

**AROUND TOWN**

**Women writers propose new Jewish lifecycle events**

*Lifecycles: Jewish Women on Life Passages and Personal Milestones.* Edited and with introductions by Rabbi Debra Orenstein. Jewish Lights Publishing; Woodstock, Vermont. 1994. 432 pages.

Reviewed by IRENE KARASICK-McMURRICH

This book is the first of three volumes on the life passages and personal milestones of Jewish women.

**POST & NEWS BOOK REVIEW**

Written mainly by Jewish women from various educational and sociological backgrounds, the narratives and essays reflect women's perspectives on and concerns about traditional Jewish law. The theme of life's pas-

*Need for ceremonies to follow abortions, menstruation, contributors to book suggest*

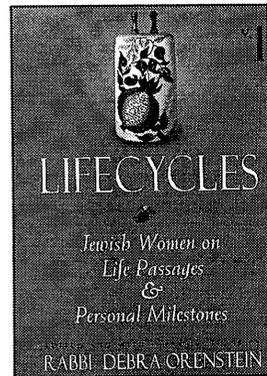
sages is not uncommon; but what makes this book unique is the practical approach. Essays are accompanied by applicable prayers, poems and blessings that support "the current interest in personal rituals and spirituality". Topics are treated with candor and progressive thinking, some of which may cause the reader discomfort.

Writers cite their personal experiences leading to self-awareness, and in some cases, remorse that many of the distinctive life passages experienced by women take place in silence, "unmarked and unaddressed by our liturgical tradition".

One writer, after having had an abortion, was saddened that there was no ritual or communal support to help bring closure and healing to the experience. She also calls for communal support and blessings to ease the painful disappointment of miscar-

riage, stillbirth or inability to conceive. When there is a successful and joyful birth, she notes the inequality in the power of the rituals celebrating male and female babies and offers alternatives.

Besides recommending new rituals, the writers emphasize the need to acknowledge the differences in male and female lifecycles. Understandably, some situations call for rituals to be performed by women only. Invoking the matriarchs in prayer in response to uniquely female experiences such as the first menstrua-



RABBI DEBRA ORENSTEIN

tion or completion of menopause can be appropriately

done in a private setting with other women. The writers state that "Putting this particular event (first menstruation) in a Jewish context is especially important, because of the negative associations many Jews have to menstrual blood..."

Responding Ritually and Jewishly to Real-Life Needs (no matter how uncomfortable) may be considered the central theme of this book. In addressing gay and lesbian "coming out", writer Rebecca T. Alpert begins her narrative with a reference to Joseph, when he was finally able to tell his brothers who he really was.

She says: "Joseph's story hid his identity as a Hebrew. I hid my identity as a lesbian." She adds: "Many gay and lesbian Jews may also feel a need to have a brief public ritual with a recitation of a blessing in the synagogue for the person 'who has come forward bravely'." The question of lesbian commitment ceremonies and

other rituals serving a gay and lesbian bisexual congregation is treated with forthrightness by Jane Litman, the rabbi of Kol Simcha, the gay and lesbian congregation of Orange County, California.

This first volume of *Lifecycles* addresses a broad spectrum of topics, written sensitively and acknowledging that "so much of what we face in life, we face alone."

The work is written with respect to Jewish tradition, well researched and cites sources that range from the Babylonian Talmud to Germanic Greer. As Rabbi Orenstein states in her introduction: "As a primary source, *Lifecycles* provides insight into the concerns, compromises, convictions and transitions of the early generations of Jewish feminists." She adds that the book supplies raw data toward answering the question "What do, and what will women do differently?" One may also ask: "Will women be heard?"

**THE ELI HERSCOVITCH BAND**  
• Ceremonies • Wedding Receptions • Dinner Music  
**CALL ELI HERSCOVITCH AT 489-5267**

**THE WINNIPEG JEWISH THEATRE BREAKS NEW GROUND WITH ITS PRESENTATION OF THE WORLD PREMIERE OF 10x10**

Kayla Gordon, WJT Artistic Director and 10x10 Co-director, describes 10x10 as "...an evening of ten quick hits by ten powerful playwrights. It's about memories, guilt, denial and, food - very evocative!" 10x10 (pronounced Ten by Ten) is about ten: 10 women, 10 plays, 10 minutes, 10 days! Ten playwrights from across Canada have each created a new short play. Each play is ten minutes long. 10x10 runs for ten days.

