

# The JEWISH VOICE & HERALD

SERVING RHODE ISLAND AND SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS

9 Iyar 5764

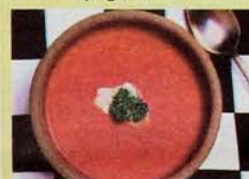
Jewish Federation of Rhode Island

April 30, 2004

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## JFS holds diamond anniversary

By Johnathan Rubin

PROVIDENCE — With a little help from Providence Mayor David Cicilline and the City of Providence, April 23, 2004 became "Jewish Family Service Day" in honor of the agency's 75th birthday. Members of community agencies joined the breakfast celebration at the United Way Building in Providence. John Shalett, executive director, said his organization was as committed as ever to "building strong neighbors and strong families."

The agency has come a long way since its founding in 1929, when two active women's volunteer social service groups — the South Providence Ladies Aid Association and the Montefiore Ladies Hebrew Benevolent Association — pooled resources and became the Jewish Family Welfare Service. The JFWS

See, JFS 75th, page 12

## Holocaust vigils held in R.I.

By Jonathan Rubin

PROVIDENCE — *Yom Hashoah*, or Holocaust Remembrance Day, is a difficult and moving occasion for Rhode Island Jews, with more than a dozen Holocaust survivors and dozens of children of survivors living in the greater Providence area. On April 18, remembrance events were held at the Rhode Island Holocaust Memorial Museum, on college campuses, by elected officials and in synagogues.

In the courtyard of the Holocaust museum, Edward Adler cast a solemn spell over the more than 150 people gathered, by reading a list of all of the relatives of Rhode Islanders who perished in the Holocaust. It was 20 pages long. Some had lost parents, children, spouses, or whole families. The list took

See, HOLOCAUST, page 19



**ABOVE:** A graphic showing Israel's relative size to Rhode Island. **BELOW:** Ruth Page, of the Bureau of Jewish Education, fields questions from some shoppers at the Warwick Mall as part of their Celebrations Program.

Photos by Jonathan Rubin



## Israel goes to the mall

By Jonathan Rubin

WARWICK — Israel pulled up to the GAP early Sunday morning, April 18. The 40-foot map was unrolled and then inflated, and soon enough a few kids were gliding along the Galilee... all in the Warwick Mall.

That Sunday, hummus and pita samples were just a few stores down from Auntie Ann's pretzel shop, courtesy of the Bureau of Jewish Education's Celebrations program. Shoppers slowed down when the massive map came into view, and stopped to chat with Rhode Island's two teenage Israel emissaries, Einat Goldstein and Yoav Arnon.

"It's nice to meet someone from that country...I love their accents," said Crystal Foley, 15, of Wakefield. She and her

See, ISRAEL AT THE MALL, page 13

## Jews rally for reproductive rights

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Thousands of Jewish women joined hundreds of thousands of American women — and a smattering of men — rallying for abortion rights at the National Mall on Sunday.

"As Jews, we know what it means to have fundamental rights and liberties stripped away," Marsha Atkind, president of the National Council of Jewish Women, told the overflow crowd. "And today, one of our most basic rights, our right to reproductive freedom, is under attack in courtrooms and legislatures across the country."

Much has been made of Jewish support for the Bush administration's stance on Israel, the fight against terrorism and, in many cases, the war in Iraq.

The political message from those Jews was clear this weekend. Some sported signs demonizing President Bush; others wore stickers for Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.).



**HADASSAH MEMBERS** rally for reproductive rights Sunday.

Photo courtesy of Hadassah

Hadassah and the National Council of Jewish Women bused in delegations from around the Northeast and Midwest. Hadassah's representatives wore matching red T-shirts; the National Council of Jewish Women's delegation wore blue.

The Conservative and Reconstructionist movements

were represented as well.

June Walker, Hadassah's national president, said it is important for the Jewish community to be involved in issues beyond Israel.

"We cannot be one-issue people," she said. "We must be part of the society we live in."



## The Jewish Voice & Herald

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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

April 30 7:25  
May 7 7:33  
May 14 7:40



## Community Calendar

### Fri. April 30

#### Social Action Shabbat at Beth-El

7:45 p.m. Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. Elizabeth Burke Bryant, Exec. Dir. of Kids Count, will speak at the Oneg Shabbat about poverty and Rhode Island's children. St. Martin's Church is invited. Donations of new or gently used clothing, books and toys are requested.

### Sat., May 1

#### Beth-El cabaret

7:30 p.m. Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. Cabaret fundraiser, auction, cast of "Now This" from Washington, D.C. \$36. For information, call 751-7219.

### Sun., May 2

#### Beth-El blood drive

9 a.m. — 1 p.m. at the temple, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence. Walk in or contact Schine@cox.net or call 751-7219.

#### Temple Sinai blood drive

9 a.m. — 1 p.m. Social Hall, 30 Hagen Ave., Cranston. For info, call Curt Abbott at 732-2784.

#### Jr. NCSY Grand Prix

Noon to 4 p.m. Meet at Beth Shalom, corner of Camp and Rochambeau. Drivers needed. Games, rides and snacks. \$10 members, \$15 non-members, no coupons. Call the National Council of Synagogue Youth, 529-3014.

#### Fall River Yiddish Club

1 p.m. meeting at the Adas Israel Synagogue, 1647 Robeson St., Fall River. Entertainment by Florence Markoff. Herb Leshinsky will explore his Jewish roots. Refreshments, singing. For info, call (508) 678-4273.

#### Workshop with historian Ray Rickman

2 p.m., Congdon Street Baptist Church, 17 Congdon St., Providence. African Americans, Jews, Irish, and WASPs on College Hill. For more information, call 331-1616 or email ron@18james.com.

#### Historical Association 50th

2 p.m. Jewish Community Center, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence. Lecture by Professor Phil Brown of Brown University on the Catskills in American-Jewish life. Social hour to follow. For information, call Anne Sherman at 331-3360.

#### Holocaust program in New Bedford

6:30 p.m. Holocaust Memorial in Buttonwoods Park, to Tifereth Israel Synagogue. Speaker: Dr. Warren Priest, Prof. at Kean State College, N.H. Member of the American Medical Corps that liberated Buchenwald concentration camp.

### Mon., May 3

#### Me'ah Adult education at Emanu-El

7 — 9:15 p.m. 99 Taft Ave., Providence. A program for

in-depth study of Judaism. www.hebrewcollege.edu/meah, or call Rabbi Alvan Kauner at 331-1616 for info or to register.

#### Emanu-El Leisure club

10 a.m. Temple Emanu-El Leisure Club, 99 Taft Ave., Providence. Talk on "The Caribbean Sea: Its Role in Medical History" with Dr. Stanley Aronson.

At 11:10 a.m. Lloyd Kaplan will speak on "An Opera, A Symphony and a Rhapsody: Three Compositions that Changed Music."

### Tues., May 4

#### Freedom lecture series

7 p.m. The Historic Newport Colony House. Panel discussion: Religious Diversity and Tolerance in Newport with speakers Dan Snyder, Executive Director Newport Historical Society; Keith Stokes, Executive Director Newport County Chamber of Commerce, and John Hattendorf, Prof. of History Naval War College. Light dessert reception following, with dietary laws.

#### Immigrant neighborhoods of Providence

7:30 p.m., Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence. Albert Klyberg, Heritage Harbor Museum (moderator), Pich Chhoeun, Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services; Marta V. Martinez, Hispanic Heritage Committee/RI; Lamin Sarr, African Alliance of Rhode Island and Melvin Zurier, Jewish Historical Association. Free and open to the public.

### Wed., May 5

#### Cranston Senior Guild

1 p.m. at Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston. Guest speaker Stephen Kane, psychotherapist and jazz musician presenting a program of jazz as an American art form. Raffle, refreshments.

### Thurs., May 6

#### Emanu-El Leisure club

10 a.m. Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence. "Understanding the Commandment to 'Honor Your Father and Mother' with Rabbi Peter Stein.

11:10 am: "Kolot Emanu-El: Voices of Emanu-El" with Cantor Brian Mayer.

### Fri., May 7

#### Fall River Beth El to honor founders

7 p.m. at the temple. Special service to honor the memories of 1929 original members. M. Charles Bakst to speak.

#### Beth-El scholar

7:45 p.m. Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence Shabbat service followed by Oneg with scholar-in-residence Peter Pitzele speaking on "What is Bibliodrama?"

### Sat., May 8

9 a.m. Minyan service followed by Torah study with Pitzele on "Bagels and Bibliodrama." Light lunch included.

6:30 p.m. Potluck supper for

Havurot;

7:30 p.m. Pitzele on Havdalah & Havurot.

### Sun., May 9

#### Lag Ba'omer BBQ

1 - 2:30 p.m. BBQ & Camp open house. 3871 Post Road, Warwick. Food, games, fun, arts & crafts. Donation \$3 and \$10 for family. RSVP to 884-7888.

#### PHDS Lag Ba'omer

Noon to 3 p.m. Behind the JCC, Elm Grove Ave., Providence. Parade, clown, food, kids' activities, rock wall. Sponsored by Providence Hebrew Day School and Chabad of R.I.

### Tues., May 11

#### Beth El of Fall River sisterhood luncheon

Noon in the vestry of the temple, 385 High St. Entertainment by Judy Bressler's "Klezmer Kabaret." Call Jean Eisenberg for reservations.

### Thurs., May 13

#### Emanu-El Leisure club

10 a.m. Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave., Providence. A Jewish Perspective on 'The Passion' by Rabbi Mark Jagolinzer.

11:10 am: "The Music of Shabbat," Cantor Richard Perlman.

#### JOIN talk in Attleboro

7 p.m. Attleboro Public Library, 74 North Main St. Talk by Dr. Stephen Kaplan of the Touro Foundation celebrating the 350th anniversary of the arrival of Jews in North America. Sponsored by JOIN, the Jewish Outreach Initiative. The event is free and open to the public. For information call Congregation Agudas Achim, (508) 222-224.

### Sat., May 15

#### Habonim to hold "Soulful Shabbat"

9:30 a.m. Temple Habonim, 165 New Meadow Rd., Barrington. Service of meditation, singing, expression. For info, call Deborah Krous at 247-9370 or dako72255@yahoo.com

#### SC Hebrew School potluck, folk dance

5:30 p.m. Jamestown Grange Hall, 6 West St. Israeli folk dance workshop and potluck.

\$18 per person; \$30 per couple, \$10 for babysitting. For more information, visit www.schebrewschool.org. RSVP by Saturday, May 8, to Bev Rudman at 423-1528.

### Sun., May 16

#### Hadassah Health Symposium

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Brown University Bio-Medical Center, Brown and Meeting Sts. Presentations by medical care professionals on ADD in adults, dental and eye care, dermatology and osteoporosis. Box lunches \$10 for Hadassah members, paid in advance and \$15 for non-members. Free if you join Hadassah (\$25 for 2004-2005). Reserve by May 3 by sending a check to Hadassah/Rhode Island, 1150 New London Ave., Cranston, RI 02920. For additional information call 463-3636 or email rhodeislandchapter@hadassah.org.

#### SR. NCSY planning trip to Purgatory Chasm

1:30 — 6:30 p.m. National Council of Synagogue Youth. Meet at Beth Shalom, corner of Camp St. and Rochambeau Ave., Providence. Guided tour and time to explore. \$8 for members, \$10 for non members. Bring a lunch. Need volunteers to drive.

#### Torah, you, friends at the zoo

2 to 4 p.m. Roger Williams Park and Zoo. For additional information and registration, contact Robin Kauffman at (401) 331-0956 or rkauffman@bjeri.org.

#### Ongoing

Holocaust exhibit at Tifereth Israel

Through May 3: Jewish War Veterans of New Bedford pictorial exhibit about the liberators of the concentration camps, at the synagogue.

## ON THE LOOK OUT FOR A USY ADVISOR

The search is on for  
a new advisor for one of  
the fastest growing  
USY chapters in the region.

The Cranston/Warwick USY is looking for an advisor who can:

- Lead Jewish teens
- Instill Leadership
- Organize Activities
- Promote USY Ideals

Successful candidate must have a car

Call Marty Cooper at: 295-7703 or Fran Cohen at: 885-0744  
for more information.



# Schechter spreading its preschool wings to Warwick

(Third in a series)

By Mary Korr

PROVIDENCE — Jewish educators say early childhood education is the gateway into the Jewish community. Last week Pauline Sy, a student in the pre-K program at the Alperin Schechter Day School, was the gatekeeper.

