

# The JEWISH VOICE & HERALD

SERVING RHODE ISLAND AND SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

12 Cheshvan 5764

Jewish Federation of Rhode Island

November 7, 2003



**HEBREW ACADEMY** —The Chabad Hebrew Academy of San Diego was scorched by the wild fires which swept California last week. All 20 classroom trailers were destroyed. Photo by Rabbi Yisroel Goldstein

## L.A. Jews struggle with wildfires

By Tom Tugend

JTA — By phone, e-mail and word-of-mouth, the bad news kept piling up at Congregation Emanu El in San Bernardino, Calif. The homes

of six member families had been burned to the ground in the devastating wildfires sweeping across Southern California. Another 30-40 families from the congregation had been

forced to evacuate their homes, and no one knew the whereabouts of eight other families.

Rabbi Douglas Kohn, spiritual leader at the Reform congregation, was at the point of utter exhaustion. "I haven't slept more than 10 hours since Shabbat," he said last week.

"I can see the tall flames from my study. Embers, soot and ashes are falling on the synagogue and we can't use the air conditioning. We have evacuated our Torah scrolls and original Marc Chagall paintings. One of our members, an officer in the fire department, is on the fireline, and our Jewish police chief is also in action."

"Every one of our 420 families is out helping others. Everyone is concerned about everyone else," Kohn said.

Emanu El is the only synagogue in San Bernardino, a city of 185,000 people some 60 miles east of Los Angeles. The shul also is believed to be the oldest in California, in continuous operation since 1851.

At least 22 people had been killed by the region's 10 major wildfires. So far, San Bernardino and its surroundings have been hardest hit,



**PROVIDENCE Mayor David N. Cicilline.**

Photo by Mary Korr

## A visit to City Hall

Providence mayor rooted in his Jewish heritage

By Mary Korr

Providence Mayor David N. Cicilline, 42, may be the first Jewish mayor in the city's history, he's not sure. But he's probably the first Italian/Jewish one.

The mayor is the son of John "Jack" and Sabra (Peskin) Cicilline. Among his four siblings (three sisters and one brother), he's the only one to practice Judaism.

See MAYOR, page 12

## Did you know...

- 47 members of our RI Jewish community are going to Israel next week, along with over 3,000 other North American Jews. See story page 3

- Over 1 million individuals from the former Soviet Union have made aliyah since 1990.

- For more information about how you make the difference, turn to the back page.

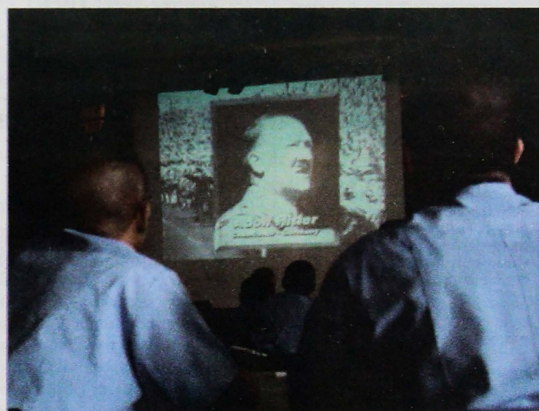
## Inside...



**NORMAN M. FAIN** — Providence philanthropist and community leader passes away at 89. See Page 3



**\$1 MILLION DONORS** — Gary and Mynde Siperstein have donated a million dollars to the JSA. See Page 19



**TOLERANCE TRAINING** — Police recruits watch a film on Nazi propaganda at the Rhode Island Holocaust Memorial Museum last week, as part of a training session held on race relations and tolerance. The program was first developed at the Holocaust museum in Washington, D.C.

Photo by Jonathan Rubin

## Recruits learn tolerance from a lesson on hate

By Jonathan Rubin

After 20 weeks of rigorous physical and mental examinations training en route to becoming Rhode Island police officers, 55 recruits assembled at the Jewish Community Center on October 24 for a lesson from an unlikely place — Nazi Germany.

A program to use the moral failures of the Gestapo in the

1930s and 40s to teach modern-day police officers about religious tolerance, racial profiling and hate crimes has been used for years by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum with more than 15,000 recruits in the Washington, D.C. area. However, the event in Providence marked the first time this project was taken on the road.

See RECRUITS, page 11

See FIRES, page 12



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The Jewish Voice & Herald encourages synagogues and members of the Jewish community to submit announcements of weddings, bar- and bat-mitzvahs, obituaries and other life cycle events.

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## CANDLE LIGHTING

For greater Rhode Island

Nov. 7 4:13

Nov. 14 4:06

Nov. 21 4:00



## Community Calendar

### Nov. 8

#### Evening of Jewish Renaissance

7 p.m. Jewish Community Center, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence. Dr. James & Judge Marjorie Yashar Evening of Jewish Renaissance. Celebration of Jewish learning and culture. Community informational *shuk*. Music by The Sounds of Simcha. Free. Open to the public.

#### PHDS Scholar-in-residence

Providence Hebrew Day School scholar-in-residence Shabbaton with Rabbi Asher Wade. Refreshments, babysitting. Free. For more information, call 331-5327, ext.18.

### Nov. 9

#### Tamarisk open house

1-4 p.m. The Phyllis Siperstein Tamarisk Assisted Living Residence is holding an open house for visitors at 3 Shalom Drive, Warwick. For more information, call 732-0037 or visit [www.tamariskri.org](http://www.tamariskri.org).

#### Russian chamber music

2 p.m. Jewish Community Center, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence. Concert of Russian chamber music with violinist Steven Starkman and pianist Brandt Fredrickson. \$10, \$8 for seniors and children under 12. For additional information, call 861-8800, ext. 108.

#### Temple Torat Yisrael prayer workshop

10 to 11 a.m. 330 Park Ave., Cranston. Adult workshop on Jewish prayer, and the basics of liturgy and ritual. Free. For more information, call 785-1800.

### Nov. 12

#### Troen to speak on Palestine

7:30 p.m., Wilson Hall, room 302, Brown University. S. Ilan Troen, professor of Israel Studies at Brandeis University and of modern history at Ben-Gurion University will speak on: "Was the Jewish colonization of Palestine legitimate?" Sponsored by the Program in Judaic Studies and Brown Hillel. See community.

#### Russian-Jewish author reading

7 p.m. Books on the Square, 471 Angell St., Providence. Dr.

David Shrayar-Petrov will discuss his new book, *Jonah and Sarah*. For more information, call 331-9097.

#### Hebrew crash course

7:15 p.m. at the Chabad CHAI Center of West Bay, 3871 Post Road, Warwick. Part of the Read Hebrew American program. Learn how to follow synagogue services, be more involved in your children's Jewish education, or enhance your own ties to Judaism. Six hour-and-a-half lessons. Free. RSVP at 884-7888.

### Nov. 13-23

#### "Driving Miss Daisy"

7:30 p.m. on Nov. 13. The Jewish Theatre Ensemble and Mixed Magic Theatre & Cultural Events present "Driving Miss Daisy" at the Jewish Community Center (JCC), 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence. Tickets: \$12, \$10 for seniors and children under 12. Call 861-8800, ext. 189 to reserve tickets. The show will also be performed Nov. 15 at 8 p.m., Nov. 16 at 2 p.m., Nov. 20 at 7 p.m. (with discussion by playwright Alfred Uhry); Nov. 22 at 8 p.m. and Nov. 23 at 2 p.m.

### Nov. 13

#### Hanukkah workshop

7-9 p.m. Bureau of Jewish Education (BJE) Hanukkah workshop for educators. Bureau staff will present hands-on creative techniques to deepen students' understanding of the holiday. For all grades. For information, call Larry Katz at 331-0956 or [lkatz@bjeri.org](mailto:lkatz@bjeri.org).

#### Two authors on aging

7 p.m. Renee Shield and Stanley Aronson, authors of *Aging in Today's World: Conversations Between an Anthropologist and a Physician*, will speak on the impact age has had in their lives and work, at Books on the Square, 471 Angell St., Providence. For more information, call 331-9097.

### Nov. 15

#### Temple Shalom showing *Hester Street*

7 p.m. 223 Valley Rd., Mid-dletown. *Hester Street*, the story of Eastern European Jewish immigrants to the lower East Side of New York City in 1896. Discussion facilitator will be Dr. Jeffrey Martin, Roger Williams

University professor of theatre. For information, call 846-9002 or visit [www.templeshalomri.org](http://www.templeshalomri.org).

### Nov. 16

#### JCC brunch, book fair

All day. Family brunch, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Jewish Community Center, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence. Youth basketball league begins at noon. Play, "Driving Miss Daisy" at 2 p.m. From 4 to 5:30 p.m. in senior adult lounge, discussion with Peter Duffy, author of *The Bielecki Brothers: The True Story of Three Men Who Defied the Nazis, Saved 1,200 Jews, and Built a Village in the Forest*. RSVP to Lyn or Gina at 861-8800.

#### JCC fall open house

2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 16 and 7 to 9 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 17. Early childhood fall open house at the Jewish Community Center, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence. For more information, call Shirley at 861-8800, ext. 130, or visit [www.jccri.org](http://www.jccri.org).

#### Woonsocket Jewish book fair

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Congregation B'nai Israel, 224 Prospect St., Woonsocket. Children's Jewish book fair with a wide variety of books for all ages, as well as games, videos, and CDs. For more information, call 762-3651.

#### Perspectives brunch

11:30 a.m. Plainville, Mass. Perspectives, a group for young adult Jews, will hold a brunch for new members. \$10, \$5 by bringing someone new, free to new members. RSVP by Tuesday, Nov. 11. For more info, call Tavlin, 861-8800 ext. 205, or

[tavlin@jccri.org](mailto:tavlin@jccri.org).

#### Historical Association meeting

2 p.m. Temple Beth-El, Orchard Ave, Providence. Prof. Renee Shield of Brown University will discuss her recent book on the diamond industry, *Diamond Stories: Enduring Change on 47th St*. For information, call Anne at 331-1360.

#### Talmud studies for women

7 p.m. Chabad Chai Center, 3871 Post Rd., Warwick. Individualized *Havruta* study with instructors from the Chaya Mushka Teacher's Seminary, Montreal. Call 884-7888.

### Nov. 18

#### Teaching Israel workshop

6 to 8 p.m. BJE/RI Teaching Israel Workshop mini-series for educators. For information, contact Larry Katz at the BJE/RI at 331-0956 or [lkatz@bjeri.org](mailto:lkatz@bjeri.org).

### Nov. 19

#### Family story hour

7 p.m. BJE-sponsored family story hour at Border Books and Café, Cranston and Attleboro locations. Milk, cookies, story and discussion. For more information, call Robin Kauffman at 331-0956 or [Rkauffman@bjeri.org](mailto:Rkauffman@bjeri.org).

### Nov. 21

#### Sinai seniors

11:30 a.m. at Temple Sinai, Hagan Ave., Cranston. Sparkle Bryant of Roger Williams Park will speak on Roger Williams. Brown bag lunch, dessert and drinks provided. For more information, call 461-6124.

### Correction:

In the Oct. 10 issue of the Voice & Herald, the following line of text was partially incomplete from the obituary of **Doris Zaidman**: Contributions may be made to the Stephanie Zaidman Home Care Endowment Fund c/o Jewish Family Service or the Stephanie Zaidman Scholarship Fund c/o National Council of Jewish Women.

**Elsie Ableman** was incorrectly spelled **Abelman** in the Oct. 10 issue. We apologize for any inconvenience.

In the Oct. 10 issue, **Max Robert Kanefsky**, older brother of newborn Jack Everett Kanefsky, son of Stuart and Karen Kanefsky, was accidentally listed as Robert. We regret the error.

