



Effort to Reach Jewish Elderly in Non-Jewish Nursing Homes

By Joy Frascinella
Special to the Advocate

Jewish elderly in non-Jewish nursing homes are, to a large degree, unable to worship as Jews or participate in Jewish activities, according to a recent survey conducted by Boston's Jewish Family and Children's Service (JF&CS).

Within greater Boston, there are only six nursing homes designated as primarily Jewish facilities. Large waiting lists for these residences have forced many Jewish elderly into nursing homes that often provide religious services for Christian residents, but do not have the means to provide separate services for Jews.

The JF&CS survey drew responses from 70 non-Jewish nursing homes and identified nearly 500 Jewish elderly currently living in these facilities, a figure that represents just the tip of the iceberg, say JF&CS staff members.

"It is a tragedy that mentally alert elderly people have no access to Jewish activities or worship," declared Nancy Bloom, director of Community Services for JF&CS. "The loss of familiar surroundings and possessions is difficult enough, but when you compound this with a loss of religious affiliation and identity, then the person is being robbed of a basic need."

Bloom is now working with four nursing homes to develop an outreach program that would provide visitation and Jewish outlets to elderly adults isolated from a Jewish environment. Volunteers recently conducted a Shabbat service at a nursing home in Brighton and a Passover Seder at a Newton nursing home.

"The most important part of our agenda is to make individual communities aware of the fact that there are Jews around them in need of communication with other Jews," explained Ellen Feldman, an outreach worker at JF&CS. "Once we locate a nursing home with Jewish residents, we plan to contact a temple in that area and call upon the brotherhood, sisterhood, senior citizens group, and Hebrew school students to visit these elderly Jews and let them know they are still a part of Jewish life. Another idea we have is to take nursing home residents to services at a nearby temple."

The recent accomplishments of the elderly have been drawing widespread media attention. From high school graduates in their nineties at the Willow Manor Nursing Home in Lowell to Randolph resident Libbie Warshaw who celebrated a bat mitzvah at the age of 91, the elderly



AT HEBREW REHABILITATION CENTER — Wellesley student Elizabeth Rosenkrantz visits with an elderly resident.

have been demonstrating that achievement and productivity do not bow to age.

The Hillel Council of Greater Boston has, for the last several years, recognized how much elderly people have to offer society, and young people in particular. Their Generations program, which links elderly persons with students from college campuses throughout Boston, including Tufts, Brandeis, Boston University, Wellesley, M.I.T. and Harvard Medical School, has given Jewish warmth and comfort to many elderly individuals.

"We need a lot of education about the elderly and their needs," said Rochelle Steinberg, director of the Generations program. "Elderly people and students are two populations that are both isolated in their own way but each can benefit from spending time with the other."

In the Generations program, each school has a relationship with an elderly housing unit and students develop a relationship with one individual over a period of time. "It is important that these elderly people realize the student is not just there for a one-time visit and then never see them again," said Steinberg. "It takes time to form a bond with an elderly person because they are often suspicious

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U.S. Groups Protest Shamir's Vow to Amend Law of Return

NEW YORK (JTA) — The leaders of 23 national Jewish organizations protested vigorously to Israeli government leaders and key members of the Knesset this week against any political deal that would give the Orthodox Chief Rabbinate of Israel sole authority to determine the validity of conversions to Judaism performed outside Israel.

A cabled message warning that such a move "imperils the unity of the Jewish people" was signed by the heads of 21 religious and secular organizations in the United States. Separate protests were lodged by Hadassah and the Zionist Organization of America.

They were prompted by a report from Jerusalem last week that Premier Yitzhak Shamir gave his written promise to the ultra-Orthodox Shas Party last Tuesday

to achieve within 60 days passage by the Knesset of an amendment to the Law of Return which would require overseas conversions to be approved by the Chief Rabbinate.

Shamir's pledge was reportedly in return for Shas' promise to support Likud in efforts to block the Labor Party from dissolving the Knesset and calling early elections over the issue of an international conference for Middle East peace which Labor supports and Likud opposes.

