, the school is asking for donations of non-perishable items like: canned tuna, soup, fruits and vegetables, rice, pasta, cereals, peanut butter, macaroni and cheese, coffee, cocoa and tea. (No baby food, please.)

Foods should not be more than six months old.

If you are not closely connected to or a neighbor of Alperin Schechter, you might bring your donations to the food bank directly. Call them at 826-3073 for directions. They are at 104 Hay St. in West Warwick.

This has been a long, bitter winter. For the needy, everything important to life is in short supply. Make your Passover meal even more holy with the knowledge that somewhere in Rhode Island, another family is being nourished and comforted because you gave.

## 'Life & Depth' is Subject for Miriam Women's Forum

Providence performer Joe Kogel brings "Life and Depth: Very Funny Stories about Very Scary Things" to The Miriam Hospital Women's Association's health education forum on March 11 at 12:30 p.m. in the hospital's Sopkin Auditorium.

Kogel is a national award-winning writer whose life took a dramatic turn when he was diagnosed with cancer in 1981 at the age of 25.

"Life and Depth" consists of stories — humorous and dramatic — which deal with Kogel's experience with cancer, but which are not about cancer. He is a master storyteller who creates a world in which the problem is not cancer but how one faces problems.

Kogel's humorous presentation helps people look at their priorities in a new way, make significant changes in their lives, tap their own uniqueness and strengths, and laugh about things that are not often easy to laugh at.

According to Bernie Siegel, physician, and author of *Love,*

*Medicine and Miracles*, "Joe combines humor with pathos in a way that leads us all to become more aware of what life — and healing — are about."

In Kogel's words, "If life gives you lemons, don't make lemonade. Make lemon dijon chicken. There's too much lemonade as it is."

Kogel has toured nationally since 1984 and made numerous appearances in the media including, NPR, NBC and CNN.

Vice President Nancy Schottland, who coordinated the day's program, and Co-Presidents Harriet Samors, Joanne Summer and Rissy Zwetckhenbaum invite women's association members, their guests, and interested people in the community to join them at The Miriam's Sopkin Auditorium for the 12:30 program, preceded by a petite luncheon at noon.

There is no charge to the community for this extraordinary program.

For more information, call The Miriam Hospital Women's Association office at 331-8500, ext. 2520.

## Forum for Health Care Professionals

"No Room to Breathe: Air Pollution and Health," a forum sponsored by several local organizations, will be held on Feb. 27 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Days Hotel, 220 India St. in Providence.

This event is sponsored by the Rhode Island Thoracic Society in conjunction with American Lung Association of Rhode Island and New England Physicians for Social Responsibility's Human Health and Environment Project. Featured speak-

ers will be: Charles Sherman, M.D., MPH, president, R.I. Thoracic Society; John D. Spengler, Ph.D., Harvard School of Public Health; Jeff Dickey, M.D., co-chair, Physicians for Social Responsibility's Human Health & Environment Project; and Joseph Tarpey, M.D., physician activist.

For further information, call Molly Clark, American Lung Association of Rhode Island, at 421-6487.

## Look Into the Crystal Ball

MS After Dark invites you to attend the 8th annual MS Crystal Ball.

This black tie affair will be held March 2 from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Westin Hotel in downtown Providence. The ball will benefit the Rhode Island Chapter National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Honorary chairpersons for the evening will be Meredith Vieira, ABC news correspondent and Karen Adams, anchorwoman for WPRI-TV.

At this year's ball there will be a surf and turf dinner, dancing to the sound of Brass Attack, participation in an extensive silent art auction and a chance to become eligible to win one or more raffle prizes, including gifts from Swarovski crystal, a weekend for two at the Westin Hotel, fine dining and other gift certificates and more.

For tickets, call 738-8383.

Tickets are \$50 per person, or \$450 for tables of 10.

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# The Plume and the Point

by Mike Fink

Herald Contributing Reporter

Blame it on the weather forecasters, or on the dog. I was just going to join the awards banquet for the New England Press Association at the Boston Marriott. We won second place for our bridal issue. I had written for that entry a portrait of the mother of a bride and her quest for the perfect dress.

But things got out of hand. The dog hates the cold. By the time I had fed and walked her, I ran too late to catch the train. So I left the car at the bus station and grabbed a round-trip to South Station. Then you have to make your way via metro to Back Bay and the Copley Plaza. I hope I haven't lost you yet, dear reader.

I'll come to the dinner and the prizes, but all through the festivities, I was haunted by doubts about the commute home. And in fact, I missed the last bus and had to dash through corridors of chill wind over to the train tracks for Amtrak. But once safe at home and standing on that circular mosaic station floor with its printed praise to travel inscribed in gilded letters, I realized, the car still waited in the Bonanza lot. Where could I get a taxi at the start of a blizzard?

You are never dressed just right. Really, only kings and modern heads of state ought to travel. An entourage of aides takes care of the minor crises, while you deal with great affairs of the world. The rest of us

should stay by the hearth or read in bed.

Now I'm ready to say a few words about the New England Press Association and its annual Boston convention. That artificial world near the Prudential Center holds a glittering mall, a grove of indoor trees, cafes filled with distinguished people and glamorous youth, an urban oasis in the cold at once utopian, anywhere, and also very Bostonian with a ghost of Bette Davis asking, should we wish for anything beyond this galaxy?

While fewer young people read the big dailies, which shrink in size and scope, smaller weeklies are filling the void with local stories. The grand ballroom of the Copley Marriott was crammed to capacity with small press journalists, publishers, advertisers, editors, and freelancers. What a great phrase that is, "free-lance." You tilt your sword-pen to fight under whatever ideal pennant you can find.

I asked the young lady seated next to me why everybody had come to the convention. "Mostly," said Marianne Cipriano (once of Seekonk, and a friend of David Howard, editor of the *East Providence Post* and the *Seekonk Star*) editor of the Connecticut *Bransford Review*, "to network." It's an enormous, but scattered, community of writers who make do in a world where the metropolitan bulletins are crumbling like dinosaurs in "Fantasia."

And where the very price of paper is driving book manufacturers into bankruptcy. "But here you get advice about how to write a column, to do an interview that plays fair, to coach reporters, to deal with ethical grays in tone, to avoid libel suits, to land a job, to make extra money while still a student."

Despite rising costs of production, recycled newsprint keeps going on. You make your mark on the computer, your words come out in ink and spread round the town among the cafes. Somebody remembers a phrase, or frames a column. Mostly, your article fades and blurs, but you never know where a word will settle and build a nest.

The literary life of a trade reporter for a small press holds a certain low key appeal, if not the glamour of yesterday. There are things you can't write about. You'll get in trouble with somebody you know. The colonies are not Manhattan, where anything goes. On the other hand, you take part in the rumble and the ramble of your community. The magnitude of the enterprise throughout New England could be felt throughout the dining chambers of the Boston Marriott. In the blizzard the principal speaker never showed up, and the crowd stood to cheer his absence. Then we dined, milled about, took off with our plaques and hoped that maybe next year we'd come out first place.



## Las Vegas Then and Now

by Mike Fink  
Herald Contributing Reporter

You can visit Las Vegas in the movies, without risking your savings or your luggage. "Leaving Las Vegas" won the esteem of critics for Nicholas Cage's portrayal of a scriptwriter who goes there to drink and then die in peace.

It sure is a dynamite performance. Vegas looks both glittery and gloomy. But if you recall Milland in "Lost Weekend" or Cagney in "Come Fill the Cup," or caught them on cable, you can compare different concepts of realism.

"Leaving Las Vegas" fills the screen with an array of bottles of booze. Billy Wilder's picture of alcoholism lets you study just one bottle. Milland loses his lady, or rather lets her go, because his world is shrinking. Cage finds true love along with bliss.

In "Come Fill the Cup" Cagney's incredible, compact energy keeps you wondering what he will do or say to James Gleason, his A.A. guardian angel: the interpretation is contained, implied.

Acting styles and audience expectations demand exaggeration beyond believability. I do appreciate Cage. I rather like him too. But this current version of the fate of the alcoholic struck me finally as misguided. If you have seen this screen story, you recall that its anti-hero dies happy and fulfilled.

The world of Hollywood which he has left behind just isn't worth a life. The script almost says, you're better off drunk than sober. I find this not radical, but sentimental.

John Travolta also plays an

outsider in "Get Shorty." Gene Hackman gets the role of a Jewish movie producer, in trouble with Las Vegas hoods. The bad guys beat up Hackman, who wears a Chai necklace, so badly it passes belief that he could survive. John, a punk, copes too easily with violence. It doesn't make sense, because it has no balance.

I think of Vegas as the place where Dietrich sang her lovely songs in that silver and sequin Jean Louis gown. My dad's last voyage was a friendly tour of Vegas with some business companions. I read, and taught, a book about a quail, a bob-white desert fowl I mean, that lives in Vegas.

Then I myself once drove to the fabulous strip, decades ago, and formed my own impression. Mostly, I recall retired folks at one-armed bandits, looking forlorn in their forage for fortune.

I've tried to catch all the fare at our winter theaters, but I find the Hollywood offerings overdone, harsh, and not in the same league with the poetic artistry of the generation gone by.

I bet my students complain about my love of the classics. I do go on about the subtle beauties of the black and white studio products of yesteryear. But be honest: weren't they closer to the truth than the blunt, obvious spectacles we now take for granted?

I have heard there is a plan to open a number of cinemas downtown, to draw an evening crowd. They'll have to come up with some good stories. I hope they're a bit more up-beat than the cynical concept of Las Vegas as the heart of civilized America.

# Coffee, Tea and You

by Mike Fink

Herald Contributing Reporter

You can break your coffee fast under the bright portraits of Popeye and Olive Oyl at Elliott's, at a window alcove with a cactus garden at the corners. You can pick a real brunch from the new glass case at the entrance.

Check out California Cafe under new management. You can play chess under a painting of a handsome egret perched over a deep inlet, or a giant collage of the Mona Lisa, the lady with the mystic charms. Lavender tulips stand gentle guard at the cash register. A raised back room holds other pictures and games, a retreat from your Hope Street highway to work.

You can hear Russia in the voices or accents of the people who run the Dunkin Donuts across from the bakery. The place is small, even intimate, and offers the comforts of its munchkins and its pink and orange welcome on your way home.

Miller's coffee room has the lovely perfume of pickles that waft you back to childhood. 729 Hope has other pleasant aromas, changes its gallery display, and moves its indoor trees so you really take a stroll among them with your coffee, greeting your friends who study their morning journals.

I often make my rendezvous at the Cafe La France, because it's right between the Avon and the College Hill Bookstore. It's hard to miss, with its yellow walls and large black and white checked tiles. Sometimes the

music has the dignity of baroque or the lyrical charm of the romantic. I hate it when servers just turn on a.m. radio and let shrill sounds shriek at you while you are trying to entertain serene thoughts or summon up a memory.

Starbucks is getting all geared up for an opening in the space beside the bus tunnel. How will it affect the rest of the community of cafes on the East Side?

Beans and Bags on East at Wickenden will still offer its upholstered privacy and quiet.

Coffee Exchange will hold on to its tradition of gathering journalists, poets, the up and coming and the down and out and everybody in between. Under a ceiling of fancy pots and pans and among burlap bins of coffee beans you sit and peruse a variety of alternative newsletters, listen to the Andrews Sisters, and touch base with people you know only by their first names, their style of greeting, their favorite table.

Still another bagel place promises to start up across from Exchange, where other cafes have come and gone in rapid succession.

I'm not leaving out anybody on purpose. I mean, Zog uses glass cups, not cardboard, and attracts teachers and artists to its inner sanctum.

I shop among the coffeehouses for the music that soothes, the chair that comforts, the view that intrigues.

Mostly, I enjoy exploring a new acquaintance or maintain-

ing an old acquaintance, with every cuppa.

Most recently, I sat with Adam, a hospitality student from J&W, who overheard me speaking of the *Jewish Herald*. He told me about the Jewish paper his parents subscribe to in another state.

"My dad is opening a bakery for dogs," he told me with a smile. Dogs have gone upscale across the country, and it's a good investment. But Adam is interested in Rhode Island's diner tradition, and hopes to host a convention of diner enthusiasts and historians.

"My ambition is to open a fine restaurant," he told me. I could picture him as a gracious host. "Any kind of restaurant is a risk. They have a short life. But they appeal to me."

Our meeting is brief. Adam is only on break from his post at the bookstore. From behind that raised counter, he takes note of my browsings. Now I can keep tabs on his student progress.

The cafes have really taken their place and changed Providence from a lonely town to a friendly town.

There's a low-key party going on from shortly after dawn all the way to just before midnight.

In the old movies you went from one night club to another among the glittering neons.

Here in our college community you move from one jolt of java to another, sharpening your wits, softening your mood, translating and sweetening your solitude.

## High School Election Predicts Labor/Peres Victory

by Gil Sedan and Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Right-wing Likud and Tsomet parties finished working on an agreement to run on a joint list in the forthcoming elections, as a mock vote at a high school that has accurately forecast Israeli political races for the last 20 years indicated the defeat of that coalition.

The mock election at Blich High School in the Tel Aviv suburb of Ramat Gan, gave a re-

sounding victory to the Labor Party and to Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

Peres got 61 percent of the vote to Netanyahu's 39 percent. Ninety-seven percent of eligible voters in the 11th and 12th grade participated in the ballot.

The mock vote is held every two years. In the past it predicted trends including the 1977 victory of Menachem Begin's Likud over Peres' Labor, and the return to power of Labor in 1992.

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# EDITORIAL

## What They Don't Know... Leaves Us Wondering

by Alison Smith  
Herald Editor

The following paragraph caught my eye as I read *Kids Love Israel*, by Barbar Sofer. "Because of Israel's dry climate, fires start easily. Please take special care to put out your campfires. Despite all of J. N. F.'s (The Jewish National Fund's) work, fires destroy as many trees as are planted, each year."

I read that last sentence several times. If this was the case, why did they (JNF) keep on planting expensive kindling? Shouldn't the organization dedicate 50 percent of its tree-planting income for a year or two to solving this problem? Does this sound like a situation that, if ignored, will cure itself in time? No way.

If Sofer was right, in her book, we might just as well set fire to our \$5 bills right here in Rhode Island, and save someone else the trouble of planting and replacing and replacing trees.

Maybe JNF is planting the wrong varieties of trees, or spacing them incorrectly, or should improve its forest fire fighting set-up and/or its meteorological network. Possibly, trying to create forestland in Israel is like creating golf courses in Arizona, doomed to eventual failure when the realities of the rainfall and aquifer in the area force themselves upon the population. Farmland—yes. (Who ever heard of a forest fire starting in and devastating an orange

grove, or a vinyard?) Forests, maybe no.

I called JNF headquarters to get the figures on the losses due to fire each year before I wrote anything on the subject.

The young woman who answered the call couldn't have been nicer. She was able to give me exact (to the tree) figures on how many were planted, by-the-acre, every year.

But when I asked how many were lost to fire, she was stumped, and said that she didn't know...that those figures weren't available...that last year had been a particularly bad year...that JNF had done such great work turning the desert into productive farm land.

All of which—about the farmland—may be true. But I found it incredible—literally—that she could not tell me how many acres of trees, or how many trees, were lost to fire each year.

Either she knew and could not say, or she didn't know, and should have.

The conversation left me feeling that this organization needed to be a lot more open to public scrutiny.

We were running some articles on interfaith marriages, a hot topic in every Jewish community in this country, and on the effects of interfaith marriage on the children of those marriages. I had seen statistics on how many of those children eventually ended up as members of the Jewish religious com-

munity, but at this particular time I did not have the exact percentage—there is a commonly used, commonly agreed upon figure.

So, not wishing to state as fact something I was recalling from memory, I asked members of the staff at the Jewish Family Services office in Providence to tell me what figure they had on that. They didn't have a figure.

Again I was left with the feeling that this organization needed to become more open with its supporters, of which we are one.

What they aren't willing, or able, to tell us is very significant. People mature and intelligent enough to make the money to support these institutions are mature and intelligent enough to handle the truth, and possibly even help with solutions to the problems.

It would be unfair to single out the JFS and the JNF as too prone to give the anxious inquirer the brush-off.

When we asked a staff member at the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island how many males and females held positions of authority in the federation—officers, board members, etc.—we were politely but briskly told that that information was not (and apparently never would be) available.

This, in spite of the fact that we initiated the conversation by stating, as was our conviction, that in gender authority issues, the local federation was acting in a more progressive fashion than many of the other federations we were reading about in other Jewish weeklies.

And when the dean of a local Hebrew day school left suddenly, with no fanfare beforehand or explanation afterwards, and we tried to find out why, we were given a run-around which was not all that polite.

Do you remember Ronald Reagan in the New Hampshire primaries grabbing and holding onto his microphone when someone tried to cut him off, and roaring, "I'm paying for this microphone!"

The enthusiastic cheering of the American people for Reagan that evening lasted all the way to his election day.

Well, you are paying for these institutions...the JNF, the JFS, the Federation, and the Jewish schools. Perhaps it's time to remind everyone of that fact.

## Israelis Must Search for Common Ground

by Abraham H. Foxman

Since the assassination of Israel's prime minister, there has been much focus on the attitudes which created the atmosphere leading to the tragic act. To the credit of numbers of Orthodox rabbinic leaders, both in Israel and in the United States, a process of soul-searching has been undertaken.