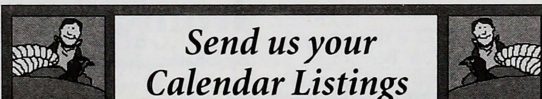
### Clarification:

In a quote in last week's story about the proposed community day school, the final portion of a Partnership resolution regarding the Orthodox community was inadvertently omitted. The following is the complete quote:

"We also recommend that while working to establish a community day school, the Rhode Island Jewish community honor its commitment to meeting the educational needs of those in the Orthodox community for whom such a school is regarded as inappropriate."

### You may pick up a copy of *The Voice & Herald* at:

|                        |                     |   |
|------------------------|---------------------|---|
| <b>Providence:</b>     | Epoch on Blackstone | Barney's, Borders                       |
| Barney's in Pawtucket  | Laurelmead          | Phred's Pharmacy                        |
| Bread & Circus         | Miriam Hospital     | Rainbow Bakery                          |
| Brown/RISD Hillel      | Judaic Traditions   | Shalom Apartments                       |
| Coffee Exchange,       | Shaw's No. Main St. | Shaw's, Garden City                     |
| College Hill Bookstore | Swan Liquor         | Call 421-4111 for locations in Warwick, |
| East Side Marketplace  | East Providence:    | Kingstown, Narragansett & Wakefield     |
| East Side Prescription | Town Wine           |   |
| Epoch on the Eastside  | Cranston:           |   |



Send us your  
Calendar Listings

Send us your calendar listings, along with time, date & telephone number. Notices must be received 2 weeks prior to publication date.

E-mail to: [voiceherald@jfri.org](mailto:voiceherald@jfri.org); Fax to: 401-331-7961, or mail to: Jewish Voice & Herald, 130 Sessions St., Providence, RI 02906 — Attn: Calendar



# Community mourns loss of Norman Fain

*Philanthropist, executive, husband and father was a man for all seasons*

## With Staff reports

Philanthropist and business executive Norman M. Fain, 89, the longtime chairman of the Teknor Apex Company in Pawtucket and the former president of the Apex department stores, died Saturday, Nov. 1, at the Miriam Hospital.

Although frequently humble about his accomplishments in both the business and private sectors, Fain was literally a "community builder," and raised funds for building campaigns for numerous religious, educational and medical organizations, in addition to being a member of countless boards and committees.

He is survived by his wife, Rosalie (Brandower) Fain; two daughters, Wendy Feldman of Needham, Mass., Martha Roberts of Barrington; and one son, Jonathan Fain of Barrington, and seven grandchildren.

"He was one of God's own gentlemen," said Rabbi Leslie Gutterman of Temple Beth-El in Providence, Fain's rabbi and a close friend. "He had every reason to be bloated with pride, but that wasn't the case. We'll never know all the seeds of good that he sowed in his lifetime."

Fain was a major benefactor in the construction of Beth-El, where his funeral was held, and the large sanctuary with vaulted ceilings bears his name. In his eulogy, Gutterman compared Fain to the room itself — grand and yet grounded, austere and yet accessible. He said that Fain and

his wife were a true unit throughout all of life's blessings and challenges.

He was praised for his numerous acts of generosity that were known, and many other anonymous ones which will never be known. "He was a doer," said Victor Baxt, a longtime friend and a business partner. "He felt that if you wanted things done,

Brown University, the Rhode Island School of Design, which bestowed on him the President's Fellow Award in 1981 for his leadership; the Rhode Island Foundation, the University of Rhode Island Foundation, which awarded him an honorary doctorate in business in 1967; The Providence Journal, The Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, and

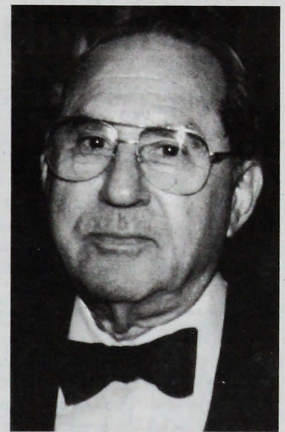
He also assumed leadership of his family's other company, Apex Inc., the former discount department store chain based in Pawtucket, and served as a principal at the former Tower Iron works in Providence.

Fain was a member of the University Club in Providence, the Ledgemont Country Club in Seekonk and the Governors Club in West Palm Beach, Fla.

He was the brother of the late M. Edgar Fain, Irving J. Fain, Selma Robinson and Janet Waldman.

His funeral was held Monday at Temple Beth-El in Providence. Burial was in Temple Beth-El Cemetery, Reservoir Ave., Providence.

Contributions in his memory may be made to the Stroke



Norman M. Fain

Center at the Miriam Hospital, 164 Summit Ave., Providence, RI 02906 or the Norman M. Fain Memorial Fund at Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence, RI 02906.

**'He was one of God's own gentlemen.'**

— Rabbi Leslie Gutterman

you didn't tell people to do them, you did them yourself."

It was this philosophy, Baxt said, that led his friend into involvement with his community. But for all his public service, Fain stayed out of the limelight and kept his presence low key, Baxt added. The work and its impact were reward enough.

## Leader in medicine, arts, education

Fain was a deeply religious man who devoted his life to public and private service. He was president of the Miriam Hospital from 1971 to 1975, when it became a teaching affiliate of Brown University's program in medicine. For his vision, Brown conferred on him a distinguished service to medical education award. In addition, the health center at the hospital was named in honor of Fain and his wife of 56 years.

Fain served on the boards of many charitable and educational organizations, including

Temple Beth-El.

Fain also served as director of the Rhode Island Hospital Trust Co.

In his quiet way, he was also a mentor to a young rabbi who trusted Fain's moral compass like no other. "For many years I would not make major decisions without discussing them with him, but not because he tried to force his opinions on me," said Gutterman. "I had the utmost respect for his instincts and his intellect, and also his humanity."

Fain was born in Providence in 1914, the son of the late Alfred A. and Elizabeth (Stoneman) Fain. He graduated from the University of Rhode Island. His career was spent in the family business, which his father started in 1924; it was then called the Apex Tire and Rubber Co. As technology changed, Apex Tires shifted its focus from rubber tires to plastics and chemicals and Fain took over as chairman in 1968.

# Federation, Hebrew Day launch trips to Israel

By Jonathan Rubin

Israel is calling, and America is answering. Two "missions" to Israel, one planned by the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island (JFRI), and one by the Providence Hebrew Day School, will be leaving shortly on tightly packed missions of solidarity.

The JFRI mission brings 47 travelers to Israel next week for a 10-day journey, from Nov. 11 to 21. The JFRI holds numerous trips, every year or every other year, to give people a chance to visit Jerusalem and other spiritual, political and cultural locations together. This year's trip marks the largest organized one by Rhode Island Jewry since Israel's 50th anniversary five years ago, and contains both first-timers and veteran travelers, such as Dr. Gus Schlusser, who is on his 22nd visit to Israel.

"Federation trips give me an opportunity to see Israel from the inside out," said Selma Stanzler, of Riverside. She has been to Israel 12 times and has attended eight Federation missions. She said the trips "refuel my jets and re-enforce my dedication to the Jewish community and why I do what I do. Israel is a living miracle and it is important to see the miracle for yourself."

This year's trip is also significant because it brings over 3,000 other Jews to a three-day mega-caucus in Jerusalem, known as the General Assembly of the United Jewish Communities, the umbrella organization of the North American Jewish Federations.

The itinerary will also include reunions with Rhode Islanders living in Israel, trips to Jaffa, Ra'anana and Afula, Rhode

Island's sister city in Israel. The group will also visit Independence Hall in Tel Aviv, where the State of Israel was proclaimed, The Museum of the Diaspora, ruins of ancient Jewish communities, Judean vineyards, a visit to the Western Wall, walking tours of Jerusalem and other activities.

## Hebrew Day trip

The Providence Hebrew Day School also announced its first family mission to Israel, to take place Dec. 24 through Jan. 4, 2004. The school secured a \$20,000 mission grant from the JFRI to assist with the trip, which the school hopes to make an annual event.

Because the trip coincides with Hanukkah, mission-goers will be able to light the seventh Hanukkah candle at the Western

*The Board of Trustees, the officers  
and the staff of The Miriam Hospital  
mourn the loss of Norman M. Fain*

*Community Leader,*

*Pioneering Businessman,*

*Philanthropist and Friend*

*Alan M. Gilstein, Chairman,  
The Miriam Hospital Board of Trustees*

*Benjamin G. Paster, Chairman,  
The Miriam Hospital Foundation Board of Trustees*

*Kathleen C. Hittner, MD, President & CEO,  
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## A MAJORITY OF ONE

# Takes more than a Dr. Spock to solve some dilemmas

Outside, in the San Fernando Valley, the temperature is 102 degrees and the natives are complaining that they have not seen rain since Noah sailed away on his Ark. The leaves are still green but pictures of burning houses and palm trees lead the TV evening news and dominate the front pages of the *Los Angeles Times*.



**Yehuda Lev**

All of this, while of great interest to meteorologists and insurance adjusters, is of minor importance to your observer who is visiting the City of the Angels to check out the newest member of the clan, seven days old as of this writing. I can report that he has all of the necessary parts and that those

involved with sucking and screaming are in perfect working order.

I am not so experienced a grandfather that I can give much advice to my daughter and son-in-law, but I do have parental experience, mostly of the kind that serves

as a warning not to repeat my mistakes. My oldest son, now 44, was a year old and living in Jerusalem when he awoke at two in the morning with an attack of asthma. I did have the presence of mind to take him into the shower and let the steam clear his passages and he repaid my thoughtfulness by falling asleep.

But I was now wide awake and nervous and turned for solace to that bible of mid 20th-century parenting, Dr. Spock. Under "asthma, first year" or some such title, his first suggestion was "Call the doctor." So I called.

"Dani had an asthma attack."

"Put him in the shower and let him breathe in the steam."

"I did that."

"So what's happening?"

"He's fallen asleep."

"So why did you call me?"

"Well, Dr. Spock says..."

The sentence that followed, just before the receiver slammed down, cannot be printed in a family newspaper.

This is not the kind of advice that is particularly helpful to new parents but it is the best I can do on short notice.

Unbeknownst to him, the young man has already appeared in these pages, albeit by proxy, since I wrote here about his parent's wedding some months ago. At the time, several readers took me to task for not being properly upset that a daughter of mine, born in Jerusalem, was marrying a gentile who was not considering conversion. Well, to add to my list of sins of omission, he was circumcised, but by a doctor, not a *mohel*. When I raised the issue, my daughter pointed out that if she insisted on a *brit milah*, her husband's family might well ask for a christening, which pretty well ended the discussion.

There was general agreement among my critics that I should have tried to talk my daughter out of marrying a non-Jew. In my defense, I pointed out that one does not successfully tell a 42-year-old woman who she is to marry. One critic pointed out that Jews used to sit *shivah*, as though the child had died. I thought to myself that Jews also used to stone adulterers, but we seem to have done away with that custom.

My most critical reader was upset when I mentioned that my second daughter intends to marry a young man who is converting to Judaism via the Conservative system. This, she felt, meant that both

daughters were marrying out, the implication being that a Conservative conversion is *treif*. I thought to myself that even in Orthodoxy the definition of *treif* is elastic; one rabbi's *beckscher* is another rabbi's abomination — and don't ask about conflicting attitudes towards Zionism.

You will note that I have refrained from mentioning the newcomer's name. When my oldest son was born, I published notices in the *Jerusalem Post* and *Ha'aretz*, giving his name and inviting friends and family to the *brit*. That's how you did things in those days, when few people had private phones. Well, I caught hell from everyone for having made his name public before the eighth day. Apparently it had something to do with the dangers posed by the evil eye. Today, he is a nuclear physicist doing cancer research, so it doesn't seem to have harmed him. But if you think I am taking that chance again with a seven-day-old grandson, forget it. Far be it from me to defy the traditions hallowed by our elders.