When Alec, 3, came by with his mom to visit the program, Pauline took his hand — and didn't let go. She brought him into circle time, where the topic was Earth Day. As the children spoke of the "safe" trash they could pick up in the schoolyard, he listened intently for awhile and then raised his hand and volunteered to pick up any wayward frogs.

His mom is interested in the new preschool program for 3-4 year olds Schechter is opening in September with Temple Am David in Warwick. She came to see what the program was all about.

"Judaism is at the heart of what we do," said Risa Walter, teacher/director of the pre-K program for 4-5 year olds. The program is in its third year. Walter and other teachers on the Schechter staff will also direct and teach in what will be called the Schechter West Bay Nursery School.

Preparations are almost complete. With an \$11,000 grant from the Jewish Federation, classrooms were refurbished.

"Our goal is to provide Jewish content for the Jewish community, not just our members," said Cantor Richard Perlman, who heads Am David. He said there is a need in the West Bay and South County areas for Jewish programs.

Rachel Silverman of East Greenwich will be sending her three-year-old son there. She was first introduced to the Temple through the Friday morning

Shalom Friends music program held there and open to all. "I didn't realize how much an early exposure to Judaism would mean to such a young child," she said.

The Warwick program, in response to needs expressed by prospective families, will be for 3-4 year olds, said Walter. It will meet from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. three mornings a week, with lunch. Day care will be available next door. The cost is \$2,900.

The Providence pre-K meets from 8 a.m. to noon, with extended days available, from noon to 3 p.m. The pre-K tuition this year ranges from about \$4,200 for five mornings a week, to \$7,260 for five full days.

## Conservative tradition

Schechter describes itself as an egalitarian Conservative Jewish day school which serves Jewish children and families with varying religious practices and beliefs.

Shabbat ends the week with a celebration that includes candle lighting, *challah*, *kiddush*, and singing. The holidays call for special foods like *Shavuot* blintzes.

"This is another place your child can call home," said Ruth Berenson, director of admissions.

ASDS is an affiliate of the Solomon Schechter Day School Association and is a member of the Independent School Association of Rhode Island. It is accredited by both the state of Rhode Island and the Bureau of Jewish Education and Independent School Association of Rhode Island.

The pre-K program is holding an open house on Thursday morning, May 13. For more information, call Eileen Ellis or Ruth Berenson at 751-2470 or email [ruthberenson\\_asds@yahoo.com](mailto:ruthberenson_asds@yahoo.com).



TELL ME A STORY — Students in the Pre-K program at the Alperin Schechter Day School in Providence listen to their morning story. From left are Pauline Sy, Lily Hamin, Penina Satlow, Emmett Stein, Director/teacher Risa Walter, Eitan Vilker, Aaron Jennis and Jeremiah Bermel. Photos by Mary Korr.



SCHNECHTER PRE-K student Pauline Sy gives a reassuring hand to a young visitor to the school last week.

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## A MAJORITY OF ONE Follow the early Zionist leaders

On the occasion of Israel's 56th birthday, earlier this month, this department discussed one of the reasons for the success of the Zionist movement and its great achievement, Israel.



**Yehuda Lev**

That reason was the pragmatic solutions the Zionists found for the problems they had to deal with, solutions that were often dressed in ideological justifications but which, at bottom, were grounded in reality.

It was also suggested that this pragmatic approach has been abandoned by Israel's leaders, leading to a situation in which problems, once dealt with by compromise, now seem incapable of solution.

Two events have brought about this deplorable condition. One, which is getting a lot of play in the media as a result of the growing disaster in Iraq, was Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982.

That move, ill-conceived and badly carried out, resulted in Israel's first "war of choice," i.e. a war which was not forced upon it but begun in response to the growing influence of the PLO in the

occupied territories.

The obvious parallel with the American invasion of Iraq — and even more so with Vietnam — lies in the failure of the invading force to gauge the strength and quality of the popular resistance and to avoid a prolonged conflict waged without an adequate exit strategy. That is the situation today in Iraq as described by the chattering classes that dominate our print and electronic news analyses.

But the more important parallel with Lebanon, mentioned by several commentators, lies in the insensitivity shown by the invaders to the needs of the local populations, in both cases, Shi'ite Muslims. In Iraq, Americans were welcomed by the Shi'ites who had long suffered under the domination of Saddam's Sunnis. In southern Lebanon, the Israelis were welcomed by the Shi'ites who suffered persecution at the hands of Palestinian refugees. But the Israelis, allied with Lebanon's Maronite Christian minority, simply ran roughshod over the Shi'ites and it didn't take long for them to squander that good will. The conflicts that resulted led to the formation of Hezbollah and to a permanent rupture with a potentially valuable ally.

The second, and more critical development, was the introduction of religion

as a factor in determining Israeli policy.

Of course Judaism was always central to the concept of a Jewish state in Palestine, but the founders of the modern Zionist movement, mainly secular Jews, rarely allowed religious imperatives to determine the practical decisions that led to the creation of the state. However, when religious parties became influential to the degree that their ideological agendas affected political decisions, an element was introduced into Israeli politics that did not allow for the compromises necessary for pragmatic policies. What the Israeli army won for us might be negotiable but what God has given us is non-negotiable.

This attitude was more or less kept under control during the early years of the state but became a threat to its survival only in 1977 when a coalition of Orthodox and nationalist secular parties formed a government under Menachem Begin. (In all fairness, the policy of settling Jews in the occupied territories was started by Labor governments which later had cause to regret their rashness.)

Since 1977, with the important exceptions of the peace treaties with Egypt and Jordan, it is difficult to think of an Israeli foreign or domestic policy decision that did not run afoul of the

absolutism dictated by religious strictures, enormously complicating attempts by Israel to arrive at peaceful resolutions both to its international disputes and its internal differences.

Nor is it difficult to find other examples in today's world of the tragedies that accompany the involvement of religion into politics, of which the far reaching Muslim extremist movements are only the most visible. It was a masterstroke of the founders of this country that they insisted upon strict separation of church and state in the Constitution, a basic premise of democracy wherever it exists.

Religion has an important role to play in Israel, but if the state is to survive it must be confined to the private sphere.

Fundamentalist religion, the kind practiced by Israel's religious parties, is absolutist. Politics in a democratic society succeeds by compromise. In a nation in which we are two percent of the population, the fundamentalists among us can be viewed as curiosa. In Israel, where Jews are 80 percent of the population, they are becoming a disaster.

*Yehuda Lev, a retired journalist lives in Providence.*

## Letters to the editor

### In support of Jewish gays

We are responding to the April 2 article by Rabbi Moshe Antelman, "Don't Dance Around Abominations." While we are not Torah scholars as Rabbi Antelman claims to be, we do understand the difference between free will and the lack thereof. Gay men and women do not have a choice. They are just gay. They were born that way. Many gay people spend many years of their lives and many years of therapy fighting their natural feelings until they realize they are what they are.

The Torah teaches us that God created man in his own image. Would he then have created a group of people in his own image who commit "capital crimes" because of the way they were born?

Actually, there are gay people in all walks of life including the Orthodox community. There are even gay Ortho-

dox rabbis.

Most gay people lead productive lives and perform many *mitzvahs*. If we Jews are a loving, caring people as we want the world to believe, then should we not reach out to gay people and ask them to join our congregation and be enriched by our Torah? Should we not benefit from what gays can contribute to our congregation? If we are "a light to the nations" then we should lead the way and be inclusive rather than exclusive. We should be the first, not the last, to end discrimination of all peoples.

The Jews have been the people who have been discriminated against the most. How can we discriminate against anyone who has been created in God's image?

**Louise and Bob Zuckerman**  
Providence

### From a Barrington reader

I would like you to know that I think the quality of your articles has improved in the last few months. I find them very interesting and read most of them.

I also like the calendar format with

### Judaism is love, not hate

Rabbi Moshe Antelman's Judaism refers to non-Jews who condemn homosexuality as "righteous Gentiles," the same term we use to describe non-Jews who helped save our people from Nazi extermination. While Antelman cites passages from the Torah to justify his

local Jewish community events.

Keep up the good work.

**Ruth Perlow**  
Barrington

attacks against gay people, I wonder if the rabbi would also advocate stoning to death a new wife who was not a virgin, as called for in Deuteronomy 22:20. My Judaism is a religion of love; Rabbi Antelman's is one of hate.

**Marc Paige**  
Cranston

### Paper makes Jewish link in R.I.

When I moved to Quincy, Mass., from New York City, I was told that I should subscribe to the *Jewish Advocate* to be connected to "things Jewish" in the area. By the second issue, I was shouting back at the paper.

It was one-sided, I believe. The content was almost entirely a listing of events with more space given to the group that agreed with the editor's views. So I cancelled my subscription with a letter explaining why.

I had joined the Agudas Achim Congregation in Attleboro, the closest Reconstructionist *shul* I could find. And with my membership dues, I receive your newspaper, *kol ha kavod!* (Well done!)

There is a variety of views from Mr. Lev to the American Israeli Political Action Committee. There are articles of content — even recipes.

I look forward to reading your newspaper when it arrives.

**Rosalind Mainelli**  
Quincy, Mass.

### May is 'Mental Health' month

I have been a board member of The Rhode Island Mental Health Association for many years. May is Mental Health month and the association is sponsoring my artwork at Pawtucket City Hall for the whole month. All proceeds will go to the Association. Please let the Jewish community know how Jewish patients can be creative after mental illness.

**Carolyn Schwartz**  
Pawtucket

### 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)



## VIEWPOINT

# The obsession of Mel Gibson

By Rabbi James B. Rosenberg

I was supposed to see Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ* with a number of my Christian colleagues from the Barrington Clergy Association. However, a family emergency called me away that day so I saw the movie later by myself. In the ensuing days I did have the opportunity to speak with several members of Barrington's clergy about their reactions to *The Passion*. Catholic priests and Protestant ministers have told me that the movie presents a view of Christianity that distorts their faith almost beyond recognition.

I thoroughly disliked the film, though not for reasons that you might suspect. Yes, Gibson's treatment of the High Priest Caiaphas, his fellow Temple priests, and the Jerusalem mob is unremittingly hostile; and yes, in defiance of the historical documentation of Pontius Pilate's brutal rule of Judea from the years 26-36, Gibson offers us a fictional version of the Roman procurator as a compassionate and sensitive man. Nevertheless, in my judgment, it is unfair to condemn *Passion* as anti-Semitic. Furthermore, I do not believe that Mel Gibson is himself an anti-Semite, nor do I believe that he should be held accountable for the sins of his father. I think that the organized Jewish community in this country has blundered badly in focusing so much attention on the alleged dangers posed by the showing of *The Passion*; all we have managed to do is to boost ticket sales for a movie that is not worth the price of admission.

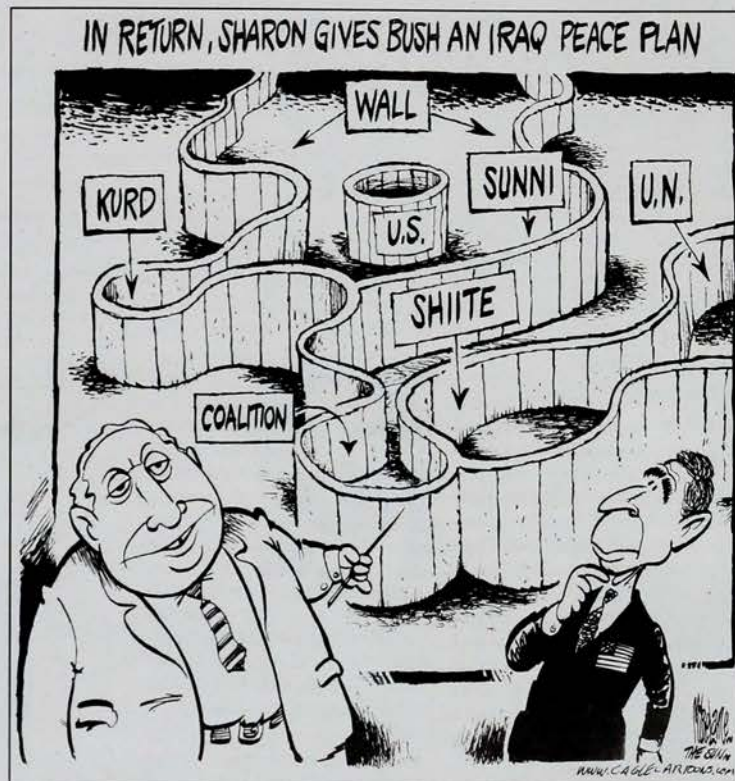
What do I find so objectionable about Gibson's film? From my perspective, the movie is pornographic in its violence; Gibson seems determined to test the legal and the aesthetic limits of both the quantity and the quality of the violence he can show on the screen. The interminable scourging scene is a case in point. Just how much whipping is Jesus able to endure? After ten minutes of being beaten mercilessly with leather straps, Jesus apparently still has too much skin left to satisfy Gibson's blood lust. So Gibson directs the actors who are playing the sadistic Roman soldiers to switch to straps with metal barbs at their tips; so we can spend another ten minutes watching actual bits of flesh being torn from Jesus' body.