The cabled message was sent to Shamir and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and to eight Labor and Likud leaders in the Knesset. It stated: "We are profoundly disturbed by news reports that a political deal is being made to give the Orthodox Rabbinate the

power to decide the legitimacy of conversions made abroad. The result would be to deny any spiritual validity to those who identify with the Reform, Conservative and Reconstructionist movements and thus to offend millions of Jews around the world.

"Any Knesset vote in support of the reported agreement between Prime Minister

Shamir and Shas imperils the unity of the Jewish people, is contrary to the interests and welfare of world Jewry, and is bound to make Israel a force for division between the Jewish State and the Diaspora.

"There is still time to prevent this disaster from happening. We urge you to reject any action that would have

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Shavuot: Betting Our Lives on Torah



SIDE BY SIDE — This drawing by the American artist Leonard Baskin reproduced by the Jewish Museum, New York, is called "Man Should Become a Torah Himself."

By Nehemia Polen
Special to the Advocate

We began to interpret the Torah even before we received it. The Talmud (*Shabbat* 87a) recounts that G-d had planned to reveal the Torah on the sixth day of the month of Sivan, and had so informed Moses. However, by interpreting the Divine words in a particular manner, "added a day on his own initiative," so that the Sinai revelation — which we celebrate on Shavuot — took place on the seventh of Sivan.

Rabbi Joseph Dov ha-Levi Soloveichik of Brisk (1820-1892), in his work *Beit ha-Levi*, points out that the power to interpret the Torah was thus granted to and exercised by Moses even before the revelation of the text of the Torah itself. It is this authority to interpret the meaning of the text which is the essence of what is called "Oral Torah."

The centrality of interpretation is evident to anyone who has ever studied the rabbinic tradition in general and the Talmud in particular. A famous passage (*Menachot* 29b) describes Rabbi Akiva's ability to interpret not only the words of scripture, but even the calligraphic "crowns" which embellish the letters.

The Midrash tells us that there are seventy faces to the Torah; kabbalists say there are infinitely many. Interpretations fly out of the Torah like sparks when a hammer strikes a rock.

Even in the realm of halakhah, there are always differing opinions. The law, no matter how clearly written, always leaves room for interpretation and disagreement about fine points. While some writers claim to aspire to absolute certainty in deciding matters of Jewish law,

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Pollard Probe Panels Spread Blame Among the Top Israelis

By David Landau

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The two official Israeli investigations into the govern-



INSTALLED — Margery Katzenberg of Waban, well known Jewish communal leader, was installed as president of the Women's Division of the Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston at the Division's recent annual meeting at the Gosman Campus. (See story on page 11)

ment's role in the Pollard espionage affair both reportedly blamed top political and intelligence leaders for grave mishandling of the episode. But they did not recommend that anyone resign.

The Cabinet-appointed commission of Yehoshua Rotenstreich, a prominent Tel Aviv attorney, and former Chief of Staff Gen. (Res.) Zvi Tsur presented its report to Premier Yitzhak Shamir Tuesday morning. The Inner Cabinet adopted the report at a meeting later that day.

Israel Radio stated that the commission severely censured Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin and former Defense Minister Moshe Arens for lax supervision of the intelligence unit known as Lekem which recruited Jonathan Pollard to spy on the U.S. for Israel.

But it found that neither man in his official capacity was aware that Pollard, an American Jew employed by the U.S. Navy as an intelligence analyst, had in fact been hired as a spy. Pollard and his wife are now serving prison terms in the U.S. for

espionage on behalf of Israel.

In addition, a parliamentary intelligence subcommittee chaired by Abba Eban of Labor, which also reported on the affair Tuesday, specifically blamed top ministers, in particular Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, according to reports on Israel Television.

The subcommittee pointed out, according to Israel Television, that Peres, as premier at the time of Pollard's arrest, was "first among equals" and therefore recipient of the gravest burden of blame.

Israel Television also reported that the subcommittee had criticized both Rabin and Arens as well as Shamir, then Foreign Minister, for his role in Israel's handling of the Pollard affair after Pollard was arrested in December 1985.

Eban said prior to presenting the report to Knesset Speaker Shlomo Hillel Tuesday night that it was "for the Knesset and the nation" to draw the political conclusions from the findings of its subcommittee's report.