Two years ago Kayla Gordon invited female Jewish writers to submit ten-minute scripts to WJT to be presented as part of an evening of theatre. But this daring and innovative project which brings together playwrights from across Canada is no ordinary evening. 10x10 is a departure from the conventional theatre format and a bold stroke for the Winnipeg Jewish Theatre. It is an opportunity to get an exciting first look at 10 new pieces of theatre in one evening.

Since the 10 pieces are workshop productions they will be presented with minimal sets and props making use of a core of four local Jewish actors. All this will take place in the intimate setting of the Colin Jackson Theatre Exchange. According to dramaturge, Rick Chafe, "...there is an exciting variety of voices and styles of expression in these ten plays. What is more surprising is the harmonies that are sung between the ten pieces in their themes and images."

The stories of 10x10 celebrate the lives of Jewish women and honour the many ways Jewish women have built their lives both as women and as Jews. Included in 10x10 are the intimate moments of Janis

Rapport's 'The Shiva Box and Liza Balkan's laugh-out-loud Wedding Number. In 'The Shabbat Shulchan by Winnipeg writer Susan Stern we are welcomed to the Shabbat Table, introduced to the wonderful foods lovingly prepared for the lavish Shabbat meal and given a blessing. Manitoban Jillian Horton examines the nature of the human condition in Dayenu! The controversial Menachim Cohen Lepidus and his Demons by Winnipeg's Carol Matas features Menachim relating the story of three hypocritical committee members. In Y.V. Keidan's 'The Hotel Keeper, Amira gathers her ungrateful children around her for one last Chinese dinner and a surprise announcement. 10x10 also includes Judy Silver's powerful Last Chance, Marcia Kash's emotional rollercoaster in Preaching to the Converter and the daring and provocative Passing by Jill Swartz. The evening wraps up with Elyse Friedman's hilarious Jews Don't Camp or How I Tried to Become a WASP and Failed.

Directed by both WJT's Artistic Director Kayla Gordon and Winnipeg's own Ann Hodges, 10x10 promises to establish a new standard for innovation. It is the fond hope that through this experimental project the Winnipeg Jewish Theatre will uncover new voices in Canadian Jewish theatre.

10x10 runs: Dec. 5-15 1996 at Prairie Theatre Exchange, Third Floor, Portage Place in the Colin Jackson Studio. Rush seating. Performances: Monday through Thursday 8:00 p.m., Sat. 8:30 p.m. and Sunday 2:00 and 7:00 p.m. Tickets: Call P.T.E. Box Office 942-5483.

**Rabbi Benjamin Blech, author of best selling work Understanding Judaism, guest speaker at Herzlia Adas-Yeshurun Congregation's annual dinner**

On Sunday, December 8, at 6:00 p.m., Herzlia Adas-Yeshurun Congregation will host its annual dinner at Herzlia Synagogue, with Rabbi Benjamin Blech, associate professor of Talmud at Yeshiva University in New York, as their distinguished guest speaker. Blech's topic for the Herzlia Synagogue dinner will be: Chanukah and the Miracle of Jewish Survival: How Can We Repeat the Miracle in Our Days?



RABBI BENJAMIN BLECH

Blech is a nationally recognized educator, religious leader, author and lecturer. He has achieved an international reputation for his three best selling works: *Understanding Judaism*, *Secrets of Hebrew Words*, and *More Secrets of Hebrew Words: Holy Days and Happy Days*. Each of his books has been chosen as the main selection by the American Jewish Book Club. *Understanding Judaism* is presently being used as a basic text in countless synagogues and schools across North America, including Herzlia Synagogue. The course *Understanding Judaism* taught by Rabbi Benamou, has been a very successful course over the last few years, and has had consistently high enrolment. A video series of lectures by Blech in conjunction with his book *Understanding Judaism* is presently available through the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations, and is used as their major work for KIRUV - bringing Jews closer to the faith.

*Secrets of Hebrew Words* has recently been translated into Russian for use by Russian immigrants to Israel as an introductory text for the study of basic Judaism. Blech's tape series on the 'Torah Tapemaster's Label has had international distribution and achieved phenomenal results in bringing Jews closer to their faith and to tradition.

