

The Egyptian Government Paper Al-Akhhbar
Once Again Defends Hitler

Following criticism of President Hani Mubarak during his visit to the US in early April 2001, the Egyptian government daily Al-Akhhbar temporarily ceased publishing articles defending Hitler. Recently however, the paper again published an article by a Muslim scholar, Muhammad Khadda, a cleric from Al-Azhar University, entitled "In Defense of Hitler". The article is the work of experts of the article.

Media Watch



When David Oleskeer (right) came to Rhode Island on June 18, he demonstrated just how difficult it can be to counter positions proposed by feverently committed proponents of the Palestinian position. In the morning seminar, Sheldon Sollosy played the part of the talk show host.

Why might Israel be losing the media war?

It's an important question that American Jews struggle with as they watch the evening news, listen to domestic and foreign news radio programs and catch radio talk show guests and callers who lambast the Jewish state.

Can the average listener and reader respond effectively?

Answers and ideas on pages 3, 9-12.

Postmaster: Dated Material.
Please Expedite!

Israeli soldiers cry during the burial of Sgt. Ophir Kit, 19, at the Mount Herzl Military Cemetery in Jerusalem on June 24. Kit and Sgt. Aviv Izak, 19, were killed when they responded to a call to help a jeep with Israeli license plates that seemed stuck. The driver turned out to be a Palestinian suicide bomber who detonated his explosives as they approached the jeep.



Credit: Brian Hendler/JTA

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Briefs. . .



Photo by Brian Hender/JTA

The body of five-month-old Yehuda Shoham, draped in a prayer shawl, is carried by his father, Benny, in front of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's office during a funeral procession in Jerusalem on Monday, June 11. The day before, Sharon had said prayers at the baby's bedside. Jewish settlers criticized Sharon for not responding more strongly to Palestinian violence. Yehuda died nearly a week after a stone crashed through the windshield of the family's car, striking him in the head.

Who owns the Holocaust?

ROME (JTA) — The shadowy "rescue" by Yad Vashem of Holocaust-era paintings from Ukraine — viewed as outright theft by officials in Eastern Europe — has renewed debate over who "owns" the Holocaust.

In its defense, Yad Vashem said it had the "moral right" to the

paintings by Bruno Schulz, a writer and artist shot down by an SS officer in the Ukrainian village of Drohobych in 1942 because he was a Jew.

Ukraine has stringent state laws which protect cultural heritage, but which the museum managed to circumvent.

Pope at Babi Yar

ROME (JTA) — In his first visit to a Jewish site since a controversial appearance in Syria in May, Pope John Paul paid tribute on June 25 to the 34,000 Ukrainian Jews who were gunned down at the ravine at Babi Yar by the Nazis during three days in September, 1941.

The Pope was at Babi Yar on the third day of a five-day visit to Ukraine where he was encouraging reconciliation and harmony among religions.

A Sharon trial?

Former Lebanese militiamen involved in the Sabra and Shatila massacres in Lebanon in 1982 could cut a deal to escape indictments by offering to testify against Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. A leading US-based human rights group has called for a criminal investigation into Sharon's role. Many view the effort as another attempt to discredit Israel.

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From the Editor

Summer should be just about 10 days old when this issue of The Voice reaches you. We will use July to take our lo-o-o-ong sigh as we renew ourselves and refine our plans for the coming publishing cycle, which begins in September.

Working closely with our Editorial Board, we have devised a series of features for the coming year which will be both exciting and valuable. From October 2001 through July 2002, we will feature **how contemporary Jews recognize and celebrate our key life cycle events and stages.** Each issue will include side bars that list Jewish resources in our community to help you plan, celebrate and cope with these major phases of life.

(Do you have non-Jewish relatives who would like to know more about Jewish life? Help them by sending them The Voice. Use the form on this page to give us the information, accompanied by a \$12 check to cover our costs, and we'll add them to the mailing list.)

Another new monthly feature begins in September: Simchas. Will you share yours? Send us announcements of births of children and grandchildren, b'nei mitzvah of sons and daughters, engagements, weddings and key anniversaries (25, 50, 60, 75). Don't forget the engagement and wedding pictures: glossy or jpeg (no Polaroids and no charge). Land mail to Jewish Voice, 130 Sessions St., Providence, RI 02906 or e-mail to JVoicesimchas@aol.com. For details, see the ad on page 13.

And, next, **our format.** We are starting to use bright white newsprint, and we will no longer staple or trim The Voice. Paper and mailing costs took major jumps this year, but our revenues did not. We are determined to continue to send you well-written information and features that are vital to our community. By reducing printing and mailing costs we can do that and even add features. We also want to get to you faster, making information more timely. By no longer stapling and trimming The Voice, we should be able to get The Voice to the post office within 36 hours of taking the files to the printer.

In this issue we put a **major focus on Israel and the media**, a very important matter, especially now. Please take the time to read these pages (3, 9-12) so you will be a more savvy news consumer and so you will discover what you can do to help set the record straight. We consider these articles so important that we are giving them the space we usually reserved for Opinions. But we are interested in *your* opinions about The Voice and issues important to the community. So write us. For the September issue, send in your cards, letters and e-mails by August 9. By land to The Jewish Voice, 130 Sessions St., Providence, RI 02906; electronically to JVoiceletters@aol.com.

Now, let's all kick back and enjoy Rhode Island in the prime of her seasons.

Jane S. Sprague

Table of Contents

Agencies	JORI	21	Israel	2, 4, 3, 9-12
JCC	PHDS	20	Media Watch	3, 9-12
JFS	Federation	3, 15	Medical Arts	26
JSA	CRC	13	National	8
Community	Endowment	15	Religious News	17
Cultural Arts	WA	16	Seniors	27
Education	Holocaust	6, 7	Women's Alliance	16
ASDS	International	5		
BJE				

Special Features

Carrying the tune a granddaughter's song	6	Why is Israel losing the media war? Be an advocate	3, 10
Davening with sea breezes RI's most remote Jewish congregation	17	Know your sources Arab anti-semitism	9, 11, 12 12

Israel under attack

Reframing the issue can turn the agenda pro-Israel

Editor's Note: In this issue of The Voice, we are featuring an investigative report, commissioned by the Jewish Investigative Journalism Fund, which analyzes media bias against Israel. This article coordinates with that focus by reporting on techniques for Israel advocacy with the media. The complex of articles continue on pages 9-12.

by Jane S. Sprague

So, you get in the cab and the driver glances at you in his rear-view mirror. "Are you Jewish?" he asks.

"Why?" you ask back.

"Just wondering what you think about things in the Middle East," he says.

You crane your neck to see his name on his ID. "Oh. Well, how is the media coverage of Nigeria?"

He then takes over the conversation until you reach your destination, and as you get out of the cab, you say to him, "I know just how you feel. The media treats Israel the same way!"

You move on, having won someone to a different perspective of Israel.

That is what David Olesker calls the "New York Taxi Driver Technique" and suggests that advocates of Israel learn to use it.

Olesker was in Rhode Island on Monday, June 18 to lead three seminars for local activists and teachers who were eager to learn how to talk about Israel and to respond to adversaries on talk shows and in newspapers. He had come from Israel, where he runs the Jerusalem Center for Communications and Advocacy Training.

The nonpartisan Center is an outgrowth of his work with the World Zionist Organization where he landed after making aliyah from England in 1982.

Advocates for Israel need three things to be effective, Olesker said: information, technique and forum. But, he said, "Being right is not enough. You must analyze your situation and decide whether to respond to the adversary or to respond for the sake of the audience."

For information and background, Olesker recommends a book which can be found by the major book stores through used-book searches: *The Siege: The Saga of Israel and Zionism* by Conor Cruise O'Brien, Simon & Schuster, 1986.

For contemporary information, Olesker provided a long list of web sites (see page 10) and suggested that after exploring them, advocates pick three to check on a daily basis.

For background, he also ran a video made from

Palestinian Authority television programming for kindergarten-aged children which glamorized becoming members of suicide squads, showed youths in summer camps training to be fighters and included footage of Yasser Arafat exhorting the public to continue *jihad* against Israel.

10-minute advocate

Forums for advocacy also are easy to find — local talk shows and letters-to-the-editor sections of newspapers, as well as locally organized special events about Israel that will attract media coverage. And then there is JAT. It is through JAT that one can become a "ten-minute-a-day-activist." After sending a blank e-mail to jat.action-subscribe@topica.com, people will receive a daily action recommendation that will take a maximum of 10 minutes to perform. It could be sending an e-mail to a paper or magazine or calling a legislator.

Technique is harder to master, and few in the audience walked away with Olesker's skills. He is so adept at switching the emphasis to whatever subject he wants to cover that it is nearly impossible to "best" him, a frustrating experience he demonstrated vividly when he mounted a mock radio talk show at each seminar with himself playing an Arab human rights expert. "Callers" usually tried to go head-to-head with the glib and slick guest, who talked rings around them.

To help deflate the influence of such an individual, Olesker suggested that advocates point up where the person is spewing incorrect facts because if the person can be proven to be lying on one subject, overall credibility is damaged. But the advocate must have the facts.

Another technique to master, Olesker suggested, is to change the discussion by saying, "That's not the question. The real question is . . . By changing the agenda to your agenda, an advocate has an opportunity to undermine the speaker's or writer's point of view. We need to set the pace of advocacy," he emphasized, "or we will lose" in the court of public opinion.

Why is that important?

"Israel is a tiny country," Olesker said. "It has no natural resources except lots of Jews, and no one else wants them. World perception of Israel is vital," he added. "We need you to stand up for Israel."

Go to pages 9-12 for an analysis of media bias, a list of key web sites with facts for advocacy and David Olesker's 10 Tips for responding to talk shows, writing letters to the editor and handling coverage of pro-Israel events.

Agencies join planning; halt capital drives

by Jane S. Sprague

In an unprecedented spirit of consensus, key Jewish agencies in Rhode Island which were in the early stages of or were planning capital campaigns to fund enhancements to or construction of facilities have put their plans on hold in order to work with the broader community on a coordinated facility and service plan.

That announcement was made on Tuesday, June 19 by Doris Feinberg, Newport, who chairs the Strategic Planning Steering Committee. She was speaking to the Board of Directors of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island (JFRI).

Last fall, Jews from throughout the region came together to initiate the strategic planning process. The 20 volunteers, working in two subcommittees, one on Enhancing Community Excellence, the other on Community Engagement, have surveyed the goals and objectives of the agencies; they have met with groups of Jews in South County, Newport County, East Bay, West Bay, Pawtucket and the Attleboros; they have visited with the boards of the synagogues. All these encounters, Feinberg explained, were designed to ascertain needs, frustrations, dreams and possibilities that would then guide the subcommittee members in their work.

Feinberg reported that the two subcommittees have concurred on three objectives: Increasing engagement in the Jewish community throughout the region; sustaining excellent programs that provide high quality services and facilities, and raising and allocating funds to support that engagement and those programs.

The Excellence subcommittee, co-chaired by Darrell Ross and Joshua Teverov, had found more demands for agency services than dollars allocated, no coordinated community-wide facilities plan, and a redundancy in consultative services.

The Engagement subcommittee, co-chaired by Mark Feinstein and Jonathan Fain, concluded that the various geographic areas want and need assistance in leadership development and community building, need more JCC-type programs and want high quality services.

Inclusive planning, Feinberg suggested, needs to define the most critical issues by population groups and by geography. Then a community-wide plan can be developed for each that addresses short- and long-term needs for services, programs and facilities.

During the next three to four months, she said, the committee, working with JFRI and agency staffs, will develop a matrix that presents services offered and services needed. The matrix then can guide the steering committee in its next phase.

Rosenfeld pleads *nolo* to molestation

Stanley Rosenfeld, 68, who formerly served as a cantor and religious education director for Temple Am David in Warwick, pled *nolo contendere* on May 21 to charges of two counts of second degree sexual molestation.

Under the plea bargain worked out with the state, Judge Edwin J. Gale sentenced Rosenfeld to 10 years in prison, but suspended the sentence and placed Rosenfeld on probation. According to Jim Martin, a spokesman for the RI Attorney General's office, the court also ruled that Rosenfeld cannot work with children without supervision.

The synagogue severed relations with Rosenfeld last August immediately after he was arrested on the basis of allegations by a 12-year-old boy whom Rosenfeld had been preparing for his bar mitzvah. Police interviewed other children taught by Rosenfeld, but found no other victims.

According to Martin, the sentence agreement was reached in consultation and agreement with the boy, his mother and their attorney.

Second degree sexual molestation charges include

inappropriate touching. According to police, the boy said that for over a year, during his tutoring sessions, Rosenfeld's touching progressed from hugs and slaps to the boy's bottom to touching his genitals through his pants.

Al Bucci, a probation supervisor for the Corrections Department, said that Rosenfeld is receiving counseling, although he could not be specific about the kind of counseling. He also said that if Rosenfeld left here for another state with which Rhode Island has an interstate compact, that state would be advised of Rosenfeld's record. Bucci did not know whether another country would be notified. A well-placed source told *The Voice* that Rosenfeld is planning to move to Israel. Martin said that he thought both the local court and the Israeli embassy would have to be notified of any such plans.

Rosenfeld, who was self-taught but never ordained as a cantor, moved to Rhode Island from New York City in 1997. According to police reports, he had worked in the NYC public school system and in a Jewish academy.

Bush praises Sharon's restraint, but differs on cease-fire

by Matthew E. Berger
WASHINGTON (JTA)
—Israel and the Bush administration are divided as to when Israel and the Palestinians should start on the next leg of the road back to peace talks.

Meeting with Sharon at the White House on June 26, President Bush said the parties should discuss all opportunities to "advance the process" toward the cooling-off period advocated by the Mitchell commission.

But Sharon said he believes the cooling-off period should begin after 10 days without violence.

A senior White House official said the Bush administration disagrees, saying that movement to the cooling off period must be based on the reality on the ground, and when there is 100% effort by both parties.

Earlier, Sharon was adamant in his call to end violence. "One must understand that if last week we had five dead, it's like the United States, Mr. President, having 250 killed, or maybe even 300 people killed by terror," he said.

Bush praised Sharon's patience and leadership and said he understood the pressure Sharon faces.

In New York on June 25, Sharon had sounded a harsher tone, saying there had not been even one day of a real cease-fire, and describing Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat not as the leader of a state-in-the-making but as the "head of a terrorist gang."

Israel and the Palestinians differ on the duration of the cooling-off period that must separate fighting and diplomacy. Israel wants a six- to eight-week window of quiet, while the Palestinians say the diplomatic process must resume almost immediately.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said the United States favors a shorter period than does Israel.

After Sharon's meeting at the White House, Powell left for the Middle East, where he was expected to try to salvage the cease-fire agreement reached earlier this month with the aid of CIA Director George Tenet.

Sharon told Bush that Israel's restraint is not unlimited, and the United States must push harder for Arafat to uphold the cease-fire. Since the cease-fire was signed, Palestinian attacks have killed eight Israelis and injured 35.

"We are very concerned that Arafat is playing a game," an Israeli official in Washington said. "The cease-fire has to be unequivocal."

Powell has said repeatedly that Arafat cannot control all outbreaks of violence, and that he is seeking "100% effort" from the Palestinian leader, rather than 100% results.

A State Department official admitted Powell's trip is "amorphous" and lacks a clear agenda. Powell himself said he is bringing no new proposals to the Middle East; it is believed that he hopes the weight of his position will be enough to bully the parties toward further steps to peace.

An Israeli official in Washing-

ton said he views the current situation as "we cease; they fire. When he makes the effort, it will be clear to everyone that he is making the effort," the official said of Arafat.

In the next step of the process, confidence-building measures are expected to address contentious issues such as a freeze on Israeli settlement activity

To all travelers, Godspeed

By Joshua Stein
Voice Editorial Board

Editor's Note: This is the d'var Torah that Josh Stein gave at the beginning of the Voice Editorial Board retreat on June 14.

The parasha this coming Shabbat (June 16) begins with the story of the 12 spies Moses sent into Canaan to scout out the land and to report on its richness and fortifications. They go and see that it is all that was promised, a land flowing with milk and honey. As evidence they bring back a branch with a single cluster of grapes so large it took two of them to carry it. But 10 of them say, "The people are giants, we looked like grasshoppers in their eyes, we can never take them, they would defeat and kill us."