Rabbi Norman Lamm, president of Yeshiva University, has stressed that the Orthodox community examine what its institutions are teaching young people. And he indicated that his university would engage in a process of tolerance training.

Clearly, there are real issues that have to be addressed. Responsible leaders understand this, not out of concern about what others will say, but reflecting that the Orthodox community required it for its own well-being.

At the same time, a disturbing development has appeared in some circles outside the Orthodox community which can only be labeled as "Orthodox-bashing." Rather than helping the Orthodox seriously address a real problem of extremism, some individuals have used the tragedy as an excuse to smear the entire Orthodox world.

So it is said that Yigal Amir was no exception; that the rabbi who espoused violence and articulated poisonous rhetoric were not exceptions, and that these manifestations of extremism were a product of the essential thinking of Orthodoxy. This can only be termed group libel and must be rejected.

Several points need to be emphasized. First, there are significant and legitimate differences of opinion in Israel and the American Jewish community, not only with regard to political issues but also concerning the nature of Israeli society.

The cultural differences that exist are real and legitimate and must be respected as intrinsic to a strong democracy. The fact that many Orthodox Jews may hold views about the territories and the Jewish identity of the state which may be opposed to other perspectives is no reason to delegitimize or stereotype them, or to identify them with the extremists.

In light of the red-hot atmosphere generated as Israel moves toward difficult political decisions, and as a response to the great tragedy of the assassination, profound differences of perspective have come to the surface. It is necessary for all

parties to begin a process of conversation which can lead to resolution and acceptance of common ground for the Jewish state.

In particular, there are those Israelis who see Israel as a society which provides normalcy to the Jewish people. Recall that Herzl himself turned to Zionism out of his sense of the abnormal life of Jews in the diaspora, leading to anti-Semitism and demoralization. This urge to be a normal nation like all others underlies both the support for the peace process and the drive for material comforts which all observers of the Israeli scene note.

Other Israelis, many, but not only Orthodox, see Israel in terms of their sense of the uniqueness of the Jewish people. These individuals stress the 3,000-year connection of the Jewish people to the land of Israel. To them, Zionism is meaningless without this special character and it is not normalcy but uniqueness which lies at the core of Israel's identity.

These two vastly different perspectives can have immense consequences on views concerning peace-making, relations with the world and priorities for society. Efforts must now be made not only to voice one's opposition to name-calling and stereotyping of any group in Israeli society, but to develop significant programs to help Israelis appreciate varying views concerning the nature of Israeli society.

Those who look for Israel's uniqueness must recognize the drive for normalcy which compels the silent majority, a longing for a stable, quiet and easier existence, psychologically, militarily and financially.

Those who focus on normalcy must understand the urgent and legitimate attachment by many to Israel's Jewishness which has held our people together for thousands of years, which ultimately was the basis for the development of political Zionism, and which remains the strongest legitimizing of Israel's modern rebirth.

Developing this common ground will not happen overnight. The rise of extreme rhetoric and ultimately violence by some in the Orthodox community, followed by the Orthodox-bashing that has surfaced in too many circles demonstrates that there is no time to lose in beginning the process.

Abraham H. Foxman is national director of the Anti-Defamation League.

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EDITOR  
ALISON SMITH

ASSOCIATE EDITOR  
NEIL NACHBAR

CONTRIBUTING REPORTER  
MICHAEL FINK

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT REPS  
ERIN McCRONE  
THOMAS A. FLYNN

MAILING ADDRESS:  
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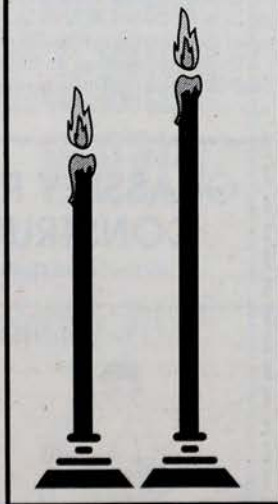
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### Candlelighting

Feb. 23, 1996

5:10 p.m.



Notice: The opinions presented on this page do not necessarily represent the opinions of this establishment.

## B'nai B'rith Blasts Newsweek

B'nai B'rith International President Tommy P. Baer today sent the following letter to Richard N. Smith, editor-in-chief and president, of *Newsweek*, in response to a headline in the magazine's Feb. 12 issue: "A New Kind of Blood Libel."

"Dear Mr. Smith, "Some malignant terms deserve to die. Blood libel is one of them.

"*Newsweek's* attempt to revive a two-week-old story on Ethiopian Jews also resuscitated

one of history's greatest slurs, a charge which has led to the deaths of untold Jews throughout the ages.

"Israel has acknowledged its error in its handling of blood donations from Ethiopian Jews. We hope that this will lead to better understanding between these immigrants and the government which has done so much to bring them from their diaspora and absorb them into Israeli society. Nothing in this story, how-

ever, justifies the use of a time-worn, horrific canard.

"This summer will mark the 50th anniversary of the massacre of 42 Holocaust survivors in the town of Kielce, Poland, after they were charged with ritual murder. *Newsweek's* headline desecrates their memory and the memory of other Jewish martyrs murdered because of this calumny.

"I trust that you will issue an explanation and an apology for this gross error of judgement."

## FEATURE

# Rabbi Preaches Tolerance to American Jews

by Cynthia Mann

NEW YORK (JTA) — Rabbi Yehuda Amital was on a mission recently when he met with the U.S. vice president, Jewish leaders and laypeople, rabbis, students and Christian clergy.

It was the 71-year-old Orthodox rabbi's first visit to the United States since he was appointed to the Israeli Cabinet after the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin.

To every audience, Amital preached tolerance and tried to demonstrate that Jewish law is not inconsistent with the peace process.

Amital is unequivocal about his view of Judaism's values: The primary value, which supersedes all others, is for human life, he said. Next in the hierarchy is Torah, and third comes land.

Amital explained his view in separate meetings with the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations; Catholic, Protestant and Russian Orthodox religious leaders; New York archbishop Cardinal John O'Connor; hundreds of Jews of all religious persuasions who came to hear him speak at an Orthodox synagogue in Manhattan; and students and faculty at Yeshiva University.

Amital told his listeners that "the prime minister asked me to be the minister for inspiration," and that is clearly how this minister without portfolio understands his role.

The elderly rabbi repeatedly said he is not a politician, though his diplomatic finesse belies the disclaimer.

By virtue of his "natural calling," he said, he is a teacher of Torah and head of Har Etzion, a yeshiva in the West Bank that he co-founded and that was the first

yeshiva to combine study with military service.

He also founded Meimad, the Movement for Religious Zionist Renewal, based on the principles of democracy and openness.

Amital, a Holocaust survivor whose family perished at Auschwitz, said he was asked by Prime Minister Shimon Peres to try to help heal the wounds Rabin's killing inflicted on Israel and the Jewish people.

He was asked, he said, to try to help narrow the bitter ideological and religious differences that yawned and threatened to "destroy the whole society."

In the end, it was his "obligation to represent Torah" that compelled him to serve, he said.

But the questions remain. "I ask myself, am I worthy to represent Torah?" Then, he answered: "I have no choice." Amital said he is serving, ultimately, to protest the "chillul haShem," or desecration of G-d's name, that took place when Rabin was assassinated by another Jew.

He is also seeking to protest the notion "that Torah means extremism, that Torah means you don't support the peace process."

In fact, "there is no contradiction between halachah and the peace process," he said, referring to Jewish law. "You may oppose the peace process, but don't say it's a question of halachah."

Amital seems eager to paint himself as a maverick, perhaps so he can win credibility as a fair arbiter in the midst of a conflict.

"I don't represent religious Jews because I wasn't sent" to the government "by religious Jews and I suspect that some of the religious people are really unhappy I am there," he said

with deliberate understatement and a wry smile.

Yet he does not always agree with the government.

He said he disagreed with the Israeli government's recent decision to ban Brooklyn Rabbi Abraham Hecht from entering the country because he allegedly poses a danger to the state.

Hecht had said Jewish law permits killing Israeli leaders who endanger Jewish lives by trading land for peace.

"I don't think he's dangerous," said Amital, adding that the government action is "a way to turn him into a hero."

**"You cannot bring the American way" of Judaism to Israel. "You must find the Israeli way. This is your main problem."**

Rabbi Yehuda Amital

Amital said he has no illusions that the Oslo accords, the term used for the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, would lead to an ideal peace, only that it is a "way to prevent more bloodshed."

Amital also describes his ministerial mandate as one of strengthening Jewish identity inside Israel as well as the relationship between Israel and diaspora Jews.

Amital said he was "moved" by how warmly "the secular community" in the United States received him, leading him to feel that this community believes that "Torah still has a relevant message."

This "gives me strength," he said.

In America, "even secular Jews believe that the Torah has a relevant message. The main problem in Israel today is Jewish identity, and Jewish identity means you have to dialogue with Torah," he told several hundred Jews who gathered to hear him speak Feb. 8 at Manhattan's Congregation Oheb Zedek.

Earlier that evening, about 250 Jews studied rabbinic texts on debate and tolerance with Reform, Conservative and Orthodox rabbis in the synagogue's basement — ironically the very same place where Hecht first announced that he was permissible, according to Jewish law, to assassinate a leader who endangered Jewish lives.

The rabbis who led the Torah study session have participated in regular joint dialogue and study sessions for the past four years under the aegis of the Jewish Community Center on New York's Upper West Side.

But when news of their recent joint session became public, the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada appealed to the Orthodox rabbis not to participate.

The 94-year-old organization, based on Manhattan's Lower East Side, has "close to 500 members," said its director, Rabbi Hersch Ginsberg, among them the heads of some of the most prestigious fervently Orthodox yeshivas in North America, as well as deans of Yeshiva University's rabbinical school.

The group's effort to get Orthodox Jews to withdraw from participating was not rooted in opposition to Amital, Ginsberg said.

"He's an Orthodox rabbi and a nice guy, so why not hear him speak?" said Ginsberg.

Instead, the group tried to convince Orthodox rabbis that it is prohibited by Jewish law for them to participate with non-Orthodox rabbis in any type of religious event.

But the effort seemed to have little impact.

The four New York Orthodox rabbis who usually participate in the dialogue came to the Amital event, and the response by Jews from the Upper West Side was visibly enthusiastic.

At most of his stops the rabbi was asked about efforts to win legal legitimacy for non-Orthodox streams of Judaism inside Israel.

He listened intently, sometimes to lengthy arguments about civil rights. Then he dismissed the idea, saying that the battle for religious pluralism should not be fought in the political realm, but among the people.

"Come to try to convince people to build [Conservative and Reform] synagogues," he said.

He said he supports the Conservative-supported school system in Israel and is against banning Conservative and Reform representatives on local religious councils.

He also clearly has empathy for those who would like Israel to officially embrace non-Orthodox Judaism as it does Orthodox. "I can understand, I can feel your frustration," he said.

Yet he warned his listeners that "you cannot bring the American way" of Judaism to Israel. "You must find the Israeli way. This is your main problem."

(JTA staff writer Debra Nussbaum Cohen contributed to this report.)

## Fiber Counts

According to Florine Mark, president and CEO of the Weight Watchers Group, Inc., "Limiting fat grams is an important key to weight reduction; however, doing only that may leave people short on nutrients. When you also focus on getting enough fiber, you're on the way to enhancing the quality of your life, and improving your health."

The average American adult consumes about 15 grams of fiber from grain, fruit and vegetable sources, while the recommended daily intake for fiber is 20 to 25 grams. "Boosting your fiber intake with whole grains, fruits and vegetables also means you'll be getting lots more vitamins and minerals that are essential to good health," said Mark. Each 10-gram increase in fiber consumption could result in a 20 percent decrease in coronary risk.

Fiber alone cannot protect against heart disease, but fiber can be considered as a component for the prevention of heart disease provided that dietary fat is also considered. Fiber has the ability to push more fat through the system so that it is not absorbed.

Dietary fiber also reduces absorption of cholesterol in the diet and the risk of colon cancer.

## Dear Office Staff

### Acts of Random Kindness at Alperin Schechter

Life at the Ruth and Max Alperin Schechter Day School recently has been sweetened by acts of random kindness throughout the school.

One such delightful project was conducted in grade three, where students wrote notes to the office staff, thanking them for their helpfulness. Here are some of their thoughts:

#### Dear Office Staff...

Thank you. When someone is hurt you give them an ice pack or when someone is sick. You give us crackers when we forget our lunch and that is so nice of you. Thank you when you let us use the phone. I like it when you smile.

Anna Siradze

Thanks for having my medicine just in case I eat peanuts. You always help anyone who needs something done for them. Knowing that you are there makes people feel safe.

Miriam Klein

You help us when we need help. I love the way you're patient. Thank you for your kindness. I remember when you let me use the telephone when I needed to use the phone to get my lunch. Thank you for printing the *Shavuon!*

Hannah Bergman

Thank you for being there when I forget my lunch and for letting me call my mom. Thank you for helping me when I fall and hurt myself or when I fall in mud and need a new pair of pants. You are always there for us and in a great mood too.

Mollie Goodwin

Thank you for giving me dry pants the day I fell in a puddle. And I love when we get delicious pasta lunches. Thank you for always checking me in when I'm late. Every day you are answering questions, taking temperatures and giving people crackers when they forget to bring lunch. How do you do it so patiently?

Hannah Pitt

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## Another Bridge for Profoundly Deaf

A cochlear implant is a surgically implanted device that bypasses a damaged inner ear, allowing the recipient to understand speech and sound again.

Many severe-to-profoundly hearing-impaired people are not aware that there is an alternative to deafness for those who have difficulty understanding conversations without lipreading, or who have trouble hearing speech on the telephone.

The FDA has recently released the Nucleus 22 to an extended range of hearing-impaired adults.

Those who are severe-to-profoundly hearing-impaired with limited hearing aid benefit can

now take advantage of this technology.

More than 12,000 hearing-impaired adults and children worldwide have received the Nucleus 22 Channel Cochlear Implant already.

If you, or someone you know, might benefit from knowing more about Cochlear implants, call the Cochlear hotline. It offers free background information about the device, eligibility criteria, and a list of medical centers in the United States, with qualified implant teams. The hotline number, 1-800-458-4999 (Voice) 1-800-483-3123 (TDD), operates weekdays from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Eastern Time.

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# THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

## Temple Torat Yisrael Announces 1996 Scholar Weekend

Temple Torat Yisrael has announced that Rabbi Shalom Paul, professor of Bible at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, will be the 1996 Siperstein Family Scholar-in-Residence from March 1 to 3.

Paul's topic will be "Sparks Beneath the Surface: The Bible and Us."

The Bible is the central repository of Jewish wisdom and learning. But sometimes readers are unable to see the "trees for the forest." Too often, Paul believes, they see the Torah as a whole, as a sometimes indecipherable mass, and miss seeing and feeling the sparks that lie just beneath the surface, which can illuminate and transform our lives.

Paul has spent his adult life unearthing these latent sparks and helping students around the world understand the Torah.

In three presentations, Paul

will discuss what the Bible says (using as sources familiar Torah stories) and lead his listeners to understand how much more there is to know.

Paul's first presentation will be on March 1, during the congregation's 8 p.m. Shabbat service.

Entitled "The Genesis of Genesis," it will seek to answer the questions: How did the Bible come into being? What are some of its most striking concepts? With Paul's guidance the audience will explore the uniqueness of biblical thought in the light of the latest archaeological findings.

The second presentation will follow a Shabbat Kiddush luncheon (reservations are required), and will be titled "Response and Responsibility: A Stroll in the Garden."

Paul will shed new light on the story of Adam and Eve by

showing that the Garden of Eden is really related to our own lives today.

The third presentation will be given on March 3 at a 9 a.m. breakfast. The subject will be: "Jerusalem: Eternity in Space."

As Jerusalem celebrates its 3,000th birthday, Paul will explain how and why Jerusalem became the heart and soul of Judaism. Looking at this extraordinary city through the prism of the Bible, we will better grasp its inspirational origins.

Attendance at the lectures is free. The lunch and breakfast meals require a prepaid reservation of \$3 per meal per person, or \$5 for both meals, to be received at the Torat Yisrael office at 330 Park Ave. in Cranston, no later than Feb. 26. Children 13 and under are free.

For additional information, call the temple office at 785-1800.

## 10 Years Before the Peace Corps or VISTA Began

There was AJSS

by Jean Herschaft

There are organizations that continually hold what amount to pep rallies to keep their volunteers motivated, but the American Jewish Society for Service isn't one of them.

AJSS volunteers go to areas devastated by nature or by poverty and help the inhabitants repair and rebuild.

Jewish high school juniors and seniors furnish the sweat and muscle and are mentored by couples during the seven-week summer camp sessions that resound with hammer and saw.

AJSS co-founder Henry Kohn said, "Hammers, nails, paint brushes, cement trowels are the tools the campers use under the auspices of area social groups to build/repair housing, parks, and playgrounds for the disadvantaged, of all colors, creeds and nationalities."

"Each project is supervised by a couple, usually teachers, who have the summer free; a male and a female counselor, directing the 16 campers.

"It's a sense of service, a motivation, the campers apply to us for," he added, a true sense of what Judaism is all about, a service that is tikun olam.

"Work camping started in 1920, but Judaism was losing vibrant young people to other faiths because Judaism in America was not offering a similar experience under Jewish auspices.