Political observers felt the

relatively mild findings of the Rotenstreich-Tsur report would tend to counterbalance the much sharper language used in the seven-man Eban subcommittee report.

The Rotenstreich-Tsur report said that "ministerial responsibility" fell on the entire Cabinet under Israel's system of Cabinet responsibility.

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Advocate Publisher to Address Hebrew College Commencement

Bernard M. Hyatt, editor and publisher of The Jewish Advocate, will deliver the graduation address at the 63rd commencement of Hebrew College in Brookline, Sunday, June 7, at 3:30 p.m.

Hyatt, who has led the Advocate to numerous journalism awards during his three and one-half decades there, will speak on "The Spectre of a Corporate Community." A graduate of Harvard University Law School with a master's degree in international

relations from the University of Chicago, Hyatt has written more than 4,000 editorials and articles focusing on the local, national and international Jewish scene. He has covered the activities of Jewish communities in locations as far flung as West Germany, Spain, Israel and the Far East.

The Advocate has been cited twice by regional newspaper associations for Best Editorial Page and has been given the Smolar Award for

Excellence in Jewish Journalism.

Co-valedictorians of Hebrew College, New England's only accredited college of Judaic Studies, are Pamela Beshansky of Winthrop, who will deliver the valedictory in English, and Orly Sadeh of Cambridge, who will speak entirely in Hebrew. Sadeh will also receive the Benja-

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Shavuot: Lives on Torah

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Nahmanides (1194-1270) knew better. In the introduction to his *Mikhlal ha-Shem*, he wrote that "in this discipline (of Talmudic law) there are no totally convincing demonstrations or absolute proofs, as there are in geometry and astronomy."

For Nahmanides this must have been an admission made with some reluctance. But with the passing of the centuries, attitudes have changed, and contemporary thinkers positively revel in the ambiguity, multivalence and polymorphic character of the Torah. Academic scholars such as Susan Handelman have noticed striking parallels between rabbinic modes of interpretation and the approaches of modern literary theory.

Some Jewish thinkers, uncomfortable with aspects of halakhah which they view as outmoded, find warrant for change in the established precedent of interpretive creativity. Does not the Talmud assure us that G-d Himself rejoices when we humans best Him in a debate over interpreting the law?

The notion of interpretive freedom has become fashionable in our culture, even in natural science, where the concept of the total objectivity of the detached observer is now seen as incorrect, indeed meaningless.

Does this imply, then, that there are no limits to the creativity granted the interpreter of our sacred texts? Is the meaning of the Torah up for grabs?

It may be helpful here to point out that just as the Talmud speaks of interpretive freedom, it also stresses interpretive responsibility. It is a grave sin, say the Rabbis, *le-ga'ol pahim ba-Torah* — to misinterpret the Torah and to pervert its meaning (Avot 3:15). The Mishnah points out that some groups may interpret scripture in a tendentious manner, for their own self interest (see *Shekalim* 1:4). Turning to the realm of Jewish mysticism, the Zohar warns that whoever attempts to extrapolate principles from the Torah beyond the received parameters is in violation of the commandment "Thou shalt make for yourself no graven image."

Finally, in a penetrating flash of homiletic insight, Rabbi Elimelech of Lyzhensk (1717-1787) juxtaposes two seemingly unrelated yet curiously parallel rabbinic dicta, concluding that only those who practice the Thirteen Principles of Divine Compassion are qualified to employ the famous Thirteen Principles of Torah Interpretation.

All of this suggests what might be called an ethic of interpretation. While it is true that the meaning of the Torah is inexhaustible, that each generation must receive the Torah anew and understand it in its own terms, yet this does not imply complete subjectivity or arbitrariness. Indispensable is a recognition of the eminence of the text, its transcendent sacredness and infinite importance. Only those who have "paid their dues" have a voice in interpreting what the Torah means. But this paying one's dues is nothing other than the placing of the Torah at the center of one's life.

Since there is no automatic procedure, no algorithm, for checking out our understanding of the Torah, each act of interpretation is an act of faith, a leap past the abyss of uncertainty, in the direction (we hope) of the divine will. Whichever way we turn in Torah, we bet our lives on the outcome. Is this, perhaps, what the rabbis meant when they said that at the time of the Sinai revelation that first Shavuot, G-d dangled the mountain over their heads?

