

FORWARD

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November 30, 2001

Revisiting 'Rhoda,' 1970s Jewish Role Model

Riviving Rhoda: "If all she could teach me was that a scarf could be worn in multiple ways, *dayeinu*," said Vanessa Ochs, a professor of Jewish studies at the Universi-

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ty of Virginia, of television sitcom character Rhoda Morgenstern. On November 13 at The Jewish Museum, Ms. Ochs gave a lecture titled, "Why We Watched Rhoda Religiously: The Artistic Construction of a Jewish Woman" that featured clips from "Rhoda," which ran on CBS from 1974 to 1978.

Many female Jewish viewers, Ms. Ochs said, saw the story of their lives unfold as they tuned in each week to watch Valerie Harper portray an independent woman making decisions about dating, family and career.

Ms. Ochs said that Rhoda's self-critique and passion to connect to others was, in its own way, "Talmudic."

One clip explored Rhoda's ambivalent feelings and eventual rapprochement with her mother, Ida, who had come to visit. In the episode, Rhoda comes to the ironic conclusion that "I needed a little mothering, and who could have thought I would have gotten it from my own mother."

Our Crowd: How many people have their own name on chardonnay served at an event in their honor? The Sons of the Rev-

olution of the State of New York honored a former U.S. ambassador to Denmark, John L. Loeb, Jr., at the reopening of the Adeline Moses Loeb Gallery at Fraunces Tavern in downtown Manhattan November 15. The Gallery was named after Ambassador Loeb's grandmother, who was born in Montgomery, Ala.

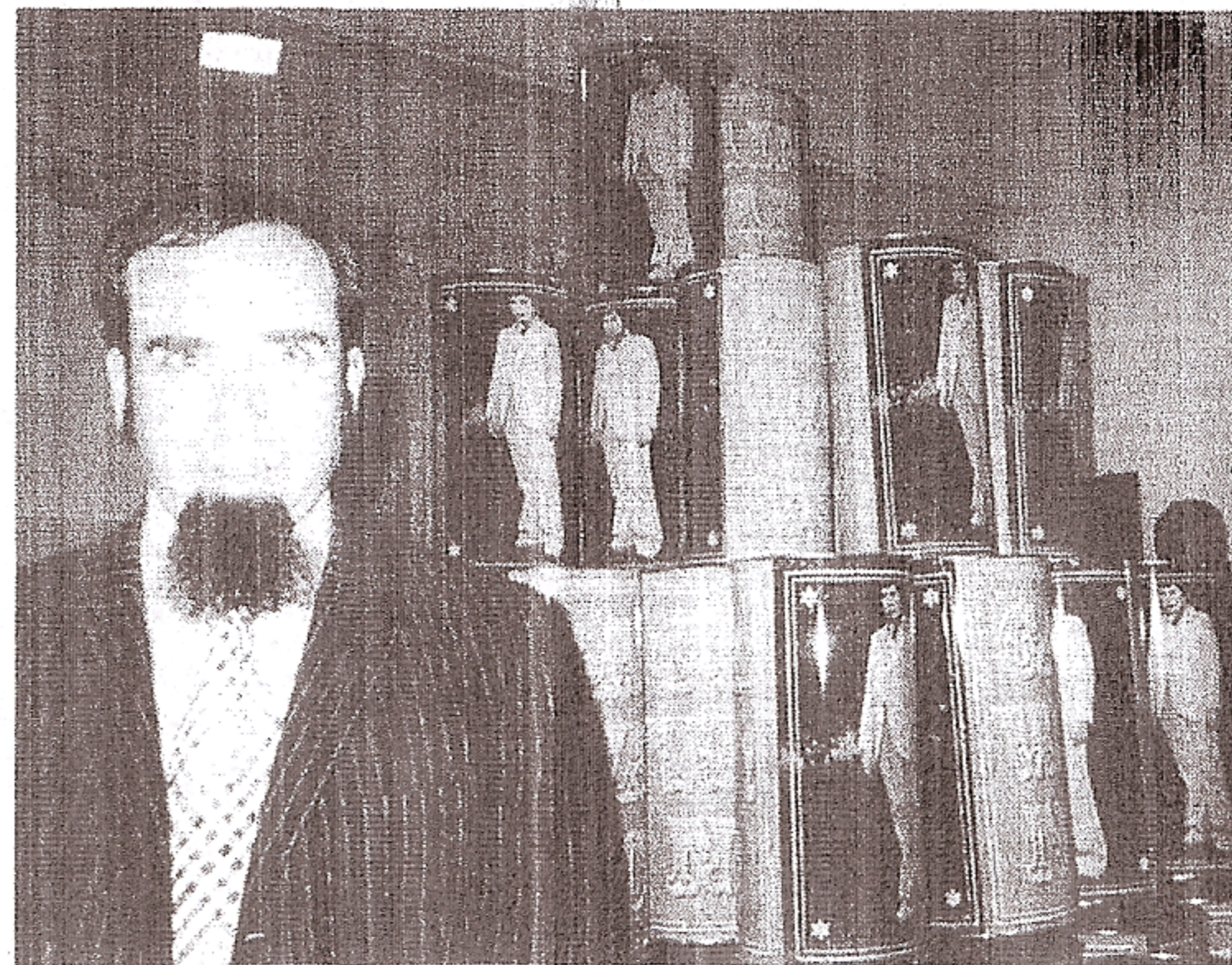
Among those joining the celebration were two of Mr. Loeb's cousins: Chairman of Loeb Partners, Thomas Kempner, and District Attorney of New York County, Robert Morgenthau. Mr. Kempner and Mr. Loeb both call Adeline grandma; Mr. Loeb and Mr. Morgenthau share a set of great-grandparents, Meyer and Babette Lehman. Meyer Lehman was one of the three founders of Lehman Brothers, the investment bank.