"Thus, in 1949, in Indianapolis, three rabbis: Ferdinand M. Isserman, Arthur Lelyveld, Isadore Hoffman and myself met and formed yet another Jewish organization — The American Jewish Society for Service. It filled the vital missing gap. In 1950 we held our initial meeting at Temple Emanu-El in New York City."

Three of this year's crop of

campers gave, perhaps, the best definition of what AJSS work camp means to them.

"We have given families new living conditions, and have, therefore, impacted upon their lives. In the hot, dry Arizona desert we have given a community hope. We have set a new standard and outlook in which teenagers are viewed as more than unstable selfish adolescents. We have shown the world that ideals can be made into realities, gives people the opportunity to choose, and gives ourselves the opportunity to grow. And we have all acted upon that opportunity."

Kohn, a successful corporate attorney who has served as president of the 92nd St. Y; an active Temple Emanu-El member announced that next year a project in Manhattan will be tackled. And he spoke with hope and confidence that by year 2000, AJSS will have reached its \$1 million fund-raising goal.

In 1995, AJSS campers worked in Maine, Arizona and Oklahoma.

The camping fee for each applicant accepted is \$2,000; it costs AJSS \$4,000 per camper, with scholarships offered to the needy.

There are several hundred applicants for the 48 posts, covering three major projects each summer. In 1950, at its inception, the fee was \$10, cost \$20 per person, Kohn said.

The address for application is 1029-15 East 26 St., New York, N.Y. 10010.

Kohn, described some whom AJSS has served:

"Some examples may hint at the wide scope. We have served poor rural whites and blacks; indigent migrant farm workers; interracial children's camps; disadvantaged Chicanos; emotionally disturbed Jewish children in a treatment center in New York; flood victims in Connecticut and tornado victims in Ohio and the blind of Israel, at a seeing-eye dog center.

"I have visited the 102 location projects (at his own expense), in the past 45 years."



Pamela Ross

Photo courtesy of the Leventhal-Sidman JCC

## Leventhal-Sidman JCC Presents 'goodbye, harry'

Pamela Ross, both an accomplished actress and acclaimed concert pianist (Baldwin Piano Concert Artist), will present her one-woman memory play "goodbye, harry" at the Leventhal-Sidman Jewish Community Center, 333 Nahanton St., Newton Centre, on Feb. 24 at 8 p.m. and on Feb. 25 at 2 p.m.

In this heartfelt memory play, Ross gives a loving and joyous musical tribute to a most unusual man: her father.

Harry Ross, a self-taught artist, musician who loved not only the classics, but jazz and contemporary music as well, was a dentist by trade and a man with a quick mind who instilled in his daughter a delicious sense of comedy and a love for music and theatre.

Combining theatre and classical, jazz and contemporary music, this touching and often hilarious concert/play includes favorites by Rachmaninoff, Chopin, Gershwin, Garner, Berlin and boogie woogie.

Pamela Ross has performed with some of the greatest conductors of our time including Arthur Fiedler, Jorge Mester and Gustav Meier. A recording artist with two Chopin albums and a disc on the Connoisseur Society Label of piano music by Robert Schumann, Ross is engaging as a recitalist and piano soloist throughout the country.

Tickets are \$16 general admission; \$14 seniors and students. Call the JCC box office at (508) 965-5226 for ticket reservations and information.

## Weizmann Institute Hosts 'Global Gathering' Weekend

Leaders of science, industry and philanthropy from all over the world will meet later this month, in support of the Weizmann Institute of Science, as the American Committee hosts a "Global Gathering" in Palm Beach, Fla.

The Global Gathering is a weekend conference, from Feb. 29 to March 3, devoted to the environment.

Opening with a twilight dinner cruise with noted Weizmann Institute paleoceanographer Professor Aldo Shemesh, the program includes a presentation by Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., Ken Wiwa — son of Ken Saro-Wiwa, the recently executed Nigerian writer and environmentalist who received the

Goldman Environmental Prize — and the United States astronaut, Dr. Ellen Baker.

Professors Avigdor Scherz and Yehuda Mazur of the Weizmann Institute, will discuss "Channeling the Environment Towards Greater Health."

The keynote address will be presented by the United States secretary of the interior, Bruce Babbitt at a gala on March 2.

The Weizmann Institute of Science, in Rehovot, Israel, is one of the world's foremost centers of scientific research and graduate study. Its 2,400 scientists, students, technicians and engineers pursue basic research in the quest of knowledge and the enhancement of the human condition.

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# THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

## Rabbi Leslie Gutterman Visits the Middle East

A delegation of 55 Reform rabbis under the auspices of the Association of Reform Zionists of America, recently traveled to the Middle East to express their strong support for the peace process. Rhode Island was represented by Rabbi Leslie Gutterman of Temple Beth-El in Providence.

The tour, which took the rabbis to Israel, Egypt, Jordan and the areas under Palestinian autonomy, coincided with the Palestinian elections on Jan. 20.

From Cairo, the rabbis continued their trip with stops in Amman, Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

ARZA serves as the official representative in North

America's Reform Jewish community for all issues pertaining to Israel and Zionism, as well as the official voice for all matters related to Reform Judaism in Israel.

While in Israel, they clarified to Prime Minister Peres, as well as the leader of the opposition, Benjamin Netanyahu, that their backing for the peace process would continue unabated, and irrespective of other issues. Nonetheless, they expressed their deep concern with widespread reports that the government has already agreed to Orthodox demands to overturn recent Supreme Court decisions favorable to non-Orthodox movements.

## Raising Jewish Children to be Jewish

Temple Beth-El, in conjunction with Jewish Family Service, will host a discussion group to explore issues of intermarriage, and to provide support to parents in their quest to raise a Jewish child.

The group will consider what Jewish values are, and ways to inculcate them in Jewish children. The program will probably include some lively discussion as group members struggle to clarify their thoughts and feelings. It should be enlightening to share ideas and discover that one is not alone in his or her struggle.

The program will be led by Julie Gutterman, MSW, CFSW, LICSW, clinical director at Jewish Family Service. It will meet at Temple Beth-El from 7 to 8 p.m. on five Wednesday evenings, beginning on Feb. 28.

The program is open to the community. There is a registration fee of \$10 per family. Registration may be made by phone or mail, or on the night of the opening session. Advanced registration is recommended as class size is limited.

For further information, call the temple office at 331-6070.

## Jewish Family Service Offers 'Separation and Divorce' Series

A free orientation session for a six-part workshop on Separation and Divorce will be held on Feb. 29 at 6 p.m. at Jewish Family Service, 229 Waterman St., Providence.

This support group is for people who have recently been separated or divorced and who wish to learn ways of coping with the experience of being single again.

Individuals will work through the many emotions that

accompany the end of a marriage, and learn to handle issues such as their children's reactions, dealing with the ex-spouse, and dating.

The first session is a free orientation meeting where the group will have the opportunity to provide input on the issues they wish to explore and their preferences for scheduling.

There will be a \$60 fee for the remaining six sessions. Those who need to make special financial arrangements should call the agency.

Pre-registration is required. To register, or for more information, call Sandra Haas, at 331-2244.

## Temple Beth-El Presents 'The Megillah on Broadway'

Temple Beth-El will present "The Megillah on Broadway," featuring familiar and favorite Broadway show tunes with new and improved lyrics suitable for Purim, on March 4 at 6:30 p.m., at the temple.

Written by New York composer Norman Roth, this show tells the story of Esther in a totally new way.

There will be the play, a Megillah reading, a costume parade, prizes and refreshments. This event is suitable for all ages, and is open to all.

For further information, call the temple at 331-6070.

## AJC Criticizes 'Irresponsible' Charge of Anti-Semitism

The Metropolitan Region of the American Jewish Congress has labeled as "irresponsible" Councilman Noach Dear's charge that the Transit Authority and Transport Workers Union are anti-Semitic because of their alleged refusal to accommodate the Sabbath observance of Orthodox Jewish bus drivers.

How to accommodate religious workers in a seven-day a week 24-hour-a-day transit operation is a complex question, whose resolution is made more difficult by needlessly injecting the issue of anti-Semitism, the AJCongress said.

"Whatever else may be said about the stubborn refusal of the New York City Transit Authority and the Transport Workers Union to make even the most nominal efforts to accommodate Sabbath observers of various faiths — a policy AJCongress is presently challenging in the New York City Court of Appeals on behalf of a Seventh Day Adventist — that policy is not anti-Semitic," declared Howard Teich, president of the

AJCongress Metropolitan Region.

"Councilman Noach Dear's charge that the policy is anti-Semitic is irresponsible, and detracts from the real issues presented by the TA and TWU's policy."

"The charge of anti-Semitism is a powerful one," Teich said. "It will retain that power only so long as its use is confined to real instances of unthinking hatred of Jews, and not used as a way of exploiting religious tensions."

The problem arose, explained Teich, because "most operating jobs in the Transit Authority are parceled out on a strict seniority basis. The Transit Worker's Union refuses to allow employees with seniority to swap shifts with less senior employees who need specific days off to observe their Sabbath. Although this is a doubtful interpretation of its contract with the TA," said Teich, "that agency has not challenged the union's extreme and rigid interpretation of the contract, preferring to appease the union rather than insist on a

reading which would allow at least some accommodation while protecting employee seniority."

Seventh Day Adventists as well as Jews are affected by this policy, Teich noted, and the AJCongress has taken a case involving Seventh Day Adventists — Myers v. N.Y.C. TA — to the New York Court of Appeals.

"One can regard the TA's position as unlawful and insensitive — as we do — without believing that it is anti-Semitic," declared Teich.

"The charge of anti-Semitism generated headlines for Councilman Dear, and no doubt will also add to the already too-high level of ethnic and religious conflict in the city. It sheds no light whatever on the legitimate issues at stake in the TA's and TWU's position.

The debasement of the coin of anti-Semitism for personal partisan advantage should concern all who are truly committed to the well-being of Jews."

## Temple Beth-El Mantle Exhibited

In 1987, the Temple Beth-El Fine Arts Committee commissioned Ina Golub to create new Torah mantles and reading stand covers for the synagogue and the chapel.

Golub also created a new ark curtain and valence for the synagogue at that time, using a technique of appliqué and stitchery.

The Torah mantle designed for use in Temple Beth-El's chapel has been included in a retrospective exhibition of Golub's work at Yeshiva University Museum in Manhattan which will run until July 31.

The exhibit, "The Work of

the Weaver in Colors," includes Torah mantles, wedding canopies, wall hangings, prayer shawls and ceremonial objects. The artist incorporated a variety of techniques in her work, including tapestry, handweaving, appliqué, quilting, stitchery, beadwork and fabric painting.

The pieces are on loan from 15 synagogues and 17 private collections from around the country and from the artist's own collection.

Golub's designs are inspired by the varied forms of nature and the effect of light on shape

and form. The concept of light plays an important role in Judaism and in her work, and she attempts to capture this quality in her textiles by her juxtaposition of color and texture.

Temple Beth-El is grateful to all those who supported the temple's Fine Arts Fund, which made the temple's commission of Golub's work possible.

## Crafters Wanted

Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., in Cranston, will be holding an arts and crafts fair on May 5.

Artisans who have woodwork, paintings, jewelry, designer clothing etc. to exhibit and sell are asked to call Barbara Dwares, at 943-1532 for more information.

## Metro West Invites You

There will be a program of entertainment, music, dancing, arts and crafts, workshops, great food, Passover shopping and information about Jewish agencies serving the Metro West Jewish community, on March 17 at the Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel in Marlboro, Mass. This event will be fun for the whole family. Admission is \$3 for adults; \$2 for seniors and children under 12.

For more information, call (508) 879-3300.

The Metro West Jewish Community Center, the sponsoring organization, is a service of the Jewish Community Centers of

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# SCHOOLBEAT



## URI Hillel Is Jammin' and Hammin'

From Feb. 27 to March 13, URI students are participating in Jewish Awareness Month (JAM), an international Hillel project designed to give campuses an opportunity to celebrate Jewish life through diverse, dynamic student activities and events.

Joining with 100 other campuses throughout North America in this celebration, URI Hillel is complementing JAM with Hillel Awareness Month (HAM) by planning a variety of activities titled to play off the "trief" theme of the pig.

The HAM and JAM programs are intermingled into an intense three-week period of events ranging from a student-led Purim Megillah reading to a Pigs in a Blanket Night (all-night movie marathon), Hamantaschen Bake-ins in the residence halls to cooking and serving dinner at the Welcome House.

Highlights of URI's JAM and HAM include:

- Beah' Achon: Jewish a capella;
- Hamming it Up: A night of comedy with Moshe Waldoks;
- Purim JAM: Purim party;
- Pig Out and Dance: Israeli

buffet and dancing.

"The purpose of HAM and JAM at the University of Rhode Island is to create different opportunities for Jewish students to explore, discover and strengthen their Jewish identities and enhance their connection to other Jewish students at URI," said Ailene Gerhardt, staff coordinator of HAM and JAM '96 and the University of Rhode Island's Jewish Campus Service Corps Fellow.

"JAM and HAM also aims to share the richness and diversity of the Jewish heritage with the entire campus community

through campus-wide public events."

URI students organizing JAM and HAM events are enthusiastic about their upcoming programs.

"JAM and HAM will have a huge impact on our campus. I think students here will see URI Jewish life and URI Hillel in a new and exciting way," said Leon Rosen, student coordinator of HAM and JAM '96.

For questions or more information on this month of programs hitting the land of the Ram, call the HAM and JAM hotline at 874-2740.

## Performing Arts Camp Offered at RIC This Summer

Rhode Island College is offering a Performing Arts Camp this summer for a three-week period in July for grade-school students ages 11 to 16 (grades seven to 11).

The camp, in which participants will be immersed in all the performing arts including theatre, music and dance, will run from July 8 to 26 on the RIC campus.

Daily sessions will be 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and will utilize such facilities as Roberts Little Theatre, Roberts Recital Hall, the dance studios and classrooms in the Recreation Center, Gaige Hall, and Roberts Hall auditoriums: the sites of professional and RIC student performances during the academic year.

Students must provide for their own brown-bag lunches or may make use of the Donovan Dining Center on campus to purchase lunches.

Tuition cost is \$300, plus a \$20 non-refundable application fee. Scholarships are available for needy and deserving students, said theatre professor

Edward A. Scheff, with particular emphasis being placed on the needs of students in the metropolitan area.

Scheff said the sponsors of the camp — the departments of theatre/dance and music — are asking teachers to identify students who would like to attend but can't afford to.

Accordingly, RIC is looking for sponsors from the business community who will help deserving students who could not afford to attend without financial assistance.

On the third Friday of camp, families, friends and scholarship sponsors of the campers will be invited to a performance in Roberts Hall auditorium at which students will display their skills and talents.

Enrollment is limited to 30 students, so early application is encouraged.

Those interested should contact Scheff for further information and application materials by calling 456-8639 or writing to him at the Department of Theatre and Dance, Rhode Island College, Providence, RI 02908.

## Emmy Award-Winning Actor to Recreate MLK Performance

"MLK: We Are the Dream" won Al Eaton an Emmy award in 1986 for his portrayal on CBS of the slain Civil Rights leader and four fictional characters who could have lived during that watershed era in American history.

Now Eaton will recreate that performance at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth on Feb. 29 at 7 p.m. in the main auditorium. Admission is free.

The performance is part of the university's celebration of

Black History Month. For further information, telephone (508) 999-8009.

"MLK: We Are the Dream" is a powerful and moving portrait of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the historical impact of his non-violent activism on the Civil Rights Movement. Al Eaton recreates many of King's most famous speeches with stunning accuracy and gives what has to be one of the most realistic portrayals of King ever.

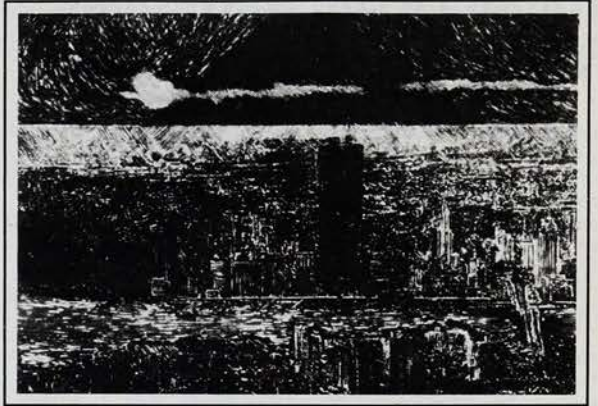
## M.S. Essay Scholarships Available

More than \$16,000, in 10 college scholarships, is available to high school sophomores, juniors and seniors through a nationwide essay competition sponsored by the Multiple Sclerosis Association of America.

Now in its third year, MSAA's "Project Learn MS" '96 encourages students to write a 500- to 1,000-word essay on MS, its effects on the family,

and how society can improve life for the physically challenged. All essays must include an official registration form, \$7.50 in prepaid sponsorship, and must be postmarked by May 27.

Information on the competition is available through local high school guidance offices or by calling MSAA at (800) LEARN-MS.



**DARK IMAGERY** — Judith K. Brodsky's exhibition offers a profound look at northern New Jersey's industrial landscape.

Photo courtesy of RISD

## Judith K. Brodsky Exhibition Reveals Industrial Landscape

A series of 15 large-scale color lithographs which explore the landscape and ecology of northern New Jersey with profound historical insight and whimsy will be on view at the Museum of Art, Rhode Island School of Design from Feb. 23 through April 28.