Is Mel Gibson really interested in recreating Jesus' sacrificial torment? Or is Gibson more interested in working out his perverse obsession with blood and gore? In the end, *The Passion of the Christ* seems to have little to do with the Christian story, but with Gibson's idiosyncratic retelling. As a rabbi interested in the origins of Christianity, I am dismayed by Gibson's refusal to balance his notion of the Christ of faith with what we are uncovering about the Jesus of history. In his recent television interview with Diane Sawyer, Gibson made it clear that he has no use for any of the Biblical scholarship of the past 150 years that clarifies to some extent the ways in which Jesus of Nazareth is a product of the Jewish community of first cen-

tury Palestine. To the contrary, Gibson remains an unrepentant fundamentalist, who can see no difference between the Jesus of the Gospel According to Mark and the Jesus of the Gospel According to John. To Mel Gibson's thinking, the four canonical Gospels represent a seamless whole, which must be accepted or rejected in its entirety.

Gibson's approach appears to me to be a self-indulgent exercise in excess. I find it telling that in a movie in which close to twenty minutes are devoted to the scourging of Jesus, barely twenty seconds are devoted to a visualization of the Resurrection. Though I am not a Christian, I know enough to say that the Christian story does not end with the death on Good Friday; rather, the faithful Christian moves through Good Friday to the renewed life of Easter morning. What troubles me about *The Passion of the Christ* is that Mel Gibson prefers that his audience stand forever in the shadow of the Cross, drenched in the blood of the Crucifixion, deprived of the life-giving power of the Resurrection.

James Rosenberg is rabbi at Temple Habonim in Barrington.



## ALISON ON ALIYAH Forever an outsider

There is a new television show here, on the comedy network, that has begun to accumulate a significant viewership. It is called, "M.K. 22," the name of a fictional army unit, and, as far as I know, it is the first "cartoon for adults" — Israel's answer to "South Park."

Indeed, similar to "South Park," this show appears to have no limits in the areas of profanity, racism, and inappropriateness and my Israeli friends find it endlessly hilarious. I, on the other hand, can barely catch a word of the dialogue, and have no idea what is going on most of the time. I have seen the commercials for it hundreds of times now, and each time I find myself filled with an intense feeling of longing. I feel painfully inadequate whenever I try to understand this show, and I would give anything to comprehend the cultural framework from which it comes.

The commercial states, in a knowing tone, "It's the true story of all of us — the show that will do to the army what the army did to us." This continually strikes me as a distinct and purposeful message. There is no more stark contrast among the citizens of Israel than the one between those who will do, are doing, or have done army service — and those who have not and will never serve this country. It is the difference between Israeli Jews and Israeli Arabs; between non-religious or conservative and ultra-religious or Orthodox; between "true" citizens and those of us who, like me, decided to join the

country a bit late in the game. I have an Israeli identity card, and I have an Israeli passport, and I am prouder of nothing more than that indelible "Israeli" stamped in the "citizenship" spot. But I am not, and I will never be, truly Israeli. And I am never more conscious of this than when I am trying desperately to understand a joke, or a slang expression, or a show such as "M.K. 22," while all my Israeli friends are laughing knowingly around me.

I've seen this phenomenon in many of my *oleh* friends — this distinct sense of being Israeli but never really being Israeli. I have three female friends here who emigrated from America decades ago, each one married to a native Israeli, each with kids my age. Each has had her own issues and hardships with her adjustment here, but they all consider themselves Israeli. Sometimes I wonder, however, how the still-ever-present clash between their American upbringing and their Israeli identity really plays out for them.

I am very close with one of these women, and I frequently think of her as my mentor in the dimension of *klita*, or absorption into Israeli society. Her Hebrew is absolutely fluent, and she bounces back and forth between English and Hebrew within a given sentence with an unawareness that only comes with complete mastery of the languages. Every once in a while, however, I see a blank stare on her face when her sons tell an "Israeli" joke, or an uncertainty when her husband is discussing the historical root of a certain Hebrew word. I wonder, how must it be for her to encounter things like this that she doesn't understand, even after twenty years in the country? One of the other women

told me that throughout her children's schooling, they always made sure to ask her husband to write the notes to their teachers or to sign permission slips, because they were always embarrassed by her childlike Hebrew handwriting and spelling mistakes.

And then there's this issue of the army. How can any American ever understand what Israeli army service is like? And how can anyone hope to understand Israeli society without having been a part of such a huge facet of it? Having a civilian army means that a huge percentage of the society has been a part of protecting, serving, and paying loyalties (whether he or she chooses to or not) to his or her country. Not to be a part of this is to be lacking something powerful and — whether Israelis will admit it or not — unifying.

God willing, my children will serve in the Israeli army. And I will forever be an outsider to their experiences, and to the lessons they will learn about themselves and about their society. I will always be standing outside, desperately rubbing the fog of my breath off the windows to see more. And I will never know the fear, and the sense of accomplishment, and the pain that comes with these army experiences that are so familiar to everyone else around me. My children, and my grandchildren, will be cultural strangers to me in many ways. There will come a day, hopefully soon, that I will be able to translate every word of "M.K. 22." But I know that I will never truly understand it.

Alison Stern Golub can be emailed at [Alison\\_Golub@hotmail.com](mailto:Alison_Golub@hotmail.com). You can also read more about her adventures on her website at [www.alisonsterngolub.com](http://www.alisonsterngolub.com).



Alison Golub



## Federation

### Federation to honor Orodener, Raskin, Davis

PROVIDENCE — At its annual meeting on Tuesday, May 11, the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island (JFRI) will be presenting the Joseph W. Ress Community Service Award to Norman G. Orodener; the Hassenfeld Award to Russell Raskin, and the Riesman Award to Lisa Davis.

#### Joseph W. Ress Community Service Award

The award recognizes individuals who have fulfilled leadership roles in the Federation, local or national Jewish agencies, and the general Rhode Island community.



Norman Orodener

Orodener has served as a vice president of JFRI and chair of the Community Relations Council (CRC). He is a past president of Jewish Family Service and is first vice president of the Urban League. He chairs the Governor's Commission on Prejudice & Bias and the Providence Police Advisory Committee.

On behalf of the CRC, he currently co-chairs the Black Jewish Alliance and the Jewish Latino Alliance. He co-chaired the Jackie Robinson Exhibit, a collaboration between CRC and

the Urban League.

Orodener is a senior partner with Tillinghast Licht Perkins Smith & Cohen. He resides in Cranston with his wife Sylvia.

#### The Hassenfeld Award

Russell Raskin will receive the Merrill L. Hassenfeld Award for community service. The



Russell Raskin

purpose of this award is to "recognize and honor individuals who have performed community service by active participation in one of the major beneficiary agencies of the JFRI." The winner receives funding to go on a United Jewish Communities Mission to Israel.

Raskin's nomination by the Providence Hebrew Day School noted his 25 years of service to PHDS. He is the current president, has served for many years as vice president, chaired and sat on a number of committees for the school, and helped with the dean's search last year.

His other community involvements include president of the New England Academy of Torah; Boy Scouts cubmaster pack 104, the JFRI's Board of Directors, president of East Side Low Income Housing Project, and a member of the Legal Ethics

Committee.

Raskin and his wife, Deborah, and eight children live in Providence.

#### The Riesman Award

Lisa Davis will receive the Robert A. and Marcia S. Riesman Leadership Development Award, given as a "stimulus to inspire and encourage emerging JFRI leadership." As a recipient, Davis and her husband will attend the General Assembly of the United Jewish Communities in Cleveland, Ohio next November.

Davis is active in the JFRI; she has co-chaired the Women's

Alliance annual meeting for 2004, been an active solicitor for the annual campaign, was past chair of the Young Women's Committee, serving on the Women's Alliance nominating committee, and is current associate secretary of the Women's Alliance.

Davis lives in Pawtucket with her husband Larry, and their two sons.

The presentation will take place from 7:00 p.m. in the social hall of the Jewish Community Center, 401 Elm Grove Ave., Providence.



Lisa Davis

From the Federation Executive Vice President

### Counting our blessings

This is the time of the Jewish year that we count. We count the Omer during the period between Passover and Shavuot. During this period, we are reminded that the freedom we celebrate during Passover doesn't come without



Janet Engelhart

responsibility. Shavuot, the festival that commemorates the giving of the Ten Commandments at Sinai, reminds us that we are responsible, one for the other.

In that spirit, I cannot help but reflect on how we count on the more than 200 individuals, you see listed on the facing page. By agreeing to serve as our governing body, they have made a commitment to be the eyes and ears of our Federation around the state, to relate to friends and neighbors how we are the lifeline for vulnerable Jews around the world, and how, with the Partnership, we're working more proactively with neighborhoods.

That is why the nominating committees of the past three years, chaired by Joshua Teverow, Doris Feinberg and, this year, Bob Starr, made a concerted effort to diversify our board geographically, by age and by gender.

There are three groups we intend to honor at our annual meeting. We will thank incom-

ing and outgoing officers of the Federation, those individuals who take significant ongoing responsibility on our behalf. We will salute the leaders of our local constituent agencies who serve the most vulnerable of our 18,000 Jewish community members, and help all of us to have fuller, more meaningful Jewish lives on a daily basis.

And, of course, we will honor those who have been selected to receive this year's leadership and community service awards. These individuals have distinguished themselves in forwarding the values of *tikkun olam*, repair of the world, and *kol yisrael areyvim zeh bah zeh*, all Jews being responsible, one for the other. Norman Orodener, the Joseph W. Ress Community Service awardee, has spent his lifetime assuring that the least fortunate among us are treated with respect. Russell Raskin, the Merrill L. Hassenfeld Community Service Award recipient, has spent more than 20 years assuring that children receive an excellent Jewish education, and working to build a strong Providence Hebrew Day School. Lisa Davis, the recipient of the Robert A. and Marcia S. Riesman Leadership Development Award, has found her Jewish voice in our Women's Alliance, where she has assumed leadership for the Young Women's Division.

Please join me at our annual meeting on May 11 to honor those who work on our behalf every day.

  
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# Jewish Federation of Rhode Island Annual Meeting

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\* Ex-officio

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*Please Join Us*

*For the 59th Annual Meeting*

*of the*

*Jewish Federation of Rhode Island*

*Tuesday, May 11, 2004 – 7:00 p.m.*

*20 Iyar 5764*

*A Celebration of Our Community*

*at the*

*Jewish Community Center Social Hall*

*401 Elmgrove Avenue, Providence*

*Presentation of Leadership and Service Awards*

*Joseph W. Ress Community Service Award ✧ Norman G. Orodener*

*Riesman Leadership Development Award ✧ Lisa Davis*

*Merrill L. Hassenfeld Leadership in Community Service Award ✧ Russell Raskin*

*Installation of Officers and Board Members*

*A proposal to amend the By-laws to reflect the current spending and allocation policies of the Endowment Fund will be submitted at the meeting*

*Dessert Reception*

*Mark R. Feinstein, President ✧ Janet H. Engelhart, Executive Vice President*

**The Jewish Federation of Rhode Island**

**2004-05 Proposed Slate of Officers and Members of the Board of Directors**

Counter nominations may be made in writing, signed by at least 25 members of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island and filed with the Secretary at least fifteen (15) days prior to the Annual Meeting on May 11, 2004. For more information contact Janet Engelhart, Executive Vice President, at 421-4111.



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## Diplomatic and strategic setbacks highlight weaknesses of the Palestinians

(News Analysis)

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The assassination of Hamas leader Abdel Aziz Rantissi, combined with President Bush's backing of Israel's disengagement plan from the Palestinians, has dealt a double blow to Palestinian hopes for strategic leverage in the Middle East.

Palestinians now are looking to the Gaza Strip as the next opportunity to reorganize a political community in disarray.

It remains unclear who will take over in Gaza after the Israelis pull out, but sources say Israel and the Palestinians increasingly are eyeing Mohammed Dahlan, the former Palestinian Authority minister of internal security, as a future strongman.

With the elimination of Hamas' leadership leaving a potential political vacuum in the Gaza Strip, Dahlan, a pragmatist, is the natural candidate to fill it.