Rabbi Nehemia Polen is spiritual leader of Congregation Tifereth Israel in Everett.

Pollard

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But Minister-Without-Portfolio Yitzhak Modai of Likud and outgoing Communications Minister Amnon Rubenstein in Shinui disagreed, contending that the top ministers had consistently withheld information on the affair from the full Cabinet.

The Rotenstreich-Tsur report was seething toward Rafael Eitan, head of Lekem, and Air Force Col. Aviem Sella, who supervised Pollard. The report also strongly criticized their subsequent promotions, Eitan to the director-generalship of Israel Chemicals and Sella to head a major Air Force base.

The Eban subcommittee comprised Laborites Simcha Dinitz and Micha Harish in addition to Eban; Likud MKs Eliahu Ben-Eliassar, David Magen and Ehud Olmert; and Yosef Burg of the National Religious Party.

According to Israel Radio, no political crisis is likely

over the affair since the Rotenstreich panel stopped short of recommending any action.

It will be up to the Cabinet to decide whether any or all of the commission's report will be made public, legal sources said.

The Cabinet is expected to take up both the commission's and the Knesset's report at its next regular meeting.

Services for George Lewis

George I. Lewis, one of Portland's most widely known businessmen, died at Maine Medical Center after a short illness. He was 83.

Mr. Lewis had a long career in fish, meat processing, cold storage and real estate. Many of his businesses were along Portland's waterfront.

In Portland his companies included Cumberland Cold Storage, Mid-Central Fish Co. and Consolidated Fisheries and Trident Packing Co. He also owned Penobscot Poultry Co. in Belfast and numerous other food interests throughout New England.

Mr. Lewis was a philanthropist, giving locally to police and fire departments as well as other civic enterprises. In 1974 he donated \$500,000 toward construction of the Cumberland County Civic Center. The George I. Lewis Auditorium was named in his honor.

Mr. Lewis founded a group in Maine to raise funds for Brandeis University. The Massachusetts school named a residence hall and science wing after him.

Mr. Lewis was born near Vilna, Poland, the son of Philip and Rose Lewis. His father was a butcher, and Mr. Lewis came to America in the early 1920s to work for an uncle at United Beef Co., a wholesale meat processor in Boston.

He learned to speak English while attending night school in Boston.

His uncle sent him to Portland in 1925 to manage a branch, the Pine State Beef Co. Mr. Lewis purchased the company in 1931, beginning his long business career.

Shortly after he moved here, he met Minnie Weisberg and they were married on June 16, 1929, on Peaks Island.

Mr. Lewis was a past chairman of the Combined Jewish Philanthropy Appeals of Portland and the Israel Bonds campaign and a director of Temple Beth El, the Jewish Community Center and the Jewish Home for the Aged. He was a president's councilor and member of the Board of Fellows at Brandeis University.

The Brotherhood of Temple Beth El honored him in 1973 as a distinguished citizen for his contributions to the city.

Mr. Lewis is survived by his wife and four sons, Bernard J. and David N., both of Portland, Lawrence J., of Los Angeles, Calif., and Paul M., of San Rafael, Calif.; 10 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

A funeral was held at Temple Beth El, 400 Deering Ave., with Rabbi Harry Z. Sky officiating. Burial was in the temple's Memorial Park.

Sayde Weinstein

Sayde (Gofstein) Weinstein died on Thursday, May 14, at the Beth Israel Hospital. She was 82.

She was born in Russia and came to Haverhill at an early age, and attended Haverhill schools. She worked in Haverhill as a bookkeeper and was employed by Cable Rain Coat Co., Shaine Bind and Bias Co. A.H. Miller as office manager and at Rhore Dental.

She holds life memberships in Zionist Organizations, N.E. Sinai Hospital, Hadasah, Sisterhood of Young Israel and Senior Citizens Groups of Randolph.

She is survived by her husband, Barnard, a daughter, Dr. Dorothy Weinstein Gold of Pittsburgh Pa., two grandchildren, Steven and David. She was the sister of Ethel Hornstein, Harry, Max, Samuel and Alexander Hofstein.