The exhibition, entitled "Judith K. Brodsky: The Meadowlands Strike Back" is a narrative sequence using images from the northern New Jersey industrial wastelands of oil refineries, highways, air and sea ports.

According to Judith K. Brodsky, this series "is the result of her commuting on the New Jersey Turnpike for eight years." She wrote, "As I was

driving up and down the turnpike, the imagery of the refineries, the garbage mountains, and the ports impinged on my consciousness."

In "The Meadowlands Strike Back," Brodsky's images of the environment are metaphors for her view of life, decay, death, and potential salvation. Her works reflect complex cultural concerns by confronting the intellectual, social and political issues of our time.

Museum visitors will have an opportunity to meet the artist during an open house scheduled for Feb. 25, from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Museum of Art, RISD's upper Farago Gallery.

## ORT Announces Young Leadership Mission to Israel

Women's American ORT will be hosting a 10-day mission to Israel from April 25 to May 6 for young leaders (maximum age 45), their families and friends.

Heading this venture will be Suellen Kadis, of Cleveland, and Laurie R. Schacher of New York City.

The 1996 Young Leadership Mission will travel throughout Israel, touring sites of interest, experiencing the country's culture and heritage, and visiting ORT schools and facilities. Participants will have an opportunity to visit and speak with students and faculty at the various ORT institutions.

Kadis has been president of

Women's American ORT's Cleveland Leadership Round Table since 1993.

She is a member of the Cleveland Jewish Community Federation women's cabinet and a graduate of the Mandel Leadership Symposium.

Schacher has been president of the New York CitiWomen Chapter of Women's American ORT since 1993, and also serves on the organization's National Speakers Bureau.

For further information on the 1996 mission, contact Women's American ORT, 315 Park Ave. South, New York, N.Y. 10010, (212) 505-7700, ext. 244.

## 'What's so Funny About Science?'

Sidney Harris, freelance cartoonist whose work has appeared in such diverse publications as *Barron's*, *The New Yorker*, *Discover*, *Science*, and *Punch* will visit the University of Rhode Island on Feb. 28.

The occasion is the annual dinner of the URI Chapter of Sigma Xi, a national honor society for science students. Harris will be the featured speaker. About 20 new members will be inducted into the society.

Harris' talk is entitled "What's so funny about science?" No doubt participants will quickly learn that the answer is Sidney Harris. The

cartoonist's lighthearted sketches have adorned bulletin boards and refrigerator doors around the world, including the boards and doors of scientists at URI.

About a third of his 18 cartoon books have been about science. Since 1985, a traveling exhibit of his science cartoons and paintings has made the rounds of numerous museums throughout the country.

The latest book by Harris, filled with cartoons about the environment, is due any day in local bookstores. It's called *There Goes the Neighborhood*.

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# SCHOOLBEAT



## JNF on Campus Sponsors Eco-Zionism Conference

Jewish college and graduate students who want to be environmentally active by fostering love for Israel and the importance of caring for Ha'Aretz, The Land, can join their peers at the first ever Eco-Zionism Conference in Tucson, Ariz., from March 22 through 24.

The conference is sponsored by the Jewish National Fund's JNF on Campus division, which provides college students with information about "Eco-Zionism" and promotes Jewish environmental awareness. Co-sponsors of the conference include the coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life, the International Arid Lands Consortium, The University of Arizona Hillel and Arizona State University Hillel.

At the conference, students will "study Torah and flora while hiking in the mountains," said Aliza Kline, JNF on Campus' national coordinator.

The program will feature talks by experts from the IALC on desert ecology in America and Israel; a tour of the acclaimed Biosphere 2; an "Eco-

shabbat" in the glorious Arizona landscape; a meeting with Native Americans who share the same environmental ethics; a briefing on Israeli-Arab cooperation on protecting the Middle Eastern environment, and training in JNF campus leadership skills.

The cost of the Eco-Zionism Conference, including all programs, room and meals, is \$75.

Participants will stay in cabins at the Triangle Y Ranch Camp, located in Oracle, Ariz., 40 miles north of Tucson. Attendees must bring their own bedding (sleeping bags are suggested). All food will be vegan and strictly kosher. Free transportation will be provided from the Phoenix and Tucson airports on Friday afternoon.

Travel to Arizona is not included in the fee. Subsidies may be available; consult the local Hillel professional or JNF office.

For applications, contact Aliza Kline, (212) 879-9300, ext. 330, or send e-mail to jnfoncamp@aol.com.

## Seminary Students Celebrate Sabbath All Over North America

As candles are lit across North America on Feb. 23, a special Shabbat will begin.

Students from the Jewish Theological Seminary will have traveled all over the United States and to Canada to join synagogue communities for National Seminary Shabbat, a weekend of learning and celebration. More than 100 synagogues are participating in this unusual program linking JTS students with the Conservative Jewish community.

"So many people are left out of the seminary experience," remarked Michael Beals, a

fourth-year rabbinical student from southern California. "JTS is a special place where we daven, eat, study, and socialize together. Seminary Shabbat provides an opportunity for synagogue communities to have a taste of this supportive environment and share the love of learning and day-to-day living that embody Conservative Judaism."

"Seminary Shabbat gives students exposure to real life in real shuls, often in areas unfamiliar to the students. It is also an eye-opener for synagogue members, because they get exposure to the kind of person who attends the seminary now," noted Rebecca Jacobs, director of donor relations and coordinator of the program.

In some areas, seminary Shabbat are being held on other dates.

## BCC Hosts Exhibit

Bristol Community College will hold an exhibit featuring paintings and drawings by Ron Lister, associate professor of art, and partner Marilyn Triangolo.

While they both have a similar style, Triangolo enjoys drawing and painting figures and landscapes. Lister describes himself as "a 20th-century artist who enjoys going from realist to contemporary."

One part of the show will be Triangolo's more than 100 pieces of full-size figure paintings.

In another feature of the show, Lister and Triangolo will present interpretations of the same objects, as seen through their own perspectives.

Opening day is March 1 in the Arts Center and will extend until March 20.

For any additional information, contact Lister at (508) 578-2811, ext. 2256.

Announce your child's birth in the Herald

## Gender Biases Profoundly Affect Academic Development

by Kimberly Miller

Brandeis University News Bureau

Gender biases in Jewish day schools can profoundly affect the academic and personal development of students and their involvement in Jewish life, according to participants at a first-of-its kind conference held Feb. 13 at Brandeis University.

"By age 3, children begin to play and react according to their stereotyped gender role," said Judy Avnery, a specialist in educational media and technology. "Teachers repeatedly challenge the boys, confirming their knowledge, while girls are being awarded for their neatness, not content."

More than 200 women and men involved with Jewish educational organizations gathered for the first time to address issues of gender inequality in Jewish day schools.

Participants evaluated classroom teaching styles, and the use of language in biblical texts, to generate gender awareness in Jewish education. Participants at the conference, titled "Exploring Issues of Gender and Jewish Day School Education (kindergarten to 8)," included experts in religious education, psychology, social work, Jewish studies, philosophy and gender studies.

"This conference is about tikkun olam (repairing the world) and derech eret (decent behavior)," said Aliza Arzt of

the Solomon Schechter Day School. "It is our job to recognize the implications of gender, how it shapes our lives in such a critical way, and to fix what is broken in our world."

The conference was organized by the Women's Studies Program and community volunteers. It was structured into 12 workshops where groups of

"This conference is about tikkun olam (repairing the world) and derech eretz (decent behavior)."

Aliza Arzt

15 to 20 people discussed topics ranging from language and prayer, dialogue between boys and girls, teaching gender sensitivity in the study of biblical texts, and how gender shapes our lives.

Blu Greenberg from CLAL (The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership) and Harry Brod from the University of Delaware agreed that gender issues affect both men and women. "A difficult task is before the community," Greenberg said,

## 'So What Do You Think?'

"So What Do You Think?" Give your opinion on some of the latest books at a book discussion group for boys and girls in grades three through six at the William Hall Library, 1825 Broad St.

Enjoy movies, role-playing,

"we must generate gender awareness while maintaining gender distinctiveness."

Shulamit Reinharz, professor of sociology and director of the Women's Studies Program at Brandeis, cited the unprecedented nature of the conference's bringing together all branches of the Jewish community.

"This is a celebration of our ability to work together as feminists, educators and members of the Jewish community," she said. "Gender awareness does not divide us; it brings us together."

The conference was held in memory of Sidney Baum, a businessman within Chicago's Jewish community, who led a group of women in Torah study for almost 30 years. Members of Baum's group raised seed money to create the conference in his memory. A dozen other individuals and foundations helped sponsor the conference as well.

A book reporting on all the issues discussed during the conference will be available soon. For further information, contact Lisa Gay, (617) 736-3042.

## The Dinosaurs Are Singing in Wayland Square

Books on the Square will feature a program by Fishel Bresler, storyteller and musician, on Feb. 25, from 2 to 3 p.m.

This program is designed for children ages 3 to 8 and their families. Everyone will learn how to make dinosaur music. Children can bring their own musical instruments or use one of Bresler's. The program is free and open to the public.

Books on the Square is located at 471 Angell St. in Wayland Square, Providence. Call 331-9097 for more information.



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# THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IN CUBA

## Long-Dormant Jewish Community Comes Back to Life

by Kenneth Bandler

HAVANA (JTA) — Located barely 90 miles from the United States, Cuba has for more than three decades been virtually cut off from the rest of the Jewish world.

Before the 1959 revolution that brought Fidel Castro to power, Cuba boasted a vibrant Jewish community of 15,000, with an array of Jewish institutions and Zionist organizations.

In the community's heyday, there were five Jewish elementary schools, one Jewish high school and five synagogues in the Cuban capital of Havana — the oldest a Sephardi synagogue dating from 1914.

Today, the Cuban Jewish community — numbering some 2,000 — is a mix of Sephardi Jews who came mainly from Turkey in the early part of this century and Ashkenazi Jews who mostly arrived as refugees from Europe before and during World War II.

Support for Castro was nearly universal among the Jews when he overthrew the dictator Fulgencio Batista.

But within two years, after Castro declared Cuba an atheis-

tic state, nationalized businesses and other properties, and introduced communism, some 12,000 Jews joined thousands of other Cubans fleeing the country.

Most of the Jews landed in southern Florida. Others went to Mexico and Venezuela.

"Most Jews thought they cannot raise their children as Jews," said Adela Dworin, vice president of the Jewish community in Havana. "They feared civil war. Living only 90 miles from the United States, they believed it was impossible for Cuba to survive without the help of the U.S."

Among the Jews who fled were most of the community's leaders, all its rabbis and teachers, and many who had lost businesses.

In Miami, the continuing hatred of Castro is just as strong among Jews from Cuba as it is in the general exile community.

"They believe that any Jew who stayed in Cuba was a socialist or communist," said Raquel Scheck, a Cuban Jew from Miami who recently visited Havana for the first time since leaving in 1961.

That view explains why the remnant community in Cuba re-

mains virtually cut off from Cubans living in the United States.

"Very few Cuban Jews in Miami support Jews in Cuba," said Dr. Jose Miller, the longstanding president of the Jewish community in Cuba.

Among the Jews who stayed, only a minority maintained any involvement with Judaism. Most of the community drifted away from religious life, and intermarriage was widespread.

The Patronato could barely muster a minyan, though a number of Jewish families continued to observe Shabbat and major holidays in their own homes, even though candles, bread and other supplies were scarce.

For Passover, Jews relied on packages sent from abroad, particularly from the Canadian Jewish Congress, which had access because Canada maintained ties with Cuba.

Still, Jews in Cuba could get kosher meat, a fact many point to as a sign of the absence of anti-Semitism in Cuba.

A visitor to Cuba today finds a long-dormant Jewish community coming back to life with vigor.

The revival of Jewish communal life stems in large part from a 1991 law passed by the Cuban National Assembly that allows Cubans to be members of the Communist Party and to participate in religious associations.

For more than 30 years, the daily minyan usually consisted of seven elderly men and three Torah scrolls placed in chairs in a small chapel, Miller said.

Today, 60 percent of the 100 people who come regularly on Shabbat to the main sanctuary are "youngsters," he said.

When the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee began to work with the Cuban Jewish community after the 1991 law was passed, the Patronato sanctuary — not used for more than three decades — was in serious disrepair.

Today, after JDC representatives led a clean-up effort, the large sanctuary is functional, though the many rows of individual cushioned seats are well-worn and numerous ceiling tiles are missing. Because of broken windows, a hat and sunglasses are in order during Shabbat morning services.

Still, the decorative pulpit and the congregation's gold-trimmed china set, with dinner plates bearing "Patronato" in gold lettering, are reminiscent of a more glorious period in the history of this grand synagogue that had barely passed its bar mitzvah year when the revolution occurred.

But for Alberto Senderey, who initiated the JDC's Cuba program, the state of the building is not the main concern.

What is more important is "investing heavily in the people," said Senderey.

During the past four years, the JDC, which assists Jewish communities worldwide, has brought in rabbis, teachers and youth leaders from Argentina to help Cuban Jews rebuild their community.

In December, an exuberant Jewish community celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Patronato.

The Patronato, which remains the center of Jewish activity in the Cuban capital, is indeed bustling.

About 150 students — ranging in age from 4 to 60 — attend Sunday school classes that, be-

cause of a lack of space, are held in the sanctuary's balcony.

In the building's only classroom, 12 young boys are training for their bar mitzvahs. Organizations that meet regularly include local affiliates of Hadassah and B'nai B'rith.

All the teachers today are Cuban, and some of them are university students who completed a seven-month "madrich," or leadership training, course in Cuba.

At Havana's university, there are about 100 Jewish students, said Liver Maya, 21, who recently completed the leadership course.

Most of the 40 students who participate regularly in programs became involved after a core group went door-to-door, inviting them to youth-oriented events, he said.

Rabbi Shmuel Szeinhendler, an Argentine who on periodic visits to Cuba in the past four years has helped spark the Jewish revival, credits the dramatic growth of "Jews coming out" simply to "word of mouth."

The community has nearly tripled in size from the 700 Jews the JDC officials found in 1991.

Part of the growth came from the outreach to Jewish communities in smaller cities, but much of it was due to children of interfaith couples deciding to convert.

As a result, 60 percent of the community's 2,000 Jews are converts, said Szeinhendler.

In addition to the 50 conversions carried out in late November, 30 circumcisions and 20 weddings were performed by two Argentine rabbis and an Argentine mohel. The three traveled by bus to three cities, carrying with them for the marriage ceremonies the only "chupah," or wedding canopy, the Patronato owns.

All conversions are done in strict accordance with Jewish law, said Szeinhendler, noting that Israel Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau visited Cuba in 1994 and approved of the conversions.

The conversions marked the end of a process for those seeking to reconnect with the Jewish people, but "most important, it was the beginning of Jewish families," said Jorge Dinier, coordinator of the JDC programs in Cuba.



SMILING FACES — These girls are part of a Jewish community in Cuba that is trying to revive itself. The picture was taken at Patronato Synagogue in Havana, Cuba.

Photo by Roy Mittelman, courtesy of the JTA and JDC

## Argentine Rabbi Ignites Fervor in Dormant Cuban Communities

by Kenneth Bandler

HAVANA (JTA) — Strolling on Paseo Prado, one of the Cuban capital's main boulevards, Rabbi Shmuel Szeinhendler, with eyes open wide and a broad smile, stops a group of schoolchildren and enchants them to sing.

The 20 children, all strangers to the rabbi, are gleeful.

Their young teacher steps forward and selects one to recite a poem. As soon as she finishes, Szeinhendler lifts the young girl, gives her a loving hug and a kiss on the cheek, and thanks all the children gathered.

Once again, the charismatic Argentine-born rabbi has touched some individuals in a meaningful way.

"Being a rabbi has to be a kind

of vocation — a passion — a mission," said Szeinhendler, 49.

His mission, he said, is "to give meaning to being in this world."

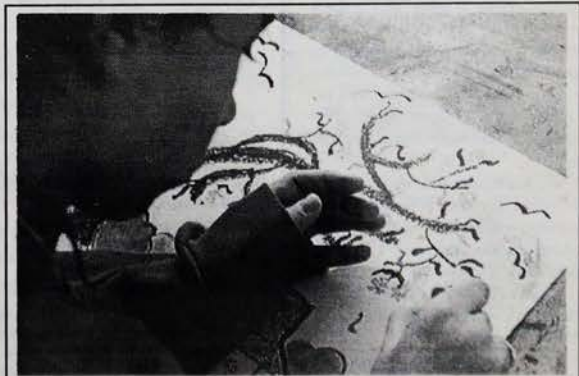
For the Jews of Cuba, Szeinhendler's periodic visits during the past four years have been central to the renaissance of their community. He has helped fill a void created more than three decades ago when all the rabbis fled Cuba after the 1959 revolution.

Szeinhendler began his communal career at the age of 15 in Buenos Aires, where he later was ordained as a Conservative rabbi. For the past 18 years, he led a congregation in Guadalajara, Mexico. About 20 percent of that congregation came from Cuba when thousands of

Jews fled Fidel Castro's revolution. He said his congregants led him to believe that there were no Jews left in Cuba, except for a few elderly ones.