"I don't want to discuss names," Palestinian lawmaker Hanan Ashrawi told JTA. "What's important in Gaza is not that name or another, what's necessary is the rule of law — and if it's Mohammed Dahlan that contributes to achieving it, then so be it."



PRESIDENT BUSH and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon shake hands during a news conference at the White House on April 14.

Photo Paul Morse/White House

few Palestinian leaders who dared to speak out in favor of Israel's disengagement plan — or, at least, the Gaza portion of it, praising it as vindication of the Palestinian terrorist strategy. But that was before Bush's endorsement of the plan and the killing of Rantissi.

Now, with Bush supporting Israel's claim to part of the West Bank, Palestinians may find it harder to swallow Dahlan's initial backing of the plan. Moreover, Israel's preference for Dahlan could work against him, as the Palestinians repudiate any leader favored by Israel.

In a recent interview with Toronto's Globe and Mail newspaper, Dahlan said that a reformed, liberated Gaza Strip could serve as a model for a future Palestinian administration. He dismissed suggestions that the Palestinian Authority is threatened by Hamas and said the Palestinian Authority would have no problem reasserting its control over a liberated Gaza Strip.

At the same time, the Palestinian Authority has been negotiating with Hamas and Islamic Jihad — another terrorist group — on understandings for the

See SETBACKS, page 9

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## Diplomatic and strategic setbacks

From page 8

post-withdrawal period.

Palestinian newspapers have compared Bush's declaration of support for Israel's disengagement plan to the 1917 Balfour Declaration. That letter, written by the British foreign secretary, Lord Balfour, to the Jewish leader Baron Rothschild, stated that "His Majesty's Government views with favor the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people."

Bush's statement on April 15, which demonstrated that the United States accepts permanent Israeli settlement in parts of the West Bank, will be marked as yet another notorious date in the history of the Palestinian national tragedy, Palestinian newspapers said.

Traditionally, U.S. policy has regarded the settlements as illegal, but now that policy has been reversed.

Many Palestinians perceive Bush's warm embrace of Sharon as a signal that settlements like Ariel and Ma'aleh Adumim are here to stay. Even the Clinton administration, in its January 2001 proposal for a peace agreement, had done much the same,

proposing that Israel retain major settlement blocs close to the pre-1967 boundary.

Still, even Palestinians who had expressed a willingness to accept minor border alterations and territorial exchanges were devastated by Bush's April 15 statements.

Yasser Abed Rabbo, a Palestinian architect of the unofficial "Geneva accord" peace proposal, said the Bush-Sharon meeting amounted to "the end of the peace process." P.A. Prime Minister Ahmed Qurei described it as a "catastrophe."

Thus, the Palestinians will move in two directions: They will try to convince the European Union to push the Americans toward a more "balanced" policy, and they will try to enlist growing resentment toward Bush in the Arab world for their cause.

Within the Palestinian political community, Rantissi's killing makes dialogue between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority easier in the short run.

With Rantissi gone and Hamas weakened, the Palestinian Authority may find it easier to reach an internal understand-

ing with Hamas — provided that Hamas' leadership in Damascus does not get in the way. With the Palestinian political establishment weak already, unity is key.

Stephen F. Schiff, M.D., F.A.C.S.

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Photo by Jason Parental

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## Remembering the fallen

An Israeli family prays over the grave of their relative, as soldiers join them at the Mt. Herzl military cemetery in Jerusalem on the eve of Yom Hazikaron, Israel's memorial day for its fallen soldiers. Israel marked Memorial Day on Monday, to honor all those Israeli soldiers killed in wars since the creation of the Jewish state in 1948.

Photo: Brian Hendler/JTA

### Providence Hebrew Day School / New England Academy of Torah Amudim Dinner and Awards Ceremony

Sunday, June 13, 2004 ❖ 450 Elm Grove Avenue ❖ Providence, RI 02906 ❖ To place an ad, call (401) 331-5327



**Dr. and Mrs. Michael Felder**  
Amudim Award Recipients

The Providence Hebrew Day School / New England Academy of Torah is pleased to honor Dr. and Mrs. Michael Felder with the Amudim Award of 2004. We recognize this special couple for their service to the Providence Hebrew Day School and to the Providence Jewish community as a whole.

Elissa cares for their young family and has been chair and co-chair of the Parent Teacher Family (PTF) Organization over many of the last several years. She teaches davening (prayer) to the second grade and substitutes as the Physical Education teacher. She is very active with the Chevra Kadisha (Jewish Burial Society), has served on the Jewish Community Day School Task Force and has been a key organizer of the PHDS "Winter Extravaganza". She continues to involve herself in many of the activities at the school. Michael works as a Family Doctor, seeing patients in his Warwick office. He also teaches medical ethics at the Brown University Medical School and medical ethics, internal medicine and pediatrics at the Rhode Island and Miriam Hospitals. He has chaired the PHDS Education Committee for the last three years and has been an active member of the Executive Board, serving on a number of ad hoc committees. Michael has also served on the Board of the Bureau of Jewish Education and the Jewish Federation.



**Mrs. Fania Gross**  
Dor L Dor Award

The Providence Hebrew Day School and the New England Academy of Torah are proud to bestow the Dor L Dor - Generation to Generation - Award to Mrs. Fania Gross in recognition of her thirty plus years of dedicated service to the school.

Mrs. Gross was raised in Bialostok, Poland, where she attended and graduated from the Mizrahi Hebrew Teachers College in Vilna. She met her American husband in Poland and was able to immigrate to the United States in 1939. She settled in Providence and attended Rhode Island College.

Mrs. Gross began an illustrious career at the Providence Hebrew Day School shortly after her arrival in the United States. Over the course of her thirty years, she taught many different grades ranging from kindergarten to high school and had a profound impact on her students. Mrs. Gross notes that PHDS was the first Hebrew school in the area and that, "PHDS felt like home". She particularly enjoyed the nice parents, the wonderful children, and the warm atmosphere.

Mrs. Gross has three children. Norman is a lawyer in Chicago. Libby, who lives in Waterford, is a retired teacher and won the state award for best teacher. Bernice lives in White Plains and is a teacher/social worker.

Mrs. Gross still maintains a strong friendship with the Beiser family and other families in the Providence area.



**Mr. Sherwin Goodblatt**  
Founders Hall of Fame Award

For over 50 years, the Providence Hebrew Day School and the New England Academy of Torah have been providing high quality Jewish and secular education to children throughout Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts. The founding, continuation and enhancement of this institution are attributed to the hard work and inspiration of a number of dedicated individuals over the years. With this in mind, a Founders Hall of Fame was established to pay tribute to those who dedicated themselves to PHDS/NEAT and Jewish education. This year's recipient of the Founders Hall of Fame award is Mr. Sherwin Z. Goodblatt.

Mr. Goodblatt is a native of Providence and the son of two of the earliest founders/supporters of the Providence Hebrew Day School, the late Alex H. and Sarah L. Goodblatt. Mr. Goodblatt has continued the family tradition of supporting Jewish education at the school. He is a graduate of Providence College and holds graduate degrees from Georgia State University and Columbia University. He trained as a hospital administrator at Maimonides Medical Center in Brooklyn, New York. He served as Director of the Deborah Hospital in New Jersey and Massachusetts Rehabilitation Hospital in Boston and as Director of the Rhode Island Group Health Association. Additionally, he has had a long career in teaching at Providence College, Rutgers University and Columbia University.



## News Briefs

### Saudi FM: We don't fund Hamas

Saudi Arabia says it has cut off funds to the families of Palestinian suicide bombers. "Now not a penny is going from Saudi Arabia," Prince Saud al-Faisal, the Saudi foreign minister, told NBC's "Today" show in an interview broadcast Monday. "The controls are really very stringent." Reminded that until two years ago, tens of millions of dollars went to Palestinian terrorist groups, Saud insisted that today Saudi money was "not funding Hamas or suicide bombers." U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell welcomed the statement. "I'm pleased that he is being so categorical about it because our information is that the Saudis now see it the same way we do," he said.

### Happy birthday, Israel

Israel kicked off its Independence Day celebrations. The Jewish state's 56th birthday began at sundown Monday, when 16 athletes lit candles at a blue-ribbon ceremony at Mount Herzl in Jerusalem. The event also ended the memorial day for Israel's war dead.

### Sharon to return to Washington

Israel's prime minister will return to Washington next month to promote his plan to withdraw from the Gaza Strip. Ariel Sharon, whose attendance at the annual AIPAC conference May 16-18 was confirmed Monday, also is likely to meet with President Bush during the visit. Another Bush-Sharon summit, coming after the May 2 Likud Party referendum on the Gaza withdrawal plan, would expand

on details of Israel's plan for disengagement from the Palestinians. There's no word yet on whether Bush will address the AIPAC conference. The State Department's top envoy for the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, John Wolf, who rarely makes public appearances, also is scheduled to address the conference.

### Israel, in memoriam

On Israel's memorial day, Israelis remembered the country's 21,782 fallen soldiers and victims of terrorism. The Jewish state came to a halt for two minutes Sunday night and Monday morning as sirens sounded nationwide to mark the memorial day. Bereaved families and friends flocked to cemeteries around the country, and many Israeli businesses were closed. Israeli security forces remained on high alert as Israel prepared to celebrate its 56th Independence Day, beginning Monday night.

### Revisiting Iraqi WMDs

Israel's army chief of staff said Iraq had chemical weapons before the U.S. invasion last year. In an interview published Monday in Israel's *Yediot Achronot* newspaper, Lt. Gen. Moshe Ya'alon said Israeli intelligence identified Iraqi aircraft that were designed to deliver chemical weapons in attacks on the Jewish state. "We identified them as unmanned drones, Tupolev-16s and Sukhois," Ya'alon said. "They were specially rigged for these kinds of missions, dispersing chemical weapons...we are talking about dozens or no more than hundreds of kilos of material" that was toxic. U.S. officials did not immediately comment on the report.

### New Hamas leader

A co-founder of Hamas reportedly has taken over the terrorist group's leadership. *Ha'aretz* reported Monday that Mahmoud Zahar, a surgeon who spent several stints in Israeli jails for co-founding Hamas, was secretly elected to replace the group's recently assassinated leader, Abdel Aziz Rantissi.



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## JFS celebrates 75th anniversary

From page 1

immediately went to work and during the Great Depression, offered relief packages, grants and job opportunities.

In the late '30s, it got its first taste of immigration services, as Jews fleeing Nazi-infested Europe began arriving in the United States. Immigration and resettlement services later became a hallmark of the organization, continuing into the late 1980s and early '90s when waves of Soviet Jews came to Rhode Island.

In the early '40s, the organization began to focus more on children and orphans, and when its partner, the Jewish Orphanage of Rhode Island, closed, it began finding foster homes for them. It changed its name to Jewish Family and Children's Service as a result of the shift.

A period of slow growth followed, until Paul Segal became executive director in 1971 and the organization became known as Jewish Family Service. Segal, who retired in 2003, expanded the staff and services. The organization moved to the United Way Building from its modest space on the Butler Hospital grounds, and soon the programming blossomed into senior services such as home care, the kosher meal site in Cranston (1981), and the Lifeline Emergency Response System

(1986). It hired more registered nurses and in 1990 the JFS offices had to be renovated to handle the growth in programs. It was recognized for its service to the Jewish community in 1989 when it became a "core agency" of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, and began receiving an annual allocation.

The early '90s also saw the addition of its counseling services, including grief and mourning services and drug and alcohol counseling. It established the "Family of the Year" award in 1994, and the Julie Claire Guterman Memorial Lecture in 2000 for mental health professionals.

The 21st century has been a dynamic one for JFS, providing many challenges and opportunities. John Shalett replaced Paul Segal, while United Way restructuring left JFS on a multi-year decline in their core allocation. Their Lifeline program recently reached a new highlight as well, gaining its 1,000th subscriber.

**GREETINGS** — At right, Ellen Steingold, director of refugee settlement at Jewish Family Service, shakes hands with a newly arrived immigrant from the Soviet Union, in an undated file photo.

Photo courtesy JFS.



JFS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR John Shalett greets Mayor Cicilline at anniversary event.



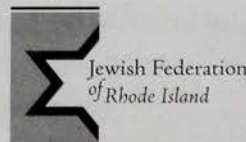
## You Make The Difference



- ☆ URI students Rachel Palmer (2nd from left) and Tamar Weinberg (right) are among the 60,000 participants to date in the *birthright israel* program, which sends college students and young adults on their first organized trip to Israel.
- ☆ Those who go learn more about Israel and more about their own Jewish identity — many become Jewish leaders on campus and in their communities.
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# Community

## Israel at the mall

From page 1

mother put on 3-D glasses and looked at different pictures of Israeli environment, from deserts to mountains to lush green forests.