She was the daughter of the late Israel Hofstein, who was the Reverend of the Ahavas Achim Cong. in Haverhill for many years.

Services were held at the Levine-Briss FH in Randolph. Remembrances may be made to the N.E. Sinai Hospital.

Jessie Kurland

Jessie F. Kurland, 84, of Jamaica Plain, died May 18, at her residence.

Born in Russia, she came to United States and settled in Cambridge, where she graduated from Cambridge High and Latin School.

Mrs. Kurland and her late husband, Carl Louis Kurland, owned and operated the Freeport Cleaners of Boston and Quincy for over 30 years.

She was very active in the Community Friends of the Boston State Hospital and served as secretary of the organization for many years.

Mrs. Kurland was a member of Cong. Beth El Atereth Israel of Dorchester and Newton.

She is survived by her son, Lawrence B. Kurland, a sister, Sadie Kornfeld and four grandchildren.

Services were held at Stanetsky Memorial Chapel 1668 Beacon St. Brookline on Tuesday May 19.

Donations in her memory may be made to Community Friends of the Boston State Hospital, c/o Ruth Greenberg, 10 Stonehill Rd. Hyde Park, Ma. 02136. Interment at Mohliver Cemetery, Baker St., West Roxbury.

Hebrew College Graduation

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ies or Teachers' Diplomas.

Shoshana Wolf of Mountain View, Calif., a candidate for a bachelor of Jewish Education, will receive the Sara Feinsilver Prize established by the Hebrew College Women's Association for outstanding female graduating student.

The Sidney Hillson Memorial Award for distinguished leadership in Jewish educa-

tion will be awarded to Marvin Kasoff of Detroit, Michigan, a Class of 1963 graduate of Hebrew College and presently head of Congregation Shaarey Zedek in Southfield, Mich.

The opening prayer will be given by faculty representative Dr. Gila Ramras-Rauch, professor of Hebrew Literature. Dr. Arnold Wieder, professor of Rabbinics, will give the closing prayer.

OBITUARIES

Services Held For S. Robert Stone

S. Robert Stone of Palm Beach Fla. formerly of Brookline and Falmouth died in Brookline on Monday, May 25. He was 88.

A leader of the Boston Jewish Community, in 1951 he became chairman of the board of the Beth Israel Hospital, where he had established the hospital's first endowment fund. He was an honorary trustee of the Combined Jewish Philanthropies, and of Temple Israel, in addition to being a founder of Brandeis University and Harvard Hillel. He also served on the Overseers Visiting Committee to the Harvard Medical School, and as president of the Hospital Council of Greater Boston. The annual award in his name for excellence in teaching by Both Israel doctors at the Harvard Medical School was established by his children in 1980.

Born in Boston, Mr. Stone graduated from Harvard in 1919 as a member of the class of 1920, having earned his bachelor's degree in three years. As a student, he served in the U.S. Army during World War I. A textile manufacturer, he developed curtain fabrics and, during World War II, produced camouflage materials. He had been president of Fisher Manufacturing in Grafton Mass., and at the time of his death he was board chairman of Quality Carpets Inc., of Avon.

A founding member of Belmont Country Club and Palm Beach Country Club, he has belonged to the Harvard Club of Boston since 1938, the Harvard Club of Palm Beach, and the Woods Hole Country Club.

In 1923 he married Clara Shapiro, who died in 1971. In 1972, he married Ethel Marshfield Swig, who survives him. He is also survived by a daughter, Mrs. Marcia S. Riesman of Providence R.I.; two sons, Richard D. of Manchester and S. Robert Stone Jr. of Cambridge, a stepdaughter, Susan Marshfield of Falmouth, a stepson, Jack Swig of Milton, seven grandchildren: Robert A. Riesman Jr., Jean Ann Riesman, Douglas E. Timothy D., and Bruce O. Stone, S. Robert Stone III, and Julie S. Connolly; three great-grandchildren: two brothers, David M. Stone of Stoneham, Ma., and Samuel I. Stone of Brookline; and many nieces and nephews.

Services for Mr. Stone were held at Temple Israel, Longwood Ave. and Plymouth St., Boston on Thursday, May 28. Interment was at the Temple Israel Cemetery in Wakefield.