But, in January 1992, Szeinhendler made his first visit to Cuba at the behest of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, which had entered Cuba a year before to provide community-development expertise in reinvigorating a long-dormant Jewish community.

"I remember they told me, 'Don't forget us,' because other rabbis had come and gone," Szeinhendler recalled of the Jews he met then. When he returned two months later with religious supplies, "they were shocked that I returned."



### A Peaceful Picture

This child is putting the finishing touches on a picture he's created for an exhibit at the JCC in Havana, Cuba. See story on next page.

Photo courtesy of Givat Havra Foundation Inc.

# THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IN CUBA

## Communities Reclaim Property as Needs Multiply

by Kenneth Bandler

HAVANA (JTA)—On a Saturday morning in early December, about a week before Chanukah, Sephardi Jews in Cuba gathered to celebrate what they consider their own miracle.

For the first time in many years, Shabbat services are being held at the Sephardic Jewish Center. The event marks the culmination of two years of negotiations to regain possession of the building.

Unable to maintain the building after the mass exodus of thousands of Cuban Jews after the 1959 revolution, most of the building was rented to cultural organizations.

Sephardi Jews were left with only a small chapel and an office.

"The situation was not easy, but being Jewish we had the courage to go forth in any situation," said Yosef Levy, president of the Sephardi center.

Unlike the experiences of Jewish communities in European Communist countries, communal property in Cuba was not seized by the government, Cuban Jewish leaders point out.

And, they say, the government is supportive of efforts to reclaim property for communal use.

Nonetheless, such efforts have run into difficulties when the current users of the space are reluctant to move or need time to find alternative quarters. The recovery of the Sephardi center occurred room-by-room over two years.

Also last year, in Santiago de Cuba, a five-hour bus ride from Havana, the municipality returned the synagogue to the 100-member Jewish community.

The transfer relieved Rebecca Botton, president of the Santiago Jewish community, of the burden of hosting 50 people in her home every Shabbat for services.

Encouraged by these successful efforts at property restitution, Jewish communities across the country are pursuing claims as well.

Before the revolution, a large building adjacent to the Ashkenazi-dominated Patronato, Havana's main synagogue, housed a Jewish community center and day school. It was rented to the Cuban Ministry of Culture in the 1960s and, in 1987, was sold.

Now, with the community forced to use the sanctuary's balcony for renewed Sunday school classes, Cuban Jews would like to see the synagogue's annex returned.

"I thought that before I die this part of the building will be recovered by the Jewish community," said Adela Dworin, vice president of the Jewish community here.

The rush to reclaim property is seen as a necessity as Jewish life is once again flourishing.

As the community rebuilds its institutions, one of the primary services functioning since 1991 is a pharmacy at the Patronato.

Created with the assistance of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, the pharmacy dispenses medication to Jews weekly. It also cooperates with a Catholic-run pharmacy to provide some medications to non-Jews.

As the community has expanded, the deepening of Jewish identity has led some Jews to choose aliyah.

After a recent Kabbalat Shabbat service at the Patronato, two young Cubans asked an American visitor questions about life in Israel. They were preparing to leave within weeks.

Emigration to Israel happens discreetly, and those who are familiar with Cuban aliyah will not discuss precise numbers.

However, one source estimated that as much as 20 percent of the community probably would leave for Israel in the near future.

"Leaving is a national problem," she said, adding that a sizable minority of the general



MORNING TORAH SERVICES at Patronato Synagogue, Havana, Cuba.

Photo by Roy Mittelman, courtesy of the JTA and JDC

Cuban population wants to emigrate.

Economic hardship is one primary motivation.

Cubans have the highest literacy rate in Latin America, and in the Jewish population, professions such as doctors and engineers are dominant.

In a country where even the mayor of the capital city admits that more than half of the buildings are in urgent need of repair, where public transportation is sporadic and overcrowded, where food and household supplies are rationed and where the average monthly salary is about \$12, the allure of the revolution's goals to realize a better society has faded.

For members of the Jewish community, however, there is one distinct exception to the ration list—access to kosher meat.

This accommodation is arranged by Castro's government,

whose officials allow the country's one kosher butcher to select the cows to use for the ritual slaughter, according to Jewish communal leaders.

A short walk from the butcher

use as a synagogue.

But community leaders are eager to make sure that Chevet Achim, like other communal properties being reclaimed, is preserved for future generations.

"Inside these walls the Sephardic Jews lived the best years of their lives," said Levy, expressing the hope that the building would be transformed into a museum of Jewish life in Cuba.

Community leaders, as well as JDC officials, are confident that the majority of Cuban Jews will remain, and they are looking ahead to continue the work of rebuilding and organizing Cuban Jewry. "They started from scratch and are really building up a society in every sense of the word," said Ambassador Milton Wolf, president of the JDC, who is a former U.S. envoy to Austria.

### The recovery of the Sephardi center occurred room-by-room over two years.

is the country's oldest synagogue, Chevet Achim.

Founded in 1914, Chevet Achim was closed last summer because the roof leaks when it rains and the adjoining building is in danger of collapsing.

Because most Jews do not live in this area, the community has all but given up on the idea of restoring the building for daily

## Arab-Jewish Children's Art for Peace on Exhibit in Havana

Children's Art for Peace, a unique Arab and Jewish children's art exhibit, is now on display at the Jewish Community Center in Havana, Cuba. This first-time, non-governmental Cuban venture was initiated by New York art dealer, curator and collector, Alex Rosenberg.

"We have found that art is one of the best mediums for breaking down stereotypes and bringing Arab and Jewish children together," said Rosenberg, who is one of only three non-Cubans who has received Cuba's Order of Culture medal.

The Children's Art for Peace exhibit has traveled throughout the United States, Canada and Brazil. A project of Givat Haviva, Israel's principal conflict resolution and dialogue institute, the Cuban venture evolved out of Rosenberg's ties to cultural and Jewish leaders in Cuba. An exchange program will take place which will exhibit art from Cuba's

children at the Givat Haviva campus, near Haifa, Israel.

The Jewish community of Cuba, while small, is relatively active. While there are no more than 1,500 Jews living in Havana, the Jewish Community

Center reflects the vigor and vibrancy of a once flourishing community. The building houses a library, classrooms, prayer and social hall. The children's art exhibit is a major event for the center.



THIS PICTURE OF A FLOWER was created by a child for the "Art for Peace" exhibit in Cuba.

Photo courtesy of Givat Haviva Foundation Inc.



ARAB AND JEWISH children work on their posters for an art exhibit at the JCC in Havana.

Photo courtesy of Givat Haviva Foundation Inc.

# SPORTS FEATURE

## Lieberman-Cline Elected to the Basketball Hall of Fame

by Neil Nachbar  
Herald Associate Editor

**N**ancy Lieberman-Cline has been breaking stereotypes and barriers all her life.

Recently, she broke another barrier in her basketball career: becoming the first Jewish female player to be elected to the Basketball Hall of Fame, located in Springfield, Mass. She will be one of six individuals inducted this year on May 6.

Although Lieberman-Cline is one of the all-time leading scorers in women's basketball history with 2,430 points, she was still nervous when the induction voting took place.

"I was relieved when they told me that I was voted in," said the 37-year-old, by phone. "It was very tenuous when I was sitting there waiting to hear."

Lieberman-Cline has broken many basketball records and has received many honors, but she feels that her induction is more significant than points scored or championships won.

"My induction is not about stats, it's what it represents to women," said Lieberman-Cline, who still plays basketball every day. "I hope people see the importance of Title IX. Without a

scholarship I wouldn't have been able to accomplish what I did." Title IX ensures that women

are fairly represented in collegiate athletics. Speaking about Jewish wo-



Nancy Lieberman-Cline

men in particular, Lieberman-Cline hopes to shatter the stereotype that Jewish women and athletics don't mix.

"I hope to break down the stereotype," she said. "Jewish women are taught that they can be taken care of. That's a bad message."

"Jewish women have the ability to work. They have capabilities," continued Lieberman-Cline. "It's vital that young, Jewish girls realize that."

"If I never play another basketball game again, I know that I'll be all right because I have accomplished certain things. I hope my success rubs off and helps others strive for their goals," she said.

The hall-of-famer remembers how playing basketball as a child drew a negative reaction from some in the Jewish community.

"When I was 10 years old and playing in the schoolyards (of New York City) with all the black kids, my mom felt a lot of peer pressure," said Lieberman-Cline. "But she always knew where to find Nancy."

Lieberman-Cline's basketball résumé is as impressive as it is lengthy:

- As a member of the 1976

United States Silver Medal Olympic team, she became the youngest basketball player in Olympic history to win a medal.

- A three time All-America at Old Dominion University, Lieberman-Cline led the Lady Monarchs to back-to-back AIAW National Championships in 1979 and 1980. The team had a 72-2 record over those two seasons.

- She was twice named as the Wade Trophy winner, symbolic of the women's national player-of-the-year, and is the only two-time winner in history.

- A native of Far Rockaway, N.Y., Lieberman-Cline set a precedent for all women by being named as the Broderick Cup winner twice (1979, 1980) as the nation's top female athlete.

- In 1986 and 1987 Lieberman-Cline made history by becoming the first female to play in a men's professional league, signing with the Springfield Fame of the United States Basketball League.

- She joined the 1987-88 Washington Generals on a world tour with the Harlem Globetrotters.

- On Sept. 21, 1993, she became the first female ever inducted into the New York City Basketball Hall of Fame.



### Turning Back the Clock: R.I. Jewish Softball Champs of 1953

The Rhode Island Jewish Softball Champions of September 1953 should bring back some memories for those who remember Sunday morning games at fields such as Hopkins Park, Sessions Street Playground, Richardson Park, Buiklin Playground, Tim O'Neil Field and Davis Park. The crowds used to come out in large numbers to support their neighborhood team and to watch the fierce competition. Pictured is the 1953 Esquire Formal Wear Champions. Bottom row, from left: Herb Weintraub, Stan Lobel, Earl Tetrault, Lowell Leonard and John Aiello. Top row, from left: Manager Jack Platkin, Bernie Davidson, Jerry Lobel, Bill Houston, Seymour Golden, Lenny Rodman and Abe Lobel, the coach.

Photo submitted by Abe Lobel

# MILESTONES

## Providence Hadassah Honors Millen

The Providence Group of the Rhode Island Chapter of Hadassah has selected Hannah Rita Millen as the recipient of its Woman of the Year Award.

The award will be presented to Millen at a reception on May 5, at the annual conference of the Western New England Region on that date in Springfield, Mass.

Millen has been a member of Hadassah for almost 50 years. She comes from an active Hadassah family. Her aunt served as a chapter president. Over the years, she has been involved in virtually every aspect of Hadassah life, and is currently the chairwoman of both Hadassah Israel Education Services and the Annual Donor Event, which raises funds for the Hadassah Medical Organization.

## Parness Earns Financial Planning Accreditation

Larry B. Parness, CPA, has been awarded the Personal Financial Specialist designation by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

The designation recognizes CPAs with considerable professional experience in financial planning. Currently, more than 1,000 CPAs hold the PFS designation.

To earn the designation, Parness met six requirements including passing a technical exam covering the basic areas of personal financial planning; personal income tax planning, risk management and insurance planning, investment planning, retirement planning and estate planning.

He also accumulated at least 250 hours of experience per year, for three years.

All PFS candidates must also hold a valid CPA certificate and be an AICPA member in good standing.

## ADL's Welles Honored

The German government honored the director of the Anti-Defamation League Task Force on Nazi War Criminals recently for his work in "the identification and bringing to trial of suspected Nazi criminals who managed to escape justice."

Consul Gen. Dr. Erhard Holtermann presented the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany to the ADL's Elliot Welles at a reception in New York City.

In accepting, Welles described how, as a 14-year-old boy from Vienna during the Nazi era, he stood by helplessly as his mother "met her death in a mass grave in the suburbs of Riga, Latvia." After "subsequent years of hardship, degradation, and hunger and pain," including flight from a concentration camp, Welles said he has "tried to rebuild" and reaffirm "the very notion of moral principle, which was another victim of the Nazi regime. In that spirit I accept your award."

She is a life member of Hadassah and the mother of two children, grandmother to five.

The conference's theme this year is, "Celebrating the Hadassah Mosaic: Hadassah's Place in History, Your Place in Hadassah." Nationally known figures will speak at sessions during the day, focusing on one of four aspects of the theme.

Ruth Cole, national vice president, will speak about the place of Hebrew in the development of modern Zionism, and Hadassah's role in furthering the language. National Hadassah has commissioned a Hebrew language curriculum called "Ivrit la Hadassah," which is in use across the country.

Maxine Wolf, past president of the Boston chapter, will open the day with a talk about the role Hadassah has played in the

history of Zionism.

Nancy Wiadro, a Hadassah national board member serving as conference advisor, an expert in the area of leadership development, will address the issue of the individual member's role in Hadassah.

Special guest speaker for the day is consul to New England, Ofra Farhi. Farhi will discuss the future of Zionism, given current developments in the peace process and in Israel.

The cost of the conference is \$29 per person, and includes all registration materials, a Baker's Breakfast, luncheon, and the afternoon reception.

For information on attending the conference, and the reception honoring Millen, call Muriel Leach at 421-3405, or Carol Kaufman at (508) 753-4488.

## Weinstock Takes New Position

Michael S. Weinstock, M.D., a national figure in emergency medical care, has been appointed medical director of the Barrington Emergency Center.

Chief of emergency and ambulatory services at Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island since 1994, Weinstock is also clinical associate professor of surgery at Brown University School of Medicine.

Weinstock is a senior examiner of the American Board of Emergency Medicine. He was recently elected to his second term on the board of directors of the American College of Emergency Physicians. He is secretary/treasurer of ACEP and editor of *ACEP News*, a national newsletter for emergency physicians.

## PPAC Receives \$1 Million Grant

Joseph W. Walsh, chairman of the Providence Performing Arts Center's board of trustees, has announced an unprecedented award from the Economic Development Administration to Rhode Island's historic Providence Performing Arts Center.

Sandy Blitz, regional director of EDA, said that this is the first grant the EDA has ever awarded to a Rhode Island theatre. The \$1 million grant to PPAC is earmarked to assist with renovations to the 3,200 seat theatre based in downtown Providence.

The PPAC opened in 1928 as a Loew's Theatre. It has survived numerous name and ownership changes. In 1978, it became a private, non-profit corporation and reopened as a Broadway touring house.

A wide range of Broadway, children's, and contemporary programming is presented at the theatre, which is included on the National Register of Historic Places.

A Herald subscription makes a great gift!



Jacob Harris Kortick

Michael and Deborah Kortick of Columbia, Md., announce the birth of Jacob Harris on Jan. 24. His paternal grandparents are Carl and Janet Kortick of Cranston, R.I. Jacob is named after his paternal great-grandfather Joseph Kortick and his maternal great-grandfather Hyman Otlin.

## Goldstein Chairs World Symposium

Sidney Goldstein, the George Hazard Crooker University professor emeritus and professor emeritus of sociology at Brown University, recently served, at the invitation of the United Nations Population Fund, as chairman of the symposium on internal migration and urbanization in developing countries.

The symposium at United Nations headquarters in New York, brought together experts from all over the world. They assessed research and knowledge about population redistribution, settlement patterns, and population problems in developing countries.

The results of the meeting will provide material for presentation of a global plan of action by delegates to Habitat II, the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements in Istanbul this June.

Goldstein, former director of Brown's Population Studies and Training Center, is a world expert on migration and urbanization. He is currently doing research in China and Vietnam on the effect of social and economic reforms on local population redistribution.

*A war, even the most victorious, is a national misfortune.*

HELMUTH VON MOLTKE  
1800-1891

## Polish Jew Leaves UCLA \$592,000

by Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES (JTA) — A Polish-born Jewish woman, who worked as a librarian for 32 years, has left an unexpected bequest of \$592,000 to the University of California at Los Angeles for Holocaust and Jewish studies.

Antonina Babb, who died in 1994 at the age of 75, designated UCLA's chairman in Holocaust studies as the beneficiary of her estate, consisting largely of her house in Santa Monica, Calif.

The gift will support not only UCLA's long-standing Holocaust studies program, initiated and endowed by the 1939 Club survivors' organization, but general Jewish studies at the university as well.

The unexpectedness of the bequest is compounded by the scant details available on Babb, a private person who apparently had few friends and no known relatives.

According to UCLA sources, she was born in Poland in 1919, fleeing the country with the Nazi

invasion of 1939. Her departure marked the beginning of an odyssey that included brief refuge in a Catholic convent and that took her through Lithuania, Russia, Japan, China and finally to the United States.

After graduate studies, Babb joined the staff of the UCLA library in 1955 and, until her retirement in 1987, devoted most of her efforts to the Germanic and Scandinavian book collections. In addition to Polish, German and English, she spoke Hebrew, French and Russian.

Babb described herself as a Holocaust survivor, but she apparently never attended lectures or other activities sponsored by UCLA's Center for Jewish Studies or the 1939 Club, said Samuel Goetz, the club's spokesman.

Arnold Band, director of the Jewish Studies center, said some of the bequest would be used to present a number of free lectures, and possibly a film series, on 19th- and 20th-century Jewish life in Vienna, Warsaw and other European cities.

## Aryeh Davidson Named Dean of JTS's New Graduate School

Dr. Aryeh Davidson, the chairman of the department of education at the Jewish Theological Seminary and acting director of the Melton Research Center, has recently been named dean of the seminary's new William Davidson Graduate School of Jewish Education, which is scheduled to open in the fall of 1996.