A man in a business suit examined the map for a few seconds and then asked where the West Bank was. Frund took off her shoes, climbed onto the map and walked along the bordering regions of the West Bank, and then pointed to the surrounding cities in Israel proper.

The program "gives people an opportunity to connect" to the Jewish community, said Minna Ellison, director of the BJE. "It also let's merchants know that there is a Jewish consumer base."

The Celebrations program, which is made possible by an endowment grant from the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, partners with a Jewish organization and a local business to "bring

Jewish life into the marketplace." The Warwick event partnered with the Community Relations Council of the JFRI, while their Sukkah building program at Home Depot in North Providence partnered with Temple Shalom, and their recipe class at Bella Art in Cranston partnered with Temple Sinai.

"I really see this as everybody's program, not just ours," Ellison said.

While the event unfortunately had to compete with the first beach day of the summer, it still managed to pull a multitude of people, Jewish and otherwise, over to the informational booth. They picked up information about Israel's varied religious communities, toy Israeli flags and even recipes for tahini. Shira Kaplan, of Providence, drove down to the mall to let her children Aaron, 9, and Rebecca,



**CHILDREN AT THE MALL** — Aaron Kaplan and Einat Goldshtein walk on a virtual map of Israel.

Photo by Jonathan Rubin

6, play on the map. "Aaron loves it," she said. "And it gives us a chance to see everything at

once." The next event will be "The Torah, You and Our Friends at the Zoo," held at Roger Williams



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# Arts

## Ten Commandments magnet for kids

By Charli Sheer

*Shavuot* is the late springtime holiday in which we celebrate the giving of the Torah to Moses on Mt. Sinai. It occurs on the 6th and 7th of *Sivan*, corresponding to May or June on the secular calendar.

In biblical times, *Shavuot* (Hebrew for "weeks") was the time when agricultural offerings were brought to the Temple in Jerusalem to celebrate the end of the spring barley harvest and the start of the summer wheat harvest.

### Ten Commandments Magnet

"Every day should be Mother's Day," I was told as a child. However, in many of today's non-traditional families, "Parent's Day" might be the best name for a holiday on which to show respect and love for those who fill the traditional mother and/or father roles. It is with this in mind that the 5th Commandment quoted in this project has been edited from "Honor your father and mother" to "Honor your parents".

On *Shavuot*, the Torah reading includes the Ten Commandments, the fundamental laws by which we are expected to live our lives. Traditionally, these laws are represented in the form of the two stone tablets.

The Book of Ruth is also read during *Shavuot*. Much of the story occurs in the barley fields during harvest time. It relates the touching story of Ruth, a non-Jew by birth, whose devotion to her Jewish mother-in-law, Naomi, led to her conversion to Judaism.

### Level of difficulty:

Easy to Intermediate

### What you'll need:

4" x 9" piece of construction paper  
scissors  
gluestick  
business card size magnets (may be purchased in packages of 25 anywhere office supplies are sold)  
magazines or color newspaper supplements

colored pencils, markers, or crayons

### What you'll do:

1. Bring the two 4" sides towards each other until the edges meet. Crease the two outside edges, so that a pair of "doors" is formed.

2. Cut a rounded edge on the top of each door.

3. Choose one color to represent the stone tablets, such as brown, gray, or light blue. From color magazine pages or newspaper supplements, tear bits of your chosen color hue.

4. Cover the doors completely by gluing and overlapping torn paper pieces.

5. Choose a contrasting color. From 3/8" wide strips, cut 26 pieces each 1/2" long.

6. Use the thin strips to form Roman numerals.

Glue I (1), II (2), III (3), IV (4), [not V (5)] on the right door, from top to bottom.

Glue VI (6), VII (7), VIII (8), IX (9), and X (10) on the left door.

The numbers are arranged this way to reflect the direction in which Hebrew is read.

Variation: You may use a contrasting color marker to write the corresponding Hebrew letters to represent the numbers.

7. Use a different contrasting color to form the Roman numeral V (5).



Glue it on the right door below the IV (4).

8. Open the doors and on the inside write

"The 5th Commandment - Honor Your (Father and Mother) Parents."

9. Press the self-stick magnet onto the back.

Variation: Add a loop of ribbon for hanging.

The completed project makes a very thoughtful gift.

## Sculptor to speak at JCC Gallery 401

PROVIDENCE—Sculptor Robert Katz will speak about his upcoming exhibit at Gallery 401 in the Jewish Community Center at 2 p.m., Friday, May 7.

The exhibit, called "Small Altars," will run from May 9-29. The focus of the work is on the Holocaust.

Katz will show a video that

documents his search for his family, who lived in Poland prior to the Holocaust. The video records his journey from his grandfather's *shtetl*, to Krakow's old Jewish ghetto, and ends with images of the death camps.

Katz is a professor of art at the University of Maine at Augusta.

The event is co-sponsored by the Rhode Island Holocaust Memorial Museum.

The gallery, at 401 Elmgrove Ave., is open Mon. through Thurs., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Fri., 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and by appointment.

For more information, call 861-8800.

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## Food

### THE MODERN JEWISH COOK

# Spring soups are perfect starters



Zell Schulman

Many people think of soup as a winter staple, yet these soups say spring to me. They are quick, can be frozen and will have your palate aroused like never before. I've filled a punch bowl with the tomato bisque and the melon soup. They are both perfect "cocktail" starters and great for those counting calories.

They may all be prepared ahead of time, and freeze beautifully. They are quick, tasty, a perfect beginning for lunch or dinner and great for entertaining.

#### Soup Sips

- These sips, er, tips, will turn your soup preparation into an adventure. To add a different taste, add a little kosher or sea salt to your soups.
- Splash a dash of seasoning such as curry, cumin, white wine, Worcestershire, Tabasco, steak sauces, or dry sherry at the last minute. These work wonders on

canned soups.

- Make a great stock base for the freezer. Keep a container in your refrigerator to collect leftover gravies, steamed vegetable water and meat scraps. Cook together with a little chicken or beef broth one or two hours, then strain it and you'll have a great stock.
- Garnish your soups with finely chopped fresh herbs, grated or

crumbled cheese, small strips of mushrooms, green onions, sweet bell peppers or paper-thin slices of lemon, lime or orange peel. Any of these will add the perfect touches of colors and flavors.

#### Easy Tomato Bisque

Serves 6

#### Ingredients:

- Two (10-3/4 ounce) cans tomato soup
- One (10-3/4-ounce) can low sodium tomato soup
- 1 fresh bay leaf or 1 teaspoon dried basil
- 1 tablespoon dried oregano
- Dash cayenne pepper
- 2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce

One 10-1/2-ounce can whole tomatoes, drained and chopped

#### Method:

Empty soup from cans into a blender or food processor. Add basil, oregano, cayenne pepper, and Worcestershire. Pulse several times. Add the drained and chopped tomatoes. Blend until smooth.

Empty the soup into a microwave safe 2-quart pitcher or container. Microwave on full power 2 minutes. Stir and microwave 3 minutes more. Garnish with dollop of sour cream or freshly chopped parsley.

#### Cold Melon/Yogurt Soup

Serves 8 to 10

#### Ingredients:

- 2 cups cubed cantaloupe
- 1 cup orange juice
- Juice and grated zest of 1 lemon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2-cup heavy cream or *pareve* nondairy creamer
- 2 tablespoons honey
- Pinch of ground cumin
- Two-8-ounce cartons peach yogurt
- Chopped fresh mint for garnish

#### Method:

Place the cantaloupe cubes into the bowl of your food processor or blender. Pulse several times. Add the orange juice, lemon juice, zest and cinnamon. Process or blend until smooth, about 10 to 15 seconds.

Add the cream or nondairy creamer, honey, and cumin. Process or blend until smooth, scraping down the sides of the work bowl as necessary. Empty into a medium bowl and fold in the yogurt.

Cover and refrigerate for several hours or overnight. Serve very cold, garnished with fresh mint.



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## BEST WISHES ON Mother's Day

### Rosh Hodesh lecture spotlights Golda Meir, 'mother of Israel'

By Marylyn Graff

PROVIDENCE — Alison Rose, Ph.D., spoke at the final lecture of the Women's Alliance Rosh Hodesh series, on April 22 at Congregation Beth Shalom, choosing Golda Meir as her subject.

Barbara Lavine, the Women's Alliance campaign chair, welcomed the audience and introduced Rabbi Mitchell Levine, who noted that the date of this lecture came between Passover and Shavuot, a time when the Jews were wandering in the desert, and said that none of the male leaders of the Exodus was allowed to enter the Promised Land, while the matriarchs — who had acted with greater resourcefulness and courage all along — were not excluded.

Lavine then introduced Rose, the wife of Rabbi Levine and mother of two.

She had prepared copies of a timeline of Golda Meir's life, beginning with poverty and persecution in Russia until her death in Israel in 1978.

For this lecture, Rose chose to explore Golda's inner conflicts between the maternal ideals of taking the time to care for home and family and her commitment to Zionism and Israel. Golda stayed home while her children were young, later describing that time as the most miserable of her life — yet she spoke of childbearing as woman's greatest privilege.



ROSH HODESH EVENING — Providence residents, from left, Grace Beiser and Esther Gotteib, enjoyed the final Women's Alliance talk given by Alison Rose, Ph.D., right, at Congregation Beth Shalom.

Photo by Sylvia Berman-Peck

All of her adult life she was at variance with herself over these issues and made many conflicting statements. She said that womanhood is not a barrier to outside interests but that being a woman, i.e., wife and mother, imposes a much greater burden than a man would have to shoulder while doing the same job.

Golda Meir took a narrow view of feminism as bra-burning and man-hating and therefore did not want to be seen as a feminist.

As a Jewish woman, she took pride in cooking and serving a Shabbat dinner every Friday night, even during her years as Prime Minister.

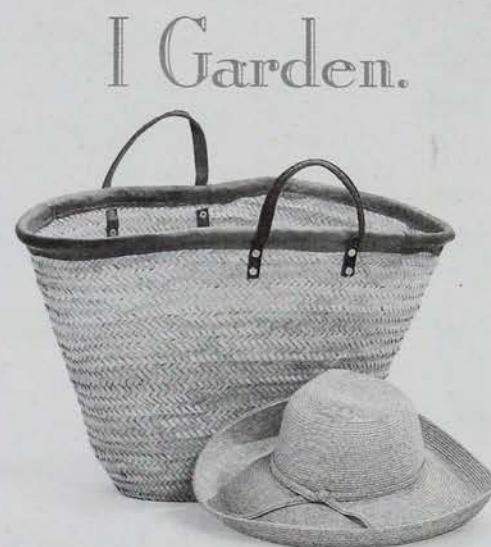
Rose said that although Meir was not deeply religious, she always remembered that her grandfather, who spent 13 years in the Russian Army, adamantly

refused to change his religion or to eat non-kosher food during his military years.

Meir's deep Jewish and Zionist convictions culminated in her activism and political growth. She once asked Henry Kissinger to name his three most important personal traits. He replied, "American, Secretary of State, and Jewish." She responded, "Since Hebrew is written from right to left, mine matches yours — a Jew first."

A signer of Israel's Declaration of Independence, she served in its cabinet as foreign minister and came out of retirement to be Prime Minister from 1969-'74. (Rose noted that there were no women in Golda's cabinet — she always worked with men.)

Marylyn Graff is a copy editor at the Jewish Voice & Herald.



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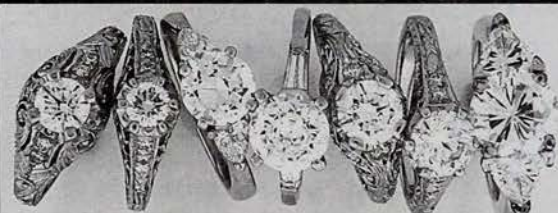
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## Mother's day a natural celebration for Jews

When President Woodrow Wilson made Mother's Day an official American holiday in 1914, it was quickly embraced by American Jewry. The Jewish Welfare Board published a Mother's Day pamphlet, discussing the roles of mothers as building blocks for the lives of their children and their people.

In honor of Mother's Day, this feature focuses on the influence of mothers upon some of the women highlighted by the Jewish Women's Archive. All acknowledged the strength of their mothers as critical to their own aspirations and accomplishments.

## Anna Sokolow

Anna Sokolow is known for her pioneering contributions to modern dance and choreography. Like her mother, Anna was a woman with intense beliefs about the world of ideas, women and Jews.