*Yehuda Lev, a regular columnist, is a retired journalist who has worked in Europe, Israel and the United States. He lives in Providence.*

## VIEWPOINT

# Anti-Semitic incidents leave a lasting, bitter taste

By Howard Lisnoff

Two recent incidents of anti-Semitism at the University of Rhode Island literally hit home for me. Let me preface the following remarks by noting that I don't view myself as a victim, but must agree with Victor Nussbaum of URI's Hillel organization when he states that the freshman who found a swastika and anti-Semitic slogans in her dorm room was "traumatized." Robert Leikind, executive director of the Anti-Defamation League of New England, speaking of the incidents at URI, said that they make victims feel "vulnerable."

The level of anti-Semitism in the U.S. is sometimes difficult to gauge. Often, anti-Semitism is, in part, a reflection of the political situation in the Middle East. Other times it can be a mirror of domestic issues, such as economics. To some degree, anti-Semitism reflects age-old prejudices that have lessened somewhat over the past 60 years. Jews in the U.S. are not a monolithic group: they represent all socioeconomic levels and have generally been accepted into the larger fabric of this society. The college or university campus needs to be—in fact is the ideal place—where education overcomes prejudices. But, this is not always the case, as can be seen from the incidents at URI and the writing that follows.

Intolerance, in general, may reflect our Puritan past where "the other" was seen as threatening. Each successive group of immigrants that has come to this country has had to fight for acceptance against prejudices.

Just over two years ago, I went out for what I expected would be an uneventful evening walk with our family's dog. Our son had graduated from college the weekend before and we were preparing a party

owned was more than a nuisance, as it was confined in a nearby yard and left barking for hours on end. I made a simple request that that family take the dog in after a period of time so that the incessant barking could be minimized. The answer to my request was continued unabated barking.

After several more weeks, I decided to call the animal control officer and complain. He gave the family a written warn-

dogs. That behavior was followed by his attempts to intimidate me by driving his car close to me as I walked in the neighborhood. Next, there were statements such as "I'll take care of you," made when no one was there as a witness. Those behaviors would pale, however, compared to our encounter on the night before our son's party.

The figure began to draw closer through the fog and I recognized it as my neighbor. He began to walk around me. "Well?" was all I spoke. "I'd like to beat you up," were the words growled in response to my simple question. The next words that were uttered I could not have anticipated as he walked away toward his house.

"You stinking Jews should have all been killed by Hitler."

When I returned to my house, I called the police and reported the incident and followed up by filing the report in writing later that evening at the police station. The next day I reported the incident to our lawyer and called the Boston office of the B'nai B'rith's Anti-Defamation League to log the incident with that organization.

In the two years since the incident, my neighbor has disappeared from the route on which we would cross while walking our dogs. When he passes me in his car he makes every effort not to make eye contact.

When events are reported like those that happened recently at URI, I think back to the fog-shrouded evening of two years ago and wonder what the proper place of tolerance is in a community.

*Howard Lisnoff is a freelance writer who lives in Narragansett.*

**The college or university campus needs to be—in fact is the ideal place—where education overcomes prejudices. But, this is not always the case as can be seen from the incidents at URI and the writing that follows.**

to celebrate the event the next day with family, friends and neighbors.

As I was about to cross the street, I noticed a lone figure about twenty-five feet away enveloped in fog. The person was also out walking a dog. Suddenly, the figure stopped abruptly and turned menacingly in my direction with shoulders and arms extended as if anticipating trouble.

A digression for the purpose of explanation: nearly 10 years ago I visited a "neighbor's" house because my family found that the barking of a dog this family

ing after several visits to their home failed to produce any positive results. The reader might conclude at this juncture that this intervention would put an end to this fairly benign event, but this is far from what would happen.

Within days of the officer's visit, the barking dropped dramatically. But of course, a price would be exacted for that compliance. First, the neighbor would stand in a rigid position with a menacing glare in his eyes when we met walking our

## Submission guidelines

The *Jewish Voice & Herald* welcomes letters to the editor and other opinion pieces on topics of interest to the Jewish community. All submissions must be signed and include city of residence and telephone number. Letters to the editor should be limited to 250 words, and viewpoint pieces to 700 words. Submissions may be edited for length or content. Send submissions to: *Jewish Voice & Herald*, 130 Sessions St., Providence, 02906, or e-mail to: [voiceherald@jfri.org](mailto:voiceherald@jfri.org)



## Converts keepers of the new faith

By Cary Eichenbaum

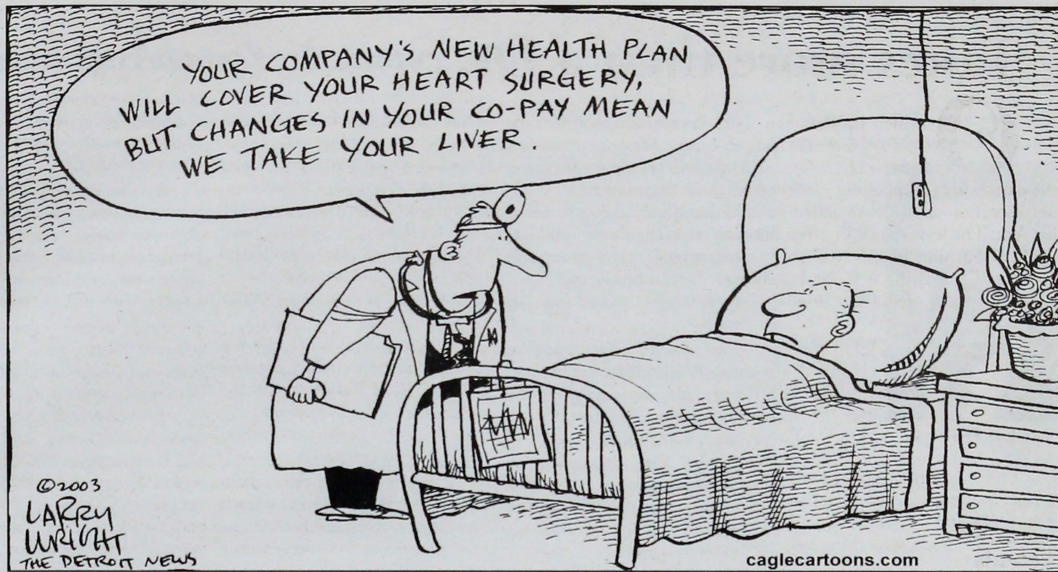
After 37 and a half years on the East Side of Providence's *shtetl* or ghetto, where all of the area's present and former Jewish residents are either friends, relations or related to their friends, I thought I had seen it all Jewishly. But last spring at Temple Emanu-El, I had the opportunity — and great pleasure — to witness something I had never seen before in my beloved religion. Seven women and one man converted to Judaism at the synagogue, with Rabbis Wayne Franklin, Alvan Kaunfer and Andrea Gouze officiating. A dear friend, Katherine "Katie" Richman, a delightful woman who received her doctorate from Brown University on Memorial Day, was among this octet. For me, someone who has experienced everything the Jewish faith has had to offer, including dancing at all different types of *simchas*, studying texts of the most learned sages of all time, and worshipping in some of Europe's most awe-inspiring synagogues, these two hours at the temple were some of the most contented and joyous I have ever spent as a Jew.

I was heartened by the intense, whole-hearted desires of each member of this eight-person group to become good and respectful Jews. They will keep their new religion's commandments, dietary laws, observe the holidays and raise many happy and healthy Jewish children. Each had to pass rigorous tests and requirements just to make it to the *bimah* of the Temple, perhaps leading some to question, at times, if it was all "worth it." All had to fulfill the laws of *Mikvah* (ritual bath), in addition, they had to pass a difficult exam before they could be accepted into their faith. Nobody, (born Jewish or otherwise) can question their commitment to becoming Jewish, or their belief in their new faith.

The Hebrew calendar includes *Yom Hasboah* (Holocaust Commemoration Day), and we recently observed the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, where a small group of doomed Jewish fighters held off the mighty Nazi war machine for six weeks in one of the most heroic acts in mankind's history. But for the most part in the past, the Jewish nation has suffered deplorably. In these despicable acts — and many others — in our people's lineage, Jews were hanged, burned alive, shot and herded into gas chambers and ovens for the sole reason of their religion. Nazis and Ukrainians in Babi Yar made no distinction if a person had one Jewish parent, grandparent or even great-grandparent. To them, that made one a Jew, and that meant certain death. Yet just six decades later, eight able-bodied Rhode Islanders studied like Ph.D. candidates researching their dissertation to convert.

This is the beginning of the "Declaration of Faith" that all eight converts had to read to complete their transformation: "I declare my desire to accept the principles of the Jewish religion, follow its practices and ceremonies and become a member of the Jewish people...of my own free will."

Cary Eichenbaum is a graduate student at URI.



ALISON ON ALIYAH

## Sukkot in Jerusalem

When I returned to my neighborhood less than a month after leasing my apartment, I could barely recognize it. Not because it was unfamiliar to me, but



Alison Golub

because I arrived on the morning of *Erev Sukkot*. I had difficulty even maneuvering my luggage through the alley in front of my apartment — there was a *sukkah* in front of nearly every door. I got off the airplane and unpacked to the sounds of the entire neighborhood hammering and hoisting and calling to each other for construction materials.

I have spent the week sitting in my courtyard, just listening to all of my neighbors eating and singing in their *sukkot*. I've been going on walks through the neighborhood, marveling at the sights: little boys running around, trying to keep their *kippah* on their heads; Orthodox men coming home from the market with their arms filled with bags of food; women with their heads covered, pushing their children in strollers towards *shul*.

This is a magical time to be in Israel, Jerusalem, Nachlaot (my neighborhood). *Sukkot*, I have found out and should have remembered all along, is one of the three pilgrimage holidays. This means that the city has been inundated with tourists, mostly Christian, throughout the week. No one seems to mind that they aren't Jewish — most of us are just thankful that they are here and spending money to bolster the Israeli economy.

One of the unexpected surprises of this week, for me, was that there was a huge parade a few days ago, on the very street on which my apartment looks out. I woke up to the sounds of a loudspeaker



JERUSALEM PARADE — During the holiday of *Sukkot*, a parade of people from many countries showed their support of Israel. They came from Europe, South America, Asia, and Canada.

Photo by Alison Golub

and helicopters — of course I assumed a *pegooah* (bombing) had occurred. But no, as I walked out of my apartment door and rounded the corner, I saw throngs of people watching as delegations from every country I could think of came up the street, one by one.

I saw groups from Brazil, Italy, Canada, Denmark, Malaysia, even Iceland! Each group held signs: "Philippines support Israel," "Austrian Christians love Israel," "Israel: No Estas Solo." I found myself tearing up at every fresh sentiment that made its way up the hill. I made eye contact with many of the marchers, silently thanking them through my tears. It is a beautiful thing, knowing these thousands of people got on planes from every far-away country imaginable, touched down in Israel, and came to support us and show solidarity in their own way.

And this weekend the city has been celebrating *Simchat Torah*, another powerful day on the Jewish calendar. I spent last night in the Old City, having Shabbat dinner with 30 other new *olim* from around the world, all of us celebrating our Jewishness and our commitment to our new country.

Tonight, this very moment in fact, there is a concert in my neighborhood. Not 40 paces away there is a live band and about 200 people packed into a tiny little park, dancing and singing and lifting the Torah to the sky. I have spent the past three hours watching this celebration, drinking in the energy and the happiness and the sense of community we all feel together tonight.

I have never heard *Shalom Aleichem* being sung with such fervor and power. I watched an Orthodox man with his daughter on his shoulders, both of them dancing and swaying and holding onto each other, looks of utter peace and pleasure on their faces.

I know how they feel. As I stood in my new neighborhood, coming to terms anew with the fact that *I live here*, nothing else mattered. Not the bombings, not the danger, not the goodbyes, not the fact that I don't have any furniture. This is a truly magical time in my life. Everything affects me so deeply these days. I am so thankful that I have made *aliyah*.

Alison can be reached at Alison Golub@hotmail.com



## Federation

FROM THE JFRI PRESIDENT

### After more than 50 years, the Jewish Community Center continues to grow

As I write this, I have just come home from my youngest child's seventh birthday party.