The Davidson school will be the largest and most comprehensive graduate institution of its kind, offering a fully accredited doctorate of education in addition to Ph.D. and M.A. programs. All of these programs are designed to create an elite class of professional Jewish educators.

The new school of education had its genesis in a 1989 planning seminar to determine the future direction of Jewish education at the seminary.

The yearlong study concluded that the seminary ought to establish a professional school committed to the preparation of religious educators, research and improving the quality of Jewish education. In the fall of 1994, William Davidson (no relation to Aryeh Davidson), a Detroit businessman, established a \$15 million endowment in order to create such a school.

Davidson brings a varied and rich career as an educator to his new role as dean. A graduate of the seminary's joint program

with Columbia University, he also earned his M.A. and Ph.D. from Columbia in special education and developmental psychology.

An assistant professor at the seminary, he also served as principal of the seminary's Prozdor, a supplemental after-school program for high school students.

The recipient of numerous awards, fellowships and grants, Davidson's area of scholastic expertise is special education and developmental psychology. In this capacity, he has written extensively on assessment, teacher training and Jewish identity and development.

## Arafat Sworn in as President

by Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Yasser Arafat was sworn in as president of the Palestinian Council in a ceremony at the new legislature's offices in Gaza three weeks after his landslide victory in the first Palestinian elections. He won 87.1 percent of the vote for president and his supporters captured 55 of the council's 88 seats.

Under the self-rule accord with Israel, Arafat will head a Palestinian government during an interim period, until both sides agree on the final status of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Talks are scheduled to begin in May.



**Cantor Sam Pessaroff**

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# WORLD AND NATIONAL NEWS

## The 'Third Way' Becomes a Party

*Will Run in Knesset Elections*

by Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Nearly two years after its inception, the Third Way movement has declared itself a political party to run in the upcoming Knesset elections.

Founded in June 1994, by two renegade Labor Knesset members who oppose the government's negotiating strategy with Syria, the Third Way supports relinquishing land to the Palestinians in return for peace, but opposes an Israeli withdrawal from all the territories.

The decision to transform the Third Way into a political party

was approved by the movement's central committee Feb. 13 at Ramat Efal in central Israel.

The party, headed by Knesset member and war hero Avigdor Kahalani, opposes a full territorial withdrawal on the Golan.

In a letter to party secretary general Nissim Zvili, Kahalani and Emanuel Zismann wrote that they could no longer belong to Labor, which they believed had failed in its commitment to the electorate.

They said that the Third Way would take up the principles they claimed the Labor party had abandoned — opposition to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state and to

a full Golan withdrawal.

"The Labor government is ready to give up all of the Golan," Zismann said. The Third Way is interested in territorial compromise "in which Israel maintains control over most of the Golan." The Third Way said it would hold coalition talks with whoever wins the premiership race.

"We see ourselves as an insurance policy," Golan activist Yehuda Harel, one of the founders of the Third Way, told Israel Television. "We would prevent the Labor party from withdrawing from all of the Golan, and make sure the Likud continues peace negotiations with Syria."

## Foreign Minister Dampens High Expectations

by Cynthia Mann

NEW YORK (JTA) — Israeli Foreign Minister Ehud Barak is quashing any notions that a breakthrough is near in peace talks with Syria.

The latest round of talks between Israel and Syria went slowly but produced "moderate and measured advancement" at every meeting, Barak said at a briefing for the Jewish media.

Private peace talks were seen as a prelude to a regional shuttle mission by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher slated this week.

Barak said Israel would be "ready for full withdrawal from South Lebanon" if Lebanon suppresses terrorist activity by the Islamic fundamentalist Hezbollah. He was hoping for direct negotiations between Israel and Lebanon, after a deal with Syria is reached.

He said Israeli withdrawal would be contingent on the

Lebanese government's treating the South Lebanon Army "the same as other militias" that have been disarmed in recent years. Soldiers should be allowed to join the defense forces of the Lebanese army or go home.

Barak stated that Syrian President Hafez Assad "clearly wants peace with the [United States] and has decided he can't achieve it without peace with Israel."

In all negotiations, Israel wishes to emphasize early normalization; a peace that is comprehensive; and terrorism, water and security arrangements that reduce the incentive for both sides to launch a full-scale attack and make "a surprise attack against Israel practically impossible," according to Barak.

Only when these matters are addressed will Israel know "the depth of peace" Syria is seeking and the extent of withdrawal from the Golan Heights that is "commensurate" with that, he said.

The foreign minister added, "We're not going to have peace at any price. We want peace, but only if it can be achieved without violating our security and vital interests."

Prime Minister Shimon Peres is known to regard an agreement with Syria as an asset at the ballot box in the next national elections.

However, Peres has expressed a new caution about the complexity of military issues involved.

In recent weeks, he has admitted that it would be impossible to reach an agreement before the elections unless the pace of the talks was accelerated.

On the day of the Barak press conference, state department spokesman Nicholas Burns also cautioned against being too optimistic.

He said, "We're going to have to work very hard and not build our expectations up too high. None of us should be under the misapprehension that somehow peace is just around the corner."

Regarding the Palestinians, Barak said Israel is committed to living up to the peace agreement and expects Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to live up to it as well.

Israel expects an effective fight against terrorism and the cancellation of the parts of the Palestinian covenant calling for Israel's destruction.

"We don't describe it as a precondition, but we made it quite clear" to Arafat that Israel "cannot see ourselves entering" the permanent-status talks with these issues unresolved, he said.

The permanent-status talks are set to begin in May.

## Everything's Coming Up Roses

by Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israeli flower exports grew to new heights in the days preceding Valentine's Day, this year.

Growers here said that Israel exported 75 million flowers, with a profit of \$16 million, in the weeks before the romantic holiday.

The flowers were shipped in 23 jumbo jets to American and European markets.

## Survey of British Jews Shows Growing Rate of Intermarriage

by Simon Rucker

London Jewish Chronicle

LONDON (JTA) — Nearly half of British Jewish men younger than 40 who are married or in steady relationships have a non-Jewish partner, according to a new survey of British Jewry.

The report, conducted by the Institute of Jewish Affairs, also showed that one in three British Jews did not belong to a synagogue.

And the survey indicated that British Jewish men intermarry more than women.

The survey was based on questionnaires answered by more than 2,000 people. Its authors maintain that because of the size of the sample and the methodology used, the survey provides the most representative picture yet obtained of Britain's Jewish community.

For British Jewish men of all ages, 38 percent who are mar-

ried or in steady relationships have a non-Jewish partner, according to portions of the report that have been released. It will soon be released in full.

Among British Jewish men younger than 40, the intermarriage rate rises to 44 percent.

For British Jewish women, the rate is estimated at between 20 percent and 25 percent.

In the United States, by comparison, the average intermarriage rate for Jewish men and women who have married during the past 10 years is 52 percent.

Along with the finding that one in three British Jews do not belong to a synagogue, the survey found that more than 25 percent of the Jewish community had not attended synagogue during the previous year and that nearly half of the Jews younger than 35 were not members of a synagogue.

## Absorption Ministry Asks ADL for Tolerance Programs

by Michele Chabin

JERUSALEM (JTA) — In an attempt to address the country's troubled immigrants, the Israeli Ministry of Absorption has asked the Anti-Defamation League to help it develop and implement a series of tolerance programs.

The joint effort, which will begin with a program aimed at improving the integration of Ethiopian immigrants, the most pressing situation at the moment, will utilize the experience and techniques of the ADL's "A World of Difference Program."

This program, first launched in the United States more than a decade ago, has already been adapted for use in Israeli schools by the Ministry of Education.

The new program, coming on the heels of last month's violent confrontation between

thousands of Ethiopian immigrants and Jerusalem police, will attempt to sensitize Israelis to the needs and legitimate demands of various immigrant populations.

The first segment, to begin in March, will be introduced in communities with sizable Ethiopian populations, and will be organized with the help of the United Ethiopian Jewish Organization, an umbrella group for immigrants.

Harry Wall, director of the ADL's Israel office, expressed the hope that by working together with the immigrants, community leaders and the media, "we can help to address some of the concerns of the immigrants to Israel and improve general awareness of their situation."

## Egypt Demands Investigation

by Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Egypt's ambassador to Israel was summoned recently to discuss with Deputy Foreign Minister Eli Dayan the continuing appearance of accusations against Israel in the Egyptian media.

Egyptian newspapers have been reporting since last summer that Israeli soldiers killed Egyptian prisoners of war during the 1956 Sinai Campaign and the 1967 Six-Day War.

Recent newspaper reports allege that Israel used the POWs' body parts for transplants and medical experiments.

Recently Ambassador Mohammed Basiouny said that Egypt was not trying to worsen ties with Israel. He added, however, that the matter must be investigated.

"We would like to start an investigation to find out" where the truth is, Basiouny said after meeting with Dayan.

Dayan said the issue prompted Egypt not to invite

Israel to the International Book Fair in Cairo scheduled for next month.

"Not only are we not invited to Cairo, we have learned that they will have a special day devoted to the issue of Egyptian prisoners of war," he said.

The issue first entered public debate after an Israeli reserve army general said last year in a newspaper interview that Israeli soldiers had killed Egyptian POWs during the 1956 Sinai Campaign.

Since then, Egypt has issued repeated demands that the matter be investigated and that those responsible be put on trial.

Israeli officials have neither confirmed nor denied the allegations.

But in an effort to calm the situation, Israel agreed to appoint a reserve army general, former Tel Aviv Mayor Shlomo Lahat, to investigate the allegations and report the results to Cairo.

## Water Rights Is Key Issue

by Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — A peace treaty with Syria will not be achieved without a resolution of the issue of water rights on the Golan Heights, Prime Minister Shimon Peres said recently.

"Without a solution to the water problem we will not have any agreement," he said, adding that one solution might be that "Syria would get water from Turkey and we would keep all the water sources that are under our authority today."

The Golan Heights, which Israel captured in 1967 and which the Syrians have demanded be fully returned to them, is a key water gathering region in the Middle East.

Tributaries flowing from the Golan feed into the Sea of Galilee, which provides 30 percent of Israel's water needs. The Golan is also the site of the headwaters of the Jordan River.

Water, along with security arrangements on the Golan and normalization of ties, have been at the center negotiations between the two countries.

## Amir Trial In Recess

by Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The Tel Aviv District Court agreed to a three-week recess in the trial of Yigal Amir for the murder of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, last week.

The recess was called to allow the 25-year-old to undergo additional psychiatric examinations.

Defense attorneys have so far resisted an insanity plea, but Amir did agree to undergo an initial psychiatric evaluation at the court's request.

One of Amir's court-appointed attorneys, Shmuel Fleishman, has said that the defense is considering arguing that Amir was not in emotional control of himself during the assassination. Such an argument could reduce the charges against him and bring a shorter sentence.

Under the Israeli criminal code, a defendant convicted of murder can get less than a life sentence if it is proven that he suffered from emotional problems at the time of committing the crime.

# WORLD AND NATIONAL NEWS

## Anne Frank Organizations Fight Over Trademark Rights

by Henriette Boas

AMSTERDAM (JTA) — Two European organizations, both established to preserve the memory of Anne Frank, have become entangled in a legal dispute over the use of the trademark "Anne Frank" name.

The Anne Frank Fund, founded by Frank's father, Otto, in 1966 in Basel, Switzerland, is suing the Anne Frank Foundation, claiming commercial exploitation of Anne Frank's name.

A district judge in Zurich decided that the two parties must try to settle the suit out of court.

The Anne Frank Foundation was established in 1957 in

Amsterdam in order to prevent the demolition of the house where Frank and her family hid for more than two years during the Holocaust.

Today, the house attracts about 600,000 visitors a year.

Plans are underway to renovate and expand the house, a project that could cost some \$10 million. The Swiss-based fund is expected to contribute \$300,000 to the project; it currently gives the foundation some \$25,000 annually.

In a recent interview with the German weekly *Der Spiegel*, Vincent Frank-Steiner, who is the chairman of the Anne Frank Fund and who is not related to the family, charged the founda-

tion with trying to profit from the Anne Frank House through the sale of T-shirts, pens, jugs and other souvenirs.

But Hans Westro, director of the foundation, denied the charges, claiming that the trademark name "Anne Frank" was registered in Holland and in Switzerland by his organization in 1984, for the precise purpose of protecting it against commercial exploitation.

The fund, which already owns the copyright to *The Diary of Anne Frank* — 25 million copies have been sold in 60 languages — and to film and theatrical productions based on the diary, wants the right to the trademark.

## UMass Stops Holocaust Denier From Using the Internet

NEW YORK (JTA) — The University of Massachusetts has taken steps to deny a prominent Holocaust denier access to its World Wide Web site, according to the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

Ernst Zundel, 57, a German-born resident of Toronto, succeeded in circumventing a German government effort to block access to Internet sites promoting racial hatred.

Zundel countered the German government action this month by enlisting the help of Internet activists at 10 prestigious American universities. The activists said they cooperated mainly because they oppose any effort to regulate and censor the Internet.

The Wiesenthal Center recently commended the University of Massachusetts for ordering the graduate student who posted the messages for Zundel on the university's Web site to remove them.

"The bottom line is that while bigots may have the right to put their ideas in cyberspace, institutions of higher learning supported by taxpayers and public

grants have no obligation to provide them with access and legitimacy," said Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the center.

"The university was right to conclude that such activity constitutes inappropriate use of public resources," he said.

Germany, where Holocaust denial is a punishable crime, had sought to block access to Internet sites posting messages that promote racial hatred. The move was aimed at preventing Zundel from propagating his message that the Holocaust is a hoax.

"It is our hope that other schools will follow the example set by the University of Massachusetts," Cooper said.

The other nine schools include the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Stanford University, the University of Texas and the University of Pennsylvania.

The Simon Wiesenthal Center's National Task Force Against Hate is now canvassing more than 2,000 American colleges and universities to find out their rules for the use of their on-line services.

## ADL Audit Shows Decline in Anti-Semitic Incidents

by Heather Camlot

NEW YORK (JTA) — Anti-Semitic incidents in the United States declined in 1995, a drop commensurate with the trend in crime rates across the country, according to the Anti-Defamation League's annual audit of anti-Semitism.

The ADL recorded 1,843 incidents last year, a decrease of 11 percent from 1994, and the first decline in three years.

In 1995, 108 arrests were made for anti-Semitic hate crimes, down from 141 in the previous year. Forty-seven states and the District of Columbia have hate-crime statutes.

Many of the acts, the ADL pointed out, are not crimes, such as the distribution of hate propaganda and racial slurs, both of which are protected by the

First Amendment.

The ADL audit revealed that the states with the largest Jewish populations also have the highest number of incidents.

Fully 55 percent of all reported acts occurred in New York (370), California (264), New Jersey (228) and Florida (152).

Personalized attacks on Jews and Jewish institutions continue to be the most common anti-Semitic incidents, totaling 1,116. These are described by the ADL as "in your face" intimidation and hostile acts.

Vandalism accounted for 727 of the reported anti-Semitic incidents, but the only category that showed an increase was cemetery desecrations, which rose from 18 to 22.

College campuses saw their first decrease in anti-Semitic in-

idents in seven years, from the 1994 high of 143 to 118, a decline of 17 percent.

The number of skinhead-related incidents also decreased, from 24 to 17 in 1995.

"It's a statement about American society," said Bernard Reisman, Klutznick professor of Contemporary American Jewish Studies at Brandeis University. "As people become more sophisticated, they become more accepting of one another."

But, Kenneth Stern, program specialist on anti-Semitism and extremism at the American Jewish Committee, said the focus should be on long-term trends, rather than yearly records.

"It would be dangerous to jump to conclusions based on statistics from one year to the next," Stern said.

## Amnesty International Warns Israel on Use of Torture

by Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The head of the human rights group Amnesty International has warned Israel about the legalization of what he described as torture used by Israeli security agents when interrogating suspected terrorists.

Pierre Sane, Amnesty's sec-

retary general, brought his concerns before Justice Minister David Liba'i during a visit recently to Israel.

Sane's warning comes as Israel plans to establish formal guidelines for interrogation procedures, carried out by the Shin Bet, Israel's domestic intelligence service.

The proposed guidelines include a clause allowing for the use of moderate physical pressure, including violent shaking, when Shin Bet agents interrogate suspected terrorists.

Sane's visit, which included a trip to Palestinian self-rule areas, was aimed at ensuring that human rights are respected by both Israel and the Palestinians as the peace process advances.

The non-partisan organization also called on Israel to stop the practice of administrative detention and to ensure that all trials are carried out fairly.

Amnesty called on the Palestinian Authority to stop using what is said to be torture during interrogations, and to stop making what it described as arbitrary political arrests in the autonomous areas.

## European Union, Palestinians to Negotiate Trade Agreement

by Joseph Kopel

BRUSSELS (JTA) — The European Union is willing to reach a trade agreement with the Palestinian Authority, according to E.U. officials.

At a recent meeting, the 15 E.U. foreign ministers asked the European Commission, the union's executive body, to start discussions with the Palestinian Authority about the accord.

According to diplomatic sources, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat will send a delegation to Brussels to begin exploratory talks with the European Commission about the accord, which will open the door to regular diplomatic contacts

between the two parties.