Remembrances in his memory may be made to the S. Robert Stone Academic Fund, c/o Beth Israel Hospital, 330 Brookline Ave., Boston, Ma. 02215.

Beach, and the Woods Hole Country Club.

Services for Mr. Stone were held at Temple Israel, Longwood Ave. and Plymouth St., Boston on Thursday, May 28. Interment was at the Temple Israel Cemetery in Wakefield.

Remembrances in his memory may be made to the S. Robert Stone Academic Fund, c/o Beth Israel Hospital, 330 Brookline Ave., Boston, Ma. 02215.

Lillyan Rubin

Funeral services for Mrs. Lillyan (Mindick) Rubin, 64, of Sharon were held at the Schlossberg-Goldman-Solomon Memorial Chapel, Canton, on Tuesday, May 12.

Born in Cambridge, Mrs. Rubin was a resident of Sharon for the last 36 years. She died at the Southwood Community Hospital in Norfolk after a brief illness.

Mrs. Rubin was at one time employed by the Cramer Electronics Co. and was employed by Abel Industries located in Canton as a credit manager until February of this year.

She was a Life member of Hadasah, a supporter of the Brandeis Book Club, and was a member of Temple Israel of Sharon for the last thirty six years.

Mrs. Rubin is survived by her husband Saul Rubin; a son, Hal I. Rubin; a daughter, Susan Davis; two sisters: Jeannette Goodman, Gloria Jacobson and a brother, Morris Mindick. She is also survived by her grandchildren: Miriam and Aaron Rubin and Erika Davis.

Expressions of sympathy in her memory may be made to either the Sharon-Stoughton Chapter of Hadasah or to the American Cancer Society.

Mary Segel

Mary (Lazarus) Segel died on May 23, at the Hebrew Rehab. Center for the Aged, Roslindale, after a short illness. She was 89. Born in London, England, she had lived in Chelsea for the past 40 years.

She was the wife of the late Samuel Segel and the mother of Edward Segel of Oregon and Lawrence Segel of New York; the sister of Dora Waldman of Randolph, Frances Pullman of Chelsea Julia Perelman of Florida and Etta Berman of Roslindale. She is also survived by one grandchild.

Services were held Monday, May 25, at the Torf Funeral Chapel, Chelsea.

Interment was at the Volkmere Cemetery Melrose. Rabbi Benjamin Rodwogin officiated.

Services Held for Gail Norris

Gail Norris, 54, of Newton and Waterville Estates, New Hampshire, died Sunday, May 17 in the Beth Israel Hospital, following a brief illness. He was 70.

Mr. Schneider was born in Chelsea and had been a resident of Malden for the past 47 years. He was educated in the Chelsea public schools and had been a 1934 graduate of Chelsea High School. Continuing his education, Mr. Schneider, graduated from Northeastern University in 1966. He had been employed for many years as a purchasing agent for a lighting company prior to retiring from business in February 1986.

A veteran of World War II, Mr. Schneider served in the United States Army Air Force. He had been a member of the Mt. Olivet Lodge in Cambridge and a member of the Sigma Epsilon Rho Honor Society.

Mr. Schneider is survived by his wife, Doris (Freedman), and one son, Gary of Malden. He was the stepson of Samuel Kliekstein of Malden and the brother of David Schneider of Lexington. He is also survived by a stepdaughter, Jeannette Malkin of Malden and Leonard Kliekstein of Houston, Texas.

Rabbi Stuart Pollack of Temple Tifereth Israel in Malden officiated during services held at the Torf Funeral Chapel, 151 Washington Ave., Chelsea. Interment followed at the Jewish Community Center of Chelsea in Danvers.

Rose I. Kagan

Rose I. Kagan of Brookline died on May 19.

She is survived by two sisters: Ben Mikelson and Ethel Menitoff, both of Chestnut Hill, and also by nieces and nephews.

Services were held at the Stanetsky Memorial Chapel, 1668 Beacon Street, Brookline, on Thursday May 21. Interment was at the Lindwood Memorial Park, Randolph.

Rabbi Michael Menitoff, Mrs. Kagan's nephew of Woodbridge, Conn., officiated.

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