Sokolow was born in 1910 in Hartford, Conn., to Sarah and Samuel Sokolow, immigrants from Pinsk. Anna later described the strength it had taken for her mother to take care of her family. "In the European Jewish tradition, the man was the scholar, and his wife and her family took care of him and their children. When they came here, they had to earn a living. My father was totally bewildered by it. Eventually my mother stepped in and took over."



Anna Sokolow, 1958

Sarah Sokolow worked hard in the garment industry in New York City. When her husband fell ill, Sarah was forced to split up her family. Despite all this, Sarah remained strong and optimistic, joining the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union, and allying with the Socialist acceptance of women's contributions.

Sarah instilled in Anna strong values about women's place in the world, and a sense of Judaism and Jewish culture that would be reflected in many of Sokolow's choreographed compositions.

Sarah enrolled Anna and her sister in a dance class sponsored by the Emanuel Sisterhood when Anna was 10, knowing that her children would be safe there while she was at work. She fell in love with dancing, and later studied at one of the first important "Off-Broadway" theaters.

Sarah was concerned that being a dancer was

hardly an appropriate occupation for a respectable Jewish woman: "My mother finally said to me when I was about 15 or 16, 'What's going to happen to you?' I said I'm going to be a dancer. And she said, 'Out,' and I left."

But Sarah finally came to appreciate her daughter's accomplishments. Anna recalled that "she came to see me perform at the Y, on 92nd Street. I was giving a solo concert, and she was all dressed up, and had a hat on. Someone in back of her said, 'Excuse me, do you mind taking off your hat?' She turned around and said, 'Why should I? That's my daughter.'"

## Rebecca Young

Honored as one of the Jewish Women's Archive's 2002 *Women Who Dared* for her efforts to defend the rights of prison inmates, Rebecca Young identifies the passion that fuels her work as a legacy from her mother.

Rebecca was born in Manhattan in 1964 into a childhood full of challenge. After her parents divorced in 1971, Rebecca and her mother struggled with poverty. When she was 13 her mother died, and she lived with a cousin.



Rebecca Young

Photos courtesy Jewish Women's archive

Young points to the memory of her mother as well as to her Jewish identity and her experiences with poverty as the major influences behind her activism. Her mother taught her "that whatever other people do, if you know who you are and you know what you believe in, that's really all you need. That, and the willingness to stand up and say what's right."

Young's work with prisoners is informed by her "political sensibilities"... mostly from my mother. I think that part of my political sense came from being on welfare, from watching what that was like for my mother and for me."

Although Rebecca Young's life and career are very different from her mother's, she still sees her mother as her greatest role model: "Despite our situation, I saw her as someone who spoke her mind, stood up for what she believed in."

This story was compiled by the Jewish Women's Archive. For more information, visit [www.jwa.org](http://www.jwa.org).

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# Community

## Holocaust vigils held in R.I.

From page 1

more than 15 minutes to read.

Temple Emanu-El in Providence was the setting for an interfaith commemoration of the Holocaust, which brought together clergy from Temples Am David, Beth-El, Emanu-El and the Woodbridge Congregational Church for readings, poems, and song. Selma Stanzler, co-president of the Holocaust Museum, was given the JFRI's "Never Again Award," recognizing her achievements in battling anti-Semitism and racism in Rhode Island.

Cranston Mayor Stephen P. Laffey honored the day with an official proclamation, asking that: "The world must forever dedicate itself to putting an end to genocide ... We take the same pledge that all Israeli soldiers take at Masada — 'never again.'"

Congressman James Langevin issued the following statement:

"Now more than ever, we all must work to understand those of different cultures, races, and religions. Mutual respect for differences will lead to the end of hostilities, and only then will the opportunity for world peace exist."

He also encouraged his colleagues to visit the Holocaust



**NAMES OF THE LOST** — Attendees bow their heads as Edward Adler (at podium) reads the names of those who perished in the Holocaust during a commemoration at the Rhode Island Holocaust Museum.

Museum and educate themselves in the lessons that intolerance breeds.

Brown University Hillel held its first ever conference on the Holocaust, and brought a high-powered panel of speakers for a week of discussions, including Harvard University political scientist Daniel Goldhagen, author of *Hitler's Willing Executioners*; Michael Pale, of the United Jewish Appeal, and *Vanity Fair* writer Marie Brenner.

Students were also introduced to Ernest Michel, 80, a Holocaust victim who survived the horrors of Auschwitz by using his skills as a calligrapher, and who escaped during a death march toward the Berga sub-camp.

On April 20, Bryant College Hillel held their first Holocaust Remembrance Day throughout the school by placing triangles of different colors on students and faculty in remembrance for the stigmatized markers worn by Jews, gays, foreigners, and other minorities. The goal was to understand the suffering of more than 11 million, who perished at the hands of the Nazis; six million were Jews. Educational displays and video presentations ran in the rotunda by day, and by night a representative delegation of students met with Rabbi Baruch Goldstein, of Providence, who is also a survivor, and lit one candle for each of the million who died.

*With reports by the Brown*

## Tamarisk gets design award for housing

WARWICK — The Phyllis Siperstein Tamarisk Assisted Living Residence, which opened in Sept. 2003, has received a Platinum Award from the Best of Seniors Housing Design Awards, 2004. JSA, Inc., an architectural, planning and interior design firm that designed it.

Tamarisk was selected from a field of over 200 entries from across the U.S. and Canada. The assisted living residence includes studio, one- and two-bedroom apartments and a separate memory support wing.

According to Susette Rabinowitz, executive director of the Jewish Seniors Agency that developed Tamarisk, "The final design is the result of a truly cooperative endeavor between our architect and many volunteer committee members whose insights were invaluable."

The Platinum Award was presented to JSA, Inc. by the National Association of Home Builders' Seniors Housing Council. It is the highest award in the "Large Assisted Living Facility of 50 units or larger" category.

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## Community

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because the House needs a doctor

Dear Fellow East Siders,

My name is Howard Schulman, and I am running for State Representative in the Democratic Primary on Tuesday, September 14<sup>th</sup>.

I'm 39 years old and have been a practicing general internist in Rhode Island since 1995. I graduated from Princeton University, and in 1990 I came to the Miriam Hospital to train after finishing medical school.

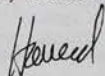
I'm new to politics, but I view that as a positive. I hope to bring fresh insights and a fresh voice to the legislature. We need leadership to make healthcare more user friendly and efficient. We should involve our physicians in solving healthcare problems. We have an obligation to attract and retain the best talent. The health insurance and pharmaceutical drug companies must be removed from medical decision making and prevented from looking at your personal health information.

I support a woman's right to choose.

I am very concerned about the \$200 million state deficit--why wasn't it addressed last year? Where will the money come from this year?

Please see my website, [www.GoTellHoward.com](http://www.GoTellHoward.com), for more.

Sincerely,



Howard Schulman for State Representative, 14 Benefit Street, Providence, RI 02904  
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## PHDS honors Goodblatt, Gross, Felders

PROVIDENCE — The Providence Hebrew Day School has selected Sherwin Z. Goodblatt to receive "The Founders Hall of Fame" award this year.

He is a native of Providence and the son of two of the earliest founders/supporters of PHDS, the late Alex H. and Sarah L. Goodblatt. A graduate of Providence College, he holds graduate degrees from Georgia State University and Columbia University. He trained as a hospital administrator at Maimonides Medical Center in Brooklyn, N. Y. He served as Director of the Deborah Hospital in New Jersey and Massachusetts Rehabilitation Hospital in Boston and as Director of the Rhode Island Group Health Association. Additionally, he has had a long career in teaching at Providence College, Rutgers University and Columbia University.

The recipient of this year's "Dor L' Dor" (Generation to Generation) award is Fania Gross in recognition of her 30 plus years of service to the school. Mrs. Gross began her career at the Providence Hebrew Day School

shortly after her arrival in the United States from Poland. She has taught many different grades, from kindergarten to high school.

The "Amudim" award honors Dr. and Mrs. Michael Felder for their service to PHDS and to the Providence Jewish community as a whole.

Mrs. Felder has been chair and co-chair of the Parent Teacher Family (PTF) organization. She teaches prayer to the second grade and substitutes as the physical education teacher. She is active with the *Chevr*

*Kadisha* (Jewish Burial Society), has served on the Jewish Community Day School Task Force and has been a key organizer of the PHDS "Winter Extravaganza."

Dr. Felder has chaired the PHDS Education Committee for the last three years and has been an active member of the executive board, serving on a number of ad hoc committees, and the Bureau of Jewish Education and the Jewish Federation. He teaches at the Brown University Medical School and the Rhode Island and Miriam hospitals.

## South Couth Hebrew School plans potluck, dance

JAMESTOWN — The South County Hebrew School will be holding an Israeli folk dance workshop and potluck dinner at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 15, at the Jamestown Grange Hall, 6 West St. Dance instruction will be provided.

Baby sitting will be provided

on the premises. The cost is \$18 per person; \$30 per couple, \$10 for babysitting. All funds raised are to benefit the South County Hebrew School.

For more information, visit [www.schebrewschool.org](http://www.schebrewschool.org).

RSVP by Saturday, May 8, to Bev Rudman at 423-1528.

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## Author, bible dramatist to lead Beth-El events

PROVIDENCE — The Temple Beth-El Benefactors' Fund presents Dr. Peter Pitzele as its scholar-in residence on May 6 and 7. Dr. Pitzele will speak after Friday evening's Shabbat service, and after Saturday morning's Torah service, when a light lunch will be served.

On Saturday evening at 6:30 p.m. wine and hors d'oeuvres will be served, followed by a *Havdalah* service and another presentation by Dr. Pitzele at 7 p.m.

Those interested in attending Saturday's events are asked to RSVP; for more information, call 331-6070.

Dr. Pitzele likes to invite

participants at synagogues and seminars to get into other people's shoes — specifically those of Abraham, Ruth, and Moses. According to Pitzele, role playing biblical figures can clarify psychological and emotional issues that people face.

Pitzele never felt part of any religious tradition growing up, and only knew the Bible as literature. But at 29, when he was finishing his Ph.D. in literature at Harvard, he wanted to teach the Bible as the "foundational text for all writers." His own religious epiphanies had taken place while sitting with Quakers, practicing Buddhist meditation, and partic-

ipating in Jungian workshops. In his 40s, he began to study Judaism, the religion of his parents. Only then did he realize the circuitous path he had taken.

Asked to teach a class on leadership skills at the Jewish Theological Seminary in 1983, Pitzele presented fifth year rabbinical students with biblical concerns: "You're Moses; what are your issues?" The students pointed out that he was teaching the Midrash — Jewish interpretive tradition. He sees this technique as "identifying personal challenges embedded in the mythic structures of the Jewish religion, and continually acting them out. For example, the reenactment of the father/son relationship goes back to Abraham and Isaac. The personal is also archetypal."

A faculty member at the Jewish Theological Seminary and certified psychotherapist, Pitzele is the author of *Our Fathers' Wells: A Personal Encounter with the Myths of Genesis* (Harper San Francisco, 1995) and *Scripture Windows: Towards a Practice of Bibliodrama* (Torah Aura, 1998). "Bibliodrama transforms the Bible into a mirror through which participants confront the most important aspects of their lives," he says.

## Jewish organizations set annual meetings

- May 2 ..... RIJHA, 2 p.m., at JCC social hall
- May 11 ..... JFRI, 7 p.m., at JCC social hall
- May 12 ..... JCC, 7:15 p.m.
- May 16 ..... Temple Beth-El, 7 p.m.
- May 19 ..... Miriam Hospital Women's Assoc., 11:30 a.m., location TBA
- May 20 ..... JSA, 7 p.m., at Tamarisk
- May 21 ..... Temple Emanu-El meeting and dinner, 5:45 p.m.
- June 1 ..... Women's Alliance at JFRI, 7:30 p.m., location TBA
- June 2 ..... ASDS, 7 p.m.
- June 9 ..... NCJW, 12 p.m., at Temple Beth-El
- June 9 ..... RIHMM, 7:30 p.m., at JCC social hall
- June 23 ..... BJE, 7 p.m., at JCC social hall
- June 25 ..... Na'amat meeting and dinner, 7:30 p.m., location TBA

More information is available at [www.jfri.org](http://www.jfri.org).

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## Seniors

## AS WE GROW OLDER

### American Jewry and Israel: past and future

Spring of 1948 was a very heady time for my generation. We were old enough to have experienced all the horrors of World War II and all the joy of the end of that battle.



**Tema Gouse**

We were also overwhelmed to learn the extent of the Holocaust nightmare. I can remember having difficulty absorbing the fact that six million Jews had been slaughtered and being too embarrassed to admit that I did not know how many had survived. It was my privilege to assist in the rehabilitation of some of the survivors, an experience that has had a lifetime impact.