E.U. sources admitted that there are some legal obstacles to reaching an E.U.-Palestinian accord, the most notable being that no Palestinian state now exists.

The two sides will seek to reach an interim accord that will not interfere with Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, which are slated to resume in May, the sources said.

The Palestinians already benefit from E.U. concessions that allow all their industrial products and many farm goods in to the 15 E.U. member-nations duty-free.

## Chief Rabbi Meets Mandela

by Suzanne Belling

JOHANNESBURG (JTA) — Israel's Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau met recently with South African President Nelson Mandela at his Pretoria residence, where the two leaders compared notes on their periods of imprisonment.

Lau said in an interview that he and Mandela "found a common language from the very first moment."

"We were both prisoners, he for 27 years and I for only six — between the ages of 2 and 8 in concentration camps during the Holocaust," said the rabbi, who was on a three-day visit to South Africa.

Mandela's opposition to apartheid in South Africa was a major factor in his imprisonment.

Lau also said, "I told the president that the only difference was, as written in his book, *Long Walk to Freedom*, that while he hoped for a better tomorrow, we didn't want to see the sun rise on another day."

"I also told him that now we could thank G-d we both had survived and were able to lead our people, as in Exodus, people who came from slavery to freedom."

Mandela said he was hoping to finalize arrangements with the Israeli Embassy to visit the Jewish state in the near future,

Lau said.

"I promised him the red carpet treatment when he comes," the rabbi added.

Mandela has a great "warmth towards South Africa's Jewish community," Lau said. "He told me of the contribution Jews had made in this country in all spheres."

## Deficit Soars

by Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israel's trade deficit reached one of its highest levels ever in January, with imports exceeding exports by more than \$1 billion.

The Central Bureau of Statistics said recently that imports last month totaled \$2.6 billion and exports about \$1.6 billion.

The deficit was 10 percent higher than the same period a year ago.

The 1995 trade deficit totaled a record \$10.2 billion.

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# ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

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### Barbershop Harmonies at the Orpheum Theatre

Enjoy an evening of unforgettable music when Barbershop Harmonies comes to the Orpheum Theatre in Foxboro.

The New England Chord Commission, Street Corner Four and Jazz Reunion will perform the close harmony of the uniquely American style of a capella music known as barbershop for one night only, Feb. 24 at 8 p.m.

Since their formation in 1993, New England Chord Commission has won a number of awards, including the Patriot Division Championship of the Barbershop Society's Northern District. Most recently, it was named finalist in the society's

### Boston's New Yiddish Music

Shirim, Boston's most innovative Yiddish music band, will be performing at Club Passim, 47 Palmer St., Cambridge, on Feb. 28, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$8 at the door.

Shirim's latest work has been compared to everyone from Gil Evans to the Grateful Dead, in tribute to their exquisite orchestrations and compositions as

### Paul Parker Exhibits at Upstairs Gallery

"Argentomorphs," a photography exhibit by Paul Edward Parker, will be on display from March 2 in the Upstairs Gallery at East Greenwich Photo.

There will be an opening reception on March 2 from 7 to 9 p.m. The public is welcome. Gallery hours are: Monday

international preliminary contest.

Street Corner Four has been wowing audiences for years with an unforgettable mix of humor, memorable music and crowd-pleasing performances.

The shared love of the crisp, clean, ringing chords that produces the exciting barbershop sound brings together the four women known as Jazz Reunion.

Tickets are priced at \$15.50, \$12.50 for seniors and students. To purchase tickets or for further information, contact the Foxborough Regional Center for the Performing Arts at (508) 543-ARTS or (800) 810-ARTS.

well as their transforming improvisations.

The band features some of Boston's finest musicians: Glen Dickson, clarinets; Betty Silberman, vocals; David Harris, trombone; Michael McLaughlin, piano; Eric Rosenthal, drums; and James Gray, tuba.

For information, call (617) 492-7679.

and Tuesday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Wednesday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.

The gallery is located at 631 Main St. in East Greenwich. Call 884-0220 for more details.

## 'Planet Soup' Is as Good as Chicken Soup

by Alison Smith  
Herald Editor

"Musicians have a way of reading the times, maybe even auguring the future." ...the *Planet Soup* book.

Personally, I think that musicians like the ones featured on "Planet Soup" may even have a small impact on the future of the world.

Fusion (the mixing of constituent elements together by, or as if by, melting; to blend) is what "Planet Soup" is about. It is a three-tape or disk set of performances from all over the world, by 200 musicians from 35 countries. They play with other musicians to whose sound they are attracted, and they select music that appeals to or resonates for both of them. Nationality or their usual classification are not considerations. Every number started out as an experiment or a desire to do something a new way.

On disk/tape one, which is labeled "Gazpacho," you can hear Paul Pena, a Cape Verdean from San Francisco, singing and playing "The Ballad of Cher Shemjrer," while Kongar-ol Ondor, a Tuvan Throat singer, accompanies him, producing

chords "low as a frog, high as a bird," simultaneously.

This very unlikely combination produces a bouncing, growling number that you cannot walk away from.

With the set of tapes comes a 48-page book that has, for instance, a picture of Pena and Ondor singing together with the Golden Gate Bridge in the background, bio sketches of both men, a brief analysis of their arrangement and material, and a little history lesson on throat singing, all very readable and entertaining. Also, if you are a musician yourself, very useful.

On the same side, we hear Bustan Abraham (a group of Israeli Jews and Arabs) singing and playing "Gypsy Soul." Who

needs El Al to get to the Middle East? And then there's Gambian Malamini Jobartech singing and playing a 21-string African harp in company with some soulful alto sax sounds, and tabla harmonies.

You might be tempted to write this effort off as a "see what we can do" stunt...sort of like showing the fellows in the neighborhood bar that your dog can actually tap dance, or producing a potato you grew that

looks just like George Burns smoking a cigar.

Banish such thoughts. All of these artists are good in their own right, and have audiences in their own countries, and took this production seriously. This is not a bastard, it is a hybrid, and sometimes — frequently — the most interesting, colorful, disease-resistant plants or animals are hybrids. When hybridization works, it's progress. This is progress in the world of music.

Naturally, you will find favorites in the collection, and some you could skip over, having heard them once. There are 40 numbers — plenty to choose from.

If you are a musician, or are raising one, or are a music lover with a nice little tape or CD collection, check this set out.

It was \$29.95 for the set at Bread and Circus Food Market on the East Side.

If you cannot find a set locally, contact Ellepsis Arts, 20 Lumber Road, Roslyn, N.Y. 11576, or call (516) 621-2727, Fax (516) 621-2750, or EMail: elliearts@aol.com.

Since almost all of the artists on the tapes have other recordings out, you can use "Planet Soup" as a sampler, or catalogue, to locate more musical delights.

It's amazing how we can sing and play together, when we set our minds to it.

## Susan Miller Presents 'My Left Breast' at Trinity

Trinity Rep's new DownCity Trinity series, under the artistic direction of Oskar Eustis, continues with artist Susan Miller performing her autobiographical monologue, "My Left Breast."

"My Left Breast," Miller's intensely personal and candid narrative of her struggle with breast cancer, is told from a uniquely humorous perspective.

Mastectomy and the loss of her breast is the focus of Miller's tale, but the loss is also a metaphor for others she has experienced — the loss of a romantic relationship, a book contract, her young son to manhood.

Far more important, however, is Miller's courageous response to her experiences, her determination to endure life's pain and make her way beyond it.

Directed by Nela Wegman, "My Left Breast" premiered to strong critical response in the 1994 Human Festival of New American Plays at Actors Theatre of Louisville. Audiences throughout the country have responded enthusiastically to the work because of its emotional, universal subject matter; 1.5 million American women are living with breast cancer, and 46,000 lose their lives to the disease each year.

An Obie award-winning author of "Nasty Rumors and Final Remarks," Miller has appeared in theaters throughout the United States, among them the Shakespeare Festival and Second Stage Theatre in New

York, and the mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles.

"My Left Breast" will be presented in the Downstairs Theater at Trinity. Curtain times are 8 p.m. on Feb. 23, 8 p.m. on Feb. 24 and 2 p.m. on Feb. 25.

Tickets are \$24, with a special

\$20 price for subscribers. Student rush tickets, priced at \$10, may be purchased one hour before performance, based on availability.

For tickets or further information, call the box office at 351-4242.



Susan Miller

Photo courtesy of Trinity Rep



# ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT



## Spend a Winter Afternoon in Baroque Europe

The Providence Chamber Music Society, a performing organization of the Music School, will present an intimate concert of baroque music for small ensemble at the Gov. Henry Lippitt House Museum, 199 Hope St., Providence, on Feb. 25 at 4 p.m.

Performing music of the 18th-century France, Germany, and Italy will be Sudie Marcuse-Blatz, soprano, Margaret Cushing, recorder, Frederick Jodry, harpsichord, and Ben Peterson, cello.

The common thread in the program is a lighthearted mood designed to appeal to a February audience weary of winter. Telemann's F Major triosonata for recorder and bass instrument is a lively and intricate conversation. Bach's sonata BWV 1031 for flute and harpsichord (to be performed on recorder) is stylish and galant; in fact, it differs so much from Bach's other work for these instruments that some say he could not have written it.

The vocal pieces to be performed are a rarely heard solo

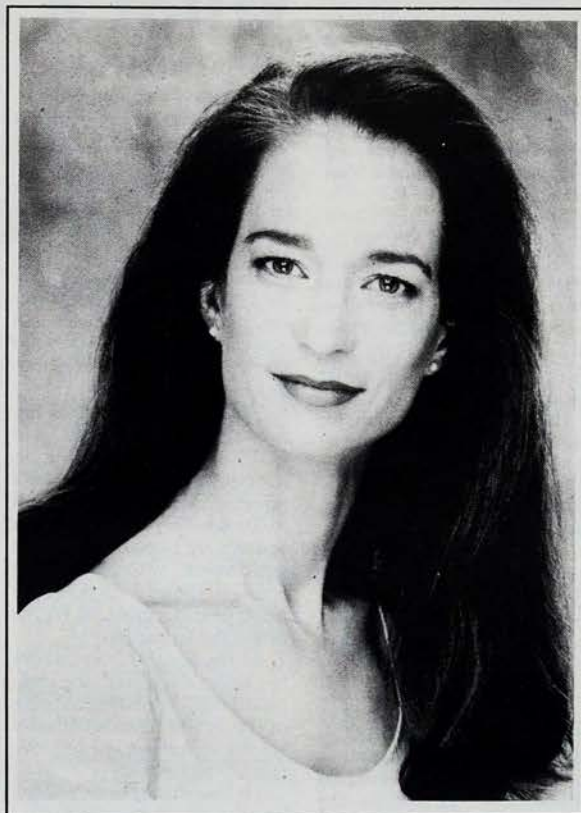
cantata by French composer André Campra entitled "O Dulcis Amor" and a cantata by Vivaldi with recorder obbligato entitled "All'ombra di sospetto." This last, despite its title (meaning "In the shadow of suspicion"), is a rollicking event in the happy key of G Major.

The one contrasting piece on the program is Bach's haunting D minor suite for solo cello.

Marcuse-Blatz, a Connecticut resident, sings with Capella Alamire and is in increasing demand as a soloist.

The Gov. Henry Lippitt House Museum is the perfect location for a program like this; the setting recalls European salons in which this music would have been frequently heard. The audience is invited to meet the performers after the concert at a Victorian tea in the house's dining room.

Tickets are \$9, \$6 for students and seniors. Call 453-0688 for reservations.



SUDIE MARCUSE-BLATZ, soprano, will be singing with the Providence Chamber Music Society on Feb. 25, at the Gov. Henry Lippitt House Museum.

## Haffenreffer Plans Spring Programs

The Haffenreffer Museum of Anthropology has scheduled the following events for the spring months.

On Feb. 23, at 7 p.m. there will be an ethnographic film, "A Kalahari Family," at List Auditorium at Brown University. Admission is \$2.

On Feb. 25, at 4 p.m., there will be a gallery talk, "New Lamps for Old..." an exploration of the influences of the empires of Greece, Rome, Byzantium and Islam on the ancient Nabataeans of the Middle East. This illustrated lecture will be given at the museum.

On March 8, at 7:30 p.m., at a private home, there will be a fireside chat with museum friends and anthropology faculty. Professor Lina Fruzzetti will show her new documentary film, "Seed and Earth," about gender relationships in rural India. The program is limited to the first 20 friends who sign up. The event will take place at the home of Sidney and Judi Braman.

On March 17, at 4 p.m. at the museum, there will be a gallery talk, "Death and Afterlife of the Ancient Maya: The Deification of Pakal the Great." Brown University student Joshua Bell will speak about his research on the macabre funerary culture of the ancient Maya.

On April 13, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., there will be a day trip by bus to Plimoth Plantations. See the exhibit "Irreconcilable Differences," and experience a unique opportunity to talk with Linda Coombs, director of the Wampanoag Indian Program, who helped develop the exhibit. The price is \$22.50, friend of the museum; \$25 adults; \$16.50 children. An extra \$2 charge will be made for a visit to the Mayflower. The bus leaves Providence at 9 a.m. and the museum

at 9:30 a.m. The bus leaves Plimoth at 3 p.m.

Reservations must be made by April 1. Checks must be made payable to the Haffenreffer Museum.

On April 21, at 4 p.m., at the museum, there will be an exhibit opening for "African Worlds, African Art: The William W. Brill Collection." A Friends reception with African food and music is planned.

On April 24, May 8 and May 15, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at the museum, there will be a class, "African Worlds, African Art," for the Brown Learning Community.

The class will explore the arts and aesthetics of various regions in Africa. Sculpture, textiles and body ornaments will be examined in relation to African cosmology, religious beliefs, and social values. To register, call the Brown Learning Community at 863-3452.

On May 5, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the museum, there will be a katsina doll carving demonstration.

Hopi artist Manfred Susunkewa will give a daylong demonstration on this ancient art. Susunkewa carves katsina dolls from cottonwood root and paints them with natural pigments.

At 3 p.m., there will be a Friends annual meeting.

At 4 p.m., Susunkewa will speak and demonstrate.

The museum is located on Tower Street, off Route 136 in Bristol. From Providence: take Route 195 East to MA Exit 2 (Route 136 for Newport, RI); go south on Route 136 for 7.5 miles, turn left at the Haffenreffer Museum sign onto Tower Street. The museum is 1.4 miles from Route 136.

The telephone number is 253-8388; the fax is 253-1198.

## UMass Dartmouth Presents 17th Annual Jazz Festival

The Greg Abaté Quintet will headline the 17th annual UMass Dartmouth Jazz Festival which also features high school and college jazz bands. The festival starts Feb. 26 and runs through Feb. 29 with free admission to most concerts.

College Jazz Night opens the festival at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 26 in the main auditorium at 285 Old Westport Road, North Dartmouth. Admission to the concert, featuring jazz by students at the Berklee College of Music, University of Rhode Island, Brown University, Providence College and UMass Dartmouth, is free.

UMass Dartmouth faculty in the College of Visual and Performing Arts will perform a free lunchtime concert at 12:30 p.m. on Feb. 27 in the recital hall, Room 153, of the CVPA building. Admission is free.

The High School Jazz Ensemble Invitational will be held at 3 p.m. on Feb. 27 in the main auditorium. Admission is free.

The Greg Abaté Quintet and the UMass Dartmouth Stage Band will perform on Feb. 28 at 8 p.m. in the main auditorium. Admission is \$7 to the general public (senior citizen discount), free to students with identification.

On Feb. 29 the UMass Dartmouth Contemporary Jazz Ensemble and the New Bedford High Jazz Ensemble perform a free concert at 12:30 p.m. in Room 104, Visual and Performing Arts

building.

For more information, telephone (508) 999-8568.

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# OBITUARIES

## MARION 'MARY' GODFREY

PROVIDENCE — Marion "Mary" Godfrey, 78, of 51 Sinclair Ave., Providence, a clerk for the Rhode Island Health Department for 15 years, and a field supervisor for the food stamp program for 15 years before retiring in 1978, died Feb. 14 at the Philip Hulitar Hospice Inpatient Center. She was the wife of Sydney Godfrey.

Born in Providence, she was a daughter of the late Leo and Lena (Chusmir) Stern.

She was a member of the Cranston-Warwick Hadassah, the Friends Program Mental Health of Rhode Island, and the Jewish Home for the Aged Association. She had been a volunteer at Rhode Island Hospital. She was a member of the Cranston Senior Guild.

Besides her husband she leaves two sisters, Gertrude Stern of Providence and Dorothy Nulman of New London. She was the sister of the late Dr. Joseph Stern.

The funeral was held Feb. 16 at the Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery in Warwick.

## BARBARA GOLDSTEIN

BOCA RATON, Fla. — Barbara Goldstein, 76, of 6148 Vista Linda Lane, Boca Raton, Fla., died Feb. 13 at West Boca Medical Center in Boca Raton. She was the widow of Aron Goldstein.

Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Samuel and Margaret (Shannon) Gershman, she had lived in Boca Raton for the past year, previously living in Cranston and Pawtucket.

She leaves a son, Bruce M. Goldstein of New York; a daughter, Carol Silverman of Boca Raton; a brother, Leo Gershman of Barrington, and a sister, Monica Nouman of Cranston. She was the sister of the late Anna Jagoliner.

The funeral was held Feb. 15 at the Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence. Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery in Warwick.