Blech has lectured extensively around

the world and has been special guest for Jewish communities in Australia, South Africa, New Zealand, Bangkok, Singapore, Hong Kong, Tokyo and Israel, as well as serving as Scholar-in-Residence at hundreds of synagogues throughout the United States and Canada.

He has appeared on national television (including the Oprah Winfrey Show), written for *Newsweek*, *The New York Times*, and *Newsday*, as well as a wide and varied number of scholarly publications. Blech is the recipient of the American Educator of the Year Award for dedication to the highest level of Jewish education over a lifetime of service to the Jewish community. He has served as president of the National Council of Young Israel Rabbis, as well as president of the International League for the Repatriation of Russian Jewry.

Blech has been spiritual leader of the Young Israel of Oceanside, Brooklyn, for the past 37 years. He is a 10th-generation rabbi.

Dinner co-chairs Harvey Cohen and Sharon Segal feel that this dinner will not only be an intellectually and spiritually uplifting evening but in the spirit of all Herzlia annual dinners, a rip-roaring good time. The evening will kick off with the lighting of the Chanukah menorah. A full course kosher meal will be provided by Desserts Plus. Kinsey Posen and Shayla Fink will contribute to the atmosphere by providing musical entertainment throughout the evening. Harvey Cohen advises that all those who own copies of Rabbi Blech's renowned book, *Understanding Judaism* should bring their books to the dinner for an informal autograph signing session at the end of the evening.

For further information regarding Herzlia Synagogue's annual dinner, please call the Herzlia Synagogue office. Last year's dinner sold out early.

**Sports news**

**Plenty of Jewish players in IHL**

Why is this hockey season different from all the others? Well, unless you've been part of a cryogenics experiment and just awoken from a 17-year slumber, you're painfully aware that the National Hockey League is history in these frozen parts, and that the International Hockey League Moose have made the trek north from Minnesota.

Ontario Hockey Association (OHA), where he won the league scoring title three years ago.

Todd, 23, who also played part of last season with Las Vegas Thunder, played briefly with the Buffalo Sabres of the NHL in 1993-94, but was demoted to Buffalo of the American Hockey League (AHL), where he finished sixth overall in the scoring race. Hopefully, the 188-pounder won't end as a career minor leaguer. Simon, uncharacteristically, is off to a slow start in the IHL, having amassed only four goals and eight assists in 17 games.

Steve Dubinsky, 26, of the Indianapolis Ice just can't seem to get over the hump. Last year, the centreman did manage to stay up with the Blackhawks for 43 games, and scored two goals to go along with three assists.

He was demoted to the IHL, where he scored eight goals and added eight assists. Your basic fringe player, he is a fourth-line checker and agitator who was shipped down after getting into one game in the Windy City. At present he has five goals and two assists in 14 games.

Goalie David Litman, 29, played last season for the Los Angeles Ice Dogs, which this year play out of Long Beach. He is however, a dragon in San Antonio this time around, and performing remarkably well. After coming off a season of 17 wins, 16 losses, and three ties to go along with a 3.88 goal-against-average, he is now sporting a GAA of 2.80 and has a won-lost log of four and four.

The year before last, Littman, who has played a handful of games in the NHL with Buffalo, opted to retire. He received a late call from the Richmond Renegades of the East Coast

Hockey League and had a fine season. Especially in the playoffs, when he had a GAA of 2.33 and a 12-4 mark.

Oleg Shargorodsky, a Russian whose dad is Jewish, played defence in the IHL last year with the Phoenix Roadrunners. He produced 11 goals and 26 assists. This season he is with the Vipers, and had three assists in three games before he was injured.

Mikhail Nemirovsky, 22, the oldest brother of David who is in the Panthers farm system, is skating in the IHL with Fort Wayne. He has a goal and three assists on the left wing. Last season he scored 29 goals, and had 52 assists with the Flint Generals of the Central Hockey League.

Forward Doug Friedman, 25, was recently signed by the American Hockey League Hershey Bears. He was with the AHL Cornwall Aces last season and found the net 12 times and assisted on 22 more.

Defenceman Andy Silverman, 25, is with the Rangers farm club in the AHL. Last season he had five goals and 15 assists in 75 games.

Harold Hersh, 22, a center from Quebec played with the AHL Fredericton Canadiens last year and had five goals and 17 assists. He is apparently still in the Montreal system.