Only Joshua and Caleb deny the pessimism, "Yes, they are strong, but with God's help we can take them; do not fear the people of the land, their defense is removed from them, and the Lord is with us; fear them not."

But the people moan and weep all that night. "Would that we had died in the land of Egypt!" they cry. "Or that we had died in this wilderness! And wherefore does the Lord bring us into this land, to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will become prey; would it not be better for us to return into Egypt?"

Now, for no better reason than an inflated and undeserved sense of self-worth, and because my name is also Joshua, I had always thought that had I been there in the wilderness, I would have been one of the few who would rally the others, saying, as did that Joshua of old, "Come on, guys, we can do it, let's go, God's with us." But when my wife, whom I love, came to me a month or so ago and said that she had a fabulous opportunity to go to Israel dirt-cheap on an educators' mission, I urged her not to go. "It's too dangerous; Arab terrorists strike without regard to nationality, seemingly at will, wherever they want." And then the suicide bomber in Tel Aviv struck and proved my point, yet again.

But she said, "No, it will be all right, I'll go and come home again," and so she flew off in June.

When my eldest son called to say he would spend a month in Israel doing research for his thesis, I urged him not to go. "It's too dangerous; Arab terrorists strike without regard to nationality, seemingly at will, wherever they want." But he, too, now a year older than I was when I married, insisted that it would be ok. He leaves at the beginning of next month.

The people in "Bemidbar" feared for their wives and their little ones, and so do I. I wish it could be otherwise. If I had reason to go and could leave them safely here, I would. But no longer am I convinced of my superiority to our ancestors who lived in their wilderness, fearful for their wives and their children. The parasha reminds us that with the security of distance, both of time and of place, it's easy to be brave; when confronted by danger to those we love, it is more difficult by far.

So, my wife and son are leaving the security of the galut to go to the danger of Eretz Yisrael. Some day I hope to be as brave when I send them, as they are when they go. Please join me in wishing them and all travelers to Israel Godspeed. May they go in peace and come home in peace.

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British Jews breathe sigh of relief as voters ignore Muslim campaign

by Richard Allen Greene

LONDON (JTA) — British Jewish leaders are relieved at the failure of a Muslim campaign aimed at unseating pro-Israel legislators.

Votesmart, a Web site run by Muslim volunteers, campaigned against a number of legislators who belong to Labor Friends of Israel, a lobbying bloc associated with Prime Minister Tony Blair's victorious governing party.

All the targeted candidates won re-election in the June 7 general election, many by larger margins than they garnered in the last elections in 1997.

"The Muslim campaign had no effect at all," said Barry Kosmin, director of London's Institute for Jewish Policy Research, a think tank. Votesmart's emphasis on Palestine, to the exclusion of all other issues during the campaign, proved

ineffective, Kosmin said.

"Foreign policy, and especially Palestine, doesn't play any role in British elections," he said.

Mike Whine, a spokesman for the Community Security Trust, an organization that deals with Jewish security issues, agreed. "The election seems to suggest that Muslim voters are more concerned with national issues" than foreign ones, "which is to be welcomed," he told JTA.

Mike Gapes, a target of Votesmart, said the campaign may actually have backfired. Gapes, the vice chairman of Labor Friends of Israel, was rated a minus 5 — the lowest possible rating — on Votesmart's online guide.

Despite the rating, he said, "I had very large support from Muslims in my community. Quite a lot of Muslims decided they wanted nothing to do with this and actively

campaigned for me," he said.

While pro-Israel activists are pleased by the overall result — a repeat of Labor's landslide 1997 victory — there is concern about the success of the far-right British National Party in the north of England.

The BNP captured 16.4% of the vote in Oldham West — the best-ever result for a far-right party in England — and 11% in neighboring Oldham East.

A depressed industrial town, Oldham East was the scene of riots between Muslims of Pakistani origin and white residents in the past few months.

There were few other surprises for Jewish candidates or voters in an election that Kosmin characterized as "amazing, in that it was a complete rerun of 1997."

One of the country's most prominent Jewish politicians, former Foreign Secretary Sir Malcolm Rifkind, failed to recapture the Edinburgh seat he lost to Labor in 1997. Daniel Finkelstein, a top strategist for the Conservative Party, lost his bid to win a seat. And Rudi Vis, the Labor legislator for heavily Jewish Finchley and Golders Green, was re-elected comfortably despite his opposition to an *eruv* — a wire boundary allowing Orthodox Jews to carry belongings on Shabbat — in the district.

Brits to join US, Canada, Australia, South Africa at Maccabiah Games

by Richard Allen Greene

LONDON (JTA) — Despite initial reports to the contrary and confusion among its athletes, Britain is planning to send a team to the Maccabiah Games this month.

It was widely expected that the "Jewish Olympics" would be canceled or postponed, and it was reported that the British team — one of the largest — had pulled out.

But in a surprise decision announced June 15, the Games' steering committee decided to go with the games after Maccabi-USA announced it would send a delegation after all. Other delegations — from South Africa, Canada and Australia — quickly announced that they, too, would attend.

Then a few days later, the

British organizers sent a letter to all of their athletes saying that a team would be sent to Israel — and asked who still wanted to go.

John Barnett, a co-chair of the British organizing committee, said Britain would send a team "even if it's only one" — himself. Barnett, 62, is competing in the master's tennis category. But he does not expect to be alone in the British contingent.

Other British organizations are continuing to send tours to Israel as well, though often with altered schedules. The United Jewish Israel Appeal is changing itineraries for its Israel Experience youth program. The teens will not stay overnight in Jerusalem or visit Tel Aviv, organizers said.

Committee rebuffs White House, votes for longer Iran, Libya sanctions

by Matthew E. Berger

WASHINGTON (JTA) — The House of Representatives is poised to extend sanctions against Iran and Libya for five more years, after a congressional committee rejected an amendment by the Bush administration to shorten the renewal to two years.

The amendment to cut three years off the Iran Libya Sanctions Act was overwhelmingly defeated June 20 by the House International Relations Committee, 34-9, which passed the full act by a 41-3 vote.

The bill — commonly known as ILSA — was first passed in 1996 and calls for sanctions against foreign companies investing in Iran's energy sector, as a deterrent to trade with the two nations.

The measure appears to be effective: In its five years as law, only seven of the more than 50 international deals proposed by

Iran have gone through.

The Bush administration had sought a two-year extension of ILSA, maintaining the shorter time would provide more leverage in dealing with the Iranian government and its recently re-elected President Mohammad Khatami.

But the bill's advocates say that despite Khatami's moderate leanings, they are still concerned about Iran's support of Hezbollah and other terrorist groups.

Iran is targeted because it also actively opposes the Middle East peace process and is seeking to acquire weapons of mass destruction. Libya's inclusion is based on its refusal to acknowledge responsibility for the deadly bombing of a Pan Am flight 103 in 1988.

Sanctions are limited to foreign companies because an executive order prohibits American Please go to page 7.

286


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Carrying The Tune

Editor's Note: Tal Bar-Zemer is a student at the Wheeler School and the daughter of Uri and Ellen Bar-Zemer, Providence. The RI Holocaust Memorial Museum presented her with the Gastfreund Award for this essay, which she read at the Museum's annual meeting.

by Tal Bar-Zemer

An envelope lies on top of the Armenian tile-work coffee table that my parents bought in the Old City in Jerusalem and recently had set in a larger table of butcher block maple. One end of the envelope is torn open to reveal the blue and white legal style liner. The check peeks out from the torn edges of the envelope. It's like a great white elephant perched on the dizzying tilework. Because even though that's what we are here to discuss, we all wish it wasn't there. I can tell by the way my dad strokes his beard, by his far-off gaze, by the way the corners of my mother's mouth turn down, by the frown that I got from her, which she can't hide because it shows around her blue eyes, and the way the forced smile sags at the ends. Even my brother, who usually slumps down sideways on a chair all fidgety and sloppy, sits at attention.

My mother picks up the envelope and turns it over in her hands before placing it back on the table and sighing. It's a lot of money, \$35,000, and that's after the German lawyers took half and the rest was divided among the descendants. I think not one of us would hesitate to give it back though, if we could get rid of that part of our history.

I wonder what was happening in his mind. That moment after the candles were lit and the wine was poured and the hugs all around and the "Shabbat shalom," when he would sit back in his chair with his distinctly German, guttural "ahhhh" and "count the Bar-Zemers".

Holding out his hand and raising a finger towards every one of us in turn, he would name each person sitting around the table. My grandmother; my aunts, Yehudit and Shulamit; my Uncle Yuval; my parents, Uri and Ellen, and me, Tal, the very last, perched on two or three phone books, holding a spill-proof cup of apple juice. Later, my brother would be added, and then, after we moved to America, my Uncle Yuval's wife and their children and my Aunt Shulamit's husband and their children. But at that time all the Bar-Zemers in the world could fit at one table, close enough to be counted. And that was proof that we had survived.

I will never know if he knew why he was counting. My mom says she was never quite sure, my dad says he knew darn well what he was doing, even though he never liked to talk about it. He never told me about his parents, never sat me on his knee and told me about the old country where life was good and his family was rich and respected, a premier textile manufacturer for the German government. He never told me about the good old days when he studied at the Berlin Academy of Music and was brilliant and successful. The history I needed to know was not of Heinz Marcus who left Germany at the age of 19. He would not talk about the Hitler Jugend with swastikas who beat him on the street one night. Nor did he mention his parents who would not join him when he left the next day, because Palestine was too dirty for their taste. The parents who kept in touch through letters, even in Auschwitz, and then the letters

stopped coming.

In Palestine he fought for Israel and played the bassoon and his name was not Heinz Marcus, but Hanoch Bar-Zemer. He changed his name when the state of Israel was declared. He didn't want anything to remind him of Germany, or being German or the horrible things he left there. So he chose his own name, Hanoch Bar-Zemer. Bar-Zemer, *Son of a Melody*.

My house has lots of stuff to remember my grandfather by. We have old pipes, books, photos, canes. It's all very important and sentimental. But we don't have anything preceding him. We have nothing that shows where he came from. And all the pipes and canes and books and relics don't really say who he was; they don't hold anything but isolated memories. So we hold on to the name because

we know that it was most important to him. Because the Bar-Zemers are proof that he survived. Every Friday, he would count as if to say, this is what I have now, this is what we have made of your Holocaust. *We are the sons of his song.*

A check is all we have left of his life before. Thirty-five thousand dollars to represent everything that he left behind. And we would gladly give it up for the chance to erase the reason that we hold it. A reparation check from the German government can't even begin to cover the damage. But the fact of the matter is that we are here to take it, and that is something. My grandfather saw what was wrong before it was too late and was strong enough to stand up and leave. His parents did not believe it would happen, and then the letters stopped coming. And now we are left with a check. *And a melody.* The check cannot rebuild what has passed, so we decided to use it for the future. Some will go towards college for my brother and me, some for my parents' retirement. Some will go towards a touring production of a play about the Holocaust denial movement.

This is the part that holds the most significance for me. Unlike my father and brother, I did not inherit the musical talent from my grandfather. My brother plays the guitar, my father plays the recorder and can name the composer and performer of just about any classical piece he hears. But like my mother, who only married into "Bar-Zemer," I am not endowed with any great musical talent. I cannot sing, or read music for beans, or make sense of how the notes string together to make a song. I love theater, though, and I love to teach theater and watch the power it has to influence others. So "Anne Frank and Me" is like my song. It will tour to thousands of middle school students in Rhode Island and tell the story. It will speak to those who say it can't happen, it didn't happen, and make sure they know it did. It cannot make up for what we lost, but it can tell the story, in the hope of preventing other losses. The play is my own continuation of my grandfather's rebellious declaration every Friday night of "We survived, we are still here and we aren't going away any time soon."

It is my way to carry his tune.



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Slave labor fund to begin payout, but survivors say it's not enough

by Michael J. Jordan

NEW YORK (JTA) — Expressions of triumph and relief greeted the news that Nazi-persecuted slave laborers are finally beginning to receive compensation from Germany. It wasn't long before the cordial mood was punctured.

The first 10,000 applicants will soon get payments of 10,000 German marks — about \$4,400 — each, officials of the Claims Conference announced June 19. But Roman Kent, a renowned figure in the Holocaust survivor community, put the \$4.5 billion compensation fund in a different perspective.

Kent, a survivor of the Lodz Ghetto and five years in three separate concentration camps, blasted away at those he said were so preoccupied with the money as to obscure the crux of the issue — “historic and moral justice,” he said, including full acknowledgment of German guilt.

Kent lashed into the German government — venting directly at the German representative in the audience, Ambassador to the United Nations Dieter Kastrup — for dragging its feet for years; at media that allegedly concentrated too much on dollars and cents; and at lawyers with what he called “the glitter of gold in their eyes.”

Fifty-one lawyers have divvied up legal fees of \$52 million — far

below the lawyers' normal contingency fee.

“It is wrong. It is morally wrong,” said Kent, vice president of the Claims Conference. “I'm ashamed that I was a participant in these negotiations. But in a way, I'm happy that in some way, for one million slave and forced laborers, they will achieve some token of moral justice.”

Other Jewish leaders tried to be more upbeat. “Far too long has elapsed, but it's with a sense of gratification that we make these payments,” said Greg Schneider, assistant executive vice president of the Claims Conference.

“After sixty years of pain and agony, four years of negotiations, two years of political wrangling, one year of legal proceedings, and one month of administration, we have arrived at this point,” Schneider said.

Kastrup chairs the German Foundation, which will disburse the funds. He said the delays in payment — due in part to German companies' insistence on “legal closure,” a guarantee of no further lawsuits — “were sometimes very painful to me.” Nevertheless, Kastrup said, “an important chapter is closed. But I want to be very clear: There can never be moral closure.”

The payments will be drawn from a fund, established in February 1999 by the German gov-

ernment and a group of German businesses. Nearly 150,000 out of an estimated 160,000 eligible Jewish survivors, from 25 different countries, have completed applications for compensation. In all, up to 1 million former slave and forced laborers under the Nazis will receive payments from Germany.

“About this topic, there is no justice,” Schneider said. “No survivor will get rich, and no amount of money can compensate.”

Meanwhile, one New York lawyer, Melvyn Weiss, reportedly will receive a windfall of \$6.3 million. Burt Neuberger, a professor at New York University Law School who was awarded \$4.4 million, told *The New York Times* he began work on litigation in 1997 not expecting to be paid. “While the fees for me are more than I would have dreamed of, they are not particularly high,” he told the paper. “I worked as hard as I could. There wasn't a day in the last four years that I haven't worked hard on this case.”

Still, his payment works out to a rate of \$3,000 per day.

At the same time, slave laborers — essentially those marked for death through work — will receive



Photo by Michael J. Jordan/JTA

Holocaust survivor and Claims Conference Vice President Roman Kent vents his frustration at a news conference June 19 in New York announcing the first payments to Nazi-era slave laborers.

up to \$6,600 in compensation, while forced laborers — everyone else forced to work — will get up to \$2,200.

Israel Singer, secretary general of the World Jewish Congress and another vice president of the Claims Conference, urged the media to “forget the numbers, forget the lawyers. To men of good will on both sides,” Singer said, “thank you for giving some old people some

modicum of self-respect.” Singer expressed regrets to survivors. “We on the Jewish side apologize that we are giving to you so little and it is coming so late,” he said.

Germany has extended the deadline for applying for compensation from August to Dec. 31. American survivors should call 1-800-697-6064, or search the Internet at www.claimscon.org.

Swiss Jews fearful after killing, increase in harassment on streets

by Fredy Rom

ZURICH (JTA) — The release of a suspect in the recent slaying of a rabbi here comes as a Swiss Jewish leader is calling on observant Jews to take secure routes to synagogues.

The call made by Max Besserman, chief of security for Zurich's Orthodox community, came after police released the 30-year-old suspect, saying they had little evidence that he was involved in the June 7 shooting death of Rabbi Abraham Greenbaum, a 71-year-old rabbi visiting from Israel.

The moves — and the growing fear among Switzerland's roughly 20,000 Jews — come as anti-semitism continues to mount in the Alpine nation.