Mark R. Feinstein

Of course, they would have a fun time at another site, but the fact that it was the Jewish Community Center is something we

should all take pride in.

Our center is important to the Jewish health of our community. Each day the center hosts many people and organizations — just check the schedule board. From serving meals to our seniors, to after-school care, to exercise classes, to the infant-toddler program, there is something for everyone.

The center has been a resource in Rhode Island for over 50 years and has served as the Jewish community's face to our non-Jewish neighbors.

As we have changed, our JCC is now changing. They have begun to provide programs and services outside the building on Elmgrove. This past summer they

sent our first full R.I. Maccabee team to the International athletic games in Houston, Texas. This fall they began a pre-school program at Temple Habonim in Barrington. They are consulting with the Board at Temple Sinai to improve their pre-school. And they will begin an after-school recreational program next month in the West Bay.

I congratulate the leadership of the JCC, especially Executive Director Rick Nelson and President Richard Mittleman, in beginning the process of leading our JCC into the future.

I urge everyone, no matter where you live, to take a fresh look at our JCC and see all the new programs and classes they

offer. Your support by becoming a member will insure the health of our community, as well as your own good health.

As The Partnership plans for our future, we know that a strong JCC is a cornerstone to a strong Jewish community. But building community certainly doesn't only happen within the center's walls.

Each of our agencies helps to build us stronger as individual Jews and brings us together as a community. We gather together at a Jewish center. Six hundred of us learn together each year at the Bureau of Jewish Education's Yashar Evening of Jewish Renaissance, which will be Nov. 8 — stop by and sign up if you haven't already! We build stronger fam-

ilies prepared to deal with the bumps of life through Jewish Family Service. Our elders gather together in residences managed by the Jewish Seniors Agency. We build future Jewish leaders through day schools, temple religious schools, youth groups, overnight camps, and campus Hillel foundations.

While those seven-year-olds could get together on a Sunday afternoon to celebrate a birthday in many places, each time we bring our children together in a Jewish setting, we gain so much.

Happy birthday, Hannah! May you and we grow together from strength to strength.

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## Kennedy, Shlomo share views on Mideast

By Alan Axelrod

Last week, Congressman Patrick Kennedy and Meir Shlomo, Israeli Consul General for New England, met with the Community Relations Council and other Federation leaders for an informal discussion of the Middle East conflict and other world affairs.

Over a light lunch in the Federation conference room, the two officials offered their perspectives on the prospects for peace, the U.S. role in the peace process, the war on terrorism, and the role of American Jewry in U.S. relations with Israel and the Arab world. They then took questions and responded to comments. Shlomo focused on Israel's security needs, the rationale for the controversial fence under construction in Israel, and the alarming rise of global anti-Semitism — as reflected in the Malaysian Prime Minister's recent remarks that Jews secretly control the world.

Congressman Kennedy dis-



Sen. Patrick Kennedy, left, listens to Israeli Consul General to New England Meir Shlomo at a meeting at the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island.

Photo by Jonathan Rubin

cussed the interrelatedness of domestic politics and America's stance with respect to Israel and the Arab world. He noted that: President Bush's huge tax cuts belie his stated commitment to the war on terrorism, insofar as they deprive the government of

the necessary resources to prosecute such a protracted fight; and secondly, a perceived rightward drift of American Jewry's stance on the Middle East and U.S.-Arab relations threatens to weaken this country's long-standing alliance with Israel.

## Expert will speak to professionals on estate taxes

Mary Louise Kennedy, a partner at Edwards & Angell, and a frequent lecturer on estate planning topics, will speak on decoupling federal and state estate taxes and planning and administration implications, at a continuing education event sponsored by

the Professional Advisory Council of the Endowment Fund of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island. The program will be held on Thursday, Nov. 20, from 7:30 to 8:45 a.m. in the senior adult lounge of the JCC.

The event is open to the pro-

fessional advisor community and has been approved for continuing education credit.

Reservations are requested since space is limited. To attend, contact Carol Breault at 421-4111, Ext. 166, or by email: cbreault@jfri.org.

## Hebrew school, Federation plan missions to Israel

From page 3  
Wall.

The main goal of the mission is to make the Torah come alive by visiting places mentioned within it, including, for example, the spot where David supposedly slew Goliath, and other archeological sites.

Hebrew Day will also be holding educational sessions on the geography, politics and economics of Israel. They will meet members of the Knesset and of Zaka, the group of religious Jews that ritualistically retrieves all parts of a person after a suicide

bombing, for example, for burial.

The trip will focus on Jerusalem, especially the Old City area; participants will also spend time in Masada, Ein Gedi and at the Dead Sea. The trip can accommodate 30 people, more than 20 have signed up already.



# Holocaust museum anniversary held in Washington

*For aging survivors of the Holocaust, the future means remembering the past*

By Matthew E. Berger

JTA — Helen Potash stood in front of a cattle car at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's permanent exhibition, but she would not venture forward. "I went through it once," the Holocaust survivor said. "I am not going again."

She went around it instead. Potash was one of more than 2,200 Holocaust survivors who came to Washington this weekend for a reunion, part of a yearlong marking of the museum's 10th anniversary. There have been Holocaust survivor reunions before, but this gathering focused more on the future than the past. The survivors here spoke candidly about their advancing age and said they looked to their heirs to tell their stories.

More than 4,000 children, grandchildren and great grandchildren joined the survivors on the unusually warm November afternoon, learning about their family members' experiences and pledging to keep the memory alive.

"It's an incredible lineage we all share," said Helen Burstin, of Washington, who came with her parents, both survivors. "It's a remarkable thing to walk into



**10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY** — Elie Wiesel spoke at the 10th anniversary of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., last weekend. Several thousand Holocaust survivors attended with family members.

resting on his chest, attached to a string around his neck. It read: "I am looking for people who escaped from Treblinka."

"I didn't find one person," said Weinstein, whose story of escape from the Polish extermination camp has been documented in a book, "Quenched Steel."

Nessie Godin, a survivor from Lithuania, volunteers at

**'We have kept our promise. We have not forgotten you.'**

— Elie Wiesel

this tent and see 6,000 people connected to survivors."

At times the event resembled a wedding, with survivors and their families dancing the Hora to Israeli folk music in an enormous tent nicknamed "Survivor's Village." Later, there was a sing-along in Yiddish. In one room, survivors offered their artifacts to the museum; others related oral histories into tape recorders and to transcribers. Images from the museum's database flittered across a bank of computer monitors. Survivors researching the fate of their families used the computers; alongside each terminal stood a box of tissues. Many of the survivors were viewing the museum for the first time. Some said they had always longed to come here, and found the reunion a great opportunity. Other said they avoided the museum, but felt a yearning to see it at least once.

"I felt this time I had to go," said Eddie Weinstein. "Because I am getting old."

Weinstein wandered the tent, slowly, with a cardboard placard

the museum once a week. She says it is her responsibility to those she survived in the camps. "I wasn't any smarter and I wasn't any stronger," said Godin.

"The wonderful Jewish women who held my hand, gave me hope and maybe a bite of bread, they told me that they should never be forgotten and to tell the world of this hatred." She said the reunion and the museum shows the world that Hitler did not win.

Burstin says that children of Holocaust survivors have obligations to their parents and their experiences. "We want to make it clear to our kids and our kids' kids and everyone who knows us that this is part of our heritage," she said.

Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel told the audience that amid the joy of the occasion is a void of sadness for the faces that were left behind. "Your presence — our presence — here today is our answer to this silent question," he said. "We have kept our promise. We have not forgotten you."



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## With a wag, and a peck, and a hug-a-roo, canine corps brings smiles to patients

By Mary Korr

When Chuck the poodle makes medical rounds at the Miriam Hospital, heads turn. The four-legged volunteer walks proudly down the hall with his owner, Kim Rivchun of Cranston. His volunteer badge dangles from his neckerchief. It's hard to believe he was abandoned; Rivchun adopted him two years ago from the pound.

"He has such a great disposition. Volunteering is a great way for him to be with people and have people with him. It's rewarding for everyone," she said.

The volunteer dogs at the hospital have to be graduates of obedience training programs.

"They have special training," said Arlene Orcutt, who works in the volunteer office at the hospital. "They are trained not to get spooked by wheelchairs, for example."

As she speaks one morning at the hospital, along comes another four-legged volunteer, Allee, the mixed Australian cattle dog. Talk about training!

"Allee has a Ph.D in obedience," said owner Ana Farias. "She's a graduate of Alexandra Morgan's training," she said, referring to the Brown University graduate and well-known dog therapist. Seems Allee was a bit unruly and didn't respond to her owner at the park.

She's a good girl now, though. Her manners, her bearing, her calm attest to this.

"I've never met an Australian cattle dog before," said Joseph Gilleran on floor 4B.

He is standing outside his wife's hospital room. He marveled at how well trained the dogs were. "See how gently the dog licks her hand. This is a tremendous program," he added. "My wife would like to take the dog home. We had a dog we lost seven years ago."

A hospital visitor stops to pet Chuck. "We just lost our 150-pound Rottweiler," he told Rivchun sadly as he pet him.

Orcutt said the dogs were not there to entertain—they were there to bring comfort and healing. The canine corps often reminds patients of their own dogs at home and this makes them happy. "It humanizes the hospital experience. Some patients are initially amazed when the dogs walk into the room," she said.

When Chuck walked into Joseph Medeiros' room, he exclaimed, "This has never happened to me before! What a treat. You are a really nice boy," he said as Chuck took his place in bed on



Chuck the poodle volunteers once a week at the Miriam Hospital, bringing cheer to patients like Joseph Medeiros, shown here. At right is Chuck's owner, Kim Rivchun of Cranston.

Photos by Mary Korr

his stomach. "A long time ago I had little poodles," he said.

Miami, a soft and silky black lab mix, wore a red-white-and-blue neckerchief. He usually makes his rounds on Sunday morning, and then goes home to relax. Volunteering, the owners say, tires the dogs out after about an hour and a half.

Miami's owner, Kimberly Perry-Ford, stood in front of an isolation room. Last week the patient beckoned for the dog to come in, but Miami was not gloved and gowned. "Miami sat down outside the door and just listened to him," the owner said.



**READY TO ROUND**—These three canines are friendly visitors to the Miriam Hospital. Each volunteers to make rounds on patients several hours a week. From left are Ana Farias with Allee; Kimberly Perry-Ford with Miami, and Kim Rivchun with Chuck.





**THE HOLY LAND** — Oren Rehany and Tchelet Semel give sincere performances as a 20-year-old Israeli rabbinical student and the Russian prostitute who knocks him off his course.

## Controversial Israeli film opening in Providence

Israeli filmmaker Eitan Gorlin's controversial and award-winning film, *The Holy Land*, will be opening in Providence on Nov. 7 at The Columbus Theatre, 270 Broadway. The film won "Best

Film" at the 2002 Avignon/New York Film Festival.

Set in Israel, the film grittily portrays the struggle between religion and the seamier side of life, personified by a young rab-

binical student who ventures outside his school into the shady areas of secular Israel and tests his faith vis-a-vis some shady characters.

Writer/director Gorlin was raised as an American Orthodox Jew and served in the Israeli Army.

For more information on the film, call 401-621-9660.

## Jewish film festival opens

The Boston Jewish Film Festival is being shown Nov. 7 to 16. The festival presents the best contemporary films from around the world on Jewish themes, punctuated by panel discussions on headline issues, artist and director visits, and musical events ranging from sophisticated to light-hearted.

This critically-acclaimed festival features more than 40 independently produced films, shown

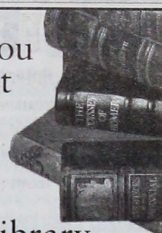
in six locations, and reflects the work of film artists from 16 countries.