Also difficult to locate is Justin Duberman, 26, who last year played in the AHL with Portland, where in 63 games on the left wing, he registered 30 goals and had 29 assists.

Under the big top there are only two Jews who are playing regularly. Ron Stern is with the Calgary Flames, and Mathieu Schneider, whose dad is Jewish, is with the Toronto Maple Leafs.

Stern, 28, played his sixth season for the Flames last

**Independent Maccabee Bowlers**

As of November 13  
**INDIVIDUAL HIGH SCORES**  
Hi-three scratch men - Doug West, 601;  
Hi-three scratch women - Debbie Lewis, 499;

Hi-three w/handicap men - Art Greenspan, 642;  
Hi-three w/handicap women - Arlene West, 657;

Single scratch men - Doug West, 224;  
Single scratch women - Arlene West, 192;

Single w/handicap men - Art Greenspan, 255;  
Single w/handicap women - Arlene West, 249.

**MEN'S HIGH AVERAGES:** Saul Greenberg, 178.4; Doug West, 176.5; David Lewis, 170.6; Ron Cantor, 169.6; Phil Calnitsky, 168.7; Keith Levit, 159.8.

**WOMEN'S HIGH AVERAGES:** Debbie Lewis, 148.7; Shelley Calnitsky, 143.7; Jo-Ann Ellis, 139.3; Shari Ackman, 136.4; Arlene West, 134.6; Sheryl Levine, 129.7.

**Recreation Men's Bowling League**

By SAUL LONDON, secretary  
Weekly high scores - week of November 13

**HIGH TRIPLE:**  
Gary Granzberg, 583 (235);  
Sam Kirschner, 560 (194, 187);  
Jack Buchalter, 531 (182);  
Harold Swick, 520 (205);  
Mickey Rosenberg, 516 (222).

**HIGH SINGLE:**  
Saul London, 191;  
Ron Goldberg, 185;  
Lou Fingerote, 181.



MATHEU SCHNIEDER: One of NHL's top defencemen.

year scoring 10 goals with five assists. He missed 28 games mainly because of a severe shoulder injury. That was probably due to his aggressive style, which saw him in the sin bin for 111 minutes.

In '94-95, the rightwinger led a palace revolt when he had a swearing match with his coach, Pierre Page, who chastised three other players, including one with a knee injury, for being one minute late to practice. It seems Ronnie sprang to their defence.

(Cont. on page 15. See "Harvey Rosen".)

**TUXEDO QUALITY FOODS**  
1853 GRANT AVE (Kenaston Village Mall)  
Prices effective in all departments until Friday, November 29, 1996 only. We reserve the right to limit quantities. Compare our prices!

**FEATURE SPECIALS**

<b>CHANUKAH CANDLES</b> \$1.59 ea. 44 per pack. "BEST PRICE GUARANTEED"	<b>MIRACLE BAKERY EGG BREAD</b> 570 g. \$1.79 ea. "BEST PRICE GUARANTEED"
<b>FRESH KOSHER LEAN GROUND BEEF</b> \$2.49 lb. "BEST PRICE GUARANTEED"	<b>FRESH KOSHER VEAL SLICES</b> \$4.49 lb. "BEST PRICE GUARANTEED"
<b>FRESH KOSHER VEAL CUTLETS</b> \$8.99 lb. "BEST PRICE GUARANTEED"	<b>FRESH KOSHER LEVITT'S ALL BEEF SALAMI</b> \$4.49 each 375 g. "BEST PRICE GUARANTEED"
<b>FRESH KOSHER LEAN GROUND VEAL</b> \$3.99 lb. "BEST PRICE GUARANTEED"	<b>FRESH KOSHER BEEF LIVER</b> \$1.99 lb. "BEST PRICE GUARANTEED"

Under the supervision of the "Vaad Ha'ir" - "Please note all our meat & poultry is Koshered". Our guarantee is to offer the best selection of Kosher meats at exceptionally competitive prices. Please see our friendly staff who will welcome the opportunity to discuss your special needs.

**Personal & Corporate Financial Planning**

Donald Aronovitch, B. Comm.  
**ARONOVITCH INSURANCE AGENCIES INC.**  
615-ONE LOMBARD PLACE  
942-3888