## ESTHER GORMAN

Esther Gorman has died in her 92nd year. She was born in Monkai, Hungary, on Aug. 4,

1903. She was the mother of Sandra Weisman of Melbourne, Fla. and Elsie Glassman of Woodmere, L.I. and the sister of Abraham Orenstein of Lawrence, L.I. She was the grandmother of seven and great-grandmother of 10.

Services and interment were held Feb. 18 at Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick, R.I.

## ALBERT M. KAPLAN

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. — Albert M. Kaplan, of Miami Beach, Fla., formerly of Paterson, N.J., died on Feb. 13, in Miami Beach. He was the husband of of Kate Lipowitz Kaplan.

He was the owner, with his late brother, Mortimer Kaplan, of Kaplan and Kaplan Authentic Fashions Men's Haberdashery in Paterson, N.J., for 35 years until retiring in 1966.

Besides his wife, he is survived by three sons, Dr. Michael P. Kaplan, Dr. Peter R. Kaplan and Daniel S. Kaplan, and a daughter, Paula K. Miller; and eight grandchildren.

## ELAINE REBA LEAND

PALM BEACH, Fla. — Elaine Reba Leand, 89, died in Palm Beach, Fla., on Feb. 16. She was the wife of the late Milton Leand. Born in Nashville, Tenn., she was daughter of the late Nathan and Anna Fine and had resided in Providence for many years.

She was a graduate of the New England Conservatory of Music and was a child prodigy, giving concerts from the time she was very young. As an adult, she was a concert pianist and teacher in Rhode Island for many years.

She was a member of Temple Beth-El and its Sisterhood, of Hadassah and the Chopin Club.

She is survived by two sons, Edward C. Leand, of Barrington, R.I., and Dr. Paul Leand of Baltimore, Md.; one sister, Macie Silver of Providence, and a brother, Milton Fine, of Hattiesburg, Miss., and five grandchildren.

A graveside funeral service took place at Temple Beth-El cemetery in Providence on Feb. 13. The service was coordinated by Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence.

# What a Woman She Was

## The First Bat Mitzvah Dies by Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK (JTA) — Judith Kaplan Eisenstein, the mother of the bat mitzvah and the daughter of one of the 20th century's most influential theologians, died Feb. 14 of a heart attack at age 86.

The oldest of theologian's Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan's four daughters, Kaplan Eisenstein was encouraged by her father to question and challenge orthodox views.

"When I was 11, I told my father that I didn't believe in G-d," she recalled during an interview in 1994. "There was a sense of freedom and freedom to change. There was a constant opening up of possibilities and enrichment" with his view of Judaism, she said. "It made my being Jewish a great joy for me rather than a burden."

At the age of 12, and under her father's tutelage, she completed the very first bat mitzvah at the newly founded Society for the Advancement of Judaism in Manhattan.

He thought of the idea only a day before. That night, Kaplan Eisenstein practiced reading the Torah portion with her father.

"I didn't work on it the way kids work on it now, for a half year with lessons every week," she said in 1992. "All I did was read it through with him Friday night, and Saturday morning I went into the synagogue and did it," she said.

The ceremony proved to be a revolutionary breakthrough.

Today all but the most stringently Orthodox girls celebrate their bat mitzvah in some form. Reform, Conservative and Reconstructionist girls are called to the Torah during synagogue services and generally give a sermon as well.

Many Orthodox girls mark the day by speaking to the women of the congregation about the Torah portion of the week. There often is a festive party, as well.

Even more significant for many is the fact that Kaplan Eisenstein's bat mitzvah was the

first time that a female had stood before the congregation as a leader.

"It was an opening of opportunities, dreams that suddenly become available," said Rabbi Shohama Wiener, president of The Academy for Jewish Religion, an independent rabbinical and cantorial seminary.

"The whole opening of the field of the rabbinate and cantorate to women is a direct result of her bat mitzvah," she said. "That was the opening. We all owe her a great tribute." Kaplan Eisenstein earned bachelor's and master's degrees in music from Columbia University.

**"They brought in old lefties and musicians and artists who wouldn't be caught dead in a synagogue. They got this group of Jews together and made a real chevra (group of friends) out of them."**

*Rabbi Jonathan Kligler*

From 1929 to 1954, she taught music education and the history of Jewish music at the Jewish Theological Seminary. She published a book of children's music, *Gateway to Jewish Song*, which quickly became a staple of teachers of Jewish nursery school.

She began writing cantatas rooted in Judaism in 1942, and ultimately published seven, some in collaboration with her husband.

While in her 50s, she earned a doctorate at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion's School of Sacred Music.

She published a book on the history of Jewish music, *Heritage of Jewish Music*, which is still in print and widely read.

Kaplan Eisenstein taught music at that Reform movement seminary and at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, which was founded by her husband, Ira Eisenstein, in Philadelphia in 1968.

Throughout her life she reminded Reconstructionist Jews

of the importance of music and the arts in living a life committed to Judaism, said Rabbi Mordechai Liebling, executive director of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation, which is based in Wyncote, Pa.

"Judith was our conscience and our prod in keeping our commitment to Judaism as a civilization and the importance of the arts in that," said Liebling.

She and her husband were popular teachers at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College community until they retired full-time to Woodstock, N.Y., in 1980.

In the house where for many years they had spent weekends, in a town where there was no organized Jewish community, they started a havurah, a small participatory congregation.

"They brought in old lefties and musicians and artists who wouldn't be caught dead in a synagogue," said Jonathan Kligler, a Reconstructionist rabbi and spiritual leader of Kehillat Lev Shalem-The Woodstock Jewish Congregation, which was founded 10 years ago.

"They got this group of Jews together and made a real chevra (group of friends) out of them," said Kligler, who took over leading the havurah when the couple moved to Silver Spring, Md., last September to be near one of their daughters.

The 62-year-marriage of Kaplan Eisenstein and Ira Eisenstein, who is now 89, viewed by many who have known them as a great pairing of two powerful souls.

Liebling was a student at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College when Ira Eisenstein invited Liebling and other students to his home for a reception.

"Their relationship was beautiful, gorgeous," said Liebling. Their marriage "was a role model of a lifelong committed loving partnership for me and all of my peers. I was so impressed about the care and tenderness they had for each other."

In addition to her husband, Kaplan Eisenstein is survived by two daughters, three sisters and a grandchild.

Kaplan Eisenstein was buried Feb. 16.

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# CLASSIFIED

## Lubavitch

(Continued from Page 1)

means that everything that has to do with outreach goes through the Lubavitch Youth Organization."

Headed, "Working with college students, going to army bases, going out on the street to put on tefillin [on Jewish men], the menorah lightings, all this is the Lubavitch Youth Organization."

Rabbi Zalman Shmotkin, a spokesman for Lubavitch World Headquarters and an aide to Krinsky, said Butman's description of the work and responsibilities of Lubavitch Youth is "unbelievable, to put it mildly."

"Rabbi Butman is not known in Lubavitch to have participated or overseen any of those activities other than his publicity-garnering menorah lighting in Manhattan."

Referring to Butman's Moshiah campaign, Shmotkin said, "How dare he take credit for the very work that no one in the world did more to destroy than he. Shame on him."

Those who believe that the late rebbe should be considered the Messiah are happy about the International Campaign to Bring Moshiah, which is producing a two-minute commercial and a 30-minute infomercial to be broadcast on television later this year.

The campaign is also sponsoring the placement of billboards and newspaper advertisements promoting the rebbe as Moshiah, and recently organized an international satellite program, which hooked together Lubavitch-led congregations in Israel, Europe, Australia and the United States to proclaim the rebbe as "king Messiah."

Those who disagree say that the rebbe's legacy is being betrayed, and that the good work of Lubavitch is being undermined because the promotional campaign scares Jews away from the movement's outreach work.

Spokesmen for each side claim that the other is small in number and marginal in influence.

Meanwhile, Lubavitch Youth Organization board member Rabbi Hirsch Gansbourg confirmed Butman's version of recent events. "He's not fired at the moment. I hope it will be laid to rest."

"The financial records are nobody's business," he said; when asked about the alleged irregularities. "It's wrong to dig into something like this."

But another board member, Rabbi Mendel Shemtov, contradicted that view, saying that the board's "decision was to fire Butman. He had two warnings in writing." "I have no idea why they think he hasn't been fired," he said. "There were no other meetings [of the board] after this to discuss it."

"If you fire someone he's going to try to get it back. If he will, I don't know."

Krinsky, who described Butman's behavior as "simply an abuse of the office," said the decision to fire Butman was reported to him and that he has not been notified of any reversal of that decision by the board.

## Religious

(Continued from Page 1)

kosher restaurant, something believed to be a novelty for him.

Peres, a veteran suitor of the religious community, will certainly try to revive old relationships.

Given that Arab voters historically have favored Labor over Likud, Peres is expected to be more successful than Netanyahu in this community.

Public opinion polls have shown that Israel's Arabs will overwhelmingly support him.

Moreover, some 37 percent of the Arab vote is expected to go to Labor's Knesset candidates, despite the existence of several Arab-based parties.

Courting the haredi vote will present Peres with a more formidable challenge.

The Labor Party's governing coalition with the secularist Meretz Party, and its failure to prevent major court decisions that chipped away at Orthodoxy's virtual monopoly on Israel's religious life, do not sit well with the fervently religious.

Netanyahu's commitment to a Greater Israel is more appealing to most religious voters than Peres' willingness to cede land for his vision of a new Middle East.

But Netanyahu has to overcome his public confession three years ago that he had an extramarital affair and his recent agreement to share party lists with the right-wing Tsomet Party, whose platform calls for recruiting yeshiva students into the army.

The importance of the religious vote has prompted Peres and Netanyahu to hire experts to help them gain that support.

Likud has hired Mordechai Halperin, a former spokesman for the fervently Orthodox Agudat Yisrael who is now a candidate in the Likud primaries. Halperin spends most of his time arranging meetings between Netanyahu and fervently Orthodox rabbis.

The Likud has also prepared its first campaign ad which contains a large picture of Peres and Labor Knesset member Yael Dayan, who has infuriated the haredi community with insinuations that biblical friends David and Jonathan were homosexuals. Under the picture is the slogan: "The Haredim Don't Interest Them!"

Meanwhile, Labor has engaged David Silberschlag, 38, a Chasid who is one of the leading advertising experts in the religious community. Three years ago, Silberschlag ran Likud candidate Ehud Olmert's campaign among the haredim, which contributed to Olmert's victory over Teddy Kollek for mayor of Jerusalem.

In a recent newspaper interview, Silberschlag indicated possible main pillars of Labor's election campaign among the haredi: more housing, no provocative archaeological excavations; the position regarding the religious status quo in Israel.

One difficulty in running an orderly campaign within the haredi community is the large-scale division that already splits the religious vote.

Both parties will need to map the competing factions within the haredi community in order to successfully get out the vote.

The Arab electorate also is divided.

Although they have the potential to elect 12 Knesset members, only seven Arabs and one Druse serve in the present Knesset.

Attempts to draw up a unitary list have repeatedly failed. There are three major Arab blocs running for the Knesset: Hadash, a Communist grouping of Jews and Arabs that currently holds three Knesset seats, two of them Arab; the Arab Democratic Party, with two seats; and a newly formed bloc, headed by Dr. Ahmed Tibi, a doctor who is an adviser to President Yasser Arafat.

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# Israel's Labor Movement Undergoes Radical Surgery

by Tom Tugend

TEL AVIV (JTA) — The Israel of the bronzed pioneer in shorts and peaked cap, engraved on the heart of every old Zionist, is gone.

The dream of an egalitarian, socialist society, with all sharing equally in the fruits of their labor, has evaporated.

These are not the pronouncements of right-wing ideologues or anti-Israel propagandists, but the words of top leaders of the Histadrut, Israel's giant labor federation.

Nothing illustrates the changes in Labor leadership as sharply as the changes in the Histadrut itself during the last two years... a powerful apparatus, a veritable state-within-a-state, has relinquished most of its power and offices, of its own volition.

In its heyday, the Histadrut ran a social service network that encompassed 70 to 90 percent of the entire Israeli population. It controlled 30 percent of the country's economy through its ownership of industrial conglomerates, construction companies, banks and housing cooperatives. It was a powerful political force through its close identification with the Labor Party, and even had its own "foreign service" of emissaries posted to developing nations.

Although Israelis acknowledged the Histadrut's vital role in the creation of the state and in the immediate post-independence decades, most of the public came to think of the federa-

tion as a bloated, corrupt and incompetent bureaucracy.

In 1994, a rebel faction led by the youthful and charismatic Haim Ramon ousted the old guard of the organization.

Ramon is now minister of the interior in the government of Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

Ramon has slashed Histadrut's billion-dollar debt by selling off its industrial enterprises, firing more than half its employees and drastically reducing support to its social service network of hospitals, homes for the elderly, youth villages and schools.

The most dramatic impact in the daily lives of Israelis came with the Histadrut's separation from its Kupat Holim Clalit, the huge health insurance network covering most Israelis.

Applicants for Kupat Holim used to have to become members of the Histadrut first, but with the passage of a government-administered national health service, anyone could enroll in Kupat Holim without joining the Histadrut.

Histadrut membership immediately dropped from 1.8 million members to 200,000.

Amir Peretz, a Ramon lieutenant, was elected chairman of the Histadrut earlier this year.

Peretz's close aide is Jacques Neria, head of the Histadrut's international department.

"We haven't yet faced our own sicknesses," Neria has said, citing the growing disparities within Israeli society. "We must narrow the chasm between

the rich and the poor. The best country to live in is where the differences between rich and poor are the smallest."

Neria and his Histadrut colleagues are deeply concerned about the growing importation of foreign workers, mainly to fill menial jobs. Immigrants now number 100,000, and represent 7 percent of the labor force. They are often exploited and paid "wages of misery," Neria said.

Another concern, familiar to American labor unions, is the relocation of industries to Jordan and Egypt to take advantage of much lower wages in those countries.

Looking to the future, the Histadrut signed a cooperative agreement last year with Palestinian labor unions, and Neria is now working on creating a Mediterranean Federation of Trade Unions that would include unions in Israel and the Arab countries.

"However, our single most important relationship remains with the AFL-CIO in America," he said.

Peretz, Neria and their colleagues speak of an Israel evolving into a true social democracy, but hardly in the ascetic style preached by Ben-Gurion and the early pioneers.

"Poverty is not a virtue," observed one Histadrut official. "To be a socialist, one need not be poor."

Zvi Artzi, the 70-something head of the residents council at the Home for the Elderly in Ramat Efal, is worried.

Rumors that the Histadrut, which built and operated the home, might sell it had reached him.

How would that affect the 1,000 residents, a quarter of them Holocaust survivors and most of them older than 80?

Before there was a State of Israel, there was the Histadrut, which from the 1920s on created the framework of the nascent Jewish homeland.

Among its crown jewels was — and in varying degrees continues to be — a social service network resting on three main pillars: Mishan, Amal and Kupat Holim Clalit.

Mishan, which means "support," includes nine homes for the elderly with a total of 4,500 residents, five children's and youth villages, and senior citizen centers scattered across the country.

Amal is a national network of 100 schools with 50,000 students, encompassing general and technical high schools, apprenticeship and industrial schools, junior colleges, junior colleges and training centers for adults.

Kupat Holim Clalit, the massive General Sick Fund, claims six of every 10 Israelis among its members. It operates 14 hospitals, 1,200 clinics and 350 pharmacies.

The Mishan and Amal networks are still wholly owned by the Histadrut, though the labor federation has drastically slashed its operating subsidies.

The Histadrut divested itself of Kupat Holim last year. Kupat Holim is now the largest of four HMO-like organizations operating under a government-supervised national health service.

The Israel Histadrut Foundation which is headquartered in New York, supports selected Mishan, Amal and Kupat Holim projects.

At the opposite end of the age spectrum from the home for elderly in Ramat Efal lies Mishan's Max Apple Children's

Village in Gan Yavne, near the Mediterranean port city of Ashdod.

The 170 children — from infants to 12-year-olds — come mainly from problem families, where there is neglect, drug or sexual abuse, or the parents are in prison.

At the Amal school network's Pedagogical-Technological Center in Tel Aviv, some 5,000 Israeli teachers each year are learning to navigate the information highway.

The center's students and teacher trainees work with CD-ROM instead of textbooks, and a project for putting the history of Zionism on CD-ROM is in its final stages.

In an indication of the center's standing, both Saudi Arabia and Surinam have tried to buy the entire computer lab for reassembly in their respective capitals, Salant said.

Kupat Holim, often criticized for its bureaucracy and interminable waits, is becoming leaner and more efficient now that it must compete with three other health provider services.

It remains the only HMO to establish clinics in immigrant centers, Arab towns and Jewish settlements in the territories.

One example is the Bridge of Peace Child Health Center in the Israeli Arab town of Taibe. It serves three Arab communities, with 55,000 residents, in the center of Israel.

Kupat Holim doctors and nurses face other problems in serving some 700 Ethiopian immigrants at the "caravan," or trailer park, in Be'erotaim. These include the transition of the immigrants from a rural culture to living in a modern urban society, and helping them cope with a relatively high incidence of tuberculosis, parasitic diseases and sexually transmitted diseases.

(JTA correspondent Tom Tugend was in Israel recently on a media tour sponsored by the Israel Histadrut Foundation.)

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