The 1998 Swiss bank settlement, in which two major Swiss

banks agreed to pay \$1.25 billion to settle all claims surrounding Switzerland's handling of Holocaust victims' assets, led to an anti-semitic backlash, as many Swiss citizens believe that international Jewry blackmailed the banks.

The nine-month old Palestinian uprising has made the problem worse, as religious Jews often are accosted in the streets and held responsible for Israeli actions against the Palestinians.

The most frequent manifestations of public anti-semitism are verbal harassments of Swiss Jews on the street.

Two observant Jewish children, Yossi, 10, and Miriam, 11, told Swiss Television that they have suffered such attacks “because we look different.”

allies, who fear potential threats from Iranian weapons of mass destruction.

The bill includes a presidential waiver, which would allow President Bush to do away with the sanctions for any particular contract.

Sanctions. . . from pg. 5

companies from doing business with either country.

Sanctions for foreign companies include withholding export licenses, preventing loans from US banks and ceasing government procurement of goods and services. The legislation has been strongly touted by Israel and its American

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McCain supports separation between Israel, Palestinians

by Matthew E. Berger

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Just as he is emerging as one of President Bush's most persistent policy critics within the Republican Party, Sen. John McCain is proposing a future for Israelis and Palestinians that differs from the administration's Mideast policy.

McCain (R-Ariz.), who lost to Bush in the Republican presidential primaries last year, used an appearance at a forum for Washington interns on June 20 to advocate separation between Israelis and Palestinians and to urge increased American participation in the peace process.

"We're going to have to figure out ways for Israelis and Palestinians to live apart," McCain said. He also questioned how feasible it is for Israeli settlers to remain in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and said that the borders separating Israelis and Palestinians should be built up. "I'm not sure that over time, living under the constant state of siege is something that is sustainable," McCain said.

The senator received a hero's welcome from more than 500 Washington interns and young professionals on Capitol Hill at an event sponsored by the American Israel Public Affairs Committee. His backing for a strong American-Israeli alliance drew thunderous applause.

"The United States has to be engaged," McCain said. "We have to signal that we are going to be as involved as we have to be."

While not directly calling on Israel to separate unilaterally from the Palestinians, McCain hinted that attempts to create peaceful co-existence between the two nations are futile.

McCain's viewpoint contrasts sharply with that of the Bush administration, which recently has become more actively engaged in mediating the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Unilateral separation originally was proposed by former Prime Minister Ehud Barak when peace talks with the Palestinian Authority appeared to have hit a dead end. The idea was resurrected recently in Israel after a suicide bombing June 1 in Tel Aviv killed 21 Israelis.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has not endorsed the idea, and opponents say building a fence between Israelis and Palestinians is not feasible. Sharon favors a larger "security zone" of trenches and detection devices.

Few American leaders have backed the separation approach. Afterward, McCain denied that his take on the situation differs from current US policy. "This is neither new nor revolutionary," he told JTA. "We have to separate the warring parties."

Bush knowledge of Middle East impresses Jewish leaders

by Matthew E. Berger

WASHINGTON (JTA) — When Jack Rosen went to the White House for dinner, he thought it would be like presidential receptions he had attended before. "I expected we'd walk into a large room with several thousand people," said Rosen, the president of the American Jewish Congress. "I figured the president would make a speech, and we'd all go home and the president would make us feel good."

But the May 31 "working dinner" at the White House was vastly different. In what Jewish leaders called a "magical" and "extraordinary" event, President Bush, along with many senior officials, engaged American Jewish leaders and Israeli President Moshe Katsav in an intimate conversation about the fate of the State of Israel and the conflict with the Palestinians.

The event gave American Jewish leaders an opportunity to express their views on key Israeli issues directly to Bush, and for his administration to try to earn its Middle East credentials with a community that has been skeptical.

The White House spoke candidly about issues at the heart of the Middle East peace process. Jewish leaders said he was very receptive to adding the Palestinians' Force 17 security guard and Tanzim militia to the State Department's Foreign Terrorists Organization list next fall and discussed rewards for the capture of Palestinians responsible for the killing of Americans in Israel.

Bush's personal interest and knowledge of the Arab-Israeli conflict surprised several American Jewish leaders. "He led the conversation," said Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League. "He had a very hands-on knowledge of the area, its problems and challenges."

Since Bush took office in January, there have been few public statements by the White House on the Middle East conflict, certainly nothing near the personal involvement that Clinton had during his time in office. The lack of public comment has led to the popular opinion that this was a president who is uninterested in the Middle East.

But given the escalation of violence in recent weeks,

the administration has increased its attention to the region, naming special envoys and endorsing an international report that set guidelines for ending the violence.

Even so, the personal involvement of Bush, Powell and Vice President Dick Cheney at the dinner, as well as senior advisers Karl Rove and Ari Fleischer, made an impression on the Jewish leaders.

"I walked away from that evening feeling this is a president who knows right from wrong and good guys from bad guys," Rosen said.

Bush also used the meeting to stress that Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat would not be visiting the White House in the near future. Bush reportedly told Jewish leaders that an invitation to the White House is his trump card against Arafat and said he intended to use it.

"Privately and publicly this administration has said time and time again that Israel is a friend and an ally," Foxman said. "They are concerned about its safety and security."

In addition to Rosen and Foxman, the Jewish leadership at the meeting included: Max Fisher and Mel Sembler, honorary chairmen of the Republican Jewish Committee; Ronald Lauder, then still chairman, and Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations; Mayer Mitchell and Lonny Kaplan, former presidents of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee; Stephen Solender, then president of the United Jewish Communities; Richard Heideman, president of B'nai B'rith International; Bob Goodkind, chairman of the board of governors of the American Jewish Committee; and Bonnie Lipton, president of Hadassah — The Women's Zionist Organization of America.

Bush seemed to leave a lasting impression on them all.

"If 65 years ago the Jewish community had this kind of working relationship with the president and secretary of state, the history of the Jews might be much different," Solender said.

Groups say BellSouth case shows need for a stronger religious freedom law

by Sharon Samber

WASHINGTON (JTA) — A recent court case involving discrimination against an Orthodox Jew highlights the need for a religious freedom law that could prevent such incidents from occurring, some Jewish groups say.

A US jury awarded \$100,000 to a former telephone company employee who was fired months after he began following Orthodox Jewish practice.

The case of former BellSouth employee Jeffrey Bander shows that workplace discrimination is an issue that must be addressed, these groups say.

Richard Foltin, legislative director for the American Jewish Committee and chair of the Coalition for Religious Freedom in the Workplace, said Bander's allegations were particularly egregious and not representative of most "run-of-the-mill" discrimination cases.

Nevertheless, it shows there is a need for legislation so that employers know they must accom-

modate their employees' religious beliefs, Foltin said.

Bander claimed a supervisor told him to shave his beard and stop wearing a yarmulka, and said he couldn't work with Bander — who became Orthodox after his eldest son was killed by a drunk driver — because "you people think you're better."

BellSouth maintains that Bander was fired because he failed to follow procedures for taking time off. The company says it will appeal the ruling.

Under the Civil Rights Act, employers are required to "reasonably accommodate" an employee's religious practice or observance unless doing so would constitute an "undue" hardship. But supporters of religious freedom say the courts never properly interpreted the law, and employers have not faced any meaningful obligation to accommodate their workers' religious practices.

The Workplace Religious Freedom Act, introduced last year by

Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-N.Y.) and Rep. Asa Hutchinson (R-Ariz.), seeks to clarify the concept of undue hardship by defining it as "significant difficulty or expense." The bill was referred to committee, but languished there without being brought to a vote.

The US Supreme Court declared unconstitutional a previous attempt to protect religious freedoms. Unlike that law, WRFA only addresses religious freedom in the workplace.

The legislation would accomplish two things, according to David Zwiebel, the executive vice president for government and public affairs for Agudath Israel of America, a fervently Orthodox group.

One would be to make the law more effective by making it more difficult for employers to deny a worker's religious observance. The other is to create a climate that makes employers understand that they must accommodate religious differences.



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This report was funded by a grant from the Jewish Investigative Journalism Fund which serves the American Jewish Press Association.

Why is Israel losing the media war?

by David Margolis

In mid-April, a bomb factory "work accident" that Palestinian spokesmen falsely described as an Israeli rocket attack ripped through the Ramallah Force-17 headquarters. As newscameras descended on the scene and got to work, Palestinian Authority security personnel roughly confiscated film from photographers and TV cameramen.

"They made it quite clear," says Mark Lavie of the Associated Press, that anyone who resisted "would not have a happy day."

As a result, photos of the blast were not on TV screens. Some news services did not even bother to report the film confiscation. But the false accusation of an Israeli rocket attack lingered in media reports for the next day or two.

In a sea of details, do such omissions and shadings accumulate to resemble systematic media bias against Israel? Do individual media outlets purposely slant the news to favor the Palestinian side? Or is anti-Israel media bias a myth, with reporters, under constant pressure to be first with breaking news, doing their best to explain fast-moving and highly emotional events?

A three-month investigation of the foreign press in Israel reveals that some foreign correspondents do impose their private sympathies on the news they report. More ominous for accurate reporting, however, is the success of the Palestinian Authority, through intimidation of journalists and manipulation of the journalistic process, in making sure that its version of events dominates the West's television screens and newspapers.

Meanwhile, Israel's own efforts to deliver its message — ineffective, as even Ariel Sharon's media chief acknowledges — add yet another reason that Israel seems to be losing the media war.

Obstruction And Intimidation

During the Oct. 12 lynching of two Israeli soldiers in Ramallah, Palestinian police as well as demonstrators, eager to keep the event from the world media, punched, kicked and threatened journalists with knives in order to confiscate their film, eyewitnesses say. A local photographer for a major American daily was kept by PA police from recording the crowd's celebratory dancing after the murders. Ominously, she adds now that it "would jeopardize my security to be quoted by name." Like many journalists interviewed for this article, she asked not to be named.

After the lynching, when an Italian news crew's video was broadcast worldwide, Italian journalist Ricardo Cristiano — apparently concerned that he would be associated with the crew — wrote a letter of apology to the official PA newspaper Al Hayat, promising to "respect" the PA's "rules" for journalists.

In March, in an atmosphere hot with suspicion and hostility, Marwan Barghouti, leader of the PA's Tanzim militia, warned outright that any Israeli journalist who entered PA areas would be killed. Since then, most Israeli journalists either stay home or make sure to be accompanied by well-connected Palestinians.

Barghouti threatened harm to any Palestinian who cooperated with Israeli news people, ratcheting up the danger for Palestinian journalists, who have long been under implied or explicit threat if their coverage displeases a high official or is labeled harmful to the Palestinian "cause."

David Margolis is an award-winning reporter who lives in Israel. He formerly wrote for the Jewish Journal of Los Angeles.

"In short, the Palestinian campaign to control the news by force or threat, while not new, has become pandemic."

In short, the Palestinian campaign to control the news by force or threat, while not new, has become pandemic. Since it is largely restricted to local journalists, foreign correspondents generally fail to see it. With the media battle less a war of words than of pictures, foreign print journalists are, in fact, the group least likely to feel the pressure. And if on occasion they do see it, they generally shrug off as insignificant its effect on the news.

That doesn't mean, however, that Palestinian intimidation is merely a local issue. It is not. Because the process of gathering and disseminating news to Western media now depends so much on Palestinian journalists, their allegiances and the pressures on them have a crucial effect on how news from Israel is reported worldwide.

According to the Committee for the Protection of Journalists (CPJ), for years the Palestinian Authority has "muzzled local press critics via arbitrary arrests, threats, physical abuse, and the closure of media outlets," thereby frightening most Palestinian journalists into self-censorship.

"It's a Mafia situation," corroborates a Palestinian journalist, citing journalists being "threatened, beaten and made

the targets of death threats, even from high officials such as (West Bank Preventive Security Service commander Jibril) Rajoub and Barghouti. And they do not report it," he adds, either to their employers or to professional organizations, because any complaint would only increase their danger while, if it interfered with their access to officials, putting their jobs at risk.

The 220-member Foreign Press Association has neither investigated nor undertaken action against Palestinian intimidation of journalists. "The FPA doesn't want to piss off the Palestinian Authority," snorts one foreign correspondent.

The New York Times correspondent Bill Orme, the member of the FPA board of directors who monitors problems of press freedom and press access — "not press bias," he is quick to say — acknowledges that the FPA has not "gotten into" the subject of intimidation. "We're a member organization, we respond to complaints," he explains. Having received no complaints about intimidation, the FPA ignores it.

Israelis sometimes intimidate, too

Violence against journalists does not originate only from the Palestinian side, however. Nearly two dozen journalists, mostly Palestinians, have been shot by Israeli soldiers (including CNN's Ben Wedeman, wounded in the back by live fire in Gaza). Some have suffered very serious

Please turn to page 11.

Media Watchdogs

Watching the media on Israel's behalf is mostly, though not only, a Diaspora occupation, with some organizations monitoring the national (and international) media and others more interested in dealing with local media outlets. (Ironically, many reports in the Hebrew press would probably be flagged by the watchdog groups as blatantly biased against Israel had they appeared in American papers). A few watchdog groups are listed below:

The grand-daddy of Israel-oriented media-watchdog groups is *CAMERA*, the Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America. Driven by the notion that "public opinion ultimately shapes public policy," *CAMERA* operates an active website and archives, runs ads in major media markets and makes its complaints known directly to journalists and publishers (and urges its members to do the same). Some praise its aggressiveness, others describe it as overly shrill.

It is accessible by Internet at www.camera.org, or by mail at Box 428, Boston, MA 02456.

HonestReporting.com is a project of the Aish HaTorah yeshiva organization. Using e-mail, it alerts its thousands of subscribers worldwide to media reports it considers biased against Israel and asks them, if they agree, to write their own letters of protest. The volume of mail thus generated has made some editors feel under assault.

The Philadelphia branch of the *Zionist Organization of America* monitors and analyzes bias in the Philadelphia Inquirer and area media and

publishes a bimonthly column on media bias in *The Jewish Exponent*, a weekly newspaper in Philadelphia. Web address: www.netreach.net/~zoa.

Israel-mediainage, founded in October, shortly after the current Palestinian uprising began, is an e-mail group (accessible through www.yahoo.com) "for people concerned about Israel's media image." Informal and decentralized, the group shares information on what it considers inaccuracies and bias in the media and cultivates friendly dialogue with journalists.

Palestinian Media Watch (www.pmw.org), based in Jerusalem, monitors Palestinian television, radio and newspapers and provides well-researched reports on trends and culture, from the stepped-up use of violent footage in televised propaganda to the common use of anti-semitic "clues" in newspaper crossword puzzles.

For those interested in knowing what the other side is saying, *MEMRI* (the Middle East Media and Research Institute at www.memri.org) offers translations and analysis of Arab media.

And for a completely different point of view, try *FAIR* (Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting, www.fair.org or 130 W. 25 St., New York, NY 10001). Though not solely concerned with the Middle East in its "criticism of media bias," when it turns its sights on Middle East reporting in the US, it generally sees an unfairly pro-Israel, anti-Palestinian tilt.

D.M.

Tips and resources for Israel advocacy

On talk shows, newspapers and events

Notes on a Presentation by David Olesker

10 things to remember when calling a talk radio program:

1. Think out your contribution in advance.
2. Keep it simple. Don't give long convoluted historical explanations (even if they're correct!). Stick to one basic message.
3. Use images and analogies to involve emotions.
4. Be authentic, "I was in Israel, and I..."
5. Be authoritative, quote objective sources (but see 2!).
6. Make the presenter your friend if possible. Try and couch your statement in line with their politics, style etc.
7. Be inventive. Don't just call the shows that deal with mid-east issues. Think of pro-Israel things to say for all kinds of shows.
8. Support and reinforce pro-Israel statements. It's natural to think of something to say when someone attacks Israel. Have things to say that are suitable for "pareve" and pro-Israel statements as well.
9. Try and predict possible objections. Have counter statements prepared.
10. Stay on topic. "The real issue here is..."