What chardonnay was served? Sonoma-Loeb "Private Reserve," of course. (Mr. Loeb has been growing Chardonnay in California since 1973.)

Bar Mitzvah Boy: Most people keep their bar mitzvah pictures in photo albums on a den bookshelf or in some closet. But not artist Cary Leibowitz, whose 1976 bar mitzvah in Trumbull, Conn., was at the center of his ninth solo show in New York, which runs at the Andrew Kreps Gallery in Chelsea until December 22.

Mr. Leibowitz greeted visitors on November 17 as they entered the gallery to see a small mountain of metal cylinders, each bearing the phrase "Gain Wait [sic] Now" and illustrated with a bar mitzvah photo of Mr. Leibowitz in a beige suit.

Mr. Leibowitz, whose work features a mixture of comic self-deprecation and in-your-face antics (one show was called "Accumulated Crap for Collectors"), was one of the artists featured in The Jewish Museum's "Too Jewish" Show in 1996.



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TODAY I AM A MAN: Cary Leibowitz stands by his bar-mitzvah-themed art.

Award as Anti-Depressant: Cape Cod resident Alan Dugan won the 2001 National Book Award for "Poems Seven: New and Completed Poems" (Seven Stories Press). Also attending the November 14 awards ceremony at the midtown Marriott Marquis Hotel was Mr. Dugan's wife, Judith Shahn, the daughter of noted painter Ben Shahn.

Andrew Solomon won the nonfiction award for "The Noonday Demon: An Atlas of Depression" (Scribner). In his remarks, Mr. Solomon distinguished between depression and grief, the latter being a topic which he is often asked about in the wake of September 11. He said that while

grief usually dissipates over time, serious depression can worsen if left untreated.

Mr. Solomon drew laughs when he said that winning a National Book Award might go a long way toward curing one's depression.

Simon Says: Playwright Neil Simon is back with a new comedy, "45 Seconds from Broadway," which opened November 11 at Manhattan's Richard Rodgers Theatre. The play is set in the Edison Hotel's coffee shop, affectionately called "The Polish Tea Room."

Cast members at the opening night party included Alix Korey ("Arleen"), whose father is writing a book about Raphael Lemkin, who coined the word "genocide"; Louis Zorich ("Bernie"), who left with Olympia Dukakis, and

Lewis J. Sta plays Dr. Fri Also atte father, Aller the 1000 Vc cartoon voice and Mighty Birkenhead Jam."

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BUZZ: De Karan host book party her muse, su model Ima the design e p o n y m M a d i s Avenue s November Contributor "I am Im (Universe F lishing) incl the editor chief of In view magaz Ingrid Sisc actress San Bernhard : fashion ma Isaac Mizral

Additio reporting Laurie Heij and Mich Skakun.