Primary venues are the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, and the Coolidge Corner Theatre in Brookline. Visit [www.bjff.org](http://www.bjff.org) for more information. Tickets are available at [www.ticketweb.com](http://www.ticketweb.com). Tickets for most films are \$10 for general admission; \$8.50 for seniors, students; \$7 for groups of 20 or more.

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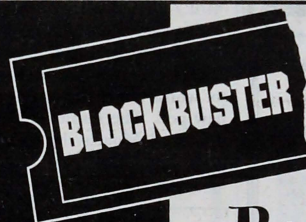
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## News Briefs



**SHARON IN RUSSIA** — Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, left, meets with Russian President Vladimir Putin, right, in Moscow on Monday. JTA photo

### Sharon meets Putin

Vladimir Putin acknowledged Israel's desire for peace during a meeting with Ariel Sharon. "We know that Israel is striving for peace," the Russian president told the Israeli prime minister in Moscow on Monday. Putin said the Jewish state has "suffered a lot in the past decades" and that Moscow would like to play an active role in an Israeli-Palestinian peace process. Sharon called Putin a friend of Israel and invited him to visit the Jewish state. Putin also told Sharon that plans are under way to open a Holocaust-related exhibition in Russia's State History Museum, located in Moscow's Red Square. Sharon met with members of the Russian Jewish community on Monday night.

### European poll: Israel is threat

More than half of Europeans think Israel is the greatest threat to world peace, according to a new poll. The results of the poll published Monday by the European Union show that 59 percent of about 7,500 Europeans polled

named Israel as the gravest threat to world peace. Fifty-three percent of respondents said Iran, North Korea and the United States pose threats to world peace. "Europeans seem blind to Israeli victims and suffering," said Haim Assaraf, spokesman at Israel's mission to the European Union. Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom downplayed the poll's significance, saying it is important not to give too much credence to a single poll.

### Court rejects Moore appeal

The Supreme Court refused to hear an Alabama justice's appeal to display the Ten Commandments in the state's judicial building. Monday's decision ends Judge Roy Moore's legal options and means the Ten Commandments monument will not be permitted in the building. The ruling also ends a battle that received nationwide attention over the summer, as Christians mounted protests in front of the judicial building.

### Pressure builds on Ford

The Ford Foundation came under new scrutiny in Washington for funding anti-Israel groups. Following a JTA investigative series, Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-N.Y.) told a foundation official Monday that the group should stop giving grants to Palestinian and other non-governmental organizations that engage in anti-Israel and anti-Semitic activity. The foundation, which insists it opposes such activity, gave millions of dollars to Palestinian and other groups that oppose the Jewish state.

Meanwhile, a State Department official said the agency is reviewing Ford's support for these groups for possible Justice Department action. The American Jewish Congress also is contemplating legal steps.

### Palestinian power struggle drags on

Yasser Arafat and his prime minister, Ahmed Qurei, continue to battle over the appointment of a security minister. As a result, the mandate of the Palestinian Authority's 30-day emergency Cabinet, which was to have expired on Tuesday night, was extended as an open-ended "caretaker government." Arafat, the P.A. president, opposes Qurei's choice of Nasser Yousef as interior minister, responsible for reforming P.A. security forces as required by the U.S.-backed "road map" peace plan.

### Brandeis editors resign over racial slur

A racial slur that appeared in Brandeis University's student newspaper has led to the resignation of five of the paper's editors, including the editor in chief.

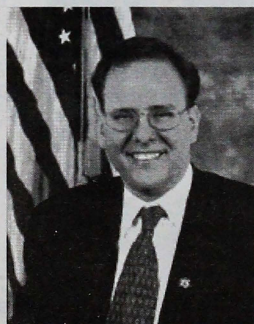
In a column in the *Brandeis Justice*, Dan Passner referred to Chicago Cubs manager Dusty Baker, who is black, by quoting another Brandeis student: "The only thing Baker has a Ph.D. in is something that starts with an N and rhymes with Tigger, the cheerful scamp who stole all of our hearts in the Winnie-the-Pooh series."

The student who allegedly was quoted denied making the statement. The column and subsequent resignations have raised the issue of minority students at Brandeis, which was founded in 1948 by American Jews and is named after the first U.S. Supreme Court justice who was Jewish. About half of the students at the Boston-area school are Jewish, according to Dennis Nealon, Brandeis' director of media relations.

## Perspectives

### New Member Brunch

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**RSVP by Tues, Nov 11th**

Contact Tavlin, Perspectives Director

401-861-8800 x 205 tavlin@jccri.org

www.providenceperspectives.org





## Local



IN TRAINING — Police recruits listen to a Holocaust survivor at the Rhode Island Holocaust Memorial Museum last week, as part of a training session.

Photo by Jonathan Rubin

## Police recruits learn about tolerance

From page 1

The officers-in-training ranged from baby-faced recruits in their early 20s to men and women in their late 40s. They gathered around tables and watched films containing footage of Adolf Hitler, pogroms and Nazi propaganda cartoons depicting sinister looking Jews with hooked noses. Speakers such as Elie Wiesel were featured in the film recounting their experiences with the Nazis.

Alice Goldstein, of Warwick, a Holocaust survivor, made a powerful presentation by donning a yellow star that Jews had to wear to identify themselves and gave personal reminiscences about how German police officers in her village looked the other way while Jews were being brutalized and taken to the death camps.

Selma Stanzler, director of the Holocaust Museum in Providence, took the recruits through a tour of the museum and showed them clothes, posters and other artifacts from the period.

The program was funded by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Anti-Defamation League and the Rhode Island

Holocaust Memorial Museum. It also received a significant push by Providence Police Chief Dean Esserman, who was so moved by his experience at the D.C. memorial, that he would have taken his recruits to had the program not been brought to Providence.

Dr. Jodi Glass, of the R.I. commission on Prejudice and Bias, which sponsors hate crime training for state, local and university law enforcement attended the presentation and said that it fit right into her organization's current focus on hate crimes in reli-

gious and racial ethnic groups.

When the program ended four hours later, Sgt. Gary Venditto remarked that he was "very impressed" with the program, and thought it would be very beneficial to the religious and cultural education of the recruits.

He said that he learned a great deal from the presentation, and understood exactly why Chief Esserman was so excited about the program. "My hat goes off to him," Venditto said.

## Emanu-El holding courses on propaganda, ancient religions

Temple Emanu-El's Adult Institute is offering two new courses beginning this month. They are:

- American propaganda from the cold war to Iraq war (Nov. 18, Dec. 2, 9, and 16 from 8 - 8:50 p.m.) After World War II, American propaganda geared up to fight Communism. Some of this anti-Communist material was anti-Semitic. Once Communism abated, American propaganda found its new enemy in Islam. Islamic propaganda joined America with Israel in its propaganda responses. This course will examine these post-war movements (Thomas Roberts, professor of cultural history at RISD).

- Religion in the ancient world (Nov. 25, Dec. 2, 9, 16

from 9 - 9:50 p.m.) Four professors of religion will describe the basic meaning and concepts of religions in the ancient world:

Nov. 25 — The main task of ancient religion, Prof. Kenneth Sacks, Brown University

Dec. 2 — Sacred space in the ancient Jerusalem Temple, Prof. Joan Branham, Providence College

Dec. 9 — Emergence of Christianity as a "new" religion, Prof. Ross Kraemer, Brown University

Dec. 16 — Temples and sacred time in Greek religion, Prof. Nancy Evans, Wheaton College

Tuition is \$10, \$6 for seniors. For further information, call Temple Emanu-El at 331-1616.

## Jewish books on the air

"Reading With Robin," a radio show hosted by Robin Kall on WHJJ 920 AM, will be airing several interviews with Jewish authors during November, which is National Jewish Book Month.

On Nov. 8, Kall's guest will be Carole Glickfeld, author of *Swimming Toward the Ocean*. On Nov. 15, Kall will interview Anita Diamant about her latest

release, *Pitching my Tent: On Marriage, Motherhood, Friendship, and other Leaps of Faith*. Lois Lowry, author of *The Silent Boy*, will also make a guest appearance to talk about her book. The programs run from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m.

For additional information visit [www.readingwithrobin.com](http://www.readingwithrobin.com).

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## Local

# A chat with the Mayor

From page 1

"My choice was made at birth," he says in his historic City Hall office one afternoon recently. "I was born a Jew." He refers to the matrilineal descent recognized by Jews.

But, to say the mayor is Jewish because his mother is, doesn't even begin to tell the story.

He is driven by public service, social justice and political action. "This is part of my identity," he says. "The Jewish tradition requires us to be involved. What this means is: You don't give up on people in need, you don't walk away from problems."

That's an understatement, given the financial challenge he inherited from his predecessor, Vincent A. "Buddy" Cianci Jr., now in federal prison in Fort Dix, N.J., serving out a five-year sentence on a charge of racketeering conspiracy.

When asked if he had empathy for Buddy Cianci, he shook his head. "No, because I have to address the consequences of his administration," he says. "Providence had a \$60-million budget deficit when I took office."

"Have you read the book about Cianci, *The Prince of Providence*?" he was asked.

"No, but people should read it; it's a lesson in corrupt government."

He aims to change that.

### Family ties

The mayor traces his Judaic foundation to his maternal grandparents, the late Irving and Ruth Peskin of Cranston. "I was very close to them. Nana was the most incredible, kind and gentle woman who showed and taught me about unconditional love," he says.

They came from Romania. As a child, they took him to

their shul, Temple Torat Yisrael, in Cranston. "Nana" cooked the classic eastern European Jewish dinners—from brisket to blintzes—for her grandchildren.

He also went to church with his family. "We celebrated both Catholic and Jewish holidays and traditions at home," he said. He was baptized in the Catholic church and received First Communion. His father's parents, Lucy and the late John Cicilline, lived in the Silver Lake section of Providence, where the mayor also lived as a young child. At 92, his grandmother, Lucy Cicilline, stood at the podium holding a Bible as the mayor was sworn into office in January.

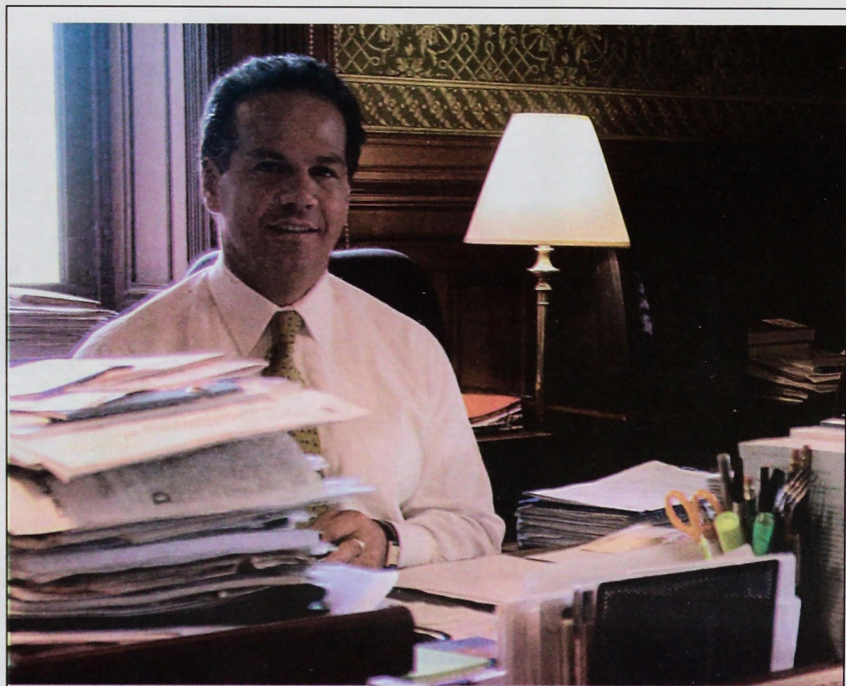
### Brown, Georgetown

The Cicillines moved to Narragansett when he was 11. He attended the public high school there, and was active in political and community organizations; Cicilline was president of his graduating class, in 1979.