10 things to remember when writing to a newspaper:

1. Keep it simple. Don't give long convoluted historical explanations (even if they're correct!).
2. Be brief.
3. Use images, analogies and involve emotions.
4. Be authentic, "I was in Israel, and I..."
5. Be authoritative, quote objective sources (but see 1!).
6. Consider your audience. Try and couch your statement in line with their politics, style etc.
7. Be inventive. Don't just write on mid-east issues. Think of pro-Israel things to say for all kinds of contexts.
8. Support and reinforce pro-Israel statements. It's natural to think of something to say when someone attacks Israel. Have things to say that are suitable for "pareve" and pro-Israel statements as well.
9. In an ongoing correspondence, remember that the readers will not have the original piece that you are replying to before them. Make sure that your contribution makes sense as a "stand alone" piece.
10. Don't be insulting (unless you are sure that the readers will like it!).

10 things to remember at a rally/demonstration:

1. Cultivate media sources. If the first time you contact the media is when you need them... it's too late!
2. Plan in advance. Make sure that all the practical aspects of the event (permits, security, transport etc.) are worked out in advance.
3. Prepare a press release.
4. Publicize. If a tree falls in the forest, and CNN doesn't cover it, has it fallen?
5. Perform. Make sure that the event has some element that the media will be interested in.
6. Consider location. What will look good in the media?
7. Appoint a spokesperson for the event. When questioned by the media, everyone else should defer to them.
8. Posters and banners should be black on white. (It shows up better in the papers and on TV news).
9. Use personalities if possible.
10. Develop a reputation for being newsworthy.

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On June 18, during an evening seminar at Temple Sinai in Cranston, which media expert David Olesker (right) presented for teachers and would-be Israel advocates, Amir Cohen took the role of radio talk-show host while Olesker, playing an Arab human rights activists, showed how easy it is to rip Israel apart with half-truths and innuendo.

Information Sources on Israel

Notes on a Presentation by David Olesker

Editor's Note: David Olesker recommends picking three of these sites to check every day for reliable information.

Internet Resources on Israel

Pro-Israel Sites

IDT Spokesman:	www.idf.il/english/news/main.stm
Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs:	www.israel-mfa.gov.il/mfa
Keren Hayesod Emergency Page:	www.kh-uaa.il/News/Index.html
Israel Radio (twice daily in English):	www.israelradio.org/english.html
Jerusalem Post:	www.jpost.com
Jerusalem Post Radio:	www.jpostradio.com
Ha'Aretz English:	www3.haaretz.co.il/eng
Globes (Israeli financial daily):	new.golbes.co.il/serve/en/language.asp
The Jerusalem Report:	www.jrep.com
Jewish Telegraphic Agency:	www.jta.virtualjerusalem.com
USA Jewish (Irreverent roundup of Jewish news and news links):	www.usajewish.com
Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs (JINSA):	www.jinsa.org/home/home.html
Independent Media Review and Analysis (interviews and surveys take you behind the headlines) (IMRA):	www.imra.org.il
The Middle East Media and Research Institute (monitors Palestinian and other Arab Media) (MEMRI):	www.memri.org
IsraelWire:	www.virtualjerusalem.com/israelwire
News From Israel (Clearing house for Israel news from the Israel Information Office in Scotland):	www.isrinfo.demon.co.uk
Arutz; Sheva Israel Broadcasting:	www.israelnationalnews.com
Anti-Defamation League:	www.adl.org
American Israel Public Affairs Committee:	www.aipac.org
CAMERA (Committee for Accuracy on Mid-East Reporting in America)	www.camera.org

Save this page!!

These resources can help Jews in Rhode Island become savvy advocates for Israel.

The media war. . . from pg. 9

WAGING THE MEDIA WAR IN THE MIDEAST



wounds. In only one or two cases has the IDF's investigation resulted in identifying or punishing the perpetrator.

Ranaan Gissin, foreign press and public affairs adviser to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, says the problem is that journalists "want to be where the action is — they want to see the bullet come out of the barrel." Because they work in the line of fire, it is difficult, he says, for soldiers to distinguish them from demonstrators.

However, according to the CPJ, Israeli security forces and Jewish settlers have beaten journalists covering the political violence, in some cases with Israeli soldiers looking on. The BBC's Paul Adams recounts that his camera crew was manhandled and had its car tires slashed by Jews in Elon Moreh, a West Bank settlement. (Adams was also roughed up by a Palestinian crowd in Bethlehem and forced to flee with his camera crew. The Elon Moreh event became part of a BBC report; the Bethlehem incident did not.)

While maintaining its silence on Palestinian intimidation of journalists, the FPA has firmly protested Israeli violence against journalists with letters to high government officials. No journalists interviewed believe, however, that shootings by Israeli soldiers represent Israeli government policy or that soldiers are targeting them specifically as journalists, let alone as individuals.

Nor do Israeli officials threaten journalists, take sanctions against those whose reporting displeases them or try to control what journalists write. But those are exactly the techniques that have helped the Palestinian Authority determine a lot of what Americans and Europeans see and read in the "news from Israel."

The fix is in

As the Palestinian uprising grinds on, the words and especially the pictures that record it are molded mostly by Palestinians.

How did such an extraordinary situation develop? Those Israeli journalists who still go into Palestinian areas make certain to be accompanied by Palestinians whose connec-

"The Palestinian stringers feed the foreign press with material that is acceptable to the Palestinian authorities," says Toameh. A journalist, is "totally in their hands."

tions with the security services can protect them.

"But if you're accompanied in this way, you're also restricted in what you see and are able to report," points out Khaled Abu-Toameh, a Palestinian reporter for Israeli, American and Arab outlets. "It's a little like the way foreign journalists in Syria or Iraq are followed by security people all the time."

Foreign journalists — many of whom also don't go out into the field — commonly rely on Palestinian stringers for information. "The Palestinian stringers feed the foreign press with material that is acceptable to the Palestinian authorities," says Abu-Toameh. A journalist, he adds, is "totally in their hands."

Foreign journalists also rely on Palestinian assistants, called "fixers," who know the language, can ensure easy access to officials and events, and will arrange anything a reporter needs, from a driver to a translator. These fixers are not professional journalists and are often affiliated with a political or security group — part of their job is to impose their point of view.

Cameras don't lie. . . but who uses the camera?

As for pictures, 80% of camera people now working in PA areas are Palestinians, estimates a journalist for a Dutch agency, "so the pictures, with all their pathos and drama, come from the Palestinian side." Her estimate may be low. Veteran Israeli commentator Ehud Ya'ari judges that "over 95%" of the pictures shipped to foreign and Israeli channels are supplied by Palestinian film crews.

In a recent article in the Jerusalem Report, Ya'ari wrote that Palestinians now "have effectively taken control of the

reporting on the intifada. The vast majority of information of every type coming out of the area has been filtered through Palestinian eyes, or often, has actually been composed in the first place by Palestinians."

In short, news from Israel is generated by people loyal to and afraid of the Palestinian authorities.

"They simply don't dare film anything that could embarrass the Palestinian Authority," Ya'ari concludes. "So the cameras are angled to show a tainted view of the Israeli army's actions, never focus on the Palestinian gunmen and diligently produce a very specific kind of close-up of the situation on the ground."

Ya'ari himself does not go into Palestinian areas. Abu Toameh, who does, calls Ya'ari's analysis "200% correct."

But are the foreign correspondents, journalists who have reached the top of their professions, so lazy or easily fooled as to accept propaganda for truth?

No doubt some are but Fiamma Nirenstein, correspondent for the Italian daily *La Stampa*, offers a different theory of why news reports are so often unsympathetic to Israel. The journalists, she hypothesizes, are the victims of their own nearly uniform "predilections" to see events within a left-wing, pro-Palestinian and often unrealistically romanticized framework. That is, many correspondents accept what comes to them from Palestinian sources because they are already predisposed to mold events to a similar form.

The mind of the journalist

"A foreign journalist who claims to be 'objective' will be boring or a liar," proclaims Sam Kiley of the London Times. "There are lots of truths in this conflict."

Many would agree that the foreign press is not objective. But if so, why do so many correspondents seem to see the same truth? "They feel they must help the Palestinians," says Nirenstein.

The correspondents don't deny their private judgments. "My sympathies are for the victim," says one — he means the Palestinians.

"The Jews use their history of persecution to make the Americans and Europeans feel sorry for them," objects another, likewise off the record. Dutch TV's Conny Mus identifies as central "the fact that a mighty army is using all its might to kill a smaller force." Mus goes on to contend that the press presents "an accurate picture" of events and that pro-Israel readers think the news is skewed only because they "don't know what is happening on the Palestinian side."

To an extent he's right — Jews often don't like to see Israel in a bad light, even when the facts are reported accurately. Critics of the media sometimes object to what they regard as "pro-Palestinian" stories merely because they don't like their point of view challenged.

But a report can be accurate and still miss the point. For example, an article may emphasize the number of Palestinian casualties, as if body count is an objective measure, without indicating that the Israeli dead have been mostly innocent civilians, not armed rioters and terrorists. Many journalists simply note Israel's "conquest" of the West Bank, never indicating that this conquest came in a defensive war against Jordan, and that the Palestinians were never sovereign there.

As Andrea Levin of CAMERA, the media-watchdog group, points out, reporters "may cover a story and get the micro issues correct (while) getting the macro issue completely wrong."

Nirenstein sees her colleagues romanticizing the Palestinians as David fighting the Israeli Goliath, as if the underdogs are by definition the good guys. That, she writes in the January issue of *Commentary* magazine, places the

Please go to page 12

Peace elusive as Arab media spawn antisemitic propaganda

by Michele Chabin
Special to JUF News

CHICAGO — While in Cairo attempting to negotiate a cease-fire between Israelis and Palestinians in late April, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres spotted a newspaper caricature depicting him as a Nazi.

The item, which appeared in the Sunday edition of Egypt's opposition newspaper, Al Arabi, showed a photograph of Peres' face superimposed over a man in a Nazi uniform. The caption read: "Peres, the Butcher of (Kfar) Qana and messenger of the great criminal Sharon, is in Cairo today."

While this particular cartoon received a great deal of interna-

tional media attention, because it came to light during a press conference with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa, most of the thousands of antisemitic and anti-Zionist images and rhetoric found in the Arab media every year are unknown to people in the Western world.

According to the Anti-Defamation League, antisemitic/anti-Israel sentiments can be found throughout the Arab world, from Syria to Iraq, from Egypt to the Palestinian Authority. Numerous cartoons, editorials, and TV and radio addresses compare Israel to the Nazis and either underestimate Jewish suffering during the Holocaust or dismiss it entirely.

All forms of media are rife with antisemitic imagery.

More often than not even Western-educated journalists in such "progressive" Arab nations as Jordan, Morocco and Egypt spawn a web of antisemitic/anti-Zionist hatred. In one cartoon, which appeared in the Egyptian newspaper Al A-Ahali in October 2000, a hooked-nosed, fanged soldier sporting a swastika and a Jewish star is brandishing a rifle and a knife over a miniature of the Al-Aksa mosque. A helpless, kind-faced Arab, his arms tied behind his back, looks on.

In April of this year, the Egyptian paper Al Akhbar published a column, "Thanks to Hitler" in

which the author, Ahmad Ragab, thanked Hitler for the persecution of 6,000,000 Jews but said Hitler's "revenge on Jews was not enough."

In the eyes of some observers, the Palestinian media, which also promotes Holocaust denial and other antisemitic rhetoric, hit rock bottom in MONTH TO COME. Just a few days after a Palestinian gunman shot and killed 10-month-old Shalhevet Pass in Hebron on March 26, Palestine Radio broadcast a report saying that the infant had been murdered by her mother.

"On the matter of the baby settler who was killed in Hebron," said the reporter, "we already said that her death was a fishy action and there is information according to which this baby was retarded

and it was her mother who killed her in order to get rid of her."

Though vicious fabrications like this can be found on an almost daily basis in the most militant Arab countries, Wayne Firestone, director of the ADL's Israel office, finds them particularly disturbing when they appear in the Egyptian media.

While Egypt is striving to play a central role in restarting peace negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians, Firestone says, "the Egyptian press is the disseminator of hatred to the world. Cairo is the intellectual hub of the Arab world and it exports magazines, books, newspapers, and its influence is enormous."

The media war. . . from pg. 11

journalists — whom she characterizes as "iconoclastic, sporty, ironic, virtually all of one mind" — on the wrong side of the cultural gap between "Western and Eastern civilizations, between democracy and dictatorship, between the Judeo-Christian world and the world of Islam."

The journalists' mind-set may also come from what an American-Israeli journalist castigates as "massive ignorance." Many correspondents get little or no preparation time before being dropped into Jerusalem and Ramallah. Once on the ground, they must play catch-up, learning on the job, often from other foreign correspondents.

"We are very superficial," acknowledges the Frankfurter Allgemeine's Dr. Jorg Bremer disarmingly. "If we cover the news every day, when do we have time to read a book?"

This lack of preparation nearly mandates that correspondents put the template of previous postings onto a situation with a very different history and particulars. CNN's Jerusalem bureau chief Mike Hanna, for example, has been characterized by novelist Naomi Ragen and others as hard-wired by his 20 years as a correspondent in South Africa to see the situation in Israel in terms of "black and white" — an oppressor and an oppressed.

But issues of journalistic judgment and private sensibility are one thing. Lurking behind them is the larger question of whether reportorial sympathy slips into outright bias — and if bias becomes purposeful manipulation of the news.

Troubling incidents of misreporting and underreporting abound. Media watchdog groups have accused The New York Times, Los Angeles Times and London Times, along with the Washington Post, CNN, Sky News, Reuters, the BBC and other outlets, of editing news stories to minimize Palestinian misdemeanors and emphasize Israeli ones, to shift sympathy away from Israel or to make Israel look like the aggressor. The media have also been charged with ignoring stories that supply context crucial to understanding the facts on the ground when such stories show the Palestinians in a less than positive light.

Contextual stories ignored

Such largely ignored subjects include accounts of Palestinian Red Crescent ambulances carting rocks and Molotov cocktails to flashpoints, the purposeful use of civilians as cover by Palestinian combatants, Palestinian encouragement and even busing of children to join violent demonstrations and the staging of "spontaneous demonstrations" for optimal media coverage (and the failure of reporters to describe them as staged). There is also the ceaseless incitement of hatred against Jews and Israelis in the Palestinian (and other Arab) media, which many correspon-

dents and their editors view, astonishingly, as irrelevant to the national conflict they are reporting.

Many media outlets, moreover, promulgate as fact their own views on political questions that remain in dispute. The Independent and CNN, for example, routinely call Israeli settlements "illegal under international law," although the issue is not clear. Reuters, its bureau in Jerusalem staffed by a high percentage of Palestinian journalists, now refers to Gilo, a neighborhood incorporated by Israel into municipal Jerusalem, as a "settlement," giving a radical Palestinian take on the issue.

Do such choices reflect political bias? Journalistic negligence? Lack of historical context inherent in a culture of sound bites? A useful glimpse at the unpalatable "other side of the story"? Or even a slanting of coverage by the international networks, such as CNN and BBC, to help them "penetrate."

The worldview of the journalist wafts outward from the evening TV and the morning paper. Consumers of the news may not know that they are getting a partial story — even if they recognize that any story repeated often enough will, like blanket advertising, finally leave its mark on the public mind.

The quality of Israeli Hasbara

But it's not just the other guy's fault. If Israel is losing the crucial second war of media coverage, the woeful inadequacy of its *hasbara* — its efforts at explaining its policies — is also to blame, and has been a problem discussed but not dealt with effectively for many years.

Ironically, in their shoptalk, even staunchly pro-Israel journalists sing the PA's praises. "A gem in the hands of the media," says David Bedein, whose Israel Media Resources agency is commonly associated with the Israeli right. Bedein praises especially the PA's accessibility and openness. Matthew Kelman, a correspondent for USA Today, calls the PA "a pleasure to deal with. Their officials offer to help, they're easy to deal with, they give easy access, they're more friendly and warm than the Israelis — and they have better stories."

Nobody says anything like that about Israel's media apparatus. On the contrary — and off the record — reporters who care agree that Israel "couldn't be doing a worse job" of *hasbara*, as one of them puts it.

"The spokespeople don't know how to talk to the camera," he says with exasperation, "they have poor English, they often appear in uniform, which makes them seem like part of the problem, and use bombastic, self-righteous terms."