I had grown up in a home that had exerted great effort to bring a Jewish State into existence. When statehood was approved by the

United Nations on May 14, 1948 and we knew that the world had finally accepted that a portion of Palestine could be a Jewish homeland, our family celebrated with unprecedented joy.

For the next fifty years, most of American Jewry took great pride in Israel, its struggles, its overthrow of invading enemies, and its growth. We did everything we could to transmit this strong sense of American-Israeli identification to our children and our grandchildren. When we visited Israel we felt at home and could understand the courage of Israel's citizenry. Even now, America's senior citizens continue to agonize over the threats to Israel's stability and maybe even its very existence.

What is the emotional impact of today's tensions for American Jewry's oldest generation; those

of us who can remember when there was no Israel? It is traumatic and frustrating. For 50 years this group has carefully watched the media hoping for only good news from Israel. Or better yet, we have hoped that Israel would not be in the daily news. We are

instilled us with pride.

Today's seniors have been generous with money and political support for all of Israel's causes and projects. We justifiably felt that we had been contributing participants in the development of a great Jewish nation.

And now, the situation in Israel is deteriorating daily. Industrial progress is ebbing. Tourism, an Israeli mainstay, is almost non-existent because of fear of Arab terrorism. There are strong cultural, political and religious clashes within the Israeli populace. Political opportunists who copy American style political corruption have replaced the inspiring leadership of Israel's early years. And, of course, worst of all, is the ever-present threat of annihilation by all of its neighbors.

So where does this leave us, the 70, 80 and 90 year old Amer-

**Even now, America's senior citizens continue to agonize over the threats to Israel's stability and maybe even its very existence.**

the generation that was taught that no news is good news. For long stretches that would be true, except for two major (albeit brief) wars and an occasional murderous raid.

Our age group loved travelling through Israel and being astounded at the phenomenal progress in such a short time. The blend of East and West, the Jewish quality of the culture, and the incredible productivity all

ican Zionists who had become complacent because the Jews of the world seemed to have finally found a haven? Our advanced years severely limit our ability to significantly intervene or assist. We have continued to help financially and politically but we must rely on younger generations for the major impacts and we are not certain we have transmitted our zealotness to them.

We are forced to realize that the stances of our children and grandchildren are not colored by our memories and experiences of war, Holocaust, and second-hand citizenship. Our commitment was a product of our times. Their times are more sheltered and their attitudes and concerns more diverse.

Today's seniors must deal with most of the same problems that aging brought to our ancestors. We may have more material comforts but we suffer the diseases and the decreasing strengths that have always come with growing old. Active involvement in Israel's burdens may be beyond our abilities.

Despite this, emotional, political and financial support for Israel will always be a constant for most of American Jewry's aging population. Perhaps our greatest contribution can be our continued efforts to make Israel as important to our children and grandchildren as it has always been to us.

I worry about this, but feel that support for Israel can be generated in successive generations. I do not always approve of how Israelis conduct their politics or even their lives, but their right to autonomy, security and independence remain essential to all of us.

*Tema Gouse is a regular columnist for the Voice & Herald and lives in Cranston.*



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# Cranston seniors attend seminar on affordable drugs

By Rona Trachtenberg

CRANSTON — Sara Pulner, 70, has to pay for her 21 monthly prescriptions by credit card so she can afford her rent. While buying discounted medications from Canada sounds tempting, she is worried that the Canadian pills might be substandard.

She was one of 30 seniors who brought their prescription drug questions (and woes) to three elected officials at a legislative informational session held at Temple Torat Yisrael in Cranston recently.

The event was sponsored by Senior Agenda Consortium, a coalition of 20 advocacy and activist groups that was founded to improve the lives of Rhode Island seniors. The speakers were Secretary of State Matthew Brown, State Sen. Elizabeth Roberts and State Rep. Arthur Handy.

"Seniors have been working at the grassroots level to find a more affordable solution to the high cost of pharmaceutical medications," explained Debbie Magnus, graduate social work major at Rhode Island College, who is teaching Temple Torat Yisrael congregants how to fight unfair public policy laws.

Breast cancer survivor Sophie Tragar is upset because insurers refused to pay for her Remedex medication. "Medicare and Plan 65 don't cover my prescriptions and RI Pharmacy Assistance for Elderly (RIPAE) only pays up to 60 percent, which means that 30 pills cost me \$85."

Jessica Buhler, project coordinator for the Consortium, explained: "Seniors need RIPAE to pay for brand-name medicines and supplemental insurance for unlimited generics. Many elderly who purchase Blue CHIP or United Health are forced by the state to refuse the free supplemental pharmacy benefit in order to access RIPAE. This is unfair because the only way many seniors can afford their medications is if they can access both. The

Consortium is working to pass a law that would allow the elderly to access both."

## What can be done

"Every senior can make a difference," said Rep. Handy. "You can have a voice because the citizen lobby is stronger than the pharmaceutical lobby."

Sylvia Shocket has Medicare and AARP but still can't afford the \$5,000 annual prescription coverage for her medicines. "I hear that R.I. residents are getting postal boxes in Massachusetts so they can receive cheaper drugs through the mail. Can we get arrested for buying medications from Canada?"

"Absolutely not," said an emphatic Brown, who is organizing a subsidized bus trip to Canada. "It is legal for individuals to buy up to 90-day supply of medications for themselves. You just can't re-sell it."

According to Brown, there is a provision in the law that allows people to get waivers if they want



THIS CRANSTON storefront is just one of many locations advertising discount Canadian drugs.

Photo by Rona Trachtenberg

to bring in prescription drugs for their personal use.

Canadian prescription drugs are not FDA approved. The following is a statement from the FDA: "When Americans import medicines illegally, they are faced with a dangerous 'buyer-beware' situation," said Dr. Lester M. Crawford, Acting FDA Commis-

sioner. "Medicines bought from other countries may be counterfeit or adulterated, and FDA cannot guarantee their safety."

According to the FDA, recent data indicates that generic drugs here are cheaper than both Canadian brand-name and generic drugs.

Despite FDA warnings, some states are facilitating the purchase of prescription drugs. A new website to help Rhode Islanders buy prescription drugs from Canadian pharmacists is now available at [www.state.ri.us/rirx](http://www.state.ri.us/rirx).

"RIRx will help Rhode Islanders buy the same prescrip-

tion drugs they get here at significantly lower prices from Canadian pharmacies," Brown announced last week.

In addition to ordering and price comparisons, the site has safety information and links to other state and national resources. Some drugs are not available in Canada. Three states, Minnesota, Wisconsin and New Hampshire, have websites that direct people to Canadian pharmacies that have been inspected by state authorities. Brown's site links to the Wisconsin site.

"We need to continue pushing the federal government to address this situation and that's why you see so many state and local governments are taking action to help people get access to Canadian prescription drugs."

Rona Trachtenberg is a freelance writer who has written for the *Indiana Jewish Post & Opinion*. She lives in Fairhaven, Mass.

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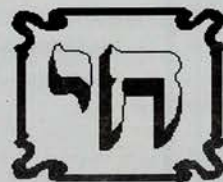
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## Obituaries

### David Abrams

PROVIDENCE — David Abrams, 91, a retired delicatessen owner, died April 18. He was the husband of Rose (Wainer) Abrams. They were married for 59 years.

Born in Providence, a son of the late Arnold and Rose Abrams, he was a lifelong resident of this city.

He was the owner of the former Star Delicatessen in Providence for 25 years.

He was a World War II Navy veteran and a member of the Jewish War Veterans Post No. 533. He was a member of Congregation Sons of Jacob Synagogue, the Cranston Seniors, the former Majestic Senior Guild and the Lions Club.

Besides his wife, he leaves two daughters, Arlene DiRobbio of North Providence and Lois Abrams of Venice, Fla.; a granddaughter and two great-grandchildren. He was the brother of the late Philip and Irving Abrams and Annie Matzner.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

### Lawrence P. Arnoff

WARWICK — Lawrence P. Arnoff, 82, a retired manager, died April 20. He was the husband of Janice (Gertner) Arnoff. They were married for 57 years.

Born in Bronx, N.Y., a son of the late Irving and Mae (Bernhart) Arnoff, he was a resident of Warwick for 32 years, previously living in Cranston.

He was a World War II Army veteran.

He was a manager at Leviton Mfg. Co. in Warwick

and North Kingstown for 26 years. He also worked at Enterprise Car Rental.

Besides his wife, he leaves a son, Steven M. Arnoff of Nashua, N.H.; a daughter, Karen DeFelice of Warwick, and three grandchildren. He was the brother of the late Bertha Sunderland.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. Contributions in his memory may be made to Kent County Memorial Hospital, 455 Toll Gate Rd., Warwick, RI 02886.

### Albert Brown

BOCA RATON, Fla., — Albert Brown, 89, died March 19. He was the husband of the late Adeline (Pulver) Brown.

Born in Providence, a son of the late Henry and Sarah Brown, he lived in the city for most of his life.

A graduate of Central High School, he also attended Providence College.

He served in the Army during World War II.

Mr. Brown was sales manager and jewelry designer for C. Ray Randall and Co. in North Attleboro for many years.

He was a member of Redwood Lodge and the Crestwood Country Club.

He leaves two daughters, Cynthia Stone of Delray Beach, Fla., and Debra Sahim of Boca Raton, Fla.; four grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. He was the brother of the late Edith Linder, Edward Brown and Isaac Brown.

Contributions in his memory may be made to breast cancer research.

### Sybil H. Levinson

WARWICK — Sybil H. (Block) Levinson, 88, of Warwick and Delray Beach, Fla., a retired businesswoman, died April 9. She was the wife of Everett Levinson.

Born in Providence, a daughter of the late Philip and Dora (Segelman) Block, she lived in Cranston, Florida and Warwick.

She was a musician, playing in an all-female USO band during World War II. She was past president of the Ladies Auxiliary of Lt. Leonard Bloom Jewish War Veterans Post No. 284.

Besides her husband, she leaves a son, Philip Levinson of Warwick, and two grandchildren. She was the mother of the late Brynne R. Tobias and sister of the late Selma Mushnick and Norman, David, Edmund and Sigmund Block.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

### Harry L. London

ATTLEBORO, Mass. — Harry L. London, 99, of Attleboro, died April 13. He was the husband of the late Zella Elizabeth (Klein) London.

Born in Boston, son of the late Max and Fannie (Blank) London, he grew up in Attleboro.

He was a graduate of Attleboro High School and Boston University School of Business and was a member of Beta Gamma Sigma and Delta Mu Delta honor societies and Delta Sigma Pi business fraternity.

He was the owner and president of London's Department Store, Floyd's Men's Store, and Saunders Properties, Inc.

Mr. London was a former director of First Bristol County National Bank, Waltham Watch

Co., and the Retailers Association of Massachusetts.

He was an Honorary Life Trustee of Congregation Agudas Achim in Attleboro and a lifetime member of B'nai Brith.

A lifetime trustee of the Attleboro YMCA, he was also a former member of the Board of Managers of Sturdy Memorial Hospital, and a lifetime member of the Attleboro BPO Elks Lodge and the Attleboro Lions Club. He was a former director of the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

He is survived by a son, David S. London, and his wife, Toby, of Attleboro; a granddaughter, Debra B. London and Russ Umphenour of New York City and Atlanta, Ga.; a grandson, Marc D. London, and his wife, Julie, of Chappaqua, N.Y., and a great-granddaughter. He was the brother of the late Ruth London Lewis.

Contributions in his memory may be made to the Building Fund of Congregation Agudas Achim, 901 No. Main St., Attleboro, MA 02703.

### Isadore Nachbar

PROVIDENCE — Isadore Nachbar, 81, a retired textile businessman, died April 9. He was the husband of Roberta (Abisch) Nachbar.

Born in Providence, he was a son of the late Nathan Nachbar and Bessie Aarons.

Mr. Nachbar was a prominent businessman in the textile industry, serving as president of N.H. Nachbar, Pawtucket and R&I Nachbar, Providence.

He graduated from Providence College in 1947 and attended the City College of New York and the University of Biarritz in France for postgraduate studies.

An Army veteran of World War II, he was wounded in the Battle of the Bulge and was awarded a Purple Heart.

Mr. Nachbar was a past recording secretary of the Roger Williams B'nai Brith Lodge and a longtime member of Temple Emanu-El.

Besides his wife, he leaves a daughter, Amy Nachbar; two sisters, Evelyn Rose of New Jersey and Sylvia Penn of Pawtucket; four brothers, Robert Nachbar of New Hampshire, Howard Nachbar of Cranston, Leon Nachbar of Providence, and Milton Nachbar of North Providence; and two granddaughters.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. Contributions in his memory may be made to the Temple Emanu-El Library Fund.