Transferring to Brown University, it was here he and his classmate, John F. Kennedy Jr., organized the College Democrats. The mayor graduated magna cum laude, in 1983, with a concentration in political science and art history. He earned his law degree from the Georgetown Center of Law in Washington D.C. After graduation, he took a staff attorney position in the public defender's office.

Cicilline returned home to open a practice in criminal defense and civil rights law, on Federal Hill. He was elected four terms as state representative from District 4, on the city's East Side.

His biggest challenge is getting the budget under control; part of this involved reaching an agreement with his alma mater, Brown University, and other area colleges to pay into Providence



MAYOR DAVID N. CICILLINE sits behind his desk at his office at City Hall.

Photo by Mary Korr

## Meet the mayor

• **Early bird:** Up at 5:30 a.m., to the gym by 6 a.m. to work out, lift weights, or alternatively, to go for a run.

• **In his CD player:** Italian tenor Andrea Bocelli (who has chosen Providence for his only New England stop on his fall tour of the United States. He is scheduled to perform at the Dunkin Donuts Center Nov. 23.)

• **Sunday School teacher:** At Temple Beth-El in

Providence, where he is a congregant. This year, he is teaching legal ethics to 7<sup>th</sup>- and 8<sup>th</sup>-graders.

• **Can we talk?:** 52 people spoke to him at his first monthly "Meet the Mayor" session at City Hall recently. The second session—the Mayor's Night Out—will take place Nov. 18, at the Washington Park Community Center, 42 Jillson St.

• **Inspired by:** His "nana,"

the late Ruth Peskin of Cranston

• **Role models:** Martin Luther King, Robert Kennedy

• **Honored by:** The RI Trial Lawyers Association "2003 Citizen of the Year Award."

• **On his bookshelf:** *Jewish Wisdom*

• **Has a passion for:** Art history

• **On the record:** Supports same-gender civil unions, marriages

coffers a "fair share." The agreement, reached with the presidents of Brown, Johnson & Wales, Providence College and Rhode Island School of Design, provides for nearly \$50 million in voluntary payments to the city over a 20-year period.

He has also restructured the former Providence Economic Development Corporation to create the Providence Economic Development Partnership, charged to develop a "creative economy." The mayor described this as a synergy of the arts, technology, education and health-

care industries. The growth areas he sees in Providence's economy are in bio-medical research, technology, tourism, entrepreneurship and the arts and culture.

He describes Providence as an ethnic "mosaic" rather than a melting pot. The word could describe the mayor as well.

# LA. Jewish community schools, temples burned in wild fires

From page 1

accounting for almost half of the 1,100 homes destroyed.

But it seemed that losses and suffering were almost everywhere in Southern California.

To the south, in San Diego County, the 20 classroom trailers of the Chabad Hebrew Academy of San Diego were totally destroyed by the fire. An adjacent, brand-new \$25 million building, almost completed and surrounded by flames, was spared, according to Rabbi Yisroel Goldstein.

Also in San Diego, another synagogue called Temple Emanu El closed its pre-school and

transferred its Torah scrolls, Rabbi Martin Lawson said. Tifereth Israel Synagogue also took its Torah scrolls to safety after nearby

residents were ordered to evacuate their homes.

In Simi Valley, the Mount Sinai Memorial Park cemetery reported minor damage to buildings and more extensive burning of trees and park areas. The Brandeis-Bardin Institute, a Jewish retreat center also in Simi Valley, was untouched by the fire.

In the San Gabriel Valley,

four employees of the local Jewish federation reported that their homes had been entirely or partially destroyed.

## Donations are being accepted from around the country.

Meanwhile, Jewish communities across the southern part of the state rallied to aid the homeless and other victims of the fires.

Some 11 Chabad centers in Southern California turned themselves into relief and counseling centers, providing clothing, fur-

niture and food.

The Board of Rabbis of Southern California called on all member congregations to provide assistance, the board's executive vice president, Rabbi Mark Diamond, said.

There are several ways to contribute to fire relief assistance.

Hard-hit Congregation Emanu El in San Bernardino has established a Fire Tzedakah Fund. Checks can be made out to Emanu El and sent to 3512 North E St., San Bernardino,

Calif., 92405.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles has set up a Fire Emergency Relief Fund. For information and contributions, phone 323-761-8200, or mail checks to Jewish Federation, 6505 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif., 90048, and write "Fire Relief Fund" on the memo line.

In San Diego, checks can be sent to Jewish Community Disaster Fund, c/o Jewish Community Foundation, 4950 Murphy Canyon Rd., San Diego, Calif., 92123.



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## Community

### Jewish book fair to feature author events

The Jewish Community Center's annual book fair begins on Sunday, Nov. 16, with special events as well as an assortment of Jewish books, Hanukkah gift items, and paper goods for sale. The book fair will be open from Nov. 16 to 23 for early bird shopping days. It will reopen after the Thanksgiving holiday week, from Dec. 1 to 19. Regular hours will be Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Author signings and discussions begin Nov. 16 with award-winning journalist Peter Duffy speaking on his book, *The Bielski Brothers: The True Story of Three Men Who Defied the Nazis, Saved 1,200 Jews, and Built a Village in the Forest*. After witnessing the execution of their parents and two siblings, Tuvia, Asael, and Zus Bielski fled into the forest and sent out word that any Jews who made it to the woods would find a safe haven there. For two years, they lived and fought as partisans in the Byelorussian forest, established a community, and miraculously managed to elude the

Nazis. This event, from 4 to 5:30 p.m., is free of charge and is co-sponsored with the Rhode Island Holocaust Memorial Museum.

On Wednesday, Dec. 3 at 7:30 p.m., the JCC/RI and Perspectives, its young adult program, present local mystery author Jon Land. His critically acclaimed series of suspense thrillers feature Palestinian-American detective Ben Kamal, and his Israeli counterpart, Danille Barnea. He will be discussing his mystery

series, as well as his 28<sup>th</sup> book, *Last Prophecies*, due out in April. This program is free of charge.

Noted poet and author Marge Piercy discusses her 16<sup>th</sup> novel, *The Third Child*, on Wednesday, Dec. 10 at 7 p.m. A prolific author and poet, Marge Piercy is one of America's leading feminist literary figures. This event is co-sponsored with Books on the Square.

On Thursday, Dec. 11, Joan Leegant will discuss her book,

*An Hour in Paradise*. Barnes & Noble nationwide selected this debut collection of Jewish short stories for their Discover Great New Writers Program. There is a \$5 charge, which includes light brunch. This event is co-sponsored by Rhode Island Hadasah.

The book fair and all of the author events will take place at the JCC/RI, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence.

### Professor to speak on Jewish legitimacy in Palestine

On Wednesday, Nov. 12, S Ilan Troen, professor of Israel Studies at Brandeis University and of modern history at Ben-Gurion University, will speak on

the legitimacy of the Jewish colonization of Palestine.

The program will take place at Wilson Hall, on the main green of the Brown campus, in

Room 302 at 7:30 p.m. It is sponsored by The Brown University Program in Judaic Studies and Brown Hillel.

### 'Daisy' playwright to speak at Brown

Pulitzer Prize winning playwright Alfred Uhry, will be hosted by the Brown chapter of Hillel on Wednesday, Nov. 19 at 7 p.m., in Salomon Hall, room 101. Also winner of Oscar and Tony awards, he will speak about his life and work. Open to the public.

### Women's Fund to hold annual event

Wendy D. Puriefoy, past chair of the Ms. Foundation and co-chair of the National Women's Leadership Conference, will deliver the keynote address at the Women's Fund of Rhode Island's annual celebration Tues., Nov. 18. She will speak on the advancement of women in politics.

There will be a cocktail reception at 5:30 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Warwick, followed by dinner, the address, and the presentation of the Women's Fund grantees. Cost is \$25 per person; reservations are required.

Established in 2000, the Women's Fund is administered by The Rhode Island Foundation. For more information, call 274-4564.

## The Jewish Voice & Herald announces the 18th Annual



## Hanukkah Art Contest



The Jewish Voice & Herald is continuing its state-wide Hanukkah art contest. Get your art materials out and send us your most creative Hanukkah illustration.

Entries must be two-dimensional and created on a piece of paper no larger than 10" x 16". NO GLITTER and NO FOIL! The name, age, grade, address and phone number of the artist MUST appear on the back of every entry. If this information is not provided, the entry will be disqualified. Only one entry per child.

The DEADLINE for submission is Nov. 29. Entries must be delivered to the front desk at the Jewish Community Center, c/o Voice & Herald Hanukkah Art Contest, 130 Sessions St., Providence, RI 02906.

All submission will be listed in the Dec. 12 issue of the Jewish Voice & Herald. Artwork and prizes may be picked up at an award party at the Jewish Community Center (date TBA).

An Award Party will be held at the Jewish Community Center. Date TBA  
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If you have questions call Jon at 421-4111, ext. 168

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Ages 10 to 13



## Schechter kicks off 25th anniversary



**MEET AND GREET** — Leah Eliash, a long-time educator at many Jewish institutions in Rhode Island, greets Valentin Dobrushkin, ASDS class of '95, at the 25th anniversary of the Alperin Schechter Day School celebration on Oct. 26.

Photo by Jonathan Rubin

By Jonathan Rubin

For its 25th anniversary celebration, the Alperin Schechter Day School (ASDS) returned to its roots with a visit from Dr. Ada Beth Cutler, the school's first teacher and principal. Six former ASDS presidents joined a large gathering of Schechter parents, friends and alumni for the Oct. 26th event held at Temple Emanu-El in Providence.

Cutler, now dean of the College of Education at Montclair State University in New Jersey, turned back the clock more than two decades to the founding of

the school in 1978. She recalled a conversation she had with Rabbi Alvan Kaunfer in 1976 about the growing number of Conservative-affiliated parents with small children.

"Why don't you start a school?" Kaunfer asked her in jest.

"We were laughing — and then we stopped laughing," she said.

The idea spread and two years later the school became a reality with a kindergarten class of ten children. Cutler was amazed at the "leap of faith" taken by

the children's parents, who were brave enough to "send their children to a school that didn't even exist before."

It wasn't easy founding a school, she recalled. Cutler began her work at Schechter as their first (and only) teacher, and was in charge of general studies, Judaic studies, music, and anything else. She recalled that initially the "library" was just a cart that went from classroom to classroom.

Rabbi Kaunfer was the school's part-time director while simultaneously serving full time in his position at Temple Emanu-El. Since the director's responsibilities quickly outgrew the time that Rabbi Kaunfer had for them, Cutler took over and became the first principal.

"These were incredible years," she said. "We built the school grade by grade. We were in the business of raising *mentsches*."

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Sat., Nov. 15 — 8 p.m.

Sun., Nov. 16 — 2 p.m.

Thurs., Nov. 20 — 7 p.m.

Sat., Nov. 22 — 8 p.m.

Sun., Nov. 23 — 2 p.m.

\*Following the Thurs., Nov. 20 performance, playwright Alfred Uhry will participate in a panel discussion, "Creating Bonds Across Diversity: What Can We Learn from Driving Miss Daisy?"

Tickets: \$12.00

Seniors & children (12 & under) \$10.00

Call to reserve tickets 401-861-8800

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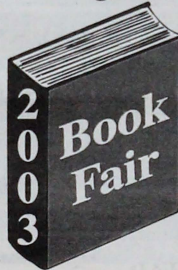
## JCC BOOK FAIR

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### EVENTS

Nov. 16: 4:30 p.m.

Author Peter Duffy will talk about "The Bielski Brothers", a true story of 3 men who defied the Nazis, saved 1200 Jews and built a village in the forest. (co-sponsored by RI Holocaust Memorial Museum).

Nov. 20: 7:30 p.m.

Join the JCC Book Club as it kicks off its new season with a discussion of "Welcome to Heavenly Heights" by Risa Miller.

Dec. 3: 7:30 p.m.