Another calls Israeli media officials "prickly" and complains, "They don't call back, they leak information selectively, and they sometimes don't release information even when they have it."

Another calls Israeli media officials "prickly" and complains, "They don't call back, they leak information selectively, and they sometimes don't release information even when they have it."

A third narrates an emblematic encounter with a ministry press officer who, citing a court's gag order, refused him information for an article he was writing. A few days later he saw the information in a Hebrew weekly. "The press guy didn't even know the gag order had been lifted," he fumes.

Reasons for the ineffectiveness of Israel's *hasbara* include budget cuts, especially in the Government Press Office; bureaucratic infighting between the Prime Minister's office, the GPO and individual ministries; overwork, arrogance and plain incompetence. "Israel doesn't realize the effect," sighs a reporter.

"Our story is very complex to deliver," protests the prime minister's media chief, Ranaan Gissin, "while their story lends itself to simple treatment."

He admits that Israel's *hasbara* has suffered from "technical problems," including inadequate spokespeople. But now, he promises, "I am sending people who can deliver," and he says he has made other changes to improve Israel's performance in the media war.

It may not be enough. While Israel's Government Press Office simply issues each new journalist a press card and lets him fend for himself, says Steven Rosenberg, editor of the Boston Jewish Advocate, the Palestinians will approach him offering a wide network of help.

"When background information, photos, interviews and briefings are readily abundant," Rosenberg points out, "it makes a reporter's life much easier."

Such guidance can also help to shape the reporter's understanding of the events he's writing about in one direction or the other.

Israel's current foreign minister, Shimon Peres, is famously quoted as remarking that a good policy requires no *hasbara* while a bad policy can't be helped by *hasbara*.

That may be true in a perfect world. So far as fighting the media war is concerned, Israel doesn't yet seem to realize that it isn't living in a perfect world.

Miller succeeds Poulten at Touro Fraternal

After 12 years at the helm of Touro Fraternal Association, Arthur Poulten has retired as chairman of the board. Robert D. Miller, Warwick, succeeds him as head of this large Jewish fraternity. Miller has been vice president of the board since 1994 and previously served as president.

Other Association officers elected at the June 13 annual organizational meeting were Andrew Lamchick, West Warwick, vice chairman; Gerald Tebrow, West Warwick, secretary, and Gerald Hodosh, Cranston, treasurer. Miller appointed Judah Rosen, Cranston, as chaplain, and Barry Shaw, Warwick, Inside Guard.

Touro Fraternal Association is at 45 Rolfe Square in Cranston. (It is not affiliated with Touro Synagogue in Newport.)

Rebekah Raz heads CRC, Young Adults



Rebekah Raz, the first graduate of the masters degree program in Judaic Studies at the University of Connecticut, has joined the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island as director of the Community Relations Council and of the Young Adult Division.

Raz earned her undergraduate degree in religious studies and anthropology at Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY. She also studied at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. She was a graduate research assistant while studying for her masters, and received the Cohen and Henes Award for Judaic Studies.

At the Hillel Foundation for Jewish Life at State University of New York at the Stony Brook, Raz was a communal service and outreach worker. One of her responsibilities was to develop outreach and "engagement" programs on campus for unaffiliated students. She also has worked as an assistant counselor at Camp Ramah in the Poconos, and she interned at the Montclair Art Museum in Montclair, NJ.

She and her husband, Liran, a student at Brown Medical School, live in Providence, RI.

Ice cream for Max

An Ice Cream Social on Wednesday, July 18 will raise money to help pay for the bone marrow transplant that Max Dwares, an 18-year old boy from Cranston, is scheduled to receive sometime this summer at New England Medical Center in Boston. Young Dwares has myelogenous leukemia.

His transplant, therapy and recovery will cost in excess of \$100,000.

The Ice Cream Social, at the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island, will run from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Entertainment for all ages will feature music, face painting, balloon sculptures, arts and crafts and more.

Admission is \$10.00. All proceeds will help defray

transplant expenses. Donations also may be sent to The National Foundation For Transplants, P.O. Box 603051, Providence, RI 02906. Checks should be payable to NFT with "Max Dwares" on the memo line. For more information, call up website at www.transplant.org and go to patient accounts to find Max Dwares.

Two local drives last Spring tested the human leukocyte antigen blood types of Ashkenazic Jewish volunteers in this area to try to find a match for Max, but the match ultimately was found in a 25-year-old man elsewhere in the United States. Rules stipulate that the two cannot meet for at least a year.

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For Bar/Bat Mitzvah:

Name, date, place of ceremony, parents' names, town, grandparents' names, town.

Engagement:

Couples' names, towns, wedding date, place, parents' names, town.

Weddings:

Use forms available at synagogues or Voice office.

Anniversaries:

Name of couple, town, date of marriage, place, anniversary celebration date, location.

Photographs submitted should be glossy, black & white or color. No Polaroids. Use of photographs will be at the discretion of The Voice. For returned photographs include stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Send your Simcha to The Voice office, 130 Sessions Street, Providence, RI 02906 or e-mail your information to: JVocesimchas@aol.com

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Heritage Harbor alive and well

by Toby Rossner
Executive Director, RIJHA

(These are excerpts of Toby Rossner's remarks at the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association [RIJHA] Annual Meeting.)

While Samuel Clemens was living in London his cousin, Dr. Jim Clemens, fell ill. Newspapers thought it was Samuel, and began reporting the illness. Within a few days, New York newspapers were reporting that Samuel Clemens had died. Clemens responded, "The rumors of my death have been greatly exaggerated."

It is appropriate that we quote Samuel Clemens because Mark Twain's "cousin" is here. Mel Zurier recounts the unusual story of his family's connection to Mark Twain and of Twain's comments on his Jewish son-in-law in the RIJHA "Notes," Vol. 8, Nov. 1981.

And it is appropriate that we quote Mark Twain for yet another reason: Recent articles in the Newport and Jamestown press report that the Heritage Harbor Museum is both "doomed" and "defunct."

Well, I'm here to tell you that is not the case.

Despite the defeat of the bond issue for Heritage Harbor Museum, planning, fundraising and training for Rhode Island's only multi-cultural historical museum are on track and gaining momentum.

RIJHA was one of the three initial partners in the Heritage Harbor Museum, the other two being the RI Historical Society and the RI Black Heritage Society. The original goal of the consortium

was modest: develop a site where the three associations could share archival space, educational space, exhibit space, common rooms and a union catalog. Soon, 14 others joined the bandwagon and the Smithsonian Museum, also busting its seams, decided to place some of its Rhode Island treasures here, to be seen not stored.

As the ethnic partners met, they saw that the similarities of the immigration experience, the struggle to earn a living, and other facets of communal life could be better told if the larger exhibits, such as the cultural crossroads and triple-decker house, were developed as ethnically shared experiences.

This past August, when the 17 primary ethnic partners met

to share their stories, I saw that they had become a unified working force. I learned that RIJHA was instrumental in arranging for all of the partners to receive valuable training in the art and science of archival collecting, storage, documentation and exhibit planning, and had already embarked on a vigorous campaign to support our Heritage Harbor space.

Community members may help plan the Heritage Harbor exhibits and our dedicated exhibit spaces. We will need to take oral histories and collect appropriate artifacts. We must develop educational materials to make the exhibits relevant to children and adults. We need publicists and writers. Call 401-331-1360 to volunteer.

WITH WICKER TRUNK, BOJARS SET OFF ON BARBAROSA

The wicker trunk Leo and Amelia Bojar used to bring their meager possessions from Poland to New York in 1914 on board the North German Lloyd Liner S/S Barbarosa is now an artifact of the RI Jewish Historical Assoc. Most European immigrants used this type of trunk because it was strong, light and could be locked. When the family moved to Providence, Leo founded the Bojar Company, which manufactured jewelry for 77 years until it closed in 1996. Their trunk is in the lower hallway of the Jewish Community Center, awaiting its final destination as a star in the Heritage Harbor Museum exhibit, Cultural Crossroads. Go and have a look!



Judge Israel re-installed at Beth-El

During the May 20 annual meeting of Congregation Sons of Israel and David, more commonly known as Temple Beth-El, retired Superior Court Judge Richard J. Israel (below, 3rd from left) was reinstalled as president. Pictured with him are (l to r) Ken Kirsch, 1st VP; Selma Stanzler, VP, and Neil Steinberg, ass't treasurer. Officers not pictured are Marvin Lax, VP; Susan Mark, treasurer, and Liz Hollander, secretary.

Newly elected trustees pictured in the bottom photo (l to r) are Richard Kaplan, Lynn Gunzberg, Ted Winston, Sherry Cohen, Lynn Flanzbaum, Frederick Silverblatt, Gloria Feibish, Helen Salzberg. Not photographed are Hannah Goldberg, Fran Katzanek, Andrea Reiser, Howard Weiss, Scott Libman, Lenore Piper.

The annual meeting, entitled "Youth, Key to our Future," was chaired by Katherine Haspel and Paul Silver. The synagogue adult and youth choirs, directed by Cantor Judy Seplowin, entertained, and tribute was paid to Anita Steiman who is celebrating 10 years as the Religious School administrator.



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Professionals advise on residency confusions

by Trine Adler-Lustig

If you are confused about Florida residency or the new IRA rules, you would have benefited from the program on June 4th, sponsored by the Professional Advisory Council of the Jewish Federation. Two panels of attorneys and accountants educated the 45 participants about new rules and regulations.

The Council is an Endowment Fund committee of professionals who educate their peers about gift planning and the important part that philanthropy plays in estate planning. The Council is chaired by Peter Mezei, a partner at the accounting firm of Lefkowitz, Garfinkle, Champi, and DeRienzo, and Larry Berren of The Berren Law Firm.

Peri Ann Aptaker of the Lefkowitz firm facilitated the first panel discussion regarding Florida residency rules and tax consequences. To prove residency in Florida (according to the DeBlasi case) individuals must show broken ties and abandonment of domicile with no intent to return to Rhode Island. This would mean living in RI less than 183 days annually. Other indicators include: where the residential home is located, what state issues the driver's license, where the person votes, maintains a social life and spends holidays, among others.

The panel also noted that while estate plans are very similar from state to state and do not need to change, a "durable power of attorney" which gives a guardian the right to make medical decisions for another person are not valid from state to state. New documents must be drawn up with a change in residency.

Berren facilitated the next panel discussing new, simplified IRA rules. Calculations are easier and one uniform table indicates the minimum distribution each year. In addition, IRA holders will not be punished if they have not chosen a beneficiary. There are also additional options available to spouses under the new rules.

Because of the tax-deferred growth potential for assets remaining in an IRA, individuals have long attempted to leave as much money in them as possible. The new rules provide both increased flexibility and post-estate estate planning opportunities which are enhanced by the owner's ability to delay designation of a beneficiary until well after death.

For more information about these panels or other programs sponsored by the Professional Advisory Council, call Joshua Karlin, Director of Gift Planning and Endowment, at 401-421-4111, ext. 173 at the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.

Community allocates \$4.4 million from increased campaign

Once again the Rhode Island Jewish community will divide its campaign income equally between local agencies and social services in Israel and other countries.

On Tuesday, June 19 the board of directors of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island (JFRI) approved the gross appropriation of over \$4.4 million dollars; \$4.35 million has been pledged to campaign 2001, the largest campaign

in six years. In addition, the community raised \$63,000 to buy an ambulance for the Afala-Gilboa region of Israel to replace one that was sabotaged. Funds of \$6.16l from previous years were added for the gross amount of \$4.4 million.

After restricted gifts and a reserve are allowed for, as well as the budget for JFRI and the dollars designated for national Jewish agencies, the funds from the campaign,


to be "split" locally and internationally, amount to \$1,598,202 each. When restricted funds and the ambulance funds are added to the Israel share, the total available for overseas reaches \$1,722,536. Restricted gifts for local agencies bring the dollars staying here to \$1,635,156.

Because of the strategic planning process (see story, page 3), the board earlier had approved a

plan to allocate the same amount of funds as last year, with proportional increases or decreases, according to the trend of the annual campaign. Because the campaign increased by 2.28%, so did base allocations.

For the first time, over \$1 million of the funds pledged to the annual community campaign were generated by the Women's Alliance of JFRI.

A full report on fund distribution will be part of the JFRI annual report, which will be inserted in the September issue of The Voice.



What will our community look like in 20 years?

Will my children and grandchildren be happy and healthy?

Will the Jewish Community continue to be vibrant and strong?

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I would like to meet with a JFRI planned giving professional.

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Susan Froehlich continues tradition, takes helm of WA



Susan Froehlich, above photo, right, stands next to her mother, Elaine Odessa, who presided over the former JFRI Women's Division from 1987 to 89. Now, Elaine's daughter leads the Woman's Alliance after completing two years as its campaign chair, and taking it to over \$1 million for the first time, an achievement to celebrate at the WA annual meeting on May 31 at Hasbro's facility in Pawtucket. Also pictured is Susan's grandmother, Grace Schoenfield and daughter, Allie. In the right photo, the annual meeting committee posed for the cameraman: Susan Odessa, Barbara Lavine, chair, and Judy Levitt. Below, the officers line up for their official photo, from left: Lisa Davis, Linda Miller, Stacy Emanuel, Elaine Odessa, Susan Froehlich, Joyce Starr, Sharon Gaines, Judy Robbins, Lynn Brodsky and Toby London (not pictured, Wilene Rosner Snow.)



Photos this page by Seymour Glantz

Lions, endowers hear from Fishman

by Gloria Feibish

Sylvia Barak Fishman finds that while American Jewish women's push for equality has had a dramatic impact on their practice of Judaism, Israeli women have focused on equality in their daily lives.

Fishman, who teaches in the Near Eastern Judaic Studies Department at Brandeis University, was speaking on June 4 to 25 local Lions of Judah and other endowers from the JFRI Women's Alliance during a breakfast at the home of Judge Majorie Yashar. Fishman also heads the program in Contemporary Jewish Life and is co-director of Brandeis' International Research Institute on Jewish Women.

American Jewish women have transformed synagogues to where now women participate in Jewish study and rituals, Shabbat services and other roles; they have changed rituals for Jewish girls and adults. They have had significant influence in the wider community in education and academia, and in the research community where women's organizations have been established for the express purpose of research.

Fishman told the Lions that the impact on careerism has also been significant since large numbers of Jewish women who work outside the home often postpone marriage and childbirth. This actually presents cause for concern, she said, since high levels of infertility are a result.

Fishman added that women's increased involvement in adult Jewish education has resulted in the great involvement of men, too.

Her newest book is *Jewish Life and American Culture*.



The committee (above) was all smiles as the program went smoothly: (l to r) Hinda Semonoff, Grace Alpert and Lenore Leach. Event hostess Judge Majorie Yashar (adjacent photo, left) greeted the guest speaker, Sylvia Barak Fishman from Brandeis University.



Sisters Gloria Winston and Dottie Nelson use the time to socialize to catch up on family.

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Sea breezes caress the prayers when Block Island Jews daven

by Jane S. Sprague

On Friday evenings about 8 o'clock, when the summer weather is mild and the sea breezes just balmy, 30 to 35 Jews, occasionally as many as 50, will gather on an east-facing porch on Block Island to do their Shabbat davening. If it's too hot, too cold or too wet, they'll move inside their "shul," the parish house of St. Andrews Catholic Church.

For years, the 20-year-old Congregation Sons and Daughters of Ruth has made themselves at home at St. Andrews. Led by Cantors Elliot Taubman and Richard Weisbroat, the members, their guests and visitors to Block Island have carried on the traditions of Jewish life in this most remote section of Rhode Island.

Now, when there is a church building for sale, some Block Island year "rounders have suggested that the congregation buy it. But Cantor Taubman favors staying where they are and saving themselves the nuisance of raising money and the *tsuris* of maintenance.

Plus, once visitors go home and snow birds fly south, the full-time Jewish population is concentrated in less than 10 households, "enough for a minyan whenever we need it," this Cantor-Attorney notes, but hardly enough to justify having their own facility.