### Ruth Pabian

PROVIDENCE — Ruth Pabian, 88, died April 10. She was the wife of the late Harvey Pabian.

Born in Passaic, N.J., she had lived in Providence since 1951.

She was a member of Temple Emanu-El and Hadassah.

An avid knitter, she enjoyed making sweaters and blankets.

She leaves two sons, Allan Pabian of Irvine, Calif., and Jay Pabian of Sharon, Mass.; a daughter, Lois Swerdlick of Waltham, Mass., 12 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. She was the sister of the late Mary Handler, Cele Berr and David Cohen.

Burial was in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

Contributions in her memory may be made to the Jewish National Fund or the American Cancer Society.

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# My Voice

## The kosher meat boycott of 1910

By Kim Nusco

**O**n Wednesday, June 22, 1910, a front page story in the *Providence Daily Journal* gave unusually prominent press coverage to the Jewish community of South Providence. The headline, "Jews Put Ban on Kosher Meat - Seven Hundred Housewives Declare That Jewish Markets of South Providence Are Handling Unclean and Infected Meat - Claim Also Made That Prices Are Too High" announced the beginning of a week-long "war" between the Jewish women of South Providence and their neighborhood kosher butchers.

Through mass meetings, picketing, and word of mouth, hundreds of Jewish housewives and their allies organized and enforced a boycott of six neighborhood butcher shops. Following on the heels of several nationwide antitrust movements and food protests, the boycott echoed larger dramas involving corrupt food producers, greedy retailers, and a public prepared to engage in militant consumer action to regain a sense of security about its food supply.

The decision to take action was made at a mass meeting and the *Journal* the following day noted that the "order to strike was carried with a shout that could be heard several blocks away." The declaration included the vow that "No Orthodox Jewish woman will buy an ounce of meat from a Jewish market, and the regular diet in Hebrew families until further order will be fish, vegetables and cheese." The boycott strategy was unanimously approved by all present at the meeting and a committee was appointed to oversee the organization of the strike. A second meeting took place later that night "where stirring addresses were delivered by some of those present."

A delegation selected by the boycott committee issued the community's demands to the six kosher butchers. These demands included "fresh and healthy meat, wrapped in clean paper and not in newspaper as has been the custom in some of the shops, respectable treatment to the customers and a reduction in the price of all kinds of meat." Though three of the butchers agreed to consider the petition, three others "not only refused to receive the delegates but defied them. In one case," the *Journal* reported, "the butcher's wife pitched into the delegate and hustled her out of the shop."

This resistance on the part of the butchers strengthened the resolve of the boycotters, though the ensuing "war" seems to have proceeded in an extraordinarily orderly manner, especially in comparison to the violence that characterized kosher meat protests in other American cities. Neighborhood women took up picket positions on Willard Avenue as early as 5:30 a.m. on June 22, entreating all who approached the shops not to buy meat and at times convinc-

**June 24, 1910**

### JEWISH WOMEN PUSH KOSHER BUTCHER WAR

**Maintain Pickets Near Shops to Warn Purchasers Away.**

**DRAW STRIKE LINE FIRMLY**

*The Peddlers Visit Willard Avenue Neighborhood with Wagonloads of Chickens and Sell to Jewsesses in Streets in Spite of Efforts of Market-men to Buy Their Fowl.*

Jewish women stood all day yesterday and part of last evening as pickets near the doors of the six South Providence "kosher" meat shops and urged all the women of their race who appeared not to purchase at the stores against which the "strike" is aimed.

Thursday is usually the day on which the Jewish women secure meat for their Sabbath meal on Saturday. For this reason the efforts of the "strikers" were made particularly strong, as it was known that those who have not been prominent in urging discipline upon the dealers might appear to buy.

The pickets provoked no disturbance of themselves, but abided by the edict of Capt. Lawrence not to stand in front of the shops, and also to go no further than to talk to prospective purchasers.

About 7:30 yesterday morning, after the pickets had been on duty about two hours, a peddler came to Willard Avenue and Gay Street and brought with him 20 live chickens, which he offered to sell to the women at 2 cents a pound, a price which is considered reasonable.

The strikers claim that the butchers came from their shops and did their best to have the peddler turn his stock in trade over to them, instead of to the women. They offered him considerable money above the 2 cents a pound. The peddler declared, however, that he was looking for the custom of the women and

*Providence Daily Journal account of the 1910 kosher meat boycott.*

*Courtesy of the R.I. Jewish Historical Association*

ing customers to return meat already purchased. The *Evening Bulletin* noted that the "morning passed quietly, no attempts being made to disturb any of the shopkeepers." Police were called in towards evening as a crowd of 500 gathered and it seemed that the three kosher shops in the vicinity might be "rushed."

Despite these concerns, five policemen were able to clear the streets with

buy it no matter how decayed it was.

The butchers reportedly employed both trickery and trade solidarity to circumvent the boycott measures. During the first day of the boycott, reports were made that the butchers had gone from house to house delivering meat that in many instances had not been ordered. In addition, the South Providence butchers sent representatives to shops in the North End to prevent the sale

**Police were called in towards evening as a crowd of 500 gathered and it seemed that the three kosher shops in the vicinity might be "rushed."**

relative ease and "matters for a time took on their wonted aspect, though many of the strikers, their pickets and sympathizers lingered in the vicinity."

In fact, most of the vitriol in the conflict seems to have come from the butchers and their families. The *Journal* noted that the butchers heaped insults upon the strikers and recorded that one boycotter reported being "held up" and assaulted by the female family members of one of the butchers. Another woman declared that a butcher had told her that the butchers planned to keep the meat "for a month, if necessary" and force the community to

of meat to women participating in the boycott.

The Jews of South Providence had no choice but to patronize kosher butchers if they wished to adhere to the practices of their faith. Kosher butchers who made life difficult for their fellow Jews by charging higher prices or who jeopardized the religious practices of the community by selling *treif* (unkosher) meat violated the principles of *tzedakah* and *kasbrut*. Women's neighborhood networks - formed through the everyday activities of supporting their families - could be mobilized to enforce religious communal values.

The majority of the participants in the boycott were married mothers who did not work (at least officially) outside of their homes. The *Journal* called the boycott "primarily a women's strike" and noted that the boycott committee and the picketers were comprised entirely of women. However, the newspaper downplayed the women's role in the boycott, emphasizing the male leadership of the organizational meetings. Indeed, much of the coverage of the strike reveals a rather condescending attitude toward the women participants, depicting them as so unruly and hysterical that the men presiding over the meetings could hardly conduct business.

But despite the condescending tone, the local newspaper accounts provide considerable evidence of impressive organizing. The women enforced community unity, deciding that there could be no support of the strikers or of their friends until every person present at the meeting had pledged herself to purchase no meat until it had come down in price which the people could afford.

A resolution was reached by the end of the week. On June 23, the *Journal* reported that "two residents of the district who have been in the meat business in the past, have agreed to open markets and sell meats at reasonable figures under clean conditions if guaranteed from 150 to 200 customers." On June 27 both the *Journal* and the *Evening Bulletin* proclaimed "Kosher Butcher War Near End."

Scholars of women's consumer protests assert that participation in collective actions like food boycotts politicized the housewives who took part. A sense of efficiency and communal solidarity developed during the boycott made these women, their daughters and granddaughters more likely to participate in other political and community actions. The debate over the supervision and cost of kosher meat in South Providence incorporated a *shtetl* oriented conception of the communal right to earn a living (though not from the blood of one's fellow Jews), Socialist visions of economic and social reform, and capitalist values of competition and self-help.

The negotiations took place within a localized conception of the community - the boycotters protested as citizens but also as Jews. The rabbi and the butchers were criticized but no great upheaval took place. And though women played a prominent part in the boycott's critique of community authorities, they did so in defense of their place within the traditional concept of Jewish womanhood.

*Kim Nusco is the research librarian at the Massachusetts Historical Society and a recent graduate of URI. Her master's thesis won the Eleanor Horvitz Award from the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association and has been published in full in the latest issue of their RIJHA Notes.*



# Circus school bounces into JCC camp

By Mary Korr

PROVIDENCE

— Things got a little out of hand two weeks ago when

the Providence Circus School came to vacation camp at the Jewish Community Center (JCC).

"Toss, toss, catch, catch," instructed Michaela Andrews, the circus school programs coordinator, as she demonstrated juggling. "The most common mistake beginners make is to toss, catch, toss, catch."

Camper Benjamin Landman, 7, watched and then added his own twist: Toss under the knee, toss under the knee, drop, drop.

Rebecca Shays, 8, said the secret to successful juggling is to throw the first and second ball very quickly and almost in unison — a trick she learned from her dad.

Andrews was introduced to juggling when she joined the Out-of-Hand Club as a student at Brown University. The president of the juggling club at the time was Providence native Mike Plotz, who helped his mother, Judy, found the Providence circus school almost six years ago. The school goes into classrooms and community centers, teaching the kids the arts of the circus.

After juggling soft balls, the campers tried scarves. Barry Newman swirled a bright pink and orange scarf in front of Matthew Degan, 5. "Ole, ole," he hollered.

Max Schuster, 7, explained

what Barry was doing. "One hundred years ago, in those old broken stadiums, you waved red cloth in front of a lion," he said.

"Where were those stadiums?" he was asked.

"California, or some of the old countries," he said.

Speaking of lions, Tyler Degnan wondered if the circus school ever brought in any real lions to tame — baby lions of course, because the kids could handle them. "They like to pounce on each other and learn to be like their fathers," he said. "I'd like to work with them like the lion tamer in the circus. You get them to sit on a little wooden chair."

The children flew "pois," or bean bags with streamers, in figure eight and helicopter formations. "This is very good exercise for your wrists," said Tessa Rudnick, who was adept and decided to try two at once, sending kids scurrying out of target range.

The children also worked on stilts and four-wheeled skateboard-like contraptions. Ondine Bonner said it was harder to learn than riding a unicycle, which she did at the Big Apple Circus when it came to town.

The children also learned the fine art of balancing a plastic plate on a pointy stick and passing it to your neighbor, which took cooperation, patience, and, at times, immediate intervention.

May Stern, 6, enjoyed the week at camp. "This is more fun than school. There, I knit and I sew."



**TRIPLE TROUBLE** — Michaela Andrews, a teacher at the Providence Circus School, shows children how to juggle three balls at a JCC vacation camp recently. Watching closely are, from left, Max Schuster, Matthew Degnan and Benjamin Landman. Karen Lostritto, a student from Brown University, helped out.



**SPINNING** — Providence Circus School teacher Michaela Andrews demonstrates spinning technique with Michaela Newman. Watching intently are, from left, Chesleigh Gomez and May Stern.

Photos by Mary Korr

## Circus school is a mom-son act

By Mary Korr

PROVIDENCE — Now in its sixth year, the Providence Circus School is flying high. Two weeks ago, the trapeze arrived and classes are set to begin on Saturdays in May in a Pawtucket studio.

Providence resident and Seekonk librarian Judy Plotz is the founding mother of the school, which travels to classrooms, community centers, festivals, events and competitions.

Her son Mike, a 23-year-old graduate of Brown University in math and computer science, will teach trapeze. He trained at the San Francisco Circus School and Gemini Trapeze in Vermont. "Circus is like real life, but exaggerated, all emotions brought to the fore," Mike said.

He's a circus veteran. For six years, he was a member of Circus Smirkus, a youth circus in Vermont. He's a juggler, acrobat and aerialist. At Brown, he was president of the Out-of-Hand juggling club.

"The circus gave him self-confidence," Plotz said. "I want to bring that to inner city kids in Providence. They have to learn how to cooperate and work together to develop trust."

Learning to juggle is not about keeping three balls in the air," she said.



**JUDY PLOTZ** is the founding mother of the Providence Circus School.

"On the surface, we teach juggling, acrobatics, balance and clowning. But in the process of learning physical skills, our students learn ways of working with each other and they build confidence in their abilities. One of the biggest lessons of the circus is that you can achieve far greater results from a collaborative effort than from many disconnected individual efforts," Mike said.

The school has met at various venues in Providence and is searching for a permanent home in the city.

Plotz said the circus has always been a part of Jewish culture. "There is a history of European Jewish traveling performers," she said. "Laughter is a way of coping with tragedies — and we have survived many tragedies."

For Plotz, jesting is no laughing matter.

For more information on classes this spring, call Plotz at 351-9211 or visit [www.ridance.com/circusschool/](http://www.ridance.com/circusschool/)