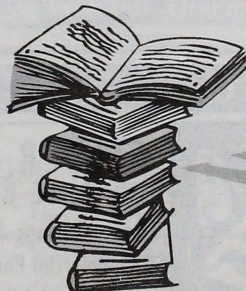
JCC & Perspectives present acclaimed local author Jon Land, who has written a series of mystery thrillers.

Dec. 10: 7:00 p.m.

Author Marge Piercy discusses her 16th novel, "The Third Child" (co-sponsored by Books on the Square).

Dec. 11: 10:30 a.m.

RI Hadassah joins the "J" in bringing author Joan Leegant to discuss her book of short stories, "An Hour in Paradise", featured at Barnes & Noble. Light refreshments, \$5 charge.



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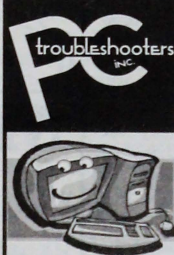
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## Local teen spends summer of service on construction project

Jason Sherwin, son of Rob and Mindy Sherwin of Pawtucket, spent the past summer in Rapid City, South Dakota with the American Jewish Society for Service, working with the Black Hills Habitat for Humanity constructing homes. Jason's father also participated with the AJSS in the late 1960s.

Jason's group participated in all phases of construction, including carpentry, roofing and insulation. Each member/camper contributed more than 200 hours of community service.

AJSS campers work 40 hours per week. Evening and weekend time is devoted to learning about the community they are serving, and taking advantage of cultural and recreational opportunities.

The American Jewish Society for Service is an independent non-profit national organization that gives teenagers an opportunity to perform humanitarian service.

For more information, visit [www.ajss.org](http://www.ajss.org) or call 973-443-0404.



## Frank Zasloff becomes Voice & Herald ad sales rep

Frank Zasloff will be the new advertising sales representative for the *Jewish Voice & Herald*.

He and his wife Etta, a school teacher, have relocated to Hope Valley, Rhode Island from Fairmont, West Virginia in order to be closer to their grown children who now reside in Boston.

Frank is a seasoned salesman with a varied background of retail and wholesale jewelry, insurance, and modular commercial build-

ings. He has also served as a volunteer fundraiser for the West Virginia 4-H Program at both state and local levels.

"A salesman is a salesman. I can sell anything that I believe is good," he says.

Born and raised in West Virginia, Zasloff attended Fairmont State College, where he majored in business administration.

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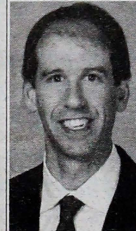
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## Community



### Locks of Love

Elisheva Stark, 13, of Providence, is the latest of many Jewish teens who are getting a shorter trim to help kids with cancer. Elisheva heard about the "Locks of Love" program, which uses donated hair to make wigs for children undergoing chemotherapy, from David Greenberg, also of Providence, who got his hair cut two years ago for the

same purpose. Elisheva made her intentions known during her Bat Mitzvah, and Greg Moore, stylist at the Coiffurium on Hope Street, helped cut 10 inches of Elisheva's hair for donation. She was a little nervous during the cut, but hoped it would inspire others the same way it inspired her.

*Photo by Jonathan Rubin*

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## 'Reproductive choice' topic of NCJW program

The National Council of Jewish Women of R.I. will present, "Women at Risk: Roe v. Wade — Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow," on Dec. 18 at 7 p.m. at the Providence Marriott.

This program will feature a panel of experts in medicine, law and grassroots activism. Lynette Labinger, a civil rights attorney, will discuss some of the legal

issues facing women in Rhode Island, and Dr. Benjamin Vogel, an obstetrician/gynecologist, will discuss his medical experiences with women's reproductive rights. Anne London, a grassroots leader in NCJW's Bench Mark Campaign to Save Roe, will suggest action which can be taken on both the national and local level.

Other organizations included

in the promotion of this event include The Women's Alliance and the Jewish Federation, the American Civil Liberties Union, Women's Health and Education Fund and Planned Parenthood.

For more information, call Renee Vogel at 331-5087 or e-mail [Rvogelri@yahoo.com](mailto:Rvogelri@yahoo.com).

## Jewish genetic mutations may lead to cancer risk, early exercise helps

JTA — More information about health can only help — even if the information isn't so positive.

That seems to be the lesson of a new study confirming that Ashkenazi Jewish women with particular genetic mutations have a high risk of contracting breast cancer.

But the effects can be mitigated if girls with a family history of the mutation exercise when they enter puberty and live a healthy lifestyle as adults.

Some Ashkenazi Jewish women have mutations in the BRCA gene that makes the bearer susceptible to breast cancer. Other women also have these mutations, but their mutations have not been isolated because they have not been tested as often.

Mary-Claire King of the University of Washington was the main author of the study, which was published last week in the journal Science.

The study, which studied subjects at a dozen hospitals in New

York, New Jersey and Connecticut, found that women with one of the BRCA gene mutations have an 82 percent chance of developing breast cancer by age 80. The average woman's risk at age 80 is 13 percent.

The risk factor was on the high end of previous estimates,

**The incidence of cancer among Ashkenazi Jews is not higher than among the general population, but more of their cancer risk stems from genetic factors.**

but wasn't surprising, said Dale Mintz, director of women's health at Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America.

"It's what we all would have expected," she said. Some 2 percent of Ashkenazi Jews carry the BRCA 1 or BRCA 2 mutations, according to the Human Genome Project in Washington.

The incidence of cancer among Ashkenazi Jews is not higher than among the general population, but more of their cancer risk stems from genetic factors. The study isolated 104 women who had one of the BRCA mutations and contracted cancer within a five-year period. Half of them had no strong family history of cancer.

That points to a need for increased genetic testing, since some doctors and other health professionals often identify cancer risk by scrutinizing family history — and some women who had one of the BRCA mutations but no family history of breast cancer mistakenly had been told that they were not at a higher risk for cancer.

Women with the BRCA mutations are advised to have frequent mammograms. Some medical experts recommend that they take the drug tamoxifen to reduce their breast cancer risk. Some women avoid the disease entirely by having pre-emptive mastectomies.

The finding that carriers who exercise, particularly during the teenage years, are less likely to develop cancer early in life points to other actions that those at risk can take.

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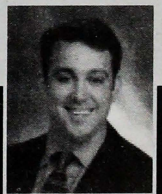
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# Warwick man donates \$1M to JSA

*Tamarisk Assisted Living Residence re-named for his mother*

By Mary Korr

In a tribute to his late mother on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her death, Gary S. Siperstein and his wife, Mynde, of Warwick, have donated one million dollars to the "To Life" campaign of the Jewish Seniors Agency (JSA) of Rhode Island.

The \$4-million campaign will help establish a \$3-million endowment for residents of the JSA's newly opened Tamarisk Assisted Living Residence in Warwick, should some of them need financial assistance. It will also fund core JSA programs.

The gift was announced Sunday at an opening celebration. In gratitude, JSA has renamed the home The Phyllis Siperstein Tamarisk Assisted Living Residence. It is the largest gift ever received by the JSA, said Susette Rabinowitz, executive director.

Siperstein has been an active JSA board member for the last several years, and made an unrestricted gift because he believes in its mission, its programs and people. "Mynde and I feel closeness to the elderly and to children," he said. "We believe in giving close to home, where we can make a difference."

One day, several months ago, Siperstein toured Tamarisk with family. When Rabinowitz showed him the Torah Scroll from the defunct Jewish Home for the Aged now housed at Tamarisk, his father was thrilled.

"My father was Bar Mitzvahed at the Jewish

home," he said. His father could not believe that he was probably standing in front of the Torah as he did so long ago. "My grandparents were not wealthy people; that was probably the only place they could afford," he said.

Although Siperstein and his wife were at a Bar Mitzvah in Philadelphia Sunday, members of his immediate family were present, including his father, S. Harry Siperstein at a V.I.P. reception.

"He'll be *kvelling*," Siperstein said with a laugh during an interview last week in his office. He is president of Eliot-Rose Asset Management, a firm he started two years ago in Providence.

"To Life" could describe Siperstein's approach to life.

He recalls his mother showing him the pictures of a child



**CELEBRATION**— It has been a week-long celebration at Tamarisk, the newly opened assisted living residence for seniors in Warwick, which was developed by the Jewish Seniors Agency. From left are, Patricia Cohen, JSA president; JSA Executive Director Susette Rabinowitz, outgoing JSA president Maurice Glicksman, and Tamarisk benefactors Gary and Mynde Siperstein of Warwick.

she sponsored in South Korea. "My parents didn't have a lot of money, but I learned that you give what you can give. My mother was kind and my source of comfort and advice," he said.

"I don't want to wait until I'm old to give to causes I believe in," the 46-year-old Warwick res-

He relates an incredible survivor's tale of a young boy who hid from the Nazis in the woods for four years, beginning at age 13, until the war was over. Live every day to the fullest was a lesson his daughter well learned.

Siperstein paid tribute to his grandfather, the late Dr. Eli Rose

Fireman, an optometrist, of Cranston, "I hung out at his office a lot as a kid. All day long people would come in and out. He would see maybe two patients—the coming in for

rest were people advice," he said.

"He almost became a rabbi," Siperstein said. "Maybe that's why people came to him, he was always there to help."

He unfolds a copy of a poem his grandfather kept folded in his wallet. Siperstein had it framed and it hangs in his office. They are, he says, words to live by. Here is the concluding verse of "When I Have Time":

*Now is the time! Ah, friend, no longer wait*

*To scatter loving deeds and words of cheer*

*To those around whose lives are now so dear.*

*They may not meet you in the coming year—*

*Now is the time!*

**"Don't wait until you make zillions of dollars to give. Fortunes can come and go. Now is the time to help people, if you can. I think we have to set a good example for our children."**

— Gary Siperstein

ident said. "You have to live for today. Tell your wife and your kids you love them today, you may not be here tomorrow. Don't wait until you make zillions of dollars to give. Fortunes can come and go. Now is the time to help people, if you can. I think we have to set a good example for our children."

The couple have two children; their son Jason, 18, is a freshman at Emory. Daughter Carly Rose is a 15-year-old student at the Wheeler School, where he is an active board member. The two donated a portion of their Bar- and Bat-Mitzvah gifts to charities.

The couple met as students at Boston University. She is a native New Yorker, whose father was a Holocaust victim. This defined his life, Siperstein said.

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The media bombard us with the details of America's invasion of Iraq and our ongoing pathetic attempts to democratize and normalize that nation. The war has been declared a victory for the



**Tema Gouse**

Free World and the Iraqis. Most of the world remains critical of our incursion and the Iraqis seem to have a different impression of what will constitute freedom for them. Whatever was the military intent, whether we approve of it or not, let's face it—we are again involved in war. My question is—how many wars

should one have to have part of in the course of a lifetime?

This is not a debate of war vs. no war. This is looking at the horrors of battle that we must witness in the course of a lifetime if we live seven or eight or even nine decades.

Some of us who have been truly blessed with advanced age were born during World War I but have no memory of the details except as told us by parents. For all of us oldsters, World War I is something we read about in our history books and since history books of the 20s and 30s were more patriotic than accurate, few of us can tell how or why it began. We were victorious and were assured that that was the "war to end all wars." Ha!

However, all senior citizens certainly remember World War II, whether we were then tots, teens, or young adults. It seemed to last forever. It impacted on every family. Today's easy draft deferments were almost non-existent in the early 1940s. We graciously (or sometimes not so graciously) accepted rationing of foods, luxuries, gasoline and tobacco (regarded as a basic necessity by many in those days).

We bought savings (called War) bonds and with very few exceptions totally supported the war effort (as it was referred to in those days). It was described

as a war against tyranny. (Sound familiar?) And most important, we sent our brothers, sons, sweethearts, husbands, and favorite friends to face death. And so many died. But we seemed to understand the purpose. That helps.