The high holy days will draw about 90 people, he said. Sukkot, Hanukkah, Purim and Passover usually are celebrated in congregants' homes. This year, though, Joan and Justin Abrams went all out at Hanukkah with a gala for 120 in their Hotel Manisses, one of several hospitality facilities the family owns and operates in the Old Harbor area, as well as two restaurants at New Harbor. At one time, they produced community seders, but when attendance grew to over 100, they went back to having seders in their homes.

Perhaps the Abrams were celebrating their first Hanukkah as full time residents of Block Island. Although they have owned and managed properties since 1969 (plus a large menagerie of exotic goats, emus, llamas, swans, donkeys, ducks, steers and bulls), their official residence was in Providence until last year when Justin retired from Colfax, manufacturers of edible oils.

Their daughter, Rita, and her husband Steve Draper have been fulltime residents most of their married life. They have raised their three sons here and two have become bar mitzvah under the supervision of Congregation Sons and Daughters of Ruth. Ross will make it three in October.

Their eldest son, Kyle, celebrated his in a transformed Empire Theater, the island's movie house, but when it was Seth's turn, Father Ray Kehew suggested they use the St. Andrew's sanctuary. With Christian symbols removed or covered, Seth carried and read from a Torah that had been donated to a defunct West Warwick shul by his great-grandfather, Joseph Dressler. Ross will do the same, in the same location next fall.

For now, he's concentrating on learning his part.

His mother, Rita, who has helped each of her sons prepare, says Ross reads Hebrew and knows the basic blessings. Judy Lichter, principal of a Jewish high school in East Hartford and a summer resident, will tutor Ross on his Torah portion.

As the only Jewish youths on Block Island, the boys have participated in a largely Christian youth group, but it is one that Cantor Taubman describes as ecumenical. (For years, their mother has gone to the school to tell Block Island's children about Jewish holidays and candle lighting.)

It was with some trepidation that Ross's big brother, Kyle, now a student at Elon College in North Carolina, signed up for a birthright Israel trip this last Spring through the Greensboro Hillel. It was the first time that he would be with such a large group of Jews for an extended time, his mother said.

"What an eye opener it was for him," Rita commented. "He can hardly wait to go back. It was so important to his Jewish identity." And, she notes he's now looking for a Jewish girl and has become very active in Hillel.

Although intermarriage among the congregation's families is common, in many families both spouses are Jewish. One family, Cantor Taubman said, "made sure to buy their property in walking distance of St. Andrew's."

Congregation Sons and Daughters of Ruth recognizes as a Jew anyone born of a Jewish mother or father, anyone who has become bar or bat mitzvah or anyone considered a Jew by any of the four major denominations in the United States: Conservative, Reconstructionist, Reform or Orthodox.

Both cantors were raised Orthodox. Now, Cantor Taubman leans Reconstructionist and Cantor Weisbroat is closer to Reform, but, Cantor Taubman says, "The congregation is about evenly split between Conservative and Reform." "The tension we have is over the length of Friday evening services," he says.

Although Block Island has become a popular spot for off-islanders to come for their weddings, Cantor Taubman discourages them. "To do them right takes a lot of time and psychic energy," he says. "I must meet with the couple at least twice before the wedding." And he has his rules. He will not perform a wedding before sunset on Shabbat and, if it's an intermarriage, the Trinity will not be mentioned. He tries to do no more than three or four weddings each season. "In most of the marriages I perform," he said, "the couple raises their children as Jews."

So far, Congregation Sons and Daughters of Ruth has only had to deal with the end of life once, but they are prepared. A section of the island cemetery is marked off with stones, and sanctified dirt from a Providence Jewish burial ground has been mixed with the Block Island soil.

Orthodox woman wanted to be rabbi, but finds her role as 'religious mentor'

by Julie Wiener

NEW YORK (JTA) — Growing up in the 1970s and 1980s in a Jewish enclave in the Bronx, Sharona Margolin Halickman longed to be doing the things her synagogue rabbis did. But her grandmother told her, "No, you're Orthodox, you can't be a rabbi," Halickman recalls.

Now Halickman, the newly installed *madrikhah ruhanit*, or religious mentor, at the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale in Bronx, N.Y., is about as close to being a rabbi as an Orthodox woman can get.

She teaches religious classes, gives Shabbat sermons, coordinates services for funerals, weddings and B'nai Mitzvah, prepares candidates for conversion and offers religious counseling to individuals.

However, she cannot do anything that violates Orthodox interpretation of *halakha*, or Jewish law. That means that she doesn't count as a member of a minyan and can't lead prayer services, sit on a rabbinic court or serve as a religious witness.

Halickman's new role comes as Orthodox women are achieving unprecedented levels of Jewish learning. Post-high school religious study has become almost *de rigueur* for North American Orthodox. Please turn to page 19.

Congregations of Rhode Island

There are an abundance of congregations in Rhode Island where you can meet with fellow Jews to celebrate the Jewish Holidays, to daven and to discover adult Jewish education. Call one near you to make your Jewish connection.

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Reform set to approve conversion guidelines

by Julie Wiener

NEW YORK (JTA) — In another break with its past, the Reform movement is poised to adopt new guidelines that endorse traditional rituals for people converting to Judaism.

Two years after the Central Conference of American Rabbis' "Statement of Principles" reversed the historic 1885 Pittsburgh Platform — a strident rejection of tradition and ritual — the Reform group is expected to overturn an 1893 resolution that described conversion rituals as unnecessary and meaningless. (This document was to be voted on June 27 at the CCAR convention.)

Among the suggestions in Guidelines for Rabbis Working

with Prospective Gerim, or converts, are that prospective Jews immerse in the mikveh, or ritual bath, undergo at least a symbolic circumcision and appear before a *beit din*, or panel of rabbis. Such practices have become increasingly common in Reform conversions, particularly those overseen by recently ordained rabbis.

While Reform *mikva'ot*, or ritual baths, remain rare, three have been built in North America in recent years, and others are planned. In addition, communities in New Jersey and the Denver/Boulder area, among other areas, have created Reform rabbinic panels to oversee conversions.

While there is little hard data about conversion, anecdotal reports

describe a significant increase in the number of people undergoing Reform conversions, something Reform leaders attribute to outreach efforts to spiritual seekers as well as gentiles married to Jews.

The new guidelines are not obligatory. According to the introductory document, however, they aim to allow Reform rabbis to "speak as a community with a unified voice on matters so crucial to our self definition."

The guidelines reiterate the Reform movement's longstanding rejection that conversion should be discouraged. Instead, they call for an attitude of "joy and encouragement" while urging rabbis to ensure that prospective converts are aware of the challenges of being a Jew.

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Midrasha graduates 24



On May 20, 24 teens graduated from the Harry Elkin Midrasha Community High School (HEM) in ceremonies at Temple Torat Yisrael in Cranston. They are (l to r), front row: Rachel Lieberman, Elyssa Monzack, Louis Ostrowsky, Erica Teverow, Max Dwares; second row: Rich Walter, director of teen education for the Bureau of Jewish Education; Stephanie Steingold, Danielle Ostrowsky, Eliana Gutman, Johanna Goldberg; third row: Ilana Guttin, Marina Shayevich, Kira Neel, Arielle Wachtenheim, Jessica Fain, David Greenberg; back row: Jesse Goldberg, Eitan Hersh, Joshua Swift, Noah Marwil, Ezra Lipp, and Benjamin Clark.

In the photograph below, Eleanor Lewis, chair of HEM, presents Johanna Goldberg with the Rabbi and Mrs. Israel Rubinstein Award for Excellence in Contemporary Jewish Studies. In the photo at right, Louis Ostrowsky uses 3-D glasses to peruse his book, the award for the recipient of the Harry Elkin Memorial Award for Love and Commitment to Israel.



Orthodox woman. . . from pg. 17

women. Yeshiva University recently started advanced Talmud study for women.

In Israel, a few women have trained to become halakhic consultants on family purity, the laws that govern mikvah use and married couples' sexual relations.

Hebrew Institute's senior rabbi, Avi Weiss, said he hopes to create a more expansive program in the United States, one that will train women to make halachic decisions on family purity and a range of other issues.

At her recent installation ceremony, Ronnie Becher, an officer with both the Hebrew Institute and Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance, described the *madrickhab ruhanit* job as a "giant step on

the road of granting recognition and dignity" to the "vast untapped potential of women."

Halickman's eager smile, slender build and white canvas tennis shoes make her look younger than her 27 years. Despite her trail-blazing status, she is reluctant to describe herself as a feminist.

"I can have my own role. I can be part of the team but don't have to be exactly like the rabbi or men," she said. "Often, I find feminists just want to be like the men."

Halickman knows that the liberal streams of Judaism allow women larger roles in ritual activities — and would have given her the opportunity to become a rabbi — but she said she never was tempted to leave Orthodoxy.

In some ways, Halickman's job is not so different from that of rebbetzins, or rabbis' wives, many of whom offer classes and counseling for women congregants. Today, however, more and more rebbetzins have their own careers.

At a recent class in the synagogue's library, Halickman was poised but informal, encouraging the mostly older women students to participate and patiently answering their questions. At the end of the one-hour session, retiree Selma Brick said she had taken several classes with Halickman because she "knows her stuff."

"It's a first," Brick said of Halickman's new role. "It's what she's been doing, but now she's got a title. She's not going to be a lady rabbi, but she's very learned."

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PHDS class trips off to DC



Each year the Providence Hebrew Day School 8th grade class takes a special trip at the end of the school year. This year, the teens toured Washington, DC, which included a visit with US Representative Patrick Kennedy. He told them of his committee work, responsibilities and Congressional privileges.

Children join in Card4Israel

Before the school year ended, the children at the Providence Hebrew Day School had joined thousands of others around the world in making Rosh Hashanah greeting cards to send to children in Israel to let them know that they are thinking of them during this trying time.

The Card4Israel Project had generated over 60,000 cards by early June. The campaign is co-sponsored by the Israel Emergency Solidarity Fund and the Jewish Literacy Foundation and is intended to involve children from the full spectrum of Jewish schools and denominations.

All the cards are being sent to Baltimore where they will be assembled in large panels which then will be shipped to Israel. There, final construction will be done by children who have lost loved ones due to terrorism since last Rosh Hashanah.

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Local attorney Wolpert heads ASDS board

Bruce Wolpert was installed as President of the board of Alperin Schechter Day School (ASDS) at the school's annual meeting on Wednesday, June 6. Barney and Elisa Silverstein Heath co-chaired the meeting.

In addition to honors and gifts presented by head of school Penney Stein, PhD, to four faculty members for length of service, to several dedicated library volunteers and to the ASDS class of 2001, the children in the 5th grade class were presented with Haggadot with commentary by Eli Wiesel and illustrations by Mark Podwal. The children also received Siddurim. These Haggadot were presented in memory of Shirley Aronson Goldberg, an ASDS benefactor, and the Siddurim in memory of Sanford I. Kroll, the school's first president.

Other officers and board members, all installed by Robert D. Mann, president of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, include Hope Hirsch, VP-administration; Jana Brenman, VP-education; Mindy Wachtenheim, VP-development; Miriam Ross, executive VP; Elisa Silverstein Heath, secretary; Jeffrey Gladstone, assistant secretary; Steven Goliger, treasurer, and Barbara Fields Karlin, assistant treasurer.

Newly installed board members are Cindy Feinstein, Mark Feinstein, Edward Greene, Kenneth Hirsch, Alex Kaufman, Seth Kurn, Gary Licht, Karen Lovett, Debra Page, Karen Rasnick, Bonnie Steinberg, David Wisen, Faye Wisen. Elana Snow was appointed alumni representative. Outgoing president Leah Ehrenhaus Hersh was made an honorary president.

18 in ASDS Class of 5761



The Class of 5761 at the Alperin Schechter Day School is off to new educational challenges. The graduates are (l to r) front row: Ruth Furman, Shira Tevah, James Rotenberg, Aaron Abrams, Maia Masuda, Bruce Kufman; second row: Rustam Dinow, Tanya Goman, Chloe Licht, Jessica Spellun, Miriam Klein, Hannah Mellion; back row: Benjamin Beraha, Anna Siradzi, Narkiss Pressburger, Shira Adler, Zachary Matu-sow and Regina Goldenberg.

ALUM STEIN STUDYING ISRAEL'S WATER POLICIES

ASDS alum Daniel Stein, class of '87, is in Israel as a fellow with the Texas Water Institute to carry out a comparative analysis of how multiple political jurisdictions (both nations and states) have tried to manage trans-boundary groundwater supplies.

Stein, a graduate of the University of Rochester, is a graduate student at the University of Texas, Austin, where he is pursuing a dual degree in Middle Eastern Studies and Public Policy.

His findings, coupled with those of David Eaton, a professor at the Lyndon B. Johnson School for Public Affairs, will be published after they conclude their research.

Stein is the son of Joshua and Penney Stein of Pawtucket.

ANNUAL ART SHOW FEATURES STUDENT VARIETY



All this creating was featured in the 6th annual ASDS art show for children in grades K-8. Highlights included King Solomon's Chair, self-portraits, one and two-point perspective, prayer illustrations and imaginative creations. Linda Francis heads the art department.

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Were you there? JORI seeks orphanage residents for reunion July 15

At the beginning of this century, times were tough for many people. Mortality rates were higher, people died younger and women sometimes did not survive the birth of their children.

To meet the needs of children who had been orphaned, the Jewish community responded in 1909 with the founding of The Jewish Orphanage of Rhode Island, which later became The Jewish Children's Home and Foundation of Rhode Island, and also helped children whose families were in hard times.

Until the time of its closure the Children's Home cared for hundreds, many of whom would later become community leaders—doctors, lawyers, successful business men and school teachers. Even though this was a difficult period in their lives, many remember their time at JORI warmly and made lasting friendships there.

Anyone who is a former member of the Jewish Orphanage

of Rhode Island is invited to a reunion from 4:00-7:00 pm on Sunday, July 15 at Camp JORI, at 170 Clarke Road in Narragansett. The 13-acre facility was the original camp used by the orphanage to provide summer fun for the children. Readers who know of a relative or friend connected to the organization are asked to pass this information along.

The party will offer a chance to share memories with others, see the changes the camp has implemented, and tour the new property the camp purchased in 1999 in partnership with The Nature Conservancy. The new property, on Worden's Pond, makes it possible for the camp to expand programming, in addition to accommodating more camper spaces.

"The reunion is a chance to talk with people they grew up with and may not have seen for 50 years," says Sherwin Zaidman, who lived at the Jewish Children's Home from age six-and-a-half to 17, "and this may be the last year to see the camp they grew up in at the same time as the new property." Zaidman fondly remembers

summers in the camp, riding in a beach wagon and visiting Scarborough Beach.

Until 1942, the orphanage cared for hundreds of children aged three to 17 with a staff of trained social workers. When the orphanage closed, its functions had been assumed by government social service agencies.

Camp JORI continued and broadened its mission to provide a peaceful summer interlude for children who were refugees from war-torn Europe. The camp eventually expanded its scope and opened to the public. When people began to arrive as refugees from the former Soviet Union, their children were offered summers at Camp JORI, where they could experience American culture amid the warmth of the community.

Zaidman has sent information about the reunion as far away as California and Florida. He says, "If anyone knows of anyone (from Camp JORI's early days), call me. We would like to reach them and see if they can come." For more information, please contact him at 401-737-5418.

The Voice does not print an August edition. **Deadline** for September issue is **AUGUST 9.**

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EXPANDED STAFF EXPANDS PROGRAMS IN ENVIRONMENT, SPORTS

This summer youth at Camp JORI are finding that "We have significantly expanded our environmental curriculum," says camp director Ronni Guttin. "We have also tied the program to our waterfront activities."

The camp also will offer additional skills instruction in field sports, with a staff that combines attendance at advanced training sessions with inherent skills from past years.

Brenda Levin, whose background is in adolescent counseling, will serve as assistant director. Robert Malinow, a math teacher during the school year, is the program coordinator who schedules activities and supervises staff. He possesses unique management skills honed during a stint managing a dairy farm on a kibbutz in Israel. Joely Robinson will be leading the Day Camp program again, and Linda Franklin is the performing arts specialist.

Camp JORI, which is the only Jewish overnight camp in Rhode Island, offers a full sports program, including tennis, boating, water polo, swimming, softball, karate, soccer, miniature golf, basketball and sports workshops. The Narragansett-based camp also has arts and crafts including ceramics, instrumental music and theatre; nature programs; aerobics; special events, and field trips. Camp JORI observes the dietary laws of kashruth and has a strong Jewish cultural component.

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At JSA annual meeting

At the JSA annual meeting on June 7, Maurice Glicksman, right, was installed for his second term as the agency's president. With him is Tanya Plungyan, president of the Golden Agers Club.



Also attending the meeting were four of the spiritual leaders who visit elderly Jews who are living in nursing homes or assisted living centers. They are (l to ri) Rabbi Mark Bloom, Temple Torat Yisrael, Cranston; Rabbi Mordechai Escovitz, Touro Synagogue, Newport; Edward Adler, Ritual Director, Temple Emanu-El, and Rabbi Natan Shafer, of the agency's ElderCare program.

Seniors on the go

There's no sitting still at the JSA Adult Day Center when the music plays. Client Lorraine Rabi and staff member Colleen Messier cut a rug during an afternoon of dancing. Below the two Susan Adlers



flank Grace Shoenfield on her way into the SAGE concert. The Adler on the left is director of JERI, Jewish Eldercare of RI.

New funds benefit JCC

Solomon's honor mother with fund for the arts

The family and friends of Gertrude Solomon of East Greenwich honored her 80th birthday by establishing The Gertrude Solomon Education Fund. The announcement was made at a special Mother's Day brunch at the North Kingstown home of her daughter, Jane Kondon.

After moving tributes from her granddaughters Sarah and Rachel Kondon, JCC Executive Director Vivian Weisman presented Solomon with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Center and said, "We are thrilled with the opportunities this generosity affords." Dozens of well-wishers looked on, and congratulated themselves on keeping this *tzedakah* secret.

Numerous gifts in Mrs. Solomon's honor, accompanied by testimonials to the deep affection in which she is held, came from the west coast, New York City and throughout Rhode Island. A teacher, now retired, she expressed her commitment to furthering Jewish Culture through the arts by requesting this special use of.

Wassermans set up camping scholarship in Bernard's honor

Ina Wassermann and her sons, Richard and David, decided to honor their husband and father, Bernard, in a unique way by making a contribution to the camp scholarship fund of the JCC.

"He doesn't need things. This would be so meaningful to him," explained Richard Wasserman about his father's birthday. This gift will underwrite a full 9-week summer of Jewish day camp for a child who would otherwise not be able to have a summer day camp experience.

There are many ways to honor or recognize loved ones at the JCC. If you would like to establish a new fund or contribute to an existing one, call Carol at 401-861-8800, ext. 109.



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Kids' stuff

Putting on the show

The JCC's Children's Performing Arts class culminated two semesters of hard work with an original production, "The Background of High School." Directed by Laura Bennett, the performers are (L to R, back) Samantha Pilavin, Gabi Labrecque, Alexander Herbert-Rapport, Rebekah Beth Page, (front) Laura Weil, and Liliana Gutmann-McKenzie.



Camp openings

Camp Haverim ("friends" in Hebrew) and the new JCC Specialty Camps (Performing Arts, Arts Exploration, Tennis, Gymnastics, and Major League Soccer) still have room for a few more campers. There is also a whole week of off-site day trips planned for Transition Week, August 27-31, just before everyone heads back to school. For more information or to register, please call Charli Lurie, Camp Director at 861-8800.

August art show

After a showing of their artwork in Gallery 401 at JCC last summer, the children of Kidspace have been working all school year preparing for this season's show. Works from popular Pottery and Ceramics classes will be shown as well as the Arts Exploration classes and year-long art projects. The reception will be Tuesday, August 7, 6-7:30pm.

Think ahead: JCC offers supervised after-school activities

Safe, supervised activities and games, both indoors and outdoors, and quiet homework time is what the Kidspace/Preteen Connection (PTC) afterschool program at the JCC offers.

Licensed by the RI Department of Children, Youth, and Families, Kidspace/PTC's environment, based on Jewish values, is designed for children in kindergarten through grade 6. Families may choose as many days as needed per week, and may also enroll children in enrichment classes such as American Red Cross swimming, pottery, chess, performing arts, soccer, flag football or multi-media art.

Escort services are provided for children arriving by school bus and a responsible staff member accompanies children from Alperin Schechter Day School and Providence Hebrew Day School. Children in Kidspace/PTC are also escorted to and from any JCC enrichment classes in which they are enrolled. Children attending Temple Emanu-El's Hebrew School are supervised and safely walked to school.

For further information on the 2001-2002 Kidspace/PTC Afterschool Program and JCC enrichment classes, call Charli Lurie, Director of Children, Youth and Camp, at 401-861-8800 ext. 147.

The Voice does not publish in August. **Deadline for the September issue is August 9.**

For the grown-ups

Cool down and keep calm

As temperatures heat up and tensions get high this summer, the JCC is a great place to cool off and keep calm. To help people relax, the JCC offers free massaging through August 4th. The massage therapists are students in the Massage Therapy Program at CCRI and will offer full body (table) massage Monday through Wednesday between 9:30 am and 1:30 pm and seated massage on Thursday from 9:15 am to 2:00 pm. Stop by the fitness desk or call 401-861-8800 x152 to reserve your spot.

While adults are getting a massage, their children can jump into the pool and participate in one of the JCC's swim classes. A full schedule of classes and programs is being offered this summer for all ages from 6 months to teenagers, and adult water fitness classes offer a fun and refreshing water workout. For more information on summer Aquatics programs, call 401-861-8800 x153.

Volunteers make a difference; opportunities abound

Volunteering makes a difference at the Jewish Community Center.

At the Center's ballet recital in May, volunteers supervising dancers and helping with costumes is what made the difference between chaos and organization. The over 300 members of the audience certainly appreciated that!

Then, every Tuesday morning, a retiree, who drives over from Cranston, works outside the main office labeling and sorting one of the Center's many mailings or putting membership packets together.

Another active senior begins reading to young children in the Early Childhood Center this month.

The Center's ads that say, "There is something for everyone at the JCC," includes volunteer opportunities.

Linda Singer-Berk, assistant executive director, says, "Tell us when you are available, how much time you have and what types of

things you would be interested in, and we will find some way for you to help." For more information, call her at 401-861-8800, ext. 110, or stop by the JCC and fill out a volunteer application.

Brown Bag it this summer; interesting speakers

The Brown Bag Club continues to meet every second and fourth Tuesday in the summer.

July 10 — Computer demonstration by Tim Reinke of Thunder Promotions. Learn how to access and use free e-mail.

July 24 — Sam Shamoan of the Planning and Development Office of the City of Providence will speak to us about downtown development. Shamoan's extensive knowledge and slide presentation are not to be missed!

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Can being a techie be ruinous?

A wife was ready for divorce because she was frustrated that her husband did not answer his beeper when she called...until she found out the satellite was down. He had not been ignoring her urgent communications after all.

Another couple with a small child was working through the issues of constant business contacts made possible by cell phones, computers, etc. Both agreed that at home, technology would take a back seat and they would spend time as a family.

A young woman and her partner were dealing with issues of past internet relationships. Committed to improving their relationship, they each closed their separate internet accounts and traded passwords in an effort to begin trusting each other.

These are just a few of the cases that staff from the Ackerman Institute for the Family used to illustrate the effect of technology on human relationships. Peggy Papp, MSW, Peter Fraenkel, PhD and Evan Imber-Black, PhD led the second annual Jewish Family Service Julie Gutterman Memorial Lecture for mental health professionals on June 8.

At one point, Fraenkel, an admitted "early adopter" of technology, demonstrated the pervasiveness of technology in our everyday lives as he pulled devices from his suit pockets. The collection included a PDA, a virtual pet, a folding keyboard, a CD player, a pen with an adjustable grip, a cell phone, an adapter, percussion eggs, and still more. He brought from his briefcase a laptop computer, speakers, a portable printer and



The trio of speakers (l to r) — Evan Imber-Black, Peggy Papp and Peter Fraenkel, at the annual Julie Gutterman Memorial Lecture brought humor to their serious subject

more adapters, especially for travel in other countries.

Mental health professionals attending the lecture were asked to respond to a series of questions about technology's impact on their day-to-day experiences, consciousness and quality of life. They mentioned voice mail that is automated and the inability to connect with a real human being, the plethora of information that makes it hard to assimilate what is pertinent, ergonomic concerns about the physical impact of using devices, the sense that others expect people to be instantly available, the unsettling impact on the business world, changing expectations and the smudging of boundaries between work and home.

On the positive side, participants felt good about the ability to talk to children away at college via instant messaging, having cell phones that allowed kids to reach their parents at all times, beepers that not only allow communication but provide a feeling of safety.

Participants left with much practical information about assessing technology's role in relationships and practical strategies for counseling families with issues related to technology.

Next year's Julie Claire Gutterman Memorial Lecture on June 14 will feature David Treadway, PhD presenting "Keeping the Spark Alive: Intimacy, Spirituality and Grief in Everyday Life"

That's Life

Tips on Choosing a Counselor

by Peg Boyle, MSW, LICSW, JFS Clinical Social Worker

Entering a counseling relationship can be anxiety-provoking. After all, it often involves putting very personal and emotional concerns into the hands of another person. As consumers of this service, people deserve a competent and caring professional who is both sensitive and well trained.

There are so many counselors to choose from, a decision can be overwhelming. Where does one begin?

You must find someone with whom you feel comfortable. It is important to choose someone whom you feel respects your opinions and individuality, and treats you with empathy and acceptance.

Whether you want to sort out a troubling relationship, set goals and find support for them, or find clarity on an emotional or personal problem, keep in mind that although it can be a difficult process, good counselors are available.

It is also important to consider the counselor's training and professional experience. A recent survey in Consumers' Report showed that people in counseling generally rated psychologists, clinical social workers and psychiatrists equally effective.

A good place to start is a reputable agency that is known and trusted in the community. Its counselors will have to meet professional standards, licensing, constant updating of skills and work under supervision. There will usually be a broad range of expertise on the staff, so there is likely to be a counselor with skills and experience in the issues each client presents.

Counseling at Jewish Family Service offers comprehensive services for individuals, families, couples, and the elderly and their families. Our staff of clinical social workers all have Masters' degrees and are LICSW, a designation that requires post-graduate training. JFS staff attend workshops to advance their skills and keep up with the latest information.

If you are seeking help, just call JFS at 401-331-1244 for an initial assessment or an appointment.

MEETING NOTICES

The next two meetings of Adoption Options will be August 2 and September 6. Anyone interested in exploring the possibilities of adoption is welcome at these free meetings.

Jewish Family Service (JFS) and other adoption workers will provide information and answer questions about the many types of adoption, and explain the steps involved in the adoption process.

The meetings are on the first Thursday of every month at 6:00 pm at the JFS offices, 229 Waterman Street, second floor.

Call 401-331-5437 or toll-free at 1-800-337-6513 for information or to arrange a confidential consultation. Or visit the web site at www.adoptionoptions.org.

Jewish Family Service annual meeting, at which the Families of the Year will be honored, will be Thursday, October 18 in the Silverstein Hall at Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence.

For details call JFS at 401-331-1244.

Dunow strikes out on The Way Home

The Way Home: Scenes from a Season, Lessons from a Lifetime by Henry Dunow, Broadway Books
 Reviewed by Joshua Stein
 Voice Editorial Board; Roger Williams University.

One of my strongest childhood memories is of playing catch with my father. He would return home from his office after a full day's work, put on his Rawlings glove, get at one end of the driveway while I patrolled the other, and we'd toss the ball back and forth.

My mother, thinking that softballs really were soft, insisted that we use one of these near the windows. My father and I complied, knowing that if she ever found out how hard softballs could be she would insist on one of those pink "spandees" reserved for punchball, stickball and stoopball.

As the ball went back and forth, I'd shout out for a pop fly, "Higher, Dad, higher!" or for a sharp grounder (I hated when these hit the crack in the cement and bounced up to my face). I would field the ball, and peg it back all to the silent (sometimes not so silent) play-by-play commentary of Red Barber ringing in my ears, the lazy soft southern drawl expressing amazement at my youthful prowess, predicting an incredible career with the Brooklyn Dodgers—who would still have Reese and Hodges and Robinson when I grew up.

I mention all this because it's an experience which, with modifications, is shared by many, perhaps most, of the boys/men who read this, who still watch the game and wonder if they have what it takes; well, maybe we're too old to be an active player anymore, but surely

we could manage at least as well as Jimmy Williams.

Henry Dunow had none of these experiences as a boy. Son of a Yiddish-only speaking writer, a recent escapee from Hitler's Europe, Moishe Dluznovsky did not understand baseball, had no tolerance for athletics and would only occasionally humor his son by trying to have a catch, an experience traumatic in equal measure to both. Moishe wanted his son to be an intellectual, or at least a well-paid doctor or lawyer. Henry wanted to play in the big leagues, to drive a car, to be tall, to be young, to marry a pretty woman, none of which could his father claim. In the end, all he got was the pretty wife, the twins and a car. But the dream of playing with his father never left him and he was determined to be what Moishe never could be, a little league coach.

Dunow then alternates scenes from his coaching seven-year-olds (which can be compared to herding kittens, an impossibility) with reminiscences of his own childhood. It is the chapters on his struggles to become an American, to break from the old-world language and customs of his father that make *The Way Home* interesting and appealing to a first or second generation Jewish audience, which, like

myself, is middle-aged. The story of the trials and triumphs of the little leaguers is trite. (This from a review from the New York Times, May 5, 2001: "... recounts the year he spent coaching his son Evan's team, a predictably motley crew of cocksure contenders and gawky pretenders, rich kids and poor kids, carefree newcomers and intense offspring of intense parents." It's a review of another book, *Swing Batta!*)

These things are clichés, as is the story of the first-generation kid who wants to be American. We've read them before by better writers. There is little new, but Dunow at least tells the story of his growing up, of his relationships with his father without the treacle that mars his description of his son's baseball games. Dunow is a literary agent. He thanks his authors for their help in writing the book. He should stick to representing them.

The Way Home is not a bad book, but it is predictable. Themes are introduced, but never developed to a satisfactory conclusion.

The chapter where Henry goes through the old photos of his growing up is tender and touching, evocative of an experience we all have, at one time or another. It is the best chapter in an otherwise near-miss of a first effort.

Finding her voice

The Speed of Light by Elizabeth Rosner
 Ballantine Books, 2001
 by Pat Cohen

In this beautifully written novel set in the San Francisco area, the reader becomes entwined in the lives of a brother and sister, young adults who are deeply touched by the loss of both parents and the experiences and secrets of their late father, a survivor of the camps.

"Did we hold on to the places we passed through, or leave some of ourselves behind in them?" It is this query which Rosner poses that is at the heart of her writing.

Paula Perel, a talented and aspiring opera singer, has devoted herself lovingly to the care of her brother, Julian, whose ordered and seclusive lifestyle shields him from the unknown and the secrets of his late father. "It was my father's grief. It was what he gave to me, his only son. He didn't mean to, but it came to me without his permission." He finds solace updating the Dictionary of Science for the University Press through a two-year contract arranged through the PhD program which he had left.

It is through the pursuit of music that Paula achieves the peace she seeks, and ironically it is while on a European operatic auditioning tour that takes her to Hungary, the homeland of her late father, that she becomes aware of the cold reality of her father's suffering and the

means of his survival. These revelations cut deeply into her soul and, though her mission is to sing in some of the world's famous opera houses, she cannot find her voice.

While Paula is away, Julian is looked after by his sister's caring housekeeper, Sola, herself a survivor with her own dark past. The warm and understanding relationship which ensues nourishes Julian and in an interesting twist, provides him the opportunity to offer real compassion and confront his own skeletons.

When Paula returns after abandoning her tour, her reunion with Julian provides an unfolding as they begin to face the realities of their own lives.

Rosner has not written through the narrative voice of one character alone. Rather, in her creative style, she has given the reader the voices of each of the three people whose lives are so richly different, but whose quests are so much the same, interspersed, paragraph by poetic paragraph. She enables the reader to feel the urgency of each life and in some meaningful and personal way to identify with each of these people.