The Korean War erupted unexpectedly just five years after the end of WWII. Why? I did not know then and I am not sure I know now. Its goals remain obscure. It was most highlighted by the animosity between President Truman and General MacArthur. There was much talk of saving the United States from communism. By fighting in Korea??? According to the news on the newly popularized television, Russia was the demon and I never heard of Russians setting foot in Korea.

And then for some unknown reason, all it took to end that war was the presidential election in 1952. Ike won and declared the war over and the surviving American soldiers came home. I liked that. Do you think we could get "Dubyah" to emulate one of his idols and just declare the stay in Iraq over? Don't hold your breath!

I am not really sure when we got involved in Vietnam. Presidents Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon have all gotten the blame. They probably all deserved it. The ending of that war (I believe it was in 1974) was as enigmatic

as its onset. Since so many young lives were destroyed (physically or psychologically) by that involvement, shouldn't we have a better understanding of it? What did Vietnam or the USA gain from that blood bath?

And then there was the Desert Storm War of 1991 when we went to rescue Kuwait (surely our most beloved ally) from Iraq. It was our shortest war. Mr. Bush (Senior, of course) was determined to end it in 100 days. He did end it in 100 days but left an unsupported chaos and the tyrant, Saddam Hussein, still in control. That allowed Mr. Bush's son, our present chief of staff, to justify our return to Iraq to annihilate Saddam and free the world of possible devastation by weapons of mass destruction. Neither has been located even though war has been officially ended. The war is ended but American soldiers are still dying daily in Iraq.

Between living through these numerous struggles and never seeing peace in Israel, the senior's exposure to the carnage of war has been truly excessive.

And peace seems nowhere on the horizon. We are getting old and will probably call this current one our last war. But isn't five (or for some six) wars enough? I hope that when my children and grandchildren reach their dotage, their war count will be less. But I have very little confidence.

*Tema Gouse, a regular columnist, lives in Cranston.*

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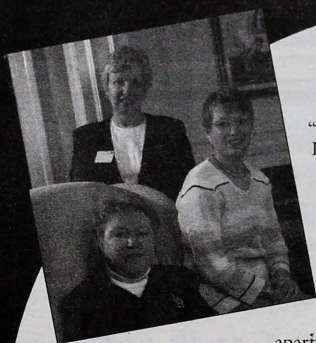
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Name of groom:

Education:

Job:

When & where married:

Where they plan to reside:

#### Birth:

Baby's name:

Baby's Hebrew name:

Date of birth:

Mother's name:

Father's name:

Where they live:

#### Simcha announcement:

Person honored:

Where from:

Type of honor received:

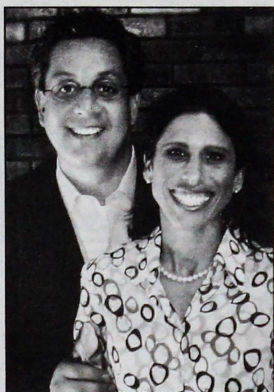
Brief description of why honor is significant:

(Attach additional sheet.)

Parents (if honoree is under 18):

## Mazal Tov!

### Engagements



Oken — Millman

Dr. Shara Lynn Millman and Russell Oken of New York City, N.Y., announce their engagement.

The future bride is the daughter of Bari and Neil Millman of Atlanta, Ga. She is the granddaughter of Ada and the late David Cohen of Chicago, Ill., and the late Helen and Joseph Millman of Boston.

Dr. Millman received her bachelor's degree with honors at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and her medical degree at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas. She completed a radiology residency at Parkland Hospital in Dallas, with a fellowship in women's imaging at Columbia University in New York City. She is currently an attending and assistant professor of radiology at Columbia University-New York Presbyterian Hospital, specializing in breast imaging.

The future bridegroom is the son of Rose and Lester Sagan of Barrington and the late Henry Oken of Cranston. He is the grandson of the late Charles and Sarah Kadsivitz of Providence.

He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Hartford, as well as a Juris Doctor with honors from Syracuse Uni-

versity College of Law. Russell is a member of the Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and New York State Bar Associations, and is a corporate attorney at the New York office of Kelley, Drye and Warren, LLP.

Both are active members of UJA Federation of New York and met on a single's mission to Italy and Moscow.

The couple plan an April wedding in Providence.



Trachtenberg — Centafont

Marc Trachtenberg, formerly of Pawtucket, and Stephanie Centafont of Yardley, Penn., announce their engagement. Marc is the son of Caren and the late Aron Trachtenberg of Pawtucket and the grandson of Sophie Diamond. Stephanie is the daughter of Miriam Centafont and David Centafont of Bucks County, Penn. The couple lives in New York City. They plan to marry in October, 2004.

### 50th Anniversary

Melvin and Francine Kaufman celebrated their 50th golden wedding anniversary on Oct. 25. A celebration with their immediate family took place Sept. 27 in Virginia Beach.



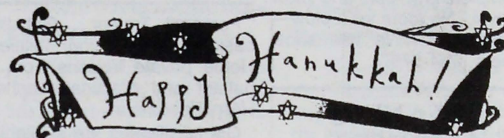
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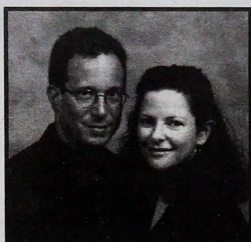
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## Obituaries

Writer, educator,  
sports enthusiast

## Sydney Cohen

CRANSTON — Sydney Cohen, 85, a retired English department head, died Oct. 20. He was the husband of Goldie (Soorkis) Cohen. They were married for 50 years.

Born in Providence, a son of the late Robert Maurice and Sophie (Gabrilowitz) Cohen, he had lived in Cranston for 44 years.

He was a graduate of the former Rhode Island College of Education, now Rhode Island College.

He was an Army veteran of World War II serving in both the European and Pacific theatres. He retired as a lieutenant commander from the Army Reserve.

He was a member of the Reserve Officers' Association and the Jewish War Veterans.

Mr. Cohen was the head of the English Department at Chariho High School and was a teacher for 26 years, retiring 17 years ago. He was also a sports writer and editor for the former *Rhode Island Jewish Herald* for 13 years.

He was a member of Temple Torat Yisrael and its Men's Club, a member of its religious committee and ran the Minyan services. He was a member of the Touro Fraternal Association, and was inducted into the Rhode Island Jewish Hall of Fame in 1989. He had been the chairman of the Alumni Association of Rhode Island College since 1990, was nominated Alumnus of the Year, received the Philanthropy Award, and was a member of the Rhode Island College Foundation.

He was a member of the Society for American Baseball Research and participated in the re-enactment of the Blue and Gray Baseball Game on the 100th anniversary of major league baseball. He was a lifelong New York Yankees fan. He was a member of the Olympic Club at the Jewish Community Center and was a past commissioner of the Jewish Softball League.

Besides his wife, he leaves two daughters, Marsha Cohen of Cambridge, Mass., and Jody Alves of Warwick; a brother, David Cohen of Attleboro, Mass.; a sister, Irma Silverman of Cranston and two grandchildren.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

Contributions may be made to the Alumni Fund, Rhode Island College, 600 Mount Pleasant Ave., Bldg. 10, Providence, RI 02908 or Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston, RI 02905.

## Syril E. Gordon

ORLANDO, Fla. — Syril E. Gordon, 78, died Aug. 12. She was the wife of the late Frank D. Gordon.

She was born in Providence, a daughter of the late Max H. and Lillian (Burwick) Freiberg.

She graduated from Hope High School. An accomplished artist, Mrs. Gordon was a member of the Marblehead Arts Association.

She is survived by a son, Andrew Gordon of Boca Raton, Fla.; a daughter, Carin Gordon of Orlando; one grandson; a brother, Jerome Freiberg of Cranston, and a sister, Ruth Shapiro, also of Cranston.

Donations may be made to the Marblehead Arts Association, 8 Hooper St., Marblehead, MA 01945.

## Lena Kropp

CRANSTON — Lena Kropp, 89, died Oct. 29. She was the wife of the late Robert Kropp.

Born in New York City, a daughter of the late Morris and Bella (Dobkin) Kasazkow, she had lived in Mt. Vernon, N.Y., before moving to Cranston more than three years ago.

Mrs. Kropp was a former member of Hadassah, and Temple Sinai and its Sisterhood, all of Mt. Vernon. She enjoyed playing piano.

She leaves two sons, Richard Kropp of Savannah, Ga., and Michael Kropp, of Richmond, R.I.; a brother, Benjamin Kasazkow of Montauk, N.Y.; seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. She was the sister of the late Tillie Friedman and Isadore, Ida and Jessica Kasazkow.

Burial was in Kensico Cemetery, Valhalla, N.Y.

Contributions may be made to the American Heart Association, 275 Westminster St., Providence, RI 02903.

## Milton J. Miller

CANTON, Mass. — Milton J. Miller of Canton, formerly of Providence, died Oct. 22.

He was the husband of Ruth (Segal) Miller.

Born in Providence, a son of the late Ralph and Alice (Tillis) Miller, he lived in Providence before moving to Canton 32 years ago.

Mr. Miller had been a salesman in the tobacco industry.

He was an Army veteran of World War II, and a member of the Jewish War Veterans.

Besides his wife, he leaves a son, Elliot Miller of Brockton, Mass.; a daughter, Brenda Miller of Malden, Mass., and two brothers, Howard Miller of North Providence, and Sanford Miller, of Warwick. He was the brother of the late Barbara Goodman.

Burial was in Everett, Mass.

## Erna Oppenheim

PROVIDENCE — Erna Oppenheim, 96, died Oct. 15. She was the former wife of the late Frederick Oppenheim.

Born in Frankfurt, Germany, a daughter of the late Adolf and Henriette (Langenbach) Levisstein, she fled Nazi Germany in 1938, and had lived in Providence since 1940.

Mrs. Oppenheim was a salesperson at the former Gladding's Department Store for many years before retiring.

She was a member of Temple Beth-El, an active member at Hamilton House, where she volunteered, and was a regular participant in the weekly bridge game.

She leaves a son, Robert Oppenheim of Boston; a daughter, Ellen Powers of West Dover, Vt.; four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. She was the sister of the late Ernst Steen.

Burial was in Temple Beth-El Cemetery.

## Yvette Rodman

PROVIDENCE — Yvette Rodman, 93, died Oct. 22. She was the wife of the late Joseph Rodman.

Born in Worcester, Mass., a daughter of the late Joseph and Hannah (Bornstein) Rutman, she lived in Providence for most of her adult life.

Mrs. Rodman was the former president of Charlesgate East Tenants Association, a life member of the former Jewish Home for the Aged, and a former member of the Cranston Senior Guild.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

## Bernard Sarenson

Cranston — Bernard Sarenson, 73, a retired quality control inspector, died Oct. 20. He was the husband of Florence (Grossman) Sarenson. They were married for 52 years.

Born in Providence, a son of the late Julius and Minnie (Weinstein) Sarenson, he had lived in Cranston for 43 years.

A graduate of Hope High School, he was a quality control inspector for the Rhode Island Insulated Wire Company for 38 years, retiring 17 years ago.

Mr. Sarenson was a member of the Touro Fraternal Association and Temple Torat Yisrael. He was an avid reader of current events.

Besides his wife, he leaves a son, Michael Sarenson, of Cranston; a daughter, Judith Paige, of Cranston; and three grandchildren. He was the father of the late Carol Beth Berman and the brother of the late John, Nathan, Max and Esther Sarenson and Frances Carrazzo.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

Contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, 222 Richmond St., Suite 200, Providence, RI, 02903 or the American Heart Association, 275 Westminster St., Providence, RI, 02903.

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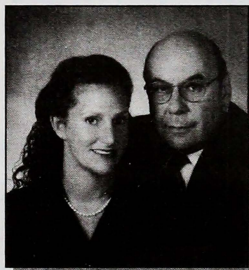


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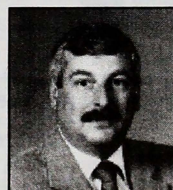
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