A prize-winning poet and short fiction writer, Elizabeth Rosner is a graduate of Stanford University and received her MFA in Creative Writing at the University of California at Irvine. This is her first novel.

"25 years...if that's not love, what is?"

-Fiddler on the Roof

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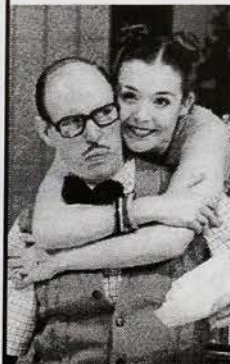
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L to R: Timothy Crowe, Rachel Warren, Mauro Haitman & Tanya

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Israeli invents kit to test chemo efficacy up front

JERUSALEM — A kit for examining the effectiveness of chemotherapeutic drugs administered to cancer patients has been developed by Miriam V. Kori-Gutkowski, a young doctoral student at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

The kit spares cancer patients exposure to chemical treatment that may be ineffective or even harmful and provides a useful tool for identifying those drugs that will be beneficial.

More than two million people die every year from cancer in Western countries. One of the main clinical means for combating cancer is through the administration of chemotherapeutic drugs that are intended to kill the cancer cells. However, the cancerous tumors sometimes develop a resistance to many of the anti-cancer drugs. Often, this resistance is only revealed after months of chemotherapy, with all of its attendant dangers and discomforts. In addition, the administration of ineffective drugs delays treatment with drugs which are more likely to kill the cancer cells.

The cause of the resistance by the cancerous cells to toxic drugs directed against them is the presence in their membranes of multi-drug resistant proteins, which are able to "pump out" the anti-cancer drugs. An important contributor to this resistance is a protein called

P-glycoprotein.

Major pharmaceutical companies have been working on developing blockers of the P-glycoprotein that can inhibit its pumping activity, thus exposing the cancerous cells to chemotherapeutic drugs. However, it was found in clinical trials that not all of these blockers are effective on all patients. Until now, the only option for cancer patients has been to undergo treatment with various combinations of toxic drugs and blockers until the right treatment is found that is effective in penetrating the cancerous cells.

The kit that has been developed at The Hebrew University uses a blood sample from the patient, into which is added tumorous membranes that include the P-glycoprotein, and a blocker of that protein. The kit enables immediate detection as to whether a particular blocker is effective or not. In this way, many different blockers can be tested quickly and efficiently until the most effective one is found to match the patient.

Patents have been registered for the kit through the University's Yissum Research Development Company, and a company, MDR Tests Ltd., has been established in Israel to design the diagnostic kit for production. Substantial progress has been made in its development, and testing of a prototype is being pursued.

The Bathhouses of the Lower East Side

by Stanley M. Aronson, MD and Betty E. Aronson, MD

The son of Neriah and trusted friend of Jeremiah the prophet was called Baruch (Jeremiah 32:12.) Three others, mentioned in various books of the Bible, also carry this exalted name meaning "blessed." As a family name, Baruch was chosen by some Jews living in medieval Germany.

Simon Baruch, born in 1840, left his native Prussia to escape imminent military conscription, and at age 15 he voyaged alone to these shores. He knew only one distant relative in America, a Mannes Baum who owned a general store in Camden, South Carolina. For the next few years young Simon learned English while working as the store's bookkeeper. The Baums, convinced of Simon's native intellectual abilities, sent him to South Carolina Medical College in Charleston. He later transferred to the Medical College of Virginia where, in 1862, he was awarded the MD degree. Dr. Baruch joined the armies of the Confederacy; was senior surgeon to a South Carolina infantry division, was twice captured by the Union Army, and at the end of the Civil War returned to South Carolina where he helped to establish the State Medical Society and was appointed as president of the State Board of Health.

Baruch practiced medicine in South Carolina for the succeeding 16 years but was increasingly dissatisfied with the indiscriminate use of unproven remedies which, as often as not, did more visible harm than good. His studies brought him to appreciate the healing philosophies of Vincent Priessnitz (1799 - 1852) who had established a hugely successful therapeutic spa at Grafenberg in the Austrian Silesia. Priessnitz used therapies confined to the use of cold water for frequent bathing and for irrigating the gastro-intestinal tract. He confined his patients to a mountainside retreat, allowing them a modest diet, no tobacco or alcohol, and much exercise in a tranquil, stress-free atmosphere. He called this alternate form of medicine, "hydropathy" (or hydrotherapy.)

Simon Baruch found little in the realm of the conventional therapies of the 1870s to meet his definition of appropriate medical care. With the exception of proven medications such as digitalis leaf, morphine and a few others, he was certain that the vast bulk of untested and unregulated chemicals and herbal extracts created more harm than benefit. His advocacy of minimal medical intervention came close to the views of William Osler and others who recommended doing nothing rather than doing harm, a phase of medical history sometimes called nihilism.

South Carolina offered Baruch no further challenges and he elected to move his practice and his family to New York City.

Baruch's defense of hydrotherapy found critics in New York; but there were many who flocked to his office for a treatment regime that avoided the standard drugs of the day, which included many mercurial and arsenical pharmaceuticals, herbal decoctions, the mindless use of purgatives and opiates, as well as the discredited bleedings.

Hydrotherapy found a willing audience, since medicine in the late 19th Century had little specific to offer. It would be decades before proven anti-syphilitic agents became available, as well as newer drugs to combat heart failure and aid the kidneys in excreting burden-

some body fluids. Rational therapies for glandular diseases and diabetes would not appear for many years.

Baruch now confronted something that he had not encountered in the cities of South Carolina. He saw the great masses of newly-arrived Jewish immigrants living in the congested tenements of the Lower East Side of Manhattan. Laws had not yet been passed to standardize the hygienic facilities of these crowded warrens. Apartments consisted of little more than airless bedrooms and perhaps a kitchen but no private bathrooms. The older structures had outhouses behind the tenement, while some of the newer tenements had indoor privies, one for each cluster of four or more apartments, but neither baths nor showers.

Over a century of memory lapses and fond mythologies have softened the image of tenement life in the New York City of 1880. The quaint tales of thriving Jewish life, of enterprising young people advancing from the pushcart to the little general store to the massive department store, of families overcoming poverty have somehow ignored the tragically high infant mortality rate, the many broken homes and the life expectancies which rarely exceeded 40 years.

Baruch witnessed how many fellow Jews were left behind in the slow progress toward middle-class self-sufficiency. He noted the rampant enteric infections and tuberculosis within this embattled community, the utter absence of sanitary facilities and the unavoidable squalor. "The great unwashed" was a description born of stark reality. Baruch's social conscience now combined with his faith in hydrotherapy to launch a campaign that would immortalize his name amongst the impoverished immigrants of the Lower East Side.

Using funds gathered from his successful practice of medicine, Baruch proceeded to construct a series of public baths throughout the neighborhood. These imposing buildings — a few still standing as remembrance of what had once been — provided a place for the poor to bathe at frequent intervals; and these free facilities, conjoined with a community-based educational effort to inculcate the principles of basic personal hygiene amongst the newly-arrived Jews, changed the morbidity and mortality rates dramatically. The health of the immigrant Jewish community improved immensely, thanks also to socially-conscious organizations such as the Henry Street Settlement House.

Despite persuasive advocates such as Lust, Baruch and Kellogg (of corn-flakes fame), hydrotherapy faded as a significant school of therapy. The Baruch bath houses endured until the second decade of the 20th Century when the laws of New York City required private bathrooms in all apartment houses.

And Baruch, the apostle of cleanliness? He lived to see his children grow to maturity — including the great Bernard Baruch, financial advisor to six presidents of the United States.

Baruch's gift of public bath houses seems modest by current standards. But to a generation of unlettered, unwashed immigrants it was a salvation which taught the lessons of cleanliness, dignity and generosity. And when, some years ago, New York City built a shiny new junior high school on East 21st Street, they named it the Simon Baruch Middle School in remembrance of a German Jewish refugee of blessed memory.

Lohmann Community Service Award to Paster

Benjamin G. Paster (second from left), chairman of The Miriam Hospital Foundation board of trustees, was awarded the Dorothy Lohmann Community Service Award at The Miriam People Dinner on May 17. Standing next to him are James J. Yashar, MD, a cardiothoracic surgeon at The Miriam, and Kathleen C. Hittner, MD, president and CEO of The Miriam Hospital. Next to her is Judge Majorie Yashar who, with her husband, co-chaired the dinner.



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As we grow older

Moving from ark to sloop

By Tema Gouse

Several years ago a very smart lady wrote a book describing life's passages, those turning points where changes evolve or occur abruptly. Anyone old enough to be described as a senior citizen has been through most of life's passages. Infancy to childhood to adolescence to adulthood and independence. Then middle age.

Then older age. For those seniors who remain quite functional and who enjoy life, the term "older age" is much more suitable than the term "old age."

So here we are getting older. Adjustments are multiple. The kids are gone. Gainful employment is behind us. The body has proven to be human and subject to frailties.

And there we are, still living in the house which is filled with unused bedrooms. Two adults have four television sets. And the cellar is loaded with tools and suitcases that will never be used again.

The freezer is still so loaded it could replace the city's food bank. Outdated clothing no longer needs to be discarded, because the children have gone and we finally have enough closet space.

What on earth are we still doing in that oversized ark? The gutters and the oil tank recently had to be replaced. Checks to the handyman exceed checks to the supermarket. And if we want to go away for a day or a month, and make sure the place will still be standing on our return, "arrangements" must be made that impose on family, friends, mailman and the newspaper delivery guy.

Walking the stairs seems to take twice as long and ends up with Mama huffing and puffing. Every household chore seems to take twice as much effort as it did last year and is less effectively completed.

So??? It is time to sell the house. If two people live in that house, be assured there are differences of opinion on the wisdom of the move. One wants to sell. The other would love to stay there forever or until you-know-when.

It is usually the family pack-rat (usually the one of male gender) who hates the thought of leaving. The family discarder (usually the one of female gender) yearns for a more compact arrangement. She envisages a modern apartment, two bedrooms, one for the loving couple and the other for visiting in-laws or grandchildren. Two bathrooms are mandatory for two seniors. She pictures a lovely living room and minimum cooking space, because eating out is already the norm. Needless to say, all this must be on one floor. Remember the huffing and puffing Mama?

Of course, there are additional considerations. There are the attitudes of your grown children who hopefully are no longer living with you. There are two very different reactions to the considered sale of the house. There is the offspring who favors downsizing so that he or she will worry less about their parents. And then there is the offspring who cannot make peace with the abandonment of the family homestead. I have one of each.

But there are still more complications to the proposed change. Change of category of domicile often mandates leaving the old neighborhood, which is also the neighborhood of your favorite supermarket, bank, library, beautician, barber, etc. Change is not easy for the elderly. And this change is practically revolutionary. The long-time neighbors will feel abandoned and worry about your replacement.

But there comes a time! Yes, for most of us, happily or unhappily, there comes a time when the only sensible thing to do is sell the house. Its physical demands are for younger people and we must cut the emotional cord, no matter how difficult.

We have all witnessed moves that were precipitated by a family crisis such as the death or the serious illness of a family member. Moves done in crisis are far more traumatic than moves carefully planned with acknowledgement of pending needs in advancing years.

So what is the procedure? First step is to rid the house of the junk. Excuse me, non-essentials. One thing you can be sure of — the new place is going to be smaller than the old one. So get rid of the junk. Then get rid of the non-essentials.

Invite the family to help themselves to anything you do not need to hold onto. Put a label on everything you plan to take with you. And then sell, distribute, donate, or throw out everything else.

Carefully find the replacement home or apartment. Then seek out a realtor you think you can trust and sell the mansion.

When all of that is completed, be assured that you will undoubtedly feel depressed and regretful. But be assured — you'll get over it. And when you are really settled into the new place, the pack-rat will probably say to the discarder, "Why didn't we do this five years ago?"

Experts deliver Home Care through JFS

Through Home Care Service, one of many services to the elderly offered by Jewish Family Service (JFS), Certified Nursing Assistants trained in Jewish dietary law provide personal care, meal preparation and shopping. The service is available 24-hours a day, seven days a week depending on availability.

In addition, a Registered Nurse calls on Home Care clients to assess and monitor their health, help with medication and provide information.

For more information about the services for the elderly that JFS provides, including Counseling, the JFS Kosher Mealsite in Cranston, Kosher Meals on Wheels, Lifeline/RI, call 401-331-1244.

Deliver happiness along with food

People are always glad to see the food come. That means drivers, needed to deliver kosher meals to homebound seniors in the Cranston/Warwick area for the Jewish Family Service (JFS) Kosher Meals on Wheels program, are always welcomed.

"The recipients are very appreciative. Sometimes the Meals on Wheels volunteer is the only person with whom they have contact that day, and it means so much to them," says JFS Mealsite Coordinator Ronda French.

Volunteers need only commit a few hours or days on the schedule. Substitute drivers are needed to fill in occasionally for regular volunteers.

Call French at 401-781-1771 during Mealsite hours or 401-331-1244, ext. 42 for details if you can help.



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*All who hunger,
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let them come and celebrate
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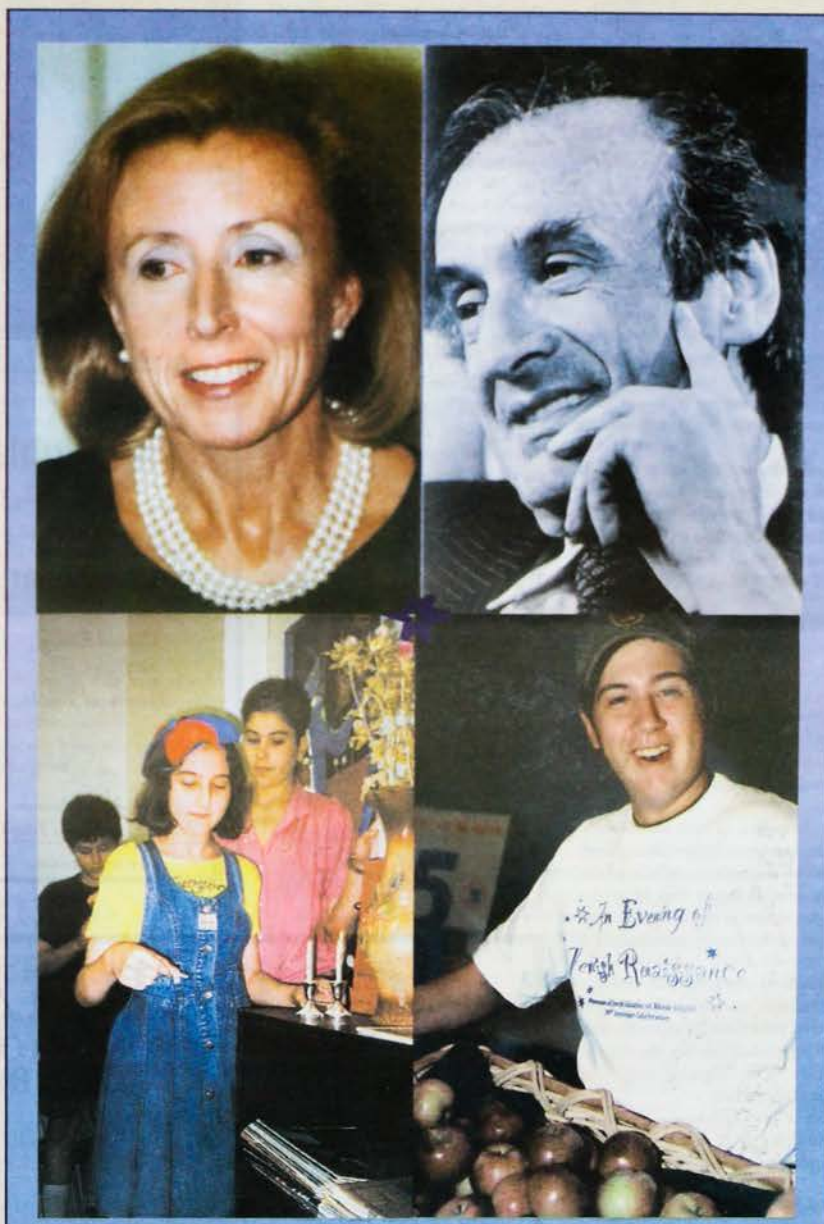
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